

Current State and Prospects of Nut Fruit Species Growing in the World and Republic of Serbia

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SUMMARY

In the Republic of Serbia of nut species the most grown are walnuts, followed by hazelnuts. However, the share of plantations covered by these species is not larger than 4%. Walnut production has a long tradition in Serbia, and its wide range application makes it one of the appreciated fruit species, while hazelnut production has been steadily increasing over the last years. The objective of this study was to evaluate analysis of the current state and prospects of walnut and hazelnut growing in the world and Serbia, for the period 2013-2018. Based on the FAOSTAT (2020), Serbia in 2017/2018 take the sixteenth place in the world by walnuts production, while it does not belong to the group of 25 countries in the world that are most important in the production of hazelnuts. On the other hand, Serbia ranks tenth in Europe in the total production of walnuts, and fifth place by

1.53%,
2013-2018
(2013 .) 9. 272
2018 . 2013 ., 5.488
(2018 .),
19 058
(2018 .),
3.366
-
-
-
:
, , , ,

production of hazelnuts. According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (2018), in Serbia, walnut is grown at about 1.53%, and hazelnut on about 2.4% of the total orchard area. In the period 2013-2018, production of walnut in Serbia varied from 19,058 tonnes (2013) up to 9,272 tonnes (2018), while production of hazelnut is continuously increased – from 3,366 tonnes in 2013 to 5,428 tonnes in 2018. Generally, in Serbia there was a decrease in total production of walnuts for this period, while for the same period there was an increase in production of hazelnuts.

Key words: Republic of Serbia, walnut, hazelnut, world, production

INTRODUCTION

Fruit growing is a highly profitable and important development branch of agriculture in the Republic of Serbia. Fruit production represents about 11% of the total value of Serbia's agricultural production and, together with fruit products, have a 17% share of the agricultural product export structure (Development Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014-2024).

Today, there is a growing interest in nut fruit production, which can be explained by good domestic and international market conditions. Serbia has favourable climatic and soil conditions for intensive production of these fruit species, but current production is insufficient to meet the country's needs, as it supplies less than 50% of national requirements (Paunovi and Mileti , 2013).

The reason for this is the generative propagation of walnut from natural populations over the last several decades, resulting in the presence of populations having pronounced biotype-specific polymorphism.

One of the methods used to improve walnut production in Serbia is grafting.

11%

17%

2014-2024).

50%

(Paunovi and Mileti , 2013).

<p>60 80%, 1 2010; Paunovi et al., 2011).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walnut grafting is a very complex and expensive process compared to most other fruit species, due to the low rate of callus formation and unsatisfactory percentage of grafting success of 60 to 80 %, while the percentage of class 1 nursery plants of as low as 50-60% of the number of grafted rootstocks (Paunovi , 2010; Paunovi et al., 2011). In terms of hazelnuts, grafting hazelnuts is a less frequently used form of propagation in Serbia, due to technical and environmental demands during and after grafting (Mileti , 2017).
<p>2017).</p>	<p>Another reason for insufficient production of walnut and hazelnut, even apart from favourable agro-environmental conditions, is a long period from investing until the full yield and investment return, from fifth until eighth year. However, it should be noted that in the last years an increased interest in walnut and hazelnut production were observed in Serbia, as the state stimulates the establishment of new plantations through enabling subsidies through procurement of planting material, appropriate irrigation systems and agricultural machinery.</p>
<p>(Cerovi et al., 2006; Taha Al-wadaan, 2011; Pourfarzad and Mehrpour, 2017).</p>	<p>Also, the wide range of walnut and hazelnuts application in nutrition, medicine and food, as well as timber and leather industry makes them one of the most appreciated fruit species. Nut fruit species are rich in dietary fiber, vitamins, and minerals, and packed with numerous health promoting phyto-chemicals. Altogether, they help protect from diseases and cancers, reduce risk of heart disease, improve brain function, blood cholesterol and triglycerides and ensure normal body functions (Cerovi et al., 2006; Taha and Al-wadaan, 2011; Pourfarzad and Mehrpour, 2017).</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considering the extremely favourable climatic and soil conditions in Serbia and the great importance of nut fruit, it is necessary to progress towards setting up new intensive plantations of walnuts and hazelnuts with contemporary assortment

and growing technologies developed.

Walnut and hazelnut production in the World

Demand for walnuts is unlimited on both domestic and international markets, because its wide range application makes it one of the most appreciated fruit species.

According to FAO, walnut is a strategic species for human nutrition and has been included in the list of FAO as a priority crop to cultivate. High fat and protein content, as well as vitamin C determines walnut as the food that plays an important role in the nutrition of the world population. Also, an important walnut advantage is the long life of the trees, including the long productive period.

Based on the FAOSTAT (2020), in 2017/2018, global walnut production was estimated at 3,829,626 tons with an average yield of 3,489 kg/ha, which indicates a consolidating growing trend observed over the previous 10 years. Data collected from all continents show that Asia is the leader in walnut production (2,622,993 tonnes), followed by Americas (820,129 tonnes). In the third place is Europe with 346,862 tonnes, while the smallest production is in Africa (36,992 tonnes) and Oceania (2,650 tonnes). China and United States are the world's top producing countries, accounting for 42% and 29%, respectively (Figure 1). China is the world's biggest producer of walnuts of 1,925,403 tonnes and total yields of 3,930 kg/ha, while United States is second with 571,526 tonnes of production, and average yield of 4,217 kg/ha. Countries with over 100,000 tonnes of walnut production are Iran (12% or 349,192 tonnes), Turkey (6% or 210,000 tonnes), Mexico (4% or 147,198 tonnes) and Ukraine (3% or 108,660 tonnes), whereas Serbia takes the sixteenth place with walnut production of 12,276 tonnes, and average yield from 3,712 kg/ha (FAOSTAT, 2020).

Hazelnut is one of the important

FAOSTAT (2020)

2017/2018 .

3 829 626

3,489 kg/ha,

10

(2 622 993),

(820,129).

346 862 ,

(36 992) (2650).

42%

29% (1).

1 925 403

3 930 kg/ha,

571 526

4 217 kg/da.

