

Food Briefs National

- ❖ According to Malik Tahir Javaid, President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI), Pakistan's livestock sector has the potential to tap into the international halal trade. Global meat demand will double in the next two decades and Pakistan has the resources to become a global leader in this sector.
- ❖ With new farms on a routine basis being registered by Punjab Livestock & Dairy Development's Ostrich farming development project, Ostrich farming is on a rise in Punjab. Punjab Livestock & Dairy Development spokesperson stated that currently a total 6245 Ostrich farms are registered in the province with plans of increasing the number in the coming years. According to the spokesperson, Punjab government has provided a subsidy of Rs14.5 million in 2016-17 to the ostrich farming industry and the amount will be increased in the upcoming fiscal year.
- ❖ Recently the World Bank has approved \$300 million in loan to modernize agriculture sector in Pakistan, which is estimated to create over 300,000 new jobs. The financial assistance will help the Punjab's government to raise farmers' incomes, give consumers better quality and safer food at lower prices, create jobs on farms and agribusinesses, and improve the use of irrigation water.
- ❖ In spite of structural issues the prospects of key crops and the livestock sector in 2018 are somewhat promising with a need of increased attention. Three out of five key crops are expected to do well, showing an increase in production and a modest growth in yield, and the livestock sector also seems set to perform better than the year before. Wheat, sugarcane and rice are all heading in the right direction, and we may see additional output and yield enhancement this year.
- ❖ Pakistan and China have approved a Long Term Plan (LTP) for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) eyeing to develop and expand Pakistan's economic base, infrastructure, industry, agriculture, trade, information technology and tourism on modern trends to help transform the country into an 'Asian Tiger' by the year 2030.
- ❖ In next couple of years, Pakistan is likely to witness a revolution in paddy production with Chinese cooperation supporting the government and private sector in the field. While the modern hybrid rice varieties are already being sown over 1.5 million acres of land in Sindh, the seed is all set to be commercially launched in different districts of central and southern Punjab in upcoming season.
- ❖ Nothing symbolize winter in Punjab as much as peeling, quartering and savouring a Kinnow a hybrid form of orange similar to a tangerine, but with a distinctly Pakistani kick to its sweetness. And no place is as emblematic in the Kinnow's history as Bhalwal, a tehsil in Sargodha that is the heart of citrus fruit production in Pakistan with its nitrogen-rich soil and frosty temperatures.
- ❖ Pakistan has stocked 9.7 million tonnes of wheat but could not export it to neighbouring Afghanistan for lack of a clear policy. ♦

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- ❖ In spite of the strong heat in the summer, the Egyptian spring onion season got off to a great start. Both quality and yield are better than last year. "We expect to export about 40 million bunches of spring onions," says Hisham El Meleigy of the Egyptian company Blue Nile.
- ❖ Recently Kirsten Arp, Head of Pesticide Monitoring at the German Association of Natural Food Natural Products eV, took part in a podium discussion in Kirchberg/Jagst last Friday at the invitation of the Farmers' Association Schwäbisch Hall.
- ❖ Nepal's export to China has seen a sizeable growth in the first three months of Fiscal Year 2017/18. According to the Current Macroeconomic and Financial Situation of Nepal (first three months) unveiled by the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) in Kathmandu, Nepal's exports to China in the review period grew 27.7 % year-on-year. Export of tea, wheat flour and tanned leather to China recorded a growth of 531.2 %, 141.1 % and 110 % in the review period. According to the report, Nepal's export to other countries increased by 9.2 in the first three months of the current fiscal year.
- ❖ According to the press service of the Kazakh president, Nursultan Nazarbayev said in a message that he, and the King of Jordan, Abdullah II, recently discussed cooperation between the two countries in several areas, including renewable energy, agriculture, transport and, more generally, economic and investment cooperation.
- ❖ The first shipment of Six containers loaded with organic bananas were shipped to Russia from the Port of Manzanillo recently. The Grupo Coliman company complied with the protocols for the export of this fruit with the support of the National Service of Health, Safety and Agri-Food Quality (SENASICA), stated the Secretary of Rural Development, Agustin Morales.
- ❖ Industrial designer William Lockwood-Geck's hand-held scanner which measures the quality of the fruit, is already attracting attention. Kiwifruit growers could now have a new and productive tool at their disposal.
- ❖ Demand for both blueberries and raspberries have more than tripled since 2010 (from 3,000 tonnes to 9,500 tonnes). Berries are trendy, especially blueberries and raspberries. The small blue and red fruits are now very much consumers' favorites.
- ❖ The production and consumption of blueberries has multiplied in recent years due to the fruit's great health benefits, how convenient it is to consume and its unique flavour. In fact, the production volume is expected to quadruple within five years. For this reason, it is becoming increasingly necessary to update the technology that is currently used for the sorting and selection, so that this task can be carried out in a more efficient and simple way. ♦