

President calls for science-based agriculture reforms amid water stress

Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday urged Iranian farmers and officials to adopt expert-driven planning to confront severe water shortages and climate change impacts, while announcing structural reforms aimed at eliminating rent-seeking practices that have long distorted agricultural markets. Speaking at the 39th national ceremony honoring exemplary farmers, Pezeshkian stated that climate change and declining water resources represent serious national challenges. "We must accept that groundwater resources are declining and rainfall has decreased. Through consultation and utilizing elite capacities, solutions can be found for these conditions," he said, IRNA reported.

Iran, with its predominantly semi-arid and arid climate, faces water stress and crisis, and the supply of drinking water has now become one of the biggest challenges in many provinces, and cities. The president warned against non-expert investments in agriculture and emphasized long-term viability. "Non-expert investments in the agricultural sector must be avoided. Investment should not be conducted

in a way that the entire capital is lost within a few years' horizon. A correct and forward-looking perspective in this field is decisive."

While praising farmers who have achieved productivity gains, quality improvements, cost reduction and efficiency increases, Pezeshkian noted the country's potential remains underutilized. He added that strengthening accountability mechanisms within government agencies — particularly in dealings with farmers — is essential. "The administrative and ministerial system must provide knowledge, education and capabilities broadly to farmers. Farmers are among society's hardest-working strata and deserve precise, expert responses." Pezeshkian stressed that management cannot function through decrees alone. "Management is not possible merely by issuing orders. The decision-making system must transparently specify how much water exists, how it is distributed, and what crops should be cultivated." He cited field-level problems regarding water resources and land-use conversion, noting authorities are reforming processes through effective university collaboration. "We are amending this course by estab-



President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at the 39th national ceremony honoring exemplary farmers in Tehran on January 27, 2026.

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lishing effective communication with universities and utilizing the country's scientific capacities. Decisions must be based on science, expertise and actual needs."

The president declared that grounds for discrimination, rent-seeking and injustice must be eliminated. He attributed past institutional failures — including efforts by the General Inspection Organization and Supreme Audit Court of Iran — to entrenched corruption networks. "Public dissatisfaction has largely stemmed from rent-seeking, bribery, smuggling and hoarding," he said. "Through fundamental structural reforms, appropriate grounds for these violations will no longer remain. When rent-based currency allocation is removed, hoarding and smuggling possibilities will practically disappear and the trend of irrational price increases will stop."

Under a new policy approved by the government's economic team, all foreign currency trans-



actions are now centralized in a single trading hall with a negotiated rate closely aligned with market prices. The policy shifts foreign currency allocation from the beginning of the supply chain to direct subsidy transfers at the consumer end.

Pezeshkian announced formation of a specialized government team operating under Articles

127 and 138 of the Constitution to monitor implementation, resolve obstacles and adjust the program as needed. The group comprises the ministers of agriculture, industry, mines and trade, economy and welfare, the vice president of the Plan and Budget Organization, the Central Bank governor, the justice minister and other relevant officials.

The team reviews data daily, identifies existing problems and issues necessary corrective decisions.

He emphasized that process owners — including active participants in agriculture, livestock breeding and other guilds — must attend these meetings to present their issues and receive immediate decisions on-site.

Persian Gulf at core of Iran's strategic development plans: Minister



Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq Malvajerd addresses the inauguration of the 6th International Conference on the Persian Gulf Oceanography in Tehran on January 27, 2026.

IRNA

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The Persian Gulf serves as the focal point of Iran's major economic and strategic planning efforts, requiring intelligent management grounded in sustainable development, environmental protection and optimal utilization of natural resources, Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq Malvajerd said Tuesday at the inauguration of the 6th International Conference on the Persian Gulf Oceanography.

"The Persian Gulf is the axis of concentration for many of the country's macroeconomic and strategic plans. Intelligent management of this water body requires a forward-looking perspective toward sustainable development, environmental protection and optimal utilization of natural resources," IRNA quoted Sadeq as saying.

She noted Iran's distinguished position due to extensive access to free waters and strategic maritime corridors, stating this advantage has created unique opportunities for economic development, strengthening regional and international com-

munications and advancing economic diplomacy.

"Intelligent management of Persian Gulf waters requires long-term decision-making based on scientific data, joint modeling and convergence among science, technology and policy-making," the minister added.

