

Peru citrus to enter Japan in August

Peru's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Minagri) announced on Tuesday the National Service for Agricultural Sanitation (Senasa) and its Japanese counterpart are resolving the phytosanitary issue between both countries, so that Peruvian citrus fruits can enter the Asian market in August.

According to Minagri's head Juan Manuel Benites, this would be "great news" for the unionized sector, since the entry into such a market was expected for next year, but "we are doing our best to achieve this goal earlier."

"A Senasa delegation is currently in Japan and we are going through the final procedures. After that, a Japanese delegation will come in May, and that will be the last step before signing the document that would allow citrus fruits enter such country in August," Benites stated.

A similar procedure, although less advanced, is being undertaken with Malaysia and Vietnam, where a health service team will head to in the future.

"But we are also making efforts to accelerate progress, in these cases it [entry of citrus fruits] might be scheduled for next year, but what is particularly interesting here is the way products receive phytosanitary certification to enter markets such as Europe and Asia within the framework of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA)," he added.

The government official said the Andean nation relies on lands, climate and water; in this last case, thanks to irrigation projects for the coast and the highlands, which will help the driving force of the agro-export sector open more markets.

"This way our agriculture will grow both in size and productivity and, therefore, we can affirm the engine of Peruvian economy, besides mining, will be agriculture," he explained.

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