



Mexican Experience in the Production of Mejhoul Dates

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Introduction

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- The date producing region in Mexico is located in the arid areas of the northwest of the country.
- **97%** of the national production comes from Mexicali and San Luis Rio Colorado valleys.
- The few oases that still exist in Mexico, produce only creole/wild dates.

Introduction

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The Mejhoul date palm arrived in Mexico in the early **1960s**, when offshoots were introduced from the USA to the **San Luis Río Colorado** valley, which entered production in **1967**.

Currently there are **2,300 hectares** of date palm in production, but another **800 hectares** are pending to enter production.

94% of date production in Mexico is Mejhoul.



First Mejhoul Plantation in Mexico

Date Production in Mexico

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Country	Production (Tons)	Percentage (%)
1. Egypt	1,747,714.68	17.81
2. Saudi Arabia	1,565,830.00	15.95
3. Iran	1,303,716.84	13.28
4. Algeria	1,188,803.00	12.11
5. Iraq	750,225.00	7.64
6. Pakistan	532,879.55	5.43
7. Sudan	460,096.55	4.69
8. Oman	374,200.00	3.81
9. United Arab Emirates	351,077.48	3.58
10. Tunisia	345,000.00	3.51
19. USA	53,930.00	0.54
24. Mexico	19,244.00	0.20

In 2021 the production in the world was **9'815,659 tons of dates.**

Mejhoul Date Production in Mexico

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Mejhoul date production by country (in tonnes)

Country	Quantity	Share (%)
Israel	45,000	41.48
USA	16,000	14.75
Mexico	14,898	13.73
Palestine	12,000	11.06
Jordan	10,000	9.22
Morocco	3,500	3.23
SA & Namibia	3,000	2.77
Egypt	3,000	2.77
Peru	500	0.46
Australia	100	0.09
Others	500	0.46
Total	108,498	100.00

Mexico is the **3rd largest** producer of Mejhoul date in the world (2020).

13.73% of world production of Mejhoul dates, was grown in Mexico.

Mejhoul Date Production in Mexico

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The management of the crop is very similar to that used in the USA.

Mejhoul Date Production in Mexico

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Medium and large companies use machinery for harvesting and small ones do it manually.

Mejhoul Date Production in Mexico

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There are around 15 high-capacity house packing and 10 small ones or with artisanal packaging.

Mejhoul Date Production in Mexico

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Around 50% of date production in Mexico are exported:

- United States (50%)
- Australia
- Canada
- New Zeland
- Thailand
- Singapore
- Indonesia
- European countries
- and some sudamerican countries

Mejhoul Date Production in Mexico

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- **Mexico competes for the Mejhoul date market with USA.**
- **Our main opportunity is that the production and labor costs are cheaper in Mexico than in the USA.**
- **Some USA farmers, send their dates to Mexico and then return packed to the USA.**

Challenges

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Water availability.

The scarcity of water is not yet a problem, but this crop depends on the water provided by the Colorado River.



In Mexico, the flood irrigation system is still used, but a large part of farmers are migrating to drip systems.

Challenges



- **Currently, we have no problems with the red palm weevil.**
- **Isolated cases of *fusarium* have been detected, but they have been controlled chemically.**
- **We do not have serious problems with pests and diseases.**
- **However, we have had problems with atypical rains during the harvest season.**
- **Delays in flowering and harvest.**

Challenges

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The main problem with the Mejhoul date is its commercialization.

Currently, there are several companies that are dedicated to the packaging and marketing of dates, but they act as intermediaries or accumulating companies, which impose conditions for the purchase of the fruit.

KIADPAI in Mexico

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In 2022 KIADPAI decides to come to Mexico and First International Date Palm Festival was organized.

Development of the Date Palm Sector

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- Thanks to KIADPAI Mexican farmers are attending international festivals.
- They learning from the best companies and the international Arab market.

Development of the Date Palm Sector

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- Mexican companies understood that in order to be more competitive they had to organize in a society.
- Others are integrating into a cooperative system.

Opportunities

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- Training courses for date producers have increased.

