

Press release

Turkey with its worldwide demanded quality products, huge production capacity and with ever increasing competitive structure is one of the leading countries in the fresh fruit and vegetable sector. +++ Germany and the EU are among important customers. +++ Turkey which has a 49.2 million tons fruit and vegetable production is participating in FruitLogistica trade fair on a National Participation.

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Fruits for the world - Turkey is one of the most important export countries

Natural products play a central role in Turkey's economy. The climatically conveniently located country with its distinct seasons allows the cultivation of a wide variety of fruits and nuts.

Turkey's fresh fruit & vegetable production is approximately 49.2 million tons of which is 30.2 million tons vegetables and 19 million tons fruits. Turkey's fresh fruit and vegetable export amounts to 3.9 million tons in 2017. Total value of the export has reached 2.23 billion US-Dollars. Within the sector; exports of citrus fruit have been 1.67 million tons while fresh fruit exports have been 1 million tons and fresh vegetable exports have been 1.26 million tons. The revenue derived from exports of these commodity groups have been 850 million US-Dollars for citrus fruits, 793.5 million US-Dollars for fresh fruits and 563.4 million US-Dollars for fresh vegetables.

Strong increase in exports to Germany

In comparison with 2016, exports from Turkey to Germany increased again in 2017. For example, the value of exports of fruit and vegetable products rose from 178.5 million US-Dollars (approx. 140 million Euros) to over 200 million US-Dollars (more than 160 million euros), an increase of more than 15%. In the fresh fruit and vegetables segment, sales from exports rose by more than 3% from 201 million US-Dollars (approx. 161.5 million Euros) to 207.5 million US-Dollars (nearly EUR 167 million). This puts Germany in second place after Russia as the country of purchase.

Fruit growing mainly in Mediterranean

The cultivation of fruit is also an important segment of the agricultural and export economy. Here too, the climatic conditions and fertile soils ensure good harvests and generally high quality. Especially the area around Mediterranean Sea with its favorable conditions is characterized by a great variety of cultivation.

A considerable technical upgrade in recent years has increased yields yet again. The Mediterranean region is home to ultra-modern processing and production facilities that meet all international standards, are certified and have the latest technology.

Fruit, vegetable and nut production as well as exports are of particular importance for Turkish economy, as they form a bridge between agriculture and industry in the country. Since there is no need to import raw materials for processing and exporting the products, 100% of the yields are received as foreign exchange in the country. The high value-added factor and not least the importance for the Turkish labor market make fruit and vegetable production one of the pillars of the Turkish economy.

Dedicated associations

Two organizations are mainly involved in the production, coordination and export of fruits of Turkish origin: **AKIB** (Mediterranean Exporter Associations) and the **BAIB** (West Mediterranean Exporters Association)

The precursors of the **AKIB** were founded in the late 1930s and merged in 1940. What started with three members – a cotton export organization, one for livestock exports and one for cereals and oils – now encompasses a total of 19 individual associations. The AKIB has offices in Antakya, Iskenderun, Adana, Kayseri and Karaman.

BAIB's roots go back to 1968 in Antalya. As a regionally oriented association, it has been providing its members with a wide range of services since 2011, selling a wide variety of goods - from fruit to metal and chemical products - all over the world. BAIB's regional focus is on the cities of Antalya, Isparta and Burdur.

The Turkish Pavilion will be at Hall 1.1 with 29 companies from fresh fruit & vegetable and packaging sectors in a total area of 1.014 m².

About TIM (Turkish Exporters Assembly)

Established in 1993 and headquartered in Istanbul, the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TIM) leads Turkey's group of 70,000 exporters present in 26 different industries in which export records are maintained. The Turkish Exporters Assembly conducts foreign trade transactions and is the umbrella organization of 60 exporter associations throughout the region and sector-wide, divided into 13 different sub-groups.

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