

Ethiopia initiates first shipment of fruits and vegetables to Europe

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Ethiopia has initiated its first-ever shipment of refrigerated fruits and vegetables to the European market, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. Ethio Vegfru, a private limited company focused on exporting and importing, launched the shipment of Sugar Snap and Mangetout vegetable products to the Netherlands, with Agriculture State Minister Sofia Kasa in attendance.

Ethiopia is recognised for its favourable climate conditions, which allow for the year-round cultivation of a variety of fruits and vegetables, including mangos, grapes, and oranges. During the event, Tsegaye Abebe, Managing Director and Founder of Ethio Vegfru announced that 12 tonnes of Sugar Snap and Mangetout vegetables would be delivered to the port of Djibouti using a container equipped with modern refrigeration technology.

The fresh produce was loaded in Koka and will be transported to the Netherlands via the Ethio-Djibouti transport corridor, taking approximately 23 days. This shipment marks a significant milestone in developing a cool logistics corridor for exporting fruits, vegetables, and other perishable goods by sea freight through the Port of Djibouti.

Tsegaye highlighted that Ethiopia has yet to fully exploit its potential in fruit and vegetable production. He emphasised the importance of scaling up production and expanding export markets, as well as the need for increased investments in the sector.