Emphasizing the water body's importance at national, regional and international levels, Sadeq stated, "Persian Gulf is a shared, sensitive and strategic subject in the region, and data exchange, joint modeling and comparative analyses can pave the way for collective decision-making and strengthen scientific diplomacy."

She described international Persian Gulf conferences as golden opportunities for knowledge sharing between domestic and foreign researchers. "The Persian Gulf holds a strategic position in connecting geography, economy and security. These events enable exchange of successful experiences in water body management and provide practical solutions for sustainable utilization of marine resources," she said.

Sadeq Malvajerd expressed

hope that the conference's outcomes would lead to enhancement of indigenous knowledge, strengthening of international cooperation, sustainable utilization of marine resources and elevation of the Persian Gulf's historical and scientific standing. "Maritime transportation is the main artery of the country's trade and security. Maritime safety, reduction of incidents, increased port productivity and sustainable development of coastal cities are only possible through precise planning and utilization of data and scientific analyses," she said.

The minister emphasized that marine meteorology plays a highly key role in intelligent management of the country's water bodies. Accurate marine meteorological data is not only effective in reducing natural hazards and increasing maritime safety, but also plays a vital role in protecting sensitive ecosystems, enhancing resilience of coastal communities and managing consequences of climate change, she said.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei, also speaking at the conference, emphasized the necessity of sustainable development in the Persian Gulf region. He stated that development planning must simultaneously address economic, environmental and cultural heritage dimensions, "because Persian Gulf is an invaluable asset for comprehensive regional development."

Baqaei added that the Persian Gulf represents both a security and economic priority for Iran and an inseparable part of national identity. "These two aspects complement each other, and intelligent policymaking must seek synergy among these dimensions."

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Member of the Parliament's Industries and Mines Commission stated; **Mobarakeh Steel's positive performance in innovation and technology localization**



The representative of the people of Khaf and Roshtkhar and member of the Parliament's Industries and Mines Commission said: Mobarakeh Steel has performed well in the field of localization, redesigning, and engineering of downstream, complementary, and parts manufacturing industries, and in creating new capacities in this area, moving towards greater innovation and creativity by trusting human resources.

Amir Tavakoli Roudi, regarding the performance of Mobarakeh Steel Company in the recent year, said: Mobarakeh Steel, as a successful complex in the steel supply chain sector, has tried to perform its mission well considering both global and domestic conditions.

Pointing to the problems caused by energy imbalance for the Mobarakeh Steel complex, he said: Our country's steel complexes have suffered greatly from energy imbalance, and the loss of profit related to this problem amounts to several hundred trillion Tomans. One of Mobarakeh Steel's valuable measures in recent years has been helping to reduce imbalances through the establishment of power plants and supplying 600 megawatts of its required electricity through these plants. Also, this company has participated in the water transfer project from the sea to the Central Plateau of Iran, and currently, a part of this water has reached the Mobarakeh Steel complex.

The member of the Parliament's Industries and Mines Commission continued: Given the existing conditions, we will also witness an imbalance in the supply of raw materials and feedstock for

steel industries in the near future. Mobarakeh Steel has made predictions in this regard to resolve this problem, and the Mining Division of this company has started good measures in the field of exploration, which we can also consider as one of the positive points in Mobarakeh Steel's performance record in the recent period.

Tavakoli Roudi also explained regarding the activities of Mobarakeh Steel Company in the field of Green Steel: The general view in the world is to reduce the use of fossil fuels in steel production and replace it with Green Steel. Mobarakeh Steel Company has taken good steps in this path and has achieved results in this regard.

The representative of the people of Khaf and Roshtkhar in the Parliament, emphasizing the importance and necessity of localization, self-reliance, and innovation in steel industries, added: During the visit we had to the latest steel industries exhibition, we became acquainted with the achievements of Mobarakeh Steel Company in the field of technology localization, and it must be admitted that Mobarakeh Steel has performed well in the field of localization, redesigning, and engineering of downstream, complementary, and parts manufacturing industries, and creating new capacities in this area.

Tavakoli Roudi noted in the end: One of the requirements of our country's industries today, especially steel industries, is trusting the capacity of human resources based on rationality, collective wisdom, innovation, and creativity, and Mobarakeh Steel's record in the direction of creating self-belief and trust in domestic human resources has also been bright.