

Global Citrus Scan (2019_8)

(John Edmonds 29 March 2019)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Egyptian orange exporter hires South African expert to improve efficiency

Six years ago, South African agricultural expert Marius Bouwman could never have imagined he would one day be living in Egypt, but fast forward to today and he has no intention of leaving that very same country. He was hired to increase the efficiency of their farm operations and this has led to great success for his employer, Orientals for Urban Development (OUD). Until six years ago, Marius Bouwman was a successful grower in South Africa and was quite happy with his life. Just by coincidence Marius started to get to know Egyptian growers/exporters through their visits to South Africa. His interest in Agricultural Egypt was triggered and he ended up being employed by OUD (Oriental for Urban development) and found himself living in Egypt with his family in 2014...Real estate and tourism are the main part of OUD's repertoire and they were desperately in need of Bouwman's help in their agricultural operations, as the company was not satisfied at all with the existing performance... "After I was appointed as Managing Director, I soon found out that combining local techniques and the excellent growing conditions in Egypt with my expertise from South Africa could generate big short and long term benefits. Water management was addressed as never before, methods of pruning have been improved according to the South African school as well as usage of pesticides and fertilizers." The company no longer sold their crops to local merchants but decided to step into the export business themselves... "With 80% exportable crop, a significant share of 'Class I Extra' (in the brand Nature's Delight) we are pretty close to the best we can possibly be", Marius proudly states. "Soon we will reach 50 tons per hectare instead of the 35 tons per hectare three years ago, which is, with the current number of trees per hectare... The presence of South African experts in Egypt has been a trend in the last couple of years: "In marketing we do see developments of collaboration between Egyptian and South African market players as well. A special relation between Egypt and its Southern hemisphere counterpart is bearing the fruits of our labor." Bouwman concludes.

[Freshplaza; 28 March 2019]

Pakistani Kinnow mandarin exports already higher with weeks still to go

Pakistani Kinnow mandarin exporters have already outdone last season's volume by 4.5% and are expected to keep output going through to next month, newspaper Pakistan Today reported. The story reported the industry had already shipped 350,000 metric tons (MT) of the fruit, which is higher than the 325,000MT target set by the All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters, Importers and Merchants Association (PFVA). The group had set a less ambitious goal due to high production costs and tough competition from nations like Turkey and Morocco, the story reported. "As the exports are likely to continue till April, it is expected that by the close of the season, the exports will touch 375,000 to 400,000 tonnes, which would represent an increase of 12% to 16% as compared to the previous year," Pakistan Horticulture Development & Export Company (PHDEC) acting chief executive officer Muhammad Ashraf was quoted as saying... The story reported the leading export destinations for the fruit were Afghanistan, Russia, Indonesia and UAE, but access to the high-potential Irani market was still out of reach. "If Iran issues import permits for Pakistani exporters, we could cater to the Iranian market that has an export potential of 70,000 to 80,000 tonnes," fruit exporter Waheed Ahmed told the publication.

[Freshfruitportal.com; 25 March 2019]

Peru is the biggest exporter of mandarins in the Americas

According to the Association of Citrus Producers of Peru (ProCitrus), Peru is currently the leading exporter of mandarins in the Americas. In 2018, mandarin exports amounted to 137,443 metric tons, i.e. 16.17% more than 118,309 metric tons exported in 2017... After several years of validating export protocols, Japan finally allowed the entry of fresh Peruvian satsuma mandarin to its market. This fruit now reaches 26 countries, including the United States, England, Canada, Holland, and China, among others. Peru is the main exporter of mandarins in America in its different varieties such as satsumas, clementines and W. Murcotts. ProCitrus will hold the X International Citrus Seminar from April 9 to 10, with the purpose of making the current information on Peru's citrus industry to producers, exporters, specialists, and investors. Speakers from several countries will participate in the event.

[Freshplaza; 29 March 2019]

EC to increase controls on Brazilian citrus fruits due to black spot

The European Commission (EC) has decided to increase the entry controls for citrus consignments from Brazil after they found the harmful organism *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (McAlpine), known as 'black spot', in a significant number of the inspections they carried out in 2018. According to the Execution Decision 2019/449, which modifies Executive Decision 2016/715, the EC believes they should "strengthen the requirements for the introduction of these fruits originating from Brazil." "In order to guarantee that the specified fruits originating in Brazil are free of this specified organism, they must be subject to the same import inspection requirements that Argentina, South Africa, and Uruguay have," the text states... From now on, Brazilian citrus fruits, as well as Argentine, Uruguayan, and South African citrus fruits, "will be subjected to a visual inspection at the point of entry or at the place of destination" and "a minimum of 200 fruits of each species for every 30 tons imported will be sampled."

[Freshplaza; 23 March 2019]