

# Iran launches exports of superb bovine embryos to Africa, Central Asia

Economy Desk

Two export agreements for sending Iranian high-yield cattle embryos to African and Central Asian countries were finalized, said the CEO of a company affiliated with the Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR).  
Announcing the news, Mohammad Mehdi Naderi added that, "Negotiations with other countries are also underway," IRNA reported.  
Naderi pointed to the launch of the country's largest center for producing high-yield cattle embryos via the IVF (in vitro fertilization) method, stating, "The production capacity of this new unit is 10,000 embryos per year, and for the first time in Iran, the export of superior cattle embryos to various countries has commenced."  
"This center is equipped using cutting-edge global technologies and in accordance with the latest international standards," he added.



20-fold rise in calf production  
Naderi elaborated on the advantages of IVF technology for breeding high-yield cattle, saying, "Under normal circumstances, only one calf per year can be obtained from each elite cow. However, using this technology enables the production of up to 20 calves from a single elite cow per year."  
"We perform weekly egg collection from outstanding domestic cows as well as top imported breeds from Germany, Denmark, Italy, and France," he continued.  
"These eggs are fertilized in the laboratory and develop into embryos within seven days. The seven-day-old embryos are frozen and then im-

planted into the uteruses of ordinary cows, thus enabling the propagation of superior genetics within the country's livestock herds."  
The company's CEO pointed to the interest from various countries in the advanced technology, stating, "At international exhibitions, including Iran Expo, we have received requests from neighboring countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as African countries like Kenya, Tanzania, and Côte d'Ivoire. Companies from Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan have also expressed readiness to purchase elite Iranian embryos."  
"Currently, two export agreements with African and Central Asian countries have reached the implementation stage, and negotiations with

other countries continue. Despite some interruptions due to regional war conditions, we are pursuing export development and initiating limited-capacity joint collaborations," Naderi said.

Three-year plan for livestock industry

Naderi addressed the country's need to develop modern technologies in the livestock industry, stating, "A three-year program has been formulated to transform livestock farms and enhance superior genetics within the country's herds."  
Emphasizing the importance of governmental and banking support, he said, "Livestock farmers, due to a shortage of working capital, require

low-cost facilities and financial support. In this regard, negotiations have been held with Bank Keshavarzi of Iran and the Fund for Supporting the Development of the Livestock Industry, and memoranda of understanding have been signed."  
The official also discussed the role of IVF technology in increasing productivity and developing dual-purpose breeds, saying, "These breeds, in addition to producing quality milk, have a high capacity for meat production, and developing these breeds is part of the country's upstream programs. With the necessary support, self-sufficiency in meat production and reduced dependence on imports can be achieved in a short period."

## Tehran-Ankara and Tehran-Herat trains set to roll in coming months

Rail services to Tajikistan's Merv, Dushanbe now operational



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The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways announced plans to launch a Tehran-Ankara train within the next two months and a Tehran-Herat train in the coming month.

Speaking on Sunday at a ceremony for investment in the passenger rail fleet, attended by the Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Jabar Ali Zakeri referenced the recent launch of the Tehran-Van train after a five-year hiatus, adding that the launch of trains for travel to the cities of Merv and Dushanbe in Tajikistan has also begun, IRNA reported.  
Zakeri expressed hope that the new rail services would foster stronger ties between nations.

The deputy minister of roads and urban development also highlighted the development of tourist trains, noting that Iran's railway system has historical significance and that tourism-oriented rail activities could generate substantial revenue and appeal.

He emphasized that while the freight sector aims to achieve projected capacity, enhancing the economic viability of passenger rail remains critical. However, he identified the primary challenge as the "mismatch between rail infrastructure and fleet development."

Zakeri stressed, "Annually, 150 to 300 kilometers are added to the national rail network, yet government funding for fleet expansion remains inadequate."

He underlined that the "policy of maximizing private sector participation and investment requires foundational government support."

The CEO further noted that under existing approvals, "300 passenger wagons will join the network this year with state support."

Regarding prior private investments, he stated, "100 freight wagons (of 600 planned) have been integrated into the rail network. For passenger wagons, a contract with a Chinese partner has been finalized, with financial and technical issues resolved."

Zakeri expressed optimism about "adding 40 to 50 wagons monthly to the rail network."

Rail transport expansion

Addressing the ceremony, Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeq Malvajerd emphasized that, "Rail transport expansion is a top priority in joint economic commissions with neighboring countries," adding that efforts focus on "ensuring uninterrupted rail connectivity despite internal bottlenecks and border challenges."

The minister underscored that, "Improving the freight volume-to-capacity ratio will significantly advance Iran's development," citing the country's "regional advantage in cost-effectiveness, safety, and logistical ease."

Referring to passenger rail shortcomings, Sadeq Malvajerd acknowledged that the country is "far from achieving the target of 500 locomotives and 900 passenger wagons, necessitating private-sector involvement."

She concluded that, "Unwarranted interference in private-sector activities must be avoided."

## Government tax revenues surge by 52%



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In the past Iranian calendar year (began on March 20, 2024), the Iranian government's total tax revenues reached 1,229,000 billion tomans (approximately \$14.13 billion), representing a 51.7% growth compared to the previous year.  
Official reports from the country's statistical authorities indicate that total government tax revenues amounted to 1,229,000 billion tomans during the 12 months of 1403, ISNA reported.  
This is while total tax revenues

in the 12 months of 1402 (began on March 20, 2023) were 810,782.4 billion tomans (approximately \$9.32 billion), indicating that the government's tax revenues last year grew by 51.7% compared to the year before.

Mohammad Hadi Sobhaniyan, the head of the Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA), announced, "The tax-to-GDP ratio increased from 5.7 percent in 1400 (2021-22) to 8.3 percent last year, and tax's share in the public resources of the budget has risen from below 30 percent to about 50 percent."

## Iran Fisheries Organization forecasts over \$574m investment this year

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A senior official from Iran's Fisheries Organization forecasted investment volumes exceeding \$574.7 million in the current year.  
The deputy for planning and resource management of Iran's Fisheries Organization Eisa Golshahi said, "Fisheries and aquaculture represent an unparalleled capacity for poverty alleviation, deprivation reduction, and wealth creation," adding that investments in the current year (began on March 20, 2025) are projected to surpass \$574.7 million, IRNA

reported.  
Golshahi highlighted fisheries' role in the marine-based economy and its capacities, noting, "There remains a significant gap between the current capacity of fisheries/aquaculture and its potential for development."  
Emphasizing fisheries and aquaculture as interdisciplinary fields requiring cross-sectoral collaboration to realize their potential, Golshahi asserted, "This sector holds unique capabilities for poverty eradication, deprivation reduction, and wealth generation, with substantial investments made in

recent years."  
He cited the shift toward marine-based development and production of marine fish/shrimp as impactful recent measures, saying, "Last year saw \$402.3 million in investments, predominantly from private sources. This year, investments are expected to exceed \$574.7 million."  
Golshahi identified shrimp and marine fish farming as primary coastal activities, noting successful cooperation in this domain – particularly the implementation of the first marine fish value chain in free trade zones.



"Technology transfer and resource utilization progress faster in free zones. However, enhanced collaboration

is essential to amend existing laws/regulations and remove legal impediments," he stressed.