

Peru gets ready to plant 2,000 more hectares of Hass avocado

Peru had 31 thousand hectares planted with Hass avocado at the end of 2018 and it will increase the area to 33 thousand in 2019, stated the president of the Hass Avocado Producers Association of Peru (Prohass), Daniel Bustamente.

Habilitating and cultivating the fruit over the next three years in these 2 thousand additional hectares will require the investment of US \$ 50 million, without counting the price of the land, he said.

In 2018, Peru exported 335 thousand tons of Hass avocado worth nearly US \$600 million. While the total export volume increased by 43% year-on-year, the invoiced amount only grew by 20% over the previous year (2017), said Bustamante Canny.

"In 2017, Hass avocado prices were exceptionally high in the international market, so shipments in 2018, having a lower price, showed a lower growth, despite the large increase in tons exported," he stated.

He also said that, even though he considered that there would be an increase in shipments in 2019, it wouldn't be very significant, as it will oscillate between 5% and 10%, because last year's production was very high and its natural that the crop fluctuates.

Hass avocado takes four years before they can be harvested. Every year there is an increase in the area cultivated with this fruit in Peru, which is currently the second largest exporter of Hass avocados in the world, only after Mexico.

Currently, 95% of the avocados exported by Peru are of the Hass variety. 90% of the national production is destined to the foreign market as fresh fruit, another part are frozen exports, and only around 1% goes to the national market, which has little demand from Peruvians.

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