Global Citrus Scan (2019_21)

(John Edmonds 2 August 2019) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Ailimpo predicts return to lemon normality

Ailimpo's opening forecast for the 2019/20 Spanish lemon season has pegged volumes at 1.1m tonnes, an overall decrease of 14 per cent on the previous year. The fall marks a return to normality in Spain from the record production levels seen in 2018/19, Ailimpo noted, adding that this year's estimate would be confirmed depending on the availability of water in summer and autumn rains. "The estimated global lemon production figure in Spain of 1,104,000 tonnes will allow Spain to continue to be the leading exporter of fresh lemon, and the second largest processor of lemon juice, essential oil and dehydrated peel in the world," Ailimpo said. In terms of variety, Fino lemon production will fall 8 per cent to 845,000 tonnes, Ailimpo predicted, while Verna volumes will tumble 29 per cent to 260,000 tonnes…"The reduction in the crop of Verna lemons, an autochthonous Spanish variety, is a consequence of the resting of trees after a record production season. In any case, the harvest estimate of 260,000 tonnes guarantees that the Spanish lemon supply will cover a large part of summer 2020 with good quality fruit." In its overall seasonal outlook for 2019/20, Ailimpo said that it expected a "good and fair balance" of prices and distribution of economic value throughout the chain, which will allow the Spanish lemon sector to give a profitable commercial outlet to the harvest, while maintaining commercial competitiveness against the "aggressive" supply of lemons from competing third countries such as Turkey (which Ailimpo said would continue to be subject to official pesticide controls at the European border), or Egypt.

[fruitnet.com/eurofruit; 30 July 2019]

San Miguel advances in Asia

San Miguel has made significant gains in Asia this past year thanks to improved market access for Argentine citrus and the addition of Peru as a new supply origin, which allows it to reach Far Eastern markets via the Pacific. The company saw strong growth across the entire citrus category in China last year and this year has brought a sharp rise in exports of Peruvian and South African mandarins, as well as oranges from Peru. "We've also started exporting mandarins from Uruguay via Chile, which shortens the transit time and opens up a great opportunity in this market," said Juan Martín Hilbert, the company's general manager fresh fruit for America and Asia. "At the same time we're increasing our presence in India and Indonesia and have resumed lemon shipments to Japan." The acquisition of Peru's Agrícola Hoja Redonda in 2017, meanwhile, has significantly widened San Miguel's product portfolio, adding avocados, premium mandarins like Tango and W. Murcott…

[fruitnet.com/asiafruit; 26 July 2019]

"South African orange prices currently at a low level in China"

"Oranges from South Africa became available in China in mid-June this year. The initial supply was limited, and the season started later than in previous years. At the moment, prices are quite low, with navels at about 120 yuan per 15kg unit and summer oranges at about 130 yuan, much lower than the range of over 200 yuan in the same period last year. This is mainly due to the fact that the orange seasons in Egypt, Spain, and America are finishing later this year than in previous years," says Don Lu from Yuanxing Fruit. "The overall volume from South Africa this season is less than in previous years. The current quality is slightly worse, the color is yellower, and the fruit is softer. At the moment, the total supply of imported oranges is not low, especially considering oranges from Spain and Egypt are still in season. The market is indeed rather weak, but it is usual that the price fluctuates with the supply." "At the moment, supplies from South Africa are limited, this in part is due to the fact that seasons in other countries are finishing later this year, but it is also because the market is flooded with B grade fruit. As far as I know, the total production from South Africa this year is not particularly small, but the volume of grade A fruit is lower than in previous years." "We have several major suppliers for South African oranges each year. They have been working with us for many years, and we share a very close relationship and mutual trust…

[Fresh Plaza; 19 July 2019]

EU: Spanish citrus group labels South African mandarins' high prices "absurd"

Spain's Valencian Farmers' Association (AVA-ASAJA) has expressed anger that South African citrus is currently fetching significantly higher prices than local growers during their last season. The organization said that over recent days prices of South African Clemvilla (a.k.a Nova) mandarins have in some cases reached levels that are four times higher than Spanish clementines in the "disastrous" 2018-19 campaign. That particular variety has been selling at over four euros per kilo while red and white grapefruit have been "well above" three euros per kilo, it said. In addition, the group said the market had also been "inundated" with nectarines and red plums from South African when Spanish growers began harvesting their own fruit and fetched "ruinous prices"….

[Freshfruitportal.com; 24 July 2019]