100 000

(12% 349,192

), (6% 210 000),

(4% 147,198)

(3% 108 660),

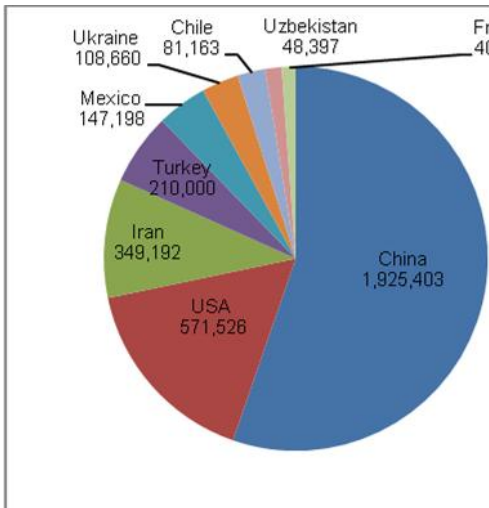
12 276

3 712 kg/ha (FAOSTAT, 2020).

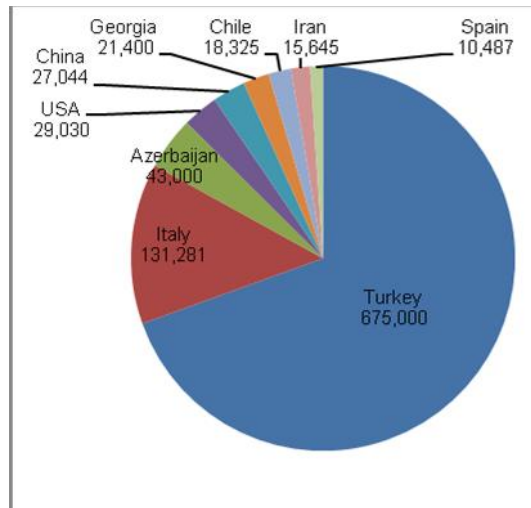
- tree nut crops in the world. Hazelnut fruit is widely used in both the food industry and household on account of its nutritive and aromatic properties. Hazelnuts are a rich source of numerous essential nutrients, containing high amounts of protein, dietary fiber, vitamins and minerals, due to which the worldwide demand for hazelnuts is on the rise, making it a deficient commodity.

- World production of hazelnuts in 2017/2018, was 1,006,178 tonnes with a yield of 1,497 kg/ha (FAOSTAT, 2020). Data collected from all continents show that Asia is the leader in hazelnut production (792,164 tonnes), followed by Europe for 166,481 tonnes, Americas with 47,355 tonnes, while the smallest production is in Africa (177 tonnes).

2017/2018 . 1 006 178
 1497 kg/ha (FAOSTAT, 2020).
 (792 164),
 166 481 ,
 47 355 ,
 (177).



1.
 ()
Fig. 1. Production of walnut in the World (tonnes)



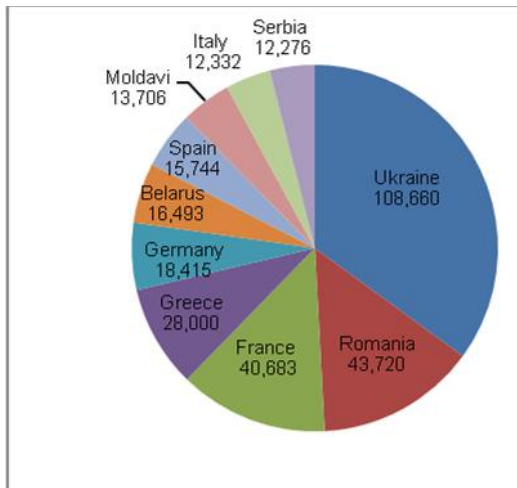
2.
 ()
Fig. 2. Production of hazelnut in the World (tonnes)

675 000) , (67%
 131 574), (20%
 , 80%

- In spite of the high number of producing countries, the hazelnut crop is still concentrated in two Mediterranean countries, Turkey (nearly 67% or 675,000 tonnes) and Italy (nearly 20% or 131,574 tonnes), covering more than 80% of the world production, followed by Azerbaijan,

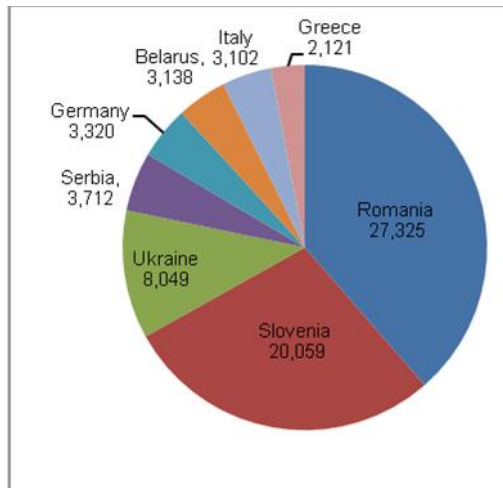
2).
()
(3 4).

USA, China and Georgia (Figure 2). Although hazelnut is also produced in Chile, Iran, Spain and France, these countries do not have a major production because production is below 20,000 tonnes. Serbia does not belong to the group of 25 countries in the world that are most important in the production of hazelnuts with 4,196 tonnes. Walnuts are grown in many different European countries, but Europe's leading producers are Ukraine and Romania (Figures 3 and 4).



3.
()

Fig. 3. Production of walnut in Europe (tonnes)



4.
(kg/ha)

Fig. 4. Yield of walnut in Europe (kg/ha)

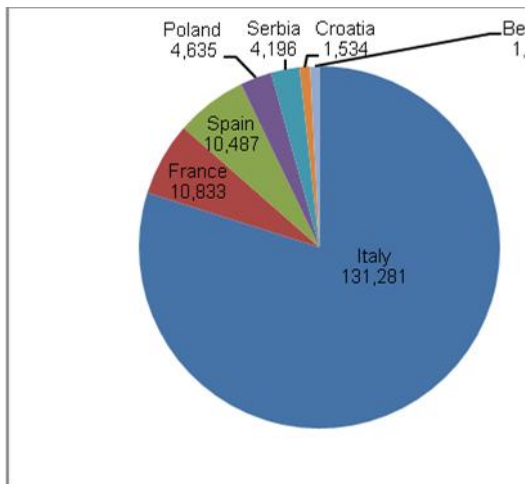
2013-2017 . 341 162
346 862 .
, 108 660
31.33%
(43 720), (40 683),
(18 415), (28 000)
69.04%
(12 276).

