

Spain: Processed oranges and clementines for charity

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment has announced the processing of up to 20,000 tonnes of oranges and 5,000 tonnes of clementines into juice for charitable organisations, as pointed out in a statement.

The General Director of Producciones y Mercados Agrarios (Productions and Agricultural Markets), Fernando Miranda, has met with the organisations representative of the horticultural sector to monitor the impact of the measures introduced to protect fruit and vegetable producers against the Russian veto and to analyse the market situation.

The application of this measure with oranges and clementines will last until 31 December, when the EC Regulation on the matter will expire.

The measure involves the free distribution of oranges by producer organisations and individual growers to charitable organisations. In turn, these charities negotiate contracts with the processing sector for the production of orange and clementine juice.

The Ministry has also reported the opening of an additional quota of 3,000 tonnes, as established in the EU regulation, for apples, pears and table grapes, in addition to the products that could already benefit from it, such as cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, mushrooms and berries.

At the meeting, the new proposal for exceptional measures proposed by the European Commission on 11 December 11, which entail a modification of the current EU regulations, has also been discussed.

The proposal, as previously announced, is for the extension of the measures already in force, whose application period ends on 31 December, for the period between 1 January and 30 June 2015, and which will require the allocation of new funds.

Spain, for its part, has demanded the use of all financial resources necessary to tackle the effects of the veto, so that quotas can be increased as much as necessary to regulate the markets and new products can be included as they become affected throughout the campaign.

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