Global Citrus Scan (2019_13)

(John Edmonds 3 May 2019) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Chile forecasts slight dip in citrus exports for 2019

Chile has forecast a 3% drop in citrus exports for the 2019 season, with clementines responsible for the biggest decline. The Citrus Committee of exporters' association ASOEX said that clementine volumes would likely drop 8% and oranges by 3%. Lemon and mandarin exports are expected to be similar to last year. However, the committee said it is expecting a "very good production" in terms of sizing and quality thanks to favorable growing conditions. An 8% drop in clementine exports would bring this year's level to 58,000 metric tons (MT), down from 63,198MT last year. Juan Enrique Ortúzar, president of the Citrus Committee, said: "After a year of high production, the flowering is sometimes less intense. In clementines, we think there will be a drop of between 5% and 10% compared to last year."…He said that Chilean oranges would compete with California Valencias and South African navels…Mandarins are forecast to see exports of 107,000MT, compared to 107,337 last year. This estimate comes amid high mandarin stocks in the U.S. However, Ortúzar said that "our challenge is to arrive with an impeccable product in terms of quality and size." Lemon exports are expected to come in at 88,000MT, compared to 88,361MT last year. Ortúzar highlighted that there was a lot of fruit in the Northern Hemisphere still from California and Spain which will create challenges for Chile"…

[Freshfruitportal.com; 22 April 2019]

RSA citrus sees hard brexit benefit

While certainty on Brexit – hard or soft – is some way away, South African citrus growers say a hard version will most probably be not too bad a thing, potentially bringing benefits which they currently do not enjoy while the UK is firmly entrenched in the European Union. Justin Chadwick of the South African Citrus Growers Association (CGA) recently, in an attempt to enlighten growers, asked the question: "Anybody care to explain Brexit to us mere mortals from the Colonies?" He says one definition of Brexit is 'saying you are going to leave the party, but staying". "So with four possible outcomes many commentators are trying to determine the consequences of these possibilities," Chadwick continued. "With a 'hard Brexit' becoming more and more likely, those exporters supplying citrus to the UK will be happy to hear that under such a scenario all citrus tariffs will reduce to zero. Citrus exported from South Africa would thus enter the UK at 0 per cent duty throughout the year." South African citrus sources have long been hoping that, with Britain outside the EU, some of the harsh laws applied to the country's citrus could in future fall away as far as the UK is concerned…Britain's entry into the EU back in 1974 cost South Africa its preferential trade agreements with the UK, which existed prior to this date…Since then, the rules of international trade – which previously allowed massive subsidies for EU farmers – have been re-written and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has been founded. To a degree previous tariff restrictions were reduced, but phyto- and plant health laws replaced them. South African citrus growers hope that in post-Brexit life the laws and regulations pertaining to plant health in the UK will change…In the UK this will be of huge benefit, specifically to late season soft citrus, particularly Mandarins. This will, however, also get Spanish producers hot under the collar, because they are already unhappy about the competition South African fruit is presenting to their early season, possibly less popular, varieties…

[Fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 29 April 2019]

Spanish oranges gaining popularity in Chinese market

The domestic orange season is coming to an end. It was a good season with high demand and overall good prices. Currently more imported oranges are entering the market. The volume of oranges from Egypt is more than last year this year, because they enjoyed good weather conditions during their season and therefore the output increased. In the Chinese market Egyptian oranges are quite competitive, because they enter in large volumes, the price can stay a bit lower than other imported oranges.This season is also the first time oranges from Sicily reached China. They were transported by air and came on the market in March. There are fewer Oranges from America this season due to the trade war between China and America. The high tariffs make them less attractive, so most companies imported smaller amounts, to keep it profitable for them. Spanish oranges are now entering their late season varieties. Although their season is ending, more Chinese buyers are looking to Spain, because they consider the quality of these oranges are quite good now.

[Freshplaza; 2 May 2019]