

## Spain: Canary tomato production could grow by up to 60%

It will be possible to achieve substantial improvements in both the production volumes and quality of export tomatoes in the Canary Islands, as long as their cultivation is optimised by introducing changes in cultivation techniques and applying improvements to the protective structures, such as by introducing higher greenhouses.

The studies done in this area by the Canarian Institute of Agricultural Research (ICIA), have shown that applying these measures could lead to an increase of between 48 and 60% of the net exportable production. Some of the aspects under consideration include optimising the weather conditions and increasing the crop's capacity to capture radiation, which is achieved through the application of appropriate cultivation techniques such as trellising or the removal of varying amounts of leaves, helping enhance the plant's photosynthetic efficiency.

These findings are reported in the doctoral thesis of the researcher Vanessa Raya, who has studied the effect of applying an advanced "technology package" aimed at improving various aspects, such as the protective structures and cultivation management techniques, the crop productivity, or the efficiency in the use of water and nutrients.

The thesis, which has been rated as outstanding and opts to a *cum laude*, is the result of an extensive study that has developed over the last ten export tomato campaigns at the experimental plantation La Estación, property of ICIA and located in the municipality of Vecindario.

Source: <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/127069/Spain-Canary-tomato-production-could-grow-by-up-to-60-procent> (16/09/2014)