



- ❖ The Punjab Agriculture Department has moved a summary to the provincial government to approve a project of 10,000 biogas technology plants to mitigate the energy crisis following the successful installation of 1,476 plants in the 36 districts of the province.
- ❖ Recent floods have destroyed the entire Riverine area on both sides of River Indus submerging crops of sugarcane, cotton, vegetables and even orchards.
- ❖ The productivity of water in Pakistan is among the lowest in the world. For wheat, for example, it is 0.5 kg/m<sup>3</sup> as compared to 1.0 kg/m<sup>3</sup> in India and 1.5kg/m<sup>3</sup> in California.
- ❖ Overall lending to agricultural sector soared to Rs 336 billion, up more than 14% from what it was a year ago.
- ❖ Dried mango is being prepared at the Lutafabad mango farm for the first time in the region. These mangos are dehydrated in a drier and then processed in slices and cubes.
- ❖ The Punjab Government is devising a strategy to provide targeted subsidy for the provision of (wheat flour) and roti.
- ❖ Private seed sector will be facilitated to ensure seed business through production of basic seed of various crops after the passage of Seed Act Amendment Bill 2010.
- ❖ The entire fertiliser sector produced 4.1 million tonnes in 2012 against an installed capacity of 6.9 million tonnes. The industry's installed capacity was underutilized.
- ❖ The International Fund of Agricultural Development operation, Southern Punjab Poverty Alleviation Project, is working to benefit an estimated 8.6 million rural residents of several districts.
- ❖ The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will help Sindh to revive its livestock potential under a five-year project on sustainable livestock development in rural areas of Sindh. The plan of action will cover the period until 2020 based on the scrutiny carried out from 2011 to 2012.
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- ❖ An International Seminar on World Water Day 2013 was organized by Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (Parc) to create awareness about water management challenges.
- ❖ Pakistan has brought 1,300 acres of marginal land under olive cultivation within a year. And in the next three years, the country will cover another 3,750 acres.
- ❖ Swat, the fruit and vegetable basket of the country, famous for its fresh and dry fruits and off-season/seasonal vegetables faces a crisis due to a hailstorm.
- ❖ The Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Indonesia effective from September 1, 2013 stipulates that, Indonesia will offer market access to Pakistan for 216 products at favourable rates, including fresh fruits, cotton yarn, cotton fabrics, ready-made garments, sports items and leather goods.
- ❖ The imported food items may face at least 5 to 15% impact due to rise in petroleum prices. Over the past three months, oil prices have already been revised upward thrice.
- ❖ A record shipment of 165,000 tonnes of mango worth \$60 million was achieved this season as compared to 118,000 tonnes last year, valuing \$38 million.
- ❖ Proposal of \$35,000,000 was submitted by the government to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for arranging a partial credit guarantee facility in support of investment loans to be made to small dairy farmers in Punjab. ◆