# GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_28)

John Edmonds (22 July 2016) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

**U.S.: Stable start for Chilean orange season despite higher volume**

While recent reports suggest quality problems have set back pricing for Chilean lemons and easy peelers, the first weeks of the season showed a strong footing for the country's oranges in the U.S. According to figures from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Chilean orange prices stood at US$22/15kg (33lbs) box last week, which is similar to the level they were at for the same period in 2015. South African orange prices were also within the historic two-year average at US$24/15kg (33lbs) box…As has been the trend at this time of year, the U.S. has accounted for 85% of Chile's shipments. In 2015, Chile finished the orange season with 69,170MT exported, recovering from a low of 57,445MT in 2014. In terms of easy peelers, a representative from the Chilean Citrus Committee has told the local press there has been a lot of fruit with seeds this year due to cross-pollination.

*[Freshfruitportal.com; 20 July 2016]*

**Rain clips Argentine fruit exports**

Heavy rains across Argentina's main fruit growing regions in April and May have led to a significant fall in the country's export volume in the first five months of the year according to Buenos Aires-based consultancy firm Abeceb. Citrus had been particularly badly affected, with orange exports down by 86 per cent between January and May compared to the year-earlier period, and mandarins and grapefruit down 43 per cent and 9 per cent respectively. However, lemon exports increased by 62 per cent in the five-month period, reflecting a return to normal production following several years of freezes and droughts and strong demand in Europe caused by the fall in Spanish lemon production. However, Abeceb noted that the rainfall is likely to curb lemon output over the coming months…

*[www.fruitnet.com/Eurofruit; 21 July 2016]*

**Results of "atypical" Spanish lemon season revealed**

Spanish lemon production is expected to bounce back in 2016/17 after dropping sharply last season due to adverse weather conditions. Provisional results released by Ailimpo show that output for 2015/16 totalled 802,000 tonnes, a fall of 30 per cent on the record 2013/14 harvest of 1,154,000 tonnes. Exports fell by 21 per cent to 530,000 tonnes. However, the overall turnover on fresh lemon exports increased by 15 per cent to €640m due to the higher prices generating "exceptional" returns for growers. "The campaign that we are closing can be viewed as an anomaly and exceptional in terms of both volume as well as returns," Ailimpo said. "Moreover, the campaign closed earlier than expected in June, whereas Spanish lemons are usually present on the market until the end of July". The interprofessional said the lower volume had forced companies to prioritise "traditional and consolidated clients". Germany was once again the top destination for Spanish lemons, followed by France, the UK, Italy and Poland. The smaller crop resulted in shipments to non-EU markets shrinking by 50 per cent, though "business activities were maintained with 48 countries outside the EU, albeit at inferior volumes, which demonstrates the dynamics of the commercial sector and trend toward diversifying destinations for Spanish lemons". The top non-EU countries for Spanish lemons included Switzerland, Canada, the US, UAE and Brazil. "There is also a prominent positive trend growing in the national marketplace, marked by a 10 per cent increase in consumption and confirmation of an apparent growing interest by consumers in lemons as a product identified with a more youthful and healthy lifestyle", Ailimpo said…

*[www.fruitnet.com/Eurofruit; 18 July 2016]*

**Double success for Uruguay in China**

… "The signature of both protocols, for blueberries and citrus, is expected for 29 July," Bentancur told Fruitnet. "Companies and officials are in the process of preparing all the information required by the Chinese authorities."

…Uruguay has made no secret of its desire to seek alternative markets for its citrus after losing share in the European market last year due to problems with citrus black spot. As well as seeking the reopening of the Chinese market, which closed to Uruguayan citrus in 2012, the government is in discussions with Mexico, India, the Philippines and Indonesia.

Citrus accounts for 80 per cent of Uruguay's fruit exports, which last year reached 100,000 tonnes with a corresponding value of around US$90m. While Uruguay's orange acreage has fallen over the past three years there has been a rise in new plantings of seedless mandarin varieties such as Murcott, Tango, Orr and Orri which are popular with Asian consumers. Volumes are projected to grow sharply in the coming decade. This forms part of a wide reaching programme designated Position 2030, whose aim is to secure Uruguay's export future through varietal development, innovation and the opening of new export markets.

*[www.fruitnet.com/Americafruit; 21 July 2016]*

**Chile: "20% more Clementines thanks to the rainfall"**

…The rainfall recorded earlier this year has led to a significant increase in the production. Nicolás Prohens, of the company Rafael Prohens SA, gives us the balance of this season. "After years of drought, we've again been able to The continuous rainfall has resulted in exports this year growing by an estimated 22%. "This unexpected increase in the harvest has caused some confusion in the sector. Currently, we are shipping mainly to the US, as that market continues to provide more stable returns, in addition to shorter transit times, which has a positive impact on the quality of the fruit. Despite all these factors, prices have suffered a depreciation compared to previous years. This year, we are receiving $ 38 per box of 16 kilos, whereas before we were paid $ 40," affirms Prohens…

*[Freshplaza.com; 20 July 2016]*