from the country, generating a value of $650,000. Three years before in 1399 (ended March 20, 2021), this figure stood at 139,000 tons, equivalent to $528 million.

Shrimp farming: The latest statistics from the calendar year of 1399 indicate that Iran had 15,000 hectares of shrimp cultivation fields, producing 48,000 tons of shrimp. Under the Raisi government, these figures have risen to 26,000 hectares, representing a 73% growth in cultivation fields and a 4% increase in production, yielding 50,000 tons of shrimp.

The relatively modest 4% increase in production, compared to the significant 73% increase in cultivation, can be attributed to the emergence of a disease affecting these marine animals. Specifically, acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND), which is a bacterial disease prevalent worldwide, has impacted shrimp farms. Bacterial diseases tend to have prolonged lifespans, whereas viral diseases present less of a challenge in this regard.

Despite these challenges, Iran has achieved 96% of its goals set for this sector in 1402.

Production of fish in cages: By the end of the second-to-last government, there were 133 cages in the sea, resulting in the production of 2.6 thousand tons of fish. These figures have seen significant growth, reaching 356 cages and yielding 6,318 tons of fish by the end of 1402, representing increases of 167% and 143%, respectively.

Eyed eggs: Eyed eggs refer to fertilized salmon eggs that have developed to a stage where they are ready to be transferred. The term "eyed egg" describes this stage, as the eyes of the developing fish become visible inside the egg.

In 1399, 202 million pieces of eugenic eyed eggs were produced in Iran, and this number rose to 367 million pieces in 1402, reflecting an 81% growth rate. As a result of these initiatives, salmon production in the country has increased over the last three years.

Algae production: Algae production holds significance due to the crucial role algae play in ecosystems. They serve as a food source for numerous aquatic animals, and some varieties are even suitable for human consumption. Additionally, algae are prolific producers of oxygen through photosynthesis.

At the end of the penultimate government, algae production stood at 40 tons (wet weight), and this saw a substantial increase of 820% under the Raisi government, reaching 368 tons by the end of 1402.

Ornamental fish: Ornamental fish breeding and exports contribute significantly to the country's economy, benefiting from a strong market demand. In 1399, the production of ornamental fish stood at 276 million pieces, and this number increased by 37% to reach 379 million pieces in 1402.

Aquatic production: In 1399, 1.268 million tons of aquatic products were produced domestically. This figure grew by 11% last year, reaching a total of 1.408 million tons.

Job creation: Employment statistics within the fisheries sector also showed a positive trend. By the end of the calendar year of 1399, the sector employed 237,000 people, and this number rose to 261,000 by the end of 1402, reflecting a 10% growth rate.

Fishing: In 1399, the country's fishing yield totaled 715,000 tons, and this amount increased by 7.8% to reach 771,000 tons by the end of 1402.

Aquaculture: Within the sector of fish and other marine products, Iran raised 553,000 tons of fish in 1399. By the end of 1402, this figure rose to 637,000 tons, reflecting a 15% growth rate.

Iran's agriculture, fisheries flourish under Raisi

PERSPECTIVE The statistics and reports tallied by the government of Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi show that the government's performance in agriculture was satisfactory. It even managed to chalk up solid achievements in the fields of farming and fisheries.

Almost self-sufficient in wheat production

One of the achievements of the government in this field was its move towards reaching self-sufficiency in wheat. This is especially important since wheat is deemed a strategic commodity in securing the country's food supply. Consequently, the Raisi government set out to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat production and made strides in the production and purchase of wheat from farmers.

As per the report of the Agriculture Ministry, the country's domestic wheat production stood at 4.5 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended March 20, 2022), and Iran imported an additional 7 million tons to meet the needs of the country. The next year, Iran produced 7.5 million tons of wheat and imported 3 million tons. In the last calendar year (ended March 19, 2024), domestic wheat production rose to 10.4 million tons, and the country imported a further one million tons. Given the downward trend in wheat imports and the estimates made, the country is on track toward achieving self-sufficiency in wheat provision this year.

