

Global Citrus Scan (2019_2)

(John Edmonds 25 January 2019)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Spanish Verna production bounces back

Ailimpo has published its third lemon crop forecast for the 2018/19, confirming the earlier estimates of a total crop of 1.3m tonnes. This represents a light increase in Fino production and a recovery in Verna volumes compared to the previous season. "During the second part of the season we expect active demand and a greater growth rate for Fino lemons," Ailimpo said. In Verna, estimates point to a crop of 380,000 tonnes, a similar volume to that seen in 2017. "The forecast will allow Spain to consolidate its position as the undisputed top supplier in the European from April to August 2019, keeping an unquestionable leadership with high-quality lemon, health guarantee and excellent service," Ailimpo said.

[Fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 24 January 2019]

UK: Too much supply is creating a flat citrus market

Citrus sales in the UK are remarkably poor post-Christmas, with no exception for variety or country.

"The Spanish orange and clementine season never took off in Spain and, from November onward, demand has been poor, the quality is good, but values are low," said Jack Hanson from Fountain Fresh... Now Egyptian oranges are on the market which has depressed the market further, because they are a lot of it on the market, again according to Jack, the quality is good but the prices are far below expectations. "A 15kg flat pack of oranges which would normally go for £10-£12 is selling for just £6-£8 which is far below the price needed to cover costs. Mexican limes should be £5.59-£6 are going for £3.50." January should be a good month for citrus, but it is not happening this year. "I don't think it has anything to do with the mild weather, it's purely over-supply. People don't seem to be interested when there is too much, only when there is not enough supply." "We still have Moroccan clementines in stock so there are Spanish satsumas, Spanish clementines all on the market. Now Moroccan Nadercotts have started and they should hit a very strong market but they haven't, they have started expensive but they are not going to sell. Spanish oranges should also be strong but they're not because the Egyptian ones are on the market, so nothing is getting a good price."

[Freshplaza; 18 January 2019]

Record Citrus Production in Morocco Led to Dumping of Surplus

Rabat – The 2018 fall-winter citrus harvest made records in some regions of Morocco, but some producers had to dispose of surplus fruits because they did not have cold storage capacity and marketing channels. Minister of Agriculture Aziz Akhannouch held a meeting on January 9 in Rabat with agricultural interprofessional organizations to discuss the citrus sector in Morocco. During the meeting, Akhannouch said that citrus production made records this season in some regions, especially in Berkane, in eastern Morocco, with a 25 percent increase and Beni Mellal, in central Morocco, with an 18 percent increase. However, weather conditions last year delayed the ripening of the citrus fruits and production accumulation, according to a ministry statement... Citrus producers faced limitations in cold storage capacity, packaging stations, internal sales, and marketing channels.

[moroccoworldnews.com; 12 January 2019]

Australian citrus sees opportunity in Vietnam

Citrus Australia trade figures for 2018 show Australia had exported a total of 247,000 tonnes, at A\$448m (US\$320m) in citrus in the 11 months from 1 January to 30 November. The industry body said the slight decline in volume was attributed to a lighter mandarin crop out of the northern state of Queensland, compared with 2017, but that export volumes to date were better than previously predicted due to a larger orange crop. Key markets, China and Japan, took 50 per cent and 18 per cent of the country's orange exports respectively, with China importing almost a third (30 per cent) of the total mandarin share. Vietnam also shone through as an emerging market, with export figures continuing to grow. David Daniels, Citrus Australia market development manager said Vietnam was becoming an important market for Australian citrus. "Vietnamese consumers prefer slightly larger fruit, which complements fruit [sizes] required in other markets," he said. "Demand in these smaller markets means further opportunities for Australian growers."...

[Fruitnet.com/asiafruit; 22 January 2019]