Citrus
Review of the 2004/2005 season

Blowing cold

Particularly difficult weather conditions in the western Mediterranean area, with production losses caused by the worst frosts for 20 years, made the 2004/2005 season one of the worst in the recent years for easy peelers and orange. The difficult situation highlights the perverse effects of the short-term commercial reasoning used by certain operators after the frosts and raises the question of the facilities to be used for getting seasons with increasing quantities of easy peelers off to a good start when the weather conditions are unfavourable for consumption.

'Among famous traitors of history one might mention the weather.' This quotation from the American writer Ilka Chase was probably remembered by a fair number of professionals in the citrus sector in the Mediterranean area at the end of the 2004/2005 season. The numerous problems—mainly the weather—faced by Spanish and Moroccan professionals sometimes led to dramatic situations in certain markets (especially easy peelers and orange). The list of these misfortunes does not stop at the frost at the end of January, and also includes drought followed by an unusually warm autumn, a long rainy period and high winds in Spain in December, attacks by locusts in Morocco and, elsewhere in the world, no less than three hurricanes in Florida.

Combined with production that was overall above average because of the large easy peeler crop, these events make the balance difficult to critical for the western Mediterranean origins. Spain has been the most seriously affected country. Producers' associations even talk in terms of 'the worst season for the last thirty years' and selling prices failing to cover cost prices for certain produce. Less affected overall than their Spanish counterparts, Moroccan professionals were strongly penalised by the consequences of drought on fruit size. The situation was more mixed for producer countries in the eastern Mediterranean; these succeeded in compensating a generally difficult situation for orange and easy peelers by a satisfactory season for lemon and grapefruit. Israel and Turkey even achieved satisfactory performance overall.

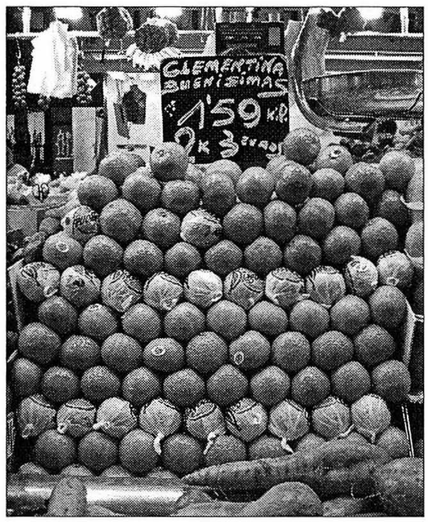
Easy peelers

The balance for the season can be described as catastrophic, especially for Spanish growers. The host of records beaten in terms of volumes exported should not mislead observers. It is true that the 2-million-tonne level was exceeded (by a good margin) because of the historically large shipments to EU countries (nearly 1.5 million tonnes) and eastern European markets; this is a reassuring recovery after the sharp decrease in the preceding season. Nevertheless, our estimated average season price on the French market is 20% down on the preceding season and 15% down on the three-year average.

This decrease is the result of an explosive mixture of extremely large production (a previously unattained 4.7 million tonnes) and a series of weather problems. The warm autumn seemed relatively harmless but was substantially responsible for the catastrophe. It caused serious lateness in the ripening of early clementines and lack of consumer interest in citrus fruits in general. In this context, the upstream end of the sector was running very late from the end of October onwards in a particularly ambitious marketing programme, given the size of the harvest. Thus, in spite of the large quantities withdrawn (nearly 700 000 t was processed, withdrawn or destroyed—a scale never seen before), supplies were very large from November to January (14% up on the three-year average with quantities totalling 500 000 t or more in November and December). To make things worse, the long rainy period at the beginning of December complicated things for Spanish professionals who were unable to deliver some of the Christmas orders that are of capital importance in the business performance of the season and had to face subsequent serious problems of the keeping quality of the produce. This break in supplies was the only encouraging feature of the season for competing origins (Morocco and Corsica in particular). Frost was the worst feature of the season. Paradoxically, it contributed to over-supplying the market. Exporters increased the rate of shipping because of the fragility of the fruits affected. In this context, it was difficult to find outlets for good quality produce right until the end of the season.

Orange

The orange market suffered most from the effects of frost. The season started in a favourable context of limited southern hemisphere production and then very soon suffered from the catastrophic situation on the easy peeler market and the late ripening of Spanish 'Naveline'. However, the market remained under control in spite of sluggish demand as a slight production deficit was observed in Spain. The frosts at the end of January in the Iberian peninsula and in some regions of Morocco changed the situation completely but, as for easy peelers, in a totally unexpected way. In spite of the announcement of colossal losses, particularly of Spanish 'Navelate', supplies remained comparatively normal in February and for part of March. The cold weather that followed the frost period enabled some Spanish operators to market the least affected fruits. And so what had to happen did happen. With the quality levels of a significant proportion of supplies worsening rapidly (especially the taste qualities), consumers gradually turned away from these fruits. Sales collapsed completely at the end of March. The loss of interest was lasting and demand remained dull until the end of the winter season and for a fair part of the summer season. Sales of all origins and for all destinations were 12% down on the preceding season and 3% down on the average (-18% and -6% respectively for western Europe). Our estimated average season price is down by 16% in comparison with last year and 9% down in comparison with the average, in spite of the decrease in the volumes marketed.



Lemon

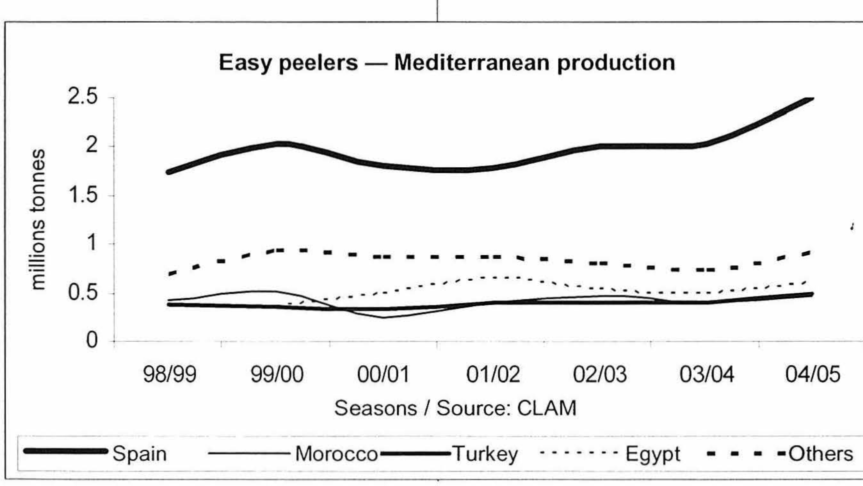
The stability of exports to the EU and eastern Europe masks the totally different performances of the two main players on the winter lemon market. Exports from Spain, hard-hit by frost, totalled 370 000 t, a serious dip in comparison with the 480 000 to 550 000 t observed in preceding years. Turkey obviously rushed to fill the gap and shipped over 340 000 t, an amount never previously attained.

Grapefruit

The western Mediterranean was not the only part of the world to be affected by difficult weather conditions. The loss of nearly two-thirds of Floridian production after three hurricanes in a row caused unprecedented under-supplying of the EU and Japanese markets. The situation obviously benefited the Mediterranean origins as these were able to step up shipments to the EU within the limits of the produce available. The figures for Israeli and Cypriot exports were well up but Turkey suffered from the negative swing in alternate bearing. The average price in France hit record levels more than 35% up on the average for preceding years. However, the season was not an easy one. Sales were difficult for the whole period and the market was very disappointing at the end of the season. (full review published in ***FruiTrop* 127**)

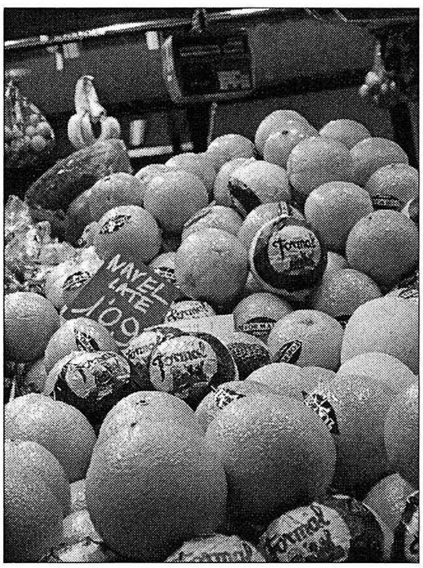
Negative features to be highlighted

Fortunately, the overall negative performance of this season was the result of unfavourable events. A weather phenomenon like the frost in Spain has a statistical return

