GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (18)

John Edmonds (11 June 2015) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Mandarins drive Uruguayan citrus growth

Uruguay's significantly increasing mandarin production is largely responsible for the South American country expecting a 6.4% boost in citrus volumes this season. The Office of Agricultural Statistics (DIEA) said while total planted citrus hectarage had remained similar to last year, production for the 2015 season was set to hit 305,700 metric tons (MT). DIEA said total volumes of oranges, mandarins, lemons and grapefruit would likely hit 305,700 metric tons (MT).
So far it is estimated about a quarter of the total orange, mandarin, lemon and grapefruit crop has been harvested.
Breaking down production into the different categories, DIEA said orange production would drop 6.5% to 140,800MT this year, but mandarins were set for a whopping 25% jump to 131,000MT.
Lemon and grapefruit production are anticipated to reach 32,000MT and 1,400MT respectively.
The organization said there had been no major changes in the citrus orchard surface area, which it put at 20,300 hectares. The number of citrus trees stands at 7.2 million, of which 87% are in production.
[Freshfruitportal.com; 10 June 2015]

German demand rises for Thai pomelos

The Department of Agriculture (DOA) has been trying to improve the quality of Kao Nam Pueng pomelos, due to an increase in German demand. Kao Nam Pueng pomelos have grown in popularity in Germany, which imports a large amount from China each year. The fruit has a color similar to the honey variety, while having a sweeter and crunchier consistency compared to other varieties. Kao Nam Pueng pomelos from Thailand have earned a reputation for having superior quality to those from China. The DOA has been working with the Association of Fruit and Vegetable Importers in Germany to ensure that Thai pomelos meet standards required by the European Union (EU) and Germany. According to DOA Director General Anan Suwannarat, more than 176,000 rai of land have been allocated to pomelo cultivation in Thailand. An estimated 15,000 rai have been certified by the DOA. The DOA will submit a petition to Germany for the export of Kao Nam Pueng pomelos from Thailand, after they undergo pesticide residue analysis. Thailand mainly exports two varieties of pomelos, namely Thong Dee and Kao Nam Pueng. They are shipped to China, Hong Kong and Cambodia, generating 130 million baht per year.
[thainews.prd.go.th via Freshplaza.com; 5 June 2015]

China: Orange crop yield soured by typhoons

Asian Citrus Holdings Ltd Friday reported a decline in its summer orange crop yield at the Hepu Plantation in China, as it was hit by damage sustained from Typhoons Rammasun and Seagull last year.The orange plantation operator and owner said the summer orange crop yield at Hepu was approximately 19,132 tonnes, down from 49,540 tonnes the prior summer, due to damage sustained from Typhoon Rammasun and Typhoon Seagull in July and September, respectively. The total annual production yield of winter and summer oranges decreased to 130,125 tonnes from 197,467 tonnes, Asian Citrus added. In April, the company said it had identified the presence of Huanglongbing, or citrus greening disease, at its Xinfeng Plantation in China and said the infection rate meant its 2015 winter harvest would be severely hit. On Friday, Asian Citrus said that the reduction in the production yield of orange crop, citrus canker and Huanglongbing disease, will continue to adversely influence the performance of the group's agricultural produce operations.
[Freshplaza.com; 8 June 2015]

South Africa's PPECB appoints CEO

South Africa's official export certification agency, the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB), has appointed Lucien Jansen as its new CEO on a five year-fixed term contract. Jansen, who takes up the role on 1 July this year, replaces Stuart Symington who left the PPECB earlier this year. Chairperson of the PPECB board, Angelo Petersen, says the body is pleased by the appointment and believes that Jansen possesses the qualities required to lead the PPECB team to the next level of success…Pinki Luwaca, general manager of human resources at PPECB, states that the appointment is an immense achievement for the organisation. "This is the first time in the almost 90 year history of the PPECB that a CEO has been appointed from within its own ranks," Luwaca explains. "This is testament to the strong leadership skills within the organisation. We have always strived to carve a path of succession planning and this appointment serves to validate these efforts."
[Fruitnet.com; 8 June 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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