

ECONOMIC ASPECT OF PEACH GROWING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

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Production

The greatest part of world production of peaches and of nectarines originates in the mediterranean countries (about 50%). In particular the average yearly crop has increased from 3,4 millions of tons to 5 millions of tons, in the period 1983-92 (**figure 1**). It must be noted that the production may vary even considerably, from year to year according to the seasons: in fact spring frosts are particularly dangerous.

About 90% of peaches and nectarines production of the mediterranean area is made in European countries, in particular in those belonging to EU. Indeed the four most important countries (Italy, Greece, Spain, and France) belong to EU (**figure 2**).

Crops of the northern African countries, which are still rather scarce, tend to become bigger.

The increase of the production of Asian countries is particularly relevant in terms of percentage apart from Cyprus, whose crop has remained constant.

Among the mediterranean countries, Italy (whose crop is 1,6-1,7 millions of tons) is the main producer and it contributes to the total production of the area with 37% of the crop.

More than 50% of Italian production is concentrated in northern regions, 10% in the central ones and the remaining part in the South and in the islands. In particular four regions produce 80% of Italian crop: in the order Emilia-Romagna, Campania, Piemonte and Veneto.

At the moment Greece is the second producer with about 1,1 million of tons in 1992. In the last ten years its production has doubled (in the early eighties in fact the production was less than 500 thousands of tons). The region of Macedonia, in which 95% of total Greek production is concentrated, is the main producer. Peloponnesos and Thessaly are the other peach production areas.

Spain is the third producer of peaches (average production 750 thousands of tons). The production of this country is mainly concentrated in Catalonia and in Ebro valley (Tarragona, Lerida, Aragon and Rioja) where 50% of the total crop is made. The

Abstract

About 90% of peach and nectarines production of the Mediterranean area is made in European countries, particularly in Italy (33%), Greece (25%), Spain (17%) and France (12%). The production of African countries is rather scarce; nonetheless the rhythm of increase is remarkable and in the period 1983-1992 the production has increased by more than 50%. The greatest part of production is assigned to fresh market and it also feeds an important trade towards northern and central Europe countries. Peaches are assigned to industry in large quantities above all in Greece and in Spain. As far as production costs are concerned the analysis we have made has highlighted important differences related to ripening seasons and to the country.

Résumé

Presque 90% de la production de pêches et de nectarines de la région méditerranéenne se fait dans les pays européens, notamment en Italie (33%), en Grèce (25%), en Espagne (17%) et en France (12%). Dans le pays africains la production est assez faible, mais elle tend à augmenter remarquablement; dans la période 1983-1992 elle a augmenté de plus de 50%. La plupart de la production est utilisée pour la consommation à l'état frais et pour l'exportation vers les pays de l'Europe du nord et centrale. Surtout en Grèce et en Espagne, les pêches sont utilisées en grandes quantités par l'industrie. Quant aux coûts de production, l'analyse que nous avons faite a fait ressortir des différences importantes vis-à-vis des saisons de maturation et des pays.



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other production areas are Murcia and Valencia (30%) and Andalusia and Extremadura (20%).

Among the other producers of mediterranean area, France has a basically steady crop of about 500 thousands of tons per year. French production is concentrated in southern regions: particularly in Aquitaine, Rhône-Alpes and Provence.

The production of African countries is rather scarce, none of them produces more than 60 thousands of tons. Nonetheless the

rythm of increase is remarkable and in the period 1983-92 the production has increased of more than 50%. Peach plants are in Libya (Tripolitania and Cyrenaica), in northern Tunisia, in the Algeria region and in Morocco (Marrakech, Fez and Meknès).

In the Asian area, the only country producing remarkable quantities is Turkey, whose production is 350 thousands tons per year, moreover it tends to increase rather quickly. In the other Asian countries

crops are rather scarce and they reach a considerable level only in Siria and in Israel.

