

## Turkey increases tropical fruit exports

In the first ten-months of the year, Turkey's tropical fruit exports increased by 7% compared to the same period last year and reached a total value of 4,200,000 USD (3.81 million Euro).

According to the Aegean Exporters' Association's figures, Turkey exported 4,645,000 USD (4.22 million Euro) worth of tropical fruits, the majority of which were kiwis, in 2018. The country exported 2,788,000 USD (2.53 million Euro) worth of kiwis last year. Turkey's top export market for tropical fruits was Russia with 870,000 USD (789,699 Euro) worth of exports.

### "Now we export kiwis"

Aegean Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Exporters' Association's chairman Hayrettin Ucak stated that farmers in the Mediterranean and Aegean regions have shifted production to tropical fruits in the last few years.

Recently, kiwis in the Black Sea Region and avocados in the Mediterranean Region have become widespread, said Chairman Ucak. Products such as dragon fruits, mangoes and red currants have also become popular, Ucak added.

"While we consume these products domestically, we export them as well. This makes us proud. We expect that exports will increase in the coming years." said Ucak.

Ucak stressed that exports regularly increase every year, and he continued: "For example, growing kiwis is not difficult, kiwis do not need much care. Turkey's climate is suitable for these fruits. However, soil analysis is important to protect farmers against losses. Years ago, we used to import kiwis and now we export them. This is nice both for producers and exporters."





Ucak reminded us about the increased number of banana plantations and said that Turkey will soon become self sufficient in this product and will no longer be an importer.

Chairman Ucak emphasised that they aim to be self sufficient in all tropical fruits that can potentially grow in Turkey and stop importing those products.

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