12th World Deciduous Canned Fruit Conference South Africa

John Wilson Fruit Growers Victoria

Project Number: CF13700

CF13700

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CANNED FRUITS INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

FINAL REPORT



12th World Deciduous Canning Fruit Conference

Stellenbosch South Africa March 2014

PROJECT NUMBER: CF13700 (7/02/2014)

PROJECT TITLE: World Deciduous Canned Fruit Conference

("CANCON12), South Africa Study Tour

AUTHOR: John Wilson

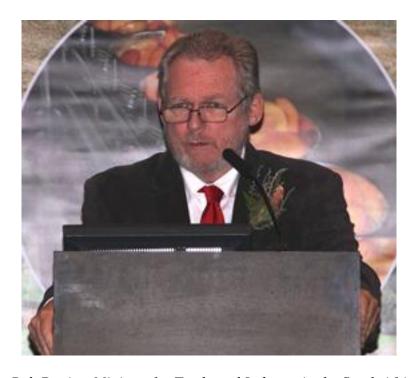
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Dr Rob Davies, Minister for Trade and Industry in the South African government, gives his opening address.

PROJECT NUMBER: CF13700

PROJECT LEADER: John Wilson

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REPORT PURPOSE: The purpose of this Final Report; of the study tour to the 12th

World Deciduous Canning Fruit Conference ("CANCON12") held in Stellenbosch, Western Cape, South Africa in March 2012; was to gain; knowledge of world deciduous canned fruits production information, worldwide contacts and provide a brief synopsis of how the world canned deciduous fruit industry

currently views itself.

The information contained herein will be of assistance to planners, government and industry. It provides a concise summary of the state of the world canned deciduous fruits

industry.

FUNDING: The study tour was funded by voluntary contributions by the

Fruit Growers Victoria Limited ("FGVL") and the Victoria Peach and Apricot Growers Association ("VPAGA") (which together form the Australian Canning Fruitgrowers Association ("ACFA") which is the grower member of CFICA) with matched levy funding by the Australian Government through

Horticulture Australia Limited ("HAL").

REPORT DATE: 31st May 2014

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set out in this publication.



A South African peach orchard at Ceres in Western Cape Province

Media Summary

Since 1992, the World Canned Deciduous Fruits Conference has been held approximately every 2 years, alternating between northern and southern hemispheres. The 12th World Deciduous Canning Fruit Conference ("CANCON12") was held in Stellenbosch, Western Cape, South Africa in March 2014. The most recent previous conferences were held in Greece in May 2012, Xuzhou, China in 2010 and in Shepparton, Australia in 2009.

These conferences were originally convened by the World Canned Deciduous Fruits Council ("WCDFC") as a forum to share information on; crops, planting/removal trends, field yields, fruit prices, factory production capabilities, production, factory yields, sales, import/export, stock holdings, etc.

The WCDFC comprises nine member countries: Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, Greece, Italy, Spain, South Africa and USA, with China joining recently and Italy largely inactive now.

Each country's peak industry body is represented, and have shared what they are able to do. Most have been forthcoming. Australia does not share information in relation to sales, import/export and carry out stocks because our industry is only one processor, but others do.

The Australian delegation representing the Canned Fruits Industry Council of Australia was Mr Ivan Routley and Mr John Wilson. Mr Routley is a CFICA councillor, ACFA Chairman, a member of the VPAGA committee of management and orchardist. Mr Wilson is the FGVL general manager and secretary for both ACFA and CFICA.

No representatives of Australia's sole processor of deciduous fruit, SPCA, attended Cancon12 as SPCA determined that it could not release key staff because Cancon12 was being held during its peak fruit intake period.

Delegations from each member country made presentations to an audience of over 200 people, including delegates and others from around the world including non member countries. Attendees also came from, Japan, Canada, Italy and Germany.

