

## **CURRENT SITUATION, PROBLEMS AND FUTURE OF AVOCADO CROP IN PERU**

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The objective of the present work is to give a vision of the present situation of avocados and its problems, as well as the way it has evolved over the last years in Peru. Until 2006, avocado exports made Peru obtain more than 38 M dollars. The increment in avocado exports went from 2 thousand tons in 2000 to more than 31 thousand in 2006. Currently, the international markets with higher demand for Peruvian avocado are Spain, Holland, the United Kingdom and France. The most important production areas are Lima, La Libertad and Ica, concentrating more than 45% of the national cultivated area with this crop, with nearly 100% of the production for export. The problems of avocado crop in Peru face the following challenges: to have disease-free germplasm for both varieties and rootstocks; to establish rootstock germplasm tolerant to soil and health problems; to improve flowering and fructification control; to get healthy fruits by means of integrated pest management techniques; to ensure post harvest quality; and to develop environmentally friendly quarantine post harvest techniques allowing the entry to new markets.