



Voluntary Report - public distribution

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GAIN Report #CI0044

Chile

Organic

Organic Fruit: Apples and Cherries

2000

Approved by:

Lewis J. Stockard, Agricultural Attache
U.S. Embassy, Santiago

Prepared by:

Luis Hennicke, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

Chilean production of organic apples and cherries is small but expanding slowly.
There is no production yet of organic pears.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Santiago [CI0044], CI

Apples, Pears and Cherries

Overview: Only apples and cherries are grown organically in Chile. Producers indicate that it is unlikely that organic pears will soon be grown because Argentina has significant comparative advantages over Chile. There is no data available on acreage conversion to organic for apples or cherries. Under Chile's regulations for organic fruit production, it takes three (3) years for a planted area to reach full organic status. Presently, there is no government support or incentive for organic production in Chile.

Organic Apples

Currently, Chile has only an estimated 100 hectares under organic production out of the total 40,000 hectares planted to apples. According to growers, however, there is a large potential for expansion of organic apples which will depend on market demand. According to some producers, organic apples are produced for export only, but government sources have indicated that for organic production in general, an estimated 60 percent is exported and 40 percent is for domestic consumption.

Chile's total apple production (conventional and organic) last season (1999/00) was an estimated 1,010,000 metric tons, and exports for the same period is estimated at 522,000 MT. Most exports reportedly go to the United States and the EU; there is no statistics available for organic exports by destination. Reportedly, organic apple yields are significantly lower than for conventional apples, i.e., an estimated 8 MT per hectare for organic versus 25 MT per hectare in a conventional orchard.

Organic Apple Exports

1997/98		1998/99		1999/00	
Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Kg.	US\$	Kg.	US\$	Kg.	US\$
18,200	18,200	36,400	36,400	72,800	72,800

Organic Cherries

Chile has only an estimated 30 hectares planted to organic cherries out of a total 4,800 hectares in cherries. Organic production is for export only. In the 1998/99 production season, exports were 2,600 Kg. with a value of US\$9,100. Sources have indicate that in 1999/00, there were no exports due to bad weather in most growing areas, which reduced drastically total cherry production. Producers have indicated that most organic cherries are destined for the U.S. market. Chile's organic cherry orchards yield an estimated 2.5 MT per hectare versus 4.4 MT per hectare for conventional production.