The delegations shared information on their costs for cans, factory labour and sugar. Importantly, they also shared information on their seasons' outcomes for the current year

The delegates were told that there has been widespread weather damage to all southern hemisphere crops and that the USA 2013 crop was drought affected. Argentina lost 80% of its peach crop to frost and Chilean crop was down 48%. The South African crop is down ~30% due to frost (5% loss) which was followed by unseasonal heavy rain approaching harvest (25% loss).

As a consequence, there will be a ~30% shortfall of processed peach production compared to demand for the 2014. This will continue for at least 6 to 8 months until the northern hemisphere crop is processed. However the USA crop is forecast to be down again in 2014 as growers move to alternative crops (almonds & walnuts). This has led to canners offering 20 year contracts for new plantings.

The fruit shortage has meant that processors have had to increase their prices to cover costs.

The Argentineans have significantly increased their prices to their retailers. They are yet to determine the effect of this on consumer demand; however they believe that the Argentinean market will be under supplied.

The Greeks said they have also increased their prices and they were the most concerned about the flow on effects of price increases.

The South Africans also stated that they have increased their prices to their retailers and they are yet to determine the effect of this on consumer demand. Despite their shortage the South Africans questioned whether there was a possibility that the current Argentinean tariff could be suspended whilst the domestic supply could not meet demand.

There have been significant increases in prices paid for fruit over the last 3 years in all other countries. Fruit prices in Chile have increased over 100%. Prices for fruit for processing in Greece and Spain are now above those of Australia. The SA price has increased by 62% over 3 years.

The Argentine processors paid \$US900 per tonne for fruit this season (\$US500 for pulp) because fresh fruit was also affected by the weather and in short supply. If this had not been done their production would have been less than 20% of normal for 2014 as a proportion of the remaining crop would have been diverted to the fresh market.

Following the country reports the South African hosts provided a presentation on the SA "Supercan" campaign which they claim significantly increased domestic consumption. And then there was a spirited discussion on tariffs

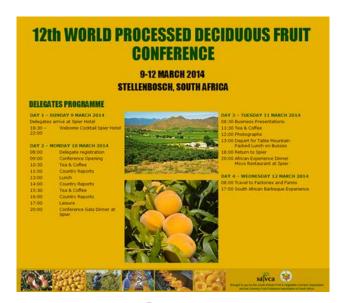
The Greek canners insisted that their industry was no longer receiving subsidies, but they conveniently ignored the fact that the growers now receiving an "environmental payment" which could be interpreted as a disguised subsidy. They claimed that the Victorian government grant to SPC Ardmona was effectively a tariff despite hearing in the previous presentation that development grants could not be considered as tariffs under WTO rules.

There was also a short presentation by CTI, an innovative Italian manufacturer of industrial machines for fruit processing.

The master of ceremonies for Cancon12 was Mr Anthony Dicey who is an orchardist and the chairperson of the Canning Fruit Producers Association of South Africa.

Cancon13 will be held in Argentina in March 2016.

Conference Program



Conference

The Conference commenced with welcome function which allowed participants to meet informally, adjust jet lags and rest. Most delegates had not met in face to face situation since Cancon11 in Greece.

Cancon12 was officially opened by a ribbon cutting ceremony following a speech by Dr Rob Davies who is Minister for Trade and Industry in the South African government. Dr Davies spoke about the importance of growing industry and the development of international trade.

