GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (42)

John Edmonds (7 November 2014)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Iran to export up to 40% of their oranges

Director of the department for tropical fruit production of the Ministry of Agriculture in Iran, Abukasem Hasanpur, has reported that not only is Iran self-sufficient in oranges, but also is keen to export up to 800,000 MT of their own production of this citrus fruit. Moreover, it has been noted that Iran has the potential to grow more than 2 million MT of oranges a year.
[Freshplaza.com; 5 November 2014]

AU: Plans to increase levies to move citrus industry forward

A major citrus grower has welcomed plans to increase two levies to fund more research and development, and biosecurity. The National Citrus Growers' Levy Ballot is open all month, and proposes to boost the Horticulture Australia R&D levy by more than $1, to $3.20 per tonne, and increase the Plant Health Australia biosecurity levy tenfold, from three cents to 30 cents per tonne. CEO of Citrus Australia Judith Damiani says the current levels of investment are no longer enough to fund what's needed to move the industry forward. She says the ballot is long overdue and necessary if the 1,800 growers involved want to develop new strategies. "Export, market access, science to support improved access, breaking down technical (and non-technical) barriers... is probably the biggest issue." Doing more to protect the industry from exotic pests and diseases is also high on the agenda. Competition with lower-cost citrus-producing nations like South Africa and Chile is also requiring Australian exporters to work 'smarter'. Ms Damiani says the industry needs to find new lower-cost solutions and technology, break down costs in the supply chain, and provide higher value produce. Major citrus grower and exporter Allen Jenkin, from Ironbark Citrus at Mundubbera in Queensland, says the levy rises are good, and set at reasonable rates. He says there's been no R&D levy increase for a long time, and that fund shortages have prevented Citrus Australia from fully meeting its strategic plan. "As state governments have become less and less provider of services to our industry, we must provide for ourselves and this is the main vehicle for doing so." He says vigilance to tackle biosecurity risks like citrus greening disease from Papua New Guinea is critical to maintaining the health of the Australian crop.
Improving market access to major customers by changing things like storage temperature regimes, and increasing the number of export varieties, are also key focuses of R&D, Mr Jenkin said.
[abc.net.au; 5 November 2014]

Peru exports 23% more tangerines in first half of 2014

Peruvian tangerine exports between January and August this year amounted to US $77 million, 23.1% more than in the same period of 2013, when they totalled $62.5 million, stated the management of ADEX Agro...
According to the Business Intelligence System ADEX Data Trade, Peruvian tangerines were sent to 27 countries. The main target was the United States, which accounts for 30.4% of total exports with orders worth USD $23 million, i.e. a 62.4% increase. The UK ranked second with $18.4 million, +17.5% and 23.8% of total exports, followed by the Netherlands ($ 12.9 million), Canada (11.1 million) Ireland (2.9 million), Russia, Colombia, Sweden and Finland, among others. It's worth noting that, even though Russia didn't present a significant amount of orders ($2.3 million), exports to that country in the first half of 2014 increased by 30.1% over the same period last year. Exports to Colombia and Sweden also increased by 54.8% and 52.7%, respectively...The management of ADEX Agro stressed that the increase in tangerine exports was due to the increase in production caused by the alternating production this year.
[Freshplaza.com; 31 October 2014]

Spain: "Citrus campaign starts with similar difficulties as last season"

After a very dry year in the Valencian coast, with high temperatures in late summer and early autumn, "the citrus season has started with similar difficulties as last season, in the context of a financial crisis that is slowing sales down," explains Fernando González, CEO of Naranjas Torres, during FreshPlaza's visit to its facilities in Almenara, Castellón. "The first P23 and Oronules clementines have started with good prices, although also with some problems due to these high temperatures, unusual for the month of October, which favour the proliferation of flies that cause fruit rot. We will have to wait until temperatures drop to at least 13 °C for this insect to disappear...Moreover, the fact that this year the summer weather is lasting for longer is likely to result in new cases of "clareta" or cracked skin on oranges, an issue that drove the sector mad last season. "We hope the campaign will not be as complicated as last year's; for now, we will have to wait and see," points out Fernando...
[Freshplaza.com; 31 October 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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