

Minister: Iran targets doubling agricultural trade with China to \$2b ‘shortly’

Economy Desk

The Iranian minister of agriculture expressed optimism over the potential to double agricultural trade with China to \$2 billion "in a short period," highlighting existing capacities within bilateral relations.

Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljah is in China to attend the 10th Meeting of Agriculture Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Mehr reported.

Upon arrival in Kunming city in southwestern China, Nouri-Qezeljah stated the meeting of agriculture ministers of SCO member states is dedicated to discussing "cooperation among the organization's members, increasing the level of interactions, and presenting solutions to deepen relations between the members of this organization."

He identified the SCO member states as among Iran's most important partners in the agricultural sector, adding that China, Russia, India, Pakistan, and Central Asian countries are significant trading partners. He further stated, "On this trip, we will pursue ways to enhance the level of relations in economic, agricultural, and other fields with these countries, both bilaterally and within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization."

Regarding Iran-China cooperation in agriculture, the minister of agriculture stated, "Currently, most interactions between the two countries are in the agricultural sector, with the trade volume standing at one billion dollars, and the share of the two countries in terms of exports and imports is almost equal." According to the minister, considering

the existing capacities in Iran-China relations, "we can increase this amount to two billion dollars in a short period." Nouri-Qezeljah identified various agricultural fields, especially fisheries, as suitable areas for cooperation between the two countries. He expressed hope that the consultations conducted during this trip would provide and expedite the grounds for increased cooperation. Emphasizing the importance of strategic Iran-China relations from the perspective of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he added, "We are seriously pursuing the deepening and development of relations with China."

Final statement

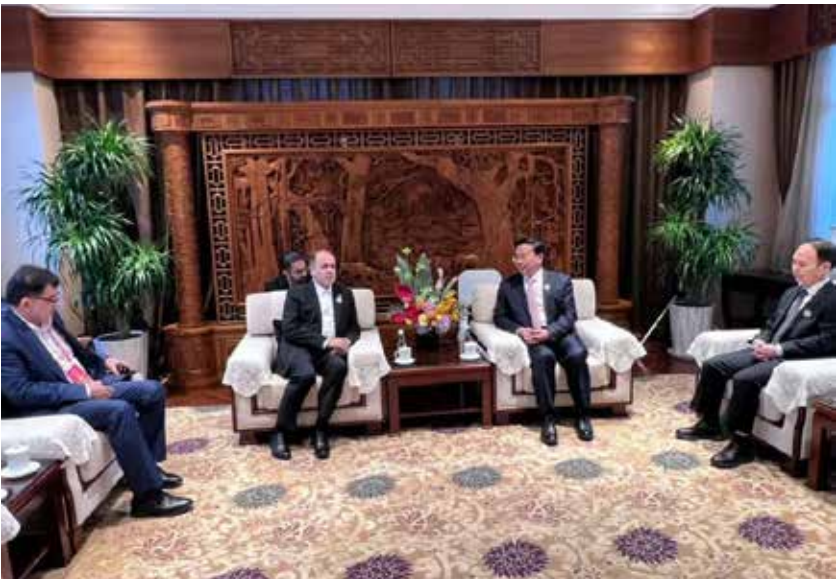
The 10th Meeting of Agriculture Ministers of SCO member states, held on Wednesday, issued the final joint statement, emphasizing the pivotal role of the member states' policies in developing the agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture sectors.

The Iranian minister, heading a delegation to this meeting, will hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from SCO member states in addition to delivering a speech at this session.

Ways to develop agricultural cooperation reviewed

In a meeting between Nouri-Qezeljah and his Chinese counterpart Han Jun, ways to develop agricultural cooperation between Iran and China were reviewed.

Nouri-Qezeljah announced the commitment of President Masoud Pezeshkian and his government to developing bilateral cooperation with China, including



in the agricultural sector. The minister, while enumerating the priority areas for bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector, called for expediting the issuance of the remaining sanitary permits to facilitate the export of some of Iran's agricultural products to China. In this meeting, Han Jun evaluated the positions announced and solutions presented by the Iranian minister, especially concerning the requirements for removing obstacles to the development of trade exchanges, as beneficial and significant. He added, "China has the necessary readiness to increase imports of various agricultural products from the Islamic Republic of Iran." The agriculture ministers of the two countries subsequently held consultations

on various aspects of bilateral cooperation in different fields of the agricultural sector.

Given the numerous agenda items for bilateral cooperation in this field, it was decided that detailed consultations would continue in the form of a meeting at the level of deputy ministers of the two countries. It was also decided that the third Joint Committee for Iran-China Agricultural Cooperation will be held in the near future in Tehran.

Chinese envoy rejects 'Unilateral' US sanctions over Iranian oil purchases



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China's Ambassador to Tehran dismissed recent US pressure over oil purchases from Iran and Russia as "unilateral", stating opposition to such sanctions and insisting normal trade with Iran "will not be negatively affected."

In an interview with ISNA, Zhong Peiwu responded to US recent pressure on his country to stop purchasing oil from Iran and Russia, and to the imposition of increased tariffs on Beijing, saying, "China opposes the unilateral sanctions of the United States, and normal trade between China and Iran will not be negatively affected by these actions."