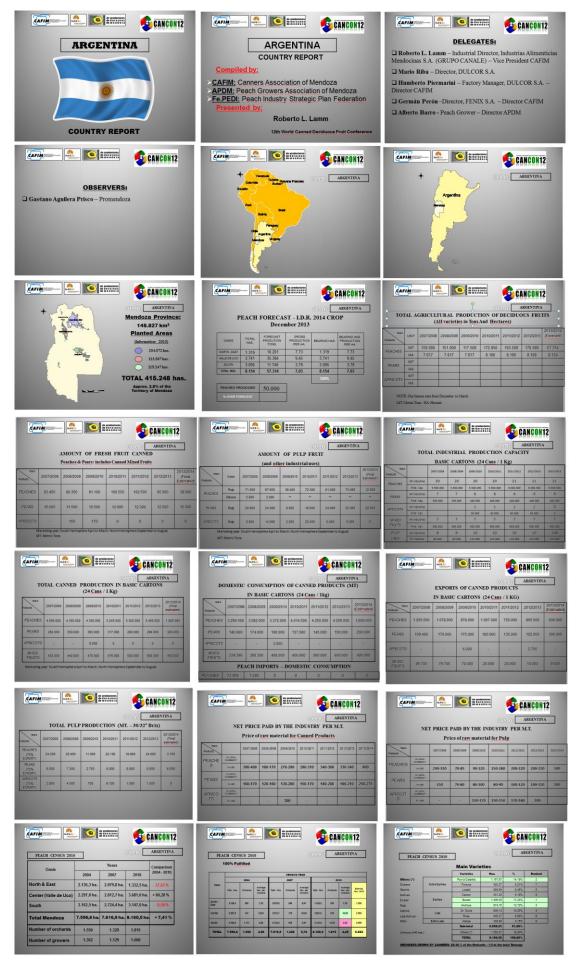


The various delegates then presented their country reports in alphabetical order with the exception of the host country, South Africa, which was last to report.



Cancon12 delegates listen to a country report

ARGENTINA Country Report



The Argentina country report was presented by Roberto Lamm. He spoke about the difficulties that the Argentine industry was experiencing as result of disastrous weather events. He said that the Argentinian 2014 peach drop is expected to be only 34% of the 2013 crop with tonnages dropping from 170,000 to 57,300 tonnes. The lowest peach production in the last 6 years was 151,000 so the Argentine industry is facing an unprecedented situation.

The 66% decrease in on farm production is reflected in processed production with total cartons of processed fruit expected to the 54% below 2013 levels.



AUSTRALIA Country Report

The Australian country report was presented by Ivan Routley. Australian processing fruit production will also show a significant reduction of approximately 35% in 2014 compared to 2013 but for an entirely different reason. This is a result of a planned reduction in fruit intake by SPCA following the collapse of its domestic market share the previous year. The market share was lost to foreign imported processed fruit as a result of the strong buying power of the Australian dollar.

SPCA responded to this serious situation by culling approximately half of its suppliers and reducing quotas for the rest. They also sought a safeguard action under WTO rules and launched an anti-dumping case. These legal actions were either unsuccessful or had limited success.

Despite this SPCA was very successful in its campaign to encourage the Australian retailers to be patriotic. All of the major retailers have now all committed to only Australian fruit in their house brands.

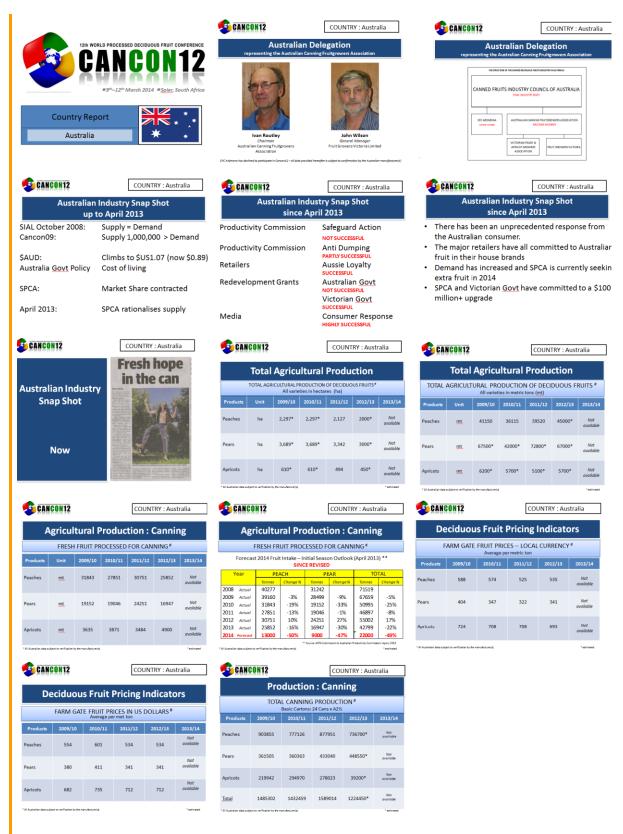
The plight of SPCA received much publicity and the Australian media took great interest in the desperate circumstances of the Australian orchardists who were bulldozing and burning fruit trees. The outcome has been an unprecedented response from the Australian consumers with significantly increased sales of Australian product.

