GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (22)

John Edmonds (21 June 2013) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Israel: Citrus volumes significantly lower than previously estimated

After completion of the Israeli citrus season in mid-May, the Citrus Board has now given the official figures known. Thus, the crop did not turn out as high as initially expected.
Because of the exchange rates of currencies of major markets trading conditions were difficult and the storm in early January have also pulled some great damage to themselves. Thus, the total volume amounted to 517,000 tonnes, significantly less than the previously estimated 600,000 day
[www.fruchthandel.de; 21 June 2013]

Morocco: considerably less citrus export to Russia

Moroccan citrus fruits have created sales markets in Eastern Europe and Russia. The production of oranges this season is estimated at 1.49 million tonnes... For Morocco the citrus fruit was the main export product to Russia. Morocco exported almost 200,000 tonnes of mandarins to Russia last season. This is an increase of 52% compared to the previous season... This new development in the sector of citrus fruits makes Morocco a direct competitor of Spain. Figures show the Spanish export of citrus fruits to Russia, including oranges and mandarins, has gone down by 61,570 tonnes. This is 6% less compared to the previous period, according to export figures from Spain, Valencia (Direction générale de Valence pour le commerce extérieur). With Plan Maroc Vert Morocco aims to double the production of citrus fruits to 3.9 million tonnes per year by 2020.
[freshplaza.com; 19 June 2013]

Morocco's Citrus Shipments Seen Tripling to 1.3 Million Tons

Morocco plans to more than triple its citrus fruit exports to 1.3 million metric tons by 2018 as a development program raises output, according to Ahmed Derrab, secretary general of industry group ASPAM. Aging groves, narrowing margins from sales to the euro-zone area, increased competition from Egypt and Turkey and growing domestic demand eroded exports of products including oranges to key markets including the European Union… Morocco was the fourth-biggest provider of citrus fruit imports into the EU in the period from 2009 through 2012, according to Eurostat data.
In the 1998-2011 period, Morocco's total citrus exports averaged 528,000 tons a year, according to finance and economy ministry data. In the period that started in October and ends this month, exports fell to 380,000 tons, Derrab said. "It is one of the lowest export figures we had in 40 years," Derrab said. "But things will change fast enough for our exports to increase as of next year and continue gradually to reach 1.3 million tons by end-2018."
The EU, which Derrab said offers the highest margins for Moroccan citrus, accounts for 30 percent of its exports while Russia takes 50 percent, with the remainder going mainly to the U.S., Canada and Saudi Arabia… "Our aim is to reposition ourselves on the EU market," Derrab said. "We also hope to explore other profitable markets but our ports are not well connected enough to go far and wide. Logistics costs therefore become prohibitive." Midway through a $1 billion, government-backed industry development plan that started in 2008, Derrab said its execution is ahead of schedule. The plan provides for a 33 percent expansion of citrus-planted areas to 122,000 hectares (301,469 acres), and an increase in production from 1.2 million tons to 2.9 million tons. "As far as the rejuvenation and extension of our citrus groves are concerned, we currently meet the objectives that were initially set," Derrab said. "But we need to move faster on the logistics front to ensure the expected increase in production will be worth the investment effort."
[Bloomberg.com; 13 June 2013]

Spain: Lower citrus production, "acceptable" price levels

The Spanish citrus season has yielded lower volumes than in previous years: production in 2012-2013 dropped by 5-10%. Considering the lower production, prices are nonetheless "acceptable," says Jenaro Avino, president of the cítricos Lonja de precios de Valencia. He took stock and labelled the season's results "similar" to previous campaigns. At the beginning of the campaign, the prices were quite acceptable, particularly regarding the low supplies, but in November and December last year there was a "significant decline" that only improved towards the end of the campaign. The total domestic production amounted to 6.1 million tons this season: 3.1 tons from Andalusia and another three tons from Valencia.
[freshplaza.com; 20 June 2013]

If you need more information on any of these issues, or if there is anything else that CGA can assist with, please contact us at 031 7652514, or johne@cga.co.za
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