GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_17)

John Edmonds (6 May 2016) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

South Korea to accept imports of Australian blood oranges.

South Korea's Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency has decided to allow Australian blood oranges into the market, adding to a protocol that already includes Navel and Valencia oranges. Industry groups Citrus Australia and Horticulture Innovation Australia have welcomed the move, which was prompted by requests for the variety given the lower tariffs in place in the wake of a free trade agreement between the two countries. In a release, Citrus Australia market access manager David Daniels said it was just as important to see market access wins for smaller niche varieties of citrus as it was for larger commodities.
[Freshfruitportal.com; 4 May 2016]

RSA citrus on market development drive

Finding growth markets has become a key objective of the South African citrus sector, which is expecting to see a significant increase in the volumes of fruit available for export over the medium- to long-term. “India is seen as offering huge potential,” says South Africa’s Citrus Growers’ Association (CGA). “With present volumes of about 9,000 pallets the goal is to increase this volume by tenfold during the next ten years. Most players in the Indian market believe that this is possible.” The CGA was part of a South African fruit industry delegation which showed its increased interest and commitment to the Indian market as a Gold Sponsor at Fresh Produce India, India’s only international conference and expo event for the industry, which took place in Mumbai on 26-27 April. The delegation represented Fruit South Africa and was supported by key role players from the South African industry, as well as South African diplomatic staff from New Delhi and consular staff from Mumbai. Speaking to Asiafruit at Fresh Produce India, CGA’s CEO Justin Chadwick confirmed the industry’s target to increase South Africa’s citrus sales to India ten-fold to 10m cartons in the next years. “In order to make that happen role-players from Southern Africa will need to understand the dynamics of the market,” explained Chadwick. “Leading exporters and export agents are already doing this by forming joint ventures or making other arrangements with partners already active in the Indian market. These ‘first movers’ are beginning to establish a foothold in the trade and will benefit as the anticipated growth materialises.”
Chadwick says South Africa as a country, and as an exporter of a range of excellent quality, well-priced, safe fruit, is relatively unknown in India…The delegation is visiting other destinations in Asia this week to discuss progress with improving access for Southern African fruit
[Fruitnet.com/Asiafruit; 4 May 2016]

Levy increase for Australian citrus

Upon industry request, Australia’s citrus levy will increase A$1.50 per tonne from 1 July. The rise was announced in the country’s Federal Budget on Tuesday (3 May) in a bid to boost research and development funding. The majority of the increase will be delivered through the statutory and export charge, which will rise from A$1.97 to A$3.20 per tonne. Grower levies payable to Plant Health Australia will rise from A$0.03 to A$0.30
[Fruitnet.com/Asiafruit; 5 May 2016]

AU: Backpacker tax "likely to be delayed"

In what looks like a temporary reprieve for Australia's fruit growers, the tax on foreign backpackers is likely to be delayed. The pushing through of the tax, scheduled for July 1, risks exposing Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull’s election campaign to a furious backlash from rural Australia. The West Australian understands rural Liberal MPs and Nationals have secured a six-month postponement of the plan to tax backpackers 32.5 per cent on every dollar they earn, with a view to finding an alternative…It is understood the six-month delay will cost the Government $40 million in lost revenue. WA Liberal MP Andrew Hastie said the Prime Minister and the Treasurer were “fully aware of this issue”…Growers remain furious about the backpacker tax, saying it would cripple the industry. Hills Orchard Improvement Group spokesman Brett DelSimone said it was completely out of touch. “It is way above countries with comparable living standards — about twice the amount as New Zealand and three times that of Canada,” he said. “We are really pricing ourselves out of competition for the labour force.”
[The West Australian/au.news.yahoo.com; 5 May 2016]

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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