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Date: 11/18/2015

GAIN Report Number: JO15019

Jordan

Post: Amman

Morsels November 2015

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

- **Rangeland Reserves Opened to Grazing**
- **Fruits &Vegetables Exports to Russia**
- **Rainfall Channels 4.5 Million Cubic Meters of Water into Dams**
- **GoJ Struggles to Retain its Credibility in the International Grains Market**

General Information: Morsels November 2015

Rangeland Reserves Opened to Grazing

The Minister of Agriculture, based on recommendations from a technical committee, has opened rangeland reserves to grazing. Experts believe this process, if applied according to the optimum carrying capacity of the reserve, would help rejuvenate the rangeland by reviving both flora and fauna. Jordan's rangeland reserves are close to 15,000 ha.

Exports to Russia

Despite optimism expressed by the Minister of Agriculture at the proposed deal to export Jordanian fruits and vegetables to the Russian market by mid-December, Jordan valley farmers "JVF" are skeptical, as the agreement states that Russian importers will buy the fruits and vegetables on the Jordanian ports "FOB". JVF believes it is not in their best interest to sell FOB, as they would be unable to control freight rates and their perishable cargo.

Rainfall Channels 4.5 Million Cubic Meters of Water into Dams

According to the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), the abnormal rainstorm that engulfed the country on the weekend of November 5-7 channeled around 4.5 million cubic meters (mcm) of water into dams around Jordan. The major dams currently hold some 145mcm of their total capacity of 325mcm.

The storm also caused the formation of flash floods in Amman's streets, flooding tunnels and damaging low-laying shops and houses. Additionally, its damage to agricultural areas was similar to a previous storm that hit the Jordan Valley two weeks before, causing greenhouse and crop damage due to the strong winds and floods.

Government of Jordan Struggles to Retain its Credibility in the International Grains Market.

On November 15, for the fifth time in a row, the Government of Jordan (GoJ) failed to attract offers on their wheat tender from international suppliers to recharge its depleting inventory. Grain traders are skeptical of doing business with the GOJ, as earlier in the year it rejected a cargo of 100,000 MT of Polish wheat on what many consider to be dubious assertions. The GOJ is banking on USDA's Food for Progress (FFPr) agreement as a temporary lifeline.

Under the FFPr agreement, the USDA will provide Jordan 100,000 MT of wheat to help the GoJ meet its security and refugee challenges. In return, the GoJ will use the monetization proceeds to fund 11 agricultural projects.