

THE TOMATO PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN EGYPT



PLANTING	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HARVESTING	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Production			2013	2014	2015							
Volume of tomatoes processed (in metric tonnes)			350 000	250 000	250 000							
Surface planted (in hectares)			100 000	n/a	n/a							
Average field yield (in t/ha)			42	n/a	n/a							
Average tomato price (for tomato paste in €/t field gate)			63	n/a	n/a							
Number of growers			n/a	n/a	n/a							
Number of processors			62	62	62							
Trade balance												
Tomato paste (HS 200290 in metric tonnes)			8 571	3 247	3 157							
Canned tomatoes (HS 200210 in metric tonnes)			-214	106	-497							
Tomato sauces (HS 2103 in metric tonnes)			22 628	23 851	22 097							

An average of 7.5 million tonnes of tomatoes is harvested annually in Egypt but 99% of this volume is sold on the fresh market. The volume processed is growing rapidly and it is estimated that around 250 000 tonnes were processed in 2015, up from only 40 000 tonnes in 2007.

A total of 200 000 hectares are planted annually. Tomatoes can be grown virtually all year round in the different regions, with ideal conditions, very little virus infection and the availability of new irrigated land¹⁵ to end of December in Middle Egypt; . Harvesting typically runs:

- From June 15th to August 31st in the North (Noubaria);
- from September
- from December 15th to April 1st (Luxor region) and May 1st (Aswan region) in Upper Egypt.

The Egyptian industry is keen to take advantage of its good agronomic conditions, low labor costs, zero tariffs for exports into Europe and proximity to major markets to develop. There have been recent investment and processing

capacity quadrupled to reach 4 000 tonnes/day in 2009 and there are over major investments planned notably in Upper Egypt where supplies exceed 160 days. Currently, the processing time is 70 to 110 days but there is a goal to reach 250 days.

The sector is experiencing rapid growth also through the development of the agricultural sector with the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices, introducing new varieties that provide increased yields, higher TSS (Total Soluble Solids) and that are disease resistant, improved seeding nursery operations, reduced agro-chemical use and mechanization. It is assisted in this by the Horticulture Export Improvement Association (HEIA) which also assists growers in marketing, policy advocacy, training and management assistance with the aim of increasing exports.

The sector still immature and the majority of farmers still growing fresh tomato. Therefore, it is still difficult to obtain reliable data that differentiates between fresh and processed tomato sub-sectors.

There are 22 main tomato processors manufacturing tomato paste, ketchup, pasta sauces for the domestic and export markets, and an additional 40 small companies only packing tomato paste.



WPTC member (through AMITOM): CFI

The Egyptian tomato processing industry has been represented within AMITOM since 2010 by the Chamber of Food Industries (CFI). CFI is a non-profit organization established in 1958 and is the official representative of the Food & Beverages industries in Egypt.