

Turkish Agri industry delegation meets PM Imran Khan

A delegation of Turkish investors in agri-based industry called on Prime Minister Imran Khan in Ankara. The delegation was led by Turkish Minister for Agriculture and Forestry Bekir Pakdemirli.

During the meeting, they discussed the prospects of bilateral collaboration in food processing, dairy sector, and food chain management. The prime minister was on a two-day official visit to Turkey, at the invitation of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Government to introduce a regulatory framework for the food industry

Prime Minister Imran Khan says the government is committed to improve ease of doing business and facilitate investors in every possible manner.

He was talking to CEO of Engro Foods and FrieslandCampina Hein Schumacher who called on him to discuss the development of Pakistan's dairy sector.

FrieslandCampina, a multinational dairy cooperative based in the Netherlands, is the world 6th largest dairy company operating in 34 countries.

The Prime Minister appreciated the interest of FrieslandCampina and Engro Foods for expanding their business in the



country. The Prime Minister highlighted various policy initiatives taken by the present government which is aimed at ensuring consistency and removing issues faced by the business community.

He said that the Government was cognizant of the need for putting in place a regulatory framework which would not only help in regulating the informal sector but also towards ensuring a quality of the food products.

He said that in view of the huge potential of the country in the dairy sector FrieslandCampina was keen to further expand its business with the introduction of technology and best practices vis-à-vis nutrition and production techniques.

This, he said, would help the farmers increase their productivity and would thus facilitate the country capitalize its export potential in the sector.

Hein Schumacher underscored the need for a coherent regulatory framework which would help in providing better, safer & affordable nutrition to the consumers and the dairy companies to further grow their businesses in the country.

Meanwhile, Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah, MNA, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Prime Minister's Office.

Uzbekistan keen to help uplift Pakistan's agriculture sector

Uzbek envoy says both countries need to adopt a new approach, centralize the whole system and do away with 'shadow economy'

Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Furqat Sidiqov called on National Food Security and Research Minister Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan in Islamabad.

The minister was also a co-chair from Pakistan side for the Uzbek Joint Inter-Governmental Commission (JIGC), the next session of which is scheduled to be held in March next year in Tashkent.

Minister Mehboob Sultan said that the trade volume between the two countries could be increased and market, as the cotton imported through the Afghan



border last month was actually Uzbek cotton. Hence, he added, both countries should do away with negative market forces.

“We are in need of viable agro machinery, especially cotton-related machinery, which could be imported from Uzbekistan and in the long run, the technology could be shared with local manufacturers through mutual agreement.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan imports vegetables and fruit worth \$70 million from Uzbekistan while the former exports sugar, potatoes and citrus fruits worth \$60 million to the latter. Pakistan is the second biggest trade partner of Uzbekistan in the Central Asian Region after Russia.

Rs. 82 billion plan unveiled for the agriculture sector

Talking about crop yield, Mr. Sultan shared investment of Rs4 billion will be done via promoting mechanization.

The plan of Rs82 billion for the agriculture sector has been announced by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) with a target of boosting crop yield, improved water efficiency, livestock, and fisheries development. Also, the purpose of the package is to enable the genesis of agro-markets with an overall aim of elevating small farmers and decreasing rural poverty.

The reframing, founded on the suggestions put forth to Prime Minister Imran

Khan by MNFSR Task Force, pursues the ‘100 Days Agenda’ and constitutes a share of the Rs200 billion package for the agriculture sector by the provincial and federal governments.

Minister for National Food Security and Research Sahibzada Mehub Sultan during a press conference guided about the detailed plan which will be executed between two to three years.

While sharing the targets, Mr. Sultan stated all goals were attainable and every effort will be made by MNFSR in this respect.

Talking about crop yield, Mr. Sultan shared investment of Rs4 billion will be done via promoting mechanization. And 50% subsidy is going to be provided to small farmers on the procurement of crops specific machinery; growth of high-yielding varieties and improved supply of certified seeds.

To establish new facilities and modernize existing modern research institute, international experts will be employed. Extension services at every level, plant production, marketing and crop processing, plant protection methods will be restructured to improve production with lesser input.



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Mr. Sultan instructed the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) to create superior seeds for the farmers and for this Rs4 billion have been approved by the prime minister. Moreover, for the expansion of the fisheries sector, the plan foresees encouraging cage fish culture, shrimp farming and trout farming in northern areas. The cost of this project is estimated to be Rs8.6 billion and will be broadened to coastal areas, said Mr. Sultan.

The minister said a cage farming project is operational at the Head Panjnad. Under the Rs68.6 billion National Programme for Improvement of Watercourses in Pakistan Phase-II, water efficiency will be bolstered. It focuses on watercourse lining, boosting command area of small and mini dams in barani areas and preserving water in barani areas of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

Pakistan needs to capture the Halal industry to prop up the economy: experts

The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with the Halal Research Council (HRC) organized an awareness roadshow to sensitize the business community about the export potential of the Halal industry.

