



WORLD PROCESSING TOMATO COUNCIL

WPTC crop update as of 1st September 2009

AMITOM countries (information obtained on 26 August)

Italy

AIIPA:

A survey on 23 August showed that 50% of the forecast had been processed (around 700 000 tonnes) while 55% of the surfaces have been harvested. The weather has been very hot, with high night temperature during the last two weeks and this could lead to a decrease in field yields for the late crop. The harvest is expected to finish around 15-20 September, a week before the normal date, with a final volume lower than that contracted. Good colour and quality at present, but brix are slightly lower than normal at 4.7-4.8. The night temperatures have been getting lower in the last few days.

ConfCooperative:

The cooperatives have processed approximately 50% of the tomato surface with a production of about 70 tons per hectare. Until now the weather has been fine and the field situation is quite good even if the high temperatures registered during the last period have been accelerating the tomato maturation and, as a consequence, in this period the 10% of fresh tomato is being lost. The cooperatives expect to finish the crop one week or ten days earlier with a total crop as was initially forecast.

ANICAV:

The situation in the south is different. The crop development has been slower than normal and the harvest is 9-10 days late. The quality is good, with good brix and no mould (there has been no rain). The quantity of wholepeel tomatoes is lower than expected as many tomatoes are sunburned and rejected during sorting. Good weather in September is needed to achieve the forecast as so far the proportion of the crop harvested to date is 10-12% lower than normal.

The volume of 5.2 million tonnes can still be achieved in there is a good weather in September in the South.

Greece

55% of the volume contracted has been processed so far. The weather has not been so good in some areas, with some rains at the beginning of the season and now in the north, lowering yields in the fields. The forecast has now been reduced by 5% to 760 000 tonnes but the final volume will depend on the weather for the rest of the season. Some unstable weather is expected for the next few days.

Spain

A few days of very high temperatures in the middle of August have accelerated the maturation of the tomatoes. Temperatures have now lowered. In the North of Extremadura (Vegas Altas), farm yields are generally higher than normal and with the concentration in maturation due to the high temperatures, it has been difficult for the factories to absorb all the volumes produced. In the South of the region, the situation is normal. Altogether, 55 to 60% of the total volume has now been processed in Extremadura.



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In Andalucia, tuta absoluta developed very rapidly and led to significant losses in the late crop. To date, 85% of the forecast has been processed and the harvest should stop next week.

In the Ebro Valley, the harvest is early due to the hot weather and 30% of the forecast has already been processed. Good yields and good quality are reported.

The total forecast remains 2.4 million tonnes, although this figure could be exceeded if the weather remains good throughout September.

Portugal

The harvest is progressing well although there are irregularities in the deliveries (sometimes short, sometimes too much) which can be a problem for the factories. The field yield is lower than last year, but larger surfaces were planted so the total volume processed should be close to 1.2 million tonnes if the weather remains good in September. Brix is slightly higher than last year. About 50% of the crop had been processed at the beginning of the week, will be close to 60% at the end of the week.

France

No changes in the forecast. The harvest is progressing well although there are problems with over-mature tomatoes because of the high temperatures.

Turkey

The forecast is maintained at 1.6 million tonnes. As of 23 August, approximately 800 000 tonnes, 50% of the total volume had been processed. The crop is late and the achievement of the forecast will depend on the weather in September. The quality is good but brix slightly lower than normal leading to a factory yield 3% lower than expected. Some factories will close early when they have processed the volume they require to satisfy demand on the domestic market.

Tunisia

At the beginning of the week, 650 000 tonnes had been processed. The harvest continues and will carry on into September. The forecast of 800 000 tonnes is maintained.

Currently, the total forecast for all AMITOM countries (10 member countries + 5 Associate members) stands at 15.57 million tonnes, of which 9.77 million tonnes for the 5 EU countries.

Other countries:

California

According to the NASS report released on 31 August (see attached), the 2009 contracted production for California processing tomatoes is shaping up to be a record year with a forecast of 13.5 million short tons (12.24 million metric tonnes) and average yield of 43.97 tons per acre (c. 98 t/ha). The forecasted contracted production for 2009 is 13 percent above the previous record in 1999.

Other US States

According to information received from the USDA, late blight has been identified in most of the eastern tomato-growing states. They do not have any new information on yield and



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production from those areas. The disease did not reach Indiana and Ohio (the 2 largest producing states in the east) until early August. Until this past week, much of Indiana (especially in the Northern parts of the state where tomatoes are grown) had been relatively hot and dry which does not favor spread of blight. However, because of the early alert, most commercial growers have been scouting for it and have instituted tightly scheduled spray programs. Harvest has begun with the processing tomato crop in Ohio now with about 20-25 percent harvested.

Canada

Harvest has begun. Crop quality is excellent, with yields expected to be average to slightly above. Some late blight but not significant enough to reduce contract volumes.