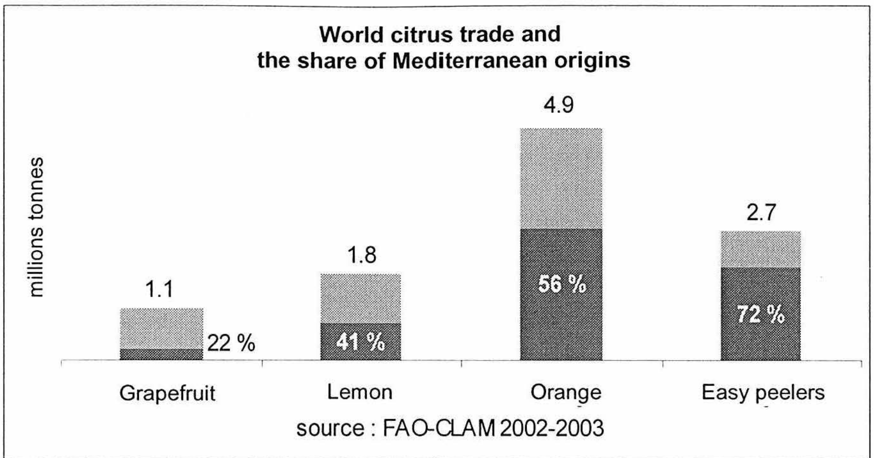


period of 20 years. Although this is reassuring, the short-term reasoning of a proportion of operators after this weather problem is less so. The general, long, deep-seated consumption slump that hit the orange market after the (often knowing) sale of produce of undoubtedly inadequate quality is a clear illustration of this. The upstream part of the sector is not solely responsible for this. The attitude of a large number of distributors who were not willing to pay the price to ensure supplies of high quality produce is just as dubious and reveals the gap between what is said and everyday trade practices.

The catastrophic easy peeler season also shows the key role played by the weather conditions at the beginning of the season with regard to both the ripeness of the produce and the stimulation of demand. When the weather is too warm in September and October the season is certain to get off to a poor start, in spite of all the efforts made in varietal improvement. The consequences are not limited to a passing dip, but spread. The volumes carried over as a result of late sales at the beginning of the season have a snowball effect and prejudice the heart of an easy peeler season in which balance is delicate, given the scale of production of varieties such as 'Nules' and hit the first part of the orange season by a ricochet effect. Programmes for the consolidation of demand, and especially those concerning long-distance exports at the beginning of the season, thus



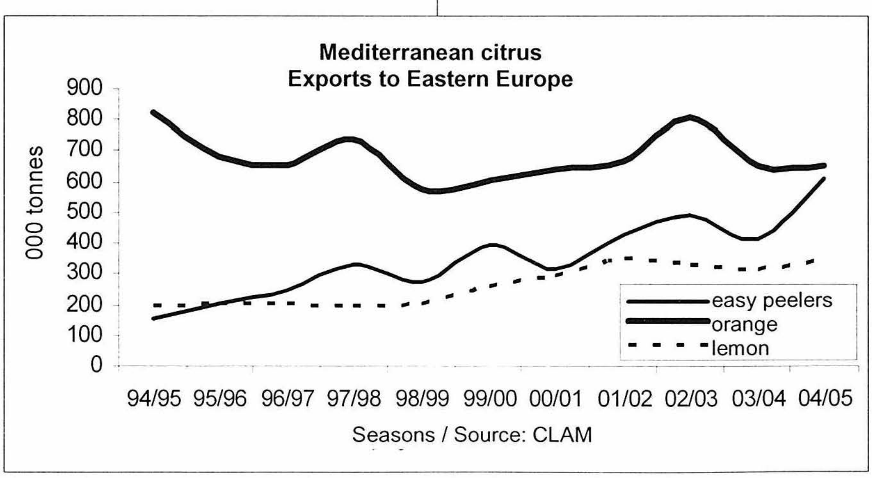
show their usefulness. For example, the US market is certainly not one of the easiest on which to gain a foothold, but it has enormous potential in terms of the development of consumption as clementine is still very little known in the inland part of the country. However, should not other market regulation tools such as the processing of the varieties with the least merits as regards quality be developed? The support plan launched by the Valencia regional government for this is praiseworthy (see Spanish harvest forecast).



But also a reassuring recovery of the eastern European markets

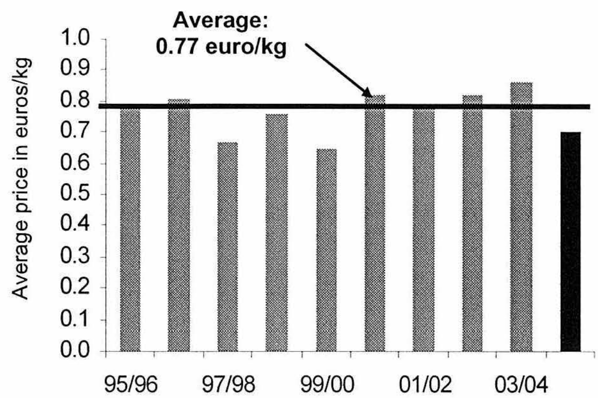
This season marked the reassuring return of growth of consumption on the eastern European markets after a sharp, strong dip in 2003/2004. The simple reminder that they now handle about 30% of Mediterranean production is enough to demonstrate their importance. However, although the recovery was massive for easy peelers it is still very timid for orange. This large scope for increased consumption will be of capital importance in the medium term as production, especially of late varieties ('Lanelate'/'Navelate' and 'Valencia'), is increasing in the major Mediterranean producer countries ■

