

AFRICA

PIP support for Malian mangoes

PIP is continuing its support for mango and papaya producers throughout Africa, not least in Mali, where exporters have recorded a big increase in mango volumes sent to Europe

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ACP countries remain comparatively small suppliers of mangoes to Europe, in relation to their competitors in Central and Latin America, but many individual countries are strongly increasing their exports at present. Senegal and Mali have boosted their mango exports to Europe by 215 per cent and 234 per cent respectively between 2004 and 2008, and the European market for mangoes continues to expand and attract.

The Pesticides Initiative Programme (PIP), funded by interprofessional organisation COLEACP, has been a major factor in this growth, helping growers to reach the norms demanded by European importers and assisting them in gaining organic and Fairtrade labels.

In Mali, organic production of mangoes may be small, a mere 6 per cent of total volumes last year, but farmers are beginning to see the potential benefits, both environmental and social. Organics also give farmers a more reliable revenue, with firm contracts at fixed prices. "Organic mangoes are sometimes better rewarded,"

Mango exports to the EU from Africa (in tonnes)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Ivory Coast	11,122	9,835	14,391	14,706	11,249
Senegal	2,810	3,011	7,071	4,702	6,033
Mali	2,096	2,560	3,477	4,317	4,902
Dominican Republic	1,228	1,590	1,618	2,765	4,307
Burkina Faso	925	1,164	2,157	3,191	2,385
Ghana	177	268	293	983	1,098

Source: COLEACP & Eurostat

says Modibo Traoré, a PIP consultant in Mali, "but it is mainly price stability and a guarantee of being paid that motivate producers."

PIP has contributed greatly to the increase in Malian mango exports, not least through its training programmes on traceability, quality management, food safety, ethical production and pesticide usage. According to Mr Traoré, PIP will continue its market research in the future to help Malian producers find new markets for their organic and Fairtrade mangoes.

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