

Food Briefs National

- ❖ The Malaysian Minister for Primary Industries has said that demand for palm oil in Pakistan has been increasing at a rate of 4.5% every year for the past seven years. She said that demand for the commodity was growing in Pakistan on the back of rising population, higher incomes and increased consumer spending.
- ❖ Sindh's governor said that Pakistani food has been gaining global recognition with the passage of time and food may be the best way to promote tourism. Imran Ismail made this statement to the media while he visited the seventh edition of the Karachi Eat food festival.
- ❖ Pakistan Agriculture Research Council has introduced 200 national food brands in Pakistan. The Director of (PARC) said this initiative is also aiming to reduce poverty in the rural areas of the country by enhancing farm income with the value addition of agriculture products being produced in these areas.
- ❖ Prime Minister Imran Khan is promising to revitalize agricultural growth with the help of global institutions like the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He is also relying on the agricultural cooperation framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), details of which are yet to be made public.
- ❖ The French envoy Marc Baret has applauded Pakistan's efforts to achieve economic stability. In a meeting with the French Ambassador, the adviser Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh said that the government has worked very hard to pull the economy out of the critical state as it was in previous years.
- ❖ Climate change mostly affected cotton, maize, paddy, and vegetables in both Punjab and Sindh in this year. Due to severe damage to cotton in Sindh, a large number of growers had removed the crop from their fields. The crop was infested by pests following the spell of rains.
- ❖ Prime Minister Imran Khan said the government, in cooperation with China, was focusing on research for enhancing the yield of various crops, including cotton as 60 percent of the country's exports were related to the latter.
- ❖ Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Zarak Khan urged the government to adopt the Eco-farming model of China for increasing agricultural yields. He emphasized to get the benefit of Chinese friendship also in the field of agriculture.
- ❖ China recently offered Pakistan to collaborate in removing non-tariff trade barriers to its farm exports, based on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) concerns, a government statement said. ◆

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- ❖ China has told farmers to step up vegetable production, opened roads for delivery trucks and is punishing those trying to profit in order to keep feeding residents of the locked down the city of Wuhan at the center of the new coronavirus outbreak.
- ❖ KFC, Panda and McDonald's are among the global brands found in the newly opened Food Village in Dubai International Airport's Terminal 3. Travel food and beverage specialist HMSHost is behind the opening of the 1,720m² (18,515ft²) facility, which includes 14 new restaurants and bars. A further four concepts are scheduled to open in the airport's Terminals 2 and 3.
- ❖ According to the European Commission food exports from the European Union to Japan increased sharply in the February to November period immediately following the entry into force of their free trade agreement last year. Exports of different beverage items to Japan in the 10-month period rose 17.3 percent from a year before while butter exports surged 47.8 percent.
- ❖ Germany's winter wheat sown area for the 2020 harvest has been reduced by 7.1pc in the year to about 2.83 million hectares, according to the national statistics office. Farmers had turned to other crops such as rapeseed, data from the agency said.
- ❖ Indonesia gears up for regional initiatives to boost the food system. For this, the state officials together with representatives of the private sector and civil society gathered in Jakarta to discuss the challenges facing Indonesia in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry.
- ❖ The United Nations World Food Program has welcomed a €500,000 (US\$ 610,000) contribution from the Italian Government to provide food to people affected by the drought in Zambia. Drought and prolonged dry spells have left 2.3 million people severely food insecure and in need of humanitarian food assistance.
- ❖ Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin said his country had lifted restrictions on Japanese food imports imposed following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, due to a lower risk of radioactive contamination.
- ❖ Sweden has given the World Food Program (WFP) 2 million U.S. dollars to help meet the food and nutrition needs of people affected by drought in Zambia, according to a WFP official.
- ❖ Landmark legislation to boost productivity and reward environmental improvements in the farming sector for decades to come. A future where farmers are properly supported to farm more innovatively and protect the environment is a step closer now following the introduction of the Agriculture Bill. ◆