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Raspberry production in Ukraine: current status and possibilities for development

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1. Introduction

Development of the industrial cultivation of berries not only in Ukraine but all over the world from year to year is gaining a larger scale, as well as the level of its consumption and processing. Therefore, research of consumption and production market of berries in the operating and economic plane now could be highly relevant research. In this article, we will focus on one berry crop, raspberry as one of the most consumed small fruit crops in the world in general and in Ukraine in particular, and try to analyze the current situation and the prospects for its cultivation.

2. Data and Methods

Information derived from an analysis of official statistics data for the period 2011-2014 includes commercial production, post-harvest handling, as well as sales channels and supply chains for raspberries in Ukraine. Such key indicators were identified: acreage of raspberry cultivation, total production volume, types of raspberry producers with their share in total volume, average yield, production by regions, economic and invested capital efficiency in establishment of raspberries plantations and average cost structure.

Year	Private companies, ths. ha	Households, ths. ha	Private companies, ths. tonnes	Households, ths. tonnes
2010	0,5	4,9	0.36	25,3
2011	0,4	4,9	0.54	27,5
2012	0,5	4,8	0.53	29,7

Figure 1. Acreage and harvest of raspberries.

Source: State statistics committee of Ukraine.

3. Results

Production of raspberries in Ukraine faces many problems connected with: low technological and technical level of producers; old varieties with low potential productivity; lack of certified plant material suppliers; inadequate postharvest handling; slow implementation of EU standards; absence of cooperation between producers; issues and challenges in financing horticultural industry in general.

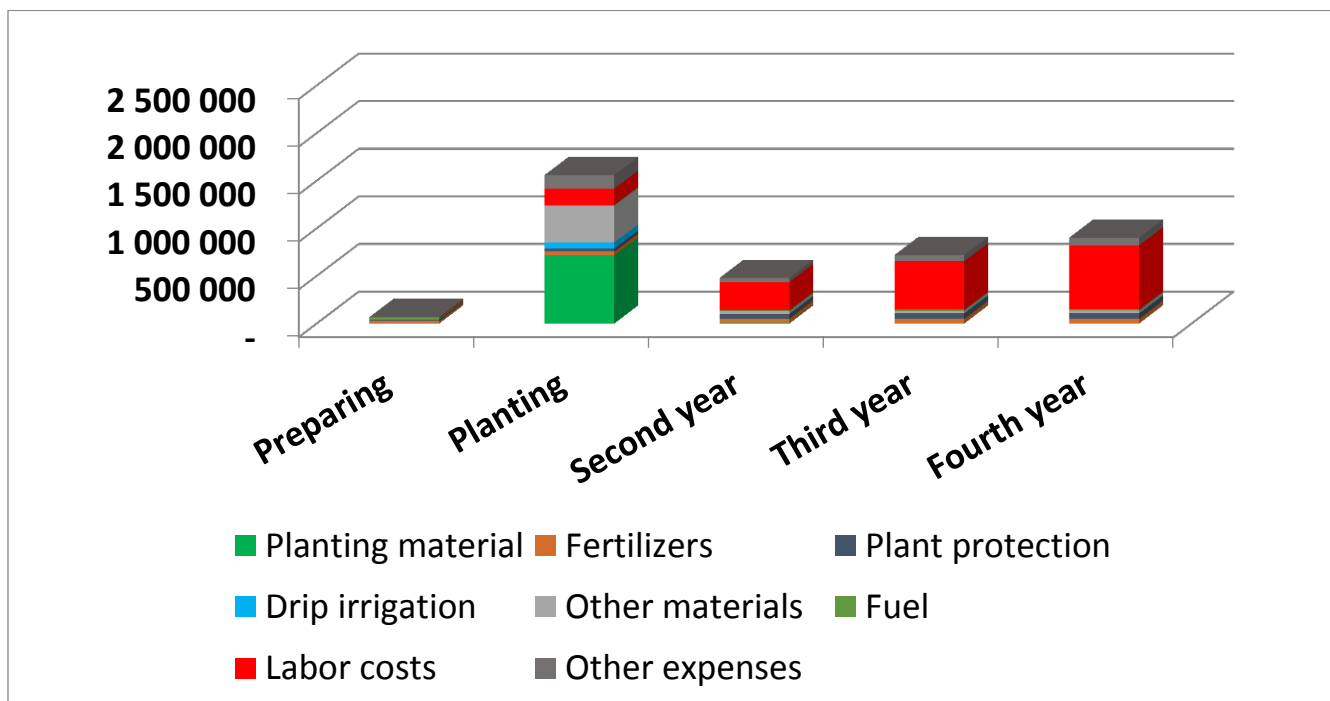


Figure 2. Costs structure of raspberries growing (calculation on 10 ha).

