

Food Briefs National

- ❖ The prospects of bilateral collaboration in food processing between Pakistan and Turkey was discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan and Turkish Minister for Agriculture and Forestry Bekir Pakdemirli. The meeting was held in Ankara. During the meeting, issues and prospects of dairy sector and food chain management was discussed.
- ❖ The Prime Minister Pakistan Imran Khan appreciated the interest of FrieslandCampina and Engro Foods for expanding their business in Pakistan. During a meeting with their CEO, The Prime Minister highlighted various policy initiatives taken by the present government which is aimed at ensuring consistency and removing issues faced by the business community specially related to the development of Pakistan's dairy sector.
- ❖ Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Furqat Sidiqov said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan need to adopt a new approach in food and agriculture sector, centralize the whole system and do away with 'shadow economy'. He was in a meeting with National Food Security and Research Minister Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan in Islamabad, where future prospects of mutual trade and business between the countries was discussed.
- ❖ The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with the Halal Research Council (HRC) organized an awareness roadshow to sensitize the business community about the export potential of the Halal industry. In the program, Muhammad Zubair, Chief Executive Officer, Halal Research Council gave a detailed presentation about the potential of Halal industry and export opportunities of Halal products.
- ❖ The plan of Rs82 billion for the agriculture sector has been announced by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) with a target of boosting crop yield, improved water efficiency, livestock, and fisheries development. Also, the purpose of the package is to enable the genesis of agro-markets with an overall aim of elevating small farmers and decreasing rural poverty.
- ❖ Pakistan sought Belarusian technologies to improve milk processing and dairy production to initiate agriculture technology projects. In this regards, Pakistan and Belarus signed memoranda of understanding in 2015. Its basic purpose was to promote mutual cooperation in the field of agro-technology and research in areas identified mutually by both the governments: scientific cooperation and research, exchange of agro machinery and research in the field of cattle farming. ♦

Food Briefs International

- ❖ Australian vegetable farmers are fighting for compensation, claiming their food crops were decimated by contaminated herbicides. The growers claim the toxic mix-up wiped out many tonnes of valuable produce. They were also worried because their businesses and families have also been devastated by the contamination.
- ❖ The European Commission has forecast a slight increase in overall fresh produce consumption across the EU and predicted important changes in three of the continent's most important fresh produce categories – apples, peaches/nectarines, and tomatoes – as part of a wide-ranging report on the European Union's agricultural outlook for 2018-2030.
- ❖ Hawaii's avocado industry opened in earnest in a month before with weekly shipments of about 3,000 pounds (1,360 kilograms) of avocados to two Seattle-based wholesale produce companies, West Hawaii Today reported. Shipments of that size, which nearly reach the capacity of the state's only avocado packing facility, are expected to continue through March.
- ❖ Authorities in Rome confirm positive result following the recent visit of South Korean inspectors to orchards and packhouses. A number of leading producer organizations hosted the inspectors on their recent visit, including Apofruit, Cofruta, Ceradini, and Frutteto.
- ❖ During the next three to five years, citrus exports from South Africa will increase from 2m tones to 2.5m tones. This additional 500,000 tones could offer the industry a great opportunity or, alternatively, spell disaster. The South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is close to getting South African citrus accepted to the Philippines, and oranges into Vietnam.
- ❖ China, the second-largest market for Philippine bananas, currently takes 25.6 percent of the South-East Asian nation's total banana exports. Following bilateral relations between Chinese president Xi Jinping and Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte, increasing volumes of the Philippine's largest agricultural export show no signs of slowing.
- ❖ Collaborative working is giving Serbian growers an opportunity across central and southern Europe to access new markets both within the EU and beyond. The increasing level of collaboration has meant the business has grown from just a few hectares of production in 1977 to over 1,000ha now.
- ❖ Spanish lemon and grapefruit association Ailimpo has once again issued a warning to European importers to be vigilant for potential MRL violations of lemons coming from Turkey.
- ❖ U.S. lawmakers have reached an agreement on a farm bill that leaves out a proposal to tighten food stamps criteria backed by President Donald Trump, and offers some financial certainty to farmers suffering from the U.S. trade war with China. The agreement between Republicans and Democrats on the crucial piece of legislation caps a bitter, months-long debate on the bill, which covers \$867 billion worth of food and agriculture programs including crop subsidies and support to growers seeking access to export markets. ♦