PEPPER Sector in Kosovo



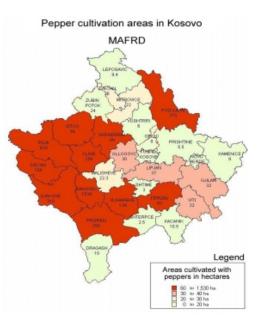
Shoqata e Përpunuesve të Pemëve dhe Perimeve të Kosovës "PePeKo" Association of Fruits and Vegetable Processors of Kosovo "PePeKo"

This publication intends to present a real picture of the current situation in the pepper production sector in Kosovo.

It is an information tool for potential international buyers, inviting them to find out more about the Kosovo pepper sector, and presents a number of Kosovo vegetable processing companies in particular.







Production of Pepper in Kosovo

Peppers are one of the main vegetable crops planted in Kosovo in terms of production area and economic importance. The predominant type of pepper production is open field cultivation. Pepper cultivation in protected environments is much less common compared to other crops such as tomatoes, cucumbers, and lettuce. Usually when peppers are grown indoors, low tunnels are used for cultivation, and the production usually goes for family consumption (only small quantities reach the market).

The main pepper production activities are focused in the region close to the Drini i Bardhë river. Pepper production is expanding to other regions as well, but it is not accompanied by an increase in yields. According to MAFRD (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development) in Kosovo, vegetable production during 2016 comprised around 17,395 ha of production, where only peppers take around 3,363 ha, concentrated around the region of the Dukagjini Valley. The total production of pepper in Kosovo in year 2016 was around 70,000 tons.

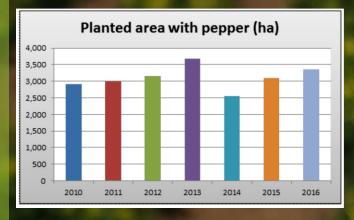
The dominating pepper varieties in production are:

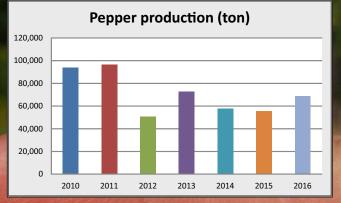
Somborka - an older variety grown in the Balkans, has a bell (babure) type form with a pointed tip and spicy taste. At its technological ripeness, the color of the fruit is yellow and at its botanical ripening, it is red. It is always in high demand in the regional market for both processing and fresh consumption.

Kurtovska Kapia - also an older variety known as a "longum" type. At its botanical ripeness the color of the fruit is red. It is usually used for processing (in the processing industry or at family level).

Feferoni (chili) - a variety which is usually used for processing, and the small amount of the total production goes for fresh consumption. The technical color of this crop is light green, and the botanic ripening is yellow. Trends of its production are increasing in recent years.

Duga Bella - a variety of the "longum" type of pepper used for fresh consumption. It is usually harvested at its technological ripening stage. The first harvest of this variety occurs in the second half of July. This variety is also cultivated in protected environments. Processing of pepper in Kosovo has a long tradition in Kosovo, dating back to 1960 when former-Yugoslav company called Progres began processing vegetables. Since then the processing industry has assessed that nowadays there are more the 10 large companies that process more the 90% of the overall production of pepper crop in Kosovo.





The main pepper processing companies in Kosovo are:

1	Abi & Elif 19	Prizren
2	Ananas Impex	Podujeva
3	ASK Foods	Gjilan
4	EUROFOOD	Prizren
5	JEGE foods	Prizren
6	KB Krusha	Rahovec



Abi & Elif 19

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Background

"Abi & Elif 19" is a fruit and vegetable processor located in Prizren. The company was established in 2001 with a focus in processing vegetables (pepper, tomato, cabbage, etc) and fruits (apple, plump, peach, fig, etc). The company is one of the biggest processors in Kosovo, with a tradition in processing of fruits and vegetables.

Activities

"Abi & Elif 19" deals with processing of pickles, frozen foods, cans, ajvar, ketchup, mayonnaises and marmalades. The capacity production of the company is above 5000 tons per year, and the total production of processed fruit and vegetables is around 3000 tons.

Recently, the company has invested in processing lines of tomato sauces. The company is certified with ISO 22000 Food Safety Standard.

