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Impact of weather on 2021 fruit crops: Fruit processors raise concern over sufficient supplies

In view of the negative weather impact on the main fruit growing areas in Southern Europe, the European fruit processing industry raises serious concerns about sufficient raw material supply.

Following storms, floods and frost in spring, orchards across Southern Europe were damaged. At this stage, it is difficult to assess the exact impact of the extreme weather at EU level.

Main producer countries like Greece, France, Italy and Spain expect shortages for a number of fruit, with cling peaches and apricots worst hit.

Crops in Greece and France are particularly impacted: Greek crop expectations for cling peaches are below 50%, and in Macedonia and Thessaly almost the entire apricot crop is damaged, resulting in an apricot crop for the whole country that is less than 40% of normal crop. Growers speak of the second worst year since 2003. The apricot situation in France indicates crops are down -43% compared to 2020 and -64% versus the 2015/2019 average. Although to a lesser extent, Spain and Italy also signal problems with peach and apricot varieties for the industry.

While final figures still need to be confirmed, it is clear that pressure to secure sufficient fruit for processing is on. Further information will be made available as the crops progress.

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PROFEL is the European Association of Fruit and Vegetable Processing Industries, representing over 500 companies in 11 EU countries, producing canned vegetables, frozen vegetables, dehydrated vegetables, jams and fruit preserves, frozen fruit and canned fruit. The members of PROFEL employ more than 80.000 people. The combined turnover of our members amounts to an impressive figure – roughly €22 billion. Members annually produce approximately: Frozen vegetables: 3.300.000 Tons; Canned vegetables: 2.100.000 Tons; Canned Deciduous fruits and compotes: 1.000.000 Tons; Fruit preserves and jams: 485.000 Tons; Dried vegetables: 50.000 Tons.