

Food Briefs National

- ❖ The interest of analysts and researchers aroused for a combined policy option by selecting the most desirable combination of the alternative policy options. It is estimated in a research paper that when import and input subsidy are combined, producer's loss decreases
- ❖ The pace of balanced and integrated farm mechanization has been slow to lack of policy direction, low bank lending for agricultural development and poor state of local agricultural machinery manufacturing.
- ❖ The production of banana in Sindh is expected to decline this season owing to the damage caused by frost early this year and the subsequent high velocity winds with rising temperatures.
- ❖ THE Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority lifted import restrictions on Pakistan in November after the two countries agreed on a protocol to resume trade of live animals after 11 years.
- ❖ Several initiatives including development of 100MW solar power station in Punjab and establishment of wind power Corridor in Sindh is in progress. In order to provide a national perspective to these efforts, a renewable energy mapping program has also begun with the World Bank's support costing \$ 22.5 m.
- ❖ In spite of rice exports on decline, there are hopeful signs of regaining the Mexican market, which Pakistan lost last year after one of its shipments was found infested with Khapra Beetle larvae.
- ❖ Experts warned that the country's livestock population in general, and over 66 million sheep and goats in particular, might be facing a bleak future if the government does not come up with a rangeland policy and mechanism to implement it effectively.
- ❖ The need for import substitution for food products prevails in spite of lower oil and commodity prices which will to cut the food import bill
- ❖ Ishaq Dar has directed the ministries of commerce and national food security to coordinate in identifying exportable food products, keeping in view whether surplus quantities and requisite quarantine arrangements were available.
- ❖ High concerns are being raised about agricultural growth prospects during 2015 which is dependent upon 3 factors mainly. Poverty (as a majority of farmers are unable to invest in crops), the confusion about the federal and provincial governments' jurisdictions, and climatic changes that make the production cycle uncertain. ◆

Food Briefs International

- ❖ Tomatoes have become the most popular vegetable in Austria with a consumption of 28 kg per capita per year. This means that the Austrians buy 32,676 tonnes of tomatoes annually, with a value of around 130 million.
- ❖ In Chile the 2014-2015 table grape season began and the first shipments were made, one week later than in the 2013-2014 season but with a higher volume than last season, i.e. 3,277 tons versus 2,964 tons.
- ❖ In India the advanced technology of automatic potato harvesting machines are seen as a viable option for the progressive potato farmers of Doaba region of Punjab, in order to deal with issues such as migrant labour shortage, need for standardization and minimizing the damage to yield.
- ❖ National Smallholder Farmers Association of Malawi (NASFAM) is focusing on the improvement of farming business through improvement of literacy of with an aim of transforming lives of local people.
- ❖ Miedema of nether land was approached by the consumption packer of carrots and washed potatoes Swiss Müller Azmoos from Weite. Miedema has come up with a customized optical sorting machine for washed potatoes for them.
- ❖ The harvest campaign for Piquillo Peppers from Lodosa, has already finished with a "very positive" balance. This year, over 1.7 million kilos of fresh red peppers have been produced.
- ❖ Predictions according to latest forecast of 2014-2015, orange crop will be slightly bigger than the 013-2014 which will be 2.5 % larger than production for the 2014-2015 orange reaching 160.4 million boxes, with gains in both Valencia and non-Valencia orange production.
- ❖ The Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Authority (AFFA) has warned all farmers and traders involved in selling produce against flouting the new regulations of 50 kilogram bags packaging or face tough penalties.
- ❖ In Vietnam Tinh, a teacher in Luc Ngan District in Bac Giang Province, who understands the problem of the farmers in his homeland, has developed a machine which can mechanize all the phases of litchi sorting and processing.
- ❖ In Ukraine In spite of organic fruit and vegetable production on rising growth, most of the organic products on supermarket shelves are currently imported. ◆