The annual production of walnut in the European countries for the period 2013-2017 has increased from 341,162 tonnes to 346,862 tonnes. Ukraine is the top country by production of walnuts which amounts to 108,660 tonnes and accounts for 31.33% of total the production of walnuts. In the top five countries by production of walnuts are also Romania (43,720 tonnes), France (40,683 tonnes), Greece (28,000 tonnes) and Germany (18,415 tonnes) accounting for 69.04% of it. Serbia ranks tenth in Europe in the total production of walnuts (12,276 tonnes). The total yield of walnuts in the Europe varied between 3,217 kg/ha

2876 kg/ha 2013 .
 3217 kg/ha 2017 .
 27 335 kg/ha, (20
 059 kg/ha), (8,049 kg/ha)
 3 712 kg/ha.
 2013-2017 .
 146 706 166 481
 (FAOSTAT, 2020).
 131 281 ,
 2029 kg/ha (5 6).
 -
 (10 833),
 (10 487), (4635
)
 (4 196).
 FAOSTAT (2020)
 -
 (1 304 kg/ ha).

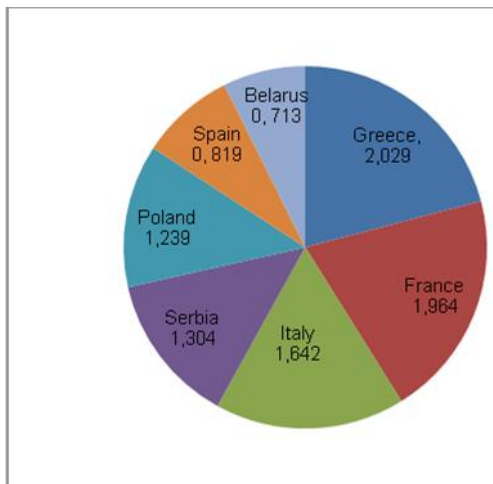
in 2013 to 2,876 kg/ha in 2017. Romania is the top country by the yield of walnuts with 27,325 kg/ha, followed by Slovenia (20,059 kg/ha), Ukraine (8,049 kg/ha) and Serbia with the total yield of 3,712 kg/ha.

The annual production of hazelnuts in the European countries for the period 2013-2017 has increased from 146,706 tonnes to 166,481 tonnes (FAOSTAT, 2020). Italy is the leader in production of hazelnuts which amounts to 131,281 tonnes, while Greece is the top country by the yield of hazelnuts with 2,029 kg/ha (Figures 5 and 6). The top five countries by production of hazelnuts are also France (10,833 tonnes), Spain (10,487 tonnes), Poland (4,635 tonnes) and Serbia (4,196 tonnes). Based on the FAOSTAT (2020), Serbia is the fifth country by production of hazelnuts, and the fourth country by the yield of hazelnuts (1,304 kg/ha).



5. ()

Fig. 5. Production of hazelnuts in Europe (tonnes)



6. (kg/ha)

Fig. 6. Yield of hazelnuts in Europe (kg/ha)

Walnut and hazelnut production in Serbia

- Nut fruits are relatively neglected fruit species in the Republic of Serbia.
- The most important nut fruits are walnut,

4%

(2018 .)

426 ha,
2 798 ha,

1.53%

2013 .
2018 .

1628 ha (

7).

whereas hazelnut is the less prevalent. In recent years, areas of walnut orchards are being decreased, while the hazelnut growing areas are being increased. The share of plantations covered by these species is not larger than 4% of the total fruit plantations.

Walnut production in Serbia is not even close to capacities which can provide by climate and soil conditions. Although walnut is grown in all parts of Serbia, extensive plantations are mostly represented, with a low level of agrotechnics or even without any measures in plantations. The most common reason why intensive growing, even apart from favourable agro-environmental conditions is relatively neglected is a long period of investments and late fruiting, from fifth until tenths year. Therefore, walnuts are planted in small areas or individual self-sown trees.

In the Republic of Serbia walnut is grown at about 1.53% of the total orchard area. According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (2018), the total area under walnut was 4,426 ha in 2013, while in 2018, total area was 2,798 ha, which indicates a significant decreased by 1,628 ha (Figure 7).

The reasons for reduced areas are that the plantations below walnuts are mostly extensive or that walnuts are grown by amateurs, usually as single trees. Also, clearing of old walnut orchards and establishment of small number of new ones resulted in less land areas under walnuts. However, the encouraging fact about this is that even though a small number of new walnut orchards are established, they are modern with irrigation system, which is adjusted to the conditions and biological requirements of the grown cultivars. This is good considering that the main aim of walnut production is to achieve higher yields.

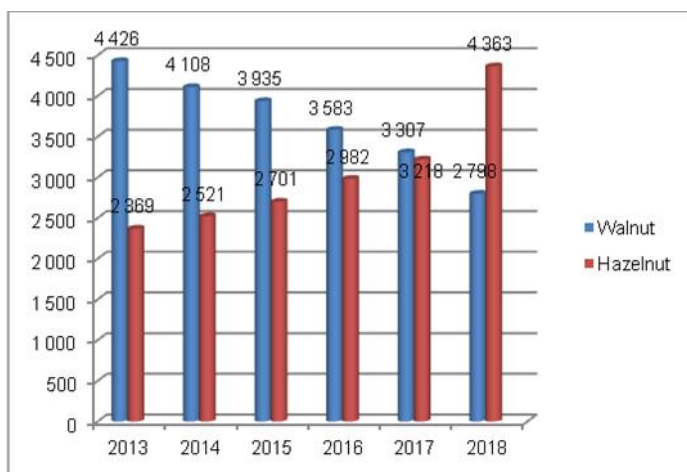


Fig. 7. Growing area of walnut and hazelnut in the Republic of Serbia (ha)

Hazelnut production in Serbia is small, especially the production intended for market, because hazelnut is mainly produced in the households for their own needs. In recent years the interest for hazelnut growing is continuously increasing from about many reasons such as shortage of hazelnut, growing technology that is simple, hazelnut plantings are not prone to serious pests and diseases, which makes the production cheaper, but the problem is still a long period from investing until the full yield and investment return.

