

## Food Briefs National

- ❖ Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar said that farmers will be directly paid the price of wheat, sugarcane, and other crops and will also be provided agriculture services on subsidized rates. Terming agriculture credit cards scheme as an innovative step of the PTI government, he said that high-value crop culture will be introduced in villages.
- ❖ The government presented an Agricultural Emergency Program worth Rs309 billion. The plan was revealed by PTI leader Jahangir Khan Tareen and Minister for National Food Security and Research Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan.
- ❖ The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) noted provincial disparities in terms of food security in Pakistan. Alarming, of the 36.9pc "food insecure" households in the country, 18.3pc face "severe" food insecurity.
- ❖ Pakistan and the US discussed measures for enhancing cooperation in the agriculture sector. The agriculture minister said the two countries must explore avenues for mutual cooperation especially when the prime minister's agriculture emergency program has already been launched.
- ❖ Rice exports from Pakistan maintained upward momentum and touched the all-time high level of \$2.07 billion marks in the last fiscal year (FY19). Pakistan exported a total of 4.097 million metric tons of rice compared to some 4.082 million metric ton in the corresponding period.
- ❖ The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) says 16 million tonnes of wheat need proper storage facilities. Assuming an overall 15pc loss in cereals, it is estimated that Pakistan is annually losing as much as 5.6m tonnes of cereals worth \$1.7 billion and 2.1m hectares of cultivated land resources.
- ❖ A group of investors from the fields of food and health called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington DC, during his recent visit of USA.
- ❖ Nestlé is reportedly planning to continue its investments in the farming practices of mangoes amid growing concerns around the decline of mango growth in Pakistan. Under its initiative Creating Shared Value (CSV), Nestlé in Pakistan is helping different communities to incorporate best global practices in their business.
- ❖ According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, our economy loses Rs6-7bn (\$76-90m) every year because of inadequate wheat storage facilities. Improper storage along with erratic rainfall and the upcoming monsoon cause additional losses in grains. ◆

## Food Briefs International

- ❖ Australian dairy farmers are urging the federal government to engage in a debate over milk labelling. They say products such as soy milk and almond milk should not be allowed to be called 'milk', because they do not contain any dairy products.
- ❖ Social Democrats in Denmark are prepared to legislate against food wastage. As over 715,000 tonnes of food are wasted annually in Denmark, with nearly a quarter of that figure coming from retailers, the Social Democrats could pass laws restricting supermarkets from throwing out food. The party also presented a new plan to reduce food waste.
- ❖ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Egypt expanded its existing food assistance to refugees in the country to include populations other than Syrian refugees.
- ❖ India lowered import taxes on an additional 400,000 tonnes of corn to 15%, the government said to offset a rise in the price of animal feed in the country following a drought last year. India allowed imports of 100,000 tonnes of corn at the concessional tax rate in June.
- ❖ Mexican craft brewers learned about U.S. barley and malt production, gained confidence in the quality of U.S. malt and established business relationships with U.S. producers and suppliers.
- ❖ South Korea recently approved \$8 million in food aid to North Korea, in response to what U.N. agencies say are the worst harvests there in a decade and severe food shortages affecting 40% of the North's population.
- ❖ Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) distributed food packages to needy people in Kenya. People in Kenya's Nakuru town benefitted from free Turkish food aid in the holy month of Ramadan.
- ❖ U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has announced further details of the \$16 billion package aimed at supporting American agricultural producers while the administration continues to work on free, fair, and reciprocal trade deals. ◆

