



Maître Prunille, a subsidiary of Union de Coopératives France Prune, is opening up its capital to finance its development.

Maître Prunille is carrying out a capital increase subscribed by Unigrains. Following this transaction, Unigrains will hold a minority stake alongside Union des Coopératives du Lot-et-Garonne France Prune.

Established in 1988, Maître Prunille processes and sells a wide range of dried and soft fruit (Agen prunes, apricots, almonds, dates, raisins, etc.). In 2015, the group processed 50,000 tonnes of fruit for sales of more than €200 million. Thanks to its extensive product portfolio and its strong presence in export markets, Maître Prunille is a European leader on its market.

After a phase of organic growth in activity through major industrial investments and targeted acquisitions, Maître Prunille wanted to have additional financial resources in order to continue its growth, which will notably involve further acquisitions in France and abroad.

The shareholder of Maître Prunille chose Unigrains as a financial partner to support the development of its commercial subsidiary.

This deal was finalised on 21 September 2016. The Messis Finances team advised Maître Prunille and its sole shareholder, France Prune, for the engineering and finalisation of the transaction, which received several expressions of interest.

About Union France Prune - Maître Prunille:

Union des Coopératives France Prune was created in 1963 to organise production and drying of the Lot-et-Garonne Ente plum.

This union of producer cooperatives successfully diversified its activities through Maître Prunille, which has a long-standing presence in hyper- and supermarkets with its Maître Prunille, EAT ME, Rigopop and Domino brands and its own-brand labels, notably by forming business relationships with major players in the out-of-home catering and agri-food industries. The group is currently the leading European transformer of dry fruit and the third-largest global processor of prunes, present in a broad range of sectors (hyper- and supermarkets, foodservice, ingredients, wholesalers, etc.) in France and abroad, with more than 30% of export business. In 2013, Maître Prunille took over Bargues Agro-Industrie, the leading processor of nuts dedicated to B2B. In 2014, Maître Prunille also acquired SAISOF, a company specialised in dried fruit sold on the Rungis International Market.

About Unigrains:

Unigrains is a financial company specialising in the agri-food and agro-industry, majority-owned by the grain industry. For 50 years, Unigrains has been supporting businesses in these sectors by providing their leaders with tailor-made financial solutions in equity and quasi-equity, as well as contributing its recognised industry expertise. Together with its subsidiaries, Unigrains manages more than one billion euros and is a partner for close to 200 companies, operating at various stages of their development, notably for capital restructuring, strategic investments and acquisitions ensuring their national and international growth.

About Messis Finances:

Messis Finances is a corporate finance advisory company specialising in the agri-food and agro-industry, providing full support for all capital transactions (disposals, acquisitions, capital raising). As a Group Unigrains company, Messis Finances has privileged access to agri-business decision-makers and a strong presence in the local economic fabric. The Messis Finances team of six experienced professionals has advised around 40 deals since 2007 and enjoys recognised, industry-leading expertise. Through its network of international correspondents, Messis Finances covers major countries in Europe, North America, South America and Asia.

Stakeholders

MAITRE PRUNILLE - *Xavier Picard*

UNIGRAINS - *Bruno Julla, Géraldine Salomon, Julien Becquet, Virginie Colombo*

Investor advisors

Legal: **LAMARTINE CONSEIL** - *Stéphane Rodriguez, Ugo Audouard*

Financial due diligence: **MAZARS** - *David Couturier, Alexandra Audouard*

Advisors to France Prune / Maître Prunille

Financial advisors: **MESSIS FINANCES** - *Elie Auriac, Sébastien Bonnaire, Aurélien Bossuat*

Legal advisors: **DLLP** - *Estelle Daret, Sophie Larronde-Champilou*