Conclusions

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- **Although the cultivation of date palm, is a recently introduced crop in Mexico, it has had an appreciable growth in recent years.**
- **The opportunities, are greater than the challenges for Mejhoul date production in Mexico.**
- **The production costs, are much lower in Mexico than in the USA, this represents a great competitive advantage for Mexican farmers.**

Conclusions

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- **Strong competitors, are observed in the production of Mejhoul dates in the medium term.**
- **Further investigation of this crop is required in Mexico.**
- **In some parts of Mexico, the date Mejhoul is little known.**
- **Finally, the Mexican government, must reactivate support for date producers, and make a wide dissemination on the culture of this fruit.**

Conclusions

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Khalifa Award Scientific
Committee Mexico 2022

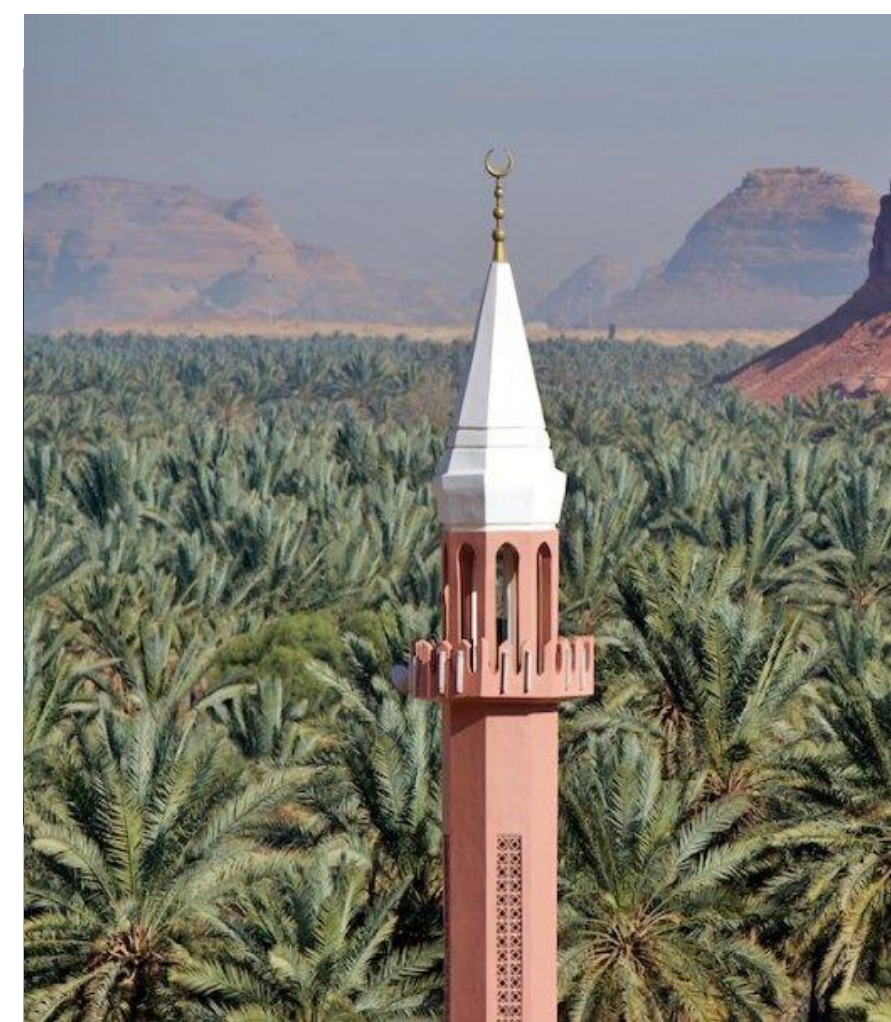
For the Mexican culture in general, the date is not common. However, the Mexican date industry has been growing and beginning to have more international presence thanks to **KIADPAI**.

Acknowledgments

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Thanks the sponsorship for us to be here of His Highness, Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and to Dr. Zaid, for the international dissemination that is being made of the Mexican dates.





Thanks for your
Attention!

شكرا على انتباهك!

Prof. Ricardo Salomón Torres, Ph.D.