There were several measures that Raisi's government took to cause an increase in the production of this key product: First, the government announced the guaranteed purchase rate of wheat ahead of the planting season and rationalized it. Second, Iranian farmers saw a 129% growth in wheat purchases, from 50,000 rials per kilo in the calendar year 1400 to 130,000 rials in 1402. This was done so as not to disadvantage farmers. Third, the government provided various support packages such as the planting subsidy and wheat delivery bonus.

Diplomacy in agricultural prosperity

Raisi's government has had successful experiences in developing agricultural diplomacy. It got the Qiz Qalasi hydroelectric dam, the largest and most important water project in the northwestern border region, up and running after 20 years. The dam provides the plains of the northwestern provinces with 2 billion cubic meters of water annually and lays the groundwork for the expansion of the agriculture and tourism sectors there.

The strengthening of food diplomacy with Russia, Latin American countries, neighboring nations, and aligned states was a key focus of the previous government's actions and consultations. Its active agricultural diplomacy resulted in several memorandums on safe consumption, food health, and pesticides, as well as the exchange of botanical technical knowledge. Removing export tariffs on agricultural goods with Asian countries and Russia and creating new export markets were also central to the government's consultations with other nations. According to a report by the Agriculture Ministry, these efforts led to a 22% growth in the export of agricultural and food products, reaching $6.37 billion at the end of 1402, up from $5.22 billion in 1400.

Iranian late president Ebrahim Raisi (2nd-L) is getting briefed about an innovation at an exhibition showcasing the achievements of the country's knowledge-based companies, in Tehran on August 16, 2022.
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Investment growth in fisheries

According to a report from the Iran Fisheries Organization, 63% of the investments in the fisheries and aquatics sub-sector in the calendar year 1399 (ended March 20, 2021) came from bank facilities, 20% from the private sector, and 17% in the form of loans from the government. However, in the year 1402, the total figure marked a 1,200% increase. The breakdown of this investment in 1402 was as follows: 90% from the private sector, 5% from public sector credits, and 5% through bank facilities.

When it comes to trade, the Raisi government also saw a notable expansion in the export of aquatic and fishery products. In 1399, Iran exported 139,000 tons of fishery products, generating revenue of $528 million. This increased significantly by 1402, with exports reaching 210,000 tons and bringing in $650 million.

Development of agricultural tech

Another notable achievement of the Raisi government was the advancement of Iran's agricultural technology and the boost in its productivity within the agricultural sector. Through the backing of novel scientific projects linked to water and food security, the establishment of technological and knowledge-based units in agriculture witnessed a substantial expansion, increasing by 308%. This growth took the number of such units from 152 in 1400 to 621 by the end of 1402. Furthermore, the issuance of electronic business licenses in the agricultural sector, which initially stood at zero at the start of the government's term, surged to reach 307,000 cases as of 1402.

Growth in fertilizer production

With an output of 8 million tons of urea fertilizer, Iran ranks among the world's largest and most prominent exporters of this vital strategic agricultural input. The country's annual agricultural requirement for potassium nitrate, phosphate, and potash chemical fertilizers stands at approximately 4.5 million tons. Iran has achieved self-sufficiency in the production of potassium nitrate fertilizers, which constitute the largest share of the country's fertilizer portfolio.

Regarding phosphate and potash fertilizers, which were previously imported until the last few years, the country embarked on a path toward self-sufficiency in agricultural fertilizers by planning 30 projects for the construction of factories and the development of domestic mines. This initiative aims to produce over 3 million tons of chemical fertilizers and 2 million tons of phosphate and potash fertilizers. Key projects within this framework include utilizing the capacities of the Urmia Petrochemical company for potassium sulfate fertilizer production, the establishment of a factory for phosphoric acid and phosphate fertilizer manufacturing at the Karun Phosphate Products Complex, the triple superphosphate fertilizer production by Yazd's KimiaDaran Kavir Factory, and the development of the Charam Phosphate Mines.

Thus, the production of phosphate and potash fertilizers in Iran witnessed a notable increase, rising by 51% from the start of the previous government's term to the end of 1402. This increase took the production levels from 77,000 tons to 116,000 tons, which, in turn, led to the cessation of imports and the retention of currency within the country.

Iran's deceased president Ebrahim Raisi speaks at an event in Tehran on September 5, 2022, marking the start of the agricultural calendar year 1401–1402 and honoring successful persons in the agriculture industry.
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