

Food Briefs National

- ❖ Around 26 million tons of wheat is expected to harvest during the current season a figure, little short of annual target. It is the highest ever as increased fertilizer decreases the low acreage impact.
- ❖ Engro Foods has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Greenland Zone, which provides farm machinery and financial assistance for the agricultural sector. Engro Foods is a leading enterprise in packaged milk and dairy products.
- ❖ The agriculture experts have advised the farmers to start the cultivation of sugarcane crops and complete it by mid of March to get bumper yield.
- ❖ 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, an official said on Saturday.
- ❖ The smartphones will be handed out to registered farmers soon which will help them ascertain when to water crops and how much fertilizer to use.
- ❖ The imports of tea into the country witnessed 9.65% increase during the first three quarters of the ongoing fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year. P
- ❖ PARC being the apex body of agricultural research and development in Pakistan is coordinating with international partners to promote and coordinate research activities. Government of Pakistan and Government of Turkey have been actively collaborating in various sectors, particularly agriculture sector.
- ❖ Dairy and livestock farmers have shown concern over import and sale of dry milk in the country, stressing the government to ban import of dairy items and instead take serious steps to enhance milk and meat production in the country.
- ❖ Government completing its constitutionally mandated five-year term in the 2nd quarter of the current year which proved to be a bleak period for the farmers of the country. The government made lot of claims to revitalize the agricultural sector of the country, yet it was without any concrete strategy to implement the measures listed in it. Consequently, government could not formulate an agricultural policy during its entire tenure.
- ❖ Rice exports from Pakistan have seen sizeable growth of overall 27% at the end of February, 2018.
- ❖ High-yielding hybrid rice is going to cross 50% of the total area planted with paddy in the next three years from the current range of 25% to 30%, which will increase the output by 2 million tons, said Guard Rice Research and Services CEO Shahzad Ali Malik. ♦

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- ❖ In Adelaide region, Hundreds of thousands of sterile fruit flies will drop from the sky this month kicking off the plan to reduce the numbers of an endemic pest.
- ❖ At the end of April or beginning of May, the US market would once again have lemons from Tucuman, said the governor of Tucuman, Juan Manzur. He said that they had complied all regulations and that this news was "superior, as the products from Tucuman had achieved opening the most demanding market."
- ❖ The leading strawberry producers worldwide are China, the US, Spain and Japan, which produce almost 5 million tons of fruit. In Brazil strawberry production has increased a lot over the past decade thanks to the high yields and a transformation in the cultivation process. It produces around 3,500 tons of strawberries in the states of Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná, Santa Catarina, San Paolo, Espírito Santo, Distrito Federal, Bahia and Ceará.
- ❖ According to the Crop Report of the Chilean Blueberry Committee, the season continues delivering good news in its end phase. Chile exported 3,788 tons of fresh blueberries, i.e. 22% more than the volume that had already been re-estimated. So far, the country has exported 104,703 tons this season, surpassing last year's record season of 103,000 tons.
- ❖ Since 1980's, Ontario's garlic industry has been growing commercially, being held back only by knowledge. A decade later a few but fervent growers, including The Garlic Box, emerged to facilitate full-scale production and growth of this one-time cottage industry. An element for success was to inform consumers about what differentiates local garlic from offshore.
- ❖ PrimeLINE ONE, a new refrigerated shipping container developed through a joint initiative of Carrier Transcold and Singamas Container Holdings Ltd., a leading manufacturer of shipping containers, was announced this week at Intermodal Asia 2018.
- ❖ After the constant rain and the catastrophic harvest conditions in some regions in the autumn of last year, uncertainty existed as to how long organic potatoes will remain stable in the warehouses also contributed to this uncertainty.
- ❖ DropCopter out of Corning, California, works on the automated pollination of orchard crops via unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). It strives for farming efficiency, the promotion of new technologies and healthy crop yield growth. Every year growers need bees to pollinate their flowers. If there are not enough bees, there's not enough fruit. DropCopter basically supplements the amount of lost bees by flying over those same flowers and dropping pollen using a drone. ♦