Muhammad Zubair, Chief Executive Officer, Halal Research Council gave a detailed presentation about the potential of Halal industry and export opportunities of Halal products.

Muhammad Zubair said that global Halal market was 3.6 trillion dollars, but Pakistan's share in it was less than 1 per cent.

He said that over 90% share of the Halal market was captured by the non-Muslim countries while the top ten exporters of Halal products in the Middle East were also non-Muslims.

He said that the Pakistani private sector has great scope to penetrate the Halal products market by focusing on Halal certifications.

Highlighting the advantages of Halal certification to manufacturers and producers, he said that Halal certification would enhance the marketability of their products to meet the needs of over 1.6 billion Halal consumers worldwide.

He said Halal certification would provide the business community competitive advantage, bigger market share, a cutting edge over the competitors and help them in meeting the importing countries' requirements.

He said that HRC would like to hold more programs in collaboration with ICCI on various topics of the Halal industry to create better awareness about business opportunities in this industry.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahmed Hassan Moughal, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said



that the global Halal markets included not only Islamic banking and finance, but also food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, education, chemical, travel, tourism, and hospitality industries.

He said with better support and cooperation of the government, the Pakistani private sector could achieve better success in the export of Halal products.

Pakistan seeks Belarusian technologies for the dairy sector

Pakistan sought Belarusian technologies to improve milk processing and dairy production as a next step to the bilateral agreements signed three-year back to initiate agriculture technology projects.

"Pakistan is a big producer of dairy milk but (due to) the lack of technological advancements the desired results could not be attained," Federal Minister

National Food Security and Research Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan said.

"It is quite intriguing that the Republic of Belarus has ultra-modern milk processing and dairy production technologies hence Pakistan could start joint ventures and make use of Belarusian technologies." The Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan Andrei Ermolovich along with scientists and members Ministry of Agriculture Belarus called on Minister Sultan, an official statement said.

Pakistan and Belarus signed memoranda of understanding and intention were signed in 2015. The basic purpose was to promote mutual cooperation in the field of agro-technology and research in areas identified mutually by both the governments: scientific cooperation and research, exchange of agro machinery and research in the field of cattle farming.

The joint working group (JWG) was also formulated to make progress in the identified areas. So far four sessions of JWG took place, while the fifth session is expected to be held during the first quarter of next year.

Food minister said both the countries had identified almost 18 areas where the exchange of technologies could take place. "We are eager to take it to the next level and start the projects jointly to get to that end," he said.

The minister further said Belarusian machinery especially tractors are very famous in the country and in the last meeting the ambassador showed his interest to expand the scope of trade in the area and "we are ready to negotiate



on those matters as well". "Both the countries could work on harmonization of veterinary standards," he added.

The minister expressed his satisfaction over the projects to be initiated in the light of proposals from the joint working group and assured that the ministry of food security would rigorously follow the process and bring it to fruition.

The officials told the federal minister that Belarusian Agriculture Minister considers the collaboration very important and invited Pakistani officials to attend the international agro conference to be held in Belarus next year.

American company Cargill to invest US\$200 million in Pakistan

American Company Cargill renewed its long standing commitment to Pakistan by announcing plans to invest more than US\$200 million in the next three-to-five years.

The announcement was made soon after Cargill's global executive team, led by Marcel Smits, head of Global Strategy and Chairman, Cargill Asia Pacific region, and Gert-Jan van den Akker, president, Cargill Agricultural Supply Chain, met with the Prime Minister Imran Khan and other senior government officials to discuss the company's future investment plans.

Being a global food and agriculture producer with a strong focus on Asia, Cargill aims to partner on Pakistan's growth by bringing its global expertise and investment into the country.



The company's strategy includes expansion across its agricultural trading and supply chain, edible oils, dairy, meat and animal feed businesses while ensuring safety and food traceability.

Cargill will bring world class innovations to support the flourishing dairy industry in Pakistan, which is already moving toward modernization, as well as the rising demand for edible oils backed by evolving consumption patterns and a growing market for animal feed driven by sustained progress made by the poultry industry in Pakistan.

France to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in agri sector

The French government will enhance cooperation with Pakistan in agriculture

sector for food processing and food security. This was disclosed by Pierrick LE Jeune, Cooperation Attache, Cultural and Cooperation Department, Embassy of France, here on Tuesday.

He was addressing the inaugural session of 2-day International Conference on "Food Processing and Entrepreneurship - A way towards Economic Sustainability" organized by Faculty of Food, Nutrition and Home Sciences (FFNHS), University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF).

French Attache said that French universities were providing modern education to a large number of foreign students in various disciplines especially in engineering, social sciences and human sciences.

He said that French embassy in collaboration with Higher Education Commission (HEC) was sending 50 students from Pakistan for their doctorate study in France, whereas, about 700 students were completing their graduation from French universities per annum.

Similarly, there are 40-50 doctors in University of Agriculture Faisalabad who had completed their PhD education from French universities, he added. The French Attache said that although France was cooperating in different sectors, yet its education sector was facing various problems including budget problem, therefore, French educational institutions had to increase registration fee. ♦

