



PERSPECTIVE The agricultural sector plays a significant role in ensuring food security, and one might even say it underpins national security. The following report outlines the actions taken by the government of Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi regarding some staple items; it then goes on to detail some of the initiatives of organizations under the Ministry of Agriculture, breaking down the work carried out within each department, starting with the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization (NRWO).

Iran's previous president Ebrahim Raisi (R) plants a tree sapling on the occasion of the National Tree Planting Day on March 5, 2024.
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By the numbers

Achievements of Raisi's Agriculture Ministry

Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi (L) inaugurates the modern smart subsurface irrigation project of the Karoon Agro Industry Inc. in the southwestern city of Shoushtar on March 8, 2024.
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Natural Resources, Watershed Management Organization

Natural resource land ownership: The country holds 137 million hectares of natural resource land. Prior to the Raisi government, approximately 77 million hectares of these lands had ownership documentation. Under the previous government, this figure rose to 134.5 million hectares.

Watershed management: Before the Raisi government took office, watershed management projects were implemented in several provinces, covering several thousand hectares. However, due to the previous government's efforts, a land restoration program for several million hectares was initiated for the first time. Scientific studies have already been conducted on seven million hectares of land across the country.

Following comprehensive and expert studies, watershed management of 20 million hectares of the country's pastures was incorporated into the 7th National Development Plan (2023-27). During his visit to the Agriculture Ministry, president Raisi emphasized the revitalization of 50 million hectares of land nationwide, and this initiative was approved after further expert studies. It is also worth noting that the Raisi government fulfilled ap-

proximately 42% of the objectives outlined in the 6th National Development Plan (2016-2022) regarding watershed management.

According to experts from the country's natural resources organization, there is a groundwater deficit of more than 140 billion cubic meters nationwide. This deficit can be addressed through the implementation of watershed management projects.

Demarcation of lands: The delineation of natural resource lands and watershed management was one of the other positive measures taken by the Raisi government. The demarcation of lands in this sector witnessed a 57% increase, rising from 89 million hectares at the start of that government to 140 million hectares by the end of the Iranian calendar year of 1402 (ended March 19, 2024).

Planting one billion trees: The ambitious plan to plant one billion trees was initiated by the Raisi government. This plan entailed planting 250 million saplings annually throughout the country with the involvement of the populace.

Land Affairs Organization of Iran

Resolving agricultural land use conflicts: One of the key challenges faced by Iranian farmers in their dealings with the government has been the issue of overlapping boundaries between national and agricultural lands. By the end of September 2021, 1.08 million hectares of land across the country had been cleared of such conflicts, which equates to 11% of the total land area.

During the Raisi government, significant progress has been made, with this figure rising to 11.037 million hectares, representing a 922% increase. As a result, 75% of the country's lands are now free from border conflicts.

Accreditation of agricultural lands: It is worth noting that up until August 2021, approximately 4% of agricultural lands (totaling about 1.780 million hectares) had been documented. In the last three years, there has been significant progress in this regard, with documents issued for an additional 8.604 million hectares, representing a 383% increase and bringing the total accredited land to 53% of the total agricultural land.

Consolidation of agricultural lands: Another initiative being pursued in the agricultural sector is the consolidation of small, fragmented plots of land that have fallen out of use over the last few decades. Until August 2021, when president Raisi took office, 256 hectares of agricultural lands had been integrated, and this figure rose significantly to 13,144 hectares during the Raisi government. This reflects a substantial growth rate of 5054% in the consolidation of small land parcels.

Identifying, preventing change of land use: One of the challenges faced is the threat of changing the use of agricultural land. In some cases, even first and second-class lands have been targeted by profiteers. Up until August 2021, 379,738 cases of land-use change were identified, and this number rose to 600,612 cases in the last three years, reflecting a growth rate of 58%.

Demolition of unauthorized

constructions: Unauthorized constructions on agricultural lands that were demolished up until August 2021 totaled 109,296 cases. During the Raisi government, this number rose to 244,824 cases, reflecting an increase of 87%.

Allocation of land for agricultural projects: During the second-to-last government and up until August 2021, a total of 714,366 hectares of national land were allocated for agricultural projects. In the previous government, this allocation increased by 12%, reaching 799,153 hectares.

Land allotment for production, industrial projects: One of the key projects undertaken by the Land Affairs Organization of Iran is the allocation of land for production plans across various industries. During the penultimate government and up until August 2021, a total of 140,880 hectares of land were allotted for this purpose. However, under the Raisi government, the transfer of land in this sector increased by 12%, reaching a total of 150,891 hectares. It is worth noting that in the realm of intelligent land monitoring, the technology to monitor and intelligently oversee the country's land was not in place until August 2021. Due to the efforts of the Raisi government, this capability has now been implemented across all 31 provinces.

Iran Fisheries Organization

Aquatic exports: This area has a high capacity for revenue generation and supplies the basic goods market with high-calorie items, it is worth mentioning that in the calendar year of 1402, 210,000 tons of aquatic products were exported