

The biggest market is in Japan, but markets also exist in Europe and North America. Potential exists for products such as papaya puree, dried papaya and canned papaya.

### Mango

Exporters should be able to develop markets for fresh mangoes in Europe, North America and Southeast Asia. The market for processed mangoes in the canned, juice and puree form is growing and good possibilities exist for manufacturers.

### Banana

Banana production in Thailand currently has no linkages to agro-industries, except for small quantities sent to drying factories. Exports of bananas remain small and prospects for increased exports to other markets are slim as there is no control over quality and price of the local varieties for export markets. The thin skins of local banana varieties also render them especially susceptible to damage.

### Strawberries

Strawberries have been planted in recent years in the Northern hills of Thailand. Although they have been highly profitable, the expansion of output is constrained by the limited areas in which the crop may be grown. However, farm yields are low and an increase of present output could be achieved with advanced technologies.

### Tomatoes

Tomatoes have become one of the most important vegetables in Thailand with output increasing in response to rapidly expanding markets for both fresh and processed tomatoes. Most tomatoes produced in the North and Northeast are used in paste manufacturing factories, close to the plantation areas. Tomatoes are also used in the production of tomato ketchups and tomato sauce. There are small quantities of juice and canned whole tomatoes produced.

The major constraints affecting the production of tomato paste include the inferior quality of the tomatoes grown in Thailand; and the need to introduce state of the art processing equipment to increase the quality of processed products. It has also been found that varieties of tomatoes grown from imported seeds are susceptible to pests and disease under local conditions.