

Iran's export of honey hit \$5.6m last year



Economy Desk

Iran exported 1,469 tons of high-quality honey, valued at \$5.6 million, in the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023 to March 19, 2024), an official at the Ministry of Agriculture said.

On the occasion of National Day of Honey on August 21, Mohammad Ebrahim Hassannejad from Agriculture Ministry pointed to the flourishing production of bee products, including beeswax, royal jelly, propolis, pollen, and even bee venom, all of which have higher added value than honey itself, adding that beekeepers' embrace of this economic perspective on production has increased revenues from beekeeping, IRNA reported.

The deputy for livestock affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture stated that in addition to producing 121,000 tons of honey last year, more than 10 and a half kilograms of bee venom, 9,149 kilograms of royal jelly, over 885 tons of pollen, and 183 tons of propolis were produced in bee-keeping units across the country. According to statistics, honey exports last year amounted to 1,469 tons, he said.

The country stood at the 4th rank in terms of bee colonies and also third rank in the world in honey production terms, according to the latest statistics of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

FAO also said that 2.150 million tons of honey is annually produced in the worldwide.

Hassannejad emphasized the importance of supporting private sector traders and highlighted key areas for increasing exports of beekeeping-related products, including implementing honey standards or developing plans to enhance the quality of bee products, as well as facilitating the supply of these products in border markets for export purposes.

Iran's unique advantages for textile industry development

290 domestic, foreign companies attend IRANTEX

An international exhibition of textile industry wraps up today in Tehran with the participation of more than 290 domestic and foreign companies from Iran and 13 countries to showcase their capabilities, exchange their latest advancements in the industry and discuss investment, business and trade possibilities.

About 170 domestic companies and 120 foreign companies from Germany, Italy, Taiwan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, South Korea, Turkey, Pakistan, Austria, Switzerland, India, Japan and China offered their products and services at the four-day IRANTEX, Press TV reported.

