GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (3)

John Edmonds (23 January 2014) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Asian citrus winter orange crop significantly lower than previous year

Shares in Asian Citrus Holdings Ltd took a hit Tuesday morning, after the China-based orange plantation operator said that the winter orange crop from its two operational plantations was significantly lower than the previous year. Asian Citrus said that the actual winter orange crop yield of the group's two operational plantations at Xinfeng and Hepu was approximately 147,927 tonnes, down significantly on the 161,233 tonnes produced during the financial year ended June 2013. In a statement on November 27, the group warned that profit and revenue in the current financial year ending June 30 would be reduced in its agricultural produce unit as production volumes decreased and the average selling price of the winter orange crop declined. At that time it said that it was expecting to produce around 149,700 tonnes, comprised of 123,400 tonnes from Xinfeng, and 26,300 tonnes from Hepu. In its latest trading statement Tuesday, it said that the actual Winter Orange crop from its Xinfeng Plantation was approximately 123,228 tonnes, a decline of 4% against 128,395 tonnes reported for the prior year, due to heavy rainfall between April and August 2013. Actual yield from its Hepu Plantations was approximately 24,699 tonnes, down on the prior year's 32,838 tonnes.
[Freshplaza.com; 21January 2014]

Peruvian citrus exports forecast for 10% increase

Peruvian citrus exports are expected to rise 10% to 105,000MT this year, according to data provided to Agraria.pe by ProCitrus. Greater production of mandarins and oranges, thanks in large part to higher set, was cited as the main reason behind projected growth. “We have conducted counts of Satsuma variety mandarins and it appears there will be 30% more production. Also, the W. Murcott variety was planted a few year ago. It is entering maturity and growing in production,” ProCitrus general manager Sergio del Castillo told Agraria.pe. In the case of oranges, Peru has improved its post-harvest processes, allowing the nation to ship to China without suffering quality complications. “Two years ago, we gained access to China. However, there are certain problems with the phytosanitary treatments that we have to expose the oranges to due to fruit fly, which stresses the fruit and hurts arrival condition,” he said. For lemons, the general manager said shipments have been low due to fruit over ripening during travel....In the case of exports to the United States, Peru only has authorization to export citrus from Ica, Lima, Lambayeque, Piura and Junin. Peru’s National Agrarian Health Service (SENASA) is working with the United States Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to allow exports from other regions. SENASA would like to expand U.S. export authorization to La Libertad, Ancash and Arequipa. Fruit fly has been one of the greatest barriers to greater market access in the U.S.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 21 January 2014]

Mexican lime region shakes under power struggle

In the lime and avocado hub of Mexico, local media have indicated a resurgence in self-defense groups, formed in resistance to the Knights Templar drug cartel. The news comes at the same time as massive arrests by Mexican security forces of Knights Templar members. Yesterday brought 38 detentions, including the arrest of leader Jesus Vasquez Macias, in an attempt to restore order to the Michoacán state, the BBC reported. In Michoacán – and nationally – the sectors of Apatzingán, Tepalcatepec and Buenavista are among some of the most productive for limes, avocados and other produce. These crops, including packing houses, had largely fallen under the control of the cartel, accused of extorting and intimidating local farmers. Asked about the cartel’s practices, one Michoacán street vendor told the New York Times, “You have to pay them quotas or they burn your business down or kidnap you or your wife or girls … I have paid, everybody pays. And all the police and politicians are in on it, too.” La Rauna community and self-defense leader, Hipolita Mora, said Michoacán’s resistance movements are largely financed by lime and avocado production. With the recent expulsion of cartel leaders, Mora said the community has been able begin rebuilding financial control of orchards...He said the resistance movement has also been able to finance itself by selling off the weapons and luxary cars left behind in the mansions of Knights Templar members, the Mexican publication said. Since the month of December, the Michoacán industry has harvested 2,000 to 3,000 MT of limes a day, said Sergio Ramírez Castañeda, president of the national and state Lime Production System, in an interview with Mimorelia.com.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; 21 January 2014]

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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