SPCA is currently seeking extra fruit in 2014 to service the extra demand.

SPCA and Victorian Government have committed to a \$100 million+ upgrade of the SPCA Shepparton factory complex.



Ivan Routley presents the Australia Country Report



CHILE Country Report

The Chilean Country report was presented by Roberto Murphy. He related similar current season circumstances to Argentine although not quite as devastating. Chile also experience unprecedented frost which caused widespread damage. The Chilean peach crop is expected to be down by 44% in 2014 (278,000 tonnes) compared to 2013 (156,000 tonnes).

The Chilean processors have increased their peach farm gate prices for suppliers from between \$US280 and \$US320 to between \$US400 and \$US510 per tonne.



CHINA Country Report

China is the largest producer of processed fruit in the world by a significant margin but the majority of its production is consumed domestically. Total tonnage of fruit in process exceeds 27 million tonnes. Most of the orchards and factories are predominantly in Anhui Province.

The vice president of the China Canned Foods Industry Association Xixi Moon told Cancon12 that fruit intakes increased by 20% in 2013/14 compared to 2012/13. Peach intake was 9,120,000 tonnes compared to 8,190,000 tonnes in 2012/13 (up 11%), pear intake grew from 12,480,000 tonnes to 16,000,000 tonnes (up 28%) and apricot intake went from 1,827,000 tonnes to 1,900,000 (up 4%).

These growth figures were viewed as estimates by the Cancon community because of an understanding of the difficulty of collecting exact data in China were there are approximately 900 factories. Even so China remains the major processed fruit producer in the world.

Farm gate prices for fruit were reported as \$US430, \$US360 and \$US390 for peaches, pears and apricots respectively

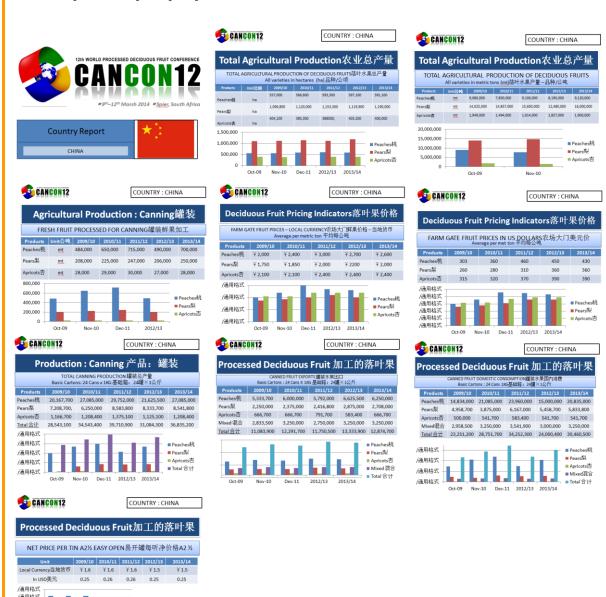


The Chinese delegation was the largest foreign delegation at Cancon12.

