



# TOMATO TOPICS



Know-how for Horticulture™

NEWS and INFORMATION  
FOR THE PROCESSING TOMATO INDUSTRY

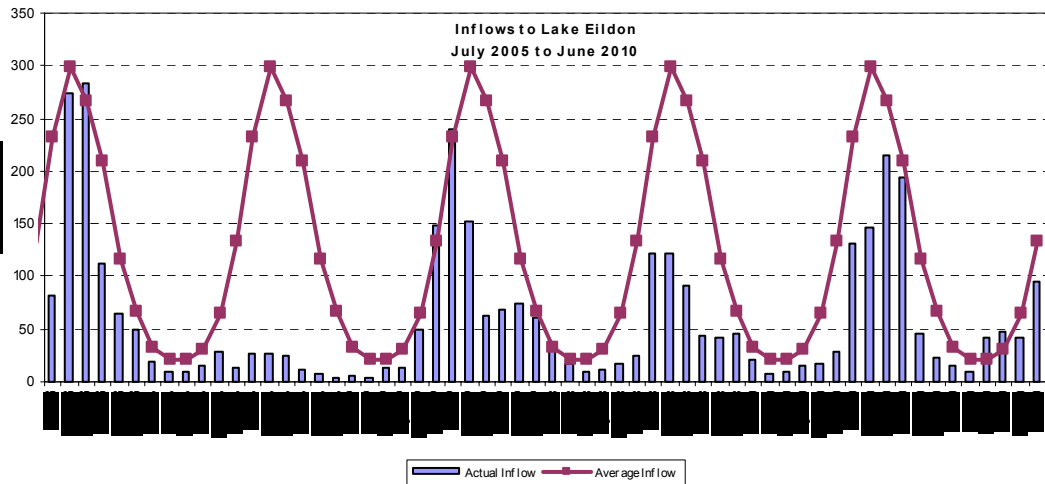
ISSN 1038-3522

JUNE 2010

VOL. 19 NO. 2

## 2009/10 End of Season

The 2009/10 season was a very long drawn out season, with a number of crops being harvest in excess of 160 days after planting. Harvest was finally completed in mid-May.



The season saw approximately 265,000 tonnes processed, from 2,806 ha, with an average brix of 5.08%. The average industry yield was a little over 94 t/ha, up from the previous seasons' record of 90t/ha. Approximately 65% of the planted area was established using transplants, with approximately 80% of the crop irrigated via sub-surface drip irrigation.

At this stage inflows into Lake Eildon are higher than in previous seasons, especially for the months of May and June. Based on the current storage levels and inflows the forecast for the Goulburn system indicates that even in a "dry" year allocations should be close to 50% by the end of the current year.

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## Update from Nuffield Scholar - Brad Stillard

As you may already know, my "Global Focus Program" group left Australia on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, 2010.

The group had a good mix of people from all agricultural industries, including bee keeping, wild catch cray fishing, standard cropping and livestock businesses - not forgetting myself in the horticulture category. We had two New Zealanders in our group so we call ourselves the Nuffield Anzaacs.

The flight to London via Sydney from Canberra was without drama, all be it a long one. We lodged at the Farmers Club, which is right in the heart of London, a short distance from Trafalgar square.

It wasn't long before we set out for France to tour the Western Front and attend the service in Ypres at Menin Gate where the names of the lost and fallen line the walls. Every night traffic is stopped so the service can be held. It is of some significance that the names of Australian soldiers fill these walls and the original lions that once adorned the gate now stand at the entrance to the war memorial in Canberra.

We made our way to Brussels for briefings on the EU to gain a greater understanding of their farming payments and structure. Our speaker from Ireland really drilled us with some very frank discussions claiming "most of the people running the EU are morons".

After Brussels we returned to England by train. We then stayed with James Peck (Nuffield UK 2010 Scholar) on his farm in Cambridgeshire. James runs a cropping business and warehouse on farm. The UK scholars set out our agenda for the week with trips to Cereals 2010 (a large field day) and Rothamsted Research (oldest long term wheat trial in the world, over 160 years). Farm visits to Jo Franklin's and James Peck's were very good value and I enjoyed talking to them about their businesses.

