



2 October 2015

(15-5116)

Page: 1/5

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: French

MARKET ACCESS PROBLEMS FOR CERTAIN SENEGALESE PRODUCTS

COMMUNICATION FROM SENEGAL

The following communication, received on 1 October 2015, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Senegal.

In preparation for the SPS Committee meeting scheduled to take place in Geneva in October 2015, the African Union, through the InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR), invited African countries to Nairobi with a view to enhancing their capacities and identifying trade problems concerning access to certain markets.

In Senegal's case, it was noted that access to some markets is proving difficult, most notably for mangoes wishing to enter the Lebanese and Tunisian markets, and cherry tomatoes destined for the Russian market.

1 ACCESS TO THE LEBANESE AND TUNISIAN MARKETS FOR SENEGALESE MANGOES

1.1 Background

1.1. Of the estimated 150,000 tonnes of mangoes produced by Senegal, 16,000 tonnes are exported to various markets. 80% of these exports are destined for the European Union, despite its fairly strict phytosanitary and trade requirements.

1.2. The main constraint in this sector is the presence of *Bactrocera dorsalis*, commonly known as fruit fly, and, to a lesser extent, certain diseases of fungal etiology, such as anthracnose caused by *Colletotrichum gloeosporoides*.

1.3. This quarantine pest (fruit fly), present in Senegal since 2004, has been the focus of numerous research programmes seeking to establish reliable and environmentally-friendly control methods.

1.4. In the years following the first infestations, exports decreased considerably and interception notifications were made by destination countries.

1.2 Mango sector achievements

1.5. Thanks to encouraging results from the research into control methods, and the development of a technical mechanism to monitor sector participants, mango exports continue to increase each year in very demanding markets.

1.6. With regard to risk analysis, the Government of the United States has provided trade opportunities for developing countries within the framework of its AGOA programme. Many Senegalese products are eligible, including fruits and vegetables.

1.7. In line with the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the rules of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and US requirements, it was necessary to conduct a phytosanitary risk analysis for the five sectors identified by exporters (mango, melon, bean, asparagus and cherry tomato). The results showed that these products could indeed be exported to the American market, which has very strict phytosanitary requirements.

1.8. A quality-management system has also been introduced in this sector. The system covers the following:

- the recording of all small and medium-sized horticultural enterprises and operators/exporters in the Plant Protection Directorate (DPV) database;
- the classification of these enterprises and operators/exporters, according to the level of risk that they may represent;
- the planning of the monitoring of enterprises and packaging plants;
- the development of a public-private partnership and the creation of a capacity-building programme;
- international Global GAP and Organic Farming standard certification of at least 30 mango-exporting companies, including those wishing to explore the markets concerned.

1.9. This strategy enables inspectors and crop protection agents to monitor all operators, from the production stage through to the packaging stage; to carry out phytosanitary surveillance activities; to direct control operations; and to carry out the necessary trade conformity and phytosanitary checks using existing validated procedures, before any certificates are issued.

1.10. Regarding the results of this approach, we have noted an increase in the volume of mangoes entering the international market and in the level of conformity of the products; indeed, plant and plant product inspection and control services have received European Community approval for the control of conformity to marketing standards applicable to fruit and vegetables (REG 430/EC).

1.11. Mango exports rose from 7,658 tonnes in 2011 to 15,124 tonnes in 2014, an increase of 100% in four years.

1.12. Mangoes are Senegal's primary horticultural export product in terms of volume entering the international market. The current 2015 season has set a new record, with mango exports amounting to almost 17,000 tonnes. Senegal is currently the second most important West African mango-exporting country after Côte d'Ivoire, ahead of Mali and Burkina Faso.

1.13. Destination markets consider our mangoes to be of good quality and know that phytosanitary problems such as anthracnose and fruit fly are well managed.

