

Spain: Andalusian orange prices down by up to 40%

The Andalusian citrus sector is suffering up to 40% drops in orange prices, resulting, in some cases, in production costs not being covered. Lorenzo Reyes, president of Huelva's Citrus Growers Association, stated that while by this time last season "prices had already started recovering, this year oranges have done nothing but drop, and with no signs of recovery."

This is mostly due to the reduction in consumption levels, to demand restrictions measures and to the excessive production volumes resulting from the good weather conditions, "as varieties, which in other years would still be far from ready to be harvested, are overlapping with the current production."

Reyes believes that if prices do not recover before the end of the campaign, "the results will be quite negative." Additionally, the campaign in many areas has been marked by "smaller calibres than usual, with the market preferring the larger sizes. Consequently, many growers have had to sell a large part of their production to the processing industry."

Normal situation for mandarins

Mandarins, on the other hand, are not affected by the situation. Their campaign is developing normally and prices are reaching acceptable levels. Reyes explained that this time of the year is normally one of mandarin shortages, as few varieties are harvested and most are protected. This contributes to "prices being quite good, and in some cases, even higher than last year."

According to estimations made at the beginning of the campaign, Andalusia is expected to produce 1.9 million tonnes of citrus this year; 10.4% more than in the previous season. From this total, 1.4 million tonnes correspond to oranges and almost 330,000 to mandarins.

Source : [http://www.freshplaza.com/\(07/04/2014\)](http://www.freshplaza.com/(07/04/2014))