



- ❖ Prices of watermelons may rise further as weather turns hotter in coming months and as Ramadan begins towards the end of June.
- ❖ Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government establishes new city projects near densely populated urban centers in the province.
- ❖ Latest estimates of wheat fields put this year's output at 24.21 million tons up from initial earlier estimates of 23.84 million tons.
- ❖ In Pakistan, the trade mark status of basmati rice was granted to Basmati Growers Association in 2008 but was challenged in a court and remains undecided.
- ❖ Combined production of the summer vegetables gradually fell by about 100,000 tons, or 10%, from over one million tons in 2008-09 to 0.9 million tons in 2012-13.
- ❖ The provincial Food Safety Authority Act 2014 has placed comprehensive regulations and provides for strict punishments to improve the quality of food sold and consumed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- ❖ Potato has yet to become cheap in the local market in spite of imposing 25 % regulatory duty on exports and making imports zero.
- ❖ The production of Strawberry has increased from 76 hectares in 2009-10, the area under strawberry has significantly increased to 236.437 hectares in 2013-14 surged in upper Sindh's katcha area.
- ❖ If the government falters in its responsibility to ensure health standards of fruits and vegetable exports to EU Pakistan may lose a huge potential market that is reckoned up to be of a billion dollar.
- ❖ The growth in tunnel farming in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has started paying dividends as demonstrated by the off season tomato currently bringing windfall for its growers.
- ❖ The wheat procurement drive in Punjab has many inconsistencies this year. The crop is bumper, but the government is resorting to 'extreme' administrative measures to complete even small target of 3.5 million tons.
- ❖ Despite all the claims of the authorities concerned that mango would be exported to the European Union after taking safety measures, a mango shipment exported from the country on June 16 and intercepted by UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on June 17 was found infested with fruit fly.
- ❖ The farmers feel that agriculture has become a neglected sector, going by the experience of the last one year. There has hardly been any policy statement that reflects the government's priority for the sector. ◆