

Iran ranks eighth in barley cultivation area, 11th in production

Economy Desk

Iran ranks eighth globally in barley cultivation area and 11th in production, with barley imports declining in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year, the deputy agriculture minister for crop production said on Saturday. Speaking at a national ceremony marking the start of the new crop year, Majid Anjafi said the country had made progress in barley production and recorded a decline in imports during the first six months of the year, which began on March 21. "The entry of the private sector into the country's seed production cycle is a welcome development, and we hope its share will increase," he said. He said 169 wheat varieties had been developed for the

country's different climatic conditions through the efforts of research centers and the private sector. These include high-yielding varieties resistant to salinity and tolerant of early-season drought. Anjafi added that only 74 barley varieties were currently cultivated in Iran. He also referred to the selection of more than 1,000 collaborative farms nationwide, where different methods were implemented. Anjafi said wheat quality had improved across all indicators in recent years, including during the previous crop year, as a result of measures taken to improve production. The average protein content of domestically produced wheat samples has now exceeded 13%, while wet gluten content has also increased, he said.

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Deputy Agriculture Minister for Crop Production Majid Anjafi speaks at a national ceremony marking the start of the new crop year at the Seed and Plant Improvement Institute in Karaj, Alborz Province, on October 10, 2026.
● IRNA

He added that technical programs and guidelines for all autumn crops, prepared in cooperation with research institutes, had been sent to provincial authorities. A US Department of Agriculture report on global grain production has also estimated that Iran's wheat output climbed 18% to 16 million metric tons in the 2025/26 crop year, making it the world's 14th-largest producer. The estimate compares with 13.5 million tons produced in the 2024/25 crop year, which ended in September



or October 2025. The USDA report also estimated that Iran's barley production increased 16% to 3.5 million tons in 2025/26, up from 3 million tons a year earlier.

Tehran-Almaty trade rises to over \$430m in 2025

Economy Desk

Trade between Iran and Kazakhstan increased to more than \$430 million in 2025 from about \$340 million in 2024, Iran's trade counselor in Kazakhstan told ISNA. Nasrin Pabarja said the two countries had complementary economic strengths across several sectors, offering opportunities to expand trade and economic cooperation. Kazakhstan has significant capacity in grains, oilseeds, agricultural products, livestock and food products, mining and metals, and energy-related industries. Iran, meanwhile, has export potential in food products, agricultural and processed goods, construction materials and equipment, industrial parts and equipment, petrochemicals and chemicals, and technical and engineering services, she said. Identifying complementary economic sectors and making better use of these capacities could help diversify traded goods and expand bilateral trade, Pabarja added. She also highlighted opportunities under the free trade



agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which took effect on May 15, 2025, saying effective use of the accord could help boost Iranian exports to member states, including Kazakhstan. Pabarja said capitalizing on trade opportunities required a thorough understanding of target markets, trade regulations and technical standards, as well as product registration requirements, sanitary and quarantine rules, packaging and labeling. Expanding economic ties also depended on understanding destination markets, complying with legal requirements and standards, and strengthening links between companies and business operators

in the two countries, she said. Pabarja also pointed to the countries' transport and logistics potential, saying their geographic positions and regional transport links offered opportunities to expand cooperation in transportation, transit and logistics. Making use of Caspian Sea ports and land routes, alongside stronger logistics cooperation, could facilitate trade and broaden economic ties between the two countries. She identified industrial and mining cooperation, food and agriculture, technical and engineering services, and oil and gas-related equipment and services as other areas with potential for expanded bilateral cooperation.

Steel output seen at 26-27m tons as exports face disruptions

Economy Desk

Iran's steel production is expected to reach 26 million to 27 million metric tons this year, below an earlier forecast of 30 million tons, as a naval blockade, war-related damage and transport restrictions disrupt production and exports, the head of the Iranian Steel Producers Association said. Bahram Sobhani told IRIB in an exclusive interview that the country had lost its place among the world's top 10 steel producers and now ranked 11th or 12th, depending on monthly output. Before the US naval blockade, the industry had expected to produce 30 million tons despite damage to some steel plants in attacks, Sobhani said. He said the industry's unused capacity had initially been expected to offset production losses at damaged facilities. Some plants had been unable to operate because of electricity and gas shortages, he said. The expectation was that electricity previously allocated to damaged plants could be redirected to idle facilities, allowing them to resume production without reducing overall output. However, production figures over the past few months, amid the war and naval blockade, have shown that the industry is unlikely to



