GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (32)

John Edmonds (6 September 2013) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Indonesia, Pakistan to enjoy mutual benefits on CPO, orange trade

Indonesia will see its crude palm oil (CPO) exports to Pakistan freed from import duty starting on Sunday, as the two countries have signed a preferential treatment agreement on bilateral trade. In exchange, Indonesia will open its main port, Tanjung Priok in North Jakarta, for Pakistan's Kinnow oranges…Tanjung Priok Port bars the entry of horticultural commodities, including Kinnow oranges, of which Pakistan is one of the world's largest producers. The restriction was put in place due to lack of capacity at the country's busiest port. "The accord also grants the recognition of pest-free areas for horticultural imports from the country, which is necessary for Pakistan's oranges to enter the port…The MRA is a follow up to a preferential trade agreement (PTA) inked by the two countries last year, which removed 25 percent import duty on Kinnow oranges and allowed Indonesia's CPO to penetrate Pakistan's market...Indonesia's imports of Kinnow oranges from Pakistan, on the other hand, totaled only 5,000 tons last year.
[Jakarta Post; 31 August 2013]

UK: Jaffa launches nationwide drive for healthy half-time snacking

Citrus brand Jaffa has launched a countrywide initiative to reintroduce halftime oranges to the national game. The campaign to 'bring back the half-time Jaffa' is launching in Cambridgeshire before rolling out nationwide during the 2013/14 season. The goal is to get every kid's football team in the UK eating the fruit by May 2015 Jaffa will be donating tens of thousands of oranges and fruit vouchers to children's football teams around the country…A recent survey on half-time eating habits conducted by Jaffa fruit found almost half (45%) of kids said they eat crisps, chocolate, sweets or biscuits at half time. 43% drink fizzy or high-sugar drinks during the break. While only half of children thought it was important to eat fruit at half time, 97% said they would eat a healthy snack if it was provided for them.
[www.freshplaza.com; 28 August 2013]

South African citrus waits in limbo on EU market

South African citrus has been left in doubt on the European market, following the fifth detection of citrus black spot by EU officials in South African shipments... No official word has been given, however, as to what the fifth detection will mean for South Africa, said Cape Citrus managing director Scott Dowle…"During the season everyone said that once the fifth strike was identified that the doors of entry to Europe would be closed. We've had five interceptions now but the doors are still open."…I don't think they will shut the season at this late stage considering the demand there is there and also the livelihoods that the citrus industry upholds. It's not just the end consumer. It's the transport people, the customs officials, the packers. It's everybody that's involved in the supply chain," he said.
On the European end, importer Wilko van der Zwaard of WilkoFruit in the Netherlands said demand for South African citrus has been strong. "My clients need to have oranges. If South Africa is blocked, nobody will have oranges in Europe. That is not possible," he said. The possibility of losing South Africa has pushed van der Zwaard to consider increasing imports from Argentina and Uruguay; a change he would rather not make. "We decided this year to focus only on South Africa to avoid problems with my clients. The quality from South Africa is much better than from Argentina. That's a reason WilkoFruit has decided to only import from South Africa to get the best fruit," he said. Even with customs delays of three to four days due to black spot concerns, van der Zwaard said his clients are willing to wait because they prefer South African citrus.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 28 August 2013]

Spain: Castellon's citrus sector to recover 6% of production losses

The latest studies conducted by the citrus sector in the Spanish province of Castellon predict the recovery of 6% of last season's production losses (40,000 tonnes). Growers also estimate that prices will rise above the minimum profitability threshold of 0.24 Euro per kilo, compared to last year's 0.18 Euro per kilo…Despite all this, losses amounted to close to 22 million Euro, despite the fact that prices almost doubled compared to the previous year and a sales volume of around 114 million Euro was generated, according to estimations from the association…Something which invited growers to be optimistic is that the market is already paying up to 0.80 Euro per kilo for the early varieties. The average price of the various orange varieties stood last season at around 0.20 Euro per kilo (with peaks of 0.22 Euro). These prices doubled those registered during the previous campaign (2011/2012), when no prices higher than 0.10 Euro per kilo were reached. "Prices are still very low, which makes the situation unsustainable, and this will lead to further abandonment of the crop next year. Prices have doubled, but the previous ones were already rather disastrous.
[Levante-emv.com; 4 September2013]

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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