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Report Name: Citrus Annual

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Post: Cairo

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Report Highlights:

In marketing year (MY) 2023/24, FAS/Cairo forecasts fresh orange exports to reach 2.0 million metric tons (MMT) up from 1.6 MMT in MY 2022/23. Post attributes this increase to higher yields per hectare, amid favorable environmental conditions, success in opening new markets for Egyptian oranges, and a successful traceability system in registering and monitoring farm production. The Netherlands, Russia, Saudi Arabia, India, United Arab Emirates, Spain, Bangladesh, Syria, China, and United Kingdom are likely to remain Egypt's top ten export destinations for fresh oranges.

Planted Area:

In MY 2023/24, FAS/Cairo forecasts total planted area for oranges at 168,000 hectares (ha), like the previous marketing year. Post forecasts MY 2023/24 total harvested area at 151,200 ha, like the previous marketing year. Due to elevated cost of cultivation and production, growers focused on increasing yields per acre rather than having new plantations.

During the past couple of years growers' preference to cultivate oranges over other fruit types has been mainly due to the increasing demand for Egyptian oranges in international markets and joint government and private sector successful efforts in opening new markets, mainly South-East Asia.

Most of the area planted with oranges is in reclaimed lands which account for 55 percent of the total area. Plantations in the Nile Delta region account for 45 percent of the total orange planted area.

In Upper Egypt (southern Egypt), producers prefer to plant oranges during early February, while in other areas in the delta region, the planting season runs into March. Orange trees will start producing after four years of planting, and the trees can live up to 50 years; however, production decreases after 20 years.

Production:

In MY 2023/24, FAS/Cairo forecasts orange production to slightly increase by 2.7 percent, to reach to 3.7 MMT compared to the previous marketing year estimate of 3.6 MMT. The increase in production is attributed to optimum weather conditions and temperatures during flowering of the trees, which increased fruit set and production. Over the last decade, small growers and commercial farms have focused on producing clean fruit to maintain high volumes in high-value export markets.

Oranges are the major citrus crop in Egypt, representing about 70 percent of the total cultivated citrus area. Several orange varieties are produced in Egypt, but the four dominant types are as described in Table 1. Valencia and navel are the main export varieties while others are more for domestic consumption.

Table 1: Egypt's Main Orange Varieties

<i>Baladi Orange</i>	Two varieties are grown—the seeded baladi orange and the seedless baladi orange, both used mainly for juice.
<i>Valencia Orange</i>	A summer variety and mainly for juice, but also consumed fresh.
<i>Navel Orange</i>	Two varieties—the early maturing navel that is consumed domestically, and the late maturing navel which is exported.
<i>Sweet Orange (Sukkari)</i>	A sweet variety consumed fresh, with seeds.

The citrus committee in the Egyptian Agriculture Export Council (AEC) determines when harvest should begin, based on fruit ripening parameters and coloring. The export season generally starts during the middle of November and with cold storage, extends to late July (Table 2).

Table 2: Main Orange Varieties Season

Variety	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<i>Navel</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*						
<i>Baladi</i>			*	*	*	*						
<i>Sweet Orange (Sukkari)</i>			*	*	*	*						
<i>Valencia</i>				*	*	*	*	*	*	*		

Source: Egyptian Agriculture Export Council

Egypt's commercial farms and growers use an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to control pests and diseases in their orchards. IPM incorporates the use of biological control and other management tools to effectively control pests in the most environmentally sensible way possible. The Plant Protection Institute (PPI) and the Horticultural Research Institute (HRI), in addition to Growers Associations are the leading source of information about pests and diseases affecting orange orchards and providing recommendations for best management tools and practices.

As oranges are a primary Egyptian fruit export, the Egyptian government (along with the local producers and exporters) are always keen to improve the quality of Egyptian oranges. Improving the quality is important to maintaining export demand and competition with global suppliers.

Egypt's Agricultural Export Council (AEC) and the Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (CAPQ) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MALR) are always updating plans and procedures to mandate that orange farms comply with traceability systems in place. The new system aims to register and code orange farms involved in export to determine the size and quality of production.

