



Foreign Agricultural Service

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South Africa, Republic of

Avocado

Annual

2000

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Report Highlights:

South Africa's avocado area has increased to about 14,800 Ha's and is expected to expand 5 percent over the next year. As the 2001 season is considered an 'off' year period, production is expected to drop by 33%. Exports for 2001 are projected to fall 15 percent from a year earlier to 46,000 tons because of damage to crops caused by late heavy rains in the previous season.

Includes PSD changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
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Pretoria [SF1], SF

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Executive Summary

South Africa's avocado production for 2001 is grown on an area of about 14,800 Ha's, with the main varieties Fuerte(42%) and Hass(33%). Other commercial cultivars include Ryan, Pinkerton and Edranol. Of the new plantings, Hass accounted for 33%, Fuerte 13%, Ryan 12%, and Pinkerton 41%.

2001 is considered an 'off' year for avocado production which is estimated to fall to around 81,000 tons. About 55% of the total avocado crop is exported annually. Exports are expected to reach about 46,000 tons which is lower than previously estimated because of damage caused by excessive rains in the previous season. Some trees were destroyed by excessive water, and black spots also affected some avocado production sites as farmers were unable to get into orchards to conduct their spraying programs because of the floods.

Trade

South Africa requires permits for import of fresh fruit, vegetables and cut flowers. The National Department of Agriculture's Plant Health and Quality Division grants a permit after a pest risk analysis had been conducted to determine phytosanitary risks to South Africa's agricultural industries.

Exports

South Africa's total volume and value of exports for 2000/2001 are projected at about 46,000 tons and below R100 million respectively. During 1999/2000 the return to the industry is estimated at R150 million based on an average producer price of R18.50 per carton and 8.1 million exported cartons.

The EU is the major market for South African avocados, receiving about 97% of the country's total exports. Increased exports to the EU are expected in the next season due to preferential tariff quotas for agricultural products provided under the SA-EU trade agreement, which became effective in January 2000.

Marketing

South Africa's avocado industry is under the leadership of the South African Avocado Growers Association(SAAGA) which is funded by voluntary levies from all members. Its mission is to improve the economic viability of the production, packaging and marketing of avocados.

Production

PSD Table						
Country:	South Africa, Republic of					
Commodity:	Fresh Avocados					
		1999		2000		2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/2000		01/2001		01/2002
Area Planted	0	14275	0	14845		15587
Area Harvested	0	12380	0	12900		13545
Bearing Trees	0	2125	0	2260		2260
Non-Bearing Trees	0	325	0	345		340
TOTAL No. Of Trees	0	2450	0	2605	0	2600
Production	0	104	0	81		120
Imports	0	0	0	0		0
TOTAL SUPPLY	0	104	0	81	0	120
Exports	0	54	0	46		50
Fresh Dom. Consumption	0	38	0	30		56
Processing Consumption	0	12	0	5		14
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	0	104	0	81	0	120

The Jan-Dec 2001 avocado season is expected to be an 'off' year due to alternate bearing habits with an expected decrease of about 33% in production. 1999/2000's unseasonal heavy rains in Tzaneen (almost 300mm of rain in less than four months) brought about managerial problems. Black spots affected some avocado production sites as farmers were unable to get into orchards to conduct their spraying programs because of the floods. Some trees were also destroyed by excessive water. Fortunately, these late rains did not have a detrimental effect on the quality of avocados since that is largely determined in the early growth stage.

Consumption

The general demand for avocados has been promising throughout the season. Currently the domestic per capita consumption is about 1- 1.5 kg. However, SAAGA's target goal is at least 3 kg.

Trade Exports

Export Trade Matrix			
Country:		Units:	Metric tons
Commodity:			
Time period:	Jan-Dec		
Exports for	1999		2000
U.S.	0	U.S.	0
Others		Others	
France	13744		
Belgium	9477		
United Kingdom	7844		
Netherlands	1494		
Germany	704		
Spain	200		
Canada	168		
UA Emirates	116		
Switzerland	110		
Angola	97		
Total for Others	33954		0
Others not listed	402		
Grand Total	34356		0