

VIETRADE – Viet Nam’s fruits and vegetables exports are promising this year when many products have been given green lights to be exported to the world’s most demanding markets.

In the first four months of this year, fruits and vegetables exports of Viet Nam touched a revenue of US\$764 million, posting a whopping rise of 47.7 per cent over the same period last year. The export revenue is expected to reach US\$900 million in the first five months and on its way to hit US\$2 billion for the full year.

Last year, fruits and vegetables exports hit a record of US\$1.8 billion. Major export fruits of Viet Nam include dragon fruits (1.1 million tonnes), water melon (300,000 tonnes), longan (250,000 tonnes), mango (100,000 tonnes), lychee (77,000 tonnes), banana (40,000 tonnes) and rambutan (20,000 tonnes).

Vietnamese fruits have successfully penetrated more than 60 countries and territories in the world, even to strict markets like US, Japan and Australia, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development’s estimate. Last year, Vietnamese longan was shipped to the US, lychee to Australia and US for the first time, and mango to Japan and the potentials in these markets remain largely untapped.

According to Hoang Trung, Director of the Plant Protection Department under the Ministry of

Agriculture and Rural Development, fruits and vegetables exports is expected to set a record high this year.

From the beginning of this year, many Vietnamese fruits are exported to demanding markets like dragon to the US, Japan and Korea, mango to Japan and Korea and rambutan and longan to the US.

According to the Plant Protection Department, the US now allows imports of white-fleshed pitaya and red-fleshed pitaya, rambutan, longan and lychees and is considering allowing imports of mango and star apple.

Japan allows imports white-fleshed pitaya and mango and the department is underway to complete procedures for the exports of red-fleshed pitaya, lychee and longan to this market.

Korea also permits the imports of white-fleshed pitaya, red-fleshed pitaya and mango and procedures for the imports of star apple are underway.

Trung says the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will hasten negotiations and works to export more types of Vietnamese fruits to more markets.

However, quarantine check remains the biggest challenge to the exports of Vietnamese fruits and vegetables while importing markets tend to increase their quality requirements.

To tackle this problem, the department is making efforts to provide instructions to farmers in ensuring that the production complied with requirements of importers, Trung says. Applying technology in cultivation and following VietGap and GlobalGap standards will also help produce quality and safe products.

Re-organising production towards enhancing quality and ensuring food hygiene and safety is essential, which requires companies to join hands with farmers to develop the production chain.

There are more than 100 fruit and vegetables processing plants with a total capacity of 300,000 tonnes per year.

Promoting lychee export

Arising as a promising fruit for export in recent years, preparations for promoting export of lychee is geared up as the harvest is approaching.

Trung says that exporters are eyeing markets like the US, EU and Southeast Asia for lychee.

The Ha Noi Irradiation Centre is ready to implement irradiation services for fruit exports this year also helps to reduce costs for exporters.

Regarding China, the biggest importers of Vietnamese lychee, on May 27, Lao Cai Province People's Committees in cooperation with lychee growing provinces including Bac Giang, Hai Duong and Hung Yen Province held a conference to connect with Chinese firms which would import Vietnamese fresh thieu lychee.

Vietnamese lychee exported to China is mainly shipped through border gates in Lao Cai, Lang Son and Ha Giang, totally 91,000 tonnes last year or nearly 90 per cent of the total lychee's export volume.

Fruit exports promising to break US\$1.8 billion record

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Leaders of Lao Cai, Bac Giang, Hai Duong and Hung Yen Provinces at the conference pledged to create advantageous conditions for traders and exporters to promote lychee exports./.