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Citrus Australia calls on researchers and industry to work together to maximise Chinese exports

Citrus Australia calls on researchers and industry to work together over the next twelve to eighteen months to maximise the potential for exports of oranges to China, the world's largest market.

Members from Citrus Australia, the peak industry body for Australia's citrus growers, joined government representatives from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Horticulture Australia Limited over 20-21 November 2009 in Guangzhou, China for the 2009 Forum on Fruit and Vegetable Inspection and Quarantine International Trade.

Australia has formal access for Citrus to China and while mandarins are exported very few oranges are exported due to strict quarantine restrictions around the presence of Fullers Rose Weevil and other pests.

Kevin Cock, Citrus Australia Board Director, said "The industry has a number of solid research projects focused on improving access to China, including controlling of Fullers Rose Weevil. We call on the different research providers, including industry, to work together to maximise a successful strategy to push into China and overcome concerns on pest issues."

Kevin Cock said that: "The Chinese market is significant and worth the investment in research. If we solve China, we solve many access issues to substantial markets in Korea and Thailand as well."

A number of approaches are currently being trialled and researched, and many of these approaches have yet to be adopted. A whole systems approach should bring together scientific research, work being done in the orchards and treatments applied in packing houses in a commercially feasible way.

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Citrus Australia Ltd is the national peak body for citrus growers. Citrus Australia represents the industry in policy and advocacy, market access and development, regional transitional planning and industry development. The citrus industry in Australia is worth \$440 million and represents the interests of over 2000 citrus growers. It is the largest fresh fruit exporter, with annual export earnings of \$180 million.

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