Agricultural sector grows 2.3% despite wartime pressures, minister says

Economy Desk

Iran's agricultural sector recorded 2.3% growth in value added last year and in the first quarter of the current Iranian year, which began on March 21, while creating about 70,000 jobs, Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljeh said, highlighting the sector's resilience amid economic difficulties and wartime conditions.

Speaking in a televised interview late on Saturday, Nouri-Qezeljeh said the sector had maintained its activities despite difficult circumstances, adding that nearly 3.5 million metric tons of agricultural products worth about $3 billion had been exported in the first seven months of the current Iranian year.

He said Iran's diverse economic capabilities, extensive ties with neighboring countries and strong links between their peoples had helped sustain economic activity.



Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljeh
maj.ir

Recent developments had affected export and import costs as well as the final prices of goods for traders, but the objectives pursued by Iran's adversaries to weaken the country had not been achieved, he added.

Iran has been under Western sanctions for years over its nuclear program, which have raised costs even in humanitarian areas such as access to medicines, though food and agricultural goods are formally exempt from sanctions.

Referring to the performance of different agricultural sectors during the war that began in late February and the subsequent US-imposed economic blockade of Iran's southern ports, Nouri-Qezeljeh said the circumstances had prompted greater reliance on domestic capabilities and producers, with output rising in some areas.

Fisheries, shrimp output rise

In the fisheries sector, catches from distant waters and the open seas increased by about 35%, despite continued insecurity in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, he said.

The increase significantly reduced fish-processing factories' dependence on imported tuna, he added.

Nouri-Qezeljeh also reported a 35% increase in shrimp production and farming, saying the gains demonstrated the country's production capacity and the ability of industry operators to maintain activity under difficult conditions.

Deputy agriculture minister for crop production Majid Anjafi said in August that Iran's agricultural output had surged to 137 million tons over the past year from 130 million tons, despite severe drought, water shortages, sanctions and energy imbalances. Anjafi said the past year had witnessed one of the most severe drought periods in 50 years, yet farmers and experts managed to increase production through improved methods and technology.

Iran rises 14 places in UN e-government development ranking

Economy Desk

Iran climbed 14 places to rank 87th globally in the United Nations' 2026 E-Government Development Index, up from 101st in 2024, recording its highest score since the assessment began in 2003, according to a report by ISNA.

Iran's score rose to 0.7427 from 0.6564 in the previous assessment, reflecting improvements in online services and telecommunications infrastructure.

The biggest gain came in the Online Services Index (OSI), where Iran's score increased 54.9% to 0.5845 from 0.3773, moving the country from the middle to the high-performance group.

Its score in the Telecommunications Infrastructure Index (TII) also rose, reaching 0.9564 in 2026 from 0.8987 in 2024. Iran maintained its position in the very high-performance group in this category.



Iran also made significant progress in the Local Online Services Index (LOSI), climbing 34 places to rank 65th globally, compared with 99th in 2024. Its score in this index rose 118.9% to 0.7525 from 0.3438.

The country's E-Participation Index score increased 93.62% to 0.3448 from 0.1781, moving its performance from the low to the middle group.

However, Iran's Human Capital Index score edged down to 0.6872 in 2026 from 0.6932 two years earlier, highlighting the need for further development of digital skills and information technology literacy.

Separately, a specialized committee on the Information and Communication Technology Development Index (IDI) has met with representatives of relevant government agencies, telecommunications operators and the Statistical Center of Iran to coordinate efforts to improve the country's performance in international assessments.

The committee aims to go beyond routine data collection and reporting by analyzing indicators, identifying strengths and weaknesses and improving data quality.

The latest results point to continued progress in Iran's digital public services and communications infrastructure, while highlighting the need for more integrated services, greater public participation and stronger digital skills to sustain improvements in e-government development.

US accusations of ...

Another point is that, in the aftermath of a military confrontation, managing the narrative surrounding threats takes on particular importance. Each side seeks to frame its own actions as legitimate self-defense while portraying the other side's actions as threats to international security. In this context, allegations involving unconventional weapons can heighten concerns among Washington's allies and influence the political decision-making environment.

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Given possible discussions between Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump on the Iran issue, what positions do you expect these two global powers to take? Can Beijing and Moscow play a more active role in containing tensions and supporting a diplomatic solution between Iran and the United States?

