

# Pezeshkian calls for reform in agricultural, livestock farming methods

## Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the need to reform farming and livestock practices in the country, stating that current methods are unsustainable. Speaking at a meeting with agricultural and livestock sector players from Pardis, Damavand, and Firouzkuh of Tehran Province on Thursday, the president highlighted the significant gap between Iran's agricultural productivity and that of leading agricultural nations.

"We must reform our farming and livestock practices, including planting, cultivation, and harvesting methods. Continuing on this path will lead us nowhere," Pezeshkian said.

He noted that while farmers in the region harvest 40 tons of produce per hectare, global standards with similar resources yield 200 tons per hectare. "We must balance our resources and consumption to achieve sustainable growth," the president added.

Pezeshkian, who shared his personal experience in farming and livestock, stressed the importance of proper resource management. "I once considered buying a farm for retirement to start gardening, but my responsibilities didn't allow it. I understand the challenges you face," he said and warned that overexploitation of resources could lead to irreversible crises, urging a shift toward sustainable practices.

The president also criticized past interventions in agriculture, citing the example of Zabol, where

farmers previously managed irrigation channels effectively until the government took over, leading to inefficiencies. "When responsibilities are returned to the people, problems are resolved," he said. Pezeshkian called for collaboration between the Agriculture Ministry, Energy Ministry, and provincial governors to address water and resource management issues.

"We must plan meticulously to ensure sustainable development," he said, pledging government support for farmers and producers.

## Focus on tech-based solutions

Earlier in the day, Pezeshkian met with technology-based experts at Pardis Science and Technology Park, emphasizing the need for a shift from short-term, regional decision-making to a comprehensive, global perspective.

"Development at the cost of resource depletion is not progress; it is destruction," he said.

The president highlighted the importance of leveraging global solutions to local problems, stating, "There is no problem without a solution. The challenge lies in finding skilled individuals with the motivation to implement these solutions."

He criticized the country's bureaucratic stagnation, calling for decentralization and empowerment of mid-level managers to drive change.

Pezeshkian also addressed urban planning challenges, warning against haphazard development.



President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at a meeting with agricultural and livestock sector officials from Pardis, Damavand, and Firouzkuh of Tehran Province on March 6, 2025.  
● president.ir

"We must have a comprehensive plan for the future of our cities, considering resources like water and energy," he said, stressing the need for scientific planning to prevent environmental degradation and ensure sustainable growth.

## Support for coastal development

The president highlighted the potential of coastal regions like Makoran and the Persian Gulf for economic development, citing easier access to resources and trade opportunities.

However, he warned against unsustainable investments without proper infrastructure planning. "We must ensure that basic needs like water, electricity, and gas are met before developing these areas," he said.

Pezeshkian also advocated for the creation of free economic zones in the south, emphasizing the need to attract domestic and foreign investments.

"These zones can accelerate development, but they must operate under clear regulations that benefit the country," he said.

## Healthcare reforms

Reflecting on his experience in the healthcare sector, Pezeshkian criticized inefficiencies in the system and called for a comprehensive overhaul. "We must design a healthcare system where no Iranian worries about access to quality medical services, no matter where they are," he said. The president pledged government support for reforms to improve the quality of healthcare nationwide.

## Backing NTBFs

In the meeting, Hossein Afshin, the vice president for science, technology, and knowledge-based economy, reiterated the government's commitment to supporting new technology-based firms (NTBFs).

"The future of the country lies in NTBFs," he said, announcing plans to establish an insurance fund to protect their products.

Afshin highlighted advancements in quantum technology, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology, predicting significant progress in cutting-edge technologies over the next two years.

The meeting concluded with a call for greater collaboration between the government, private sector, and academia to drive innovation and sustainable development.

## Minister casts addressing energy deficit as top priority for gov't

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Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi stated that addressing the energy shortages is a top priority for the government, emphasizing that high-consumption customers should procure their excess electricity through the energy exchange.

During a visit to East Azarbaijan Province on Thursday, Aliabadi conveyed the president's greetings to the people of the region and underscored the importance of advancing infrastructure and development projects in the energy sector, ILNA reported.

Highlighting population growth since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Aliabadi noted that while Iran's population has increased 2.3 times, electricity consumption has surged 22-fold.

The minister stated that Iran's nominal electricity production capacity stands at 93,000 megawatts, but the rise in consumption has disrupted the balance between supply and demand.

