GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_13)

John Edmonds (8 April 2016) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Argentina: Precipitous drop in mandarin sales

According to the export records of Argentina's Citrus Federation, there's been a precipitous drop in mandarin sales. Up until March 20, 2016, Argentina had shipped 786 pallets, i.e. 335.37% less than the 3,422 pallets sold in the same period of 2015."We are facing a desperate and unfortunate situation because we have the product, we have the markets, but we cannot export the fruit because we have no working capital," said Mariano Caprarulo, executive director of the Chamber of Citrus Exporters of Nea, in dialogue with Oid Mortales Radio…"They are unable to export a box of fruits because they have very poor ratings with the banks. They cannot get any funding because of the 5 bad years they experienced. They have debts in dollars, which used to cost 8.90, but today they have to pay it at 15 and they don't have anything stockpiled," he said. "The industry doesn't have the reserves or working capital needed to export and to wait to collect,"…"The Chamber of Citrus Exporters of NEA expects the national government to react before it is too late and takes interim measures so that the long-term policies, such as the opening of the US, the release of the stocks, and a lot of important decisions to be more competitive can become a reality…

[Oíd Mortales Radio via Freshplaza.com; 4 April 2016]

Turkish lemon season ending early

As the export quantity and value of Turkish lemons fell in March, this is said to likely mark the end of the Turkish lemon season. Exporters are said to have found more quality product "exportable", while domestic demand remains strong…considering the season as a whole, from 28th of September 2015…to March 31, 2016, the overall export is similar to the previous season, with around 353,000 tonnes exported in comparison to about 351,000 tons in 2014-2015 and at a better prices (+ 11% in value compared to 2014-2015). But it is mainly due to early season exports that this figure was reached. The biggest importer of lemons remains Russia, constituting 27% of total exports, despite a drastic fall of 44% in quantity, followed by Saudi Arabia 23% of total exports, Iraq 15%, Ukraine 12% and UAE 7%.

[Freshplaza.com; 4 April 2016]

US mulls Chilean lemon rule change

Chilean lemons could soon be allowed access to the US without having to be fumigated with methyl bromide, bringing significant cost savings and quality improvements for exporters. USDA Aphis is seeking comments on a proposed rule to amend the import requirements on fresh lemons from Chile into the continental US…Certain citrus fruit from Chile, including fresh lemons, is currently allowed into the US provided shipments undergo a methyl bromide treatment to mitigate against infestation by the false red mite. The proposed rule means that commercial consignments would be allowed into the US subject to a systems approach – a series of overlapping safeguarding measures, including steps taken in growing areas, packing houses, export locations, and at the port of entry, that effectively minimise the risk of a plant pest, or pests, traveling from one country to another. In this case it would require the production site where the fruit is grown to be registered annually with the national plant protection organisation (NPPO) of Chile and certified as a low prevalence production site, and shipments would be subject to post-harvest processing and phytosanitary inspection in Chile at an Aphis-approved inspection site. Any shipment that does not pass the initial inspection may still be imported if fumigated with methyl bromide in Chile or at the post of first entry into the US, and, all consignments must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate from the NPPO of Chile containing an additional declaration that the fruit was produced according to the import requirements…

[Fruitnet.com_Americafruit; 1 April 2016]

South Africa: Black citrus growers get investment venture

Participation in the company will also see emerging citrus growers being able to enter the export market. "…The creation of this company will hopefully increase meaningful participation of an historically disadvantaged group in this sector," Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Senzeni Zokwana said at the launch of the enterprise recently. He added that emerging citrus growers were still experiencing major challenges with a shortage of skills in production and orchard management, as well as difficulty gaining access to credit facilities. There are currently 118 black growers who farm 7000ha. The majority of them are in Limpopo and the Eastern Cape. "The Growers Development Company will specifically assist in addressing these and other factors…" said Chadwick. The new company is the transformation arm of the Citrus Growers Association and will receive about R14- million in investment from the association…"Many well-intended land redistribution and restitution initiatives have resulted in degenerating farms due to a lack of skills and governance knowledge among beneficiaries," he said.

[www.timeslive.co.za; 8 April2016]