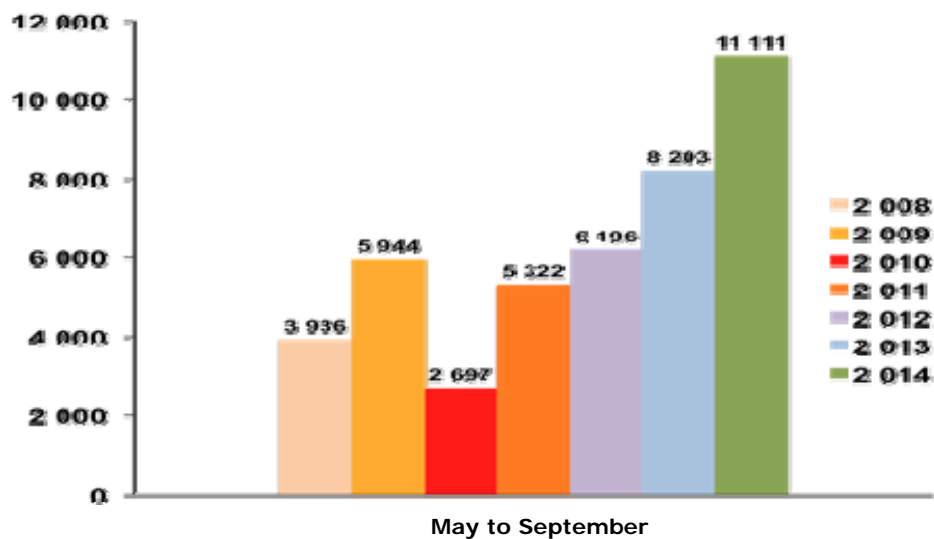
1.14. Exports to the international market in 2014 were distributed as follows:

Table: Distribution of export volumes by destination, 2014

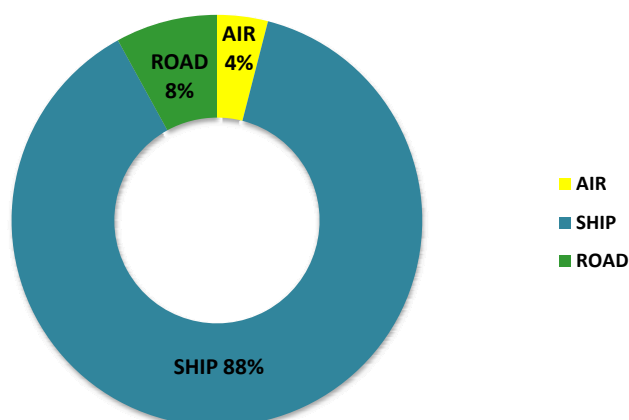
| Period | Destination | Volume (T) |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| June-September 2014 | European Union | 11,111 |
| | Mauritania | 1,587 |
| | Ghana | 1,602 |
| | Morocco | 818 |
| | Dubai | 5 |
| Total | | 15,123 |

1.15. At 30 September 2014, the total volume of mango exports amounted to 15,123 tonnes (all destinations: Europe, sub-region and others).

Exports of mangoes to the EU from May to September in the last six years (tonnes)



Transport used to export mangoes, 2014 (excluding road shipments to Mauritania)



1.3 Fruit fly management system and other post-harvest activities

1.3.1 A research-approved zonal approach (zones 1, 2, 3) has been applied to all mango-exporting regions in Senegal. It comprises the following activities:

- ongoing training for producers and exporters on fruit fly control methods and market requirements;
- orchard sanitation, other prophylactic measures and the use of good agricultural practices;
- the application of the male annihilation technique, using pheromone traps (Mal'atrap);
- the use of edible bait (Success Bait) to control female flies;
- the release of 300,000 biological agents (*Fopius arisanus*) in the various production areas (biological control);
- post-release monitoring has shown the good establishment and dispersion of the parasitoids, resulting in a considerable reduction in fruit fly populations and an improvement in fruit quality. The parasitoid breeding programme is conducted at the Agricultural Zoology Laboratory and the Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute in Djibélor, Casamance.

1.3.2 Procedure for organizing harvesting and post-harvesting activities

1.16. The self-monitoring system applied in horticultural enterprises in conjunction with quality experts takes into account aspects such as the following:

- the criteria to be met by mangoes for export (selection of varieties, level of ripeness according to mode of transport, colouring, etc.);
- defects of unpicked fruit identified by specialized and trained pickers;
- serious quality problems (insect holes, stem rot, diseases, etc.);
- mango handling and harvesting techniques (necessary equipment, fruit selection, picking, de-stemming, packing, loading/unloading, etc.).

