



FACTSHEET

Tomatoes from Morocco

Tomato Sector in the Souss Massa Drâa Region

- 80% of Moroccan tomatoes are produced in the Souss Massa Drâa region⁴
- Souss Massa Drâa has the third highest percentage of people living in poverty and the highest percentage of poverty severity in Morocco⁵
- The agricultural sector in the Souss Massa Drâa alone employs 70,000 people⁶

Tomato Exports

- Tomatoes are the main agricultural export product of Morocco⁷
- Over 90% of exported Moroccan tomatoes are sent to the EU⁸
- Morocco is the top non-European supplier of tomatoes to the EU⁹
- Moroccan tomatoes are sold in European supermarkets from October to April¹⁰



Souss Massa Drâa Tomato Sector



ABOUT

the country

- Population: 32.52 million
- Average income (GNI): EUR 2,161 per year (EUR 180) per month¹
- 41% of the population live in rural areas²
- 75% of rural poor people depend on agriculture for their livelihood³

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About Tomato Workers:

Wages

- The official minimum wage for agricultural workers is Dirham (DH) 1,648 or **EUR 146** per month¹¹
- This is below the national poverty threshold for rural households in Morocco of DH 1,745 or **EUR 155** per month¹²
- Fairfood International commissioned field research in 2013, which involved interviews with 64 tomato workers. 85% of respondents were paid below the national poverty threshold¹³
- Three quarters of respondents in Fairfood's field research stated that their salary did not cover their basic needs¹⁴

Female Workers

- In rural areas 92% of working women are employed in the agricultural sector¹⁵
- Illiteracy rates amongst female agricultural workers are 92% in some areas¹⁶
- Many female tomato workers are unmarried women, who migrate to the Souss Massa area to seek employment¹⁷

Freedom of Association

- In theory, agricultural workers have the legal right to form or join a trade union¹⁸
- Local reports indicate that freedom of association is often not respected by companies. Employees are dismissed and harassed because of their trade union affiliations¹⁹
- The Moroccan 'Code Penal' states that workers who strike to raise their wages or 'impair the free exercise of industry' may be imprisoned for up to two years or face a fine of up to DH 5000 (**EUR 444**)²⁰

About Fairfood International:

Fairfood International is an international non-profit organisation. Fairfood International's mission is to improve the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable people in the global food system and the sustainable use of natural resources. Fairfood works to influence food companies and governments to solve issues affecting farmers, workers, consumers and the environment within food supply chains.

More information about the Morocco project can be found here:

fairfood.org/hotspots/morocco





References

Fairfood trusts that figures collected from secondary sources are correct, but cannot assume responsibility for their accuracy. For secondary research, all figures are maximum three years old, unless indicated otherwise. All links were last accessed on 31/03/2014.

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- ⁶ Bell, N., 2009/2010. Tomatoes all year round. [The Land Magazine, Trans.] [pdf] Available at: <https://network23.org/reclaimthefields/files/2012/06/Land-Magazine-The-Souss-Morocco.pdf>
- ⁷ Food and Agriculture Organisation, 2014. FAOSTAT > Trade > Crops and livestock products; Search criteria: Countries - 'Morocco', Elements - 'Export Value (1000US\$)', Items - 'Select all', Years - '2011'. [online] Available at: <http://faostat3.fao.org/faostat-gateway/go/to/download/T/TP/E>
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- ⁹ European Commission, 2012. Monitoring Agri-trade Policy: The EU and major world players in Fruit and Vegetable Trade. [pdf] Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/map/2012-2_en.pdf
- ¹⁰ Based on Fairfood's retailer field research consisting of visiting a variety of European super markets and purchasing tomatoes of Moroccan origin.
- ¹¹ 63.39 DH a day (5.63 EUR a day) Bulletin Officiel, 2011. Décret n° 2.11.247 du 1er juillet 2011, Bulletin Officiel no. 5959, 11th July 2011. [doc] Available at: <http://www.audigroup.net/telecharger/circulairefin2011.doc> This is the most recent statement about minimum wages in Morocco.
- ¹² The most recent year for which national poverty line data is available was 2004; then the threshold was defined as being 1745 DH per month for an average rural family. Royaume du Maroc Haut Commissariat au Plan, 2004. Pauvreté, développement humain et développement social au Maroc. [pdf] Available at: <http://www.hcp.ma/file/111924/>
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