In the Republic of Serbia, hazelnut is grown on about 2.4% of the total orchard area. According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (2018), the areas covered by hazel in Serbia are 4,363 ha.

Areas under hazelnut orchards have increased by 1,994 ha, from 2,369 ha in 2013, to 4,363 ha in 2018. However, in recent years even though a relatively small number of new hazelnut orchards are established, they are modern with installed irrigation systems and anti-hail nets, which are adjusted to the conditions and biological requirements of the grown cultivars. Due to the great interest in growing hazelnut, the Republic of Serbia

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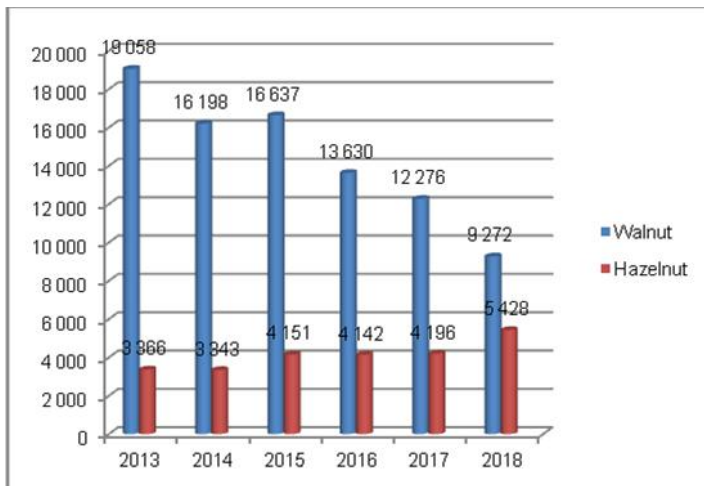
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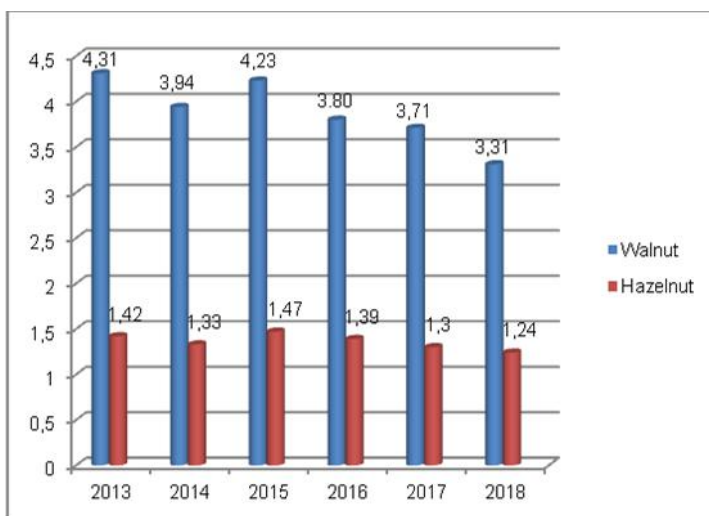
2013-2018 . 14 511,8
 (8).
 (2019 .)
 19 058 2013 . 9
 272 2018 .,
 9 876
 2013-2018 .
 3.88
 4.31 t/ha
 (2013), - 3.31 t/ha (2018).
 1.0 t/ha (9).
 43.19%
 32.58%
 (24.22%
 (10).

might become one of the world's leading producers of this fruit species.

The average annual walnut production in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2013-2018 was 14,511.8 tonnes (Figure 8). According to the data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (2019) production of walnut varied between 19,058 tonnes in 2013 up to 9,272 tonnes in 2018, which represents a decrease in production of 9,786 tonnes. On average, for the period 2013-2018, the yields obtained in Serbia were 3.88 t per hectare. The highest reported yield was 4.31 t/ha (2013) and the lowest – 3.31 t/ha (2018). The yield under walnut orchards is reduced by 1.0 t/ha (Figure 9). Data on walnut production by regions in the observed period showed that it significantly decreased in all regions of Serbia. Out of the total production, more than 43.19% of walnuts were produced in the Region of Šumadija and Western Serbia, while 32.58% of walnuts were produced in Northern Serbia (Belgrade and Vojvodina regions), and 24.22% in the Region of Southern and Eastern Serbia (Figure 10).



8. ()
 Fig. 8. Production of walnut and hazelnut in the Republic of Serbia (tonnes)



9. (t/ha)
Fig. 9. Yield of walnut and hazelnut in the Republic of Serbia (t/ha)

2013-2018 . 4 1044,3 .
 (2018 .)
 3.366 2013 . 5.428
 2018 ,, 2.062
 (8).
 2013-2018 . 1.36
 . -
 1.24 t/ha (2018), - - 1.47
 t/ha (2015).
 - ,
 1.24 t/ha 1.42 t/ha
 (9).
 , , ,
 .
 ,

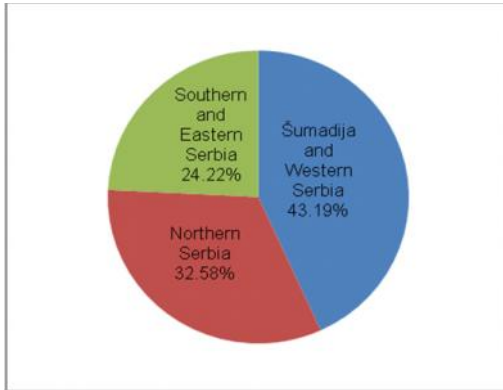
The average annual hazelnut production in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2013-2018 was 4,104.3 tonnes. According to the data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (2018) production of hazelnut varied between 3,366 tonnes in 2013 up to 5,428 tonnes in 2018, which represents an increase in production of 2,062 tonnes (Figure 8). On average for the period 2013-2018, the yields obtained in Serbia were 1.36 t per hectare. The lowest reported yield was 1.24 t/ha (2018) and the highest – 1.47 t/ha (2015). Namely, the hazelnut yield in the first three observed years was higher than the average, and in the last three years lower, and varied between 1.24 t/ha and 1.42 t/ha (Figure 9). Oscillations in the yield can occur as consequences of temperature changes during the period of dormancy, as well as the spring frost damage, drought, hail, surface water and alternate bearing.

