



World Citrus Organisation

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World Citrus Organisation gathers for annual Southern Hemisphere forecast & elections

On 1 June 2022 World Citrus Organisation (WCO) members gathered for the organisation's Annual General Meeting (AGM). During the AGM the WCO Secretariat presented the consolidation of the production and export forecasts for the forthcoming Southern Hemisphere citrus season 2022. This preliminary forecast is collected from member industry associations in Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru, South Africa, and Uruguay. Along with citrus market development updates, the meeting also saw the re-election of WCO's current co-chairs for a second mandate. Both South Africa and Spain, represented by the Citrus Growers' Association and Ailimpo, were re-elected to head the organisation for another two years.

During WCO's AGM, the preliminary forecast for the upcoming Southern Hemisphere citrus season was presented to the representatives from the citrus sector. According to the forecast, which is based on information provided by industry associations in Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru, South Africa, and Uruguay, citrus production is expected to increase by 4.85% compared 2021 to reach 24,832,270 tonnes. Exports are also projected to increase to 4,140,547 tonnes, 4.91% up from the previous season. Philippe Binard, WCO Secretary General, explained, *"Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, a positive trend of consumers' demand for fruit and vegetables was noted, in particular for citrus fruit, widely recognised for its high nutritional value, notably in terms of vitamin C content. The large volume available is positive news as it will meet this increased demand"*. On the processing side, a total of 13,210,832 tonnes of citrus are expected to be destined to the juice market – an 8.32% increase compared to 2021.

Orange production is forecasted to increase by 5.01% compared to 2021, reaching 16,596,973 tonnes. Soft citrus production is expected to remain stable (-0.11%, 3,044,652 tonnes in total). An 8.28% growth is projected for lemon production (4,754,260 tonnes in total), while grapefruit production should decrease slightly (-0.58% compared to 2021, down to 436,386 tonnes). Eric Imbert, CIRAD - Technical Secretariat of WCO, indicated, *"The Southern Hemisphere citrus export continues to grow, especially lemons and easy peelers. The Southern Hemisphere today represents 27% of the global citrus market"*. Forecast information was followed by a review of the past season's results and analysis of the estimations for the current season with a focus on ongoing market challenges, including rising costs and logistics disruptions.

WCO is led by a co-chairmanship of two country full members. Both South Africa and Spain, who have co-chaired the organisation since its inception, were re-elected to head the organisation for a second mandate of two years. South Africa is represented by the Citrus Growers' Association under the guidance of Justin Chadwick and Spain is represented by Ailimpo under the helm of José Antonio Garcia Fernandez. WCO additionally welcomed new members, with the organisation's membership now totalling 34 associations and companies.

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Southern Hemisphere citrus forecast 2022*

Soft citrus	%2022/2021	2022	2021
TOTAL PRODUCTION	-0.11%	3,044,652	3,048,022
Destined to export	2.08%	1,063,634	1,042,009
Destined to processing	0.90%	4,048,363	4,012,394
Destined to domestic market	0.05%	16,176	16,168
Orange	%2022/2021	2022	2021
TOTAL PRODUCTION	5.01%	16,596,973	15,805,556
Destined to export	6.43%	1,760,604	1,654,207
Destined to processing	6.40%	10,788,006	10,138,955
Destined to domestic market	0.90%	4,048,363	4,012,394
Lemon	%2022/2021	2022	2021
TOTAL PRODUCTION	8.28%	4,754,260	4,390,553
Destined to export	6.96%	1,058,368	989,539
Destined to processing	19.47%	2,089,729	1,749,234
Destined to domestic market	-2.76%	1,606,163	1,651,780
Grapefruit	%2022/2021	2022	2021
TOTAL PRODUCTION	-0.58%	436,386	438,951
Destined to export	-1.23%	257,941	261,145
Destined to processing	2.68%	143,807	140,052
Destined to domestic market	-8.25%	34,638	37,754
ALL CITRUSES	%2022/2021	2022	2021
TOTAL PRODUCTION	4.85%	24,832,270	23,683,082
Destined to export	4.91%	4,140,547	3,946,900
Destined to processing	8.32%	13,210,832	12,195,595
Destined to domestic market	-0.79%	7,480,891	7,540,587

* Based on data from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru, South Africa, and Uruguay.

Note to the Editors: The World Citrus Organisation is a global platform for dialogue and action that brings together citrus producing countries. For more information, contact the association at wco@worldcitrusorganisation.org or visit the association website worldcitrusorganisation.org.