2009/10 2010/11 2011/12 2012/13 2013/14

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GREECE Country Report

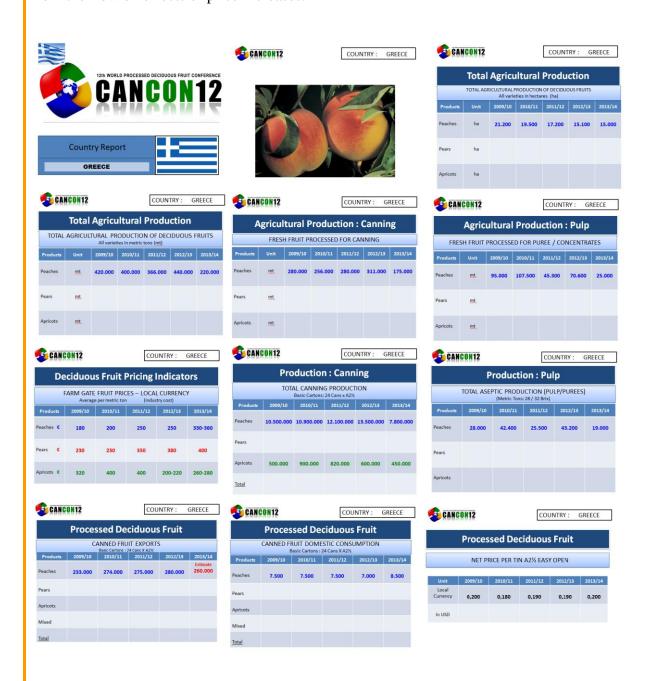
Costas Apostolou, the CEO of the Greek Canners Association, told Cancon12 that Greek peach production was down 44% from 311,000 tonnes to 175,000 tonnes. Again this was due to adverse weather conditions on the growing season.

As a result of the shortage farm gage prices had increased by approximately 20% across the board. The prices paid for peaches ranged from \$US440 to \$US480, Pears ranged from \$US533 to \$US933 and Apricots ranged from \$US346 to \$US373.

Greek exports are expected to be down approximately 7% in the current season.

Mr Apostolou advised that all subsidies have now been withdrawn from the Greek industry. This statement was met with scepticism.

He also advised that the Greek processors have increased their wholesale prices to retailers. They are anxiously waiting to see if there is any negative effect on domestic consumption from the flow on effects of price increases.



SOUTH AFRICA Country Report

The South African report was presented in two parts. The first part was presented by Wiehahn Victor, CEO of the South African Canning Producers Association. The second part was presented by Jill Attwood-Palm, CEO of the South African Fruit & Vegetable Canners Association.

Mr Victor advised that there has been a reduction of approximately 1000 hectares of peach plantings over the last 6 years. The have also been reduction of planted area for pears and apricots of approximately 400 hectares in the same time period.

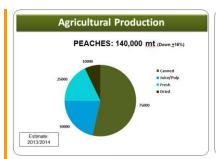
The 2014 crop has been affected by adverse weather in the growing season and as consequence South African processed fruit production will be reduced by approximately 19% in 2014.

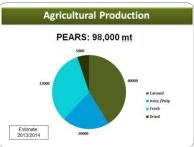
The tonnage of peaches processed is expected to be approximately 75,000 tonnes (a reduction of 23%), pears tonnage is expected to be 40,000 tonnes (down 12%) and apricot tonnage is expected to be 28,000 tonnes (down 8%).

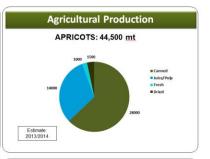
Ms Attwood-Palm confirmed that production will be down 19% from 6,122,770 cases of fruit to 4,980,000.

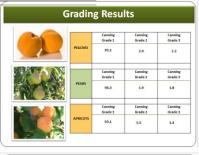


South African host, Wiehahn Victor, tentatively pats a cheetah.



