

Global Citrus Scan (2020_3)

(John Edmonds 31 January 2020)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

"Spain is a leader and should act as such"

In conciliatory tone, Deon Joubert, head of the Citrus Grower Association (CGA) of South Africa for European Affairs, spoke with Fruit Today to highlight the need for the sector of a global platform that defends the interests of the category and increases the demand... "The world today is a world without borders, globalized, in which it is better to share experiences and face problems together than to face ourselves as enemies. Europe and South Africa have maintained a common trade for more than 110 years. We are complementary productions because we are in different hemispheres...Neither one of us is naive, but we must act globally. What interests us is the development of the category worldwide and for this we must share information on consumption, markets, harvest, research, etc...Each product or variety has its own route that we should all encourage. The competition is not among us: the competition is the rest of fruits. I guess you know the strong worldwide avocado takeoff. This is an absolute success story." Do you know that in Spain there has been an important debate in which you talk about a double game by you? Is it intended to be closer to European institutions and achieve greater laxity in phytosanitary or quality terms, for example, with fruit for industry?... "This argument is radically false...Quite the opposite of what we want...Spain is and will continue to be the first fresh exporter: 8,000,000 tons of production and four of exports is a very valuable figure. Our production is 2,500,000 tons, our exports to the EU are 800,000 tons, and we are not in the same hemisphere. The world's largest producers are in the northern hemisphere. The south represents less than ¼ of world production (around 26,000 million tons) and a quarter of them are from Brazil, whose main destination is juice."

[fruittoday.com; 29 January 2020]

Pakistan government to increase kinnow exports

The Government of Pakistan is not only intent on increasing the export of kinnow; it also is determined to increase the production of the fruit...Sources said that addressing an opening ceremony of Kinnow Mela at Tehsil Kot Momin, the provincial minister said that Sargodha was producing 90% Kinnow of the total production of Pakistan. He added that it has been producing over 2 million tonnes annually.

[Freshplaza.com; 29 January 2020]

"Texas citrus exports to Europe really low this season"

The Texas citrus season is about halfway done, as it typically starts in late September and runs through early May...Dale Murden of Texas Citrus Mutual says: "We have been in a dry pattern this winter and this has brought with it some challenges, such as keeping up with the continuous need for irrigation..."While the production volumes are looking good, the export volumes are much lower than they were at the same time last year...We are behind on movement this season compared to this same time last season. This is almost exclusively due to the recent EU change in its MRL policies. We have shipped almost nothing to the EU this season."

[Freshplaza.com; 27 January 2020]

Ailimpo revise Spanish lemon season totals

Ailimpo, the Murcia-based interprofessional organisation representing the Spanish lemon industry, has revealed its estimates for the 2019/20 season, with total production slated to be 1.02m tonnes – a 22 per cent reduction on the previous season's record crop of 1.3m tonnes...

[fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 31 January 2020]

Orange trees can help keep troublesome elephants away

...Project Orange Elephant (POE) is an innovative initiative conceptualised by the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society (SLWCS). The initiative draws on elephants' natural aversion to citrus to protect the homes of farmers from elephant attacks while at the same time providing farmers with a sustainable supplementary income. The project is unique to Sri Lanka and came about as the result of fieldwork conducted by the SLWCS in the Wasgamuwa area of the Central Province of Sri Lanka...According to an article on newsin.asia, the project uses a variety of grafted local orange (Citrus sinensis) known as Bibile Sweet that had been developed in Sri Lanka to suit the local climatic conditions (Fig. 2). This variety grows well in marginalized land and does not need frequent irrigation, bears fruit within 1.5-3 years, and each tree can provide ~300-600 fruits per season. Each tree has a fruiting cycle of two seasons per year.

[Freshplaza.com; 27 January 2020]