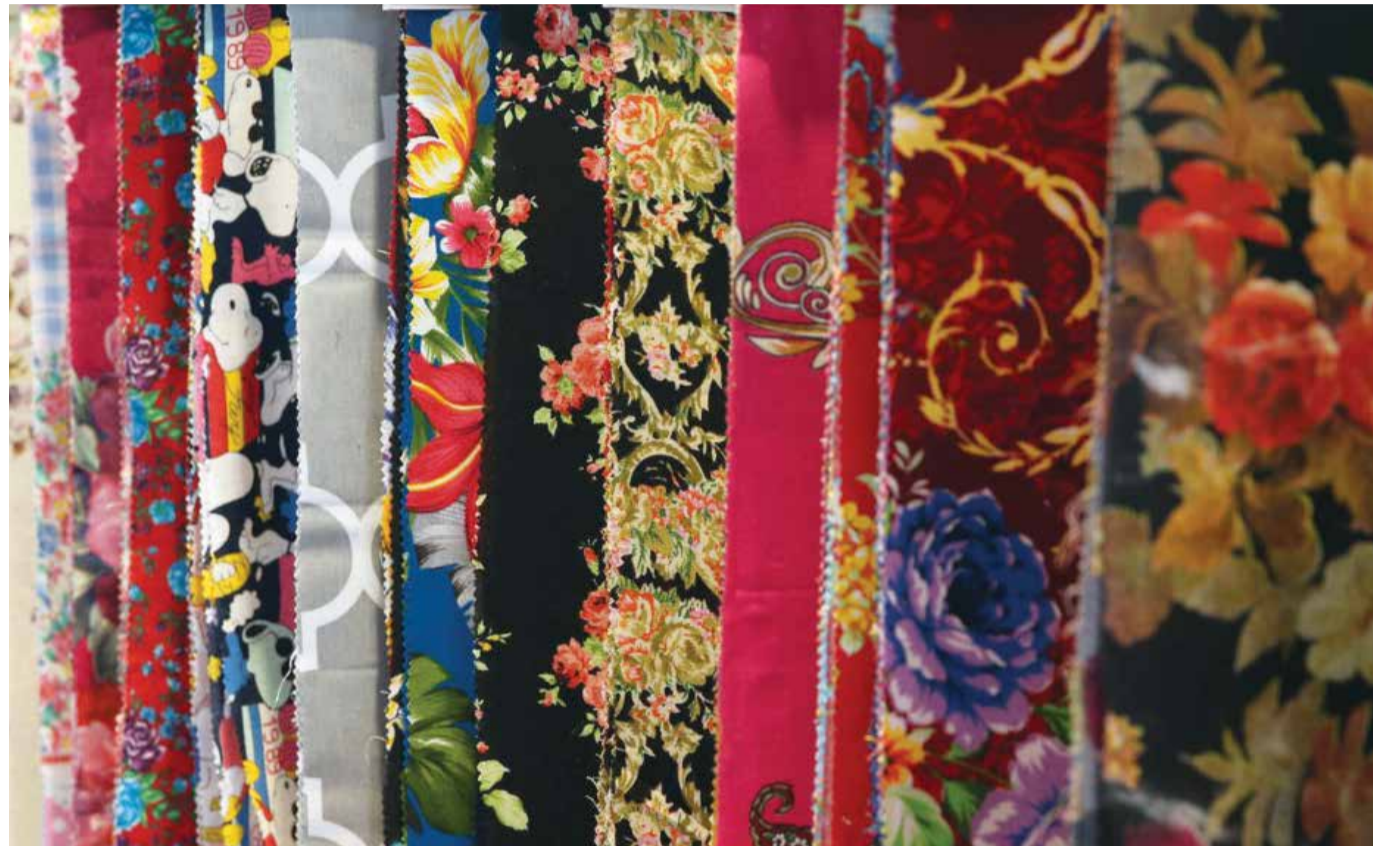
Three of the five top textile and apparel exporting nations, China, India and Turkey attended the 30th international exhibition of textile machinery, raw materials, home textiles, embroidery machines and textile products with 100 companies, 18 companies and 12 companies respectively.

The development of the textile industry in Iran has several advantages, foremost the luxury of an easy access to raw materials. Fifty-percent of the industry's need for cotton is supplied from within, although this figure was 100% until two decades ago.

As for silk, more than 50% of the country's needs which translates to 330 tons of silk thread, is produced domestically, with self-sufficiency potentially being around the corner with some planning and support of the sector.

The existence of abundant oil and gas resources and the country's petrochemical capacity is another advantage for production of synthetic fibers.

Moreover, the domestic market of 85 million people with a turnover of \$30 billion is the



key driver of the textile industry in Iran, while there is another market of 400 million people in its neighborhood in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Iran has a long textile legacy. According to archaeological findings, the country has produced textiles for at least 10,000 years. Persia made textiles and carpets for both local and foreign markets, which were famous for their elaborate patterns and vibrant colors.

Over the past three decades, the textile and apparel industry has fallen off the cliff, with its 6.4% share in the country's GDP plunging under one percent, marked by an influx of legally or illegally imported goods. According to statistics, the

annual import of smuggled clothing is estimated at more than \$2 billion, where every one billion dollars of smuggling into the country causes the destruction and closure of more than 100,000 job opportunities.

This is while textile is one of the important industries in growth and development. The industry is important in terms of creating added value and creating jobs, given that it includes a wide range of products such as cotton, wool, silk, synthetic fibers, carpets and all kinds of textiles.

Several parameters distinguish textile from other industries. Clothing is one of the three basic human needs encompassing economic, social and cultural aspects all

alike, where the design, color and role of products determine the end result. Turning cotton into clothing involves a chain which according to economists creates a 900% added value. The employment rate of the textile industry is also very high, and for every one job created in cotton cultivation, five jobs are created in the subcategory industries.

Finally, among different industries, textile requires the lowest initial investment to start a business. The average cost required to create employment for one person in the industry is about 25% of the average cost in other industries, where with an investment of \$20 million, job opportunities can be created for 200 people.

