Global Citrus Scan (2020_13)

(John Edmonds 5 May 2020) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Applications open for a R307m Black Citrus Growers Programme

Industry body, the Citrus Growers Association (CGA), has issued a call for applications for a R307-million Economic Transformation of Black Citrus Growers Programme that has been launched. The programme is expected to create an additional 1 726 permanent and seasonal jobs in the citrus industry. The programme was welcome by the CGA and the Jobs Fund, as South Africa begins the difficult task of rebuilding its economy amid the Covid-19 pandemic…Last year, the CGA submitted an application to the Jobs Fund for a project that would make funding and technical support available to black citrus growers for orchard establishment, expansion and rehabilitation, as well as on-farm development of various infrastructure including packhouses, bulk water supply and irrigation systems. The Jobs Fund has committed R118-million to the project, with the Land Bank agreeing to contribute an additional R116-million in loan funding. The CGA has contributed R24-million, while the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Agriseta have pledged R34-million and R12-million, respectively. The CGA has appointed Lima Rural Development as the programme manager. The Citrus Academy will provide skills development support, which is compulsory for all programme beneficiaries, while the CGA Grower Development Company (CGA-GDC) will be the implementation agent for the programme…

[Engineeringnews.co.za; 4 May 2020]

Unfair competition from third countries threatens "the yellow gold" of the Murcian countryside

…For the Secretary General of ASAJA Murcia, Alfonso Gálvez Caravaca, “the lemon is in great demand, despite the COVID-19, mainly due to the fact that one of our main competitors, such as Turkey, has had severe frosts, and fortunately this has allowed us to position ourselves in the market with good demand and optimal prices…However, the spokesperson for this agrarian organization acknowledges that "it must be recognized that we have a significant threat from other third countries such as Egypt, Jordan or Tunisia, which arrive at the market with minimal production costs, and against that, it is enormously difficult to compete. For this reason, from ASAJA Murcia we demand that the European Union exhaustively control the shipments of lemons that reach the European market, and we believe that it would be very interesting to put a tariff rate on these countries to access our community market. Unfortunately, this measure, for the moment, has "fallen on deaf ears" for the community authorities. "…

[fruittoday.com; 27 April 2020]

"We expect Uruguayan citrus sales to the US will increase by 20 to 25%"

During the first four months of 2020, the United States has imported more than 65% of all Uruguayan citrus exports, positioning itself as the main destination for this fruit, as highlighted by the United States Embassy in Uruguay.

Last Monday, the Union of Producers and Exporters of Fruit of Uruguay (UPEFRUY), the United States Ambassador to Uruguay, Kenn George, and the President of UPEFRUY, Carlos Fraschini had a video-conference in which they spoke about the increase in US purchases in 2020 and made the first estimate for this 2020 campaign. "We expect a 20 to 25% increase in sales to the United States," stated Fraschini.

Ambassador George noted that the US Customs and Border Protection Office was facilitating trade in goods during the coronavirus crisis by allowing the electronic certification of products entering the country.

[Freshplaza.com; 27 April 2020]

“Chinese fruit market is recovering”

Countries around the world are currently affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, while China has been one of the earliest countries to resume production and social normality…The fruit market in first-tier cities is gradually resuming operation, with local and imported fruit flooding into the market, while the sales situation in second-tier cities is unclear.

The manager of a large fruit trading company in Xi'an talked to us about the market situation in the wholesale market in Xi'an…Over the past few months, Egyptian oranges have arrived at markets across China, including Xi’an. “Sales this year are very slow. This is because this variety is mainly used for juicing or in fruit salad which is mostly supplied to venues of entertainment or restaurants. These places were closed during the past few months, so the low market demand has contributed to lasting low prices. Although there are still large volumes of Valencias from Egypt available in the market, most of them went directly into cold storage after arrival, in order to extend the shelf life until prices rise again…

[Freshplaza.com; 27 April 2020]

Best campaign in years for Valencian oranges

The drop in this year's citrus production in the Valencian county of La Safor (up to 50% down in some cases, compared to the previous year), and the increase in the fruit's consumption in Europe, motivated by the coronavirus outbreak, have resulted in the region having the best citrus campaign in recent years.

The oranges produced in the county have been sold in their entirety at prices as high as a decade ago, with oranges worth six Euro per arroba. "Last year, the price stood at just 0.60 Euro per arroba," said Vicent Faro, representative of the Valencian Association of Agricultural Producers (AVA-Asaja).

[Freshplaza.com; 24 April 2020]