

## Colombia continues to increase its avocado exports

Colombia's avocado exports, which are mainly destined for Europe, have increased by 37.6% during the first half of 2019, according to data provided by Dane and ProColombia. Flavia Santoro Trujillo, the President of ProColombia, celebrated the significant increase in avocado sales and highlighted the work that has been done from the producing Departments.

Antioquia led avocado exports during this period with 27 million dollars, 20.7% more than in the first quarter of 2018; Risaralda ranks second with 17.5 million dollars and an increase of 88.6%; Valle del Cauca ranks third with 3.8 million and a 0.2% growth; Bogota also reported sales of 2.6 million and a growth of 82.6% and, finally, the department of Caldas exported 470.505 dollars and had a significant growth of 605%.

Santoro stressed that the country must continue to work to increase its presence in markets, such as the European Union, the United States, Bahrain, and Singapore. In addition, the country is waiting for sanitary admissibility to be able to export this fruit to China and South Korea.

The US market has special importance for Colombia. It is the recipient of 41% of the world avocado export, and is one of the destinations with the greatest increase in demand for Colombian avocado, with an increase of nearly 700%.

This boom in the country has also allowed foreign investment to increase, since it has 200,000 hectares available to plant avocado, arousing the interest of a large number of investors worldwide, such as Greenfruit Avocado, an American firm that will invest in approximately 300 hectares to sow avocado in the department of Valle, or the Peruvian Camposol, which before 2025 intends to produce around 40,000 tons from Colombia.





The Korean company, Rans, also invested about one million dollars in order to start exporting avocado to Korea and Japan. Finally, the Westfalia Fruit Colombia company of Chilean-South African origin already has a production of 300 hectares of high planting density and two packing plants located in the department of Antioquia.

The growth of Colombia as a producer has made it possible for avocado exports to increase by 125% in the last five years.

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