

Seeds

In the recent past, the field relating to reproduction of seeds has taken great strength due to some comparative advantages that our country will have with respect to other countries interested in the sector pertaining to the reproduction of vegetables.

In this sense Chile's location in the Southern Hemisphere enables a continuation in production for companies in the northern hemisphere, which are able to maintain a supply during all the year on having two summer seasons. On the other hand, the country offers the great advantage of being a rather under-exploited environment, with very good soil qualities and the easy capacity of isolation that insures obtaining the purity demanded for its certification.

The characteristics of the great cost in labor required for this field of business in certain production periods, are comparatively inferior with respect to other countries, which is additionally added to the great technology present in the country in regards to agricultural machinery as well as to the level of instruction and training of the labor staff in their different levels.

In this way, it can then be observed that there is great interest by both national and foreign companies to produce high level genetic artificial seeds in the country.

In this respect, the potato is a species that appears to be allocated a special status within the above scenario.

Starting the 1990 accounting period, the sowing surface of this field of activity has constantly increased until reaching 63,450 hectares during the 1992/1993 season, from them 25% has been planted in the Tenth Region, which continues to be the most important zone for this species; it is followed by the Ninth and Fourth Regions.

It is important to stress that the development of this crop has great importance in the phytosanitary aspect due to the presence of the golden nematode in a vast extension of the soils in the Northern Central-South Regions. In this sense there is a strict control by the Servicio Agrícola Ganadero (Agricultural and Cattle Service) of the cultivation and transfer of this root crop to the different regions of the country in order to stop entry of potatoes cultivated in the northern zone of the country to the zones which are free of this plague (Tenth Region, in the south of the Country), where the greatest productions of the country and the source of national seeds are found.