GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_23)

John Edmonds (16 June 2016)
Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

High-volume start for Chilean citrus deal

A Chilean fruit industry analyst has forecast an "auspicious" season for the country's citrus crop, due to a combination of higher volumes and larger sizing. Based on Expordata/ASOEX statistics, Andrea Betinyani Gálmez of Decofrut told www.freshfruitportal.com while exports to week 23 were up 125% at 35,850 metric tons (MT). "Shipments started this year two to four weeks in advance, according to the type…She said the amount of soft citrus exported in the season to week 23 was up 91% year-on-year, while an even sharper increase of 169% was seen for lemons. However, lemon exports are actually estimated to be down 3% for the season total. During the period, lemons made up 45% of shipments and oranges were just 2% of the total. "While forecast orange shipments are similar to last year, it is expected that exports of soft citrus will increase significantly this year, at around 13% in the case of clementines and 39% in mandarins," she said…"In terms of markets, exports have mostly been focused on the United States which accounted for 78% of the total for the period. The country was followed by the Far East with 16% participation and then Europe and Latin America with 5% and 1% respectively. "Early Chilean clementines and lemons have found a very favourable market in the U.S…" She said Japan's lemon stocks were actually higher than in 2015, and highlighted Chilean fruit was relatively new in the market and had to compete with U.S. and South African fruit which had lower prices year-on-year.
[Freshfruitportal.com; 16 June 2016]

Turkish citrus exports increased

In comparison with May 2015, Turkish lemon exports fell by 30%. However, lemons still represent 38% of the total amount of exported citrus, followed by oranges (32%), pomelos (29%), and lagging far behind, mandarins (1%). Orange exports quadrupled in comparison with May 2015, while those of pomelos almost tripled and exports of mandarins increased from 67 tons to over 500 tons. Iraq leads in the list of countries importing Turkish oranges (56 % of total imports), followed by India (8%), Turkmenistan, the Netherlands and Romania. Iraq also imported the most mandarins (53% of total imports in quantity), followed by Kazakhstan (21 %), Turkmenistan (18%) and far behind by Ukraine (4%) and the Maldives (1%). Lemon is also imported the most by Iraq (26%), followed by Romania (15%), Serbia (13%), Saudi Arabia (11%) and in fifth position, Russia (7%). Grapefruit is not an imported product prized by Iraq and the first position is held by Romania (17%), closely followed by Poland (16%) and Russia (14%). Ukraine arrives in 4th place with 9% of total imports of grapefruit and Italy in 5th place with 5 % of total imports.
[Source: www.akib.org.tr/fructidor.com via Freshplaza.com; 14 June 2016]

Uruguay: "Our citrus fruits benefit from agreement with US, now we need Europe"

The heavy rains recorded in recent months have had a major impact on the Uruguayan citrus production. The weather conditions may have actually caused the loss of 40% of the Satsuma mandarin production. "In April, more than 650 mm of rain were recorded, which is almost half of what it usually rains in the whole year in Uruguay. Our Satsumas were the most affected, and while all the fruit could be used, nearly half of the production could not be exported. Fortunately, other varieties have not been affected yet," states Ian McCulloch, commercial manager of URUD'OR SA Uruguayan Citrus Growers…"Fortunately, the demand is much higher than expected in the United States, Europe and Russia. Our focus is on the United States, as for some years we have had a free trade agreement with this market, which gives an advantage compared with competitors such as Argentina," affirms McCulloch. "In the European market, we cannot compete in the mandarin market against countries such as Peru, Chile and South Africa, because although Uruguay is an established producer and exporter of citrus fruits, we don't have favourable access conditions to the European market. Uruguay pays an export tariff of 16% to ship to these destinations, while the countries mentioned above do not pay any tariffs. This makes our costs higher and, therefore, we cannot be competitive in terms of price. At present, the Mercosur is negotiating agreements that should allow us to compete under the same conditions," concluded the spokesperson…
[Freshplaza.com; 10 June 2016]

Morocco allowed to export citrus to the USA again

Last January, American health authorities stopped Moroccan citrus fruit entering the country. Morocco normally exports 9% of their citrus fruit to the USA, 20% to the EU and almost half to Russia. Moroccan citrus exports to the USA were suspended due to the presence of Mediterranean fruit fly larvae in a batch of clementines. Morocco and the USA have come to an agreement on a plan to deal with this fly and have decided that citrus exports to the USA can resume as of October 2016.
[Freshplaza.com; 14June 2016]