Global Citrus Scan (2019_13)

(John Edmonds 17 May 2019) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Eyes on India

…The most recent South African citrus delegation to India says exporters will need to invest time and resources in understanding the Indian market, building networks and educating the supply chain if they aim to exploit the obvious potential. The delegation met with Indian officials in New Delhi to discuss the review of the in-transit cold treatment that applies to South African citrus shipped to India. The review has been going on for some time and the delegation says it is hoped that the requirements will be reviewed without much more delay. In terms of the review, trial shipments of oranges have been successfully received in India. “An interesting development is that of private ports in India,” says the Citrus Growers’ Association spokesman, Justin Chadwick. “Presentations from private port operators showed new cold store construction and a focus on the quick clearance and movement of perishable products.” The delegation says more than 75 per cent of fresh produce is still sold through traditional markets in India. “Modern or ‘organised’ retail is still small,” the delegation noted. “This is important to understand when forming a marketing and distribution strategy for India. Exporters who are serious about the Indian market need to visit the country in person – no amount of reading or being briefed can replace personal experience. It is a market like no other,” Chadwick continues. A visit to a high-end retailer in Mumbai, similar to Woolworths in South Africa, was very interesting, according to Chadwick. “It was concerning that labelling on the shelves was at odds with the fruit stickers. Grapefruit with Egypt stickers was labelled as 'Product of the USA', while Egyptian Valencia’s were labelled as 'Product of South Africa'.”…The Egyptian grapefruit (labelled US fruit) was selling at US$17.33 per kg (US$30 per 15kg carton); Egyptian Valencia (labelled as South African) was selling for US$2.9 per kg or US$43.5 per 15 Kg carton. This is at a time when the same carton was selling for under US$8 in the market. Chadwick says this indicates clearly that demand is going to be poor at these sorts of prices and there are huge margins being made between wholesale and retail.…

[Fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 9 May 2019]

Hail storms cause damage in the Spanish Region of Valencia

The hail storms recorded on April 29 and 30 in the Valencian counties of Ribera Alta and Utiel-Requena have hit between 10,000 and 15,000 hectares devoted to the production of kakis and citrus fruits, causing losses estimated at 2.2 million Euro, according to La Unió de Llauradors…The most affected citrus crop is Valencia oranges, with losses totalling 1.5 million Euro, since the harvest hadn't yet been carried out and the sizes were large…Last Wednesday's storm hit mainly the Utiel-Requena region, damaging the production to different extents in the municipalities of Utiel and surroundings, Venta del Moro and surroundings, Requena and surroundings, Sinarcas and, to a lesser extent, Caudete. La Unió said that the total value of the losses is still an estimation and that the real figure will be reported in the coming days.

Source: abc

[Freshplaza; 6 May 2019]

Florida citrus production down

Florida orange and grapefruit production decreased in the May US Department of Agriculture crop forecast. Released Friday 10 May, the report projects Florida orange production for the 2018/19 season at 72.4m boxes, a 4.1m box decrease over the previous month. Florida grapefruit production, meanwhile, decreased 320,000 boxes to 4.58m boxes.

“Again, we see that we are not out of the woods yet in terms of recovery,” said Shannon Shepp, executive director of the Florida Department of Citrus…

[fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 10 May 2019]

Risk analysis for Chinese citrus to US

Fresh Chinese pomelo, Nanfeng honey mandarin, ponkan, sweet orange and Satsuma mandarin could soon be available for export to the US following a pest risk analysis launched by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Following abandoned risk evaluation in 2014, the opportunity for access has been reopened with final comments to be made by 1 July 2019…In 2017 China again requested to evaluate risk on the five products and after extensive assessment considering the presence of new pest risks which have arisen since the 2014 evaluation, the USDA has concluded that fresh pomelo, Nanfeng honey mandarin, ponkan, sweet orange and Satsuma mandarin can be imported safely into the US from China. The USDA has outlined five designated phytosanitary measures for safe importation. It is also proposing to exempt pomelos that meet certain conditions and are grown in areas free of listed pests and diseases.

[fruitnet.com/asiafruit; 16 May 2019]