The greatest part of production is made of peaches (90%). Nectarines are cultivated mainly in two countries, Italy and France, where this production represents one third of total peach total production.

Italy peach production is made of early cultivars ("Springcrest", "Cardinal", "Dixired", "Coronet", etc.), 33% of mid-season cultivars (Redhaven, "Glohaven", etc.), 20-25% of late-cultivars ("Suncrest", "Cresthaven", etc.). The remaining 15% is made of peaches for processing.

In Spain 90-95% of total production is made of peaches. They are mainly produced by local cultivars (about 60%), among which the most important are "Bivenenido" and "Maruja".

In Greece the production of peaches for industry is rather important. In fact they represent more than 40% of total production. Peaches for fresh market are 55%, while nectarines are only 5% of the total production.

Also in France the majority is made of peaches (75%), while nectarines represent about one quarter of the production.

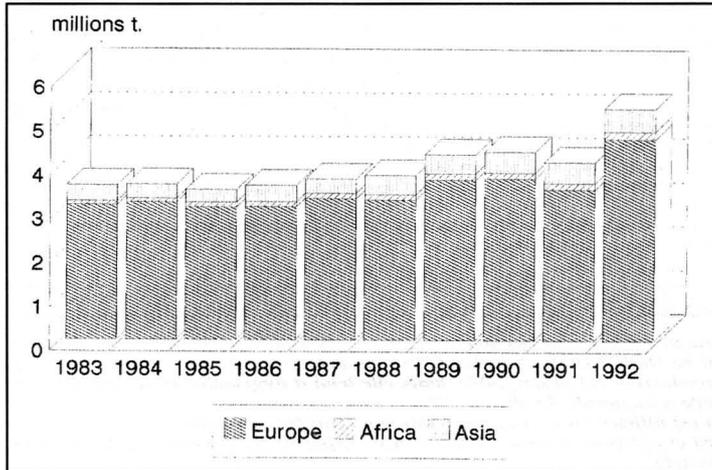
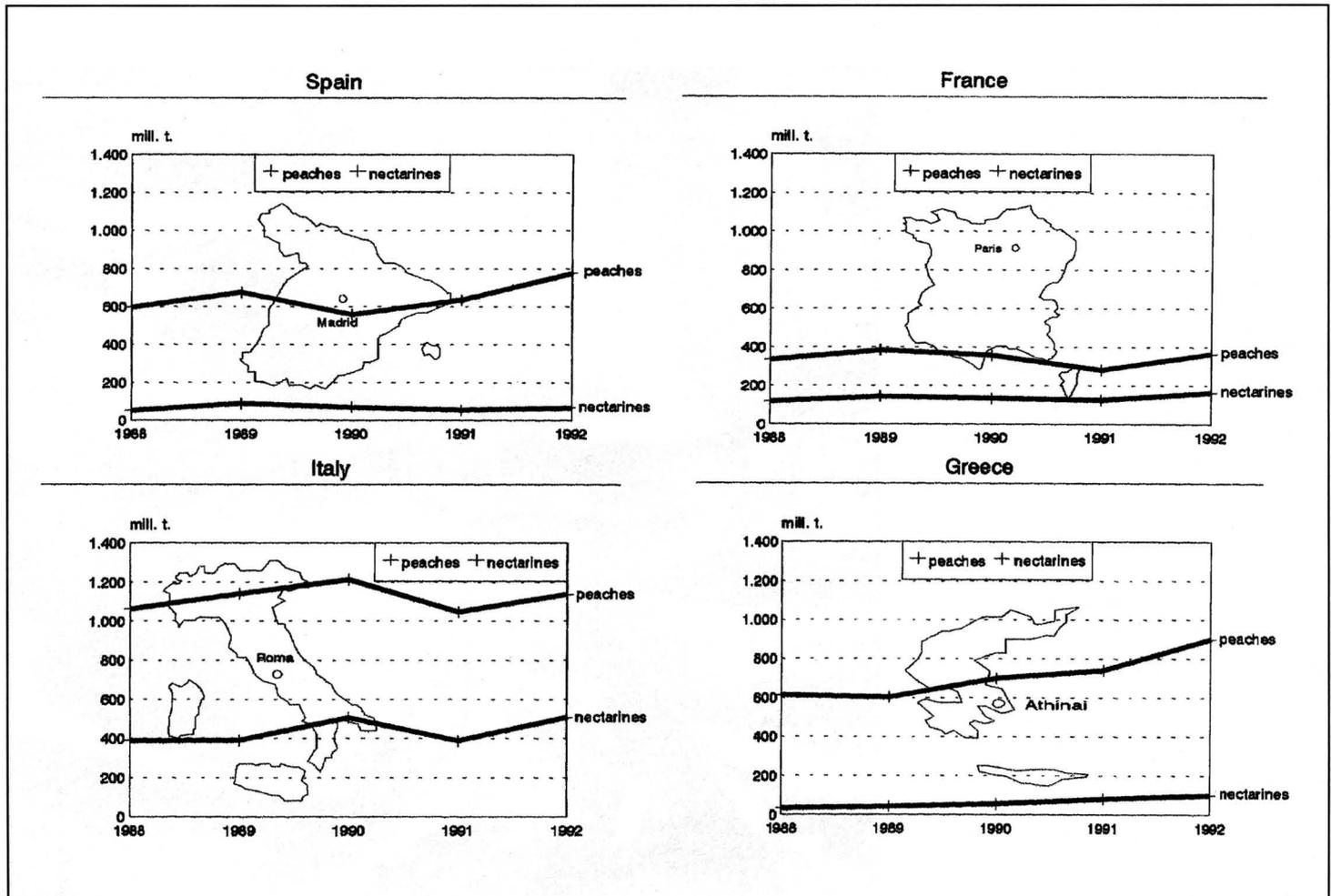


