

China: producción de nueces se incrementará 27%

China's commercial production of inshell walnuts is forecast to increase by 27 percent on year to 1.4 million metric tons (MMT) in MY 2022/23 (September-August). Industry sources note that the increase is due to a production rebound in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (Xinjiang province), the country's largest walnut growing area.

In MY 2021/22, a severe spring frost in Xinjiang cut the province's walnut production by round 20 percent. Walnut production in other major growing areas, including Yunnan province is expected to improve under favorable growing conditions. Industry sources indicate that the country's actual walnut production is much higher than commercial production as a large portion of walnuts is grown in mountainous regions in Yunnan province where high labor costs and low market prices make harvesting cost prohibitive (see Price). In the coming years, China's commercial walnut production may continue to increase, but growth is price dependent.

In MY 2022/23, China's walnut quality is expected to be above average in Xinjiang. Large-scale walnut orchards in Xinjiang are located on flatlands, which make crop management and harvest less costly. In addition, compared to Yunnan walnut varieties (which were first planted decades ago), Xinjiang walnut varieties feature a thin shell, large size, and light kernel color. In the mountainous areas of Yunnan province, walnut quality is inconsistent as farmers have not invested in production practices to improve quality or yields, such as the application of fertilizers.

Additionally, Yunnan farmers do not rely on walnuts as their sole source of income making further investment less appealing. In general, most walnut varieties planted in China carry a bitter taste. Post has not heard of any new varieties that compete with imported counterparts, such as Chandler, being developed or planted.

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