

## Guaranteed purchase of wheat tops \$1.6b



Iran has purchased a sum of 4.77 million tons of wheat valued at over \$1.63 billion from domestic producers under the framework of a national plan that guarantees the purchase of domestic production of the crop.

According to the data released by the Government Trading Corporation of Iran, the figure is 200,000 tons more than that of last year's corresponding period, IRNA reported.

The government has paid over \$500 million to the farmers and the rest sum will be gradually paid to them.

The wheat harvest is currently underway in 25 provinces and will continue until late September. The southwestern province of Khuzestan has been the number one province in the supply of wheat with 1.6 million tons, followed by the provinces of Golestan, Fars, and Ilam which ranked second to fourth, respectively, the official said, adding that with the beginning of harvest in the temperate provinces, the rankings will change, except for Khuzestan Province which is expected to keep it first place.

Wheat production in Iran has increased by six percent in 2023, putting the Islamic Republic in 14th place among the world's top producers of the strategic grain, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s World Agricultural Production report.

Based on the said report, Iranian farmers managed to produce 14 million tons of wheat in the 2023 crop year, 800,000 tons more than the figure for the previous year in which the total production stood at 13.2 million tons.

According to USDA, Iran was the world's 13th largest wheat producer in 2022.

The department has also predicted that Iran will produce 14 million tons of wheat in 2024, which will not change compared to 2023.

The increase in Iran's wheat production during 2023 comes as the world's total wheat production this year has decreased by about seven million tons to reach 782 million tons.

According to this report, Iran, which is the 18th most populous country in the world, has produced more wheat than many countries, including Brazil and Egypt.



# Iran-Georgia trade expected to double by yearend: *Senior businesswoman*

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Tahereh Soleimani, the head of the Commerce and Marketing Commission of the Iran-Georgia Chamber of Commerce said that bilateral trade between the two countries is expected to double by the end of 2024.

She put Iran's export to Georgia in 2023 at over \$220 million, adding that the country imported about \$30 million worth goods from the Caucasian coun-

try last year.

"Iran's share of Georgian market is expanding, and on the other hand, Georgians are also interested in participating in the Iranian market," Soleimani stated, noting that the two countries have trade exchanges in the field of agricultural products, food and clothing. Pointing to the visit of Georgian business delegations to Iran, she said as Georgian delegations get familiar with Iran's capabilities, their view of Iran changes completely as a result of the paved ground in the country for doing business.

"Holding various commercial and economic exhibitions in Iran is a good opportunity to introduce Iran's economic opportunities to businessmen and economic representatives of different countries."

Soleimani pointed out some weak points of Iran in the field of trade and said our producers are not usually successful in introducing their products and capabilities international markets, so in this regard sending them to foreign exhibitions or holding domestic exhibitions can help solve the problem.

She went on to say that today, some of our neighboring countries, owing to better introduction and marketing of their products, have succeeded in taking over many of our foreign markets.

Pointing to extraterritorial cultivation by the Caucasian state, the senior businessperson said Georgia is engaged in the cultivation of crops such as summer vegetables and vegetables in south of Iran, and they send the cultivated crops directly to Georgia.

Georgia does not share a border with Iran, and trade between the

countries has been comparatively modest. Tbilisi and Tehran have maintained stable relations throughout the years.

Iran has floated the idea of closer economic ties in the past, including by supplying Iranian gas to Georgia through Armenia, but those efforts have not resulted in concrete agreements. Even so, state data shows that gas imports to Georgia from Iran soared by more than 600 percent in 2023. If the two countries are indeed preparing to pursue closer relations, energy supplies are a likely catalyst.

## Tehran, Minsk ready to cooperate in making gas turbines



Energy officials from Iran and Belarus emphasized cooperating in designing and manufacturing gas turbines.

On the sidelines of the 4th meeting of the energy ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)'s member states, Iran's Minister of Energy Ali Akbar Mehrabian held talks with Viktor Karankevich, the energy minister of Belarus, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Mehrabian pointed to the special emphasis of late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi on the expansion of relations with regional countries, especially Belarus, and added that the relations between Tehran and Minsk are at a high level, especially in the political field.

Iran attaches great importance to its relation with the Republic of Belarus, he said, adding that high-ranking officials of the two

countries are determined to expand their cooperation in all fields.

He went on to say that Belarus is an innovative country in terms of industry and technology and is at a good level in electronics, mining and mineral machinery and different industrial equipment.

Mehrabian said that Iran has also made significant progress in the field of industry since the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The energy minister of the Republic of Belarus, for his part, pointed to the exchange of experiences between Iran and Belarus in the field of manufacturing and repairing gas turbines and emphasized the need for launching all-out cooperation with Iran for the design and manufacturing of power plants.

Karankevich added that his country is ready to expand cooperation with Iran in all fields, especially in the

areas of trade and economy. Meanwhile, addressing the 4th SCO energy ministers' meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Friday, Mehrabian said that member states can ensure energy security by forging cooperation.

A strategy for energy cooperation among SCO member states until 2030 was approved by the ministers in the meeting.

Iran, like other member states, presented its proposals to strengthen the document, Mehrabian said. Elaborating on the proposals, Mehrabian said that Tehran stressed the importance of creating a regional electricity market between the member states, promoting energy security, and enhancing the capacity of electric desalination devices.

The technical development and commercialization of energy storage systems and electric vehicles, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, the exchange of technical knowledge and scientific cooperation, and the exchange of technical and engineering services in the field of energy were also among the seven areas which Tehran says could lead to enhanced cooperation between SCO member states and sustainable growth and development in the field of energy, according to the minister.

## Iran exports oil to 15 countries: Owji

Iranian Minister of Petroleum Javad Owji said on Saturday that the country currently exports crude oil to 15 countries.

Speaking in a joint news conference with Government Spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi and Head of the Department of Environment Ali Salajegheh, the minister added that the gas production volume of Iran has increased by 53 million cubic meters/day in the administration of the late president Ebrahim Raisi, Shana reported. The capacity of storing gas has increased by one billion cubic meters and \$23 billion worth of capital was invested for the development of the joint oil fields, Owji stated.

He also said 153 projects in the up- and downstream sectors, valued at \$34 billion, were launched during Raisi's administration.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Owji pointed to Iran's extraction of gas from the South Pars Gas Field shared with the neighboring Qatar and added that Iran's gas extraction from the joint field is 100 million cubic meters more than Qatar's.

He went on to say that Phase 11 of South Pars Gas Field was put into operation after 20 years.

While at the beginning of the administration of

Raisi, which took office in August 2021, the country's oil-selling capacity stood at 300,000 barrels per day (bpd), it rose to 1.8 million barrels per day a year and a half later.

Announcing the above, Iran's Acting President Mohammad Mokhber added, "When the late president Raisi took power in August 2021, the country was faced with long hours of blackout, especially during peak hours of electricity consumption, but the Raisi administration managed to solve the problem by getting help from the Energy Ministry capabilities," Shana reported.

"Some people who boasted that they were capable in view of carrying out negotiations, diplomacy and expanding foreign relations, finally ended up in loneliness even among the neighboring countries," he said, adding that

Raisi's administration could overcome some shortcomings during his three years in office and improved relations with the neighboring countries. Despite the US presence in a number of countries in the region, they have not been able to join a number of influential regional and international treaties, but during the presidency of Raisi, the Islamic Republic of Iran succeeded in joining some important organizations including Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS group of the emerging economies and Eurasia with close connections to the heads of the member countries, Mokhber added.