That being said, Iran appears to be on a damage control campaign after years of neglecting the textile industry. In the last three years, \$1.1 billion has been allocated to modernize machinery in the leather, footwear and related industrial sectors, according to deputy industry minister Mohammad Mehdi Baradaran.

Officials say \$5 billion of initial investment is needed over a period of five years to reconstruct and modernize the entire textile and clothing sector to bring the industry back online.

Given the advantages, the revival and expansion of the textile industry is a must which should be followed with utmost diligence and interest.

Iran set to show strong presence at China's Import Expo 2024



Economy Desk

Head of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Samad Hassanzadeh, assured Chinese Ambassador Cong Peiwu of Iran's enthusiastic participation in the upcoming 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE 2024) during their meeting in Tehran on Wednesday, describing the event a great opportunity for Iranian businessmen.

The CIIE 2024 will be held in Shanghai from November 5-10, 2024 at the National Exhibition

and Convention Center in Shanghai. According to Hassanzadeh, the expo presents a valuable opportunity for Iranian traders and businessmen to explore collaboration avenues and gain firsthand knowledge of China's capabilities. The head of the Chamber outlined various cooperation opportunities, underscoring the potential for collaboration in maritime transportation and strengthening economic and trade infrastructure.

He also referred to the recent inauguration of Iran's 14th adminis-



Head of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce Samad Hassanzadeh (R) meets Chinese Ambassador Cong Peiwu in Tehran on August 21, 2024.

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tration, led by President Masoud Pezeshkian, emphasizing the potential for the president to further strengthen Iran-China economic and trade relations.

Pezeshkian, in July, considered the agreement to be "a significant milestone towards establishing a mutually beneficial comprehensive strategic partnership," noting, "We look forward to collaborating more extensively with Beijing as we advance towards a new global order." Hassanzadeh highlighted Pezeshkian's proactive approach and specific focus on international relations, as well as his strong resolve to realize the full potential of the 25-year agreement between the two countries.

He urged the Chinese ambassador to put prioritization of the implementation of the 25-year agreement's provisions on the agenda of Chinese authorities, noting that past agreements have yet to be operationalized. Hassanzadeh emphasized the importance of joint investment, highlighting the capabilities of both countries in such sectors as petrochemicals, gas, oil, automotive, and space industries, and suggested the need for joint ventures in these areas.

Iran and China signed the landmark 25-year partnership agreement in March 2021 in a bid to strengthen their long-standing economic and political alliance.

The deal, which had been announced during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Tehran back in 2016, sets the outlines of Sino-Iranian cooperation in political, cultural, security, defense, regional, and international domains for the period in question.

Furthermore, Hassanzadeh proposed that China could invest in Iran's copper industry, as well as in aluminum and power plant sectors, where similar investment opportunities exist.

New era of ...

As the Leader has rightly stated, the success of the government and Mr.

Pezeshkian is a success for all of us. With this vote, the Parliament has paved the way for the new government to hit the ground running and tackle the issues that matter most to the people.

A new era of administration has dawned, marked by the near-simultaneous commencement of the government and Parliament, which bodes well for enhanced cooperation between the two branches of power. The Parliament's overwhelming approval is more than just a procedural step; it is a gesture of goodwill and a commitment to work together for the betterment of the nation. Now, all eyes are on the government to deliver on its promises with determination and diligence.

This is a time for action and rolling up our sleeves. While the Parliament has taken the first step toward interaction and support, it will continue to hold the government accountable through its oversight role. Constructive criticism and oversight are essential aspects of assisting the government in delivering on its campaign promises.

The political authority of the Establishment has been firmly established through the synergy between the Parliament and the government. President Pezeshkian, a seasoned parliamentarian and former minister, understands the concerns and perspectives of both sides. His experience will undoubtedly foster better interaction and collaboration, with the ultimate goal of resolving the challenges faced by the Iranian people.