Figure 1 - Evolution of peaches and nectarines production in the Mediterranean area. Source: FAO.

Figure 2 - Peaches and nectarines production in the most important country of the Mediterranean area. Source: EUROSTAT.



Disposal and trade

The greatest part of the peaches which are cultivated in the mediterranean area is assigned to fresh market. Nevertheless in Greece and in Spain the quantities of peaches assigned to industrial process are respectively 40% and 20% of total production. In the other countries the quantity of peaches assigned to industry never reaches 10% of year production.

A big part of mediterranean area's peaches is sold in northern and central Europe countries. The exported quantities, evaluated in 500 thousands tons per year, are mainly fed by Italy and Greece.

In particular, Italian exported peaches are 380 thousands and they are mainly forwarded to Germany (about 50%), United Kingdom (15%), and to France (8-10%). Trade campaign begins towards the end of May with early-cultivars coming from southern areas and it continues until September. In July and in August trade is more intense.

The exported quantity of Greek peaches is 100 thousands tons per year and they are sent to northern and central Europe countries belonging to EEC. Export towards Austria, Sweden and Arabian countries are important too.

France and Spain too, even though they



export less peaches than Italy and Greece, feed trade towards northern and central Europe countries. The quantities they export are less than 20-30 thousands tons per year.

Production costs

The exam of peaches production costs of the mediterranean area counties involves France, Italy and Spain. We have considered both early peaches ("Maycrest") and mid-season peaches and late nectarines ("Stark Redgold").

Costs have been calculated according to the method explained in figure 3.

