Global Citrus Scan (2020_4)

(John Edmonds 7 February 2020) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

World Citrus Organization meets in Berlin

The founding meeting of the World Citrus Organization (WCO) formalised the membership of the body at Fruit Logistica in Berlin…The WCO is the first global organisation for the citrus sector and said it hoped to increase coordination, dialogue and action between citrus producing countries across the world. In a statement issued in Berlin, the WCO says it now represented 70 per cent of citrus growers across the world, with founding members including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay and the US. Justin Chadwick, CEO of South Africa's Citrus Growers' Association (CGA), said the members of the WCO unanimously appointed the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa and the Spanish Lemon and Grapefruit Interbranch Association, Ailimpo, as WCO co-chairpersons for a period of two years. Chadwick said that South Africa, the second largest global exporter of citrus, played a leading role in the formation of the WCO… It was also confirmed that European fresh produce association Freshfel Europe would coordinate and administer the WCO, and that the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) would provide expert market analysis and advice on trends for the citrus industry globally. The WCO's immediate focus will be to collect the production and marketing data for the industry for this season. A World Citrus Conference is also being planned for either late 2020 or early 2021. Chadwick said in his statement that the WCO was aiming to claw back market share taken by other organised fresh produce sectors. "The goal is to get more people to consume citrus – whether that be fresh or processed."…

[fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 5 February 2020]

Cape Town Container Terminal sets new record

South Africa's Cape Town Container Terminal (CTCT), operated by Transnet Port Terminals, announced it broke an all-time record, processing 1,665 containers filled with South African table grapes, blueberries and plums over a single weekend. The fresh produce was loaded onto the vessel Santa Clara, owned by Maersk, and was destined for European markets. The previous record stood at 1,200 containers over a weekend. Acting terminal manager, Oscar Bochards, said the new record was encouraging for the team considering the recent vessel performance had improved by 63 per cent…Annually, CTCT moves over 180,000 containers with a noted increase of 615 containers gated per day this season compared to 395 last season… "This is a huge economic contribution to our economy, and it was made possible due to the unprecedented teamwork and integrated approach offered to the customer and in particular our farmers during the grape season and our collaboration and partnership with key partners such as Maersk".

[fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 5 February 2020]

Volume up on California easy peelers

California citrus growers continue to report great seasons compared to last year. "We're in good supplies of Easy Peelers in California," says Linda Cunningham of Classic Harvest based in Paramus, NJ. "We're starting Tango and W. Murcotts. We're a little bit early—about a week and a half early. Last year was a really challenging year with all the rain we had but it's made for a great overall citrus year this year."…Classic has also boosted its export program to Korea, Australia and Japan. "We're exporting a lot more this year," she says. "It's a planned expansion of overall volume of growers and plantings. So we're up quite a bit on exports."…

[Freshplaza.com; 29 January 2020]

Indonesia ratifies FTA with Australia

Indonesia has joined Australia in ratifying the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA), with parliament approving the decision on 6 February. Negotiation on the IA-CEPA began back in 2012 and Australia and Indonesia signed the agreement on 4 March 2019. It had since been ratified by the Australian parliament. Under the IA-CEPA, 99 per cent of Australian goods exports to Indonesia are set to enter duty free or under significantly improved and preferential arrangements. Additionally, tariffs on nearly all Indonesian goods entering Australia are set to be removed. Improved access to Indonesia will come as a boost to Australia's fresh produce industry given its proximity, it has been reported citrus and vegetables among the categories that will benefit most once the IA-CEPA comes into force.

[Asiafruit; 7 February 2020]