

"Furious activity is no substitute for understanding" H H Williams

WORLD CITRUS ORGANISATION (WCO) AGM

On Wednesday evening forty participants from fifteen citrus producing countries attended the WCO AGM. For some it was late at night and for others early in the morning – such is the spread of the global citrus family. The meeting received an excellent presentation on the state of the citrus industry from Eric Imbert of CIRAD, with particular emphasis on the southern hemisphere conditions (looking back at 2020 and forward to 2021).

The WCO was started with the goal of giving the citrus industry a global voice. To be truly representative the WCO leadership have set an objective of getting all citrus producing countries, and all those in the citrus value chain, to be part of this journey. The journey has just begun, and the activities and focus of the WCO is still in development – members are playing a key role in molding the organization, and we urge all those who have not yet joined to come on board. The AGM resolved to keep membership fees at the same level – for country members Euro 2 500 and for company members Euro 500 per annum.

The immediate focus of the WCO is to improve on data collection, to provide excellent information to the sector to aid informed decision making, to research and highlight the nutritional and health benefits of citrus, and to provide a platform for discussion amongst citrus stakeholders around the globe. Restrictions on travel mean that meetings are being held in the virtual format – which is not ideal. We all feel the need to meet in person - seeing colleagues from around the world on a computer is not the same as meeting in person; as soon as we can we will organize a physical meeting.

The WCO Secretariat have done some initial exploratory work on health and nutritional aspects of citrus. It is important to understand the law in terms of what can and cannot be stated in this regard. A work group has been formed to take this project forward, with the objective of having a workshop mid 2021 – more details will be sent to members as the work progresses. What is clear is that citrus has some good stories to tell.

The present Co Chairmen have now completed the first year of their two-year term. The AGM agreed to extend the leadership team by adding two members to a Steering Committee; nominations will be made to the secretariat.

MARKET ACCESS: CHINA

Please note an error from last week's newsletter - the Chinese market is only open to those who were registered and approved by China in 2020. Processes are in place to get this resolved, and to get the 2021 China list approved.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

During April the grapefruit and soft citrus focus groups met. The grapefruit focus group agreed that there was no need to change the predicted volume for now. However, there is important detail regarding the packing tempo. The grapefruit growers have increased packing early in the season so as to flatten the normal peak around week 21/22. Receivers will see increased early volumes, this does not translate into increases going forward.

The soft citrus focus group now predict a lower export volume for 2021 – moving down from 30.5 million to 29.4 million cartons. The main reasons for this are rain disruption and uncertainty about new plantings in Senwes, and ongoing dry conditions in Patensie.

Soft citrus packed figures indicate that the satsuma season is all but finished – with packed figures of 2 077 541 cartons up (7%) on the initial 1 942 150 estimate.

To Week 19 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB	2019	2020	2021	2020	2021	2021	2021	2020
Grapefruit	3.9 m	4.5 m	6.7 m	2.2 m	3.5 m	18 m	18 m	15.5 m
Soft Citrus	2.1 m	2.9 m	3.8 m	2 m	1.8 m	30.5 m	29.4 m	23.6 m
Lemons	4 m	10 m	9.8 m	7.9 m	7.2 m	30.2 m	30.2 m	29.6 m
Navels	0.5 m	0.8 m	0.9 m	0.2 m	0.2 m	26.3 m	26.3 m	26.2 m
Valencia	0.2 m	-	-	-	-	58 m	58 m	55.1 m
Total	10.7 m	18.2 m	21.2 m	12.3 m	12.7 m	163 m	161.9 m	150 m