meet the 30-million-ton target, Sobhani said. If output in the second half of the year, which began on March 21, matches the first-half pace, annual production will reach about 26 million to 27 million tons. Iran, which has long been among the world's leading steel producers, has annual production capacity of more than 30 million tons. It dropped out of the global top 10 in June after Vietnam increased output by 27.5% year on year to 2.6 million tons, according to Steel Radar. The country's two largest steelmakers, Mobarakeh Steel Company and Khuzestan Steel Company, sustained damage during the US-Israeli war that began in late February. Recent conflicts, risks to steel plants and infrastructure, as well as logistical and energy constraints, have severely disrupted the industry. In addition, the country's aviation sector has faced new US sanctions, while maritime trade from the south

has been subject to a US naval blockade. Sobhani said steel exports had been sharply curtailed, reducing the industry's foreign-currency earnings alongside lower production. The sector had previously generated as much as \$10 billion in foreign currency annually, he said. Steel cannot readily be transported and exported by truck, Sobhani said, noting that Iran's main steel markets were in distant destinations, particularly Southeast Asia, with some exports going to regional markets in the Persian Gulf. Restrictions and disruptions affecting the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf and neighboring countries had made it difficult to ship and sell steel, he said. Transport had been disrupted in addition to the impact of sanctions, including shipments to distant markets. The export restrictions had also forced producers to scale back output, Sobhani said. The industry also relies on imported raw materials, including coking coal shipped by sea for blast furnaces. Imports of these materials have also been disrupted, he said, expressing hope that the restrictions would be lifted soon so production could resume at a stronger pace.

Marco Rubio, return ...

Iranian civilization, too, made outstanding contributions to humanity in the fields of intellectual thought and institution-building and nation-building, from antiquity through the Islamic period. Civilizations are not isolated islands; they are links in a historical chain. They learn from one another, preserve one another's heritage, subject it to criticism and reconstruction, and pass it on to subsequent generations and civilizations. Indeed, during one of its own periods of flourishing, Iranian civilization played a major role in preserving and developing the heritage of Greek civilization. Especially, during its golden age, it was

able, over several centuries—roughly the 4th-9th centuries AH (10th-15th centuries CE)—to play, under somehow similar politically and religiously decentralized circumstances, a role that can be compared to that played by the Greek city-states in their own era. During this period, Iranian and Islamic scholars and eminent men of letters played central roles in mathematics, astronomy, medicine, philosophy, history, geography, poetry and literature, architecture and the arts, and political thought. Meanwhile, Western civilization—with its multiple sources, including Roman, Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Germanic, Byzantine, and other traditions—was going through the grim intellectual and

institutional conditions of the medieval period. What Rubio overlooks, particularly in his reference to the brilliant period of ancient Greek civilization, is the fact that Iranian-Islamic intellectual traditions in the Middle Ages played a decisive role in preserving, developing, and transmitting the Greek intellectual heritage. A substantial part of the Greek heritage was translated into Persian and Arabic during this period by Iranian and Islamic scholars and institutions, while concepts derived from that heritage were reproduced, reinterpreted, and further developed. Indeed, during centuries in which Europe faced the disparaging and proscription of substantial

portions of the scientific and philosophical heritage of ancient Greece, the Sassanid Iranian, Syriac, and Iranian-Islamic intellectual traditions played a crucial role in preserving, translating, interpreting, and developing important parts of that heritage. This legacy subsequently reached Europe through multiple channels, including Iran, other parts of the Islamic world, and the Byzantine world. Scientific scholarship, free from political narrow-minded objectives and ambitions, has taught us that civilizations can undoubtedly experience multiple periods of creativity and decline without this negating their intrinsic historical value. Just as the decline of

Greek and Western civilization during the medieval period cannot and should not be used as a basis for denying or disparaging the West, periods of decline in Iranian civilization cannot be used as grounds for disparaging Iranian civilization. The cycle of rise and decline is not a rule that applies to only one civilization. Iranian civilization is no exception. Ironically, Rubio himself, in his remarks at his Senate confirmation hearing on January 15, 2025, indicated that: "The people of Iran are people of an ancient civilization, an ancient culture with tremendous pride and advances, who take great pride in their Persian heritage and identity..."