

## **Australian Tree Nut Industry Set To Crack \$1 Billion In Value**

The Australian tree nut industry is set to double its worth and crack \$1 billion in farmgate value with exports to exceed \$750 million within eight years, according to an industry report released today.

The significant growth for the industry - which will next year become Australia's largest horticulture exporter - includes the doubling of almond production by 2014 and continued strong growth of macadamia and walnut production.

The Australian Nut Industry Council (ANIC) Chair, Mr Richard Sampson Genest, said the dramatic expansion of the industry had slipped under the radar because of the significant time required from planting to bearing, in some cases as much as eight years for the first nut harvest.

"We are now seeing the years of hard work and significant capital investment come to fruition, placing the Australian tree nut industry in a commanding position to capitalise on the growing demand for nuts both locally and overseas," said Mr Sampson Genest.

"As an industry, we support the *Nuts for Life* program to increase consumer awareness about the health benefits of nuts in relation to heart disease, diabetes and weight management.

"The message is now driving a healthy nut habit, with local sales increasing by 50 per cent in the past five years, as Australians increasingly reach for their recommended handful or two of nuts a day.

"Meanwhile, world demand is rising by four percent a year with growth in the export market led by the increasing prosperity in developing economies such as India, China, Eastern Europe and the Middle East."

The report - "Australia's Nut Industry – Growing For Success" - was developed by the Australian Nut Industry Council to shine the spotlight on this important agricultural sector.

"The tree nut industry is a stand-out within Australian horticulture with a global reputation for driving innovation, value-adding and growth," said Mr Sampson Genest.

"The ability of our growers to produce high quality yields in some of the poorest soils in the world has grabbed international attention. Growers are achieving this with lower costs and outstanding water efficiency.

"Growers in the Murray Darling Basin battled through the severe drought of 2006 to 2010 and production in that region is now higher than ever."

The Australian Nut Industry Council brings together the Australian almond, chestnut, hazelnut, macadamia, pecan, pistachio and walnut industries.

The tree nut industry employs around 5,000 people throughout regional Australia with more than 15 million nut trees planted around the country.

Key growing regions include:

**Almonds** - the Murray River Valley (SA, Vic, NSW), Adelaide, Riverland (SA), Sunraysia (VIC), Riverina (NSW), new plantings in the Swan Region (WA).

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**Chestnuts** – north-east and central Victoria, Melbourne, Orange (NSW), Southern Tablelands (NSW), Blue Mountains (NSW), Batlow (NSW), the Adelaide Hills (SA), Tasmania and south-west Western Australia.

**Hazelnut** – Central West and Southern Highlands of NSW, Central and North Eastern Victoria as well as Northern parts of Tasmania.

**Macadamias** - along the eastern seaboard from Nambucca Heads (NSW) to Mackay (QLD).

**Pecans** – New South Wales central, mid north and north coast, Munduberra (QLD), Gympie (QLD), Bundaberg (QLD), the Atherton Tablelands (QLD), Beaudesert (QLD), and small plantings in South Australia and Western Australia

**Pistachios** - Murray River Valley (SA and VIC), central west Victoria, Pinnaroo (SA) and small plantings in Western Australia.

**Walnuts** - east coast of Tasmania, Shepparton (VIC), Kerang (VIC), Swan Hill (VIC) and Griffith (NSW).

A full copy of “Australia’s Nut Industry – Growing For Success” can be downloaded at the Australian Nut Industry Council Website [http://nutindustry.org.au/files/EJBRROBTQH/Nut\\_Booklet\\_2011\\_HR.pdf](http://nutindustry.org.au/files/EJBRROBTQH/Nut_Booklet_2011_HR.pdf)

For more information on the health benefits of nuts and nut recipes visit Nuts for Life - [www.nutsforlife.com.au](http://www.nutsforlife.com.au)

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*Issued on behalf of the Australian Nut Industry Council*

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