

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (6)

John Edmonds (6 March 2015)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

US (FL): New funds to fight citrus greening

The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences received funds to help find a cure for one of the Florida citrus' most costly pests. Researchers at UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) were awarded about \$13.4 million last month as part of the federal Specialty Crop Initiative Citrus Disease Research and Education (CDRE) program. The money will help fund four research projects to find a solution to citrus greening...Citrus greening has caused a total loss of about \$4.5 billion in revenue and 8,800 jobs in Florida's citrus industry between 2006 and 2010, as reported by UF/IFAS...

[Freshplaza.com; 4 March 2015]

Regularisation of Orri mandarin will cost 66 Euro per tree

The Unió de Llauradors (Growers Association) has asked the Ministry of Agriculture to mediate and intervene in the regularisation process of Orri mandarins. Sources from the Unió argue that both the actual acreage and production in Spain are unknown and therefore reject the rights of holders and breeders to demand an unprecedented high compensation from growers wishing to "legalise" them, "amounting to 66 Euro per planted tree plus 0.03 Euro per kilo marketed." This regularisation, as estimated by the entity, could entail revenues for operators of at least 31 million Euro and a monthly income of 300,000 to 750,000 Euro. For the entity, this responds to a planned strategy, since the variety was brought from Israel with licenses for two operators, and was then allegedly distributed amongst growers "in exchange of good marketing prices, and now, with the variety protected, they are demanding an unprecedented payment to be able to legalise it." La Unió assures that this is common procedure, as often, before being registered and during their temporary protected period, new varieties are given to individual growers to be able to obtain "a specific and measurable production volume." According to La Unió, after the variety has become established in the markets, granted with protection and an agreement has been reached with its legitimate breeder, "a lucrative regularisation fee is imposed for a variety that becomes illegal but which they themselves helped to expand." There are doubts about whether the acreage planted is really of the protected variety...In this regard, La Unió has informed the Ministry of Agriculture that there is no confirmation that the variety planted in many fields is actually the protected Orri. These may, in many cases, actually derive from the Orah or Or, which are free and for which no royalties could be claimed. Given this situation, the Unió has argued that some growers "may have been forced to pay 66 Euro per tree for a citrus variety that, unknowingly, may actually not be the Orri."

[Agroinformación via Freshplaza; 3 March 2015]

Morocco re-draws citrus export profile

Of the 323K MT shipped season-to-date, the Russian market has absorbed 127K MT, 50% less than at the same stage last year.

[Reefertrends; 5 March 2015]

Iraq: Citrus productivity in Diyala down by 70%

The Agricultural Committee in Iraq's Diyala province confirmed a decline in citrus production for the current season of more than 70% because of the security unrest and displacement of growers as a result of military operations. It stated that this major setback for the province's citrus producers will likely affect them for the coming years, since plantations in many key agricultural areas have been destroyed. A call has been issued to the Government to speed up the return of displaced people to the liberated areas to rehabilitate citrus plantations and reduce the damage done to them...

[alfayhaa.tv via Freshplaza.com; 2 March 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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