

Spain: Request to withdraw 4,557 tons of citrus

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA), which set up a quota for the withdrawal and processing into juice of 50,000 tons of oranges, mandarins, clementines and satsumas on January 13, has already received 13 requests for a volume totaling 4,557 tons.

This has been revealed in the first follow-up report, and the volume consists of 2,394 tons of "small citrus fruits" and 2,163 tons of "oranges", in both cases from producer organizations (PO).

In Andalusia, the POs have already requested the withdrawal of a total of 1,329.6 tons of oranges and 22 tons of small citrus fruits, while in the main producing area, the Region of Valencia, the requests amount to 634 tons of oranges and 1,823 tons of mandarins, satsumas and clementines.

Aragon (200 tons of oranges and 125 tons of small citrus fruits), Catalonia (309 tons of small citrus fruits) and the Region of Murcia (115 tons of small citrus fruits) are the other regions that have applied for these withdrawals, regulated by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/891.

This regulation allows Member States to authorize the withdrawal of fruit by POs for its delivery to charities, such as food banks, which, in turn, sign contracts with the processing industry for the fruit's transformation into juice and nectar.

A part of the volume delivered to the industry is used as payment in kind to cover the processing costs.

The 50,000 ton quota receives funding in the framework of the operational programs of the POs, with producers receiving around 12.5 million Euro, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.