

## Food Briefs National

❖ According to FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN), Pakistan is one of the ten major producers of wheat in the world. Pakistan is the world's 4th largest producer of cotton crop as well as fruits like mango and dates. In the production of citrus fruit, Pakistan occupies 13th position amongst some 100 citrus producing countries in the world.



❖ Punjab Agriculture Minister Dr. Farrukh Javed said that Provincial government has taken lead in providing relief to farmers through Kissan Package. An amount of Rs. 40 billion is being provided to compensate more than 12.5 million small farmers of the province. Rs 5000 per acre are being distributed among small farmers of wheat and cotton crop.

❖ Sixteen sugar mills across the country have availed illegal zero-rating facility and rebate on local supply of sugar under S.R.O. 77(I)/2013 by showing fake exports to Afghanistan, causing revenue loss to the tune of millions.

❖ The domestic production of sugar during the last season has at 4.7 million tonnes besides carry-forward stock of about 1.0 million tonnes from the last year's production. Total domestic requirements of the sugar were estimated at 4.2 million tonnes to 4.3 million tonnes per annum.

❖ Wheat exports from the country during first four months of current financial year registered 100% increase as compared to the corresponding period of last year. About 1,061 tonnes of wheat were exported during the period from July-October, 2015 and earned US\$ 0.220 million, said data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

❖ Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif has reportedly constituted a four-member Committee under the Chairmanship of Commerce Minister, Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan to resolve issues facing the sugar industry. The decision was taken at a recent meeting between the Prime Minister and representatives of sugar industry who had refused to start crushing season 2015.

❖ Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Food, Qalandar Lodhi has asked the owners of sugar mills for starting crushing season as thousands of the people depending on the sector. ♦

## Food Briefs International

❖ The Fruit Exporters Association of Chile AG, ASOEX, and the Committee of Cherries were satisfied with the record of shipments of 100,000 tonnes of cherry exports during 2014-2015. Mr. Ronald Bown, President of ASOEX, said that this new achievement for the Chilean fruit industry export shows the great work that producers and exporters of cherries have made to achieve significant volumes maintaining high standards of quality.

❖ At present widely varieties of lettuce available from German cultivation. With consumers more interested in the lettuce, it is commercially available throughout the whole year. One of the most popular salads in Germany is the iceberg lettuce. Iceberg lettuce tastes very fresh for a long time long due to its tight and well-hydrate state of Colima have very favourable conditions for the production of the highest quality crop.

❖ In Australia despite of couple of brief rain interruptions, the Katherine lemon harvest is still expected to fetch as much as 25% to 30% more than in a normal year.

❖ In India foreign direct investment into agriculture services stood at \$1,763.57 million, higher than FDI into sectors such as textiles, mining and electronics during April 2000 to June 2015. To attract more foreign funds in the agriculture sector, 100 % FDI has been allowed in coffee, rub cardamom, palm oil tree and olive oil tree plantations, besides tea plantation in which FDI has already been allowed.

❖ The European Union (EU) has lifted import ban on mangoes from India, the world's biggest producer of the tropical fruit, after an audit by the 28-nation bloc showed significant quality improvements.

❖ India has imported 22.37 lac tonnes of pulses valued at \$1,612 million till September in the current financial year, parliament was informed. During the April-September period, maximum inward shipments of lentils came from Canada at 9.30 lakh tonnes, followed by 5.52 lakh tonnes from Myanmar and 2.23 lakh tonnes from Australia.

❖ 2016 is looking to be the year of soybeans. Frayne Olson, crop economist from North Dakota State University is predicting corn acreage to be 1.5% to 2% lower and soybean acreage to be around 2% higher for the Midwest's 2016 growing season. With Hurt's soybean estimate hitting 84.8 million acres, a new record would be set for total U.S. soybean acreage.

❖ India has exported 55.26 lakh tonnes of rice, valued at over \$3.17 billion, in the first six months of the current financial year 2015-16. During the April-September period, the country has exported 20.84 tonnes of Basmati rice valued at over \$1.91 billion and 34.42 LT of other varieties valued at over \$1.25 billion.

❖ The Directorate General of Agricultural Services of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Paraguay has decided to enable the entry of fresh mango and grapes from Peru into the country, certain phytosanitary requirements must be met. This aims to prevent risks, regardless of the applicable customs procedure. ♦