**MARKET SITUATION REPORT RELEVANT TO COVID-19 IMPACTS**

**Report: 5**

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This reports seeks to communicate the current situation in each key citrus market in relation to the current impact brought about by COVID-19. Every effort has been made to ensure the information is reliable, but conditions in each market may well shift quickly and exporters should be engaging their trading partners directly in each market.

**General (All markets):**

* Harvesting and packing activities in the citrus industry usually pick up after the Easter Weekend (10th-13th April this year). This is expected again in 2020 and markets have factored this into their planning.
* Leading up to Easter the markets seem steady waiting to see what happens over the next weeks into end-April/May.
* Some non-citrus fruits with shorter shelf lives are not faring well at all, as consumers move towards products that allow them to reduce their store visits, and have associated health benefits for the immune system (i.e. vitamin C). This is driving prices down in these categories.

**European Union:**

* The EU Commission and trade continue to address border crossing issues to ensure product can flow throughout the EU.
* Demand seems to be strong via the retail sector, especially for lemons and oranges.
* Northern hemisphere supply is clearing out, and therefore the tempo of sales indicates that stock is moving.
* Local availability of labour is beginning impact the supply of local fruit, especially coming from Eastern Europe, potentially driving up demand for imported product.

**UK:**

* The satsuma demand has been typical of previous years, but clementine demand is higher at normal prices for early fruit. For lemon and oranges demand remains strong.

**Middle East**

* No additional feedback here.

**Bangladesh**

* A cautionary note: documentation delays are resulting in payment and consignment clearing delays.

**China**

* It is reported that the juicing market is very quiet current, which adds risk if stocks builds up quickly and due caution should be taken by monitoring stocks continuously.
* The performance of the market will be determined by the availability of Northern Hemisphere (i.e. Egypt) fruit to China.

**Japan**

* Early volumes are being prepared for Japan.
* There is a cautionary note from DALRRD on whether the SA inspector will be permitted to travel to Japan to inspect the fruit on arrival. This matter is being addressed by Mitchell Brooke on the Special Export Programme side.

**South Korea**

* No new information.
* The date of the arrival of the Koran inspector is still being addressed.

**USA**

* Demand through retail outlets remains high.

**Russia**

* No additional information.

**India**

* There are reports of internal transportation challenges to move product around.
* India does now receive electronic documentation, which will assist clearing containers.

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