

## Food Briefs National

- ❖ The government is paying special attention to the uplift of agriculture and livestock sectors on modern lines and has designed an Rs309 billion Prime Minister Agriculture Emergency Program.
- ❖ The government has launched the Prime Minister's National Agriculture Emergency Program (NAEP) in different areas of agriculture sector on a cost-sharing basis between the federal and provincial governments.
- ❖ According to the food ministry, the government is considering 13 mega projects in the agriculture sector across the country in collaboration with China, while it has also sought technical assistance from New Zealand to improve dairy production and value addition.
- ❖ Chinese Academy of Tropical Agriculture Sciences and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) recently inked a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in the area of academia and research, especially in agriculture.
- ❖ Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan inaugurated trout fish farming program under Prime Minister's Agriculture Emergency Program recently in Swat.
- ❖ According to a press statement issued by the Finance Ministry recently, the adviser said that the government was allocating vast sums of funds for the growth of the agriculture sector.
- ❖ The statistics of National Food Security and Research showed that Pakistan is the world's 5th largest milk-producing country and annually produces 60 million metric tons. Pakistan would welcome any substantial cooperation in this field from production to value addition.
- ❖ An Egyptian trade delegation met with National Food Security & Research Minister to discuss matters pertaining to investment in the agri-food sector. The meeting stressed the need for the exchange of research & techniques between the two countries.
- ❖ The Variety Evaluation Committee of Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) has approved 7 new rice varieties for commercial cultivation across the crop sowing areas of the country. ♦

## Food Briefs International

- ❖ The Australian Industry Group Australian Performance of Manufacturing Index (Australian PMI) indicated growth across the manufacturing sector in September 2019, improving by 1.6 points to 54.7. Food and beverage manufacturing makes up over a quarter of manufacturing in Australia, with new orders and employment elevated in September.
- ❖ Scientists create Henong-71, whose seeds produce nearly four times the average yield for the plant in China. A drop in imports from the US left a shortfall for the world's biggest soybean consumer.
- ❖ Agriculture products represent a solid share of 7% of the value of EU total goods exported in 2018, ranking fourth after machinery, other manufactured goods and chemicals. Agriculture and the food-related industries and services together provide almost 44 million jobs in the EU.
- ❖ According to France's main agricultural trade union, FNSEA, 14,000 farms out of 440,000 have filed compensation claims, following the extreme heat and lack of rain that ravaged France during the spring and summer.
- ❖ Germany's food minister Julia Klöckner has backed the controversial NutriScore system as Germany plans to establish a national voluntary food labeling scheme in the coming year. The Nutriscore system was developed in France and is being introduced to a number of other countries to combat its obesity crisis.
- ❖ Indonesia and Malaysia together account for about 85 percent of global palm oil supply but are under pressure after the EU moved to phase out palm oil use. The country says it has a duty to protect the palm oil industry and will educate people through an awareness campaign.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia donates \$2 million (SR7.5 million) into efforts to improve agricultural output and food security among Muslim countries.
- ❖ Taiwan is a reliable US partner at a time of deep and growing distrust between Beijing and Washington, Taipei has announced plans to buy US\$3.6 billion worth of American farm products, including soybeans, corn, wheat, and meat products.
- ❖ South Africa is currently Vietnam's largest trading partner in Africa, with bilateral trade in 2018 worth more than US\$1bn. Their joint trade sub-committee meets in Hanoi, with aims to improve bilateral economic and trade partnerships. ♦

