GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (1)

John Edmonds (16 January 2015) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Aussie produce industry hopeful for India FTA prospects

The Australian horticultural industry has given a positive response to Trade Minister Andrew Robb's recent visit to India, where he is working on establishing a free trade agreement (FTA) with the South Asian nation…Robb told the ABC he believed a deal could be reached by the end of 2015. "It is possible. The timetable wasn't just set by Prime Minister Abbott. In fact, the driver of a 12-month agreement was really [Indian] Prime Minister Modi, and he's said it publicly as well," Robb was quoted as saying. Australian Horticultural Exporters' Association (AHEA) chairman David Minnis said Australia ought to have more trade with India given the two countries' close cultural and historical ties. "One of the problems for us in India is that we're probably the most expensive supplier, because of our high labour costs and transport costs, so we certainly would welcome a free trade agreement that would lower duties and allow us to become more competitive," Minnis was quoted as saying. The chair of newly-formed industry group Voice of Horticulture, Tania Chapman – who also chairs Citrus Australia – told the ABC an FTA with India could help the industry replicate the success seen in China over recent years. "It's almost akin to China in that middle class wealth, the ability to afford fresh fruit and vegetables, especially imported fruit and vegetables from Australia, is rising at astronomical rate," she was quoted as saying. "As in China where, for citrus for example, we've gone from exporting five containers just four years ago, to 800 this year, that kind of astronomical growth is the kind of thing we have the potential to see in India."
[freshfruitportal.com; 12 January 2015]

AHEA delighted with Australia-Japan FTA ratification

The Australian horticultural industry can now gear up for reduced tariffs in its second-largest export market, with the free trade with Japan ratified as of today (Jan. 15)…Japan has agreed to eliminate grapefruit, orange and mandarin tariffs over five, 10 and 15 years respectively. "Orange tariffs during the peak of Australia's season (June to September) are currently 16 per cent and mandarin tariffs are 17 per cent. The grapefruit tariff of 10 per cent will be eliminated in five years," AHEA said…"Whilst technical market access issues still remain, the AHEA commends both governments in bringing together this timely reduction in tariffs. This enables Australia to take advantage of the strong potential in this market."
[freshfruitportal.com; 15 January 2015]

Peru could export tangerines Brazil

This year, Peru could export tangerines to Brazil and in 2016 to Japan, said Sergio del Castillo Valderrama, CEO of the Peruvian Citrus Growers Association (ProCitrus). He noted that Brazil is an interesting market for the Peruvian tangerine and that the country's health authority had already approved the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) made by Peru so they expected the protocol accessing that market would be signed this year. "The entry of tangerines to Brazil would be almost immediate, so exports could begin this year, provided the parties are willing to reach an agreement," he said. He also stated that Japan was the market for which the Peruvian tangerine had the most expectations. "We already performed the studies they requested for the treatment of fruit fly and they were approved. Now we're awaiting the administrative part, where the rules or the protocol for the entry of Tangerine is made, to begin." …However, he said, they expected the protocol would be signed this year so exports to that Asian market could start in 2016.
[Freshplaza.com; 15 January 2015]

Peru: 120,000 tonnes citrus exports in 2015

As announced by the General Manager of the Citrus Growers Association of Peru (ProCitrus), Sergio del Castillo Valderrama, Peru could export close to 120,000 tonnes of citrus this season (February-September), which would entail a 10% increase compared to 2014, when shipments totalled 108,387 tonnes (105 million dollars).
He said that from this figure, 105,000 tonnes would correspond to mandarins, tangelos and other hybrids (88%), 10,000 tonnes to oranges (8%) and 5,000 tonnes to lemons and grapefruit (4%)…In this regard, he explained that the mandarins registering the greatest increase in production are late varieties, like W.Murcott (also known as Nadorcott), while early season varieties such as Satsuma (which dominates the local market) remain stable. In any case, the increased mandarin production will also result in more fruit being distributed in the domestic market.
He also noted that the main market for Peruvian citrus is still Europe, which receives 60% of the exports, followed by the U.S. with 21%, Canada (12%) and Russia (3%), among others.
[Freshplaza.com; 14 January 2015]

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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