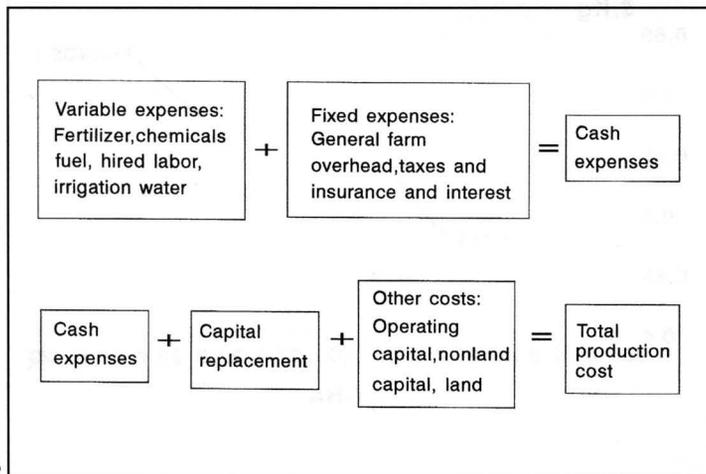
Maycrest's average yearly cost per hectare varies from 12-13 thousands dollars in Italy and Spain, to 18 thousands dollars in France. If we consider an average year production per hectare of 15 tons of peaches, the cost per kilogram is respectively 0,803 dollars in Italy, 0,899 in Spain and 1,207 in France (figures 4 and 5).

Production cost per hectare of mid-season peaches such as "Flavorcrest" is 15 thousands dollars in Italy and 18 thousands dollars in France. If the average year production is 25 tons per hectare the cost per Kilogram is respectively 0,598 dollars in Ita-

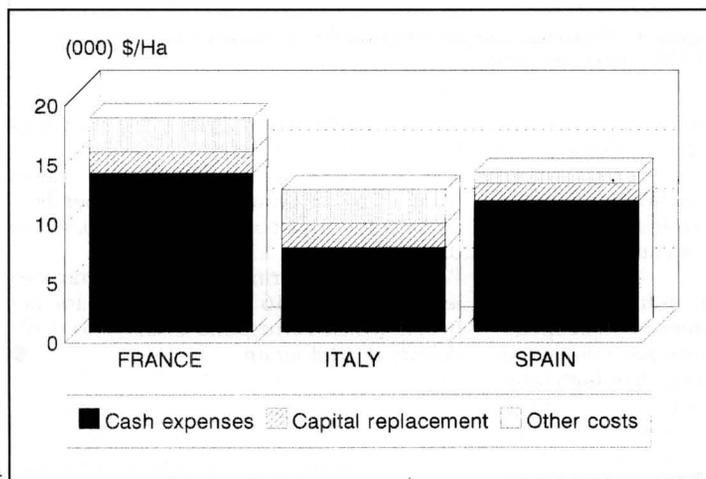
Figure 3 - Structure of production cost. Source: our data.

Figure 4 - Production cost per hectare: early peaches "Maycrest" (1993). Source: our data.

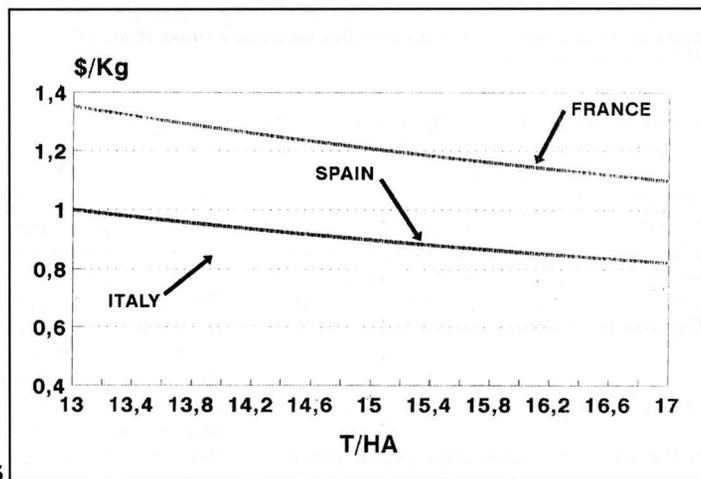
Figure 5 - Production cost per kilogram: early peaches "Maycrest". Source: our data.



