CROP PROSPECTS FOR THE MAIN SUMMER FRUITS AND TOMATOES IN 1992

At its 19th Session held on 17-19 June 1992, at the Château de la Muette, Paris, the Group on Fruit and Vegetables of the OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets of the Committee for Agriculture examined, inter alia, the crop prospects for the main species of stone fruit (peaches, nectarines and apricots), summer pears and tomatoes in Member countries of the Northern Hemisphere.

The Group also examined the preliminary prospects for apples and autumn and winter pears.

On the basis of information supplied by producing Member countries, the prospects may be summarised as follows, product by product.

1. Summer Fruits

   In the European zone, in spite of some differences between countries, overall production is forecast to increase considerably compared with 1991 (year in which spring frosts destroyed part of the harvest); increases would be approximately 40 per cent for summer pears, 23 per cent for peaches, 25 per cent for nectarines, and 7 per cent for apricots.

   Compared with the average of the last six years, production is expected to increase by about 18 per cent for summer pears, 17 per cent for peaches, 37 per cent for nectarines, and 3 per cent for apricots.

   In Canada, the production in 1992 is forecast to be almost identical with 1991, for summer pears, but shows an increase (+15 per cent) for peaches.
The situation in the major producing countries is as follows in thousand metric tonnes (1):
2. Tomatoes

In the European zone, production is expected to increase by about 5 per cent compared with 1991. A slight increase in Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, a significant increase in Italy, a slight decline in Greece and Spain, and a greater decline in France and Portugal are expected.

Canadian production is expected to be much the same as in 1991. In the United States production (open field only) is expected to decline by 15 per cent which will mainly affect the 80 per cent of production used for processing.

The situation in the major producing countries is as follows in thousand metric tonnes:
3. Autumn and winter apples and pears

According to the latest information from OECD Member countries, the apple harvest in the European zone is expected to be substantially more than that of 1991 which was affected by spring frosts. It should even exceed that of a normal harvest.

In Canada, the harvest is expected to be normal, but probably at a level slightly less than that of 1991.

In Japan, in spite of the impact of the typhoon last year in an important production zone the harvest is expected to be largely unchanged.

With respect to autumn and winter pears, the European harvest in general is expected to be greater than that of 1991, although the decline in orchards has continued in several countries.