

Iran eyes 10m tons of crop output in greenhouse farming



Iran's Agriculture Ministry plans a major increase in the production of crops from greenhouses.

The ministry's contractor for greenhouse farming said that Iran's crop production from greenhouse farming will reach 10 million metric tons (mt) per year in the year to March 2028, Press TV wrote Mehdi Lotfizadeh added that the Iranian government plans to expand greenhouse farming by more than 30,000 hectares in the next four years. Lotfizadeh said the investment needed to complete the project will amount to 7,300 trillion rials (\$12.3 billion).

He noted Iran has the expertise and technology needed to expand greenhouses, adding that the country will also use foreign machinery and equipment to modernize the sector. The official added that the government will support the expansion of greenhouse farming in Iran mainly by offering cheap loans to farmers. Iranian government figures show the country has 27,000 hectares of greenhouses which produce around 4 million mt of various crops per year.

Iran exports a bulk of its greenhouse products to neighboring countries although the crops are also becoming increasingly popular in the domestic market.

Iran's total agricultural output rose by just over 19% in the calendar year to March 20 to reach 131 million mt.

Facing US sanctions that restrict its access to foreign trade, Iran has introduced policies to encourage increased activity in its manufacturing and agriculture sectors in recent years.

Increased support for the agriculture projects has enabled the Iranian government to ensure food security in the country.

Ensuring Iran's food security hinges on tech-based methods: **MP**

By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadlou

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The Iranian government's main approach to ensure the country's food security relies on technology-based methods for agriculture and food production, said a member of the Parliament's Agriculture Commission. Talking to Iran Daily, Naderqoli Ebrahimi pointed to food security as one of the main fundamentals for national security and stated that a country enjoying food security has definitely guaranteed its national security. The lawmaker added that countries which have dependence on other countries for food security will definitely face problems in terms of national security.

"Considering the importance of providing food security, our priority is to meet our needs by domestic production. The production surplus should be transferred to storages to be used as reserves for market regulation in times of need, or should be exported," he noted.

Ebrahimi went on to say that this should be done through proper and integrated management because we have the potential to export surplus production, but the key point is that we should tune ourselves on sustainable export policies so that we can keep our export markets. If the export of our products is carried out intermittently, the importing country notices that it cannot count on the continu-



al import of the chosen product and therefore it shifts to buying products from other countries. Referring to the emphasis of Iran's Constitution on the necessity of gaining self-sufficiency, Ebrahimi said in the food security document of Iran that was approved three months ago, the three ministries of health, agriculture, and energy, along with

other bodies will cooperate as the document refers to the provision of suitable and high-quality food as the right of every Iranian which should be provided. "Gholamreza Nouri, the minister of agriculture, in his plans, has drawn attention to the seventh plan of the National Food Security Document and has put ensuring self-reliance in fundamental

products and ensuring food security as well as improving productivity on the agenda," the MP said noting that the minister has announced short-, medium- and long-term plans for solving the problems of the agricultural sector, production and providing the country's food security. With the suitable process that has been provided for the tech-

nology-based centers to join the agricultural sector, part of the country's problems has been resolved in the field of mass production that require modern technology to improve productivity, he said adding that, "We must increase our efforts as we have a long way to go to fully meet the food needs of our individuals."

Gas deals with Turkmenistan, Russia demand scheduling: **NIGC**

The implementation of the Iran-Turkmenistan gas contract needs to be scheduled as measures have been taken, said Saeid Tavakoli, the head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), expressing his hope to implement the contract signed with Russia.

Iraq is one of the good customers of Iranian gas which pays their money on time and in cash as the country has no debt re-

garding the import of gas from Iran, the official stated, Shana reported.

In cold days of winter, the consumption of the household, commercial, industrial and transportation sectors naturally increases, he said noting that this upcoming winter, with the completion of repairs along with optimal storage of liquefied gas and also with the cooperation of the Ministry of Energy, gas shortage will not occur.



Iran Navy has ...

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, through the adoption of various and diverse tactics, guaranteed the security of Iranian and other friendly and allied countries' ships in escort operations.

The role of the Iranian Navy during the eight-year Sacred Defense was not limited to defensive operations at sea, but rather it was a symbol of national identity, loyalty to the homeland, and a great test that, by the grace of God, the Iranian Army emerged victorious and proud in the face of the Iranian Islamic nation.

Another important aspect of the Iranian Navy's role was deterrence against other regional and trans-regional powers. After the failure and complete destruc-

tion of the Iraqi Ba'athist Navy in direct naval warfare, Iraq and its regional supporters tried to pressure the Islamic Republic of Iran through increased tensions in the Persian Gulf. Especially in the final years of the war, with the increased presence of the US Navy and other Western countries in the region, the Iranian Navy's role in countering these threats and protecting national sovereignty became more important.

During this period, the Iranian Navy, in interaction and cooperation with its brothers in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy, was able to prove its effective presence and maritime dominance in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, and respond to threats from the

presence of unauthorized foreign forces. This not only helped maintain our country's sovereignty but also created deterrence that caused Western powers to refrain from taking any direct military action against Iran.

Therefore, the eight-year imposed war provided an opportunity for the Iranian armed forces, especially the Iranian Navy, to prove their loyalty and commitment to defending the homeland in the most difficult conditions, and with the unparalleled bravery and sacrifices of its devoted personnel, create a lasting and historical identity for the Iranian nation.

This great test showed that the Iranian Navy, relying on faith, experience, expertise, discipline, and training, uniquely and with

all its might, stood against the fully armed enemy and that no threat could undermine the iron will and commitment of this force in defending the people and national interests of our country in the seas and throughout the region's strategic geography.

The imposed war was an opportunity for the glorious army of the Islamic Republic of Iran not only to defend the land of Iran but also to secure an everlasting place in the hearts and minds of our people as the vigilant and true guardians of the nation. The Iranian Navy, by supporting the war-torn Iranian economy and defending the country's vital resources, not only consolidated its position as a strategic and strong force but also created a new identity for Iran after the Islamic Revolution with every victory and sacrifice. Every suc-

cess of this force was a manifestation of the spirit of resistance and selflessness of the people of this land.

The Iranian Navy, by maintaining the security of the Persian Gulf and controlling the Strait of Hormuz against any external threat, defended Iran's territorial integrity and showed the world that Iran, as an independent nation, would never allow foreign powers to encroach on its soil and water. This demonstration of power was a military achievement and it was rooted in the depth of Iranian identity as a people who have always stood against foreign aggression.

Each time the Iranian Navy defended the Strait of Hormuz, it conveyed a message to the world that the country possesses military strength and is a nation of dignity and authority that will never yield to force and aggres-

sion. After the end of the imposed war, the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has continued its identity-creating role under the leadership of the Commander-in-Chief of the Iranian Armed Forces. The force, by strengthening its will and self-confidence, as well as relying on its indigenous capabilities and equipment, demonstrated its powerful presence in the oceanic arenas through the successful mission of the 86th Naval Group, showcasing its power to the powerful nations, and as one of the pillars of power and territory-building of the country in the defensive and military arenas, relying on the valuable and unique lessons of the Sacred Defense era, continues to assure the noble and great Iranian nation that it will defend the borders of this land against any threat, with its life on the line.