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Tuesday said he warned Chinese officials that continued purchases of sanctioned Russian oil would lead to big tariffs due to legislation in Congress, but was told that Beijing would protect its energy sovereignty.

Wrapping up two days of US-China trade talks in Stockholm, Bessent said he also expressed US displeasure at China's continued purchases of sanctioned Iranian oil, and its sales of over \$15 billion worth of dual-use technology goods to Russia that have bolstered Moscow's war against Ukraine, Reuters reported.

Peiwu said, "To put it simply, trade between China and Iran is normal trade; meaning this normal trade should not be subject to unilateral sanctions by a third party."

The Chinese diplomat further emphasized, "It is for this reason that we oppose hegemony and unilateralism, especially the unilateral sanctions of the United States. Normal trade between China and Iran will not be negatively affected by this factor."

China's oil imports from Iran surged in June. The world's top oil importer and biggest buyer of Iranian crude brought in more than 1.8 million barrels per day from June 1-20, according to ship-tracker Vortexa, a record high based on the firm's data, Reuters reported.

The US secretary of treasury, whose department is responsible for enforcing sanctions on Iran, had said in early months of Trump's current presidency that Washington was committed to reducing Iran's oil exports to below 100,000 bpd.

Vortexa released figures in July showing that Iran had been shipping an average of 1.8 million bpd of oil in certain weeks in the past few months. However, its most recent figures show Iran has stabilized its exports at high levels. The data shows that even a 12-day Israeli war of aggression on Iran, which took place last month and was supported by the US, failed to affect the country's booming presence in the international oil markets.

IMF raises outlook for World and Iran economic growth



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The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has upgraded its global economic growth forecast for 2025, citing softened US tariffs, while also

revising its outlook for Iran upward to 0.6% – double its April projection of 0.3%. The IMF predicted stronger global economic growth than it forecast in April in part due to some US tariffs on goods being softened. The fund has estimated its forecast for Iran's real GDP growth in 2025 at 0.6%, revised upward from the 0.3% rate it projected in April, ISNA reported. It expects Iran's economic growth rate to remain at 1.1% in 2026. A surge in US imports as firms tried to beat impending higher import taxes and actions by some governments to boost growth bumped up the fund's latest forecast, BBC reported. However, higher tariffs and more uncertainty could lead to weaker growth and slower economic activity, the IMF warned. Meanwhile, UK growth is

predicted to be 1.2% this year, and 1.4% in 2026, unchanged from revised forecasts set out in May. The UK is set to be the third fastest growing economy out the world's so-called most advanced economies this year and the next, after US and Canada. The IMF, which is a group of 190 countries that work together to try to stabilize the global economy, said the upgrade to its global predictions included trade "front-loading" in recent months – referring to the rush of imports into the US. It forecast global growth of 3% in 2025 and 3.1% in 2026, up from 2.8% and 3% in its April report.

However, that is still below the 3.3% rate it had projected for both years in January, prior to US President Donald Trump taking office, and the pre-pandemic historical average of 3.7%. American firms rushed products into the country earlier this year to try to get ahead of new taxes on imports pledged by Trump. The IMF said that this created risks that could add to any future economic shocks, including companies, having too much stock, making future imports less necessary. Also, firms may have to pay more to store goods, and there was also a risk of items becoming obsolete, it said.

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While US sanctions are effective, many countries and companies still find ways to cooperate with Iran—so long as no broader UN sanctions are reimposed. Meanwhile, Europe remains a party to the JCPOA, perceiving itself as a negotiating partner, and calling for Iran's continued compliance—and for inspection access under the NPT and IAEA protocols. Yet, they must recognize the changed reality on the ground: Iran is reluctant to host inspectors in the aftermath of US-Israeli attacks on its nuclear facilities during the war last month. Plus, safety concerns are genuine and should be appreciated by the Europeans—not weaponized. Moreover, Europe siding with US demands to halt enrichment would

be laughably misguided, given that Iran's right to enrich uranium is explicitly recognized in the JCPOA. European officials initially hinted at such a policy, but later back-tracked, claiming they meant something else entirely. It remains unclear exactly what scenarios the Europeans hope to pursue after these talks. Iran believes in diplomacy and negotiation—but it must be real, substantive, and solution-oriented. Otherwise, if the discussions resemble the five rounds of fruitless talks with the US before the June military aggression against Iran, continuing them would only confer legitimacy on European posturing. However, if negotiations are meaningful, effective, and forward-moving, they could yield beneficial results.

Iran, Tajik FMs in Dushanbe emphasize expanding economic, trade ties

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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Tajik counterpart Sirojiddin Muhriddin emphasized expanding economic and trade relations between their two countries during talks in Dushanbe.

Araghchi on Wednesday traveled to Dushanbe at the head of a diplomatic delegation for consultations with senior officials of the Republic of Tajikistan, IRNA reported.

At the meeting, the two ministers reviewed the progress of bilateral relations across various fields, including political,

economic, trade, cultural, academic, tourism, and consular affairs.

They also exchanged views on ways to strengthen and expand ties while facilitating private-sector exchanges and public transactions. The Tajik foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the shared resolve of the leaders of both friendly and culturally close nations to consolidate bilateral relations and develop cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

He described expanding economic and trade relations between the two countries as highly significant and ex-



pressed Tajikistan's readiness to advance this objective.