



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Almonds become Australia's largest horticultural export industry**



25 March 2014

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During the 2013 calendar year, almonds became Australia's first horticultural industry to earn in excess of \$300 million in annual export revenue. Final sales figures for exports of the record almond crop harvested during March and April 2013 is estimated to be around \$350 million as the final part of the crop is sold at the high prices on offer over the past few months.

The 60% increase in production in 2013 doubled the supply available for export, which, combined with the significant rise in the global price for almonds led to the jump in export earnings. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures for 2013 show the volume of exports increased by 51%, but the value of overseas sales increased by 131%. ABS tracking of the average monthly price of almonds exported also shows an increase from \$4.50/kg in January to \$8.06/kg in December 2014.

"The 2014 harvest is progressing following a few interruptions caused by rain but the quality is holding up well. The tree yields appear to be slightly lighter than in 2013" Almond Board of Australia CEO, Ross Skinner said. "The fall away in available supply is disappointing given the efforts made by the industry marketers to build market share and the strong pricing currently on offer."

Mr Skinner also advised that the growth in consumption of almonds in Australia has also been very strong during the past year, increasing by 9.2% and building on the 20% growth achieved in 2012.

"The concern over the drought in California has heightened interest in Australian almonds but with consumers around the world increasingly eating more, a global shortfall in 2014 will stifle demand and is not ideal in growing long term sales volume" Mr Skinner said.

This continuing growth has been assisted by scientific health benefit studies being released regularly showing the contribution of nuts to leading a healthier and longer life. The latest of these being a study by the Harvard University and published in the New England Journal of Medicine. This study observed an inverse association between nut consumption and mortality linking significantly fewer deaths to cancer, cardiac and respiratory disease in those that ate nuts a few times a week.

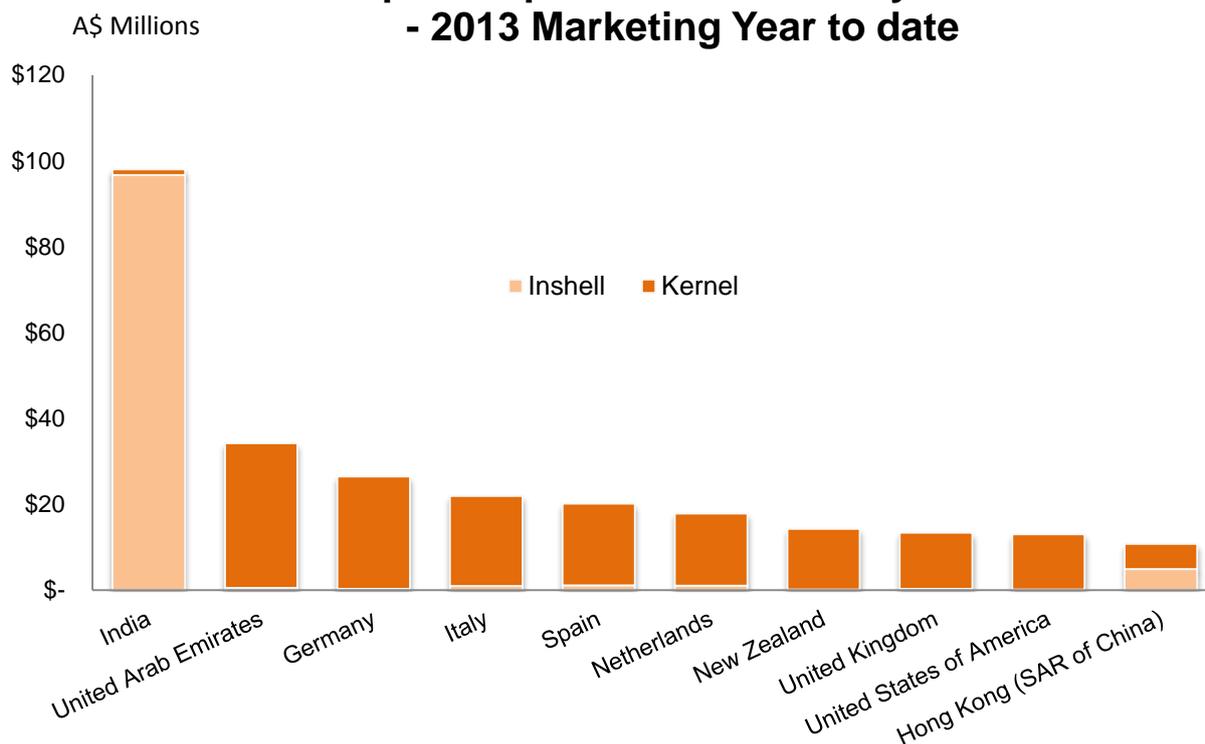
In recent months the industry's four major marketers have attended major trade events in Moscow, Dubai and Tokyo with the aim of identifying new trade contacts and building brand awareness of Australian almonds.

A marketing function conducted by the Almond Board of Australia at the Gulfoods trade fair in Dubai was well attended by 50 traders from India and the Middle East who received an update on the Australian industry and outlook for the 2013/14 growing season.

"Gulfoods was targeted for the forum as India is Australia's largest market with sales of \$97 million in 2013 followed by the United Arab Emirates with exports worth \$34 million. Combined the two markets represent 42.3% of Australian almond exports"



## Top 10 Export Destinations by Value - 2013 Marketing Year to date



### Australian Almond Industry Background Statistics & Information:

- Australia is the world's second largest producer of almonds with 7.2% of 2013 world production.
- The USA is the largest producer of almonds with 80% of global production.
- Over 70% of Australian almond exports are produced in Victoria.
- Almond exports should exceed \$400 million in 2014.
- Total almond sales (domestic and exports) will be around \$600 million in 2014.
- The Australian crop in 2013 was 78,600 tonnes.
- There are 30,000 Ha of orchards planted in the Murray Valley.
- Orchards planted in Australia will produce in excess of 90,000 tonnes when fully mature.
- New England Journal of Medicine video on the Harvard study:  
<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1307352>

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### For further information contact:

- Ross Skinner, CEO on 0448 049 202

The following local contacts are also available:

- **Adelaide growing region:** Dominic Cavallaro 0417 839 082
- **Riverland growing region:** Brendan Sidhu 0417 893 038
- **Sunraysia growing region:** Neale Bennett 0418 990 391 / Tim Orr 0417 597 191
- **Riverina growing region:** Dennis Dinicola 0417 597 191

*The Almond Board of Australia (ABA) is a non profit, membership based organisation representing the interests of Australian almond growers, processors and marketers.*

*As the Australian almond industry's peak industry body, the ABA facilitates further growth of the industry, seeks to maximise its profitability and ensure its sustainability, by providing a platform for industry members to collectively respond to industry-wide issues, invest in research and marketing, share knowledge and interact with government and other stakeholders.*

*Key almond growing areas are located in Sunraysia (Victoria), the Riverland and Adelaide (South Australia) and the Riverina region (New South Wales).*

*For more information visit [www.australianalmonds.com.au](http://www.australianalmonds.com.au) or email: [admin@australianalmonds.com.au](mailto:admin@australianalmonds.com.au)*

