

Food Briefs National

- ❖ Pakistan, China agree on joint ventures in agricultural sectors. In the First Meeting of China-Pakistan Joint Working Group (JWG) between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, China and the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Pakistan both sides agreed on agricultural cooperation and several joint ventures in agricultural sectors.
- ❖ Sindh Governor Imran Ismail said that Pakistan having huge agriculture potential can become a food basket for Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) member countries. He also said that Pakistan would welcome investment and transfer of technology in the food processing industry.
- ❖ State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Dr. Reza Baqir has praised

banks for their efforts to increase lending to the agriculture sector, which reached a historic high by the end of the fiscal year 2018-19. He urged the banks to meet qualitative aspects of the assigned targets as well in line with the strategic shift and key policy actions taken by the SBP for agricultural financing.

- ❖ President of Pakistan Arif Alvi has said that modern agricultural techniques of China can bring a revolutionary improvement in the agriculture sector of Pakistan. He said that Pakistan wants to get benefit from the experiences of China in agriculture, harvesting and other agricultural sectors.
- ❖ World Food Programme's Special Adviser on Mother and Child Nutrition Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah Zeid has appreciated

the leadership of Pakistan for prioritizing the issue of malnutrition in their agenda.

- ❖ Jens Hartmann, Regional Head for the Asia Pacific (APAC) for the Crop Science division of Bayer has said that, Pakistan, essentially an agricultural economy, faces issues of food security and farm productivity, caused by a number of reasons and studies suggest if necessary measures are not taken in time, the country will find it difficult to feed its population in the decades to follow.
- ❖ Having the potential as well as resources, Pakistan was well-positioned to claim a big share in the international halal food market, but lack of incentives and hand-holding policies were holding this sector back. ♦

Food Briefs International

- ❖ According to a food research report, Asia is "unable to feed itself" and needs to invest another \$800 billion in the next 10 years to produce more food and meet the region's needs. The population in Asia is growing, and consumers are demanding safer, healthier, and more sustainable food.
- ❖ The European Union and China agreed to protect 100 European regional food designations in China and 100 Chinese equivalents in the EU to spur trade, particularly of European food and drinks.
- ❖ The Indian food processing industry is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of ~11.5% between FY 2018 and FY 2023 to reach a value of INR 15,971.9 Bn in FY 2023. It is one of the largest industries in India and ranks fifth in terms of production, consumption, and exports.
- ❖ Plastic waste exports to south-east Asia have been implicated in extreme levels of toxins entering the human food chain in Indonesia. A new study that sampled chicken eggs around sites in the country where plastic waste accumulates identified alarming levels of dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls long

recognized as extremely injurious to human health.

- ❖ Malaysia, the second-biggest producer and exporter of palm oil after Indonesia, will enforce regulations to ensure that by 2021 its palm oil meets new food safety standards under consideration by the European Union, a minister said recently.
- ❖ The First Smart Forest City in Mexico will be 100% food and energy self-sufficient. Milan-based architecture firm Stefano Boeri Architetti has unveiled innovative designs for a nature-infused smart city in Cancun, Mexico that will serve as a model for resilient and sustainable urban planning.

- ❖ North Korea's harvest is predicted to be worse than usual, exacerbating already severe food shortages in the country, a monitoring group says. Using satellite images, Swiss-based Geoglam said drought had affected crops in an area known as the "cereal bowl". The UN says four in 10 North Koreans need food aid and crop production is at its lowest level in five years.
- ❖ Zimbabwe is facing its worst hunger crisis in a decade with half of the population – 7.7 million people – food insecure, according to the World Food Programme (WFP). In Geneva, WFP spokesperson Bettina Luescher said that almost \$300 million was needed urgently to supply some 240,000 tonnes of aid. ♦