Market

The products of "Abi & Elif 19" are destined for both the domestic and export markets. It exports to North Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium and Serbia.





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ANANAS

IMPEX

Background

"Ananas Impex" is a company processing mainly red pepper and it is located in Podujeve municipality. The company has more than 90 years of tradition in processing of high-quality spices such as black pepper and red paprika powder.

Activities

The main products of "Ananas Impex" are processed vegetables including sweet paprika powder, red chili flakes, and black pepper powder in different packaging formats. The company processes around 700 tons of fresh pepper per year. It has invested in the diversification of products and in 2018 they began producing soups, vegeta, spices, etc.

Market

The targeted export markets for the sales of the company products are Germany, Switzerland, Albania, Sweden and North Macedonia. "Ananas Impex" sells its products in local markets as well.





Ask Foods

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Background

Located in Gilane "Ask Foods" is a company established in 2008. It processes fruits and vegetables. The company owns orchards with different fruits including apple, sour cherries, plums and raspberries. The company uses modern food processing technology in line with traditional food recipes to get the best quality products.

Activities

"Ask Foods" has a wide range of processed products like red pepper spread, fruit preserve, jams, marmalades, olives, processed vegetables (pickles), and 100% fruit juices. The company is processing more than 1,500 tons / year of fruits and vegetables. They are expanding their production lines each year due to continued interest and growing demand of the products they produce.

"Ask Foods" is certified with ISO 9001 quality standard and HACCP food safety standard.

Market

"Ask Foods" sells its products in local markets, and a large quantity of processed products are exported to the regional market (Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro) and to EU markets (Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Austria).







EUROFOOD

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Background

"Eurofood" is a company founded in 1999 with the main activities in processing of vegetables and fruits, trading and services. The company's main goal is to produce high-class products, be a strong competitor in trade, and maintain trust of customers and business based on working along ethical rules and remaining reliable exporters in markets in the region. The company has around 500 employees and operates in different locations within Kosovo (Prizren, Prishtine, Gjakove, and Rahovec).

Activities

The main activities of the company consist of collection, processing, production of fruits and vegetables and their processing. The main products of "Eurofood" include ketchup, mayonnaises, marmalades, ajvar, jams, pickles (gherkins and feferoni) and vinegar. The company continuously invests in their processing lines, and developing new products.

"Eurofood" is certified with HACCP, ISO 22000 and HALAL food standards.

Market

"Eurofood" sells 80 % of their products within Kosovo, but also exporting in EU and regional countries including North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The company believes that the working with high commitment is their advantage.

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Background

"JEGE food" is a company founded in 2014 by a number of shareholders. They initially began with processing of cucumbers, canned mushrooms and olive packaging. The main goal of JEGE is to produce high quality products, fair competition, creating trust among consumers and doing business with high ethical standards.

The motto of the company is: "We protect what nature has created."

Activities

Beside the mentioned products, "JEGE foods" produces other canned products, such as: Processed vegetables: pickled chili peppers (feferoni), yellow pepper (filled with cabbage) pickle, green tomato pickle, somborka pepper pickle, cabbage pickle, ajvar (industrial and homemade), tomato juice, ketchup.

Processed fruits: preserves, fruit jam, marmalade.

Recently, the company has invested in various processing lines.

The company is certified with ISO 22000 Food Safety Standard.

Market

"JEGE food" sells most of its products in the domestic markets. After the implementing additional investments this year, the company will target EU countries for export, as well.

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KRUSHA KRUSHA



Background

Agricultural Cooperative "KB Krusha" located in the village of Krusha e Madhe, was established in 2015 under the initiative of a number of widow women who lost their husbands during the Kosovo war. The immense commitment and dedication of these women has made this activity grow from year to year and become a successful business for farmers. "Krusha" processes peppers of 12 different varieties and production of homemade ajvar.

Activities

The main activities of the Cooperative "KB Krusha" are different pickles produced from vegetables (pepper, cabbage, cucumber, carrots, etc), paprika with yogurt and homemade ajvar. The Cooperative processes around 700 tons of vegetables per year and it expands its processing capacities every year with modern processing lines.

Market

Cooperative "KB Krusha" exports most of its products to Switzerland and Germany. In addition, their products are also found in local markets and regional countries.







This brochure was supported by