Data on hazelnut production by regions in the observed period showed an increase in all regions of Serbia.

Although natural conditions of different parts of central Serbia are favourable for

56.16%

(
) , 22.35%
(21.48%
11).

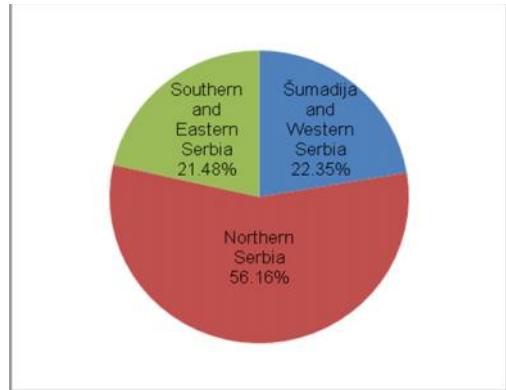


. 10.

Fig. 10. Region involvement in walnut production

hazelnut growing, most plantations of this species are in Vojvodina regions.

Out of the total production, 56.16% of hazelnut were produced in Northern Serbia (Belgrade and Vojvodina regions), 22.35% in Šumadija and Western Serbia, and about 21.48% in Southern and Eastern Serbia (Figure 11).



. 11.

Fig. 11. Region involvement in hazelnut production

„Šejnovno“, „Rasna“, „Šampion“, „Kasni Rodni“, „Ov ar“, „Geisenheim 139“, „Geisenheim 251“, „Jupiter“ „Elit“.

„Chandler“, „Fernor“, „Fernette“, „Franquette“, „Lara“, „Pedro“

- One of the most serious problems in extending the production of walnut and hazelnut in our country is a shortage of high quality planting material. Walnut cultivar assortment is relatively old, changing slowly, and it is not dynamic like the ones of other fruit species. In Serbia, a lot has been done to create new walnut cultivars, but not enough to introduce modern technologies.

- Leading cultivars and selections in walnut orchards are 'Šejnovno', 'Rasna', 'Šampion', 'Kasni Rodni' and 'Ov ar' and pollinators 'Geisenheim 139', 'Geisenheim 251', 'Jupiter' and 'Elit'. Modern plantations of walnut should be planted with healthy planting material produced exclusively by vegetative propagation including prospective cultivars and selections such as 'Chandler', 'Fernor', 'Fernette', 'Franquette', 'Lara', 'Pedro' etc.

„Ennis“, „Tonda Gentile delle Langhe“, „Tonda di Gifoni“, „Istria Long“, „Mogul“, „Multiflorum“, „Cosford“, „Lambert“, „Tonda Gentile Romana“, „Noccione“, „Hall's Giant“.

- Also, the expansion of hazelnut growing in Serbia should be further supported by the cultivars of good biological and economic value that will be adequate for growing under our agro-ecological conditions.
- Leading hazel cultivars in orchards are 'Ennis', 'Tonda Gentile delle Langhe', 'Tonda di Gifoni', 'Istria Long', 'Mogul', 'Multiflorum', 'Cosford' and 'Lambert', and pollinators are 'Tonda Gentile Romana', 'Noccione' and 'Hall's Giant'. Grown cultivars respond to the requirements of the confectionery industry, which presupposes the expansion of cultivars with smaller and rounder fruits.

CONCLUSIONS

2018 . 2013 .

- The comparison of total yields of nut crops from 2013 to 2018 in the Republic of Serbia, shows a decline in walnut production, and increase in hazelnut production.

- Our fruit farmers are interested in producing nut fruit, although these species require greater investment and a longer period of exploitation until full birth.

- From the economic point of view, the favourable environmental conditions and the ability to export provide great opportunities. Therefore, modern plantations of walnut and hazelnut should be planted with healthy planting material produced by vegetative propagation.

- Also, it is necessary to introduce new cultivars, new agro- and pomological measures, and increasing area with installed irrigation systems and anti-hail nets. In addition, it is also important to emphasize the support of the state in production modernization through enabling subsidies for establishment of new plantations, procurement of planting material, procurement of appropriate irrigation systems and agricultural machinery.

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Ecological Aspects of Preservation and Fertility Increase of Irrigated Soils in the South of Ukraine

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Original scientific paper

- The results of the research of studying anthropogenic influence, particularly long-term irrigation of orchards with water of increased mineralization, fertilizers application, and the soil management system in the orchard, upon certain indexes of agroecological state of chernozem soils in the South of Ukraine, on contents of and distribution of water-soluble salts, humus and nitrates, as well as changes in the contents of soil absorbing complex are given.

- Based on many years of research, measures for saving of chernozem soil fertility in long-term fruit agrocenosis are developed.

Key words: humus, irrigation mode, humus accumulation, humus formation, fruit crops

INTRODUCTION

Soil fertility is an important factor in the modern horticulture, as it stipulates yield formation of fruit crops. The yield is determined not only by soil genetic potential, climatic conditions, level of agrotechnical measures etc., but by the complex of processes of energy and substance exchange in "soil-fruit tree" system as well (Popova et al., 2010).

At the same time, fruit agrosystem, especially if intensive technology of cultivation is used, has a direct influence on the changes of soil environment, particularly on humus state of soils, soil absorbing complex composition, salt regime etc. All that is determined by perennial cycle of development, long-term growth of trees on the same place, big technogenic strain, low natural revenue of organic components and biophylic elements as a result of replacement of many-species of plants by one species (Mirkin and Khaziahmetov, 2001; Popova et al., 2010).

According to modern views, every type of soil in its initial state has fixed values of amount of humus state. As soon as its systematical tillage begins, balance between the factors of soil formation is ruined. This is not degradation, but rather normal development of the soil under the influence of anthropogenic actions (Nosko, 2006). Evolution of the soil occurs according to the scheme of quick loss of certain amount of humus during plowing, and minor changes in the future. Difference between them should be in the range of 12-18% (Polupan and Kovalev, 1997).

This range is accepted as criteria of biological loss. Humus that is left after that has high resistance against mineralization, thus not allowing to achieve high yields without application of fertilizers.