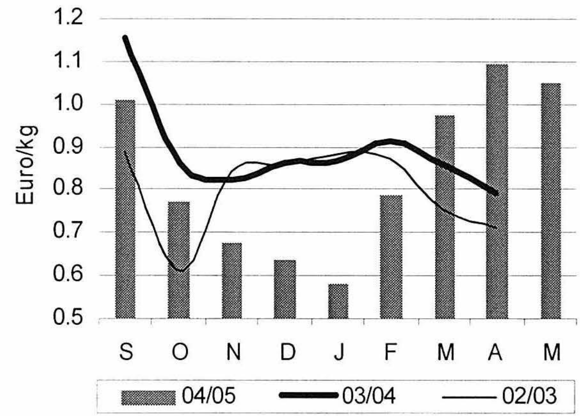
Eric Imbert, CIRAD
eric.imbert@cirad.fr



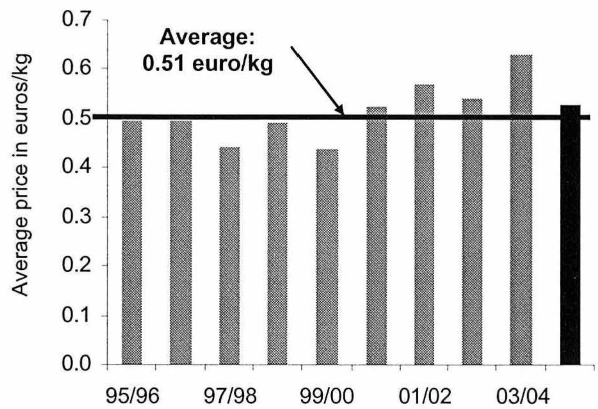
France — Prices at import stage

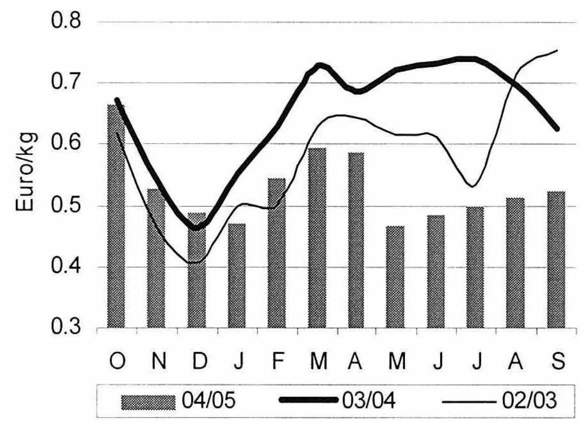
Easy peelers



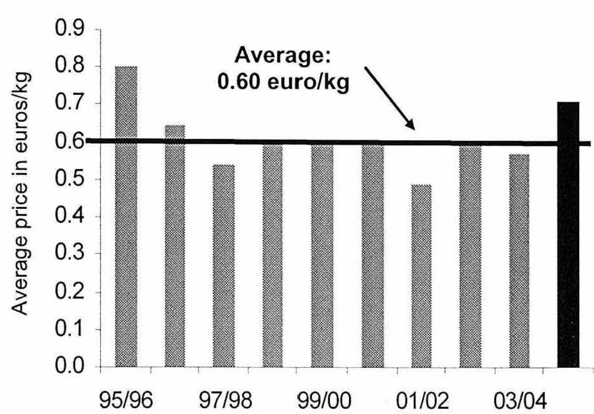


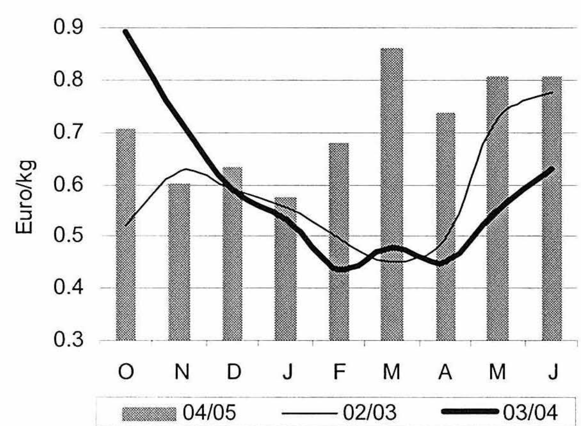
Orange



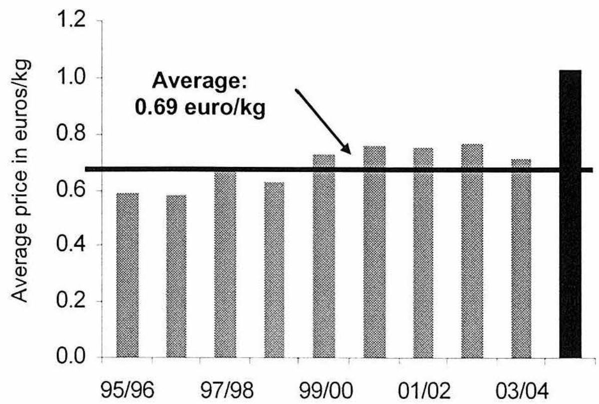


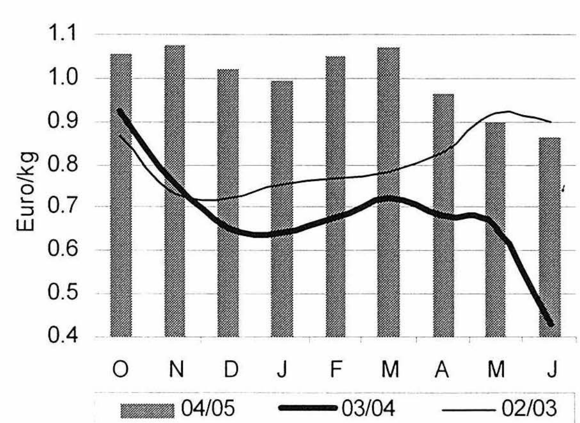
Lemon





Grapefruit





Source: Cirad-flhor Market News Service, Pomona

Citrus 2004/2005
Mediterranean production
(000 tonnes)

Citrus	Total	France (Corsica)	Spain	Morocco	Algeria	Tunisia	Italy	Israel	Cyprus	Greece	Turkey	Egypt (1)	Gaza (1)
Easy peelers													
Production	**5 093.0**	**27.4**	**2 500.4**	**463.9**	**111.0**	**33.2**	**611.6**	**122.8**	**50.4**	**59.7**	**500.0**	**612.6**	**-**
Domestic sales	**1 852.7**	0.3	272.5	209.6	111.0	33.2	371.7	31.0	4.7	35.9	206.8	576.0	-
Industry	**589.2**	-	315.3	1.6	-	-	200.6	47.0	12.5	1.2	11.0	-	-
Losses/withdrawals	**413.0**	4.6	379.3	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	4.5	-	24.5	-
Export sales	**2 238.1**	22.5	1 533.3	252.7	-	-	39.2	44.8	33.2	18.1	282.2	12.1	-
Orange													
Production	**9 957.8**	**-**	**2 835.4**	**827.0**	**140.0**	**174.7**	**2 105.1**	**184.2**	**69.5**	**763.2**	**1 040.0**	**1 759.3**	**59.4**
Domestic sales	**4 701.5**	-	682.0	563.7	118.0	155.0	1 111.5	61.0	12.3	198.5	745.5	1 045.9	8.1
Industry	**2 088.1**	-	547.6	26.7	22.0	1.0	903.4	86.0	26.9	263.6	128.0	68.6	14.3
Losses/withdrawals	**586.9**	-	426.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	90.4	-	70.3	-
Export sales	**2 581.3**	-	1 179.6	236.6	-	18.7	90.2	37.2	30.3	210.7	166.5	574.5	37.0
Lemon													
Production	**2 518.1**	**-**	**809.5**	**25.0**	**-**	**28.0**	**597.4**	**(2)**	**20.9**	**31.5**	**670.0**	**331.4**	**4.4**
Domestic sales	**1 134.7**	-	115.0	24.9	-	27.5	400.5	-	3.5	22.7	253.8	285.0	1.8
Industry	**378.7**	-	146.8	-	-	1.0	170.5	-	4.4	0.1	40.0	15.0	0.9
Losses/withdrawals	**228.0**	-	176.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.5	35.0	13.3	-
Export sales	**777.4**	-	371.5	0.1	-	0.2	26.4	-	13.0	5.2	341.2	18.1	1.7
Grapefruit													
Production	**471.5**	**-**	**36.0**	**5.0**	**-**	**-**	**6.8**	**264.9**	**37.9**	**6.6**	**106.8**	**3.0**	**4.5**
Domestic sales	**47.8**	-	1.0	4.5	-	-	3.1	20.0	1.6	3.7	10.0	3.0	0.9
Industry	**184.8**	-	2.2	-	-	-	1.2	157.0	10.4	0.7	9.7	-	3.6
Losses/withdrawals	**0.8**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	-	-
Export sales	**238.1**	-	32.8	0.5	-	-	2.5	87.9	25.9	1.4	87.1	-	-
Other citrus													
Production	**110.3**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**7.1**	**29.1**	**74.1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Domestic sales	**65.1**	-	-	-	-	7.1	-	58.0	-	-	-	-	-
Industry	**35.1**	-	-	-	-	-	29.1	6.0	-	-	-	-	-
Losses/withdrawals	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Export sales	**10.1**	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.1	-	-	-	-	-
Total													
Production	**18 150.7**	**27.4**	**6 181.3**	**1 320.9**	**251.0**	**243.0**	**3 350.0**	**646.0**	**178.7**	**861.0**	**2 316.8**	**2 706.3**	**68.3**
Domestic sales	**7 801.8**	0.3	1 070.5	802.7	229.0	222.8	1 886.8	170.0	22.1	260.8	1 216.1	1 909.9	10.8
Industry	**3 275.9**	-	1 011.9	28.3	22.0	2.0	1 304.8	296.0	54.2	265.6	188.7	83.6	18.8
Losses/withdrawals	**1 228.7**	4.6	981.7	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	99.2	35.0	108.1	-
Export sales	**5 845.0**	22.5	3 117.2	489.9	-	18.9	158.3	180.0	102.4	235.4	877.0	604.7	38.7

(1) estimates (2) lemon cumulated with the other citrus fruits for Israel

Source: CLAM

Citrus — Mediterranean Basin
2004/2005 — Exports by variety
(000 tonnes)

