

# GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (18)

John Edmonds (24 May 2013)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

## **California: Paramount Citrus and Sun Pacific end Cuties partnership**

Paramount Citrus, one of California's leading suppliers of fruit sold under the Cuties brand, is changing the name of its easy-peeling fruit. The company announced Monday that it is ending its nearly decade-long partnership this summer with fellow citrus grower Sun Pacific in Exeter. As part of the breakup, Sun Pacific has acquired the Cuties trademark for an undisclosed sum. The dissolution should come as no surprise to those in the citrus industry. Paramount and Sun Pacific are the two largest growers of mandarin and clementine varieties in the state. Along with Fowler Packing, the trio has invested millions in developing the market for the Cuties brand. Paramount and Fowler Packing alone grow, process and market more than 60% of the nation's mandarin crop...last year the relationship between Paramount and Sun Pacific began to sour when Paramount sued Califa Farms, a subsidiary of Sun Pacific, over use of the Cuties name on citrus products such as juice...

[fresnobee.com; 21 May 2013]

## **Ghana: Citrus growers receive intensive training**

Over 100 citrus-producing farmers, processors and MoFA extension officers from across Ghana will undergo an intensive training programme on citrus production. The training is a joint partnership between the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Israel's International Development Agency (MASHAV) and Germany's International Cooperation (GIZ), intended to build the capacity of farmers through the transfer of technological know-how to improve citrus productivity in Ghana...In efforts to enhance productivity in the citrus subsector, the trilateral cooperation is also supporting research activities. In line with this, nine demonstration farms have been established in the Eastern and Central Regions.

[ghanaweb.com; 21 May 2013]

## **University uncover link - grapefruit and drug delivery**

Grapefruits have long been known for their health benefits, and the subtropical fruit may revolutionize how medical therapies like anti-cancer drugs are delivered to specific tumor cells. University of Louisville researchers have uncovered how to create nanoparticles using natural lipids derived from grapefruit, and have discovered how to use them as drug delivery vehicles. UofL scientists Huang-Ge Zhang, D.V.M., Ph.D., Qilong Wang, Ph.D., and their team today published their findings in Nature Communications. "These nanoparticles, which we've named grapefruit-derived nanovectors, are derived from an edible plant, and we believe they are less toxic for patients, result in less biohazardous waste for the environment, and are much cheaper to produce at large scale than nanoparticles made from synthetic materials," Zhang said. The researchers demonstrated that GNVs can transport various therapeutic agents, including anti-cancer drugs, DNA/RNA and proteins such as antibodies. Treatment of animals with GNVs seemed to cause less adverse effects than treatment with drugs encapsulated in synthetic lipids. "Our GNVs can be modified to target specific cells – we can use them like missiles to carry a variety of therapeutic agents for the purpose of destroying diseased cells," he said. "Furthermore, we can do this at an affordable price."

[Freshplaza.com; 22 May 2013]

## **Mexico: Cartel clash causes citrus crisis**

There are reports from the Mexican state of Michoacan of drug cartels causing severe problems for the agricultural industry. The reports say that a cartel, calling itself the Knights Templar, is extorting payments from agricultural businesses in the area, including citrus growers. Some in the area have now turned to establishing their own vigilante groups in a bid to fight back. After several serious incidents, including some in which agricultural workers were killed, the government has now sent troops into restore order.. The heart of a conflict where a mafia openly rules and the government is largely absent is nowhere more evident than in the lime groves. By late last year, the cartel wasn't just extorting money from lime growers and packers. It had started charging per-box payments from lime pickers. Vigilantes have, on occasion clashed openly with the cartel. As a result the cartel shut the warehouses, forbidding brokers to buy limes and cutting off work for the pickers who had revolted. Meanwhile, in Mexico City, the federal government recently declared a lime emergency because prices had doubled to about 70 cents a pound.

[Freshplaza.com; 24 May 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](mailto:johne@cga.co.za)**

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