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Turkey

Stone Fruit Annual

Turkey Stone Fruit Annual Report

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Report Highlights:

Total cherry production in Turkey in Marketing Year (MY) 2016/17 (January-December) is forecast at 475,000 MT, down 15 percent from the MY2015/16 estimate. Peach and nectarine production in Turkey in MY2016/17 is forecast at 510,000 MT, down 10 percent from the MY2015/16 estimate. These forecasted drops in production are due to weather. New export opportunities and government support have helped Turkish farmers to invest in new orchards and replace existing orchards with new varieties of trees. Turkey continues to be one the world's major cherry exporters and is on track to increase exports in the future.

Commodities:

Fresh Cherries,(Sweet&Sour)

Fresh Peaches & Nectarines

Highlights

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Production

Sweet and Sour Cherries

To give context, fresh fruit and vegetable production in Turkey is about 47.5 MMT, and 2.5-3 MMT of them are exported every year. Turkey has been among the top cherry producing and exporting countries in the world for a long time. Despite fluctuating cherry production year by year, Turkey aims to be a major exporter in future and is on track to do so.

Turkey accounts for more 10 percent of total world cherry production. Total cherry production in 2014/15 decreased to 465,000 MT compared to 2013/14 due to unfavorable weather conditions. Farmers experienced frozen weather in Bursa, Nigde, Isparta and Tokat provinces, where they lost more than 20 percent of the crop.

In 2015/16, domestic production increased twenty percent over the previous season to 565,000 metric tons (MT) due to good weather during flowering, followed by an increased fruit set. Yields were high in Konya and Manisa. Farmers in Canakkale experienced problems from hail. Rainfalls during spring negatively affected the quality of products in Thrace region. Farmers who were not able to sell their products to export markets were unhappy with the low domestic prices.

For the 2016/17 season, despite new bearing trees coming on and increased planted acreage, post forecasts total sweet and sour cherry production to decrease to 475,000 MT, as there was some frost damage to female flowers during the April blooming period, resulting in reduced fruit set. Of this forecast for 2016/17 production, 320,000 MT are cherry and 150,000 MT are sour cherry.

Although producers have started to try new cherry varieties such as *Sweet Heart*, *Celeste*, *Kordia*, *Regina* and *Sunburst*, the *0900 Ziraat* variety, which was developed domestically, is the most popular type in Turkey because it meets the demand of export markets. Cherry trees can be cultivated in

different parts of Turkey with a variety of different physical and climatic conditions. Because of that, harvest time can differ 40-45 days according to the region of planting.

Cherry trees reach their yield potential ten years after planting. According to official data, total amount of trees are estimated at about 20 million in 2015, up 300 percent from 1995; at that time the number planted was six million. Total tree numbers have increased 33 percent in last five years. Farmers have gradually been changing old trees with varieties which are more popular in export markets. Also, with the help of currently 8 million non-bearing trees, Turkey will possibly be the world's the major cherry exporter. The numbers are increasing regularly because of growing demand for Turkish cherries in export markets and government support to the sector.

According to Turkish Juice Industry, the juice sector is growing about 6.5 percent annually. Approximately 30 percent of all cherry production is used in the processing sector to make canned products, marmalades, frozen fruits and fruit juice. Majority of this is from sour cherries.

Peach

Turkey accounts for about 3 percent of total world peach production. Numerous peach and nectarine varieties are planted in more than 30 provinces across Turkey but the provinces of Bursa, Canakkale (both in the Marmara region), Izmir (Aegean region) and Mersin (Mediterranean region) continued to be the major peach growing areas of Turkey. Typically, peaches and nectarines are harvested between late May and early October. Peach yield averages around 35 kg per tree, but yield can vary based on variety and location. Majority of the peach varieties planted in Turkey are *early amber*, *spring crest*, *may crest*, *red haven*, *cardinal*, *J.H.Hale* and *Early Red*.

As a sensitive fruit, peach production fluctuates in Turkey depending weather conditions. In 2014/15, production was forecasted at 500,000 MT with a decrease compared to 2013/14 due to unfavorable weather conditions. Peach production in 2015/16 benefited from good weather, and this, combined with successful pollination, helped increase peach production to 560,000 MT.

Total peach and nectarine production in Turkey in MY2016/17 is forecast at 510,000 MT (peach: 445,000 MT, nectarine: 65,000 MT), which is down 10 percent from the MY2015/16 estimate. This decrease is mainly because farmers experienced frozen weather during the spring in Bursa province where they lost more 25 percent of the crop in 2016.

Consumption

The major export markets for Turkish cherries are the EU and Russia, both of which have a preference for bigger size cherries. With the help of strong international demand, farmers have been changing their trees with higher yield varieties that meet the specifications of export markets. The increase in better quality cherries also helps also to increase quality of cherries for the domestic market. Additionally consumers are becoming conscious with residuals.

Approximately 20 percent of all peach production is used in Juice sector. It is also use to make canned products, marmalades, frozen fruits. In Turkey, the most popular juices are peach, apricot, cherry and apple.

Although nectarines are not as popular yet as peaches domestically, with the help of new bearings, consumers can see more varieties in the market this year.