We have had a busy time with something on every day. Ireland was no exception and the five 2010 Irish Nuffield scholars worked hard at maintaining that as soon as we touched down in Dublin. I now understand why it is called the Emerald Island. Green, green, green. The farmers here complain about too much rain. If only they could export the stuff. How different their world is to ours!

Brewing, distilling, potatoes and dairy play a big part in this country. Most cereal crops I saw looked great and if they continue to have the fine weather we had on our stay they should finish well.

Potato crops looked good and I discovered the Irish prefer a waxy potato over what I would describe as a common potato that we in Australia are more familiar with. Rooster was the most commonly grown; preferred by both the consumer and grower.

A balloon ride over Kilkenny was a highlight during our time in Ireland. From the air the countryside was beautiful. We

landed in a farmers field with him and his family getting a kick out of having a group of farmers from Australia and New Zealand "drop in on them

Sadly our time in Ireland ended and we made our way to Washington DC. Upon arriving we had the day off to relax and catch up. Before heading to the Australian Embassy for a briefing on US agriculture and catch up with MLA.



## Water Stable Aggregate (WSA%) testing

Doris Blaesing, RMCG

Soil samples, 10-30cm depths taken after harvest as part of the 2008/09 field survey were investigated for water stable aggregates (WSA%). This was done because this soil structure indicator has shown significant correlations with marketable yield of other vegetable crops.

### What information does WSA% provide?

The physical property of WSA is a fundamental soil parameter. It is an indicator of a soil's resistance to compaction. High WSA%, heavy soils have enhanced friability and crumbliness from good aggregation, which makes soils seem lighter.

Soils with low WSA%:

- are more difficult to manage and get to a good tilth,
- do not drain or dry off well,
- tend to form surface crusts which can reduce both, water infiltration and air exchange,
- may be affected by sodicity or salinity,
- may be low in organic matter (carbon), and have suppressed biological activity.

### The Test

Aggregate Stability (WSA%) testing is a relatively new technology, which allows measuring a soil structure indicator from the same soil sample used for a chemical soil analysis. It measures the extent to which soil aggregates resist falling apart when hit by water drops. The WSA% test has been available in Australia since 2009.

The Cornell University soil health team developed the test. It is part of the soil health testing range described in their manual ([www.hort.cornell.edu/soilhealth/extension/manual.htm](http://www.hort.cornell.edu/soilhealth/extension/manual.htm)) Ag-Vita Analytical in Devonport imported equipment from Cornell to conduct the analysis.

WSA% testing is using a raindrop simulation sprinkler (Photo 1) that steadily delivers uniform sized water droplets from a known height over a measured time period onto a sieve containing a known weight of 0.5mm to 2.00mm screened dried soil (Photo 2). Soil aggregates that are unstable will fall apart under this rainfall simulation and pass through the sieve to be

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

collected on filter papers, which are dried overnight and re-weighed. The effect of remnant inert mineral grains (pebbles) in the retained soil aggregates (Photo 3) is also taken into account.



The reported WSA % is calculated using the dried weight of the stable and slaked fractions, and expressed as percentage of the total sample weight.

1- 'Rain-maker'

**What to do with low WSA soils**

Long-term and / or extensive tillage of soils can break down soil aggregates, and reduce organic matter, causing compaction, which affects root growth and function. Salinity or sodicity can have similar effects on soil structure. Soils can become so degraded (compacted) that they become reliant on intensive tillage, so that crop establishment requires several soil loosening operations. A successful transition to reduced tillage and planting operations often requires significant addition of green manure or alternative organic matter and reduced tillage as soil conditions improve. Monitoring the WSA% of soils can aid soil management decisions, and show that with increased green manure cropping or organic matter applications as well as lime and / or gypsum use soil aggregates stabilise as required.

**WSA% measurements for tomato paddocks**

To get baseline data on the range of WSA% results in tomato paddocks, soil samples from around drip lines (10-30 cm depth) were used for the WSA% tests. The depth was selected because the area around drip lines can show structure degradation.

