



PRESS RELEASE

63. International Seedless Dried Grape
Producing Countries Conference

October 13-14, 2023
İzmir, Türkiye

The 63rd International Seedless Dried Grape Producing Countries Conference was recently held in İzmir, Türkiye on October 13-14, 2023. This marked the first visit of the conference to İzmir since 2010, following the Anuga Food Fair in Cologne. The conference aimed to facilitate the exchange of information on worldwide production and marketing. Delegations from Argentina, Australia, Chile, South Africa, Türkiye, and the United States, as well as Türkiye's exporters, were in attendance.

Mr. Osman Oz from Türkiye was elected as chairman, Mr. Mark King from Australia as deputy chairman, and Mrs. Ece Tirkaz from Türkiye as secretary for the conference. In his opening speech, Mr. Osman Oz stated: "It is an honor to host this conference here in İzmir, the third-largest city in Turkey. The grapevine's origin is believed to be in Anatolia, and with its 8500-year history, İzmir is located at the beginning of the western coast of the Anatolian Peninsula. İzmir is not only a contemporary and developed city but also an important center for culture, art, tourism, and trade. Today, the global dried fruit market is estimated to be around 11 billion USD, with the dried grape industry holding a substantial share of approximately 25%. The past few years have been marked by a series of challenges, including the global COVID-19 crisis, the conflict in Ukraine, and various economic issues. In our industry, we've had to put forth tremendous efforts to adapt and survive in the face of these developments. We will have the privilege of hearing from our guest speakers and participants from Argentina, Australia, Chile, Iran, South Africa, Turkey, and the USA. The knowledge shared here has the potential to shape the future of our industry, and I encourage all of you to take full advantage of this opportunity."



The Conference discussed the world supply and demand position and noted that the seedless dried grape supply from the Sultana/Natural Seedless Raisin varieties has decreased by 21% compared to the 2022 crop, primarily due to short beginning stock (down 10.3%) and production issues. Production would not be able to meet global demand. However, taking account of current stock levels, in addition to production, supply would indeed be able to meet global demand. This would result that global carryover be significantly reduced (by 86%) to the next period. The production of Golden raisins has remained unchanged, but total supply decreased by 8% due to a short carryover stock. The supply of currants has also decreased by 9%, mainly due to the smaller Australian crop.

The Conference recorded the attached seedless dried grape production estimates and heard presentations from each country represented, explaining the seasonal outlook and production conditions in each. Additionally, the conference recorded the 2024 seedless grape production estimates. Mr. Ferdie Botha from South African Delegation made a presentation about the activities of the Dried Fruit Alliance in the UK. Professor Ahmet Altındışli from Ege University, who is also the President of the OIV Viticulture Committee, delivered a presentation on the impacts of climate change on viticulture worldwide.

On the 14th of October 2023, technical visits were held in Manisa, major grape production area in Türkiye, with a particular emphasis on the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Manisa Viticulture Research Institute. During these technical visits, participants had the chance to engage with local experts and exchange views on grape production techniques and recent developments. The Conference decided to establish a committee to work on innovation and marketing issues throughout the year. It was confirmed that the next conference will be held in London on October 24-25, 2024, after Sial Exhibition in Paris.

Variety: Sultana & Raisins (All figures metric tonnes packed weight / Goldens or sulphur bleached reported separately below)

Country	Estimated physical stock	Estimated production Northern Hemisphere	Estimated production Southern Hemisphere	Total estimated available product for marketing	Estimated invoiced domestic sales	Balance available for export marketing	Estimated invoiced export sales	Estimated physical stock as at 31/08/2024	Planned carryout required to maintain supply between seasons	Surplus stocks to estimated sales and planned
Greece	0	1.000		1.000	0	1.000	0	1.000	0	1.000
Iran	5.000	90.000		95.000	30.000	65.000	30.000	35.000	5.000	30.000
Turkey	70.000	206.346		276.346	30.000	246.346	236.346	10.000	0	10.000
USA	50.021	150.253		200.274	143.812	56.462	53.380	3.082	41.073	-37.991
India	0	145.000		145.000	115.000	30.000	23.000	7.000	5.000	2.000
Uzbekistan	0	20.000		20.000	15.000	5.000	2.000	3.000	0	3.000
China	0	190.000		190.000	160.000	30.000	25.000	5.000	5.000	0
Argentina	1.500		34.000	35.500	10.000	25.500	23.000	2.500	1.500	1.000
Australia	450		7.309	7.759	6.000	1.759	1.200	559	0	559
Chile	8.000		52.000	60.000	3.000	57.000	53.000	4.000	2.000	2.000
S. Africa	7.000		53.000	60.000	9.000	51.000	40.000	11.000	5.000	6.000
Total [2023]	141.971	802.599	146.309	1.090.879	521.812	569.067	486.926	82.141	64.573	17.568
2022	158.250	1.056.145	171.076	1.385.471	546.022	837.949	555.310	115.638	85.642	54.000
% Diff	-10,29%	-24,01%	-14,48%	-21,26%	-4,43%	-32,09%	-12,31%	-28,97%	-24,60%	-67,47%

Varieties: Goldens & Currants (All figures metric tonnes packed weight)

Country	GOLDENS			CURRANTS		
	Estimated physical stock 31/08/2023	Goldens Estimated Production 2023 crop	Total estimated available product for marketing	Estimated physical stock	Currants Estimated production 2023 crop	Total estimated available product for marketing
Greece				7.000	11.000	18.000
Iran	2.000	60.000	62.000			
Turkey						
USA	5.808	8.729	14.537	1.046	1.243	2.290
India						
Uzbekistan						
China						
Argentina						
Australia				60	1.240	1.300
Chile		6.500				
S. Africa	0	22.000	22.000	1.600	3.000	4.600
Total [2023]	7.808	97.229	98.537	9.706	16.483	26.190
2022	17.305	90.347	107.651	6.496	23.857	28.892
% Diff	-55%	8%	-8%	49%	-31%	-9%