However, in the zone of Steppe, where annual precipitation does not

350-500 mm, exceed 350-500 mm, traditional soil management system in the orchard is bare fallow, as it helps to save the moisture. At the same time, if fallow soil management system is used, processes of mineralization of organic substances increase greatly, and even the intensity of processes of humification, humus accumulation, and redistribution of organic substances in the soil profile changes as well (Nosko, 2006). Also, irrigation significantly influences the direction of the soil processes, as it has an effect on the intensity of biological activeness of soils and the rate of humus mineralization (Nosko et al., 1998).

(Nosko, 2006).

(Nosko et al., 1998).

(Nosko et al., 1998; Romashchenko and Balyuk, 2000, Gorbach, 2008).

(Valkov et al., 2008).

- exceed 350-500 mm, traditional soil management system in the orchard is bare fallow, as it helps to save the moisture. At the same time, if fallow soil management system is used, processes of mineralization of organic substances increase greatly, and even the intensity of processes of humification, humus accumulation, and redistribution of organic substances in the soil profile changes as well (Nosko, 2006). Also, irrigation significantly influences the direction of the soil processes, as it has an effect on the intensity of biological activeness of soils and the rate of humus mineralization (Nosko et al., 1998).

In general, in the zone of Southern Steppe of Ukraine – the regions of unstable and inadequate humidification, irrigation, on one hand, is the main factor that secures high productivity of intensive orchards, but on the other hand is a significant factor that influences ecological conditions of the environment, particularly the state of the soil, level and mineralization of soil water, migration of chemical elements (Nosko et al., 1998; Romashchenko and Balyuk, 2000, Gorbach, 2008). Most often, the changes of the properties of the irrigated soils have a negative direction, such as accumulation of water-soluble salts, unfavoable ion ratio in the soil absorbing complex, decline of agrochemical qualities of the soil, and rise of the soil water level and increase of their mineralization.

One of the factors that have an immediate effect on meliorative state of soils, is the chemical composition of the irrigation water. Irrigation of non-saline soils even by low-mineralized water can cause salinity, especially if soil regime is non-washed, granulometric composition is heavy, dense rocks are present etc. (Valkov et al., 2008).

Fertilizers are also a significant anthropogenic factor that influences the

soil state. Application of organic and mineral fertilizers changes the intensity of soil processes, intensify microbiological activity, influences physical and chemical properties of the soil and the soil solution (Nosko, 2006; Valkov et al., 2008).

That is why processes of humification and mineralization of organic substances, accumulation of mineral form of nutrients, formation of salt regime of the soil vastly depend on doses and ratio of different types of fertilizers.

Thus, a feature of modern fruit agrosystems is that they, on one hand, have high rate of specialization and intensive level of exploitation, on the other hand – lead to violation of the balance in “soil-plant-environment” system.

The goal of this study was a detailed research of direction of changes of organic matter contents in the soils in the long term fruit agrocenosis in the south of Ukraine, detection of the character of changes of physical and chemical properties and salt regime of irrigated dark-chestnut soils in order to prevent the processes of degradation in the conditions of application of intensive technologies of fruit crops cultivation.

(2003-2011),

“ 1950-1990 .

(,)

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research was held on the basis of own stationary field and expeditionary experiments (2003-2011), as well as data of stationary experiments of studying the features of long-term fertilizer application, irrigation, different soil management systems in the orchards (apple, pear, apricot, peach), done by employees of IIH named after M.F. Sidorenko NAAS on the same sites in 1950-1990.

Dark chestnut slightly saline soil and southern chernozem (of sandy, slightly loamy, and heavy loamy granulometric composition) are included

150 cm (

m),

0.2n NaOH,

Nessler (N-NH₄)
(N-N₃),

1n NaCl.

0-60 cm 17.2-

19.9%

(1). 60-150 cm

(Polupan,

1988).

in the research.

In soil samples, selected during the period of intensive stalk growth up to the depth of 150 cm (in order to study nitrate migration – up to 5 m), these indexes were determined: humus contents using chrome anhydride in the presence of sulfuric acid, mobile (labile) organic substances – using 0.2n NaOH, mobile forms of nitrogen – with Nessler reactive (N-NH₄) and disulfophenate acid (N-N₃), contents of water-soluble salts – using method of water extract, and absorbed bases – using 1n NaCl.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

If soils are introduced to agriculture, natural factors of soil formation are violated, firstly the balance of organic substances, that had been shaped in virgin soils, is changed.

It regards chernozem soils especially, as they were formed amid steppe vegetation, when the whole plant biomass took part in soil formation process, creating powerful humus profile in chernozem soils as a result. For example, it is proven by research that agricultural use of southern heavy loamy chernozem lead to decrease of humus contents in 0-60 cm layer by 17.2-19.9% compared to virgin soils, the biggest changes taking place in tillable layer (Table 1). In the soil layer of 60-150 cm the decrease of organic substance didn't happen.

No drastic difference in humus contents in tillage was observed, besides slightly higher indexes on non-irrigated soils. It matches the data that attests the fact that effect of irrigation is similar to tillage of soils, that is why irrigated soils have less humus compared to non-irrigated ones (Polupan, 1988).

(Orlov et al., 1996),
 – (Kogut, 1987).

(Nosko et al., 1998; Nosko, 2006;
 Nosko and Malyuk, 2010; Malyuk, 2011).

cm 19 tons/ha (2).

80 70

(26-55),

- aid effective fertility of the soils.

- Concerning the effect of the fertilizers on organic substances, contradictory data can be found in the literature. On one hand, fertilizers cause high effect (Orlov et al., 1996), on the other hand – on the contrary (Kogut, 1987). Besides that, it is proven that direction of the changes of contents of organic substances in the soil can be stipulated by the dose, ratio of organic and mineral fertilizers, terms of their application, method of tillage (Nosko et al., 1998; Nosko, 2006; Nosko and Malyuk, 2010; Malyuk, 2011).

- It was determined in the studies of changes of agrochemical features of main types of soils, long-term used for orchard agrocenosis, particularly the changes in the contents of organic substances, that term of orchard cultivation, soil management system, fertilizer application and irrigation determine big changes in the contents and stock of humus in the soils of the Southern Steppe of Ukraine.

