

Hundreds of plains in Iran affected by subsidence

Social Desk

Four hundred plains in Iran are experiencing subsidence issues as per a professor with the International Research Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering. "There was initial resistance to acknowledging climate change in Iran. Some academic experts believed that further measurements were necessary to confirm its existence," said Mehdi Zare, according to IRNA. During a climate change and science promotion meeting held on November 14, Zare explained that since 2013, with increased awareness, climate change has been accepted in Iran, leading to the formation of executive and research groups in universities, along with the definition of doctoral theses and research projects in the field. Emphasizing that climate change is a regional issue that can result in significant migrations, Zare stated in Iran, the phenomenon of subsidence is particularly evident in 400 plains, with the plains in the provinces of Tehran and Alborz being centers of population accumulation. Furthermore, he mentioned specific areas in Iran, such as Isfahan, Tabriz, Lake Urmia, and important plains in Kerman Province, where severe cases of land subsidence is occurring. The expert emphasized that the challenge is not created suddenly, citing the example of Afghanistan, where approximately 10 million people out of a population of 40 million live in extreme poverty and hunger, leading to internal and external tensions over immigration.

Zare asserted that solving climate change problems requires a collective effort, with all countries in the region coming together to negotiate and address the issue. He believes that scientists from these countries hold the key to finding solutions through collaboration. The professor also highlighted the issue of high water consumption in Iran's agricultural sector. He mentioned that Iran has approximately 13 million hectares of arable land, with 8 million hectares being irrigated and 5 million hectares relying on rainfall. "About 90 percent of Iran's agriculture takes place on irrigated lands, while 10 percent relies on rainfall," he said. "In Isfahan, for instance, which has around 568 thousand hectares of agricultural land, about 7 percent of Iran's total agricultural land, approximately 5.7 million tons of agricultural products, about 4 percent of Iran's total production were produced in 2018," he added. However, according to Zare, the phenomenon of subsidence is affecting the city of Isfahan, as it faces water scarcity issues. The reduction of water flow in the Zayandeh Rud River, which supplies water to Isfahan, has impacted the lives of three million citizens. The seismology expert also addressed the supply of water from the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman to industries in Isfahan province, holding that while such a move may increase water availability, it can also lead to further migration. Regarding the possible effects of subsidence on seismic events, Zare

mentioned two earthquakes that occurred around the northern parts of Isfahan about 10 to 12 years ago. "It is necessary to investigate whether these earthquakes were influenced by the depletion of underground water," he noted. He also discussed recorded evidence of the effects of aquifer depletion on seismic events. "The Mallard earthquake on December 20, 2017, in the west of Tehran, is believed to have been caused by fault stimulation through the removal of aquifers. Researchers also suggest that the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, with a magnitude of 7.8, was also triggered by excessive extraction of underground water in northern India," he said. Highlighting the importance of considering the triggering of faults due to the depletion of aquifers, he stated that approximately 20 billion cubic meters of water are extracted from natural sources and underground water annually. "If this continues, agricultural activities around the Zagros Mountains may vanish within the next 20 years," he said, adding, "Moreover, Iran's annual water consumption is 96 billion cubic meters, exceeding the country's total renewable water resources of 90 billion cubic meters." According to Zare, the agricultural sector accounts for about 90 percent of water consumption, while drinking water represents eight percent, and industries and mines utilize approximately two percent.



Pomegranate Festival, a chance to celebrate the celestial fruit



Mahdieh Qazvinian
Staff writer

The Pomegranate Festival, running from November 8 to 17, 2023, at Tehran's Grand Mosalla, is a vibrant gathering of gardeners, farmers, rural villagers, and entrepreneurial individuals showcasing their pomegranate-related products in 100 captivating exhibition booths. From colorful pomegranates to an array of rural offerings, the event is an invaluable experience for enthusiasts of this delectable fruit and its delightful derivatives, such as pomegranate paste and refreshing pomegranate juice. Visitors have the opportunity to explore a diverse range of products and acquire their desired items while immersing themselves in the delightful atmosphere of the exhibition. We took this chance to explore the booths and talk to vendors who specialized in making organic products with pomegranates. Milad Mohammadzadeh brags about running one of the most enticing booths at the exhibition, brimming with pomegranate products sourced from his hometown, Firuzkuh. "The festival serves as an avenue for people to discover superior products," Milad affirms with enthusiasm. Within his booth, an assortment of pomegranate creations awaits, including tantalizing pomegranate juice, mouthwatering lavashak (a leathery fruit product), flavorsome pomegranate paste, and tasty pomegranate sauce – all freshly produced this very month. Milad proudly shares, "Our gardens in Firuzkuh host two distinctive varieties: red pomegranates, known for their blood-cleansing properties, and black pomegranates, famous for their remarkable medicinal and therapeutic attributes." According to him, black pomegranates command a significantly higher price than their red counterparts. As we spent a few minutes at Milad's booth, we witnessed the attractive, eye-pleasing process of preparing fresh pomegranate juice, swiftly served to eager customers. The Saveh Pomegranate stand captivates exhibition-goers in a unique way, as Saveh pomegranates have always possessed an exceptional taste, satisfying the palates

of fervent fruit fans. Maryam Bahmadi, an esteemed gardener from the city of Saveh, explains, "Saveh pomegranates are distinguished by their superior quality, boasting a higher concentration of juice compared to other cities' pomegranates." This attribute, according to Maryam, lends them a delightful stickiness and a vibrant hue – an outcome of favorable weather conditions and the fertile soil of Saveh. "This heavenly fruit has long made Saveh famous by being the cherished souvenirs of our city," Maryam said. She further elaborates, "Over 10 different varieties of pomegranates flourish across 10,000 hectares of Saveh's fertile orchards, out of a total of 11,000 hectares." Maryam explains that approximately 25 percent of the city's pomegranate production, totaling 40,000 tons, finds its way to international markets, while 50 percent of the 170,000 tons produced are relished fresh. The remaining 25 percent undergo traditional processing in local factories and workshops, primarily for concentration. Soroush Shahbazi, who proudly presents his Kashmar garden's produce at this exhibition in Tehran, believes that while Yazd pomegranates may possess a thinner skin compared to Kashmar's, their quality falls short. He asserts, "Kashan pomegranates may exhibit a visually appealing appearance, but their quality is inferior. If you were to transplant the same seedling to Kashan or Shiraz, it would not yield the same level of quality, as weather and soil conditions play an important role in determining the fruit's excellence. Even within Kashmar itself, the quality of pomegranates may vary across different regions." Shahbazi views the Pomegranate Festival as an opportunity to celebrate and showcase the nation's potential and historical significance. "It's an enduring testament to our rich heritage."



Second Announcement



N.I.S.O.C
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 48-32-0025002

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	DRILL PIPE 2-7/8" HT-PAC THREAD S-135 GRADE, PSL2, WT 10.4 PPF,	37200 FT

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 51,480/71 EURO or 20,097,913,344 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-materialprocurementmanagementtab.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P.,
NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN
PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management
Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 3589
Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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