In general, the fresh domestic consumption of stone fruit has been declining in MY2016 compared to last year. This decline is primarily due to lower domestic production, high export demand resulting in high domestic prices compared to last year.

Trade

Turkey is one of the largest exporters of cherries in the world, along with Chile and USA, which represents about 15 percent of total world cherries exports. Turkish producers that target the export markets use different techniques and varieties in order to meet the demands of export markets. Turkey’s exports vary between 50,000 and 70,000 MT (which is 15-25% of total production) of sweet cherries annually; the majorities go to EU states and Russia.

Commodity: 080929-080921, Turkey Cherries Exports (Calendar year, MT)						
Partner Country	2013		2014		2015	
	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
Germany	67,032,154	16,562	67,037,725	16,789	52,345,608	18,167
Russia	14,589,394	13,778	12,950,766	10,359	21,424,124	20,219
Netherlands	8,688,460	1,925	9,554,344	2,040	8,888,394	2,274
Norway	8,102,193	1,436	8,505,808	1,548	6,549,630	1,608
Sweden	7,401,908	1,908	5,865,379	1,589	5,541,680	2,003
Iraq	1,213,217	1,558	1,929,393	3,142	5,014,302	14,135
United Kingdom	6,780,289	1,599	5,178,902	1,107	4,418,713	1,546
Italy	7,574,242	2,122	5,845,696	1,691	3,347,295	1,526
Others	34,019,200	12,873	28,188,644	11,890	14,976,085	7,218
Total	155,401,057	53,761	145,056,657	50,155	122,505,831	68,696

With the help of strong demand from Germany, Russia and Iraq, Turkey exported more than 50,000 MT of cherries in the first 6 months of 2016. Until the end of 2016, Turkey’s cherry exports are forecast at 90,000 MT.

Turkey: Stone Fruit Exports from January to June		
	Jan-June 2015	Jan-Jun 2016
	Quantity (MT)	Quantity (MT)
Cherry	34,433	50,658
Sour cherry	101	173
Peach	32,208	33,473

Turkey's peach and nectarine exports vary between 35,000 and 50,000 MT annually; the majority of these go to Russia and Iraq. Turkey's peach and nectarine exports are forecast at 55,000 MT in 2016. This is about 10% of annual production.

Policy

Besides the increased export opportunities driving growth in this sector, the Government of Turkey (GOT) has played a critical role for increasing investment on fruit sector in recent years.

There are payments for producers who are registered in GOT's farmers registration system. The GOT provides supports 110 TL/Ha fuel and fertilizer. To farmers who plant new orchards, the GOT provides 1500 TL/Ha to help farmers buy standard dwarf fruit saplings and establish orchards, or they pay 4000 TL/Ha for those who buy *government-certified* dwarf saplings to ensure higher quality trees are being planted in Turkey. Farmers who already have orchards and want to change the variety of trees in their orchard by grafting can receive 2500 TL /Ha. The GOT also supports organic farming and good farming practices.

The GOT provides a 50 percent grant for companies who establish new plant nursery facilities for fruit tree saplings.

In the scope of an EU-accession program (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for Europe Union), there are grants between 50,000 and 1,250,000 Euro for investment in fruit processing facilities in 42 provinces.

The GOT allocated 26 Million TL (USD \$8.5 Million) for certified sapling support for the entire fruit sector (including deciduous and citrus trees) in 2016.

Fresh Cherries, (Sweet & Sour)	2014/2015		2015/2016		2016/2017	
Market Begin Year	Jan 2014		Jan 2015		Jan 2016	
Turkey	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted	0	95,000	0	95,000	0	96,000
Area Harvested	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bearing Trees	0	21,000	0	23,000	0	25,000
Non-Bearing Trees	0	8,000	0	8,000	0	8,000
Total Trees	0	29,000	0	31,000	0	33,000
Commercial Production	470000	465,000	540000	565,000	0	475,000
Non-Comm. Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	470000	0	540000	565,000	0	475,000
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply	470000	465,000	540000	565,000	0	475,000
Fresh Dom. Consumption	264800	259,800	310000	341,000	0	230,000
Exports	50200	50,200	75000	69,000	0	90,000
For Processing	155000	155,000	155000	155,000	0	155,000
Withdrawal From Market	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution	470000	465,000	540000	565,000	0	475,000
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						

Fresh Peaches & Nectarines	2014/2015		2015/2016		2016/2017	
Market Begin Year	Jan 2014		Jan 2015		Jan 2016	
Turkey	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted		42,000		42,000		42,000
Area Harvested						
Bearing Trees		14,500		15,000		15,250
Non-Bearing Trees		3,000		3,000		3,000
Total Trees		17,500		18,000		18,250
Commercial Production		500,000		560,000		510,000
Non-Comm. Production						
Production		500,000		560,000		510,000
Imports						
Total Supply		500,000		560,000		510,000

Fresh Dom. Consumption		342,000		390,000		335,000
Exports		38,000		50,000		55,000
For Processing		120,000		120,000		120,000
Withdrawal From Market						
Total Distribution		500,000		560,000		510,000
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						