

Agricultural irradiation center opens in Ardebil to boost crop yields



Economy Desk

Iran on Saturday inaugurated an agricultural irradiation center in Ardabil, a project officials described as “a link between

nuclear science and modern agriculture”. The Farayand (Process) facility aims to increase crop shelf life, reduce post-harvest losses, and boost farm productivity in the country’s northwest. It was opened in the

Iran’s nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami (2nd L) is briefed as he visits an exhibition staged on the sidelines of a ceremony to launch an agricultural irradiation center in Ardebil, Iran on October 18, 2025.

● IRNA

presence of the agriculture minister, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), and local authorities, IRNA reported.

At the inauguration, AEOI chief Mohammad Eslami highlighted the potential impact of irradiation on food security and national economy.

“If irradiation can reduce agricultural losses by even 30%, it would mark a significant achievement. Continued use of this technology will play a vital role in strengthening the national economy, improving public health, enhancing food security, and supporting household livelihoods,” he said.

Eslami emphasized the organization’s commitment to peaceful nuclear applications, noting, “Our goal is to turn ideas into practical products for public benefit. This technology was designed and implemented by our knowledge-based teams, and I invite both the public and private sectors to step up their participation to enhance agricultural efficiency through irradiation,” he said.

The AEOI chief added that irradiation eliminates residual pests and chemicals, benefiting public health and easing export barriers.

“In water-scarce conditions, efficiency in agriculture is very important,” he said,

noting that irradiated rice varieties have shown higher yields, with production increasing up to three times per hectare.

Ardebil Governor General Masoud Emami Yeganeh said the center symbolizes “the link between nuclear science and modern agriculture,” calling it a milestone in using advanced technology to improve efficiency and reduce agricultural waste. He added that it could serve as a model for sustainable development in north-west Iran.

Ardebil province, which covers less than one percent of Iran’s land, produces 4.5 million tons of various agricultural products annually — around four percent of the country’s total. Its output includes more than 400,000 tons of wheat, 750,000 tons of potatoes, and 450,000 tons of horticultural products, according to IRNA.

Currently, 750,000 hectares of Ardabil’s land are under cultivation, including 270,000 hectares of irrigated land and 480,000 hectares of rainfed fields. Wheat is the province’s most widely planted crop, covering 275,000 hectares this year. In previous years, wheat production in Ardebil reached up to 600,000 tons, but drought and uneven rainfall over the past two years have led to more than a 50% decline in output.

Officials said the inauguration of the Farayand Center represents a step toward turning nuclear knowledge into practical agricultural solutions, increasing productivity, reducing losses, and strengthening food security in northwest Iran.

Iran edges toward FATF compliance as Parliament advances CFT accession



Economy Desk

Iran’s Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf formally promulgated the law approving Iran’s accession to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) on Saturday, marking a key step in implementing the measure, IRNA reported on Saturday.

In a letter to President Masoud Pezeshkian, issued under Article 123 of the Iranian Constitution, Qalibaf communicated the law titled “Accession of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.”

The move follows the Expediency Council’s decision on October 2 to endorse Iran’s membership in the CFT after years of debate.

Council spokesman Mohsen Dehnavi said the approval came with two key conditions: Iran will implement the provisions of the convention strictly within the framework of its Constitution, and where any clauses contradict domestic laws, national regulations will take precedence.

“The Parliament had already inserted a clause requiring Iran to act in line with its Constitution, and the Expediency Council added another stipulation reaffirming that domestic law will override any conflicting international provisions,” Dehnavi explained.

Despite the conditions, some members of the parliament voiced opposition to the decision. A group of parliamentarians submitted a double-urgency motion seeking to block the implementation of the Expediency Council’s ruling by preventing the government from delivering Iran’s accession documents.

However, during a parliamentary session on Tuesday, October 14, lawmakers voted against the motion, clearing the way for the convention to proceed.

Iran’s conditional accession to the CFT represents a cautious move toward improving its standing in the global financial system. While the country remains on the FATF blacklist with limited engagement in regional groups, the new step could pave the way for renewed discussions on addressing the remaining gaps and easing restrictions on its international financial transactions.

Iran, Afghanistan seek to deepen economic ties at Birjand forum

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Iran and Afghanistan took steps to deepen their trade and investment cooperation at a joint forum in the eastern Iranian city of Birjand, seen as a milestone in shaping the future of trade in eastern Iran.

