

Annual pistachio production expected to double

Economy Desk

Estimates indicate that 200,000-210,000 tons of dry pistachios will be produced in Iran during the current Iranian year (started March 21), showing a 100-percent rise compared to the corresponding figure for preceding year.

Jalil Karbakhsh-Ravari, vice president of the Board of Trustees of the Iran Pistachio Association (IPA), told IRNA on Saturday that it's possible for the country to export \$1.5 billion worth of the product annually.

Last year, the country's pistachio production was about 100,000 tons, of which about 30,000 tons, worth \$200 billion, were exported.

The official added that the main reasons for the decrease in pistachio production in the country last year were due to frost damage, heat waves, reduced rainfall, continuous drought, water resource shortages, declining groundwater levels, and a reduction in the quality of groundwater. He also noted that some regulations have hindered exports.

Karbakhsh stated that the major pistachio harvest and the peak of pistachio exports for Iran and other rival countries is around September-October each year.

Currently, the majority of Iran's pistachios have been harvested, so exports should have taken place before the start of the new calendar year. However, it was expected that Iran would have a more significant and better presence in the global pistachio market, but unfortunately could not fulfill it, said the official.

He added that pistachio cultivation areas are expanding in many provinces of the country, as 27 provinces now having pistachio plantations, and Kerman Province still holds the top position, with 50% of production.

Also, South Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, Yazd, Semnan, and Fars provinces are among the main producers. The official added, "According to global statistics, the United States is the top producer and exporter of pistachios, with 680,000 tons of production. Iran is ranked second and third in pistachio production and exports, respectively.

Karbakhsh-Ravari harbored hope that the government will take the necessary steps to facilitate exports of such products, as pistachio exports have been considered the top non-oil export in the country in recent years.



Crude exports to China top 1.8 mbd: Kpler data



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Iran's oil exports to China topped 1.8 million barrels per day in October, according to data intelligence firm Kpler. Foreign experts and journalists have admitted that the structure of sanctions against Iran's oil sales has completely collapsed, Fars news agency wrote on Saturday. Kpler announced on Friday a record daily exports of more than 1.8 million barrels of Iranian oil to China this month.

In October, Iran was the largest exporter of oil to China, after Russia, as the country surpassed Saudi Arabia by a significant margin. This jump in exports is mainly due to the huge volume of oil reserves in Iran's floating storage. Earlier, Kpler had announced in a report that Iran's floating storage has become zero, while at the beginning of the incumbent government in 2021, about 60 million barrels of Iranian oil remained floating on sea storages, with no customers. According to the released sta-

tistics, the average daily exports of Iranian oil to China during the first 10 months of the current Iranian year was 1.235 mbd, which is 84% more than the figure for the same period last year.

However, the historical record-breaking of Iran's oil exports has been accompanied by different reactions among domestic and foreign journalists and experts.

Homayoun Falakhshahi, a senior crude oil analyst at Kpler, wrote on his X page: "Iran has overtaken Saudi Arabia as China's top seaborne oil supplier in October (Russia remains first when including piped flows), thanks to a massive destocking of crude from floating storage. Arrivals of Iranian crude have averaged >1.8 mbd mtd, a new record - data from @Kpler".

Javier Blas, energy and commodities columnist at Bloomberg also wrote on his X page: "Not only is Iran boosting its production, but it has all but liquidated its massive holding of floating oil storage. Either the White House allowed it, or it is unable to stop it; either way, the sanctions regime has crumbled."

Iran to prepare comprehensive plan for transit: Deputy minister

Iran's Roads and Urban Development Ministry has started preparation of a comprehensive plan for the development of the country's transportation industry, said Deputy Roads and Urban Development Minister Shahriar Afandizadeh on Saturday.

"The country's comprehensive transportation plan is a document based on which all of the country's short-, medium-, and long-term plans for the development of transportation infrastructure should be organized in all sub-sectors,"

Afandizadeh explained, ISNA reported.

As the most important upstream document for the development of the country's transportation infrastructure, the plan came under the spotlight decades ago but hasn't been realized so far due to various reasons. "Over the past few years, the plan has been specifically put on the agenda of the Roads Ministry and will be finalized soon," he said.

According to the official, to compile the mentioned plan, the country's top scientific and academic centers and consulting engineers, with the highest ranks in the field of road and transportation, have cooperated with the ministry.

The plan is being drafted in three main sections, including determining the optimal transportation network based on environmental and economic indicators and criteria.

Transport expo

Meanwhile, the Seventh International Exhibition of Transportation, Logistics, and Related Industries (Iran Trans Expo 2023) will be held in Tehran during December 18-20, IRNA reported.

The exhibition is organized by Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development and the Fund for Innovation and Prosperity of Unions and Associations. According to Gholamre-

za Rezaei, the director of the exhibition, the main goal of the exhibition is to showcase the latest achievements and products in the transportation industry in order to promote competitiveness among the companies and entities active in the sector.

The exhibition will be participated by companies from Iran and several foreign countries including, Russia, China, Spain, and France, Rezaei told reporters. He noted that due to the capabilities of knowledge-based companies and startups, in order to maximize their participation, financial support programs and facilities have been considered for such companies.



Iran exports \$10.4m stems of flower, ornamental plants

An official at Iran's Ministry of Agriculture said that the official statistics show the country exported about 12,300 tons of ornamental plants and flowers, worth about \$10.4 million, in the last Iranian year (March 21, 2022, to March 20, 2023). Elham Fattahifar told IRNA that Iran produces over four billion flowers and ornamental plants, in an area of over 8,250 hectares of greenhouses

and open spaces. Some 610 billion ornamental plants and flowers are cultivated on 640,000 hectares throughout the world per annum, she said adding that Iran ranks fifth among nations in Asia, with the plantation of over 4.295 billion flowers and ornamental plants. The statistics show that Iran produced ornamental plants and flowers worth around 940 billion rials

(about \$1.9 billion) in the Iranian year (March 21, 2021, to March 20, 2022), the official noted. According to Fattahifar, the highest production level of ornamental plants and flowers in Iran belongs to Tehran Province, with 1,720 hectares under cultivation, followed by Mazandaran and Markazi provinces, with 1,322 hectares and 1,133 hectares, respectively.

