GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2017_5)

John Edmonds (15 February 2017)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Morocco faces surfeit of citrus

The current citrus season in Morocco has experienced a rise in production that exceeds the capacity of the country's packing stations, according to a report from Agri Maroc…Khalid Bounajma, president of ASCAM, said that Moroccan citrus producers had for years sold all the fruit on their trees prior to harvesting. Now the country faces overproduction, with the country's 53 pack houses able to handle a maximum of 850,000 tonnes, just one-third of national production.
[Fruitnet.com; 2 February 2017]

Foreign imports put the squeeze on Indonesian oranges

Indonesia's local market for exotic oranges is in danger according to some growers as foreign imports are putting it at risk…What sells now are imported oranges, such as the Mandarin variety from China and the Navel from Australia, Egypt, Turkey and the United States, thanks to their bright, smooth skin and fresher taste. Rising consumption has made Indonesia a hot market for orange-exporting, countries including Pakistan, for instance. Last year it exported US$23 million-worth of Kinnow oranges to Indonesia and expects to see the figure grow significantly in Indonesia, according to the Pakistani Embassy. Local production, on the other hand, has not grown as rapidly as imports, as it fell by an average 30 percent during the same period, as shown by data from the Agriculture Ministry.
[thejakartapost.com; 14 February 2017]

Uruguay 'migrating' citrus exports to U.S., China

Uruguayan Fruit Producers and Exporters Union (UPEFRUY) head Marta Bentancur expects a good citrus season this year in terms of volume and size, as the industry continues its push into North American and Asian markets…"A lot of mandarins were sent to United States, some 14,500 [metric] tons (MT), which is like a migration of fruit that used to go to England. "As you know, we have a high tariff for mandarins of 12.5% in all of the European Union. They have gone to the United States where we don't have this limitation, and prices have been more attractive. "Another key development ahead this year will be building on the Chinese deal which opened last year...the China-bound season would likely go from May to September. The industry is also hoping to re-open the Indonesian and Philippine markets, which were "interesting for us but we still haven't managed to get negotiations", according to Bentancur. Nonetheless, the European Union remains a strategic market for Uruguayan fresh produce and other agricultural industries, underscored by a visit from Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez at the trade fair…
[Freshfruitportal.com; 14 February 2017]

USDA pumps funds into greening fight

The US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has announced four grants totalling more than US$13.6m to combat citrus greening disease, also known as Huanglongbing…"The economic impact of citrus greening disease is measured in the billions," said NIFA director Sonny Ramaswamy…"Huanglongbing (HLB) is currently the most devastating citrus disease worldwide. HLB was first detected in Florida in 2005 and has since affected all of Florida's citrus-producing areas leading to a 75 per cent decline in Florida's US$9bn citrus industry...Since 2009, USDA has invested more than US$400m to address citrus greening…
[Americafruit; 9 February 2017]

Florida orange volumes dip

The February forecast for Florida's citrus industry has been released by the US Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, with mixed news for oranges and grapefruit. According to the forecast, the state's orange crop decreased by 1m boxes, coming in at a total 70m boxes. The grapefruit crop remained stable, however, hovering at the 9m-box mark. "Today's forecast reflects a true utilisation of early, mid-season, and Navel varieties," said Shannon Shepp, executive director of the Florida Department of Citrus. "We hope for higher numbers of Valencia production as we continue through the second half of the season.".
[Americafruit; 10 February 2017]

Uzbekistan's government offers farmers lemon trees

Uzbekistan's government plans to provide almost two million households with lemon trees so they can feed themselves and sell their produce, according to a draft document published for public discussion. The cabinet plans to set up specialized companies that will first supply households with seedlings and then buy lemons to export them. Uzbekistan's exports of fruit and vegetables, worth billions of dollars a year, are surging thanks to strong Russian demand, the government said last November…The government's plan, outlined in a draft decree this month, includes providing 1.07 million households and small farms with the means to build greenhouses for 4.2 million lemon trees.
[reuters.com; 14 February 2017]