

Over the last three years, forestry, agriculture and livestock exports have increased by 45.2%. Nevertheless, this figure does not reveal the uneven evolution of the various sub-sectors. In fact, the value of exports of agricultural products - except fruit -, livestock, and forestry has decreased between 1989 and 1992. This decrease has varied between 4.8% in the case of agriculture and 62.5% in the case of cattle. These changes must, however, be understood in light of their real perspective, since they are low quantity export items. Furthermore, there are products in these sub-sectors that have been the exception to the rule, such as the exports of vegetable seeds which increased by 84.7%.

Exports of fresh fruit grew dynamically between 1989 and 1992 - slowing down considerably in 1993 -, and this dynamism has made this sub-sector a leading area in the development of the country, with its export values increasing by 78%. The item which brings in most dollars is the table grape with US\$ 425 million (1992), while those items that are expanding most rapidly are the avocado pear, kiwi, pear, apple, and plum - in descending order.

In 1992, forestry, agriculture, and livestock exports represented 12.0% of the value exported by the country.

As far as imports are concerned (Table 4), these are very low and in 1992 were only US\$ 218.5 million; in other words, a little more than 2% of everything that Chile buys abroad. These include tropical species - that cannot be reproduced in the country for reasons of climate - such as bananas and coffee; some species of pedigree animals for reproduction (capital assets), and certain basic crops such as wheat and corn, where other countries enjoy comparative advantages.

During the period from 1989 to 1992, imports of these two crops increased ostensibly - wheat from zero to US\$ 86 million and corn from US\$ 12.5 million to US\$ 49.5 million. This explains the concern felt by Chilean producers in these sub-sectors and the significant increase in terms of percentage (though not absolute) of the total of forestry, agriculture, and livestock imports by 116%.