Source: Own compilation and calculations.

To develop efficient and competitive production of raspberries in Ukraine, the co-operation between key stakeholders (input suppliers, propagators, producers, processors, retailers and exporters) should be focused on: adoption and implementation of good agricultural practice standards (e.g. “GlobalGap”), conducting research to improve yields, development horticultural extension services to provide trainings for soft-fruit producers on new technologies and best practices; introduction modern varieties with higher productivity, better fruit quality and pest resistance; development of market infrastructure; improving safety of produce; and creation of healthy business environment to facilitate investments in the industry.

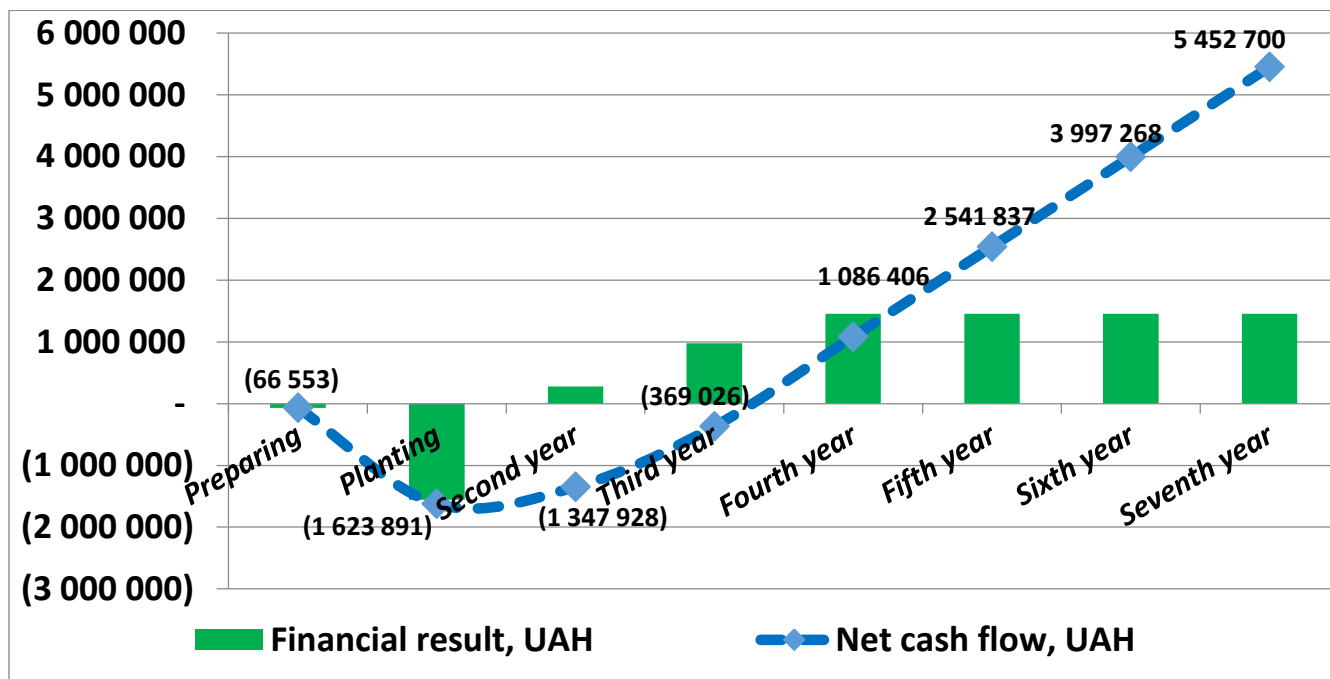


Figure 3. Economic efficiency of raspberry growing (on 10 ha).

Source: Own compilation and calculations.

4. Conclusions

Economic efficiency of industrial raspberry is one of the highest among all berries crops. On the next year after planting grower could expect to pick up and sell first harvest. However, if planting "long cane" type plants, then the first harvest can be obtained 60 days after planting, which makes a quick investment return. One of the quickest in berries sector.

It is important to understand that high results and prospects of commercial raspberry growing are available only for industrial professional growers, who can provide quality planting material, install drip irrigation, undergo European certification, mechanization of all production processes, ensure high quality storage products etc.

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