

# European banana market supplies

## Enough is enough!

Study of EU market supply shows that the symbolic 4 million tonne mark was exceeded in 2000 for banana consumption in Europe. It will be remembered that 2000 was a real catastrophe as far as prices were concerned.

We seem doomed to using superlatives when discussing the banana industry. The common market organisation of banana is not adapting but undergoing in-depth reform. Disputes are not settled by common agreement but turn into complaints to numerous courts and international negotiations never fail to become trials of strength. Examples abound.

The same atmosphere is felt in the supply of the EU market. The latter increases strongly each year, breaking records. The supply calculation for 2000, the equivalent of theoretical consumption, gives the result of 4 million tonnes. This figure had often been approached but never attained and reflects strong pressure from ACP (especially Africa) and community

origins. In 2000, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire each shipped more than 200 000 tonnes. All the EU production regions did better than in 1999. The increase of shipments from dollar origins was more modest.

The very low prices reached on the European market in 2000 will be remembered. The increase in volumes was not unrelated to this poor situation. However, when the other explanatory factors are examined (distribution over the year, general fruit quality, the congestion of certain markets, etc.), it is difficult to believe that an extra 133 000 tonnes (+ 3 percent) caused the complete destabilisation of the European market. The effect of massive import fraud is not unrelated to this strong market degradation.

### ACP: a high risk phase 2

The 2000 figures for ACP show that they exceeded (by nearly 7 000 tonnes) the quota ceiling set by the agreement between the European Commission and the United States last April. The compromise plans the switch to a Phase 2 (starting date uncertain) in which the present C quota would be reduced by 100 000 tonnes but reserved for ACP suppliers alone (without distinction). Furthermore, the still partial information on 2001 performance and 2002 forecasts for ACP producers, especially in Africa, indicates a strengthening of this tendency to exceed the limit

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#### EUROPEAN UNION – EVALUATION OF BANANA SUPPLIES (TONNES)

Year	Banana type or origin				Sub-total	Exports	Supplies
	Community	ACP quantity		Others (\$)			
		traditional	non trad.				
1988	719 270	513 043	1 018	1 644 100	2 877 431	17 265	2 860 166
1989	698 925	542 628	1 792	1 716 500	2 959 845	13 415	2 946 430
1990	710 635	617 353	4 523	2 024 243	3 356 754	36 219	3 320 535
1991	695 402	584 516	11 898	2 286 014	3 577 830	53 468	3 524 362
1992	711 191	641 005	39 161	2 366 800	3 758 157	39 689	3 718 468
1993	646 242	677 326	70 785	2 219 715	3 614 068	36 138	3 577 930
1994	584 622	629 595	97 338	2 102 375	3 308 068	58 044	3 250 024
1995	658 206	670 479	93 486	2 386 931	3 765 803	43 082	3 722 721
1996	684 605	682 526	116 866	2 466 380	3 916 508	30 598	3 855 910
1997	810 537	614 026	76 567	2 394 976	3 896 106	16 571	3 879 535
1998	786 232	537 349	77 812	2 393 350	3 794 743	26 448	3 768 295
1999	729 303	572 320	103 994	2 520 419	3 926 036	27 359	3 898 677
2000	782 176	569 161	187 647	2 528 172	4 067 156	35 327	4 031 829

- (1) 1988 to 1993 inclusive: Eurostat + European Commission data for Madeira and Greece. From 1994 onwards: supplementary aid data.
- (2) Eurostat data divided into (a) traditional quantities from traditional ACP states, i.e. within the limits of individual quantities (e.g. 155 000 tonnes for Côte d'Ivoire) and (b) non-traditional quantities from traditional ACP countries (e.g., for Côte d'Ivoire, exported quantities over and above the 155 000 tonnes allowed) and from non-traditional ACP countries (Dominican Republic, Ghana, etc.).
- (3) Eurostat data: all imports from non-community and non-ACP countries.
- (4) Duty-paid bananas (released for free circulation) in one of the EU member countries and then exported outside EU-15. It is supposed that these are dollar bananas.

General note: Before 1994: dessert bananas + plantains / From 1994 onwards: dessert bananas. Before 1995: EU-12 / From 1995 onwards: EU-15. The study concerns extra-community import data for ACP and dollar bananas and re-export. The rules of operation of the common market organisation of banana (1993 version) have been applied to the data from 1988 onwards in order to give comparable results. Publication of the results in the supplement to Info Banane No.38 published by CIRAD-FLHOR for ODEADOM.

Source: Eurostat (CD-ROM sup 2-1997, 5-1998, 5-1999, 3-2000 and sup 2-2001), European Commission.

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