

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2)

John Edmonds (18 January 2013)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Interfresh laments Mazoe Citrus land loss

ZIMBABWE Stock Exchange-listed (ZSE) horticultural concern, Interfresh Limited, has lost a part of Mazoe Citrus Estate (MCE) after the land was allocated for resettlement. Management said they have appealed the acquisition of the land which comes at a time the company is engaged in negotiations to bring in new investors. In a statement to shareholders Tuesday, Interfresh company secretary Tawanda Namusi said: "Shareholders are advised that the ministry of lands and Rural resettlement has advised the company that a portion of land measuring 1599,7 hectares which was part of Mazoe Citrus Estates (MCE) has been allocated to another party.

The estate currently has citrus lemons, seed soya bean, commercial and seed maize and horticultural produce on this land. Interfresh is one of the country's leading producers and processors of agricultural, horticultural, agro-industrial and allied food products for both the local and export markets. The company has three strategic divisions namely, Citrus, Flowers and Trading, each with a specific and autonomous area of focus. "This portion of land represents 46 percent of MCE's total arable land 30 percent of its budgeted revenue for the financial year 2013 and 52 percent of the value of immovable and biological assets," the company said. "An appeal has been lodged with the ministry of Lands and Rural resettlement for their considerations. The board will be consulting shareholders regarding the way forward."...

[www.newzimbabwe.com; 15 January 2013]

US: University of Florida to release new grapefruit

Researchers at the University of Florida are all set to launch a new variety of grapefruit. They've been working on it for more than 10 years now. The initial plan, when the project commenced, was to breed a very juicy, sweet, fleshy grapefruit. It's a cross between a triploid grapefruit and a pomelo. UF Citrus geneticist Chen and Fred Gmitter, professor of citrus genetics at the University of Florida, came across UF 914, which is missing a chemical found in other grapefruit. The chemical is the one which has been known to cause adverse reactions with certain medications. "It looks really good and has high potential," Chen said. UF 914 still faces clinical trial, but researchers will release it to growers this month. They'll turn the 10 trees that exist now into the quarter million needed for consumer-level production. It's take about 5 more years before the fruit is commercially available.

[abcactionnews.com; 10 January 2013]

US: Amino acid study may lead to citrus greening treatment

Amino acids in orange juice may reveal the way in which citrus greening (HLB) is able to attack. Studies of these amino acids by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) chemist Andrew P. Breksa III and University of California-Davis professor Carolyn M. Slupsky may lead to an effective approach to treating the disease...

[www.freshplaza.com; 15 January 2013]

Turkey invests on new citrus variety with half million euros

To increase the share of Turkish citrus on international markets and improve the varieties and quality, the Çukurova University in Adana and the Citrus Promotion Group of the Mediterranean Exporters Union have developed a specific project. The plan, which will run through five years with an investment of at least half a million Euros, aims to find varieties of citrus such as seedless and with larger size. Turkey currently produces about 3 million tons of citrus, a third of which is exported. After the mutation of citrus varieties selected with atomic radiation, hybrid varieties should be developed in spring. The first plantations will be carried out in different citrus fruits production areas such as Adana, Antalya, Hatay, Izmir and Mersin. Also other techniques will be employed to obtain a total of 37 hybrids.

[Mediterranean Exporters Union; 14 January 2013]

If you need more information on any of these issues, or if there is anything else that CGA can assist with, please contact us at 031 7652514, or johne@cga.co.za

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