

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_44)

John Edmonds (18 November 2016)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Zimbabwe seeks \$35.7m Kuwait Fund for citrus

The government is negotiating with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development for \$35,7 million for the Zhove irrigation project in Beitbridge. The project will develop infrastructure for intensive citrus production on 2,520 hectares of land and is expected to benefit 5,000 households upon completion, Finance minister Patrick Chinamasa said in a statement on Friday. "While the Kuwait Fund will provide \$20 million, the government will contribute \$7 million. The fund is assisting with mobilising the remaining \$8,7 million from the Abu Dhabi Fund for development," he said.

[newsday.co.zw; 14 November 2016]

FCM sells headquarters

Florida Citrus Mutual (FCM) has announced that it has sold its downtown Lakeland headquarters to Publix Super Markets Inc for an undisclosed amount. FCM has been at the site - located at the southeast corner of Orange Street and Massachusetts Avenue - for 68 years...

[www.fruitnet.com/americafruit; 11 November 2016]

Florida: all orange production up 3%

In the U.S. Department of Agriculture's monthly outlook, released Wednesday 9 November, **Florida's orange harvest** is forecasted to fill 72-million 90-pound boxes, up 2 million boxes from the initial forecast in October. However, if realized, this forecast will still be **12 percent less than last season's** production and **the least since the 1963-64** season of 54.9 million boxes (excludes Temples). The forecast consists of 36.0 million boxes of the non-Valencia oranges (early, midseason, and Navel varieties) and 36.0 million boxes of the Valencia oranges. Regression data used are from the 2006-2007 through 2015-2016 seasons. For those previous 10 seasons, the November forecast has deviated from final production by an average of 7 percent, with 8 seasons above and 2 below, with differences ranging from 9 percent below to 19 percent above...The forecast of all grapefruit production is unchanged at 9.60 million boxes. The white grapefruit is unchanged at 2.10 million boxes. The red grapefruit forecast is unchanged at 7.50 million boxes...The forecast of tangerine and tangelo production is lowered 100,000 boxes to 1.55 million boxes...

[www.freshplaza.com; 11 November 2016]

EU possibilities grow for Texan grapefruit, Mexican limes

California-based Wonderful Citrus plans to gain a larger foothold in Europe, which to date has taken more of a supplementary role overshadowed by North American and Asian sales...managing director for international sales Daniel Kaas said the old continent was taking on a "growing importance" for the group...He expected Texan grapefruit, similar to the Floridian product, would arrive in Europe from around Dec. 1 to April 15...

[www.freshfruitportal.com; 14 November 2016]

Regular fresh fruit consumption can lower risk of stroke & heart attack

New research published this week in the New England Journal of Medicine, which focuses on a 7-year study of half a million adults in China, reveals that people who eat fresh fruit on most days are at lower risk of heart attack and stroke than people who rarely eat fresh fruit. Fresh fruit consumption in China is much lower than in countries like the UK or US. Researchers from the University of Oxford and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, conducted a large, nationwide study of 500,000 adults from 10 urban and rural localities across China, tracking health for 7 years through death records and electronic hospital records of illness. The present study was among people who did not have a history of cardiovascular diseases or anti-hypertensive treatments when they first joined the study...a 100g portion of fruit per day was associated with about one-third less cardiovascular mortality and the association was similar across different study areas and in both men and women. Study author Dr Huaidong Du, University of Oxford, UK, said "The association between fruit consumption and cardiovascular risk seems to be stronger in China, where many still eat little fruit, than in high-income countries where daily consumption of fruit is more common..."

[www.freshplaza.com; 16 November 2016]