

Chile prepares its cherry to export it to South Korea

An inspector of the Korean phytosanitary agency visited cherry orchards and fruit centers in various regions of Chile to verify that they complied with the established export protocols to start shipments of these Chilean fruits.

According to information provided by the general manager of Asoex, Miguel Canala-Echeverria, YoungSoub Choi, an inspector of the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency of South Korea (QIA) is in Chile to verify that the country is complying with the measures established by South Korea to avoid potential phytosanitary import risks.

"The visit is part of the protocol established with Korea to export blueberries and cherries. The inspector of the QIA traveled to Chile to inspect the compliance of the established measures at source and, once he certifies that the country complies with their requirements, Chile can start exporting these fruits.

"This is the second season that we are exporting important volumes of cherries to the South Korean market, after this market was officially opened for shipments of Chilean cherries under the Systems Approach, a system that the inspector is verifying here," Canala-Echeverria said.

The manager of ASOEX said that in the 2017-2018 season, Chile sent 2,641 tons of fresh cherries to South Korea, i.e. 94.83% more than the 1,356 tons it sent there in the 2016-2017 season.

"China is the main destination for our fresh cherries in Asia. However, our industry is looking to have a greater diversification of destinations and South Korea, which currently ranks as the third destination market for Chilean cherries in Asia, is an attractive market," he said.

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