

Food Briefs National

- ❖ Pakistan's mango exports to the European Union (EU) markets are expected to start soon after the Directorate of Plant Protection (DPP) 'temporarily' waived the requirement of getting the MRL (maximum residue level) tests of the (exporting) orchards done prior to shipment of consignments.
- ❖ A recent inter-provincial meeting has agreed to launch food fortification for fighting malnutrition. The meeting was chaired by Minister for National Health Services (NHS) Saira Afzal Tarar and attended by Planning Secretary Hasan.



- ❖ The Basmati exporters experienced high domestic prices, due to which they have lost edge to the Indian competitors.
- ❖ The State Bank of Pakistan has launched collateral-free lending programme which is designed to help small farmers access bank credit easily. This credit guarantee scheme is being jointly sponsored by the central bank and the federal government.
- ❖ The slide in export, which began a few years ago, is still on: from 1.2 million tonnes, they have come down to 700,000 tonnes.



- ❖ The Sindh government with collaboration of the World Bank planning to modernize the agriculture sector improves its productivity and access to market with estimated investment of Rs 8,867.463 million.
- ❖ Wheat's contribution to annual production of all food grains reported at about 34 tons works out to almost 98%. Wheat, grown on about 9m hectares annually is the most critical.
- ❖ Pakistan has set this season's mango export target at 120,000 tonnes, higher from last year's less than 91,000 tonnes. ♦



Food Briefs International

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), has decided to ban imports of avocados from Australia, Spain, Ghana, Guatemala, Israel, Mexico, South Africa, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the U.S. state of Florida.
- ❖ Ikonomou a Greek company, having a history dating back to 1936, is devoted to the production and export of rock samphire. This herb is popular for making fish dishes and its health benefits in countries like Dubai and the UK.



- ❖ A few weeks ago, the Almeria company Vegacañada kicked off the 2015 melon and watermelon campaign, in which it expects to grow by about 20% in volume compared to the previous year.
- ❖ The Directorate General of Agricultural Services of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Paraguay has decided to enable the entry of fresh mango and grapes from Peru into the country.

- ❖ Mr. Koji Nakao a farmer from Fukuoka, Japan contacted Guinness World Records when he found an unusually large strawberry during harvest. It weighs at a whopping 250 g (8.82 oz) with an approximate height of 8 cm (3.15 in), length of 12 cm (4.72 in) and circumference of 25 to 30 cm (9.84 to 11.81 in).
- ❖ As reported last month, Pakistan and India supply the UAE with 70% of its mangoes, but heavy rain has severely affected production this year. ♦