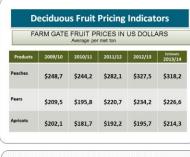








| - | ARM GATE | ERI IIT DRIC | ES - LOCAL | CURRENCY | |
|----------|----------|--------------|------------|----------|---------------------|
| | ANN OAIL | Average per | | COMMENCE | |
| Products | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | Estimate 2013/14 |
| Peaches | R1 910 | R1 990 | R2 355 | R3 056 | R3 230 |
| Pears | R1 609 | R1 596 | R1 843 | R2 185 | R2 300 |
| Apricots | R1 552 | R1 481 | R1 605 | R1 826 | R2 175 |





















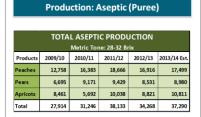
The South African Attributes

- Well-established and relatively stable Industry
- * Reliable Supply & Quality of raw & finished products
- * Strong Manufacturing Capability with World Class Standards
- * Export-oriented industry (± 85% of production); Relatively small domestic market (opportunity)
- Premium Quality producers of value-added products
- * Highly Nutritional Products (fully backed by scientific research



Production: Canning

| TOTAL CANNING PRODUCTION Basic Cartons: 24 cans X A2½ | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--|--|--|
| Products | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 Est. | | | |
| Peaches | 3,054,986 | 2,745,926 | 2,976,625 | 2,911,587 | 2,355,000 | | | |
| Pears | 1,282,971 | 969,669 | 1,328,022 | 1,219,591 | 1,085,000 | | | |
| Apricots | 1,153,785 | 887,450 | 1,008,618 | 988,380 | 840,000 | | | |
| Mixed | 1,478,403 | 1,224,782 | 1,256,078 | 1,003,212 | 700,000 | | | |
| Total | 6,970,145 | 5,827,827 | 6,569,343 | 6,122,770 | 4,980,000 | | | |



| , | | NNED/P | | D EXPOR | TS |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Products | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Peaches | 3,148,560 | 2,742,447 | 2,862,186 | 2,988,276 | N/A |
| Pears | 1,555,894 | 1,097,648 | 1,109,934 | 1,478,916 | N/A |
| Apricots | 1,122,546 | 1,024,775 | 976,208 | 1,040,983 | N/A |
| Mixed | 1,260,091 | 1,180,777 | 952,936 | 1,034,664 | N/A |
| Total | 7,087,091 | 6,045,647 | 5,901,264 | 6,542,839 | |





| The Changing Environment: Key Areas |
|--|
| Aftermath of Global Economic Crisis: Pricing pressures (local/export); Forex fluctuations |
| Input Cost Pressures: World pricing (e.g. tinplate; sugar); Administered pricing (e.g. energy, water, fuel); Cost of transport & logisitics |
| Infrastructure challenges: Ports, rail, road |
| Impact of Climate Change on raw materials |
| Market Access conditions: Subsidies & high tariffs; Barriers to trade iro standards/regulations; Free Trade Agreements (uneven playing fields; |
| Consumer Drive for Healthy and Safe food (e.g. reduction of sugar & sodium) |
| Innovation: Need to innovate → New processing methods; new markets; new packaging mediums; new products |



SPAIN Country Report

The Spanish Country Report followed the trend of the other country reports stating that they expect a reduction in fruit production of 10% because of weather anomalies. The peach intake was reported to be down 12% from 98,000 tonnes to 86,578 tonnes, the pear intake was reported to be marginally up to 15,492 tonnes and the apricot intake was reported to be 4,500 tonnes (no prior comparison).

The price per tonne paid for peaches was \$US466, the price for pears was \$US412 and the apricot price was also \$US412.

The Spanish report was made by Mr Antonio Garcia.



The Spanish delegation to Cancon12

UNITED STATES Country Report

The United States report was presented by Mr Monte Griffiths. He reported a 37% decrease in peach plantings since 2004. There has been as steady trend to convert peach orchards to nut orchards in California. As a result processors are giving long-term contracts for new peach plantings.

Increased labour costs are a considerable contributor to this trend.

The American peach intake was reported at 330,527 tonnes for peaches. This is marginally down (-1%) from last year (333,802) but considerably down on the 481,000 tonne intake 10 years ago.