Figure 1 illustrates that the WSA% from tomato paddocks covers a

2 - Dry soil sample in sieve over filter



3- Stable aggregates stay in the sieve

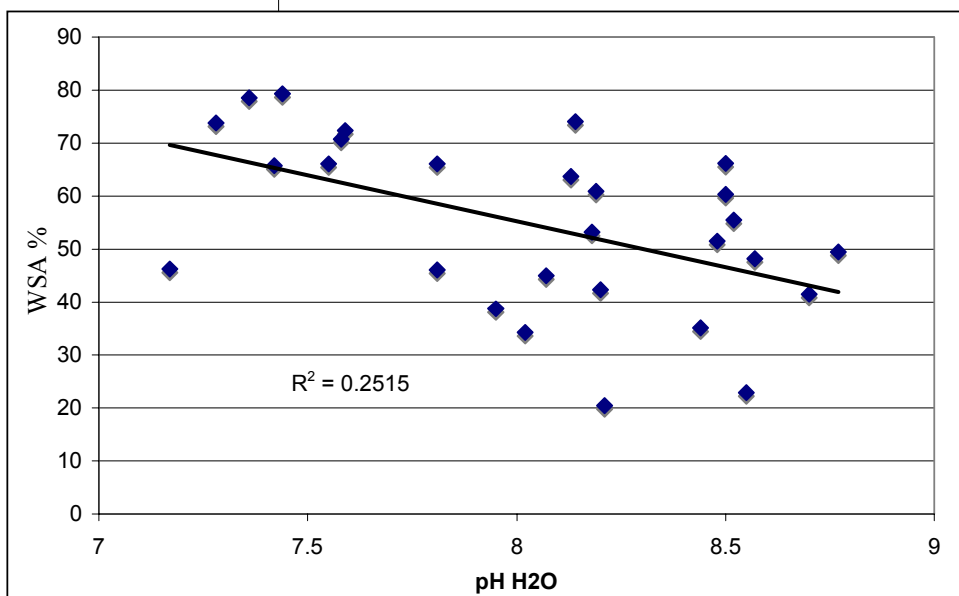


wide range from 20% to 80%. This is similar to the range found in Tasmanian vegetable cropping soils. Results from the tomato soil samples could only be correlated to other soil parameters, as yield data was not available. The correlation analysis showed a weak relationship between WSA% and pH in water. Increasing pH values were associated with a decrease in aggregate stability.

In tomato paddocks, a high pH is often associated with high soil sodium and magnesium levels which both lead to poor soil structure.

This indicator requires calibration for tomato crops in paddocks with different tillage and cropping history and correlation with yield and soluble solids data.

**Figure 1 – Water stable aggregates (WSA%) and soil pH in water (H<sub>2</sub>O) for soils in 10-30cm depth (2009/10 crops)**



## Summary from the Lycocard Workshop Estoril, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2010

The LYCOCARD project investigates the role of lycopene in reducing the risk of cardiovascular diseases

### GOALS:

- Establish improved nutritional guidelines (help consumers to select healthy foods)
- Design and development of healthy new foods based on tomatoes (strengthen food industry)

The Lycocard project consists of four areas:

1. In vitro studies
2. In vivo studies
3. Food product studies
4. Nutritional guidelines and dissemination

The Food product studies focused on analysing the bioactive compounds in tomatoes, and the effect of processing and storage. With the aim to develop new tomato-based products with improved nutritional levels.

Bioactive compounds contained in tomatoes include the antioxidants (Carotenoids, Phenolic compounds, Vitamin C and E), the non antioxidants (Folates), and Essential vitamins (Folic Acid).

During this project lycopene, phenolic and folate levels were measured in a number of different cultivars over a period of 3 seasons. These results indicate that levels of all three components varies from year to year. In addition lycopene levels were shown to increase as fruit ripened, although the total phenolic levels showed little variation (although a very slight decrease in level was evident as fruit ripened).

