

Article 1

South African citrus continues to build volumes to China

With the South African citrus season heading into its final quarter, Paul Hardman from the Citrus Growers Association explained that it has been a tough year for citrus exports.

“We have had logistics problems with the port strikes and a lower crop than we had expected with oranges. The total citrus estimate of 137m cartons (including Zimbabwe and Swaziland) has been revised to 127m cartons, some of this is due the biological process and there were quality issues due climatic conditions and some fruit didn’t reach export standards. Last year we had a bumper crop, so this was also a factor.”

The markets for South African citrus have mostly remained the same, but there has been a trend to ship more to China in recent years and this is continuing, Paul said that perhaps a bit too much was shipped in the wrong window there last year and they need to just build this market slowly in the future.

There have been a few interceptions of black spot into Europe again this year, but according to Paul it is something they are continuing to monitor, but he maintains that the fruit is not the pathway for the disease, and it will not be able to establish in Europe.

In general, South Africa is growing more easy peelers, “The trend is there but it is slowing, not quite what we have seen over the last five to ten years. It is still a smaller proportion of our main crop which is Valencias.”

Lemons volumes are also still growing quickly but plantings have slowed slightly now. “The prices have come down on the lemon market compared to the high of a few years ago but it is still an exciting



product. We have a lot of new area of low seeded and seedless varieties, there is the Eureka Seedless variety which is seedless.

“We have had drought conditions in the Eastern Cape for some time and it is still an ongoing concern, but the Western Cape has had fantastic rains which was great and the situation has normalised and a lot of the dams are storing water which will last 2-3 years.”.

Lien article :

<https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9143600/south-african-citrus-continues-to-build-volumes-to-china/>

Article 2

RSA citrus welcomes trade deal

The country's citrus industry has a warm welcome for the new UK-South Africa trade agreement.

South Africa has now been selling its citrus in the UK since the first decade of the previous century. Today, sales of South African citrus in the UK still account for 10 per cent of the country's total exports, and in terms of international sales, the UK remains South Africa's single-largest receiving country.

That is why the South African Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) has warmly welcomed the new trade deal between Southern African countries and the UK government, announced last week.

“The announcement by the UK government of a continuity agreement post Brexit is appreciated given present uncertainties,” the group stated. “The CGA would like to thank the UK, and the South African



and eSwatini (Swaziland) and governments for concluding this agreement.”

The CGA informed its growers of a UK government announcement on Tuesday that it had initialled an Economic Partnership Agreement with the Southern African Customs Union and Mozambique (SACU+M), that would allow business to keep trading freely after Brexit.

It marked the end of formal trade discussions and the UK-SACU+M Economic Partnership Agreement will be subject to final checks before it is formally signed.

The UK government said the agreement would allow businesses to continue to trade on preferential terms with South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Eswatini (Swaziland) and Mozambique. “It also supports the economic development of these Commonwealth partners laying the foundations for new trade and investment in the future.”

This will help to strengthen further the trading relationship between the UK and SACU+M nations, trade worth £9.7bn last year.

“The SACU+M nations are an important market for UK exports of machinery and mechanical appliances worth £409m in 2018, motor vehicles worth £335m, and beverages including whisky worth £136m.

“Consumers and businesses in the UK will continue to benefit from more choice and lower prices on goods imported from SACU+M countries. Major imports to the UK from these countries last year included edible fruit and nuts (£547m) and motor vehicles (£409m).”

The UK said trade continuity agreements signed would cover countries accounting for £89bn of the UK’s trade. When the SACU+M agreement is signed and takes effect, this will go up to £99bn.

Lien article :

<http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/179727/rsa-citrus-welcomes-trade-deal>

