# GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (5)

John Edmonds (18 February 2014) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

**Morocco to triple citrus exports to Russia**

According to the Association of Citrus Exporters (ASPAM), Morocco plans to triple exports to Russia between now and 2018. The Green Morocco Plan aims to increase citrus production to 2.9 million tons by 2018 and boost exports to 1.3 million tons, with the objective of doubling citrus production to around 3.19 million tons per annum by 2020...Russia has become Morocco's number one citrus client, taking 60% of exports, North America between 10-15%, and the European Union 30%. In 2012-2013 Morocco sent almost 200,000 tons of mandarins last season to Russia, a 52% rise compared to past seasons. The Moroccan Fruit Board, the largest group of exporters, hopes to triple these figures by 2015, notably by developing new opportunities in Canada, the United States, Asia and Africa...Producers are also aiming at other markets such as Asia- China in particular, where clementine containers have already been delivered thanks to a phytosanitary agreement signed by health authorities.
*[Freshplaza.com;12 February 2014]*

**Brazil's top citrus state reports major planting decline**

The Brazilian state of São Paulo has lost 150,000 hectares of citrus in three years, according to data from São Paulo's Agriculture Defense Coordination (CDA). Crisis in the nation's top citrus producing state has forced producers out of the sector and reduced trees in the state by 26% since 2011, said Brazil's Center for Advanced Studies on Applied Economics (CEPEA). "In three years, circa 62.7 million trees were eradicated, which is equivalent to 150 thousand hectares. As for the number of farms that are not producing citrus anymore in São Paulo State, the percentage is even higher: 28," said CEPEA in a press release. Since 2011, the number of registered citrus farms in the state has dropped from 18,500 to 13,400 in the second half of 2013. Most decline was attributed to increased costs that have forced growers out of production, followed by citrus greening cases, CDA reported...
*[Freshfruitportal.com; 10 February 2014]*

**AU: Orange tariff to fall under Korea Free Trade Agreement**

Citrus Australia welcomes news that the tariff placed on Australian navel oranges destined for South Korea will fall from 50% to 30% under the Korea Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA). The Federal Government today released the full details of the Agreement, which both countries are expected to sign during the first half of 2014. The reduction would apply during Australia's export season (April to September), and the tariff will be eliminated entirely over a seven-year-period. Citrus Australia Chief Executive Officer Judith Damiani says the news is a significant win for Australian citrus growers, which if progressed quickly could bring benefits this season. "Australian navel oranges exported to South Korea reached a value of $2.04 million in 2012, but we have faced serious competitive pressures from other trading nations such as South Africa and Chile," says Judith. "A tariff reduction from 50% to 30% right away will mean we have a much greater chance of expanding our trade into South Korea." The 144% mandarin tariff is also set to fall, but over a significantly longer period (18 years). "Quarantine access has not yet been achieved for mandarins but now the prospects of tariff elimination and increasing production in Australia will fast-track this work," says Judith. Citrus Australia visited South Korea in November 2013, spending time on the citrus growing island of Jeju where representatives met with the Jeju Citrus Growers Association to discuss the upcoming Free Trade Agreement, increased co-operation and trade. As the two countries are counter seasonal, Citrus Australia was able to assure Jeju growers that Australian citrus would not compete with local produce.
*[www.citrusaustralia.com.au; 17 February 2014]*

**Argentina will export sweet citrus to Japan**

Last Friday, Japan authorized opening its market to Argentine sweet citrus...The amendment to the regulations of Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will allow Argentina to export sweet oranges (Washington Navel, Lane Late and Salustiana varieties) as well as Mandarins (Clementine, Ellendale, Murcott and Nova varieties) with cold treatment to that destination. The Japanese market for these citrus was closed for Argentina and the country's Foreign Ministry and SENASA have been working together for a decade to open it...In 2013, Japan imported 111,000 tons of oranges and 16,000 tons of tangerines, with an annual value of U.S. $128 million and $28 million respectively. Their main suppliers of oranges are the United States, Australia and South Africa; while their main suppliers of tangerines are the United States, Australia and Israel. The opening of the Japanese market brings new possibilities for Argentine producers of sweet citrus for exporting their products to a very demanding and large-scale market, which will result in higher revenues for the regional economies, particularly for the NOA and NEA.
*[Freshplaza.com; 13 February 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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