

The status and trends of wax apple industry in Taiwan

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Abstract

Wax Apple is an important economical fruit in Taiwan. It is also one of the important industries in Kaohsiung-Pingtung area. The development of forcing culture techniques makes cultivation area increased to 10,000 hectares. However, due to the crop competition, unfavorable weather conditions and other factors affecting earnings, the area decreases year by year. The latest statistics of the cultivation area of 5,416 hectares, production is 78,109 tonnes. As Wax Apples have high value potentials and high challenges, they are very suitable for farmers with small-scale patterns to grow in Taiwan. Export sales were about 418 tonnes in 2012, 95% were sold to China, while the rest are still under developing. After making the species diverse, the varieties that have characters with less crack and longer storage and transported, will make it possible to export them more smoothly. Currently, high quality fruits for boutique market are still in short supply, so people have been eager to invest in the production, but the cost of wax apple cultivation reaches 682,875 dollars per hectare, labor costs up to 63%, and because there is a high technical threshold in the cultivation, the production requires skilled cultivation techniques. In order to maintain the advantages of Taiwan's wax apple industry, as well as a leading position among all countries that produce wax apples, we need to continue to develop varieties and more sophisticated cultivation techniques for the individual farmers, in order to make sure that they can gain profits.

Key words : wax apple, forcing culture, planted area, production cost

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