The effect of processing and storage on bioactive compounds was also investigated. It appeared that there was no significant change in lycopene level after thermal treatment, although the total phenolics and vitamin c did drop by between 10-15%. A subsequent study also demonstrated that the total lycopene losses following storage of product at temperatures between 8 and 37°C was less than 17%; lower than what was found during a literature survey. Total phenolics and flavonoids also remained relatively stable during the same period. Folates and Vitamin C on the other hand are the most labile and are markedly affected by storage conditions, with folate losses being greatest in glass.

A number of clinical studies have also been undertaken within Lycocard. At this stage no real positive correlation has been found between tomato consumption and atherosclerosis. Lycopene has however been shown to have strong pro-vitamin A activity and also activates nuclear receptors responsible for lipid homeostasis and metabolism.

In summary lycopene:

1. Is no wonder-drug against atherosclerosis
2. Can inhibit/ameliorate low grade inflammation
3. Can mediate (positively) pro-inflammatory lipid metabolism

4. Can be potentially beneficial for diabetes induction
5. Can be potentially beneficial for chronic inflammation in the lung
6. And tomatoes does impact upon prostate cancer although the mechanism is still unknown

Lycopene and tomatoes maybe protective against a number of diseases.



## Tomato and Health Commission Report- WPTC

Gwen Young provided a summary of the following

- Lycopene ADI
- Tomato & Health Topics
- Tomato Product Wellness Council (TPWC)
- Lycocard

Tomato and Health topics focused on a number of issues, including the USDA Dietary Guidelines currently being developed. Currently these guidelines state the following:

1. Reduce Sodium: 2,300 to 1,500mg
2. Address Obesity children reduce sugar-sweetened beverages & drink less fruit juice. Americans reduce calories & saturated fats, exercise more
3. Eat fish 2/ week
4. Shift towards plant-based diet

Comments on the draft guidelines are due by the 8 July

In addition *“Healthy foods should be made more affordable, that the food industry should be encouraged to produce foods with lower levels of solid fats, added sugar and refined grains, and that processed foods should be offered in smaller portions.”* Source: 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Committee

TPWC is an organization of tomato growers, processors and well-known brands working to create awareness of the health benefits of tomato products by providing industry-wide leadership, communications and scientific research. Founded in 2007. They have recently conducted focus groups across the USA to learn drivers for tomato product demand. Feedback from these groups was:

The key benefit for consumers is not just “versatility ” but “They are just so versatile!” “versatility that everyone loves”

- Recipe variety
- Flavour variety
- Customizable

“Tomato sauce makes mealtime more convenient and we can enjoy mealtime together as a family.” – Taste everyone likes

On the emotional side, tomato products were seen as a key catalyst for bringing the family together, more so than other mealtime products.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Farm Chemical Refresher Course Echuca

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010

9.00am to 2.30pm (**Light Lunch Supplied**)

Quality Inn (465 High St Echuca)

To ensure a place and confirm your attendance please forward the enclosed enrolment form with your credit card details or cheque made payable to Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE for \$145.00.

Please post to: GOTAFE, C/o Ross Wade, Fryers St, Shepparton, 3630

Please also include a copy of your drivers licence or any other photo ID as this is now required to complete your enrolment.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Ross Wade on 03 58332816 or email [rwade@gotafe.vic.edu.au](mailto:rwade@gotafe.vic.edu.au)

### Practical On-Farm Workshops with Dean Lanyon and Doris Blaesing Managing long term sub-surface drip irrigation to minimise the impact on soil structure and plant nutrition (Soil Awareness Workshop)

Boort - Thursday afternoon August 12th 2010

Rochester - Friday morning August 13th 2010

Cost \$770/person (fully refundable via Farm Ready)

Please contact Liz by the 30<sup>th</sup> July if you are interested in participating. If sufficient demand is not evident the courses will be cancelled

### 14<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Precision Agriculture in Australasia

2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2010

Commercial Club, Albury, NSW

Registration details and more information about the Symposium and Workshop programs will be available on the ACPA website.