Another concern for the American industry is that supermarket sales volume for canned peaches has declined 32% over a 7 year period.

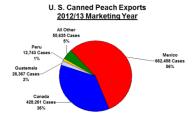
Pear intake in 2013 was 400,000 tonnes. This is an increase of 2.5% on the previous year (390,000 tonnes) which was a severe drought year. Pear production has been showing a slow decline over the last ten years.

Apricot intake has shown a 65% decrease since 2004 with a 36% decrease in plantings. The 2013 intake was 45,900 tonnes which was a 13% reduction on the previous year (52,500 tonnes).

Farm gate prices, paid to growers, were \$US386 for peaches, between \$US379 and \$US293 for pears and \$US485 for apricots.



Monte Griffiths presents the US report



Marketing Year Total: 1,185,454 Cases (- 8%)

Thousands of Cases 4,800 4,400 4,000 4,000 3,300 3,80

U.S. Canned Peach Import Trends

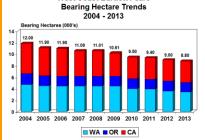
2002 - 2013

2012/13 Marketing Year

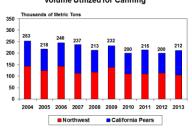
All Other
159,225 Cases
4%
China
12,876 Cases
21%
Australia
110,886 Cases
3%
Marketing Year Total: 3,858,569 Cases (+47%)

U. S. Canned Peach Imports

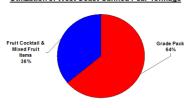
West Coast Bartlett Pears



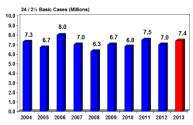
West Coast Pear Delivery Trends Volume Utilized for Canning



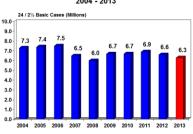
Utilization of West Coast Canned Pear Tonnage



West Coast Canned Bartlett Pear Pack Trends 2004 - 2013

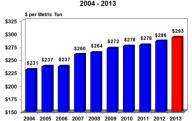


West Coast Canned Bartlett Pear Sales Trends 2004 - 2013

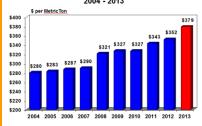


Northwest Canning Pear Price Trends Bartlett Pears – No. 1's 2004 - 2013

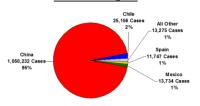
Total 2013 Deliveries: 212,000 MetricTons



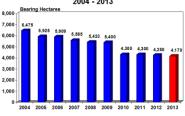
California Canning Pear Price Trends Bartlett Pears – No. 1's 2004 - 2013



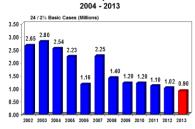
U. S. Canned Pear Imports 2012/13 Marketing Year



California Apricots Bearing Hectare Trends 2004 - 2013

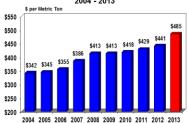


California Canned Apricot Pack Trends

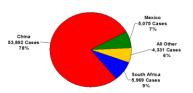


Marketing Year Total: 1,114,144 Cases (+ 17%)

California Canned Apricot Price Trends
2004 - 2013



U. S. Canned Apricot Imports 2012/13 Marketing Year



CANCON12



COUNTRY: USA

Marketing Year Total: 69,276 Cases (+44%)

| 🧐 ÇAN | ICON12 | | | COUN | TRY: U | JSA |
|----------|---------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Agı | ricultu | ıral P | roduc | tion : | Cann | ing |
| | FRES | SH FRUIT P | ROCESSE | FOR CAN | NING | |
| Products | Unit | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 |
| Peaches | mt | 406,500 | 374,940 | 340,740 | 318,960 | 319,510 |
| Pears | mt | 232,000 | 200,000 | 215,000 | 200,000 | 212,000 |
| Apricots | mt. | 20,900 | 18,200 | 18,000 | 16,700 | 14,600 |