- For example, in the recent years, when use of organic fertilizers decreased greatly, application mostly of mineral fertilizers combined with bare fallow soil management system and irrigation in the conditions of dark chestnut soils lead to the decrease of humus stock in 0-60 cm soil layer by 19 tons per ha (Table 2).

- At the same time, active use of organic and organic plus mineral fertilization systems in the 1970s-1980s, particularly beyond the norm fertilizer application, use of sodding, annual organic fertilizer application aided humus fund stabilization and improvement of its contents, due to which, despite long term of soil exploitation period in the orchards (26-55 years), processes of dehumidification were slower.

- It is characteristic that in most cases main

- loss of humus took place in tillable layer, while changes in the lower soil horizons were less significant.

2.

0-60 cm

Table 2. Changes in humus contents in 0-60 cm soil layer, if soil is used for the orchard

Soil type	Term of use	Humus contents /					
		Initial		At the end of use term		Difference	
		1	2	1	2	1	2
Dark chestnut	15	2.15±0.03	160±15	1.90±0.02	141±10	-0.18	-19
	26	2.79±0.03	208±18	2.41±0.02	179±18	-0.56	-29
	55	2.31±0.02	172±16	1.98±0.02	147±11	-0.33	-25
Southern slightly loamy chernozem /	45	1.40±0.02	121±12	1.43±0.02	124±11	+0.03	+3
Southern sandy chernozem	45	0.71±0.02	63±7	0.71±0.01	63±5	0	0

Note: 1 – % of weight of absolutely dry soil; 2 – tons per ha

: 1%

; 2 - tons/ha

(Nosko et al., 1998).

55

2%

0-60 cm.

45-

- Thereby, recent drastic changes in the amount of annual revenue of organic substances into the soil determined the appropriate evolution of humus synthesis direction, namely mineralization that dominates humification processes.

- Taking into account that under the conditions of transformation of natural phytocenosis into agroecosystem the contents of humus decreases to certain balanced level (Nosko et al., 1998), it is determined that such balanced level for dark chestnut soil after 55 years of its use in the orchard is the contents of organic substances in 0-60 cm soil layer at 2%.

- At the same time, it was determined by the research that despite 45 years of orchards cultivation, application of mineral and organic fertilizers, as well as perennial use of soil sodding by mixture of cereal grasses caused sustenance of stable humus balance and absence of its major losses on southern chernozems of light and medium granulometric composition. Thus, application of organic and mineral fertilizers combined with

- perennial use of sodding is an effective method of regulation and sustenance of non-deficit humus balance in chernozem soils in the orchards.

Thereby, as a result of long term fruit crops cultivation, fertilizers application, and irrigation, humus contents and balance changes, its parameters majorly determine the soil fertility.

In order to maintain stable humus contents and minimize its losses, mandatory periodical application of organic fertilizers on par with mineral is necessary.

Long term soil sodding in the orchards, as an effective method of non-deficit humus balance regulation and sustenance is proposed as an alternative to organic fertilizers application, their amount being very limited in this region.

It is know that formation of nitrogen regime of soils is closely related to the increase of mobility and mineralization of humus substances, including accumulation of large stocks of mobile forms and the increase of soil nitrogen availability in chernozem soils in the conditions of bare fallow and irrigation, especially under nitrogen fertilizers effect. In connection with that, questions of vertical movement of nitrates in the soil profile become more and more actual.

For example, systematic application of nitrogen fertilizers during 2004-2011 in intensive pear orchards with southern chernozem soil determines major accumulation of N-NO₃ in the soil profile. It was noticed that the second peak (after the 100-150 cm soil layer) of their contents was in the depth of 250-300 cm, where their amount is 2-10 times bigger then in the control variant (Figure 1). In case of N₃₀-N₉₀ application accumulation of 4.9-20.0 mg/kg (or 37.0-151.0 kg/ha) of nitrates was observed, while in the soil of the control variant – only 2.0 mg/kg (or 15.1 kg/ha).

2004-2011

N-NO₃

(100-150 cm)

250-300 cm,

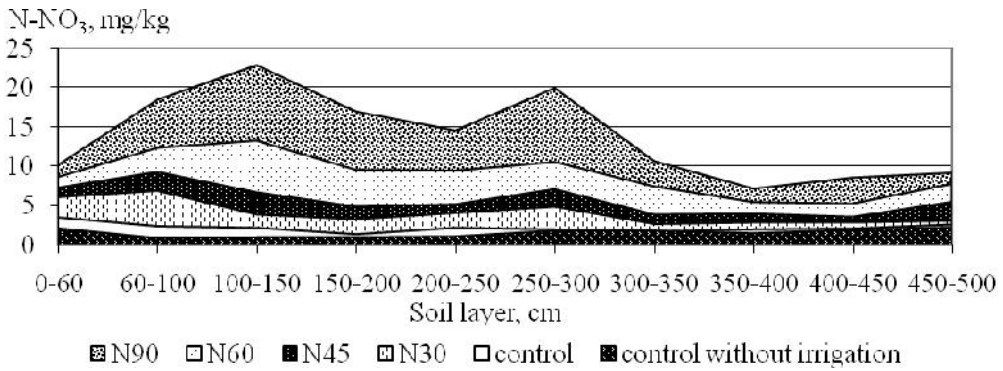
10

(1).

N₃₀ – N₉₀

kg/ha), 4.9-20.0 mg/kg (37.0-151.0

2.0 mg/kg (15.1 kg/ha).



. 1.

Fig. 1. Contents of nitrates and their redistribution in southern chernozem soil profile in case of systematic application of nitrogen fertilizers in the orchard

Soil layer, cm	240 kg/ha		720 kg/ha	
	control	N30	control	N30
450-500	22.8	81.5	16.9	81.5

- Maximum downward migration of nitrate compounds was observed in case of bigger total amount of fertilizers, applied during 8 years: increase of nitrogen dose from 240 to 720 kg/ha lead to the increase of their amount in the 450-500 cm soil layer from 22.8 to 81.5 kg/ha compared to 16.9 kg/ha in the control variant.

