



## Agriculture sector posts 5.6% growth, minister says

### Economy Desk

Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Qezeljah said the country's agriculture sector grew by 5.6% in the first year of President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration (began in last June), making it the only sector to meet the growth target set in the Seventh Development Plan. Speaking on the occasion of Government Week, Nouri Qezeljah told IRNA that, "The agriculture sector is the only field in the Seventh Develop-

ment Plan that has achieved the expected growth of 5.5%." He said output growth had swung from a negative 0.2% last year to a positive 3.2% this year, resulting in "about 5.6% growth, which is 0.1% higher than the plan's target." The minister noted that production increases were recorded in several areas over the past year, including "23% in medicinal plants, 12% in cage fish farming, 27% in sturgeon production, 54% in tropical fruits, and growth

in orchard products, 1% in chicken meat, 2% in red meat, 2% in eggs, and 5% in milk."

### Sharp rise in exports

"Iran's agriculture sector is the first field to achieve the targeted economic growth without relying on oil," Nouri Qezeljah said, citing a 32% increase in the value of agricultural exports. "In addition to a 32% increase in the value of agricultural exports, there was a 6% decline in the value of

agricultural imports during the period, which shows that growth has occurred and exports have significantly increased," the minister said. According to him, the agricultural trade balance improved from a \$11 billion deficit last year to a \$8 billion deficit this year, reflecting a \$3 billion positive development in the agriculture sector. Nouri Qezeljah called the rise in the value of agricultural exports "an important step in improving the country's economic situation."



Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri Qezeljah, in an interview with IRNA on the occasion of Government Week, elaborates on the most important achievements of the sector in the Iranian economy on August 27, 2025.

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He added that the share of agriculture in the national economy had climbed from 6% to 7% despite "constraints and limitations in resources," underscoring its growing weight as "the first non-oil sector to reach the targeted economic growth."

## Minister: Solar power, consumption efficiency to ease electricity crunch



### Economy Desk

Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said on Tuesday that the country's electricity shortages will be addressed through solar power plants and greater efficiency in consumption, but added that, "We still have problems in the water sector and must solve them with the help of consumption management." Speaking at a ceremony in Tehran to launch a campaign for distributing and installing water-saving devices, Aliabadi said that building new transmission lines was time-consuming, while "production at the site of consumption" provided a faster solution, IRNA reported. He noted that new projects

are being connected to the grid weekly, boosting power generation capacity, and that significant savings in electricity use have also helped. "With these measures, we can hope electricity problems will gradually decline," he said. The minister explained that because the solar generation plan operates within the distribution network, "it is currently not possible to transfer its electricity from one district to another," which means some regions may still face outages while others do not. "This situation will gradually improve," he said. Aliabadi added that given the lengthy timelines of conventional power plants, the

ministry prioritized solar stations because of their "high speed and low cost." There is the unbalanced growth between power production and consumption over the past decade in the county. According to Energy Ministry, "In the last 10 years, electricity production has increased 13-fold while consumption has risen 23-fold, leading to a grid imbalance."

The government had granted all administrative departments a deadline — effective June 21 — to supply part of their required electricity from solar energy. It has also offered incentives for industries to build dedicated power plants, particularly solar farms, to cover part of their own demand. Aliabadi also said that the country still has problems "in the water sector and must solve them with the help of consumption management." He stressed the effectiveness of water-saving devices in efficient use and called on households to install them. Aliabadi also called on experts and academics to assist the ministry in developing technologies to reduce water consumption.

## Iran sets joint transit tariffs with six states to boost China-Europe rail freight



### Economy Desk

Iran's railway authority said joint transit tariffs have been set with six countries along the China-Turkey route to activate the southern corridor of China's Belt and Road Initiative, aiming to increase freight traffic between China and Europe. CEO of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAJA) Jabbar Ali Zakeri said 30 transit trains have already been coordinated under the new framework, with the number expected to reach 300 by the end of this year (March 20, 2026). He added that 350 million tons of cargo were transported between China and Europe.

He said that, in order to make use of Iran's position as a crossroads of north-south and east-west trade, and given regional developments and maritime insecurity stemming from the Russia-Ukraine war, broad agreements were concluded with Central Asian and Caucasus countries as well as China. Marking Government Week, Zakeri outlined RAJA's one-year performance, citing a surge in investment, infrastructure development, improved fleet efficiency, progress in rail diplomacy, and the implementation of major projects including international corridors and suburban transport systems.

## Gov't building 88 dams, handling 124 projects to address water crisis

### Economy Desk

Hamid Pourmohammadi, who presides over Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO), announced on Tuesday that President Masoud Pezeshkian's government is pressing ahead with large-scale infrastructure projects to address the country's growing water crisis, highlighting efforts under way during the past year.

"Eighty-eight dams with an annual regulation capacity of about 7.5 billion cubic meters are under construction," the PBO chief said, as reported by IRNA.

"As many as 124 water supply projects with a capacity to provide 6.5 billion cubic meters of drinking water annually for cities and villages along the routes, designed for the next 25 years and backed by 240 trillion rials in the budget law, are being implemented," he added.

Pourmohammadi stressed that, given climate change, declining rainfall and reduced per capita water availability, and the mounting importance of the water crisis compared with other imbalances, "broad planning and measures have been undertaken to secure the country's water supply."

## Anzali port sets cargo handling record in August: Official

### Economy Desk

The Caspian Port Complex in Iran's Anzali Free Zone (AFZ) set a new record in August by handling more than 115,000 tons of cargo, an official from the zone's organization said on Tuesday. Meysam Mohammadi-Nejad, deputy of ports and Caspian port affairs of AFZ, said that "thirty-seven commercial vessels docked at the Caspian Port Complex in last Iranian month (began on July 23), loading and unloading raw materials for production units, timber, crude edible oil, grains, minerals and construction materials." Of these, 18 ships unloaded cargo and 19 loaded export products. Since the beginning of this year (began on March 20, 2025), 143 vessels have operated at the complex, while total cargo handling reached 438,000 tons. Mohammadi-Nejad said the legal and logistical advantages of the Anzali Free Zone have led traders to choose the port as "a reliable gateway for importing goods to meet domestic demand and exporting products."

The complex, which also serves as a transit route, faces no restrictions in accommodating ships due to its deep draft, he said. Since the inauguration of a rail link to the port in the summer of last year, combined searail transport has been made possible, playing a significant role in boosting exports and attracting new shipments.

According to the official, the port's advantages and market development initiatives will activate trade corridors and strengthen the role of the Anzali Free Zone in expanding commerce with Caspian and Eurasian countries.