

# Update

August 2017 – Issue 20

Beacon Commodities



Michael volunteered to tackle the 40°C heat in Egypt a few weeks ago to look at our lemon and grapefruit supplies. He left the UK without his laptop (courtesy of the new travel restrictions) but replaced the space with litres of sun cream!

## Spain and Argentina

The Spanish market continues to throw up problems obtaining fresh lemons for processing. Although the quantity of fresh lemons harvested has increased this year in Spain, prices remain high as demand from the fresh fruit, juicers and oil processors also remains high. There has also been a large spike in the price just at the time Argentina was supposed to be entering the market with their crop.

Argentina's crop failed which meant that the only fresh lemons available were from Spain. The fresh fruit farmers recognised this and therefore increased prices for fresh fruit pricing many of our processors out of the market.



Final boxes being processed



Processed peels dried and ready for packaging



A photo from 2016 showing the peels drying in the sun

## Egypt

The importance of our joint venture in Egypt has been evident this year and with the worldwide issues likely to continue we hope that Egypt will continue to supply lemons at sensible prices and a quality to match their Spanish counterparts.

Whilst in the lemon groves, just north of the Pyramids at Giza, Michael learnt that sand storms are the biggest problem for fresh fruit farmers. Sand storms in this part of Egypt can be so severe that they can knock off the blossom and at times, the fruit itself.

## Grapefruit

Although the demand for grapefruit peel has increased in recent years, the overall quantities produced are extremely small. Michael went to purchase fresh grapefruit for processing and expand the Egyptian supply as the quality of some lots been offered from other origins is incredibly poor.

Please contact us if you have any queries on the above and whether you would like to look at the possibility of using Egyptian peels in the future.

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