

## Apple production in Poland and export to Egypt



Poland is a giant in terms of fruit production and exports in Europe and the world market. Apples, valued for their flavor and nutritional value, enjoy a special position. Apples are very healthy fruit. They are a good source of vitamin C, contain a lot of potassium, iron, magnesium, copper, silicon, zinc, beta-carotene, quercetin and lots of pectin. Apples slow down the progress of circulatory diseases and cancer and also seal the blood vessels. Apples increase resistance to infections, so they should be eaten by people prone to colds. They are effective at removing toxins and cholesterol from the body. They have a good effect on the nails, skin and hair. In Poland, a third of domestically grown fruit that consumers eat are apples.

Consumers in Poland have many apple varieties to choose from as Idared and its sports, Jonagold and its sports, Champion and its sports, Ligol and its sports, Golden Delicious and its sports, Gala and its sports, Boskoop, Red Boskoop, Elise, Early Geneve, Topaz, Lobo, Rubin and its sports, Gloster, and Jonagored and its sports. The apples produced in Poland have a distinct flavor, are more tart and aromatic than average and stay crunchy after being properly stored over a longer period of time.<sup>1</sup> All apple varieties produced in Poland are offered for export.

According to the Central Statistical Office of Poland (GUS), Polish apple production totaled 3.2 mln tons in 2014, an increase of 3.7% year-on-year. WAPA /World Apple and Pear Association/ August Polish apple production forecast stood previously at 3.54 mln tons; however, the final official figure is lower due to unfavorable weather conditions in spring. Despite the decrease, compared with what had been expected in August, Polish growers managed to harvest the largest apple crop in the last 10 years, making Poland the largest apple producer with ca. 30% share of total apple production in Europe /Poland is second apple producer in the world after China/.<sup>2</sup> Poland is the world's largest exporter of apples /in 2012/2013 it outperformed China/.<sup>3</sup> After overtaking China as the world's leading apple exporter, Poland is now knocking on the door of the world's most populous country to gain market access for the fruit in 2015.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/118082/higher-quality-polish-apples-seek-new-markets>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.wapa-association.org/docs/2014/European\\_apple\\_and\\_pear\\_crop\\_forecast\\_2014\\_-\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.wapa-association.org/docs/2014/European_apple_and_pear_crop_forecast_2014_-_Summary.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.polska.pl/en/experience-poland/cuisine/queen-apples/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.freshfruitportal.com/2014/11/24/polish-industry-expects-chinese-apple-market-access-in-2015/?country=egypt>

According to WAPA, production of apples has grown by 70% since 2010 in Poland. Current average prices of fresh apples in Poland are just a third of those registered five years ago. A decrease in prices was connected with growth in Polish apple production while the sharpest year-on-year fall in prices (down 2.5 times) was registered in the current season due to the Russian ban of European foodstuffs in Russia, the main export market for Polish apples before 2014. Apples were sold, on average, at 0.55 euro/kg in the 2010/11 season reaching just 0.19 euro/kg in the season 2014/15.<sup>5</sup>

According to Polish statistics apple exported from Poland to Egypt amounted to ca. 1.5 thousand tons and its value to ca. 1 mln \$ US in 2013. Export of apple from Poland to Egypt have increased to ca. 5.5 thousand tons while its value up to ca. 2.3 mln \$ US in 2014. The tendency of continuous grow of apple export to Egypt is being observed in 2015 as well – during the first quarter of 2015 Polish growers exported to Egypt ca. 5 thousand tons of apple valued at ca. 2 mln \$ US.

Nevertheless Poland's apple export's share in total Egypt's apple import amounts ca. 3.4% with regard to volume and ca. 1.7% with regard to value – according to FAO statistics the total apple import to Egypt amounted ca. 168.5 thousand tons valued at ca. 134.1 mln \$ US with average price almost 800 \$ US per ton in 2011 /no later data are available/.<sup>6</sup>

Thus the scale and high quality of apple production in Poland as well as import intensity of Egypt create opportunities for further increase of apple import to Egypt from Poland.

CAPMAS statistical data for bilateral Egyptian – Polish trade present that apples at the amount of ca. 890 tons valued at ca. 9,6 mln \$ US are within the 30 main products imported from Poland to Egypt in 2014 /CAPMAS, March 2015/.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/137198/Polish-apple-production-70-percent-increase>

<sup>6</sup> <http://faostat.fao.org/desktopdefault.aspx?pageid=342&lang=en&country=59>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.capmas.gov.eg/>