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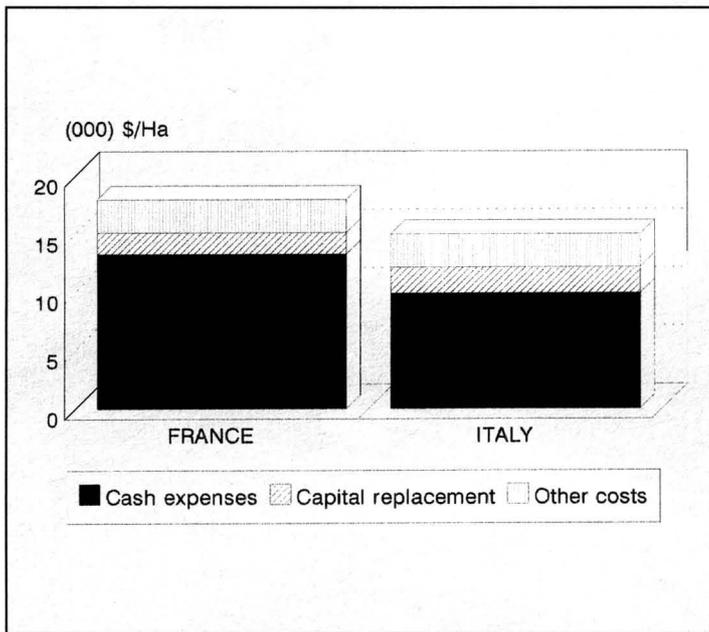


Figure 6 - Production cost per hectare: mid-season peaches "Flavorcrest" (1993). Source: our data.

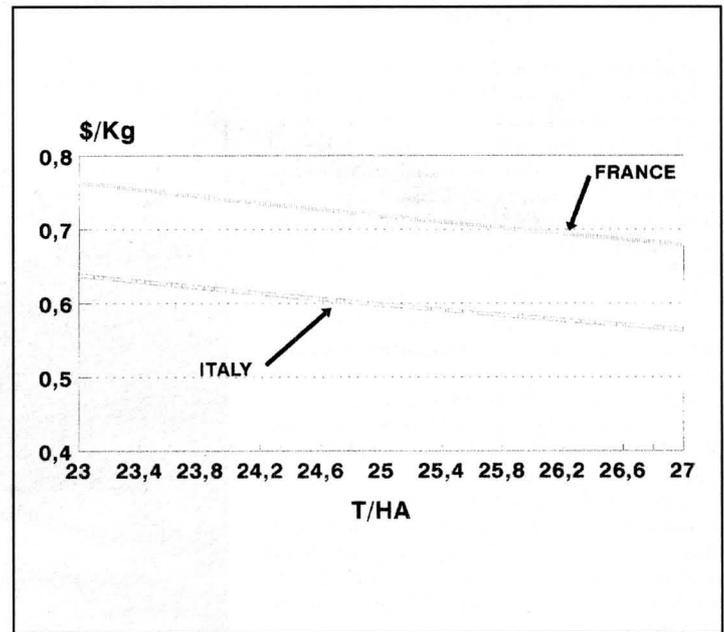


Figure 7 - Production cost per kilogram: mid-season peaches "Flavorcrest" (1993). Source: our data.

