

Spain: Huelva to produce 40% of Andalusia's mandarins

The province of Huelva is strengthening its leadership as a mandarin producer in the region of Andalusia, with prospects to reach 150,536 tonnes this season, which is about 42.19 percent of the total regional production. This has been revealed in the official estimations for the 2016-2017 campaign presented by the Council of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, which points to the total volume in the region reaching 356,838 tonnes.

This is taking place in a context in which Huelva's total citrus production will drop by 13.88 percent; a situation unlike that observed in the rest of Andalusia, which expects a 10.50 percent growth, thanks to the increases expected in Seville or Almeria. Farms in the province of Huelva will harvest a total of 406,583 tonnes of oranges, mandarins, lemons and grapefruits, compared to the 472,119 tonnes reached in the previous year. These figures, however, will allow the province to remain in the second position within the autonomous region, just behind Seville (932,291 tonnes) and well ahead of Almeria (261,542 tonnes) and Cordoba (221,785 tonnes).

In fact, Huelva and Seville account for 65 percent of the total citrus production in Andalusia (2,059,883 tonnes), which, in turn, accounts for 28.99 percent of the sector nationwide. In Spain (7,106,823 tonnes) it is surpassed only by Valencia, whose production will amount to 3,953,226 tonnes. When looking exclusively at oranges, the importance of the region at national level increases, with a production totalling 1,560,351 tonnes out of the country's 3,641,254 tonnes; this is 42.85 percent. In the case of mandarins, 14.52 percent of the Spanish production (2,458,286 tonnes) is Andalusian, with Huelva and Seville-based farms supplying 71.89 percent of the total.

Back in Huelva, in addition to the 150,536 tonnes of mandarins, the province will produce 252,457 tonnes of fresh oranges, 79 of lemons and 2,728 of grapefruits, thus accounting for 19.74 percent of Andalusia's total citrus production. The figures show a decline of 3.65 percent in the case of sweet oranges (262,021 tonnes in the 2015-2016 season) and of 27.11 percent in the case of mandarins (206,537 tonnes a year earlier). The same applies to the lemon sector, which is small in Huelva, with a 50 percent drop (158 tonnes in the 2015-2016 campaign). As for grapefruit, production has actually increased by 15.94 percent (2,353 tonnes last year).

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