

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Agricultural activities in Jordan

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

This report highlights the Agricultural activities in Jordan in October 2014.

Executive Summary: The USDA's Food for Progress Program Helps Fund the Construction of the Kerak Dam in Jordan.

Jordanian Food and Drug Administration Increases its Scrutiny of the Food Industry over Food Poisoning Incident. Ministry of Agriculture MoA has adopted New Import Measures for Apples and Ministry of Industry and Trade MIT Issues Wheat Tender

General Information:

Jordan Morsels

USDA's Food for Progress Program Helps Fund the Construction of the Kerak Dam in Jordan

On October 16th, the US Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Alice G. Wells, officially inaugurated the construction of the Kerak Dam in the Jordan Valley, which lies approximately 100 miles south of Amman. The dam is partially funded by a Food for Progress wheat grant aimed at helping develop Jordan's rural economy.

The dam will have a capacity of 2 million cubic meters, which will help irrigate crops, boost agricultural output, and increase the incomes of the over 5,000 families that reside in the area.

Community members and Government of Jordan officials expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the people and the government of the United States of America, as the project will alleviate poverty through increased economic activity.

Jordanian Food and Drug Administration Increases its Scrutiny of the Food Industry over Food Poisoning Incident

On October 12, 2014 a food poisoning incident at a Dead Sea tourist resort shocked the Jordanian community when a mother and her three year old son died as a result of food poisoning after consuming food from the resort.

The case has prompted the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA) to thoroughly exercise its authority on the food industry, safeguarding against establishments that pose a health risk. The increased enforcement has resulted in the closing of several reputable restaurants, food storage facilities, and supermarket outlets. This situation has created a new opportunity for wholesome food providers, including American suppliers and their affiliates in Jordan, as these are viewed as safe and superior providers.

New Import Measures for Apples

In September, the Ministry of Agriculture adopted a new pest list, under which a phytosanitary certificate need to state that the shipments are free from those pests, or be subjected to quarantine measures. This measure applies to all shipments of apples that come from abroad. The practice is apparently a sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measure, but the implicit objective is a technical barrier to trade (TBT) as its timing makes it obvious that the purpose is to protect the local apple industry.

Nevertheless, the burden will fall on EU suppliers, who use their competitive advantage of geographical proximity to capture the bulk of the market. Under this measure, they will need to spend more time on costly customs bonds while their product is under quarantine. On the other hand, U.S. apples will spend most of the quarantine period en route by sea.

Jordan Issues Wheat Tender

On Sunday October 18, Jordan's Ministry of Trade and Industry issued an international tender to buy 100,000 tons of wheat. Although, the tender states that the wheat can be sourced from optional origins, it is expected that the wheat's origin will be from Black Sea suppliers.