

Food Briefs National

- ❖ The newly elected Pakistan government, committed to revolutionizing the agriculture sector, can take the lead here. In crops, they need to promote deep placement of fertilizers and popularize the use of farm management software. In vegetable cultivation, they need to promote tunnel farming and introduce the concept of high-roofed greenhouses. In the livestock sector, they need to set up as many dairy hubs as possible and adopt new animal feeding systems.
- ❖ As Pakistan is still an agrarian country the role of the agriculture sector is vital in its economy. Moreover agrarian products provide raw material basics for our industrial sector as well- making it a vital source of national income. The agriculture industry provides employment to a large portion of the labour force in Pakistan. More than 45 % of the labour force is thought to be directly associated with this industry, while more than 66.7 % of the rural population is dependent on agriculture. Agriculture has played an important role in the reduction of unemployment and disguised employment.
- ❖ As part of the United States' government's efforts to strengthen Pakistan's agricultural sector, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has been working with the Pakistani government and private sector since 2009 to expand the market of Pakistani mangoes globally.
- ❖ Punjab Agriculture Department is to provide financial and technical assistance to farmers under a project to develop the irrigation system on modern lines in non-canal areas of the province. The department's spokesperson, Najaf Abbas said that assistance will be provided to those farmers who have sufficient quantity of water and their irrigated area is at least five acres, reported Radio Pakistan.
- ❖ A Chinese delegation comprising on scientists and agriculture experts here on Friday visited Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) and expressed their keen interest in cooperation and joint ventures in the fields of research and development in order to uplift the agricultural sector of Pakistan.
- ❖ The federal Ministry of Food Security and Research has sought budget proposals from stakeholders on regulation of milk powder imports, as it adversely affects domestic production of fresh milk. The ministry has sought budget proposals to safeguard the interest of dairy farmers, which will be presented in a meeting scheduled to be held soon in Islamabad, the official said.
- ❖ President Mamnoon Hussain of Pakistan has attended the opening ceremony of the Pakistan Poultry, Dairy and Livestock Expo 2018 with the participation of Nasser bin Huwaidin Al Ketbi, UAE Consul General in Karachi. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the President said there existed a huge potential for local production of poultry, dairy and livestock in Pakistan and the foreign investors could benefit from the most flexible and investment friendly policies of the country. The ceremony was attended by members of the diplomatic and consular corps accredited to Karachi, businessmen and heads of companies. ◆

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- ❖ A public private meeting was organized by the Ministry of Agricultural Business of the Nation to promote an increase in consumption of fruits and vegetables in the country, which is in the order of 200 grams per day per person, i.e. half of the amount recommended (excluding tubers) to have a balanced and healthy diet, and quite far from the ideal 700 grams (300 grams in fruits and 400 in vegetables).
- ❖ The Australian summer fruit industry has recorded its best export season in over a decade as the new access to China saw exports soar. In results released by Summerfruit Australia for the 2017/18 season, the exports of Australian peaches, nectarines, plums and apricots increased 27% year on year to 17,785 tonnes, worth A\$65.17 million (US\$48m).
- ❖ Chile is expected to export its pears for the first time to the Chinese market next year after a series of successful talks between the representatives of the two countries.
- ❖ The Chilean Fruit Exporters Association said that the two sides reached an "important agreement" to speed up the market access process. The talks also discussed topics such as avocado exports, frozen product exports and electronic certification in areas affected by fires.
- ❖ A new regulation as recently issued by the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture recently that eliminates the use of "harvest periods" as a basis to restrict horticultural product imports. However, the regulation also gives the Director General (DG) for Horticulture new and expanded authority to consider "domestic horticultural production" when issuing import licenses.
- ❖ British producers have obtained approval to export potato seeds to Kenya, where the crop is the second most important after maize. Ten potato varieties were trialed at three separate farms over two seasons with the free variety Cara and two James Hutton Ltd varieties (Gemson and Lady Balfour) making the grade.
- ❖ According to a mushroom grower in New Zealand, demand for its produce typically increases throughout the winter months. The Te Mata Mushroom Company is based in Havelock North on the North Island, producing between 20-25 tonnes of fresh mushrooms a week, consistently throughout the year.
- ❖ Abu Dhabi Farmers' Service Centre (ADFSC) has announced its 'Agricultural Production Plan' for the 2018-2019 season, starting mid-August and continuing until June 2019.
- ❖ Ukraine exported fruit and berries worth \$100 million in the first half of 2018, which is 59% more than in the same period of 2017. According to the Ukrsadprom association, the main products in the structure of exports were walnuts worth \$64 million, frozen berries for \$23 million, apples and pears for \$8 million. ◆