

IFS Case Study – Tiantong Food Company

Linyi City is in the East of China in Shandong province, not far from the busy port of Qingdao. The area is well known for its fruit growing and the **Tiantong Food Company**, a part of the Yuanyu Development Group, has been canning and freezing fruit and vegetables there for over thirty years. There are over 400 employees and the company has an annual sales turnover of \$10 million. There is a wide range of products that includes asparagus, peaches, pears and mushrooms. It is one of the leading exporters from China and its products are sent as private label products to retailers around the world, including Japan, Korea, Russia, USA and various European countries.

In the rapidly growing Chinese domestic market, the Tiantong Food Company supplies the global retailer Carrefour with a number of private label products. The company was introduced to IFS by Carrefour and achieved certification in 2004. Previously it had worked with ISO 9000 and HACCP systems. It still maintains its other certifications because of the range of customers it works with.

“ Since the launch of the IFS in 2001, a continuous review process has made sure our standard delivers best practice food safety and legal requirements. An information exchange with the retailers, manufacturers and the certification bodies from different countries is our foundation and has led us to the current fifth IFS version. I believe this shows how we work together to share knowledge so it can improve standards for all our consumers.”

Stephan Tromp

Managing Director, International Food Standard, HDE (German Retailers)



Zi Yuan Yang
CEO

Ms Chunxia Lu, the Quality Manager at the factory says: *“We really believe in our customers. If they are happy with the product then we will also be happy. We like to think of the people around the world who enjoy our product. The IFS Standard has been a very positive experience for us and since its introduction we have been able to further improve the consistency of production. The new version has a good focus on how to deliver continuous improvement and it seems simpler while also being more challenging.*

Sometimes I think that our work is like being in a boat on a river, working hard against the current. With constant effort it is possible to keep making progress but it has to be a team effort. Good planning and sharing our problems help us move quicker up the river. The IFS Standard helps us very much in this work. We realise that we are a part of the global economy and this proves it to our many customers at home and abroad.”