



By Matthew Jones

Monday 5th December 2016, 23:54 GMT

India and Afghanistan look to air cargo service



Limited opportunities for overground trade prompts countries to move towards airfreight

An increase in fresh fruit trade looms as one of the driving forces behind a proposed air cargo service between India and Afghanistan, according to Reuters.

Over recent times, trade between the two nations has been impeded by respective strains in their relationships with Pakistan, which borders both countries.

For suppliers in landlocked Afghanistan, the Pakistani port of Karachi is the main avenue to international markets. Reuters noted that a small volume of Afghan exports continue to make their way through Pakistan into India. However, exports from India into Afghanistan via Pakistan are currently blacklisted.

Afghan director general for macro fiscal policies, Khalid Payenda, said the proposed air cargo service would be a timely boost to the country's fresh produce suppliers, who continue to battle the ongoing Taliban insurgency.

"We have a lot of potential for trade on both sides," Payenda was quoted by Reuters. "On our side, it's mostly fruit and dried fruit and potentially through India to other places for products like carpets and others."

The service is likely to be operated by cargo firms in both India and Afghanistan, with both governments working to improve infrastructure at Kabul and Delhi airports.

A deal between the two countries could be finalised as soon as Sunday, when Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi meet in the Indian city of Amritsar for the Heart of Asia conference.

<http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/1474/parts-of-san-diego-quarantined-as-psyllid-count-mounts>

© Copyright Market Intelligence Ltd - Fruitnet.com 2014. The copyright on this article and all content published on Market Intelligence Ltd - Fruitnet.com is held by Market Intelligence Ltd - Fruitnet.com Limited, a joint venture between Market Intelligence Limited and Dr Rolf M Wolf Media GmbH. All rights reserved. Neither this article nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form, including print-outs, screen grabs and information retrieval systems, without the prior permission of the copyright owners.

FRUITNET.COM