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Improved Access for Australian Citrus and Mangos to China

Report Categories:

Citrus

Fresh Fruit

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Report Highlights:

The emerging trade in Australian citrus and mangos to China is expected to grow after the Australian Federal Government negotiated improved market access.

General Information:

The emerging trade in Australian citrus and mangos to China is expected to grow after the Australian Federal Government negotiated improved market access. Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke said China had accepted a revised quarantine protocol for both Australian mangoes and citrus after detailed discussions.

The announcement follows Mr. Burke's visit to China in April last year, accompanied by a trade delegation including the chair of Citrus Australia Kevin Cock.

Under previous citrus export conditions, oranges, mandarins, lemons and grapefruit were only permitted access to northern Chinese ports and had to undergo extensive cold disinfestation treatment which could affect the quality of the fruit. The revised quarantine conditions will allow more Australian citrus including limes, tangelos and sweetie grapefruit to access all ports in China and increases the required temperature for the cold disinfestation treatment (2.1°C for 21 days for fruit flies). Citrus Australia indicated that the improved conditions would make a huge difference for exports of citrus to China, particularly for mandarins, which are more susceptible to cold treatment.

Last calendar year, Australia exported 855 MT of citrus worth A\$1.25 million to China.

The Government says changes will allow growers more flexibility, save on shipping costs and help to protect the quality of the fresh Australian produce.

For mangos the previous system included onerous quarantine requirements for proving orchards were free of mango seed weevil and fruit flies, which meant that only limited trade occurred from 2007. Under the revised protocol, growers have more options for monitoring the surveying their orchards for signs of the pest.

The Government says the new system will significantly reduce costs for growers and allow them to capitalize on new opportunities with the coming harvest that could see a boost in trade worth millions of dollars for Australian mango growers.

China is also considering new treatments to manage Fuller's rose weevil and light brown apple moth, as well as recognition of pest-free areas for fruit flies.

Australian Mango Industry Association chairman Peter Delis said the new protocol would give the industry greater scope for accessing high-quality mangoes, without the onerous task of cutting thousands of mangoes to check for weevils.

Industry expects volumes to dramatically increase with a longer supply window throughout the season.

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