

# Editor's Note

Dear readers,

In November - December 2016 edition, we bring to our readers an exclusive report on pomegranate. The pomegranate is valued for its delicious juice as well as its nutritive and therapeutic qualities. In Pakistan, Baluchistan is the main producer of pomegranates, although Khyber Pakhtunkhawa and Punjab are also producing pomegranates in isolated areas on a small scale. Total area under Pomegranate cultivation is 12,909 hectares with the production of 45,907 tonnes in 2014-15.

Another highlight of this issue is detailed survey of the agriculture sector of Pakistan. The agriculture sector is a vital component of Pakistan's economy as it provides the raw materials to down the line industries and helps in poverty alleviation. This sector contributed 19.8% in GDP and it remains by far the largest employer absorbing 42.3% of the country's total labour force. The agriculture sector growth is contingent on favourable weather conditions.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Gulfood Manufacturing, the Middle East's biggest food manufacturing, processing and packaging, logistics, cold chain and materials handling exhibition, came to an end with ground breaking performance at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) with an impressive 20% year-on-year growth in exhibitors and exhibition space. Across its three dedicated zones, Gulfood Manufacturing featured more than 1,600 exhibitors from 58 countries including 29 official national pavilions including production machinery leaders Austria, Germany, Italy, Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

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