Consumption:

In MY 2023/24, FAS/Cairo forecasts that fresh orange domestic consumption will decrease by 17.6 percent to reach 1.4 MMT. The decrease in local consumption is attributed to possible higher prices amid a slight decrease in supplying the local market due to anticipated higher exports. In MY 2023/24, utilization of oranges by the processing sector is forecast to remain unchanged from the previous marketing year.

Trade:

In MY 2023/24, FAS/Cairo forecasts orange exports to increase by 25 percent to reach 2.0 MMT. Post attributes this increase to higher yields per hectare, opening new markets for Egyptian oranges, and the success of Egypt's traceability system in registering and monitoring farms. The rise in global prices amid increased consumer demand will also contribute to a higher volume of exports. FAS/Cairo anticipates Egypt to maintain its position as the number one orange exporter in MY 2023/24 as far as volume.

MALR has taken steps to strengthen its export system. In 2021, MALR implemented the application of the coding system according to Decision 116/2021. The decision sets procedures to coordinate

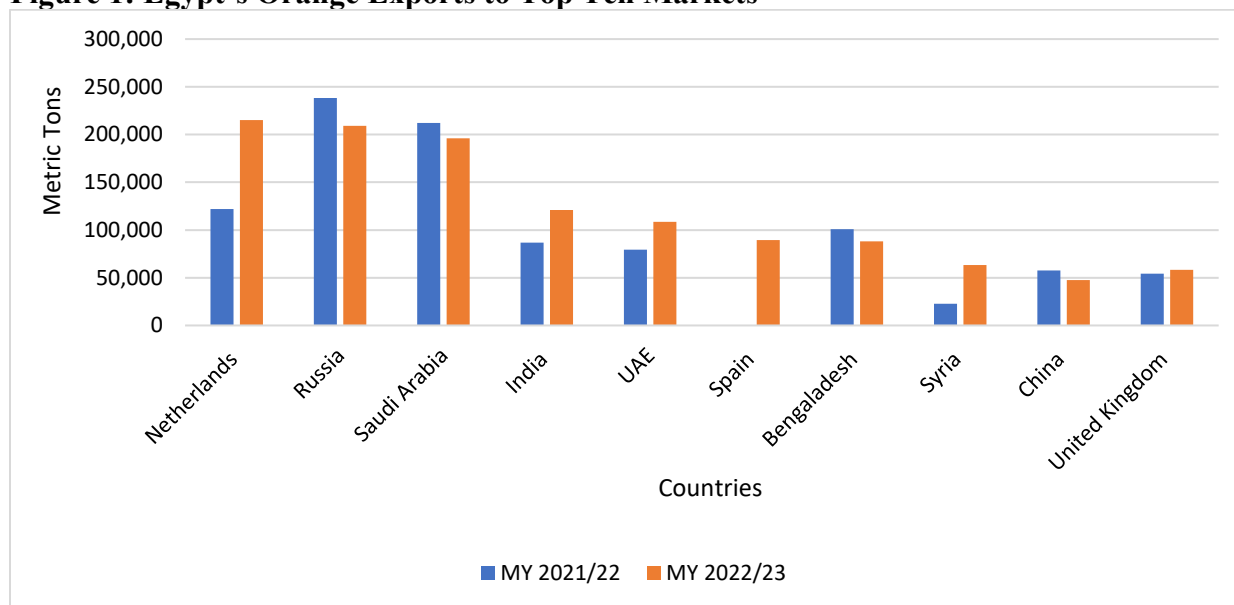
logistics with farms – uploading farm locations via the Global Positioning System (GPS) and registering all farms and pack houses that are used to export oranges and other crops.

Throughout the season, CAPQ monitors the production, takes samples, and ensures that export requirements are verified. CAPQ (along with AEC) work together to comply with the phytosanitary regulations of trading partners to help enable Egyptian oranges to access a wide range of international markets. The AEC and CAPQ also continue to collaborate on developing a list of registered lands and pack houses where these producers and facilities are only eligible to export after complying with an array of requirements. This system enhances the quality of the production targeted for exports and strengthens the compliance with phytosanitary requirements for the importing countries.

Most orange exporters are producers who own packing facilities approved for export by the government. They also buy from local farmers if their production is not sufficient to meet their export obligations. Other exporters own packing facilities but do not produce oranges, and thus rely on local farmers. In these cases, the exporters are responsible for transporting the crop to their packing facilities.

