

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (41)

John Edmonds (31 October 2014)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

EU adds €39M in support for agricultural promotion

The European Commission (EC) has announced further funding of €39 million (US\$49.2 million) for farmers hit by Russia's import ban, in a bid to promote their agricultural products within the union and elsewhere. The deal comes a month after the EC pledged €165 million (US\$209 million) in emergency funding to ease oversupply pressures, including the use of EC-funded withdrawals or payments below the rate for green harvesting.

[Freshfruitportal.com; 30 October 2014]

Spain: First shipment of Valencian clementines to the U.S.

The first citrus exports to the United States started this week, a destination where the sector expects to ship about 41,000 tonnes, almost the same volume as last year. The President of the Region of Valencia, Alberto Fabra, and the Government Delegate, Serafín Castellano, attended Monday, along with other politicians, the loading of the first 2,200 tonnes of early clementine varieties, including the Arrufatina, Oronul and Marisol. The figure, although stable compared to last year, still lies far from the nearly 70,000 tonnes that were exported fifteen years ago. "The product has gradually become less successful," says Jorge Garcia, president of Asociex, the Association of Fruit Exporters of Castellon. He explains that the introduction of clementines in that market led to the emergence of new competitors. "A lot of mandarins started being planted in California, where none existed before, but especially in Chile; U.S. consumption has been growing, but our exports are down," he points out. Garcia notes that last year about 1.3 million tonnes of clementines were exported, and of these, only 40,000 went to the United States. Germany, France, the UK and Poland remain the main consumers.

[Freshplaza.com; 30 October 2014]

Morocco increases clementine exports to Europe, but is no threat to the sector

Citrus exports (especially clementines) from Morocco to the EU are growing. Right now, when the international market is most alert due to the Russian ban on European imports of horticultural products (which can affect the coming campaign), the North African country has increased its citrus shipments to Europe by 32%. The Moroccan export of clementines, the most produced and exported by Castellón, has actually increased by 45% from January to July this year. The increase is similar in terms of tonnage (75,179 tonnes shipped)...The technical secretary of Fepac-Asaja, Doménec Nácher, also notes that "Morocco cannot compete with Spain" and points to the fact that the North African country is still far from Spain's export figures, which annually ships "1.4 million tonnes of citrus within the EU. Israel, which sells 60,000 tonnes, is naturally also not a threat," he says. According to Nácher, when it comes to the international sale of clementines between mid-December and March, Castellon controls "90% of the market."

[Freshplaza.com; 30 October 2014]

Limes could reach record prices in November due to Brazil's drought

The worst drought in recent memory continues to affect Brazil, causing declines in production and consequently driving prices up for a large number of crops. Lime prices have actually tripled over the past four weeks in the Brazilian market. "As a result of this drought there are limited volumes of fruit available, but local consumption is still high, as limes are a staple product for most Brazilians," explains Daniel Briso, of the exporter Argofruta..."For the time being, European importers are resorting to their own stocks, but these will not last for more than two weeks," he explains. Given Mexico's low production volumes this campaign due to bad weather, a considerable price increase in the European market during the month of November will be inevitable.

[www.argofruta.com; 30 October 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 [john@cga.co.za](mailto:johne@cga.co.za)

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