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## Market evolution of garlic (*Allium sativum* L.) in Argentina (*Ex aequo*)

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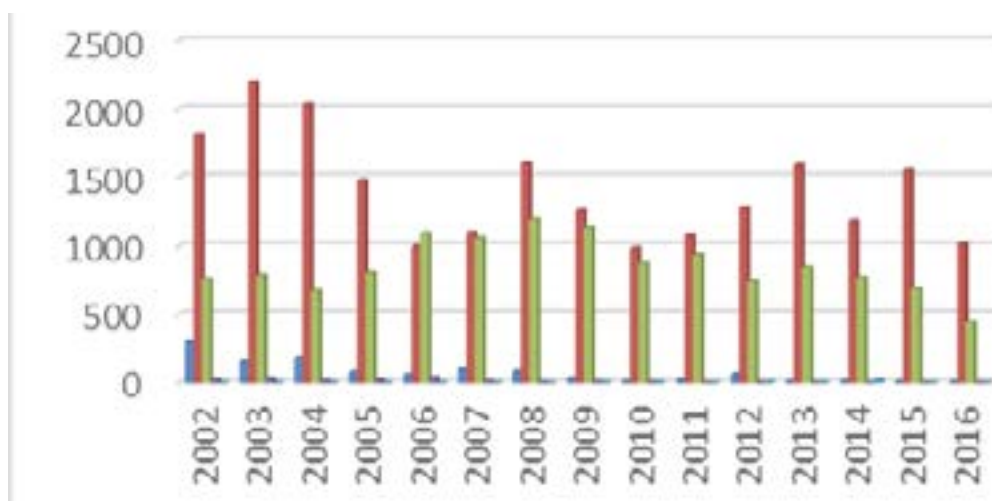
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Garlic is one of the most economically, productively and socially important horticultural products in Argentina, valued for its nutraceutical, bacteriostatic, fungistatic and antioxidant properties, amongst others. It is commercialized mainly in fresh form for both the internal market and exportation, in which Argentina occupies second place (behind China). Exportation is concentrated into three months, whereas the internal market operates all year, represented by several types of variety in distinct provinces. With the aim of analyzing garlic market evolution in Argentina based upon the volume received by the Buenos Aires Central Market, the following aspects were evaluated: total commercial volumes 2002-2016, type of varieties commercialized over the study period (TV) and province of origin commercialized in 2016. From comparative analysis between the first and final years of the study, a decrease of 50% was observed (2002: 2902t and 2016: 1466t). The total volume commercialized in the period was 35313t and the mean annual volume was 2354t, with the following exceeding the mean: 2003: by 35% (a) and 2004, 2002 and 2008: by 23% (ab), 2013: by 4% and 2009: by 3%. Garlic for the internal market was produced in nine provinces, with 98.25% of the total commercial volume concentrated in three provinces: San Juan (33%), Mendoza (32.75%) and Buenos Aires (32.5%), followed by Río Negro (0.72%), Corrientes (0.5%), Santa Fe (0.32%), Santiago del Estero (0.3%), Jujuy (0.2%) and Tucumán (0.15%). Regarding TV for 2002-2016, 99.44% corresponded to three varieties: Colorado 60.03% (a), Chino 36.25% (b) and Blanco 3.16% (c), followed by Rosado 0.45% (c) and Ruso 0.11% (c). The results demonstrate the excessive concentration of the offer in just a few provinces. Furthermore, they indicate the institutional necessity to promote increased varietal diversification and expand the production and commercialization of the internal market of this highly beneficial product for health.



### Biography

Ana María Castagnino is a Horticulture Specialist (UNIPI, Italy) with a Master's Degree in Business Management (UNCPBA, Argentina), and is Professor of Horticulture at UCA, Buenos Aires and Associate Professor at UNCPBA. She is a member of CRESCA (Regional Centre for the Systemic Study of Agro-Food Chains) and directs the programme "Promotion of the production and consumption of asparagus and other non-traditional vegetables".

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