1.17. Official phytosanitary and quality checks at packing centres and exit points are carefully conducted by a dedicated technical team of sworn inspectors, with a view to further reassuring our trading partners.

1.18. At this stage, check-lists are used and inspection reports are filed in case tracing is at some point necessary.

1.19. Any non-conforming consignment, i.e. one that does not meet the phytosanitary requirements, is downgraded.

1.20. Thanks to the above-mentioned measures, we are sure that we can guarantee the appropriate level of phytosanitary protection for the markets concerned; indeed, most of our mango exports (85%) are destined for the European Union and the Maghreb (Morocco), both of which have very strict quarantine requirements.

1.4 Initiatives with the countries concerned

1.21. The demand for mangoes in the countries concerned is high, and yet certain professional operators have been unsuccessful in their attempts to penetrate these markets.

1.22. Senegal's NPPO has raised this issue with the national SPS enquiry points or IPPC contact points in these countries, but to no avail, and bilateral sessions have therefore been requested at the SPS Committee meeting in Geneva in order to deepen market access discussions with these countries.

1.23. Senegal even plans to invite Tunisia and Lebanon to come and see at first hand the steps it is taking to deal with the phytosanitary problems affecting mangoes, with the support of the Government and a number of projects and programmes, such as the ECOWAS regional project, financed by the European Union, and the project to enhance the competitiveness of Senegalese mangoes (PACMS), financed by the Enhanced Integrated Framework Trust Fund (CFAF 1.5 billion) (exclusively for the mango sector).

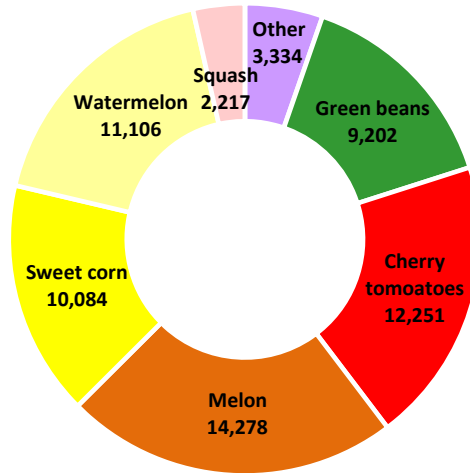
2 ACCESS TO THE RUSSIAN MARKET FOR CHERRY TOMATOES

2.1. Given the opportunities presented by this market, certain Senegalese operators have attempted to enter it in conjunction with their European partners.

2.2. Unfortunately, however, the products concerned are often blocked at Russian Federation border points for documentation-related reasons, e.g. recurrent authentication of phytosanitary certificates. Given the perishable nature of these products, there are plans for a bilateral meeting with the Russian delegation to examine this issue, within the framework of the SPS Committee meeting.

2.3. If necessary, original phytosanitary documents and other specimen signatures from approved Senegalese plant health inspectors will be given to the Russian delegation to facilitate the passage of the products concerned. Although the products transit through the European Union, specific trade problems between Europe and Russia should not have a negative impact on products from other origins (*reference: Import restrictions imposed by Russia on certain types of plant product (potatoes) from the European Union (STC 372) due to the presence of quarantine pests*).

2.4. Regarding this sector's results for 2014, it should be noted that after several years in which out-of-season cherry tomato exports amounted to around 9,000 tonnes, the 2014 season recorded a sharp increase, with exports amounting to 12,251 tonnes (+26%), 86% of which was exported by the GDS company (10,537 tonnes).



2.5. Cherry tomatoes have therefore become the second most important export product (in 2013, it was watermelon). The destination markets consider this product to be of high quality, as evidenced by the absence of notifications of interception on the international market.

2.6. To resolve the problem, the two countries have exchanged correspondence through the Russian Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Control Service and the Senegalese Plant Protection Directorate (through diplomatic channels).