

3rd REPORT ON SPANISH SEASON 2017/18

AILIMPO CONFIRMS SPANISH LEMON CROP TO BE OVER 1 MILLION TONS

862,000 Tons of Finos and 206,000 of Vernas

Murcia, January 25, 2018

AILIMPO has launched its 3rd lemon forecast report for this running 2017/2018 season, revising and updating the figures previously announced in September. The new data conclude that lemon crop will be slightly higher to 1 million tons. Spanish sector will continue consolidating its leadership position in the European fresh market in terms of quantity, quality, food safety and excellent service while keeping its 2nd place in the processing activity worldwide.

Regarding varieties of lemon, 862,000 tons are expected for FINO lemon, with a decrease of 4% comparing with the previous forecast. For VERNA lemon 206,000 tons are forecasted. A crop of 1,068,000 tons is estimated in total, a decrease of 4.2% comparing with last estimates.

Comments on the Spanish Lemon Season

Rains, water availability as well as general weather conditions are some of the key facts conditioning the size of the fruit with predominance of average and central sizes fruit.

The activity rate during the first part of the season going from September to December 2017 has been higher, with exports in the fresh market going up by 13%. In the case of processing activity, a reduction of 11% was achieved due to lower availability of lemons for this purpose and higher demand from the fresh market.

It is expected to conclude the Fino lemon season at the end of April, following with Verna lemon during 7/8 weeks giving the path to Southern Hemisphere lemon.

The fulfilment of field notebooks by growers, accreditation by the GlobalGAP and GRASP certificates, the involvement of the sector in sustainability programmes, and the use of standardised contracts from the Ministry of Agriculture that fulfil Act 12/2013, on measures for improving the operation of the food supply chain, will be some of the essential elements of this season.

3rd CROP FORECAST 2017/18 SEASON (Tons)

<i>Tons</i>	HARVEST 2016/2017	1st Forecast 17/18 (September 2017)	2nd Forecast 17/18 (January 2018)	Variation (%)
FINO LEMON	810,000	907,000	862,000	-5.0%
VERNA LEMON	347,800	208,000	206,000	-1.0%
TOTAL	1,157,800	1,115,000	1,068,000	-4.2%

COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY



Upcoming Report: Ailimpo will confirm the final crop:

✓ **Thursday, September 13, 2018**

Note on Methodology: Ailimpo drew up this technical report following the work protocol on the basis of aggregated information from surveys conducted with producers, cooperative farming organizations, exporters and transformation industries with field information from their lands.

ABOUT AILIMPO

Ailimpo is the Spanish interbranch organization based in Murcia and officially recognized by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and the European Commission. The organization represents the economic interests of producers, cooperative farming organizations, exporters and industries of lemons and grapefruits in Spain, a sector in which Spain is the world's largest fresh fruit exporter and ranked second among processing countries with a turnover of €620 million annually, generating 15,000 direct jobs and auxiliary industry turnover of over €250 million.

Ailimpo's duties under law include ensuring the appropriate workings of the food chain, entering into food and agricultural contracts/agreements, developing methods to control and rationalize the use of phytosanitary products to guarantee the quality of products and environmental protection, and fostering and promoting standards of quality and excellence in the sector.

The lemon sector contributes to environmental sustainability with a net positive balance of 304,840 tons of CO₂ sequestered yearly.