Citrus	Total	France (Corsica)	Spain	Morocco	Algeria	Tunisia	Italy	Israel	Cyprus	Greece	Turkey	Egypt (1)	Gaza (1)
Satsuma	**259.6**	-	112.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	146.8	-	-
Clementine	**1 374.1**	22.5	1 059.6	234.3	-	-	33.3	-	0.1	17.2	7.1	-	-
Mandarin/Wilking	**216.7**	-	117.9	0.6	-	-	5.9	-	-	-	84.2	8.1	-
Ortanique	**44.5**	-	-	8.4	-	-	-	5.8	30.3	-	-	-	-
Nova	**190.2**	-	157.8	3.9	-	-	-	13.0	1.1	-	14.4	-	-
Others	**153.0**	-	85.2	5.5	-	-	-	26.0	1.7	0.9	29.7	4.0	-
Total easy peelers	**2 238.1**	**22.5**	**1 533.3**	**252.7**	**-**	**-**	**39.2**	**44.8**	**33.2**	**18.1**	**282.2**	**12.1**	**-**
Navel/Navelina	**1 343.0**	-	783.7	39.4	-	-	10.0	0.4	0.2	165.9	67.5	275.9	-
Salustiana	**96.0**	-	66.5	29.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shamouti	**33.0**	-	-	-	-	-	-	26.9	-	-	0.1	-	6.0
Common blond	**62.9**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.2	-	58.7	-
Moro-Tarocco	**61.6**	-	-	-	-	-	61.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maltese	**18.2**	-	-	-	-	18.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanguinelli	**8.0**	-	-	-	-	-	8.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other blood oranges	**32.2**	-	-	32.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Verna	**12.7**	-	12.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oval	**100.2**	-	-	-	-	-	1.8	-	0.2	-	98.2	-	-
Late	**811.6**	-	314.8	135.5	-	0.5	8.8	9.9	29.9	40.6	0.7	239.9	31.0
Bitter	**1.9**	-	1.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total oranges	**2 581.3**	**-**	**1 179.6**	**236.6**	**-**	**18.7**	**90.2**	**37.2**	**30.3**	**210.7**	**166.5**	**574.5**	**37.0**
Total lemons	**777.4**	**-**	**371.5**	**0.1**	**-**	**0.2**	**26.4**	**-**	**13.0**	**5.2**	**341.2**	**18.1**	**1.7**
White grapefruit	**88.7**	-	32.8	-	-	-	2.5	14.8	25.9	1.4	11.3	-	-
Other grapefruits	**149.4**	-	-	0.5	-	-	-	73.1	-	-	75.8	-	-
Total grapefruits	**238.1**	**-**	**32.8**	**0.5**	**-**	**-**	**2.5**	**87.9**	**25.9**	**1.4**	**87.1**	**-**	**-**
Others	**10.1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**10.1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total	**5 845.0**	**22.5**	**3 117.2**	**489.9**	**-**	**18.9**	**158.3**	**180.0**	**102.4**	**235.4**	**877.0**	**604.7**	**38.7**

(1) estimates

Source: CLAM

2005/2006 citrus season forecasts

Details by origin

Tunisia: priority to the domestic market

The harvest should be distinctly larger in 2005/2006, approaching 250 000 t, in comparison with 200 000 to 220 000 t in the three preceding seasons). This increase is unlikely to have much impact on the volumes available for export. The bulk of production will continue to be sold fresh on the domestic market. Exports will remain limited to 'Maltese' orange, a semi-blood variety grown almost only by Tunisian growers in the Cape Bon region. Slightly larger volumes will be available than in the preceding season.

Citrus — 2005/2006 export forecasts — Tunisia					
000 tonnes	Seasons		Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/2006
	2005/2006	2004/2005			
Maltese	22.0	18.7	+ 18%	19.6	+ 12%

Source: CLAM

Turkey: production still increasing

The 2005/2006 harvest forecast confirms that Turkey is the Mediterranean country with the fastest development of citrus growing in recent years. Production is continuing to increase in the new orchards planted within the framework of the reconversion of the cotton zones in the vast Cukurova region stretching from Mersin to Antakya. The 2 450 000 t expected is 200 000 t up on the preceding year and 650 000 t up on production at the end of the 1990s. However, the dynamics differs from one citrus group to another. Frost risk is comparatively high in the centre of the zone (in the Adana region where the development potential is greatest) and growers favour early or the most frost-resistant varieties. Areas devoted to the Satsumas 'Okitsu' and 'Owari' are thus developing strongly. Nevertheless, easy peeler production will suffer a cyclical decrease in 2005/2006 as a result of alternate bearing after a large harvest in 2004/2005. Only the decrease in the volumes of 'Minneola' has a structural component resulting from increasing problems of *Alternaria*. Clementine is little suited to Turkish soil and climate conditions and availability is marginal. The lemon harvest will be similar to last season's, with comparatively little growth, given lemon's low resistance to cold. Nonetheless, small plantations are developing along the coastal strip west of Mersin where the weather is warmer but where pressure on landholding is a limiting factor. Exports will probably be down in comparison with the exceptional performance during the last season as a result of Spain's failure to deliver to the Russian market because of frost. The rise in production is related mainly to the record grapefruit and orange harvests expected. Orange production should exceed 1.1 million tonnes. Competition with Egypt on the Russian market may well be very strong in late varieties, where the potential is increasing strongly. The grapefruit harvest should reach a record 250 000 t (against 110 000 to 150 000 t in preceding seasons). This dazzling increase is probably related to positive alternate bearing (the 2004/2005 crop was small) and the start of production in many young orchards. However, the increase in export potential announced should be seen in relative terms because of the small fruit size of a large proportion of the harvest. Turkish exporters will continue to treat eastern Europe (Russia, Ukraine and Romania) as a major target. In addition to their potential for growth, these markets have the advantage of being fairly safe with regards to payment (firm payment, a fair number of Turkish companies have representatives in Russia). The dollar—used for transactions—is also tending to stabilise against the Turkish lira after a long period of fall. The proportion of exports shipped to the EU has therefore slipped from 45% in the mid-1990s to 17% in the last three seasons.

Citrus — 2005/2006 export forecasts — Turkey					
000 tonnes	Seasons		Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/2006
	2005/2006	2004/2005			
Total clementines	5.0	7.1	- 30%	6.6	- 24%
Satsuma	105.0	146.8	- 28%	121.9	- 14%
Mandarin/Wilking	60.0	84.2	- 29%	68.2	- 12%
Nova	15.0	14.4	+ 4%	11.6	+ 30%
Others	30.0	29.7	+ 1%	20.3	+ 48%
Total hybrids	210.0	275.1	- 24%	221.9	- 5%
Total easy peelers	**215.0**	**282.2**	**- 24%**	**228.5**	**- 6%**
Naveline/Navel	100.0	67.5	+ 48%	111.0	- 10%
Blond	5.0	0.1	+ 4 900%	5.7	- 12%
Late varieties	85.0	98.9	- 14%	43.8	+ 94%
Total oranges	**190.0**	**166.5**	**+ 14%**	**160.5**	**+ 18%**
Total lemons	**300.0**	**341.2**	**- 12%**	**192.7**	**+ 56%**
Total grapefruits	**214.0**	**87.1**	**+ 146%**	**98.8**	**+ 117%**
Total	**919.0**	**877.0**	**+ 5%**	**680.5**	**+ 35%**

Source: CLAM

Spain: the aftermath of the frosts

Frost at the end of January 2005 had strong negative effects on the 2005/2006 harvest which, at 5.1 million tonnes, is the smallest for the last ten seasons. The fall is colossal—a million tonnes—in comparison with last year's large harvest. The Valencia region, and especially the Camp de Turia and Ribera Alta areas, was particularly hard-hit. Nevertheless, the situation varies considerably from one citrus category to the other. Thus, the potential availability of easy peelers is fairly average and very similar to the quantities of the 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 seasons (the historically large 2004/2005 harvest should not be used as a reference). Satisfactory quantities will be available for early sales, with the decrease in the quantities of 'Marisol' (50% of the plantations have now been reconverted) compensated by the increase in the volumes of new, better quality cultivars ('Capola' and 'Clemenpons', bred from 'Nules', 'Oronules', an early clone of 'Fine' and to a lesser degree 'Loretina', bred from 'Marisol'). 'Clemenrubi' should gain a good position in this market segment as it formed more than 50% of purchases of certified clementine plants in 2004. Supplies of high season varieties ('Nules' and increasing quantities of 'Orogrande') should be average, like those of late clementine ('Hernandina'). All the hybrid groups (from 'Clemenvilla' to 'Ortanique') display a marked production deficit. The 'Moncada' variety, a high-quality late hybrid recently made available to nurserymen, seems to be an interesting alternative to the delicate 'Fortuna'.

The spectacular decrease in the quantities of orange available accounts for a fair proportion of the overall harvest deficit. However, only the harvests of early varieties ('Naveline' and 'Salustiana') and blood oranges will be below average. The volumes of late fruits should be close to normal, especially as the production of young plantings of 'Navelate' and 'Valencia' are increasing. Exports of these varieties should even increase strongly in comparison with the last harvest hit by frost. As for easy peelers, considerable efforts are still being made to plant improved varieties ('Fukumoto' navel among early fruits and above all the late 'Powell' navel).

The lemon harvest will increase by some 8% (5% for the early variety 'Primofiori' and 13% for the later 'Verna'), but will still be substantially down in comparison with an average year. However, as for orange, exports should increase very markedly and attain an average level. Grapefruit will still be the Tom Thumb of Spanish citrus production with a harvest estimated at 30 000 tonnes.

Late fruit ripeness is similar to that of last year for all citrus groups. Sizes are fairly uneven from one region to another, being somewhat larger than last year in the Castellon and southern Valencia to Gandia areas, and a little smaller in northern Valencia and around Murcia and Alicante (except for 'Naveline'). Drought remains a major preoccupation in most production zones. Rainfall from October 2004 to September 2005 was the lowest of the last 15 years, with a national average of 403 mm. Impounded water reserves are low, especially in Andalusia.

