

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (31)

John Edmonds (10 September 2015)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

South African citrus season expected to end normally

In a recent meeting of the EU Standing Commission regarding South African citrus, it has been reported that no additional measures have been decided on. At this point, a suspension of trade or closure of the market is not expected, but the committee will convene again in 3 weeks. A recent FVO report appears to have been a pivotal factor in the decision made by the committee after the improvements and measures of the RMS were recognized... "It is important for South Africa to stick to our CBS processes and system to ensure that we do not again get ourselves onto the agenda," warned Deon Joubert, Special CGA envoy for Market Access & EU matters. Joubert also thanked their friends and allies, including their Spanish friends, who assisted in the outcome. "We should now end the season normally."

[Freshplaza.com; 31 August 2015]

Argentina: Citrus production in the NEA dies

Citrus producers from the coast say they are facing the perfect storm because of the sharp drop in profitability and they have denounced the national government's indifference in helping a sector that is the livelihood of 2,000 families and about 40,000 workers. "The lack of action of the national government, which hasn't reacted to the sector's agony, is accomplishing what the hard frosts and the serious crisis of 2001 couldn't accomplish," assured the producers and exporters of citrus in a tough statement. The industry benchmark said that the profitability had vanished, as they were selling their fruits for 0.50 pesos while growing and harvesting it costs them 1.50 pesos. They also said they were being harmed by the extremely high export tariffs (between 16% and 23%), the suffocating tax burden, the devaluation in key markets such as Russia (the main buyer of Argentine tangerines) and the difficulties to access profitable markets, such as Brazil and the United States. The producers also questioned the price distortions in the trade chain. "On the shelves, the fruit is sold to consumers at 10 Argentine pesos per kilo. In other words, the producer is paid 0.50 pesos for the same product for which a consumer pays 10 pesos," they stated... The citrus sector recalled that, until 2008, Argentina was the leading exporter of tangerines in the southern hemisphere. "Today, we don't exist. Tangerines have fallen by 70% and oranges by 90%... The Uruguayans, who have a similar fruit quality, managed to enter the strong markets of Brazil and the United States, and Peru hasn't stopped growing," say the producers...

[clarin.com; 3 September 2015]

Region of Murcia - Heat wave reduces lemon harvest by 23%

The heat wave that hit the Region of Murcia during the month of April has taken a toll on the lemon harvest. Producer prospects... "The heat wave we suffered after the Easter holidays affected the flowering and the fruit setting, resulting in a smaller number of fruits per tree," said the General Director of the Interprofessional Association of Lemon and Grapefruit, Ailimpo, José Antonio García. However, growers believe that the volume harvested will be similar to the average of the past seven years and that "we are comparing the current prospects with the results achieved last season, which was a record campaign in terms of production and therefore exceptional."... Ailimpo expects a total harvest of 850,400 tonnes for the campaign that is starting shortly... With regard to the current campaign, which is almost complete, it has been confirmed that it will close with a total production of Fino and Verna amounting to 1,100,000 tonnes, with record export and processing volumes and profitability for the whole industry. This figure is 12 percent higher than that of the previous campaign, when just over 923,000 tonnes were harvested... Exports have continued to grow, both to traditional markets of the European Union as well as to third countries. The role of the processing industry as regulator of the fresh market has remained vital, already approaching 300,000 tonnes of lemon processed... Another encouraging fact for growers has been the performance of the processing industry. In fact, 289,140 tonnes has been processed up to 30 June, which is 28% more than last season.

[laopiniondemurcia.es; 9 September 2015]

Spain: Extension of mandarin harvest period under consideration

The citrus producing company Viveros Alcanar, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food of the Government of Catalonia, and with support from IRTA, is setting up an experimental plantation for the production of mandarins. The tests are intended to assess new varieties and patterns so that the production of this citrus fruit can be extended by between two and six months... The new varieties to be tested, owned by the Valencian Institute of Agrarian Research (IVIA) and the Citrus Breeders Association (AVASA), will make it possible for mandarins to be produced from October to May.

[revistamercados.com; 7 September 2015]

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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