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Profile Of Chilean Agro-exports

by Barbara Khol

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According to John B. Parker Jr. of the US Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS), Chile has become the leading exporter of agricultural products in South America. Chilean agro-exports increased from less than US\$400 million in 1980 to about US\$1.3 billion in 1990. The US accounts for about 40% of Chilean farm exports. Grapes are the top ranking fruit export, and over half are shipped to the US. The second largest fruit export is apples. Chile surpassed the US in the late 1980s as the largest apple exporter outside Europe. Wine exports from Chile tripled between 1980 and 1990, reaching US\$52 million. The largest markets for Chilean wine are the US and other Latin American countries. Fresh peach exports rose from US\$10 million to US\$55 million in the 1980-1990 period. The largest buyers were the US, Saudi Arabia and Sweden. Agro-export revenue surpasses by more than a factor of four spending on agricultural imports about US\$280 million per year. Parker's report on Chilean agro-exports appeared in a recent issue of Farmlife magazine, an ERS publication. (Basic data from Associated Press, 04/13/92)

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