

## **World Tomato Congress: growers worried about competition from China**

Recently the world tomato congress took place in the Italian city of Parma. During the congress many topics were covered, including the competition from China and the use of pesticides, reports the German website Deutschlandfunk.de. The congress was organized by the 'International Society for Horticultural Science' and the 'World Processing Tomato Council'. Representatives from more than 500 tomato producers from around the world participated. The theme of this 11<sup>th</sup> international congress was the future of all the food products that use tomatoes as a base product.

The Chinese competition in Europe is often illegal competition, explains Alberto Libeci from the Italian food police: "The tomatoes and the tomato purée come in container ships to Naples. They clearly cost less than European products. But many of the Chinese tomatoes are grown on contaminated ground and contain toxins. Also: how can we prevent these Chinese tomatoes from being sold as 'real Italian tomatoes' from corrupt companies? There has to be more control over this." According to the Italian food association Chinese tomato imports have increased 40 percent in the last two years alone.

Source: [www.freshplaza.com/](http://www.freshplaza.com/) 17/06/2014