- By the way, comparison of data from irrigated and non-irrigated areas shows the differences in nitrate accumulation in the soil profile, particularly the increase of migration of these compounds under the influence of the irrigation water.

- That is to say, in the irrigated conditions of the south of Ukraine with traditional bare fallow soil management system in orchards, organic fertilizers deficit, and active application of nitrogen fertilizers that intensify nitrogen mineralization processes, there is a real threat of environment (soil waters in particular) pollution by nitrate compounds.

- Undoubtedly, irrigation is one of the main conditions that determine ecological stability of agrosocenosis and have a direct effect on the soil fertility indexes, as they majorly influence the soil, migration of chemical elements in the soil profile, level

et al., 2008)

(Gorbach, 2008; Valkov

90
1.8-2.5

(0.4-0.6 g/l)

1.2-1.6 g/ha.

pH

7.7 8.5

150 cm

(w/i) 1.8-3.0

(2).

0-100 cm

(HCO₃)₂, KHCO₃ NaHCO₃,

and mineralization of soil waters etc.

Besides that, chemical composition of irrigation water is one of the important factors that determine soil and meliorative state of irrigated lands.

The contents of water-soluble salts in the soil can significantly differ depending on irrigation water quality (Gorbach, 2008; Valkov et al., 2008).

Up to the beginning of 1990s artesian water with 1.8-2.5 gram per liter mineralization of mostly sulphate and sodium contents was the main source of irrigation water for orchards. Later, Dnipro water (0.4-0.6 g/l) started to be used for irrigation, it was mixed artesian water, due to that irrigation water had mineralization of 1.2-1.6 g/ha.

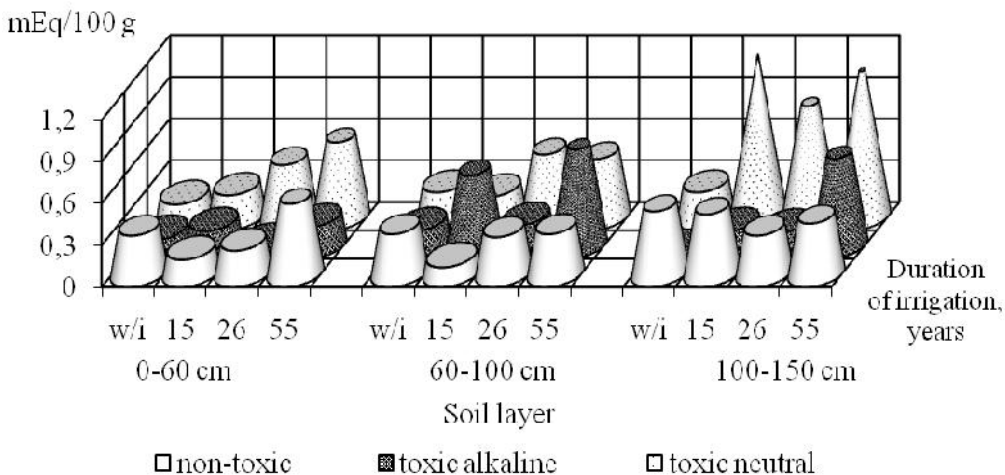
Besides that, when sodium chlorides of artesian water mixed with calcium hydrocarbonate of Dnipro water, soda was formed. It caused the increase of soil pH from 7.7 to 8.5 units. According to agronomic criteria, such water, with the danger of secondary salinization, alkalinization, and toxic effect on the plants is limited useful for orchard irrigation.

During the research of the contents of salts in water extract of dark chestnut soil it was determined that long term irrigation using high mineralization water causes the increase of total amount of salts, including toxic, accumulation of those took place up to the depth of 150 cm, and their amount exceeded control without irrigation (w/i) by 1.8-3.0 times depending on the soil layer and irrigation duration (Figure 2).

It was determined that in the 0-100 cm soil layer contents of the toxic alkaline salts, namely Mg(HCO₃)₂, HCO₃, and NaHCO₃, was more then 0.20-0.47

0.20-0.47 mEq/100 g,
(Ivanov et al., 1998)

- mEq/100 g, reaching critical indexes (Ivanov et al., 1998) for pome crops and exceeding these indexes for stone crops.
-
- So, under the effect of irrigation using high mineralization water, the accumulation of toxic salts in the concentration that can cause decline of growth and productivity of fruit trees, took place.



. 2

Fig. 2. Contents of water-soluble salts in dark chestnut soil in case of long term irrigation of the orchards

15
22.1 mEq/100 g,
1.1 1.8 mEq/100 g.
(26-55)

- It was also determined that under the effect of irrigation some changes took place in the contents of absorbing complex of dark chestnut soil. After 15 years of orchard growing the absorbed calcium contents decreased from 27.7 to 22.1 mEq/100 g, the sum of absorbed sodium and potassium, as well as magnesium, on the contrary, increased by 1.1 and 1.8 mEq/100 g, respectively.
-
- Longer use of the soil with irrigation (26-55 years) did not cause any major further changes in soil absorbing complex of said soil. That might be explained by the decrease of irrigation water mineralization in recent years due to dilution of it by

Dnipro water.

- Thus, chernozem soils of the Southern Steppe of Ukraine that are kept in the conditions of long-term monoculture of the fruit orchard, take strain, different in character and intensity, stipulating changes of their features and resistance to anthropogenic factors, including unfavorable.

CONCLUSIONS

- Fruit agrocenosis suffer active anthropogenic influence that is aimed primarily at the increase of plants yield. At the same time, changes of the indexes of soil fertility (amount and contents of organic substances, activeness of accumulation and migration of substances, including nitrate compounds and water-soluble salts) determine resistance of the soil as a biosphere component.

- Irrigated soils under the deficit of organic fertilizers application, fallow soil management system, active application of mineral fertilizers, and use of irrigation water of high mineralization suffer the biggest negative influence.

- In order to develop ways of decreasing negative anthropogenic strain on quality indexes of soil fertility in long-term fruit agrocenosis of the Southern Ukraine, particularly the decrease of ecological strain in agrolandscapes, harmonization of fertilizer application (both organic and mineral) according to soil and ecological conditions of the region, constant control of soil state considering its genesis, zonal systems of agriculture, cultivation technologies and biological features of fruit crops are all necessary measures.

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