

Chile and Vietnam achieved a technical agreement to facilitate their fruit trade

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On 24 May 2019, Mr. Antonio Walker, Minister of Agriculture of Chile has announced the success in establishing a technical agreement, which will facilitate the fruit trade between Chile and Vietnam. Such deal will make Chile to resume apples export to Vietnam in late May and cherries in August, after Vietnam has suspended various fruits import from Chile since 2015. Meanwhile, Vietnam will export pomelos and mangoes to Chile within this year. This is the result from the constant push of Chile's Agricultural and Livestock Office (SAG).

The Minister of Agriculture of Chile said that the Ministry aims to continue to open new markets for domestic manufacturers by cooperating with the General Directorate of International Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DIRECON), and emphasized the importance of the diversity of export products and the ability to compete in the international market. He also gave a compliment to the private sector and the Chilean Fruit Exporters Association (ASOEX), who have collaborated with the government in negotiations to increase Chile's market share in the world. In addition, he also added that, in the present, Southeast Asia has become one of the target markets of the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile because of the total population of over 600 million who are willing to buy products from Chile.

This trade agreement was concluded after that the Vietnamese authorities, led by Mr. Nguyen Quy Duong, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Plant Protection, visited Chile last March, and the visit to Vietnam of Mr. Horacio Borquez, Director of SAG, this week.

In addition to the agreement, SAG and the Department of Plant Protection of Vietnam (DPP) also plan to sign another joint agreement during the visit to Chile of the Minister of Agriculture of Vietnam to attend the APEC Ministerial Meetings.

Apparently, Chile had exported various fresh fruits, including these two fruits to Vietnam, but was suspended due to the constant epidemic of fruit flies. In 2015, Chile exported a total of 119 tons of apples to Vietnam with a value of 151 million US dollars, and 52 tons of cherries with a value of 483,000 US dollars in 2016. These are a very small proportion comparing to domestic production area—approximately 37,000 to 40,000 hectares.

Source: <https://www.eldinamo.cl/nacional/2019/05/24/chile-y-vietnam-alcanzan-acuerdo-para-la-exportacion-de-manzanas-y-cerezas/>

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