Total Agricultural Production

| All varieties in hectares (ha) | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Products | Unit | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | |
| Peaches | ha | 9,835 | 9,230 | 9,030 | 9,240 | 8,580 | |
| Pears | ha | 10,200 | 9,500 | 9,400 | 9,000 | 8,800 | |
| Apricots | ha | 5,400 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,250 | 4,170 | |

Total Agricultural Production TOTAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF DECIDIOUS FRUITS All varieties in metric tons (mt) roducts Unit 2009/10 2010/11 2011/12 2012/13 201

| All varieties in metric tons (mt) | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|
| Products | Unit | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | | |
| Peaches | mt | 422,778 | 390,154 | 355,042 | 333,802 | 330,527 | | |
| Pears | mt | 402,000 | 383,000 | 415,000 | 390,000 | 400,000 | | |
| Apricots | mt | 60,900 | 60,800 | 56,700 | 52,500 | 45,900 | | |



INDUSTRY TOURS



The industry tours were to factories and orchards near Ceres and Paarl in Western Cape Province. Cameras were not permitted in the cannery tours but observation revealed that Atlas Pacific equipment was being utilized for splitting and de-stoning.

There was a considerable amount of reworking of fruit and this was done by teams of local workers (all female). The work culture was distinctly African with the workers singing in chorus in full voice while they worked.

The orchards were well kept and very similar in architecture to Australian orchards. The water supply in Ceres is almost totally obtained by snow run off from the rugged peaks that surround the orchards.

There is now a basic wage structure in place for field workers in South Africa of 150 Rand per day. This equates to approximately the hourly rate for a rural worker in Australian













Harvesting pears at Ceres





Local children perform a welcome dance for delegates at a Ceres orchard homestead.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

Cancon12 in March 2014 provided much information for the Australian processing fruit industry which had already been disseminated to key interested parties. Much of this was production information. The most important news, that was confirmed in detail, was that a rare 30 year event has occurred in the world wide industry with nearly all countries reporting a drop in production.

As result there will be an undersupply of processed fruit on the world market for most of 2014. The shortage could be as high as 30%. This will depend on what happens with the northern hemisphere harvest in 2014.

This means that import pressures will be lowered for Australia's sole processor of deciduous fruit, SPC Ardmona. This will benefit the company significantly in contract negotiations as it rebuilds its domestic market share that was savaged by import in the preceding five years.

Importantly is should provide some breathing space for SPCA as it restructures its operation following the announcement of the \$100 million restructure investment by its parent company and the Victorian government.

This augurs well for the future of the Australian industry.

The objectives of this study tour project are;

- 1. The preparation of an Australian Canned Fruits Industry 2014 Country Report.
- 2. The attendance of the CFICA delegation at Cancon12 to present the country report.
- 3. To observe other deciduous canned fruits country reports.
- 4. To obtain world production & demand data and to ascertain the world over/under supply situation.
- 5. To obtain world cost of production data
- 6. To network with world producers and processors of canned deciduous fruit.
- 7. To discover new trends, techniques and technologies in orchard management and fruit processing which may benefit the Australian industry and consumers.

The objectives were all achieved by attendance at Cancon12. The information contained in this report is a significant summation of the status of canned fruits production and markets in member countries of the World Canned Deciduous Council.

This information is only available to the Australian industry available by participation in Cancon12 which was made possible by the support of Horticulture Australia Limited.

It is recommended that CFICA continue to participate in the World Canned Deciduous Council and attend canning conferences because knowledge of the balance of worldwide supply and demand to essential to the Australian canning industry at all levels.

It is also recommended that more frequent dialogue occur between CFICA and individual country organizations.

This report will be disseminated to the Australian Canning Fruit Industry through the VPAGA, Fruit Growers Victoria Limited and SPC Ardmona. It will posted on the Fruit Growers Victoria Limited website.