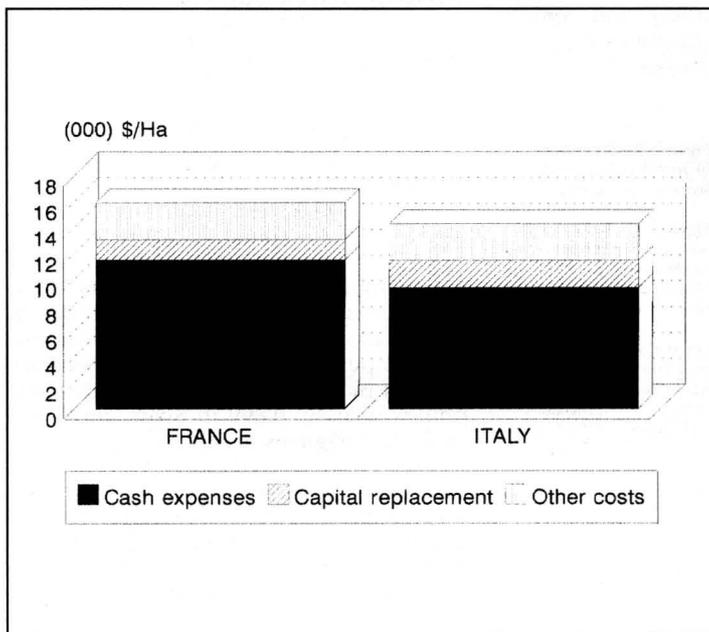


Figure 8 - Production cost per hectare: late nectarines "Stark Redgold" (1993). Source: our data.

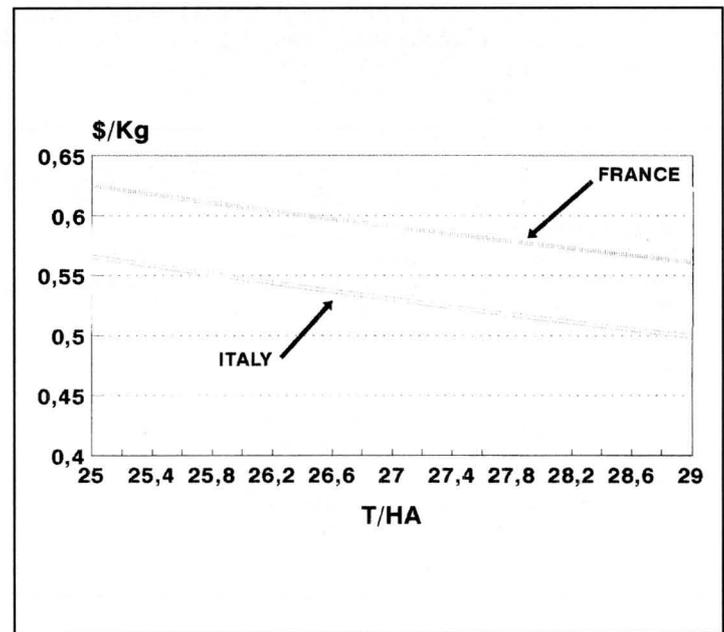


Figure 9 - Production cost per kilogram: late nectarines "Stark Redgold" (1993). Source: our data.

ly and 0,718 in France (figures 6 and 7). The production cost per hectare of late-nectarines such as "Stark Redgold" is about 14 thousands dollars in Italy and about 16 thousands dollars in France. The cost per Kilogram, evaluating an average production per hectare of 27 tons of fruits, is 0,530 dollars in Italy and 0,591 in France (figures 8 and 9).

Conclusions

In the mediterranean area peach production is increasing. 85% of production is lo-

cated in European countries, particularly in Italy (33%), Greece (25%), Spain (17%) and France (12%).

The greatest part of production is assigned to fresh market and it also feeds an important trade towards northern and central European countries.

Peaches are assigned to industry in large quantities above all in Greece and in Spain. As far as production costs are concerned the analysis we have made has highlighted important differences related to ripening seasons and to the country. In particular, the total cost per hectare of early-peaches varies from 12 to 18 thousands

dollars, while the cost per kilogram varies from 0,8 to 1,2 dollars.

Mid-season peaches production varies from 15 to 18 thousands dollars per hectare and the unit cost varies from 0,598 to 0,718 dollars per kilogram.

Finally late-nectarines cost per hectare varies from 14 to 16 thousands dollars per hectare which correspond to 0,530 to 0,591 dollars per kilogram. ●

(*) Paper presented at the XXIVth International Horticultural Congress, 21-27 august 1994, Kyoto, Japan.