He acknowledged that electricity supply challenges persisted at the end of the previous administration, adding that late president Ebrahim Raisi had made significant efforts to address these issues. The current administration, he said, is prioritizing the resolution of the electricity deficit.

Referring to the country's rainfall levels, Aliabadi pointed out that this year's precipitation has been less than 60% of previous years, underscoring the need for improved water resource management.

Measures such as water recycling and unconventional water production are being implemented to ensure sustainable water supply.

The minister also stressed the importance of securing sustainable water supplies in urban development plans, emphasizing that new cities must prioritize sustainable water provision.

Aliabadi said the electricity shortage was exceeding 20,000 megawatts, attributing much of it to inefficient consumption.

He warned that without proper management, the imbalance would worsen. Aliabadi underlined that the incumbent administration aims to resolve this issue by the end of its term.

One proposed solution is to make the electricity market and economy more attractive. Aliabadi explained that with private sector involvement in the electricity industry, high-consumption customers could procure excess electricity through the energy exchange.

The minister outlined two main strategies for developing the electricity industry: maximizing the use of thermal power generation capacity and increasing renewable energy capacity.

He expressed optimism that the upcoming summer would see improved conditions and hoped for a winter without electricity supply issues, provided the public cooperates.

## Exports to Eurasian countries post 22% uptick: TPO

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Iran's exports to member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) increased by 22% in the first 10 months of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2024-January 19, 2025) compared to the same period last year, according to Akbar Godari, director general of Central Asia, Caucasus, and Russia at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO).

In an interview with IRNA, Godari stated that Iran's total exports to these countries reached \$1.631 billion during this period, up from \$1.338 billion in the same timeframe last year. Meanwhile, imports from EAEU countries fell by 22%, totaling \$1.274 billion compared to \$1.627 billion last year.

Russia and Armenia were the largest recipients of Iranian exports, with \$889 million and \$402 million, respectively. In contrast, exports to Belarus and Kyrgyzstan were the lowest, at \$17 million and



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\$95 million, respectively. On the import side, Russia and Kazakhstan were Iran's primary suppliers. Russia accounted for \$1.154 billion of imports, while Kazakhstan's share was \$47 million.

Godari also highlighted Iran's trade trends with Eurasian countries from the Iranian year of 1400 (ended March 20, 2022) to 1402 (ended March 19, 2024).

In 1400, Iran's exports to the region stood at approximately \$1.165 billion, rising to \$1.517 billion in 1401 and \$1.702 billion in the Iranian year of

1402. Over the past three years, imports from Eurasian countries totaled around \$5.433 billion.

He emphasized that the implementation of a free trade agreement with the EAEU would reduce tariffs, facilitate trade, and increase Iran's share in the Eurasian market.

Meanwhile, Russian Ambassador to Iran Aleksey Dedov said on Thursday that the free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran will soon be implemented.

"The free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran was approved by

Iran on March 2, 2025. Thanks to this, we can talk about the start of its implementation in the very near future," noted the envoy.

The EAEU today is a market of 190 million people with a preferential regime for Iran for importing goods, simplified customs procedures and simple technical regulation, he added, noting that the same goes for the Iranian market for exporters from EAEU countries. This is an absolutely mutually beneficial subject that meets the interests of the population, Dedov stated.

## Over 540m tons of cargo transported nationwide in 11 months: Official



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The director of the freight transportation office at the Roads Maintenance and Transportation Organization announced that more than 545 million tons of cargo were transported via the country's road network over the past 11 months (March 20, 2024-Feb. 18, 2025), marking a 4% increase compared to the same period last year.

According to ILNA, Mehrdad Hamdollahi highlighted the operation of 82 active freight terminals and transport hubs across the country, stating that from the beginning of the year (March 20, 2024) until the end of Bahman (February 18), 545.4 million tons of goods were transported through the national road network.

He noted that during this period, 21 million tons of essential goods were moved from the country's ports and distributed to various destinations via road

transport.

The official added that over the 11-month period, a total of 104 million tons of agricultural, livestock, and food products, as well as more than 182.8 million tons of construction and mineral goods, were transported across the country's transportation routes.

Hamdollahi emphasized that currently, more than 460,000 freight vehicles with an average age of over 18 years are operational in the road transport sector.

He also pointed out that to support this sector, over 565,000 drivers and 5,561 companies and institutions are actively engaged in freight transportation across the country's provinces. The official added that 243,573 pickup trucks with an average operational lifespan of over 13 years are licensed by the Roads Maintenance and Transportation Organization and are currently active in cargo transportation.