

Food Briefs National



- ❖ Senior official of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) are of the view that sustainable growth in food crops is crucial to feed the fast-expanding local food industry and boost export earnings.
- ❖ South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics revealed an interesting

research that growing organic crops is at least as profitable as crops nurtured on synthetic inputs despite their low yields in Punjab.

- ❖ The agricultural potential of Belarus will be presented in Pakistan during the first joint agricultural forum in April, according to the press service of Belarus' House of Representatives.

- ❖ The Embassy of the United States of America is showcasing its long-standing support for Pakistan's agriculture sector with a pavilion at the Dawn Food and Agri Expo.
- ❖ The Sindh government aims to revamp provincial agriculture by setting up an Agricultural Development Board.

Food Briefs International



- ❖ Dutch gene activity analyst NSure has expanded its testing equipment for apples to a wider range of common varieties to improve detection of pesticide's application.
- ❖ A new freshness bag for its new potatoes, set to hit shelves in May by French marketer Prince de Bretagne.
- ❖ Global Plant Genetics, a UK-based company that provides intellectual property management and technical support, has reportedly won a major contract to develop the international market for blueberries.

- ❖ German food retailer Rewe Group has trailed a new system of laser labelling in its quest to trim unnecessary packaging.
- ❖ Citrus production in Morocco has exceeded its packing capacity, with the country's pack houses able to handle only one-third of national production.
- ❖ This season, a record harvest is expected in New Zealand. Estimates are currently at 21,600,000 TCE (18-kilogram trays), 11 % higher than last year.

- ❖ Todd Greiner Farms Packing, LLC., a Michigan asparagus grower/packer/ shipper, has revealed a new packaging design in preparation for the mid-May season launch. The 12 oz, "microwave in the bag."
- ❖ Floods affecting Peru have caused losses of at least US\$645m in the agriculture and livestock sectors.
- ❖ Swiss organic farming continues to grow. 386 companies signed up for Bio Suisse last year. As a result, 6,144 producers now act according to the guidelines of Bio Suisse. ◆