

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2017_4)

John Edmonds (3 February 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Indonesia says yes to Peruvian produce

...On Wednesday the ministry of foreign trade and tourism (Mincetur) announced that the Indonesian authorities had granted final approval for imports of table grapes and mandarins at the end of 2016, giving exporters access to a market of 253m people...Initial forecasts for the 2017 citrus crop suggest volumes will be similar to last year, when the crop weighed in at 1.1m tonnes. However, a shortage of water in some of the main growing areas could result in smaller sizes. Sergio del Castillo, managing director of producer association ProCitrus told Agraria.pe that there would be a greater availability of mandarins below 55mm. Peru exported 127,000 tonnes of citrus in 2016, the vast majority (115,000 tonnes) being mandarins. Within this category, Murcott has become the star performer, with exports climbing 145 per cent last year. Peru's mandarin acreage is growing at a rate of 1,000ha a year, mainly along the central coastal region and in Libertad and Ancash in the north and Nazca and Palpa in the south.

[Americafruit; 2 February 2017]

Wonderful Citrus acquires DNE

Leading US citrus company Wonderful Citrus has announced the purchase of DNE World Fruit, the largest citrus marketer in Florida, DNE International, the largest citrus exporter in Florida, and the assets of World Pack Cold Storage, a division of DNE Imports. As part of the transaction, Wonderful Citrus is acquiring DNE's citrus marketing and import business, along with World Pack's coldstorage, bagging, repack and distribution centre in New Jersey. The acquisition, combined with existing operations, makes Wonderful Citrus the number one importer of counter-seasonal citrus products in the US, while doubling the company's grapefruit position...

[Americafruit; 2 February 2017]

Brazil predicts 27% increase in 2017 orange harvest

World orange output is expected to rise by more than 2.5m tonnes to a three-year high of 49.6m tonnes in 2016-17, as top grower Brazil pulls out of a six-year decline in output, the US Department of Agriculture said. This comes at a time where the US sees its lowest harvest in over 50 years. Brazil's harvests are expected to increase by 27% to 18.2m tonnes, thanks to a boost to yields from "favourable" weather, which encouraged "good bloom and fruit set". While Brazil sees a boost in production the US saw an 8.8% drop in output to 4.89m tonnes, which is the lowest production compared to data going back to 1965-66. Citrus greening, a bacterial disease spread by insects, "continues to reduce area in Florida", which is responsible for nearly 60% of US orange production, the USDA said. World stocks "are expected up 15% as Brazilian stocks double", the USDA said, pegging global inventories at the close of the season at 515,600 tonnes.

[Freshplaza.com; 27 January 2017]

Pakistani kinnows find their way to the Chinese market

Russian and Middle Eastern markets are suffering from economic crises which is causing some concern for Pakistani growers and exporters. As a result, some companies are looking at China as an alternative this season. "We're exporting 15% less to the Middle East than last year," says Chairman Khalid Qureshi of Rosha Group, a company specialising in kinnow mandarins...According to Qureshi, 30,000 cartons of kinnow have already been exported to China...

The production of the current kinnow season has been great due to good weather. Sizes are better than last year, as well as the quality. He said that prices have been okay, though they've diminished by 10% when compared with last year...This sector is still profitable, but it's difficult. We do expect conditions to improve in March," says.

[Freshplaza.com; 27 January 2017]

Spanish lemon production predicted at 980,000 for 2017

Ailimpo has launched its 3rd lemon and grapefruit forecast report for this running 2016/2017 season confirming the figures previously announced in September. The new report concludes that lemon crop goes back to average normal volumes achieved in the past with a forecast around one million tons after an extraordinary and abnormal 2015/2016 season. In the case of grapefruit, production remains stable with a slight decrease...Ailimpo comments on the season: "2016/2017 Lemon season started with high returns at grower's level and with significant delay due to heavy stocks from the southern hemisphere (SH). If we make the comparison between the new season and the normal reference season (2 years ago – 2014/2015 season), we see that the activity rate during the first part of the season going from September to December has been lower, with exports in the fresh market going down by 12%. In the case of processing activity, a reduction of 25% was achieved due lower availability of lemons for this purpose." "Rains in December and January were positive in order to get good sizes...For Verna Lemon variety an important crop is expected, going back to the path of normal volumes harvested during 2014/2015 season." Ailimpo expects a normal recovery in the sector in the second part of the season in order to harvest all the expected crop to be sold both in the fresh and processed market. Nonetheless, they do not expect to achieve the 2014/2015 record volumes in both cases.

[Freshplaza.com; 27 January 2017]