

Lemon exports underway from Zimbabwe to China as citrus trade protocol is put in place

The sealing of the Zimbabwe-China citrus trade protocol has led to three containers of lemons leaving Beira (Mozambique) for China. This comes as export of lemons to different destinations is expected to increase 87 percent from 2,365 tons in 2022 to 4,425 tons this year.

Before the shipment, HDC chief executive Linda Nielsen observed: "We are cautiously optimistic with this trial run. ... In future we will also be looking at other sectors to go through there as well. Citrus is more ready than the others."

Mrs Nielsen said as this was the first season of sending citrus to China, it was quite exciting though success hinged on meeting all required cold sterilisation in transit. The council is hoping that there be empty trucks returning to Beira that will be able to take citrus from Zimbabwe. This will reduce transaction costs.

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