The sharp increase in production, especially of easy peelers, is another reason for concern. Statistics for sales of certified plants show that this process, referred to as 'clementinisation' by Spanish professionals, has not slowed in recent years and the quantity of fruits available will continue to increase. Furthermore, the 2004/2005 crisis is still very recent and shows that the extremely rapid growth of the sector has made it fragile. This twofold observation has led the government of the Communidad Valenciana to set up a support programme. The *Plan Estrategico Citricola Valenciano* is a multi-faceted initiative. Its budget of EUR 1.7 thousand million (60% provided by the region and the remainder in equal chares by the state and the EU) for the period 2005/2011 matches its lofty ambitions. It aims in particular at improving competitiveness, hampered by the small to medium size of the enterprises in the region; the aim is to reduce production costs by 30% through encouraging the grouping of production and supply facilities. The sales development aspect lays stress on classic features like the gaining of new markets (especially in Asia) and the consolidation of existing ones by means of promotion operations, and also aims at lengthening the citrus marketing period by planting new varieties (30 have been selected). The development of juice manufacturing facilities (especially using easy peelers) is also a strategic line both for the diversification of outlets and for regulating the volumes reaching the fresh fruit market. Lobbying will also be performed so that the production of citrus for the fresh market (especially easy peelers) can benefit from a specific regime in the future common market organisation.

In addition, Intercitrus is to continue its efforts in promoting oranges and easy peelers on the community market, with half of the budget funded by the EU.

Citrus — 2005/2006 export forecasts — Spain

000 tonnes	Seasons		Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/2006
	2005/2006	2004/2005			
Total clementines	980.0	1 059.6	- 8%	908.5	+ 8%
Satsuma	110.0	112.8	- 2%	129.3	- 15%
Mandarin/Wilking	70.0	117.9	- 41%	108.0	- 35%
Nova	120.0	157.8	- 24%	117.3	+ 2%
Others	115.0	85.2	+ 35%	63.8	+ 80%
Total hybrids	415.0	473.7	- 12%	418.4	- 1%
Total easy peelers	**1 395.0**	**1 533.3**	**- 9%**	**1 326.9**	**+ 5%**
Naveline/Navel	650.0	783.7	- 17%	876.4	- 26%
Blond	80.0	66.5	+ 20%	103.7	- 23%
Blood orange	12.0	12.7	- 6%	7.4	+ 63%
Late varieties	470.0	327.5	+ 44%	374.9	+ 25%
Total oranges	**1 212.0**	**1 177.7**	**+ 3%**	**1 359.2**	**- 11%**
Total lemons	**500.0**	**371.5**	**+ 35%**	**481.6**	**+ 4%**
Total grapefruits	**30.0**	**32.8**	**- 9%**	**27.6**	**+ 9%**
Total	**3 137.0**	**3 115.3**	**+ 1%**	**3 195.4**	**- 2%**

Source: CLAM

Florida: here we go again!

Grapefruit growers in Florida must be getting the impression that they have jumped out of the frying pan into the fire. The historic decrease recorded during the last season should only have been the result of circumstances as it was related to the exceptional occurrence of three hurricanes in less than six weeks. However, the situation may well be very similar this season and many operators are wondering about the production levels that can be expected in the coming seasons. They had to face both plague and cholera in 2004/2005—plague in the form of an unprecedented outbreak of citrus canker that is now being mastered and the discovery of greening during the summer, and cholera in the form of hurricane Wilma, that can be described as a last-minute hurricane as it hit Florida at the end of October when the hurricane season appeared to have finished. The harvest was initially estimated at 24 million boxes before Wilma, much less than the 40 million boxes of a normal season but encouraging progress after 13 million boxes in 2004/2005. The forecast will finally have to be considerably reduced as Indian River seems to have been affected in spite of Wilma's west-east route. But the indirect effects of hurricanes should also be borne in mind as they contribute to the even wider spreading of citrus canker and probably greening too. The social cost may well be high, with acceleration of closures of packing stations or juice manufacturing units. The future looks pretty bleak, but Floridian growers have already proved their ability to overcome difficult periods, as after the frost in the early 1980s.

Texas, an origin discovered for exports in 2004/2005, should profit from the situation and increase its shipments insofar as cost prices remain supportable for consumers. However, the volumes available for export will probably remain moderate with a total of 35 000 t for all destinations because of the focusing of the sector on the domestic market and a 20% decrease in production.

*Information on the grapefruit sector in Florida and Texas was published in **FruiTrop 127**.*

Grapefruit — 2005/2006 production forecasts — Florida

000 boxes	Seasons 2005/2006	Seasons 2004/2005	Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/2006
White grapefruit	7 000*	3 400	+ 106%	14 620	- 52%
Coloured grapefruit	17 000*	9 400	+ 81%	22 400	- 24%
Total grapefruits	**24 000***	**12 800**	**+ 88%**	**37 020**	**- 35%**

Note: 1 box = about 38.6 kg Source: USDA
* Pre-hurricane Wilma estimates. A strong decrease is expected in the December update.

Italy: a fine harvest but...

Production should remain very strong in 2005/2006 and be close to the record 3.3 million t reached last year. Italy is thus confirming its position as the second largest producer country in the Mediterranean after Spain. However, the scale of these volumes does not mean that the sector is in good health. With the exception of a few large groups, the citrus sector still suffers from lack of competitiveness on both the domestic and export markets, mainly as a result of its lack of unity. Italy is still a net importer of citrus (exports totalled 160 000 t in 2004/2005 against 190 000 t of imports from the Mediterranean alone). The high overall production level results firstly from another large orange harvest of nearly 2.1 million t; this is about 13% higher than average. Blood oranges, forming about 40% of the total volumes, are starting to gain a position on certain export markets (especially distant ones), above all thanks to the PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) procedure. The first export shipments to the United States and Japan left in 2004/2005 and an agreement has just been signed with the Australian government authorising shipments in 2005/2006. Shipments will nonetheless remain limited: 70 000 t last year including about 1 230 t to the United States and 55 000 t scheduled in 2005/2006. Given the size of the harvest, the volumes sent for processing may well exceed once again the 600 000 t quota for which producers receive a European subsidy. It is to be noted that blood orange juice from Sicily has a PGI to support its sales.

At about 600 000 t, lemon production will probably be the same as in 2004/2005 and 10% higher than average. The sector is also using the PGI system to highlight lemons from Amalfi and Sorrento, especially on the domestic market.

The easy peeler crop will probably be slightly down on last year's but 5% higher than average. Clementine grown mainly in Sibari plain in Calabria (40% of national production) will continue to form the greater proportion of export supplies that are expected to remain stable.

Citrus — 2005/2006 export forecasts — Italy

000 tonnes	Seasons 2005/2006	Seasons 2004/2005	Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/2006
Clementine	36.0	33.3	+ 8%	43.2	- 17%
Mandarin/Wilking	5.0	5.9	- 15%	5.1	- 2%
Total easy peelers	**41.0**	**39.2**	**+ 5%**	**48.3**	**- 15%**
Navel	11.1	10.0	+ 11%	10.5	+ 6%
Blond	11.2	0.0	-	2.7	+ 321%
Blood orange	55.7	69.6	- 20%	73.8	- 25%
Late varieties	10.2	10.6	- 4%	14.6	- 30%
Total oranges	**88.2**	**90.2**	**- 2%**	**101.6**	**- 13%**
Total lemons	**26.8**	**26.4**	**+ 2%**	**21.1**	**+ 27%**
Total	**156.0**	**155.8**	**0%**	**170.9**	**- 9%**

Source: CLAM

Cyprus: a sector on the move

Production will decrease further in 2005/2006 with slightly less than 170 000 t forecast. Pressure on land around the main citrus growing centres (Limassol and Paphos—south-west and west of Nicosia) and shortage of water and labour have resulted in a production decrease of about 20% since the beginning of the decade. Some 100 000 t should be available for export. The potential in two Cypriot specialities, mandora and grapefruit, will probably decrease slightly by 8 and 10% respectively. In contrast, the quantities of late orange for export should remain stable. Exporters should continue to focus on the most profitable markets thanks to the quality standards of production (60% of exporting growers' associations had EurepGAP certification at the end of 2004) but also because of the constraint of high and increasing production costs. The EU market, a duty-free destination for Cyprus since it became a member, should receive an increasing proportion of production (the increase in shipments to the EU in 2004/2005 after years of steady decrease was probably not just the result of the shortage of citrus fruits in Florida and Spain). Cypriot exporters will probably also focus increasingly on remote niche markets (the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, etc.).