China

Fresh tomatoes processed in regions of Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia and Gansu are very good in quality in terms of brix, color as well as HMC and most factories are running in full capacity from August 24. Heavy rainstorm with hails attacked the production region of Inner Mongolia last week, which created a shortage of raw materials and the prices had a 15% increase.

Up to now, the weather in Xinjiang is normal with satisfactory unit yield and fruits in good maturity. So we expect the production still remain at about 7.38 million MT.

It is normally rainy and cooler in late season which will affect the final production and most processors wish to make up the loss by obtaining more fruits from late crop because of the delay of the harvest.

South Africa

The tomato harvest in the North is currently on track with above average yields per hectare. Factory capacity will limit the quantity that can be processed. The forecast is maintained at previous quantity of 170 000 tonnes.

Hungary

About 150 ha of tomatoes were destroyed due to bad weather at the beginning of the season, but the remaining 1850 ha are in very good condition. It is estimated that about 130 000 tonnes of tomatoes will be processed if the weather remains good till the end of September, which means more than 70 t/ha average yield this year. The harvest ongoing and the weather is now favourable.

Poland

Because of the very cold and rainy conditions during June and July disease development (Phytophthora and bacterial diseases) has been a problem and there were some hailstorms. Consequently the crop forecast is now being reduced from 160 000 tonnes to 100 000 tonnes. A higher volume of tomatoes it still possible with very good weather conditions in September and first week of October.

3 700 ha have been planted with tomatoes and the price this year is equivalent to 82€/tonne.



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Date of last update: 1 September 2009

		2007 FINAL	2008 FINAL	2009 FORECAST 1 May 2009	2009 FORECAST 1 Sept 2009	AVERAGE 2006 to 2008	
all figures in 1000 metric tonnes							
NORTHERN HEMISPHERE*	MEMBERS IN MEDITERRANEAN REGION (AMITOM)	Algeria**	300	260	300	300	247
		France	99	125	220	210	115
		Greece	640	670	800	760	673
		Iran**	2 100	2 060	2 200	2 200	1 987
		Israel	225	240	231	231	217
		Italy	4 600	4 900	5 000	5 200	4 633
		Malta**	9	12	12	12	11
		Morocco	140	160	160	160	140
		Portugal***	1 030	998	1 100	1 200	976
		Spain***	1 801	1 770	2 300	2 400	1 717
		Syria**	70	150	150	150	128
		Tunisia	580	800	800	800	614
		Turkey	1 650	2 700	1 600	1 600	1 933
	Ukraine**	85	150	350	350	162	
	Subtotal Mediterranean Region	13 329	14 995	15 223	15 573	13 553	
	MEMBERS IN NORTH AMERICA	California	10 950	10 720	12 066	12 247	10 247
		Canada	563	560	540	485	565
		Subtotal North America	11 513	11 280	12 606	12 732	10 812
	MEMBERS IN ASIA	China	4 600	6 405	7 680	7 380	5 102
Japan		43	44	43	40	42	
Subtotal Asia		4 643	6 449	7 723	7 420	5 144	
Subtotal WPTC members		29 485	32 724	35 552	35 725	29 509	
NON MEMBERS	Bulgaria	140	150	150	150	143	
	Hungary	115	83	130	130	100	
	Poland	205	160	160	100	195	
	Czech Republic	15	15	15	15	14	
	Slovakia	30	30	30	30	29	
	Other US States (exc. California)	524	439	513	513	475	
	Subtotal non-members	1 029	877	998	938	956	
	Total Northern Hemisphere		30 514	33 601	36 550	36 663	30 142
		2007 FINAL	2008 FINAL	2009 FORECAST 1 May 2009	2009 FORECAST 1 Sept 2009	AVERAGE 2006 to 2008	
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE*	MEMBERS	Argentina	340	350	450	450	327
		Australia	229	151	270	270	224
		Chile	670	510	618	618	600
		South Africa	160	150	170	170	153
		Subtotal WPTC members	1 399	1 161	1 508	1 508	1 303
	NON MEMBERS	Brazil	1 291	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 217
		India	120	130	130	130	132
		Mexico	17	18	20	20	20
		New Zealand	70	65	65	65	67
		Peru	70	70	70	70	62
		Senegal	52	51	70	70	60
Subtotal non-members		1 940	1 854	1 875	1 875	1 876	
Total Southern Hemisphere		3 339	3 015	3 383	3 383	3 179	
GENERAL TOTAL		33 853	36 616	39 933	40 046	33 321	
of which members of the WPTC		30 884	33 885	37 060	37 233	30 812	
		91,2%	92,5%	92,8%	93,0%	92,5%	

all figures in 1000 metric tonnes

in pink: estimate, no recent information on the country

DISCLAIMER

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*Hemispheres are not defined in the strict geographic sense but as:

Northern Hemisphere: crop period mainly July to December

Southern Hemisphere: crop period mainly January to June

** AMITOM associate members

*** Tomatoes produced in Portugal but processed in Spain are reported in Spain