<http://sydney.edu.au/agriculture/acpa/>



## Plant and Soil Sample for Analysis by AgVita

In order to comply with recent changes to the Tasmanian Plant Quarantine import requirements [all plant and soil samples now need to be double bagged](#). The best way to do this is to place samples into a plastic ziplock bag then into a second sealed plastic bag, before posted in an express post envelope.

The reason for this is two fold, firstly to comply with the Tasmanian Plant Quarantine import requirements and secondly to maintain the integrity of the samples should

the sample bags burst, which can happen. AgVita can provide suitable plastic bags, please contact us if you would like us to post some to you.

It is also important that all sample are accompanied by a completed sample information sheet. AgVita is able to provide you with sample label booklets, if you would like a label booklet, please let us know and we will post one to you.

AgVita appreciates your understanding regarding these requirements, if you would like to discuss further or please contact Lisa Hurry on (03) 6420 9600

# Meeting the Challenges of Global food Security: Implications for Horticulture

Horticulture Australia Ltd

The world's population is predicted to reach 9 billion by 2050, with a growing middle class in developing nations placing an even greater pressure on global food supply.

In July 2009 at the G8 summit in L'Aquila, Italy, 26 countries, including Australia, and 14 multilateral agencies endorsed *The Joint Statement on Global Food Security* which outlines a coordinated approach to food security. The supporting countries and agencies (among these the United Nations, World Bank and World Trade Organisation) agreed "to act with the scale and urgency needed to achieve sustainable global food security". They acknowledged that "*the food security agenda should focus on agriculture and rural development by promoting sustainable production, productivity and rural economic growth*". So what does 'food security' mean? According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN FAO) the following definition applies:

*"Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."*

Horticulture's Submission to the Agriculture and Food Policy Reference Group (C2005) provided a more 'local' definition: *"Food security refers to the ability of Australians to have access to a safe and healthy food supply grown domestically."*

In March 2010, the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Tony Burke MP, raised the issue of global food security at the ABARE Outlook Conference, noting that food security is one of the "three biggest issues in the world" along with climate change and the global financial crisis. The CEO of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Dr Nick Austin, also spoke on the need for a revolution in productivity to deal with global food security. *"Population growth and constraints on food production, including from the anticipated affects of climate change and shifting supply and demand patterns, must be balanced by improved agricultural yields,"* Dr Austin said. *"What is necessary is not one revolution in agricultural productivity, but a series of country specific responses to spark a range of mini-revolutions in productivity that leverages off intellectual capital and an understanding of the environment."*

For more than 20 years Australia's horticultural industries, along with other agricultural industries, have been investing through rural research and development corporations, such as Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL), in sustainably improving their productivity. Productivity improvements in horticulture have been achieved through developments across all areas of production. The processing tomato industry has invested in many of these areas. Additionally, climate change will affect productivity across all industries and therefore will impact on food security. Some of the risks to food supply because of climate change include increased crop failure, new

patterns of pests and diseases, lack of appropriate seeds and planting material, and loss of livestock.

Speaking at the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis in January 2009, Minister Burke said the global financial crisis and climate change were interrelated with food security. The Minister said *"Climate change represents a significant risk to the sustainability of the world's agricultural production... We face the challenge of improving food security, while at the same time reducing the emissions profile of agriculture."*

All industries that receive R&D funding through HAL contribute to the Across Industry Program. One of the projects being completed through the program this year aims to increase industry capability and understanding of climate change and climate variability implications and begins to identify the actions required to address these impacts.

In essence it is a national strategic response to the risk of climate change and climate variability. The long-term goal is to increase the resilience of the horticulture industry to respond to climate challenges and subsequently maximise sustainable production, increase productivity and decrease the commercial risk of climate change and climate variability.