Citrus — 2005/2006 export forecasts — Cyprus

000 tonnes	Seasons		Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/2006
	2005/2006	2004/2005			
Ortanique	28.0	30.3	- 8%	27.8	+ 1%
Nova	1.0	1.1	- 9%	0.5	+ 117%
Others	1.8	1.7	+ 6%	1.5	+ 17%
Total easy peelers	**30.8**	**33.1**	**- 7%**	**29.8**	**+ 3%**
Oval	0.8	0.2	+ 300%	0.8	- 5%
Late varieties	30.0	29.9	0%	33.3	- 10%
Total oranges	**30.8**	**30.1**	**+ 2%**	**34.1**	**- 10%**
Total grapefruits	**23.2**	**25.9**	**- 10%**	**26.0**	**- 11%**
Total lemons	**12.5**	**13.0**	**- 4%**	**13.7**	**- 9%**
Total	**97.3**	**102.1**	**- 5%**	**103.6**	**- 6%**

Source: CLAM

Israel: fresh dynamics

Production in the 2005/2006 season will probably display a slight decrease of about 4%. This should be viewed in perspective as 2004/2005 was an alternate bearing 'up' year and both yields and economic performances were exceptional. This small cyclical decrease does not call into question the very distinct improvement of the situation in the sector after a long difficult period that ran from the beginning of the 1980s to the 2002/2003 season, when the harvest was only about a third of the present volume. The planting or replanting of nearly 700 ha between 2002 and 2004 and of 600 ha in 2005 is the tangible sign of the return of producers' confidence in citrus growing. The solutions provided for the crucial problems of shortage of water and labour have made a strong contribution to this change in atmosphere, as has the distinct improvement of returns, even if the latter factor was strongly affected by economic features in 2004/2005 (favourable exchange rate and a shortage of fruits from Florida). The decrease in the quantities of easy peelers resulting from alternate bearing masks a very clear upward trend in production. Nearly half of the new plantings are of this category of fruit, the new spearhead of Israeli citrus growing. The potential of 'Or', the variety that has clearly received growers' preference in recent years, will total slightly over 6 000 t. However, grapefruit will remain the 'heavyweight' of the 2005/2006 season and will form more than 50% of exports; the volume might be slightly greater than the already substantial quantities shipped last year, as Florida production will display a deficit again. This development will be at the expense of the domestic market and especially the processing industry. The high world juice prices, resulting again from the Florida production shortage, should succeed in limiting the decrease in turnover in this sector, especially as the professionals focus to a considerable extent on high value-added single juices. Nevertheless, this situation worsens the problem of excess processing capacity in Israel in spite of the closure of 7 units in 10 in the past decade (the three remaining units have the capacity to process approximately 600 000 t and handled only 300 000 t last year). The Japanese market should remain a privileged target for both 'Sweetie' and grapefruit. Orange production will decrease by 7% but will remain distinctly above average. As for easy peelers, plantations are increasing considerably with, in particular, early varieties ('Navel') and 'Shamouti', an Israeli specialisation. It is noted that the CMBI has appealed against the court ruling withdrawing its exclusive use of the JAFFA brand.

Citrus — 2005/2006 export forecasts — Israel

000 tonnes	Seasons		Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/2006
	2005/2006	2004/2005			
Ortanique	2.8	5.8	- 52%	5.0	- 44%
Nova	9.9	13.0	- 24%	11.2	- 12%
Others	20.0	26.0	- 23%	14.8	+ 35%
Total easy peelers	**32.7**	**44.8**	**- 27%**	**31.0**	**+ 5%**
Navel	0.6	0.4	+ 50%	0.8	- 21%
Blond	27.0	26.9	0%	26.7	+ 1%
Late varieties	10.0	9.9	+ 1%	12.2	- 18%
Total oranges	**37.6**	**37.2**	**+ 1%**	**39.7**	**- 5%**
White grapefruit	13.5	14.8	- 9%	12.9	+ 5%
Coloured grapefruit/Sweetie	77.3	73.1	+ 6%	69.4	+ 11%
Total grapefruits	**90.8**	**87.9**	**+ 3%**	**82.2**	**+ 10%**
Total lemons	**5.0**	**0.0**	**-**	**1.0**	**+ 400%**
Total	**166.1**	**169.9**	**- 2%**	**154.0**	**+ 8%**

Source: CLAM

Corsica: PGI on the horizon

Corsican clementine, a speciality of the island and recognisable by its presentation with the leaves, should give a fairly light crop this season. With 18 000 t, the quantity available is down by about 20% in comparison with last year and 14% down on the average. Slightly more than 50% of the fruits should be able to benefit from the 'production conformity certification' quality label while waiting for a PGI. The application is currently in the hands of the authorities in Brussels and should be accepted during this season and be used in practice in 2006/2007. A clementine juice production factory and a 'Label Rouge' are still being examined. An improved clementine variety, 'SRA 535' has been made available to growers. Developed by the INRA-CIRAD San Giuliano Research Station, it has above all the advantage of being larger than the classic cultivars.

Citrus — 2005/2006 production forecasts — Corsica

000 tonnes	Season 2005/2006	Season 2004/2005	Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/2006
Clementine	18.0	22.5	- 20%	20.9	- 14%

Source: CLAM

Morocco: a fine harvest in spite of alternate bearing

The harvest will be at a good level again in 2005/2006 in spite of negative alternate bearing, with a forecast of 1 240 000 t in comparison with 1 150 000 in the two previous 'off' years and 1 315 000 t in 2003/2004. Last season's frosts do not seem to have caused as much damage as in Spain and, after being a problem in 2004/2005, fruit size is reported to be larger in the Souss and Gharb regions. At some 250 000 t, the export potential of easy peelers is at the second highest level of the last 10 seasons. Most of supplies will continue to be 'Fine' clementine. The availability of high-quality late varieties, the choicest Moroccan citrus fruits, will be down for cyclical reasons. The volumes of 'Nour' for export should be around 45 000 t against 63 000 t last year (alternate bearing). Supplies of 'Nadorcot' should be stable (production 14 000 t with about 8 000 t for export). The stability of the potential in ortanique masks the continuing of the reconversion of this variety (quality and economic returns are declining as the orchards age). The first orange export forecast is very much an estimate as the production of late oranges on which most exports are based is still not known very accurately. The volumes should increase fairly markedly in comparison with the poor 2004/2005 season (the effects of frost and small fruit size).
The volumes reserved for the EU market could fall below the 50% mark this season (they had fallen from 80% to 60% between the mid-1990s and the end of the century). A large-scale promotion campaign is scheduled in Russia. The free trade agreement with the United States came into force at the beginning of 2005, opening up interesting prospects for development but probably only in the medium term (shipments to this destination did not exceed some 2 500 t in the last two seasons).
The three medium-sized industrial juice production units owned by private enterprises will enable the essential handling of sorting rejects. This used to be performed by Frumat, placed in receivership in 2005.
Production is still far from attaining the 1 850 000 t forming the target in the 1998/2010 plan for the renewal of the sector. The annual planting rate of some 1 600 to 1 700 ha per year corresponds to only 40% of the objective and only allows the renewal of orchards (the subsidies are not sufficiently attractive and are released late, growers are nervous about drought, which occurred in particular in the Souss in the early 2000s, etc.). The volumes produced should therefore increase only in the medium term. In contrast, the range of varieties will change to the benefit of easy peelers (the clementines 'Nour' and 'Afourer' if suitable zones are identified) and table oranges ('Navel' for the local market and 'Navelate' partly for export), mainly at the expense of 'Maroc Late'.
The long-term forecast can probably be more optimistic. The privatisation of the 10 000 ha of orchards (approximately 13% of the total area) of the state companies SODEA and SOGETA should play a stimulating role as the purchasers must undertake a programme of investment in production structures. In addition, large investments are to be devoted to fight drought in the most seriously affected part of the Souss. The construction of a 90km underground supply line will make it possible from 2007 onwards to convey water from Chakouken-Aoulouz dam to the 10 000 ha of orchards in the Guerdane region.

