

Food Briefs National

- ❖ Due to a decline in domestic output for lack of serious efforts for sustainable growth in production Imports increased by 43% to 308,000 tons during July-December 2014, from 215,000 tons in July-December 2013.
- ❖ Sindh government had decided to revise the price of sugarcane to Rs168-170 from Rs 182 per 40kg if it was acceptable to both millers and growers. This offer can be adjusted to make it acceptable to the two warring sides.
- ❖ The domestic market is faced with a basmati rice shortage. The prices are sliding while the government is stuck with bigger issues of national economy and security and is unable to help stabilize the rice trade.
- ❖ Officials of Ministry of National Food Security and Research plan to make a full assessment of the economic impact of growth in agribusiness in recent years adding that, as a first step, and will conduct a county wide survey
- ❖ The federal government has allowed the export of 1.2m tons of wheat, promising a rebate of \$45 per ton. Sindh has around 0.95m tons of the crop, with harvesting less than two months away.
- ❖ Pakistan's meat industry remains underutilized as the calves are not provided quality feed, particularly by subsistence farmers, leading to low quality production of beef
- ❖ Due to a decline in the area under cultivation, lack of required investment in orchard management, and failure to contain much of post-harvest losses the overall production of fruits has been falling for some years.
- ❖ The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) approved financing of \$35 million for a 'livestock and access to market' project that will contribute to rural growth and poverty reduction in rural Punjab.
- ❖ Export of fruits, continue to rise thanks to market diversification, processing and value-addition, and growing use of web-based marketing.
- ❖ The Punjab Seed Corporation (PSC) and the Breeders of Maize and Millet Research Institute on Monday jointly launched first hybrid seed of maize
- ❖ The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is working on a baseline atlas of current soil fertility practices, disaggregated by farm size and cropping systems in Pakistan. ◆

Food Briefs International

- ❖ Canada, FOOD freshly, innovator in shelf-life extension solutions, will present the company's new line of Freshness Retainer products at this year's Canadian Produce Marketing Association from 15th to the 17th of April in Montreal, Canada.
- ❖ According to the Fruit Exporters Association of Chile AG, ASOEX, and the Committee of Cherries the record of shipments reached during the current season of Chilean cherry exports 2014- 2015 is expected to end with exports of about 100,000 tons.
- ❖ As Greek season gets over , people have started to switch to Egyptian oranges and the market is on improvement after a rough start for Valencias variety
- ❖ Imports from China are currently the most criticized within the European warning system for dangerous foods (RASFF). The increasing import of foods and organic products from China means EU will have to improve its checks.
- ❖ Blue Whale, a supplier of French tree fruit, sent their first shipments of French apples and pears earlier this year and will be available in the United States, after a long absence from the market.
- ❖ Florida are pleased to announce an exclusive distribution agreement between Village Farms International Inc. (VFF.TSX) with US headquarters in Heathrow, Florida and Florida Organic Farms Int. LLC. located in Okeechobee.
- ❖ Grape quantities have increased in India due to improvement in Infrastructure bringing in more opportunities for various varieties of grapes.
- ❖ Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board (MPIB) director-general Sahdan Salim said that currently there were 809.8ha areas planted with the MD2 pineapple mostly in Johor.
- ❖ The Dutch season is currently coming to an end Dutch red berries will be available until week 16. Berry brothers is one of the largest red berry companies in Europe with a cultivation area of over 70 hectares.
- ❖ The new variety of strawberry Sabrina has been a success in the Mediterranean basin, according to its developer, Planasa. Its market share in the area in just four years stands above 35%.
- ❖ According to a report issued Monday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Grape crop in California's was down 12% from the previous year in 2014.
- ❖ For Potato Council UK, the main destination remains Egypt, where it achieved record exports this season, with shipments totaling 53,000 tons; 3,000 tons more than in the previous year. ◆