The project is being implemented from March 2010 to March 2011 and will result in the following outputs:

- The final version of the Horticulture Climate Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Matrix
- A horticulture climate position paper, which will include a summary of commodity specific climate RDE needs and gaps
- Up to 10 topic-specific grower fact sheets based on currently available information
- A research-industry forum/workshop
- A consumer fact sheet

The Positioning & Planning component commenced in April 2010. Growcom's Climate Change Officer, David Putland has been commissioned to develop a strong industry position on the climate research. David's role is to consult with industry, identify synergies/opportunities within investment plans, highlight any gaps in the Preliminary Horticulture Climate RD&E Matrix and then develop the Horticulture Climate Position Paper. The Horticulture Climate Position Paper will sit in front of the Climate Matrix as a public summary and both documents will be available for all industry members to use. David will use the Climate Matrix as a trigger for discussions with industry regarding their commodity-specific climate RD&E needs.

Australia and its horticultural industries have a vital part to play in meeting the challenge of the global food crisis. The investment in programs to increase productivity over the past and going forward will not only benefit the processing tomato industry, it will help to meet the increasing global demand for food.



# WORLD PROCESSING TOMATO COUNCIL

Date of last update: 21 June 2010

		2007 FINAL	2008 FINAL	2009 FINAL	2010 FORECAST 20 June 2010	AVERAGE 2007 to 2009
all figures in 1000 metric tonnes						
<b>NORTHERN HEMISPHERE*</b>	<b>MEMBERS IN MEDITERRANEAN REGION (AMITOM)</b>					
	Algeria**	300	260	200	250	253
	Egypt	36	108	150	150	98
	France	99	125	215	200	146
	Greece	640	670	810	680	707
	Iran**	2 100	2 060	2 400	2 100	2 187
	Israel	225	240	238	240	234
	Italy	4 600	4 900	5 747	4 800	5 082
	Malta**	9	12	12	12	11
	Morocco	140	160	160	160	153
	Portugal***	1 030	998	1 242	1 100	1 090
	Spain***	1 801	1 770	2 700	1 900	2 090
	Syria**	70	150	150	150	123
	Tunisia	580	800	750	750	710
	Turkey	1 650	2 700	1 800	1 600	2 050
	Ukraine**	85	150	340	340	192
	<b>Subtotal Mediterranean Region</b>	<b>13 365</b>	<b>15 103</b>	<b>16 914</b>	<b>14 432</b>	<b>15 127</b>
	<b>MEMBERS IN NORTH AMERICA</b>					
	California	10 950	10 720	12 073	11 158	11 248
	Canada	563	560	495	478	539
<b>Subtotal North America</b>	<b>11 513</b>	<b>11 280</b>	<b>12 568</b>	<b>11 636</b>	<b>11 787</b>	
<b>MEMBERS IN ASIA</b>						
China	4 600	6 405	8 655	7 650	6 553	
Japan	43	44	40	42	42	
<b>Subtotal Asia</b>	<b>4 643</b>	<b>6 449</b>	<b>8 695</b>	<b>7 692</b>	<b>6 596</b>	
<b>Subtotal WPTC members</b>	<b>29 521</b>	<b>32 832</b>	<b>38 177</b>	<b>33 760</b>	<b>33 510</b>	
<b>NON MEMBERS</b>						
Bulgaria	140	150	150	150	147	
Hungary	115	83	110	90	103	
Poland	205	160	100	120	155	
Czech Republic	15	15	15	15	15	
Slovakia	30	30	30	30	30	
Other US States (exc. California)	524	439	556	545	506	
<b>Subtotal non-members</b>	<b>1 029</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>956</b>	
<b>Total Northern Hemisphere</b>	<b>30 550</b>	<b>33 709</b>	<b>39 138</b>	<b>34 710</b>	<b>34 466</b>	
		2007 FINAL	2008 FINAL	2009 FINAL	2010 FORECAST 20 June 2010	AVERAGE 2007 to 2009
<b>SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE*</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>					
	Argentina	340	350	450	390	380
	Australia	229	151	270	265	217
	Brazil	1 291	1 200	1 150	1 680	1 214
	Chile	670	510	619	864	600
	South Africa	160	150	167	140	159
	<b>Subtotal WPTC members</b>	<b>2 690</b>	<b>2 361</b>	<b>2 656</b>	<b>3 339</b>	<b>2 569</b>
	India	120	130	130	130	127
	Mexico	17	18	18	18	18
	New Zealand	70	65	65	65	67
	Peru	70	70	70	70	70
	Senegal	52	51	70	70	58
	Taiwan	20	20	20	20	20
Thailand	260	260	260	260	260	
Venezuela	40	40	40	40	40	
<b>Subtotal non-members</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>659</b>	
<b>Total Southern Hemisphere</b>	<b>3 339</b>	<b>3 015</b>	<b>3 329</b>	<b>4 012</b>	<b>3 228</b>	
<b>GENERAL TOTAL</b>		<b>33 889</b>	<b>36 724</b>	<b>42 467</b>	<b>38 722</b>	<b>37 693</b>
of which members of the WPTC		32 211	35 193	40 833	37 099	36 079
		95,0%	95,8%	96,2%	95,8%	95,7%