Citrus — 2005/2006 export forecasts — Morocco

000 tonnes	Seasons 2005/2006	Seasons 2004/2005	Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/2006
Total clementines	235.3	234.3	0%	163.9	+ 44%
Mandarin/wilking	0.0	0.6	- 100%	0.0	-
Ortanique	8.0	8.4	- 5%	10.1	- 20%
Nova	5.0	3.9	+ 28%	4.3	+ 16%
Others	8.0	5.5	+ 45%	18.5	- 57%
Total hybrids	21.0	18.4	+ 14%	33.2	- 37%
Total easy peelers	**256.3**	**252.7**	**+ 1%**	**197.1**	**+ 30%**
Navel	50.0	39.4	+ 27%	27.2	+ 84%
Blond	30.0	29.5	+ 2%	26.7	+ 12%
Blood orange	35.0	32.2	+ 9%	28.0	+ 25%
Late varieties	236.2	135.5	+ 74%	167.2	+ 41%
Total oranges	**351.2**	**236.6**	**+ 48%**	**249.1**	**+ 41%**
Total	**607.5**	**489.3**	**+ 24%**	**446.3**	**+ 36%**

Source: CLAM

Greece: not exactly Olympic form

The harvest should increase substantially after two seasons marked by the disastrous effects of the frost in the winter of 2003/2004. But as for Italy, this increase in quantities is not synonymous with good health and production has displayed a distinct downward structural trend in recent years. The 1 080 000 t expected is still far from the production levels of the early 2000s that oscillated between 1 250 000 t and 1 350 000 t. A large proportion of Greek production structures still suffers from an acute lack of competitiveness, especially in exports in the face of growing competition from Spain and Turkey on the eastern European markets. Furthermore, the 2004 frosts also left indelible marks on lemon orchards already rendered fragile by citrus mal secco disease. Production should be less than 40 000 t in 2005/2006 and will probably not recover in the coming years, whereas it varied between 110 000 and 130 000 t at the beginning of the decade. In contrast, oranges are the main citrus category grown in Greece and the harvest should return to a normal level. Spain's serious deficit in 'Navel' should facilitate exports to the new EU member states in eastern Europe, the main markets for Greece. But competition with Turkey may well be fierce in Romania. The processing industry—subsidised by the EU—will remain an important outlet (about 30% of the harvest), as will withdrawal. Easy peeler production should also increase considerably and approach 80 000 t. Most of the exports, that should reach about 30 000 t, will consist of clementine, the varietal group displaying a degree of planting dynamism.

Citrus — 2005/2006 export forecasts — Greece

000 tonnes	Seasons		Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/2006
	2005/2006	2004/2005			
Clementine	24.5	17.2	+ 42%	26.9	- 9%
Others	5.5	0.9	+ 511%	1.2	+ 374%
Total easy peelers	**30.0**	**18.1**	**+ 66%**	**28.1**	**+ 7%**
Navel	230.0	165.9	+ 39%	220.4	+ 4%
Blond	21.2	4.2	+ 405%	7.7	+ 175%
Late varieties	50.0	40.6	+ 23%	55.9	- 11%
Total oranges	**301.2**	**210.7**	**+ 43%**	**284.1**	**+ 6%**
Total lemons	**7.5**	**5.2**	**+ 44%**	**16.7**	**- 55%**
Total	**338.7**	**234.0**	**+ 45%**	**328.8**	**+ 3%**

Source: CLAM

Egypt: export boom

The 2005/2006 harvest should approach 2.9 million tonnes, confirming the upward trend in Egyptian production. It is up by 200 000 t in comparison with the last season and by at least 400 000 t in comparison with the average figure for the early 2000s. This dynamism is accounted for mainly by the increasing yields from young industrial orange plantations (mainly 'Valencia') located in the desert outside the traditional cultivation zone in the Nile Delta. Production should approach 2 000 000 t in 2005/2006 and continue to develop in the coming years (planting is still in progress). The increasingly attractive domestic market will continue to take nearly 60% of the quantities grown. The export boom should nevertheless continue. The term is no exaggeration as shipments have increased from 210 000 to 220 000 t at the beginning of the 2000s to 600 000 t in 2004/2005. This spectacular development is mainly the result of improved produce quality and the export incentives awarded by the Egyptian government at least until 2003/2004. In just a few years, Egypt has become a major player in the world fresh orange trade, not only on its traditional markets in the Middle East but also in eastern Europe (especially Russia and Ukraine). Egyptian oranges are also increasingly present in the EU (in the United Kingdom and Holland), in particular since a more favourable bilateral agreement between Egypt and the EU came into force in June 2004, with an increase in the duty-free quota from 8 000 t to 50 000 t in 2004 and 60 000 t in three years, while respecting an entry price). The production of lemon and easy peelers will remain significant but devoted almost entirely to the domestic market.

Citrus — 2005/2006 export forecasts — Egypt

000 tonnes	Seasons		Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/2006
	2005/2006	2004/2005			
Mandarin/wilking	-	8.1	-	5.4	-
Others	-	4.0	-	2.8	-
Total easy peelers	**ND**	**12.1**	**0%**	**8.2**	**NA**
Navel	-	275.9	-	186.5	-
Blond	-	58.7	-	39.9	-
Late varieties	-	239.9	-	161.1	-
Total oranges	**615.0**	**574.5**	**0%**	**387.6**	**+ 7%**
Total lemons	**ND**	**18.1**	**0%**	**11.2**	**NA**
Total	**ND**	**604.7**	**0%**	**404.2**	**NA**

Source: CLAM

Citrus — Mediterranean Basin
2005/2006 Export forecasts by variety
(000 tonnes)

Citrus	Total	France (Corsica)	Spain	Morocco	Algeria	Tunisia	Italy	Israel	Cyprus	Greece	Turkey	Egypt (1) (2)	Gaza (1)
Satsuma	**215.0**	-	110.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105.0	-	-
Clementine	**1 298.9**	18.0	980.0	235.3	-	-	36.0	-	0.1	24.5	5.0	-	-
Mandarin/Wilking	**143.1**	-	70.0	-	-	-	5.0	-	-	-	60.0	8.1	-
Ortanique	**38.8**	-	-	8.0	-	-	-	2.8	28.0	-	-	-	-
Nova	**150.9**	-	120.0	5.0	-	-	-	9.9	1.0	-	15.0	-	-
Others	**184.3**	-	115.0	8.0	-	-	-	20.0	1.8	5.5	30.0	4.0	-
Total easy peelers	**2 031.0**	**18.0**	**1 395.0**	**256.3**	**-**	**-**	**41.0**	**32.7**	**30.9**	**30.0**	**215.0**	**12.1**	**-**
Navel/Navelina	**1 317.8**	-	650.0	50.0	-	-	11.1	0.6	0.2	230.0	100.0	275.9	-
Salustiana	**110.0**	-	80.0	30.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shamouti	**38.0**	-	-	-	-	-	-	27.0	-	-	5.0	-	6.0
Common blond	**91.1**	-	-	-	-	-	11.2	-	-	21.2	-	58.7	-
Moro-Tarocco	**50.3**	-	-	-	-	-	50.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maltese	**22.0**	-	-	-	-	22.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanguinelli	**5.4**	-	-	-	-	-	5.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other blood oranges	**47.0**	-	12.0	35.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Verna	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oval	**67.3**	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	-	0.8	-	65.0	-	-
Late varieties	**1 136.5**	-	470.0	236.2	-	0.2	8.7	10.0	30.0	50.0	20.0	280.4	31.0
Bitter	**2.0**	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total oranges	**2 887.4**	**-**	**1 214.0**	**351.2**	**-**	**22.2**	**88.2**	**37.6**	**31.0**	**301.2**	**190.0**	**615.0**	**37.0**
Total lemons	**871.7**	**-**	**500.0**	**0.1**	**-**	**-**	**26.8**	**5.0**	**12.5**	**7.5**	**300.0**	**18.1**	**1.7**
White grapefruit	**83.9**	-	30.0	-	-	-	2.2	13.5	23.2	-	15.0	-	-
Other grapefruits	**276.7**	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	77.3	-	-	199.0	-	-
Total grapefruits	**360.6**	**-**	**30.0**	**0.4**	**-**	**-**	**2.2**	**90.8**	**23.2**	**-**	**214.0**	**-**	**-**
Others	9.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.3	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**6 160.0**	**18.0**	**3 139.0**	**608.0**	**-**	**22.2**	**158.2**	**175.4**	**97.6**	**338.7**	**919.0**	**645.2**	**38.7**

(1) estimates (2) CIRAD estimate for orange, last year's figures for the others

Source: CLAM

2005/2006 citrus season forecasts

Details by product

Easy peelers

The quantities available will be noticeably smaller than those of the last season—a big one. The levels will nevertheless be average overall, starting with fairly substantial quantities and finishing the season with a deficit. October and November will form the most sensitive part of the season (the quantities available are smaller than last year but still large as the yields are increasing in the Spanish orchards planted with new early varieties). The present panorama at the start of the season, with late ripening at production and weather too warm to stimulate production, brings to mind the conditions at the difficult start to the 2004/2005 season. However, the United States market should be able to take more than the 62 000 tonnes imported last year and make a strong contribution to market balance, especially in November. Indeed, the import period should extend beyond Thanksgiving this season and the good performance of the Chilean and South African seasons this summer revealed the increasing interest in clementine displayed by the American public. Supply should decrease and return to a normal level in December (excellent potential in Morocco but a medium season for 'Nules' from Spain and a deficit in 'Clemenvilla'). Supplies will be markedly short in the last part of the season (with a distinct deficit in practically all the hybrid groups in all the major supplier countries).

