GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_45)

John Edmonds (25 November 2016)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

EU: Challenging season for citrus

The dry summer in Spain is resulting in smaller sized citrus this season, meaning the market will be interesting for traders. This is also true for Richard Uijtdewillegen, ultimately responsible for the Spanish import for Aartsenfruit…"There will be plenty of citrus available, but sizes will be disappointing due to the dry summer months. Unfortunately, larger sizes are more important to the free market. Because sizes are smaller now, we have to really search for good product…Later strains will probably be able to recover. "Especially the first Navelinas and tangerines are smaller. Sizes might be bigger later in the season, if we have enough rain……
[www.freshplaza.com; 24 November 2016]

Leafy tangerines becoming more popular

"Because of drought and heat, sizes will mostly be small this year," says Tom Leenheer from Van Ooijen Citrus about the Spanish citrus season. As always, the importer will start with Spanish citrus, and mid-November, Moroccan citrus will be added…The dry weather affected all of Spain, meaning the differences between the regions are insignificant. Especially colouring has been affected by the weather. The fruit stayed fairly pale, because temperatures remained high during the nights."…The Spanish cultivators have also increasingly committed to late strains, such as Nadorcott, Tango and Orri. "These are becoming more and more popular, while earlier strains, such as Okitsu and Satsuma, are arousing less and less interest."…Traditionally, the citrus expert from Ridderkerk, the Netherlands, focuses on the import of leafy tangerines and oranges during the Spanish season. "We have permanent suppliers in Spain, and we offer our products to a broad audience consisting of market traders, wholesalers, and retail." Van Ooijen Citrus consciously chooses to start with Spanish citrus, in order to let Moroccan citrus reach its full flavour potential before starting the Moroccan citrus season.
[www.freshplaza.com; 23 November 2016]

Agri-student thankful for successful citrus bursary scheme

MALALANE – Most people have an opinion about the #FeesMustFall campaign and it acted as a great catalyst to look at the structural wrongs in the higher education system. But there are also countless education success stories that seldom reach the media. One of these is the Citrus Academy Bursary Fund. Founded by the Citrus Growers Association, this fund is quietly changing the lives of many South Africans for the better, enabling them to get a good education relevant to the industry…To date the Citrus Academy's Bursary Fund has had a 94 per cent course completion rate. Fields of study at the academy are related to citrus production and research…Chummy Khoza, a former resident of Malalane, is one of the students who has benefited from this great initiative. "My default career option was nursing though in retrospect, I am glad the application was rejected. My current agricultural management course is a perfect fit for me." She is currently doing a diploma course in agricultural management at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University for a diploma course in agricultural management and was awarded a bursary by the Citrus Academy Bursary Fund. She truly values this opportunity to get a good education. "What sets this bursary fund apart is that it also exposes its beneficiaries to practical industry work, to gain invaluable experience while studying. This is a sure-fire way to prepare us for working in the industry. I look forward to the day when milestones in SA's higher education will gain the type of media traction that #FeesMustFall has. And, who knows, they may even coin a hashtag of their own while they are at it," she remarked. Any citizen of South Africa, Swaziland or Zimbabwe who is studying a course related to agriculture at a recognised tertiary institution in South Africa can apply for this bursary. Students are only supported from their second year of study.
[Corridor Gazette; 6 November 2016]

UPDATE 1-Brazil regulator settles 17-yr-old case with orange juice producers

Brazil's antitrust agency Cade said on Wednesday it has settled a 17-year-old case against Brazilian orange juice producers accused of colluding to reduce prices paid to farmers. Cade settled with juice producers Cutrale, Citrovita, Coinbra (Louis Dreyfus Co), Fischer, Cargill , Bascitrus and industry group Abecitrus, along with nine individuals involved in the cartel case. They will pay a combined 301 million reais ($89 million) to end the probe. It was the agency's oldest case, with an investigation starting in 1999 after complaints from independent fruit producers regarding juice makers' buying practices. Brazil is the world's largest orange juice producer and exporter, representing half of the juice sold worldwide. "They admitted participation in the conduct being investigated, pledged to end those practices and cooperated with Cade to elucidate the facts," the antitrust body said in a statement…The settlement was criticized by Associtrus, which represents most independent orange producers. "The payment was disproportionate to the losses imposed by the cartel to the farmers," Associtrus head Flavio Viegas said…
[www.reuters.com; 23 November 2016]