GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (1)

John Edmonds (10 January 2014)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Egyptian orange exports up by 10%

Egypt is likely to retain its position as the world's sixth largest orange producer and the second biggest exporter in MY2013/2014. Post forecasts orange production at roughly 2.5 MMT with exports at 1.1 MMT, up 10 percent compared to the previous season. This increase in production and exports is attributed to the increase in total area harvested and the number of fruit bearing trees. Fresh domestic consumption is likely to increase less than 1 percent or 10 TMT at approximately 1.375 MMT. Roughly 63 percent of the total crop is consumed fresh, while 3.6 percent is consumed as juice…In MY2012/2013, the European Union, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq were Egypt's top export markets and post foresees no major export destination changes for this new marketing year. South Africa is Egypt's main export competitor in the leading export markets. Other competitors include Turkey, Spain, Morocco, the United States, China, Australia, and Argentina.
[USDA Gain report; Publication date: 24 December 2013]

"Nobody can match Egypt for prices"

According to Cees Bruyn from Bruyn International in Heerhugowaard, there is very little being offered on the citrus market. "Citrus is available from different markets. We now have produce from Greece, then Egypt will begin and Morocco is also ready to go. The market is not very exciting but there are price differences. Import is expensive but quality is good so that is being paid for. For the rest of the citrus market I hear that business has declined but that is usually the case after Christmas." …In recent years Cees has watched Egypt significantly increase their production area. "Volume has increase each year and Egypt have become a formidable rival to Spain. At price level no country can compete, not even Morocco. They just produce very well! They grow crazy amounts and very cheaply. They are also happy with the Euro/dollar exchange which they need in that country. Egypt is cheap due to a combination of factors." He explains that it is always exciting to see if or when Egyptian produce is available. "There are regular disturbances so the availability of containers and sea-freight is not easy to predict but at the moment everything is stable."
[www.freshplaza.com; 9 January 2014]

Italian orange production to bounce back

Forecasts suggest Italy's orange production could bounce back in the 2013-2014 season after a dip last year. Lemon production is also likely to increase. Favourable weather in Italy's orange-producing regions is likely to make for increased orange production during the 2013-2014 season, according to a report by the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. Forecasts put upcoming production at 1,935,000 MT, which is more than last year's production of 1,730,000 MT, and on par with production during the 2011-2012 season. Domestic consumption is expected to increased by eight percent on the back of increased production. Lemon production is forecast to increase by 31 percent when compared to last season's production. Last season's production of 415,000 MT is expected to increase by 21.4 percent this season to 545,000 MT, and it's expected quality of fruit will be excellent. Tangerine production is slated to decrease slightly and finish at 760,000 MT. Grapefruit production is forecast to increase by 33 percent to 10,000 MT.
[www.freshplaza.com; 6 January 2014]

Greek citrus forecast up

Tangerine production in Greece is forecast to be higher than last year's production, for the upcoming season. While orange production will also be higher than last year's production, lemon and grapefruit production will likely remain flat. Tangerine production in Greece is expected to increase during the 2013-2014 season by 10.4 percent, according to a report by the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. That would bring the nation's tangerine production up to 148,000 MT for the season. Similarly, production for oranges is expected to increase by 4.3 percent to 970,000 MT. Both increases are attributed to favourable weather, and domestic consumption for oranges is expected to increase by 5.5 percent. Lemon production is forecast to remain flat at 55,500 MT, and grapefruit production is likely to remain steady at 6,000 MT.
[www.freshplaza.com; 7 January 2014]

Mexican orange exports to decrease slightly

According to a report by the USDA, citrus production in Mexico during the business year 2013/14 has been affected by various adverse weather events. As such, this year's production forecast for oranges, limes and grapefruit is of 3.9 million metric tonnes (MT), 2.0 MT, and 418,000 MT respectively…Exports in 2013/14, whose numbers depend on the demand from the United States -Mexico's largest export market- and the orange supply from California and Florida, will decrease slightly when compared to the previous year due to a smaller crop.
[atcitrus; 10 January 2014]

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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