The export season for oranges usually start with shipments to the Arabian Gulf followed by Russia, and then to the European Union and East Asia. In MY 2022/23, Egyptian orange exports reached 126 countries compared to 104 countries in MY 2021/22 with the Netherlands, Russia, Saudi Arabia, India, United Arab Emirates, Spain, Bangladesh, Syria, China, and United Kingdom as Egypt’s top ten export destinations for oranges (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Egypt’s Orange Exports to Top Ten Markets



Source: Agriculture Export Council

Egypt’s exports of fresh oranges to its top ten destinations in MY 2022/23 amounted almost 1.2 MMT compared to 974,252 MT in MY 2021/22, an increase of 22.8 percent due to a surge in orange exports to Spain, a major competitor to Egypt in the EU market. Egypt exports of fresh oranges to Spain went

up from 25 MT in MY 2021/22 to 89,414 MT in MY 2022/23 due to decreased production from drought. Exports to Syria also increased as orchards have become older and less productive.

Marketing: Both Egypt and South Africa are top suppliers of oranges to the global market; however, their export seasons do not coincide, so they do not compete in respective markets.

Netherlands: In CY 2023 (January – July), Egyptian exports to the Dutch market amounted to 88,989 MT, South Africa supplied the Dutch market with 103,000 MT. Decline in Moroccan orange exports as well as poor harvest in Spain increased significantly Egyptian orange exports to the Dutch market.¹

Russia: Turkey is Egypt’s main competitor in the Russian market. However, due to consumer preference, Egypt’s total exports to Russia in CY 2023 (January – July) was at 88,989 MT, exceeding the Turkish origin by a wide margin – Turkey shipped 28,991 MT during the same period.²

Saudi Arabia: Egypt’s main competitor in the Saudi Arabian market is traditionally Spain; however, in CY 2023, Egypt’s exports of fresh oranges to the Saudi Arabian market amounted to 79,232 MT, exceeding the Spanish origin which amounted at 5,000 MT during the same period.³

India: Egypt has no competitors in the Indian market. In CY 2023 (Jan – July), Egyptian exports amounted to 56,357 MT while South Africa supplies the Indian market, but due to different growing seasons for both Egyptian and South African oranges, they do not compete.⁴

UAE: In CY 2023 (Jan – July), Egyptian exports to the UAE amounted to 38, 584 MT while South Africa supplied the UAE market with 31,593 MT, but due to different growing seasons for both Egyptian and South African oranges, they do not compete in UAE market.⁵

China: Egyptian exports to the Chinese market amounted to 29,294 MT in CY2023 (Jan-July), with competition from the United States of exports amounting to 17,566 MT during the same period.⁶

United Kingdom: Egypt’s main competitor in the UK market is mainly Spain. In CY 2023 (Jan-Sep), Spain’s exports of fresh oranges to the United Kingdom amounted to 62,000 MT, while Egypt’s exports of fresh oranges to the UK amounted to 20,560 MT during the same period.⁷

Bangladesh: In CY 2023 (Jan – July), Egyptian exports to Bangladesh amounted to 49,620 MT while South Africa supplied the market with 3,600 MT, but due to different growing seasons for both Egyptian and South African oranges, they do not compete in this market.⁸

¹ Trade Data Monitor, LLC

² Trade Data Monitor, LLC

³ Trade Data Monitor, LLC

⁴ Trade Data Monitor, LLC

⁵ Trade Data Monitor, LLC

⁶ Trade Data Monitor, LLC

⁷ Trade Data Monitor, LLC

⁸ Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Oranges, Fresh Market Year Begins Egypt	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Oct 2021		Oct 2022		Oct 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	168000	168000	172200	168000	0	168000
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	135000	135000	151200	151200	0	151200
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	12910	38570	13910	43200	0	43200
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	10000	1000	10000	1000	0	1000
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	22910	39570	23910	44200	0	44200
Production (1000 MT)	3000	3000	3600	3600	0	3700
Imports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 MT)	3000	3000	3600	3600	0	3700
Exports (1000 MT)	1300	1300	1700	1600	0	2000
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	1400	1400	1600	1700	0	1400
For Processing (1000 MT)	300	300	300	300	0	300
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	3000	3000	3600	3600	0	3700

(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)

Attachments:

No Attachments