GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (44)

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

Uruguay citrus exports slump

Uruguayan citrus exports fell sharply in 2015 due to a sharp drop in shipments to the European Union, Russia and Brazil, Uruguay's three biggest market. Figures from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MGAP) showed that in spite of production rising 6 per cent to 306,000 tonnes, exports ended the year down 27.3 per cent at 98,000 tonnes, with a corresponding value of US$72.7m. In 2014 the country exported 125,000 tonnes with a value of US$100m. Federico Montes of MGAP said that heavy rainfall during the spring of 2014 had had a serious impact on fruit quality and resulted in a high incidence of disease. Uruguay was the country with the highest number of interceptions for EU-bound consignments found to contain citrus black spot. A total of 61 interceptions were made on EU exports of 55,000 tonnes, far higher than the 17 and 15 interceptions made on shipments from Argentina and South Africa respectively. By contrast, exports to the US tripled to reach 15,000 tonnes this season…"One of our main goals in the coming years is to increase our penetration of this market," Montes said. "Right now we don't have the varietal mix that the US market demands but we are starting to plant those varieties."

[Fruitnet.com; 8 December 2015]

Turkish citrus growers await solution to Russian crisis

Adana Citrus Producers Association President Rifat Karabucak explains that although the Russian market is indispensable to Turkish cıtrus growers and cannot be replaced by other markets, there may be measures that can relieve producers in the short term. Karabucak stated that Turkey is in the top 10 countries for citrus production; out of the total citrus produced 32% is exported and out of the 2 million tons of fresh fruit and vegetables exported annually, citrus makes up half. Karabucak, "Lemons occupy the biggest share of exports with 42%...In the Cukurova region 70% of Turkey's total citrus production takes place, the economic and political crisis experienced in Russia shook producers in the 2015-2016 citrus season. Karabucak, "30% has already been harvested. A large amount of the harvested product has been packaged and is in storage waiting to be exported. A significant proportion of product remains on the trees. Citrus producers are in a very difficult situation. Hundreds of thousands of workers work in this industry, this could create huge social problems," he said…

[Freshplaza.com; 9 December 2015]

Australian citrus smashes export record

Australia's citrus export industry continues to enjoy a remarkable turnaround in fortunes, with shipments for 2015 expanding by almost a third on last year's record result. Export volumes climbed by 29 per cent to some 187,994 tonnes in the 10 months to the end of October, a period which covers around 94 per cent of the 2015 export season. The value of exports soared to some A$262.6m, up by almost 40 per cent on the previous year. "We've smashed our export record set last year, which is very exciting," CEO of Citrus Australia Judith Damiani told Asiafruit. "The top six markets accounted for most of the growth – namely Hong Kong/China, Japan, the UAE, the US and Singapore. China continues its stellar rise." Indeed, China was the big mover in terms of markets, registering another dramatic increase in volume in 2015. Hong Kong and China combined took some 66,000 tonnes of Australian citrus through October, up 53 per cent on the same period last year. "It's pleasing to be able to compete in China amid increasing volumes from South Africa…Damiani singled out the Philippines and Thailand as the standout performers in the "emerging markets category". Thailand's imports were up by 60 per cent to 7,182 tonnes in the 10-month period, while the Philippines registered 37 per cent growth to hit 4,721 tonnes…"The Philippines has grown from almost nothing five years ago," said Harty. "We've put a lot of effort into promotions to underline the taste and sweetness of our fruit. This has paid off and we see huge future potential there." The only real downside for the industry came in Indonesia, where exports fell 23 per cent to 8,825 tonnes. The drop was due to the country's controversial quota import system…Matters looks set to get worse in 2016, with the Indonesian government only expected to allow citrus imports in the months of February/March and September/October, thereby taking out a chunk of the Australian export season. Indonesia is a key market for Australian mandarins. Even so, the mandarin industry has achieved stellar results in 2015. Exports surged 61 per cent to 47,734 tonnes to capture a 25 per cent share of total citrus exports. Damiani summarises the industry outlook for 2016 and beyond as "very positive". Indeed, the industry is in a very different situation to six years ago when growers were toiling with low prices and oversupply. The value of exports has grown by some 55 per cent since then…

[Fruitnet.com; 9 December 2015]

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