The Iran-Afghanistan joint cooperation development forum marked South Khorasan Province’s first major experience hosting a regional trade gathering, focusing on facilitating commercial exchanges, removing trade barriers, and promoting the transfer of technical knowledge, IRNA reported.

Addressing the meeting, Mohammadreza Bahraman, first vice president of Iran’s Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture, called for a “25-year strategic vision” toward regional integration, saying long-term planning to 2050 was essential for sustainable development.

He said South Khorasan, endowed with valuable natural resources and rare minerals, could become a major economic hub linking Iran and Afghanistan if properly utilized. “The geological structures of Iran and Afghanistan share many similarities,

which can pave the way for deeper cooperation, especially in mining and exploration projects,” Bahraman added.

Afghanistan ensures safety

At the conference, Noor Mohammad Mutawakkil, Afghanistan’s consul general in Mashhad, said his country was ready to strengthen joint investment and trade initiatives within a framework of friendly relations with Iran. “Afghanistan has adopted a balanced, economy-focused policy and stands ready to offer comprehensive support and facilities to traders and investors around the clock,” he said, emphasizing the country’s improved security environment.

He also noted that exhibitions offer valuable opportunities for producers and investors to present their products and foster partnerships, adding that Afghanistan seeks to expand its long-standing ties with Iran.



Meanwhile, Mehdi Doosti, Iran’s deputy interior minister for economic coordination and regional development, said the Interior Ministry is pursuing extensive plans to enhance economic cooperation with 15 neighboring countries and 10 nearby states, including Afghanistan and China. The initiative, he said, aims to boost exports, address trade imbalances, and expand agricultural and industrial capacities.

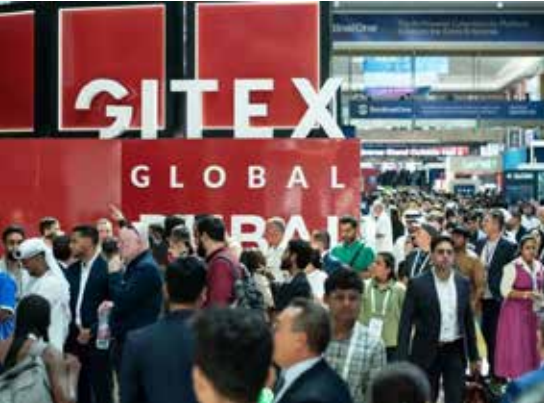
He pointed out that Iran imports more than 27 million tons of agricultural products annually, stressing the private sector must play a greater role in regional markets such as

Afghanistan.

On the sidelines of the forum, the first Iran-Afghanistan joint trade and investment opportunities exhibition also opened in Birjand on Saturday. The four-day event hosts 111 participants — 30% in the mining sector, 16% in construction, and the rest in other sectors — with 70% of exhibitors from South Khorasan and 30% from other provinces.

Organizers said the event provides a key platform to showcase Iran and Afghanistan’s economic capacities and explore new partnerships in mining, agriculture, commerce, and emerging technologies.

Iranian firms made strong mark in Dubai GITEX 2025



Economy Desk

More than 20 Iranian companies participated in the 45th edition of the Dubai International GITEX Technology Week, the world’s largest technology and artificial intelligence (AI) exhibition. The event ran from October 13 to 17 at the Dubai World Trade Center. GITEX 2025 brought together over 6,800 exhibitors and 2,000 startups from more than 180 countries, with a special focus on artificial intelligence, quantum

computing, biotechnology, and sustainable technologies.

Iranian firms showcased innovations across AI, fintech, cybersecurity, blockchain, and digital health, with the country’s largest mobile operator also among the participants.

The Iranian Information and Communications Federation also organized a networking session for tech businesses to expand markets and foster international collaboration.

Representatives from 14 coun-

tries, including Iran, the UAE, Brazil, Turkey, Jordan, Vietnam, Kenya, Pakistan, India, and Kazakhstan, attended to explore commercial and technological partnerships.

Officials said the initiative represents a strategic step for Iranian knowledge-based companies seeking entry into new international markets.

AI was a central theme of the exhibition, reflecting forecasts that the global artificial intelligence market could reach \$4.8 trillion by 2033.

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