

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES INDUSTRY

KEY INFO IN

10
POINTS

1

FRANCE: EUROPE'S #3 PRODUCER OF FRUITS

In 2018, with 9.3 million tonnes (mt) of produce (including grapes), France was Europe's third largest producer of fruit after Spain and Italy. It is also the second largest producer of vegetables (5.7 mt) and the second largest producer of potatoes (7.9 mt) (Eurostat). There are nearly 30,900 vegetable-producing and 27,600 fruit-producing farms in France. (FranceAgriMer, the French agency for agricultural and seafood products, 2018)

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DIVERSE OUTPUT

The production of fruit and vegetables and potatoes generated revenues of over €8.7 billion in 2018, of which €700 million was for processing (INSEE, FranceAgriMer). Revenues from sales in 2016 amounted to €17 billion (CTIFL, 2017). The top three fruits produced in 2017 were apples (54%), melons (10%), peach-nectarines (8%) and prunes (8%). The top three vegetables were tomatoes (14%), carrots (10%) and onions (9%). (Agreste, 2019)

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THE FRUIT SECTOR: A MAJOR EXPORTER

Twelve percent of French fruit production (1.1 mt) was exported in 2018, worth €1.4 billion. The top three fruit exports were apples (46.9% of the total export value), walnuts (8.4%), and melons (5.9%). France also exported 3.3 million tonnes of fresh vegetables worth €1.5 billion. (French Customs Authorities)

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DIVERSITY OF REGIONS AND OUTPUT

The French fruit and vegetables sector is very diverse and active throughout the country. There are currently more than 50 official quality and origin labels in France, with examples including Ardèche chestnuts, Le Puy green lentils, Roscoff onions and Périgord walnuts.

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INCREASED CONSUMPTION

In 2017, the French bought 81kg of fresh vegetables (up 2% compared with 2016), and 83kg of fresh fruit per household. The top five vegetables among French people were tomatoes, carrots, melons, salad greens and courgettes. The top five fruits were bananas, apples, clementines, oranges and peach-nectarines. (FranceAgriMer, 2019)

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REVOLUTIONIZING THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SECTOR

A winner at the 2018 SIVAL Innovation awards, the Narbonne-based company Canne Vale has partnered with Eclairvale®MPP to offer a breakthrough innovation. This tractor-driven system thins apple trees thus reducing the need for manual thinning operations. Its 2,808 semi-rigid rods regulate the fruit load without harming the tree or the remaining fruits. This first post-floral mechanical tool can be used on peach, plum and apricot trees.

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VEGETABLE GARDENS OF THE FUTURE

European innovation clusters like Terralia and Végépolys run a network of partnerships between businesses, research centers and training institutions to respond to key technological challenges facing the industry. The new Smart Agri Food Innovation competition, organized by Terralia and French Tech Culture, will reward innovation projects that aim to make agriculture more sustainable and efficient.

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HIGH-QUALITY APPLES

Thanks to the development of club varieties (Pink Lady, Jazz), strong brands (Blue Whale, South of France) and a “high-end” sector, French producers have managed to promote French apples (FranceAgriMer). The Limousin Golden Delicious variety was awarded a protected designation of origin (PDO) in 2005 and another in 2007. In 2016, apple exports accounted for 27% of national production. (French Customs Authorities)

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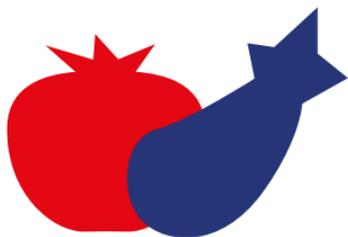
WELL-STRUCTURED SECTORS

Key players in the fruit and vegetables industry are grouped together in interprofessional organizations: the Interprofessional Organization for Fruits and Vegetables (Interfel) and the National Association for Processed Fruits and Vegetables (Anifelt). There are also about 300 producer organizations in France. (FranceAgriMer)

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R&D AND COMPETITIVENESS

The aim of the Technical Center for Fruits and Vegetables (CTIFL) is to improve the competitiveness of companies in the sector by providing them with technical support. For example, from 2018-2020, CTIFL is supporting the PalPuf project, which is working on strawberry protection strategies to fight against aphids (fertilization and biological protection), in order to eliminate the use of neonicotinoids.



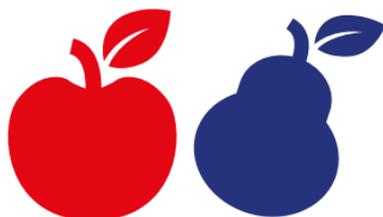
FRANCE: EUROPE'S
#2
PRODUCER OF
VEGETABLES
(EUROSTAT)



FRANCE: EUROPE'S
#1
PRODUCER OF
AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS
(EUROSTAT)



FRANCE: THE WORLD'S
#5
EXPORTER OF
AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS
(UN COMTRADE)



12%
THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF
FRENCH FRUITS
EXPORTED IN 2018
(FRENCH CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES)

BUSINESS FRANCE

77, boulevard Saint-Jacques
75680 Paris Cedex 14
Tel.: +33 1 40 73 30 00

