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Evolution of the tomato market in Argentina (*Ex aequo*)

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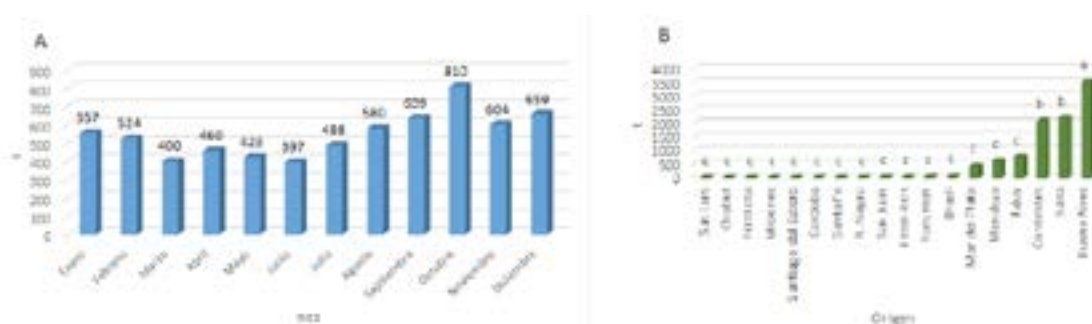
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Tomato is the principal greenhouse vegetable grown in Argentina. The aim of the current work is to analyse tomato market evolution in this country, based upon volumes received by the Buenos Aires Central Market, the main national point of reference. The following aspects were evaluated: total commercial volumes (CV) 1999-2016, evolution (E) and mean prices (MP), principal varieties (V) commercialized in 2016, origin (O), distribution by province of origin (DP) and the proportion that tomato comprises of the total volume (TV) of the horticultural produce commercialized in the reference period. For the factors evaluated, one-way analysis of variance was carried out on the tonnage values. The VC was 119,600, with a decrease over the period of 18% compared to the first year (1999: 142,968t and 2016: 117,744 t/year). In 2016, the mean monthly E was 9812t, where the following months exceeded this value, without significant differences between them: October-14586, December-11870, September-11494, November-10865, August-10446 and January-10027 t. The annual MP was 0.62 US\$kg⁻¹, which was exceeded in September (1.03), May (0.82), October (0.80) and November (0.63). For DP, the highest volumes were observed for Buenos Aires: 3936t^a, Salta: 2187t and Corrientes: 2081t^b, with the remaining origins in the following order of importance, without significant differences between them: Jujuy-774, Mendoza-625, Brasil-72; Tucumán-48; Entre Ríos-29; San Juan-28; Rio Negro-9.82, Santa Fé-8; Córdoba-5.15; Santiago del Estero-2.82; Misiones-2; Formosa-1.4; Chubut-0.75 and San Luis-0.2 t^c. Overall, tomato represented 14% of the TV (850240t) commercialized (16.7% in 1999 and 13.8% in 2016). For V, the monthly volumes gave differences for Larga Vida (October^a, November, July, February, September, August and June^{ab}); for Platense (January and December^a, April and February^{ab}) and the rest^b. For origin, differences were found for all varieties: Larga Vida: Corrientes^a and the rest^b, Perita: Salta^a, Jujuy, Buenos Aires^b and Mendoza^{bc}, Cherry: Buenos Aires^a, Salta, Corrientes^b and Jujuy^{bc}, Redondo: Buenos Aires^a, Corrientes^b and Salta^{ab}. These results provide evidence of the positioning of tomato throughout the year in the Argentinean market.



Biography

Ana María Castagnino is a Horticulture Specialist (UNIPI, Italy) with a Master's Degree in Business Management (UNCPBA, Argentina), and is Professor of Horticulture at UCA, Buenos Aires and Associate Professor at UNCPBA. She is a member of CRESCA (Regional Centre for the Systemic Study of Agro-Food Chains) and directs the programme "Promotion of the production and consumption of asparagus and other non-traditional vegetables".

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