

Food Briefs National

- ❖ Export of Halal meat from Pakistan increased to \$243.5 million during 2014-15, showing an increase 6%, compared to \$229.9 million in 2013-14, following promotional steps taken by the government, including a ban on commercial export of live animals.
- ❖ Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan said about 0.2 million tonnes of potato has been exported to Russia, however the prices could not be stabilised and growers are not even getting the production cost.
- ❖ During 2014-15, due to fluctuating International lint prices, cotton growers suffered badly; average seed-cotton price during cotton picking season last year remained below the average cost of production. Keeping in view the low market rates of cotton during 2014-15 Federal government intervened and started purchasing lint through Trading TCP.
- ❖ Federal Minister for Food Security and Research Sikandar Hayat Bosan has said that the country's food security is directly linked with farmers' financial security and the government was working hard to provide maximum relief to farmers.
- ❖ Punjab produces 65% of the country's Mango, the export target of 100,000 tonnes looks unlikely to be met. The country has so far exported 41,000 tonnes of mangoes to the UAE, Gulf States, Central Asian states, the EU, Australia, US and Canada.
- ❖ Poultry meat contributes 28% of the total meat production in the country. Poultry sector has shown a robust growth @ 8% annually which reflects its inherent potential. The prices of beef and meat in Pakistan are much higher than prices in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Food exports have remained almost stagnant for last five years, with FY15 being no exception. The factors mainly responsible for this are ranging from geographical identification of basmati to lack of standardised processing of seafood to low value-addition keep taking a toll on Pakistan's food exports.
- ❖ Sindh government has come up with a support programme to help chilli growers invest in farm inputs. It envisages subsidised loans that will be offered by Habib Bank Ltd at a rate of Rs 32,000 per acre, which is what a chilli farmer normally spends on inputs.◆

Food Briefs International

- ❖ Halal meat is gaining popularity across the world due to its scientific and hygienic slaughtering and processing methods, and is spicing up the \$635 billion global Halal meat market. Globally, the halal market that spans from food to finance and tourism is worth \$3 trillion.
- ❖ Lewis Pies, one of the largest pie and pasty manufacturers in the UK, has secured new sales and distribution agreement with the Yearsley Group, the largest independent frozen food service provider in the UK.
- ❖ In Bulgaria total areas under organic agriculture method increased from 8,364 hectares in 2003 to 56,287 hectares in 2014. Bulgaria is the largest producer of organic rose oil in the world, one of the largest exporters of organic cucumbers in Europe.
- ❖ The consumption of bio products in Romania reaches less than 0.5 % of total food sales, according to a study by Republica BIO. By comparison, Austria or Germany reach around 7% to 8 % in bio products sales, influenced by numerous studies that confirm major endocrine and neuronal dysfunctions in children caused by pesticides, fertilizers and genetically modified organisms, the study says.
- ❖ U.S. beef exports set a new value record in 2014 of \$7.13 billion, a year-over-year increase of nearly \$1 billion. The world's top 11 exporters are Australia, India, Brazil, U.S., New Zealand, EU-28, Canada, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina and Mexico – shipped a record 7.7 million tonnes in 2014.
- ❖ In Indian Maharashtra State total value of all fruit exported was up 20 % to \$330 million for June 2015 year compared with the previous 12 month period. Both high prices and a 9% increase in export volume accounted for the increase.
- ❖ In Philippines Banana exports from Davao Region for the first quarter of this year dropped by 68.3 % as compared to the same period last year. Export Free on Board (FOB) value of bananas, including plantains, fresh or dried was pegged at \$94.2 million from January to March, much lower as compared to \$297 million during the same period last year.
- ❖ Arla Foods Ingredients has developed a clean-label protein solution that tackles the long-standing problem of watery low-fat cottage cheese. Sales of cottage cheese are rising as consumers seek out healthy dairy products that are low in fat and high in protein.
- ❖ Fruit exports in New Zealand have reached an all-time annual high of \$2 billion in the year ended June 2015. Major Bay of Plenty horticultural mainstay kiwifruit accounted for 59 % of the total value of fruit exports, followed by apples at 28 %, and avocados another strong Bay export at 5.7 %.
- ❖ The demand of lemon in Turkey decreased due high prices, therefore, the lemon, which in Turkey has always been considered an indispensable part of the dinner table, has been dropped. On domestic markets lemons are sold between 1.65 to 2.30 per kg depending on quality, and at some markets prices can reach 2.60 to 3.00 per kg.
- ❖ The UK's wet summer has adversely affected crop growing in farms up and down the country, but a new project is taking advantage of the inclement weather to reinforce methods of ensuring food safety.
- ❖ Bulgaria is the largest producer of organic rose oil in the world, one of the largest exporters of organic cucumbers in Europe, second in the EU by the size of certified organic properties for collection of wild fruits, herbs and mushrooms, and fourth in the EU in the number of certified organic bee colonies.◆