

Spain: Pepper productivity up

The average yield of bell peppers in Almeria's greenhouses has increased in the 2013/2014 campaign by 5,000 kilos per hectare compared to the previous year, according to estimations by Hortoinfo based on data from the Prices and Markets Observatory of the Government of Andalusia.

In the latest season, the average yield was 7.5 kilos per square metre, compared to the 7 kilos of the previous campaign.

Total expenses for growing one hectare of this type of pepper have increased in the 2013/2014 season to 34,400 Euro, including family labour.

The cost of producing a kilo of bell peppers in greenhouses stands at 0.4586 Euro, including direct and indirect costs, overhead and labour.

Although the cost per square metre has increased compared to the previous season, with the higher yield the cost per kilo has been reduced by 0.027 Euro.

Expenditure has increased the most for the purchase of seeds and seedlings, with an average increase of 500 Euro per hectare, followed by fertilisers (200 €/ha) and labour wages, with a slight increase of 100 Euro per hectare.

For the calculation of costs, the Prices and Markets Observatory of the Andalusian Government has taken into account both single pepper cycle plantations and short cycle ones combined with watermelon or melon crops in the spring, such as the ones found in western Almeria.

Pepper transplantations are carried out from mid-June for the early plantings, and until mid-August for the later ones.

As for cultivation time, depending on the alternative, pepper cycles have a duration of between 6 and 9 months. While those alternating peppers with watermelons or melons in spring finish in February-March, those with long cycles continue until April. The most common duration is 9 months.

With this crop, auxiliary pest control insects are used in almost one hundred percent of the plantations.

The average yield per hectare stands between 6.5 and 8 kg/m², with the most common in the 2013/14 campaign being 7.5 kg/m².

Expenditure details

For the expenditure's calculation, the following items are taken into account:

Seeds and seedlings, up by 0.05 Euro per square metre, to 0.75 Euro per square metre.

Fertilisers, whose cost increased by 0.02 Euro per square metre, reaching 0.19 Euro/m².

Phytosanitary products (fungicides, insecticides, herbicides and others) plus auxiliary insects, whose cost remains at the same levels of the previous season. This is also the case for water, energy and supplies. The cost per square metre of phytosanitary products plus auxiliary insects is of 0.40 Euro; water stands at 0.07 Euro/m²; energy, 0.08 Euro/m² and supplies represent a cost per square metre of 0.03 Euro.

Wage labour accounts for 0.93 Euro per square metre, which is 0.01 €/m² more than in the previous season. The estimated cost of family labour remains at 0.34 Euro per square metre.

Meanwhile, outsourced services represent a cost of 0.01 Euro per square meter; general costs, 0.06 €/m², and overhead expenses represent an amount of 0.16 Euro per square metre

Source : <http://www.freshplaza.com/> 13/04/2015