all figures in 1000 metric tonnes

in red estimates, to recent information on the country

**DISCLAIMER**

All figures are provided to WPTC members and other participating experts of the processing associations. WPTC does not guarantee or assume any liability for the accuracy of the contents of this site/report and shall not be responsible for any losses sustained as a result of relying on the contained information.

\*Hemispheres are not defined in the strict geographic sense but as:  
Northern Hemisphere: crop period mainly July to December  
Southern Hemisphere: crop period mainly January to June

\*\* AMITOM associate members

\*\*\* Tomatoes produced in Portugal but processed in Spain are reported in Spain

## Farm Biosecurity Survey

Plant Health Australia is about to undertake a producer survey in partnership with Animal Health Australia as part of the Farm Biosecurity program.

The phone-based survey will aim to ascertain biosecurity awareness levels and the types of practices currently being employed by Australian farmers.

Results will give Members an idea of status of their industries and provide important baseline information so that the impact of the Farm Biosecurity program and other Member initiatives might be better measured into the future. Feedback will also provide insights into the drivers and information needs of producers in relation to building better biosecurity awareness and practice and the communication approaches that will be most successful.

A modified version of the survey will be delivered to grains producers as part of the Grains Farm Biosecurity Program. This will explore in more detail actions being taken by producers to improve biosecurity, including the area of on-farm grain storage. The impact of tools and support services being rolled out by state based grains biosecurity officers, and nationally by PHA, will also be looked at. The Grains Farm Biosecurity Program comprises a range of customised communication and extension projects being delivered by PHA with direct funding by growers through the Grains Council of Australia and in-kind support from participating government agencies.

We have worked with the researcher and Members, to ensure we achieve representative sample sizes for most Member

industries. This will enable PHA to share with you information about biosecurity awareness levels specific to your industry, which will in turn help your efforts to educate and inform your growers.

PHA would greatly appreciate you alerting your growers that the survey is about to commence and encouraging them to take part if they get a phone call. This will help ensure we have enough respondents to be confident in the results.

The research consultant, Solutions Marketing and Research, conducted last year's PHA Member and Stakeholder Survey. The survey gets underway from today and will finish later in July. It is anticipated that the final report will be available in September this year. I look forward to sharing the results with you at that time.

If you have any questions about the Farm Biosecurity Producer Survey, please feel free to contact Jim McGrath, PHA's Communications Manager, on (02) 6215 7708.



## Cedenco Sale

Food ingredients manufacturer Cedenco Foods (New Zealand) has been sold to Japanese food group Imanaka, subject to Overseas Investment Office approval. The business is being sold as a going concern, and Imanaka planned to continue operating Cedenco Foods in Gisborne and Hawke's Bay.

Cedenco Australia has been sold to a Japanese food manufacturer. A conditional agreement has been entered into with a subsidiary of Kagome Co., Ltd for the sale of all of the assets of Cedenco Australia and related trading entities, including SS Farms Australia.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

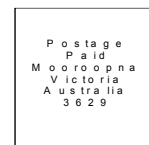
Funding from Horticulture Australia Ltd. (HAL) for the Technology Transfer project (TM05007) is acknowledged. "Tomato Topics" is a quarterly newsletter compiled and edited by Liz Mann, Industry Development Manager, APTRC Inc., P.O. Box 2293, SHEPPARTON, VIC 3632.

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