Other factors like a serious deficit in oranges in the first part of the season, the clear recovery of the eastern European markets last year and better quality (better fruit size and an increasing proportion of new, improved varieties) would also indicate a fairly satisfactory mid and end of season.

Orange

The 2005/2006 season will be one of extremes in supply. The quantities available will be short in the EU in the first part of the season as a result of a particularly marked deficit in Spanish 'Naveline'. The shortage of supplies should be the most marked in January and February. Demand will be less focused on easy peelers and the 'Naveline' season will be coming to an end. The situation should be different in the eastern EU countries supplied by Greece, Turkey or Egypt. These origins have good potential and should compensate or alleviate the Spanish deficit. Supply quantities will change completely in the second part of the season with the start of generous supplies of 'Navelate'/'Lanelate' and then 'Valencia'. Supplies to the Russian market might well be large.

Lemon

The season may have a sour taste in the light of the volumes available and the fact that consumption is not very elastic. Turkey and Spain ship practically all the market supplies and both have record harvest potential.

Grapefruit

Here we go again ! A historic deficit in Florida for the second year running will result once more in serious under-supplying of the EU market. Like last year, the season will not be very calm, with the main difficulty being that of achieving a balance between producers' high asking prices and retail prices that do not freeze consumption. However, supplies of small grapefruits, mainly purchased in the north of the EU, should be fairly large in the light of Turkish production this season.

Market context and availability of competing produce

The European **apple** harvest promises to be slightly larger than last year and above the average of the former EU-15 countries (+ 3% and + 2% respectively). However, the export markets in northern Europe should be more open as production is very short in Poland (- 15% in comparison with 2004/2005 and - 8% in comparison with the average). The market is fairly encumbered at the beginning of the season but should become less competitive from the beginning of 2006 onwards. In contrast with last year, medium to small fruits (sizes 70/75) will be over-represented.
European **kiwi** production is slightly smaller than last year but still distinctly higher than average (especially in Italy where it is nudging 400 000 t).
In contrast, the **pear** harvest is only average.
What will be the impact of the reform of common market organisation of **banana** in 2006 on EU trade in the main competing fruits? This is obviously a question that the citrus sector should go into as the hypothesis of liberalisation would certainly have consequences. The difference between the present free market price (in Russia for example) and that on the EU market where bananas are subject to quotas, has varied from 1.6 to 2.1 in the past four years. This is the room for manoeuvre that might be available to distributors who favour attractive promotion operations, such as the German hard discount chains.

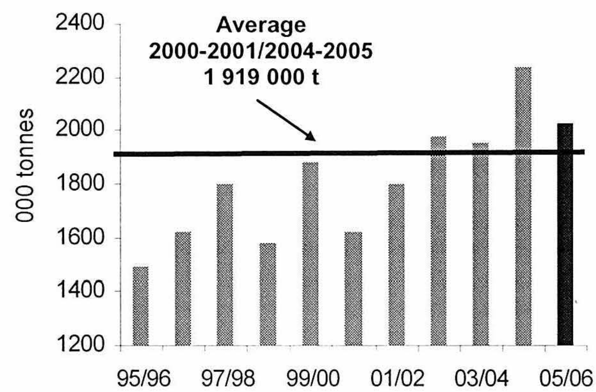
Citrus — 2005/2006 export forecasts — Mediterranean Basin

Easy peelers

Easy peelers — 2005/2006 export forecasts Mediterranean Basin

000 tonnes	Seasons 2005/06	Seasons 2004/05	Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/06
Satsuma	**215.0**	259.6	- 17%	251.0	- 14%
Clementine	**1 299.0**	1 374.1	- 5%	1 170.0	+ 11%
Mand./Wilking	**143.0**	216.7	- 34%	187.0	- 23%
Ortanique	**39.0**	44.5	- 13%	43.0	- 10%
Nova	**184.0**	153.0	+ 20%	123.0	+ 50%
Others	**151.0**	190.2	- 21%	145.0	+ 4%
Total	**2 031.0**	**2 238.1**	**- 9%**	**1 919.0**	**+ 6%**

Source: CLAM

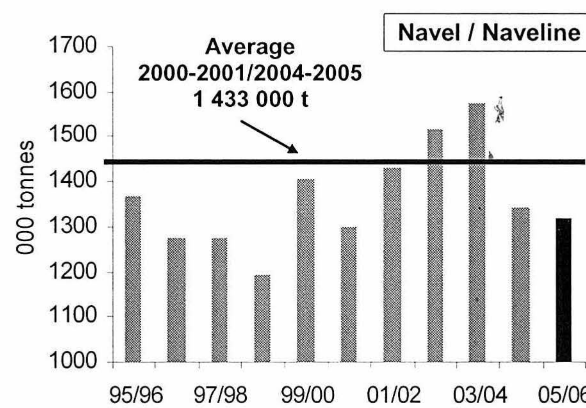


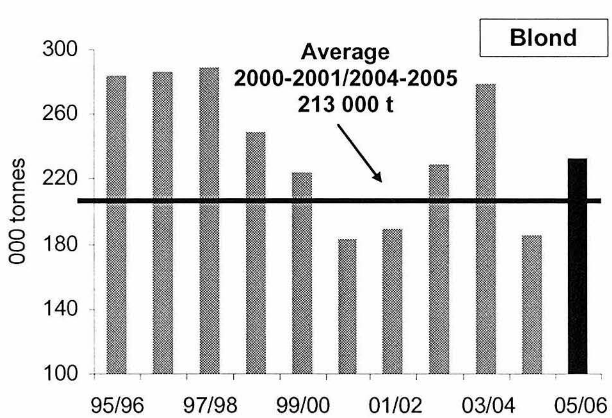
Orange

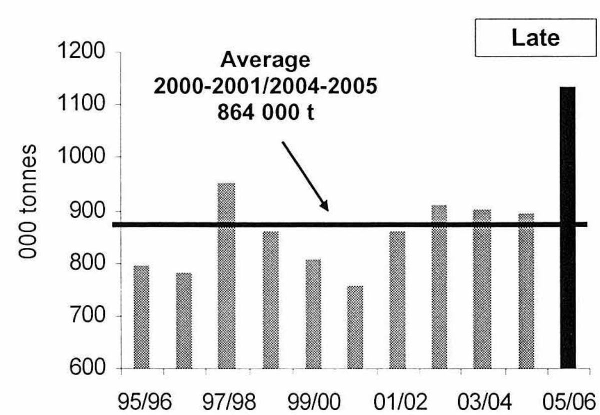
Orange — 2005/2006 export forecasts Mediterranean Basin

000 tonnes	Seasons 2005/06	Seasons 2004/05	Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/06
Navel/naveline	**1 318.0**	1 343.0	- 2%	1 433.0	- 8%
Blond	**233.0**	185.9	+ 25%	213.0	+ 9%
Blood orange	**125.0**	120.5	+ 3%	126.0	- 1%
Late varieties	**1 132.0**	893.5	+ 27%	864.0	+ 31%
Total	**2 808.0**	**2 542.9**	**+ 10%**	**2 636.0**	**+ 7%**

Source: CLAM





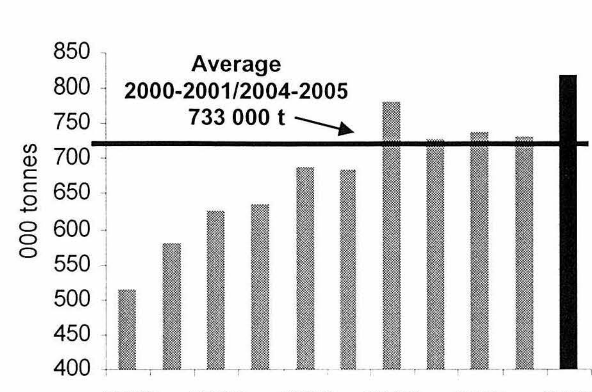


Lemon

Lemon — 2005/2006 export forecasts Mediterranean Basin

000 tonnes	Seasons 2005/06	Seasons 2004/05	Trend	Average of 5 last seasons	Trend for 2005/06
Spain	**500.0**	372.0	+ 35%	482.0	+ 4%
Cyprus	**13.0**	13.0	- 4%	13.0	- 5%
Turkey	**300.0**	341.0	- 12%	222.0	+ 35%
Greece	**8.0**	5.0	+ 44%	17.0	- 55%
Total	**820.0**	**731.0**	**+ 12%**	**733.0**	**+ 12%**

Source: CLAM



Source : CIRAD-FLHOR Martket News Service, Pomona