Both China and Russia stand to lose from an escalation of the conflict between the United States and Iran and further instability in the Middle East. They therefore have sufficient incentives to support a diplomatic solution. However, their motivations are not identical. China is primarily seeking regional stability and security of energy supplies, while Russia, alongside its security considerations, also factors in the need to contain US influence in the region. The recent trilateral consultations, moreover, produced no concrete outcome on Iran, demonstrating that overlapping interests among the three powers do not necessarily translate into an understanding on the issue of Tehran. In my view, Beijing and Moscow can play a more active role in easing tensions and keeping the diplomatic track open. Both countries would welcome an agreement that prevents war. Therefore, a more active role by Beijing and Moscow is plausible, particularly at a time when regional mediators lack the capacity to broker an understanding between the United States and Iran. However, the primary purpose of such involvement would be to contain the scope of the confrontation and prevent a shift in the regional balance of power to the detriment of their own interests. Expectations of their involvement should not go beyond that.

ECONOMIC LENS

Green economy: Moving beyond costly, polluting models of development



By Mohammadreza Hosseini Aliabad
Researcher in int'l economics

ANALYSIS EXCLUSIVE

The global economy is no longer assessed solely in terms of production levels, investment volumes, or national income growth. Alongside these indicators, the quality of development, resource efficiency, environmental preservation, and the way natural resources are utilized have gained increasing importance in evaluating countries' economic performance. In this context, the green economy has emerged as one of the key concepts in contemporary development discourse, seeking to establish a sustainable link between economic growth, social well-being, and environmental protection.

The green economy should not be understood merely in terms of reducing air pollution or adopting renewable energy sources. Rather, it encompasses a broad range of economic and technological approaches aimed at using resources more efficiently, lowering production costs, improving productivity, and creating new economic opportunities. In other words, the green economy seeks to demonstrate that environmental protection is not an obstacle to development but can instead serve as one of its driving forces.

One of the most significant contributions of the green economy lies in its potential to transform production and industrial structures. The adoption of resource-efficient technologies, optimization of production processes, recycling of raw materials, and effective energy management can reduce businesses' operating costs. In many industries, what is traditionally regarded as waste or an additional expense can, through effective management, become a source of economic value creation. This approach is particularly important for small and medium-sized enterprises, as reducing costs and improving productivity can strengthen their competitiveness in the marketplace. Furthermore, the development of renewable energy sources, particularly solar and wind power, has created new opportunities for investment and employment. Expanding these sectors not only contributes to diversifying the energy mix but also facilitates the emergence of innovative businesses, technological advancement, and the development of a skilled workforce. Along the same lines, industries associated with recycling, waste management, clean transportation, and energy-efficient buildings can evolve into new and productive segments of the economy.

For Iran, the green economy also offers considerable potential. The country's favorable solar radiation conditions across extensive geographical areas, diverse geographical features, skilled human resources, and industrial capabilities provide a solid foundation for developing environmentally sustainable economic activities. Investment in clean energy, improving energy efficiency in buildings, advancing modern agricultural technologies, and promoting the reuse of water and raw materials are among the areas that can simultaneously enhance productivity and generate added value.

Naturally, realizing these opportunities requires appropriate financing, technology transfer and localization, workforce training, and the active participation of the private sector. Public awareness and changes in consumption patterns can also play an important role in promoting a green economy. When producers, consumers, and investors all recognize the importance of resource efficiency, the conditions become more favorable for establishing a sustainable economic cycle.

An important point to consider is that the green economy does not belong exclusively to the present generation. Today's economic decisions also influence the quality of life and economic opportunities available to future generations. Preserving water resources, soil, forests, and biodiversity is, in essence, an investment in the natural assets upon which the continuity of economic and social activities depends.

Ultimately, the future of development is closely tied to societies' ability to strike a balance between wealth creation and the preservation of natural resources. The green economy offers an opportunity to redefine the concept of progress and move toward an economy that is more productive, innovative, and sustainable. Moving beyond costly and polluting development does not mean halting economic growth; rather, it represents an effort to achieve smarter growth—one in which the economy prospers while the environment is preserved for generations to come.

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0540013

First Announcement

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

N.I.S.O.C

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
01	● PARTS FOR "SJS- SERVAGROUP" TRIPLEX P ● USED FOR CEMENTING/ ACIDIZING SERVICE. ● FALIZ PAJOUHESH PARS ● TRAILER MOUNTED TWIN PUMP CEMENTING UN ● REF. SJS- SERVA GROUP ● FLUID- END ASSY ● FLUID- END ASSY, 3-1/2" ● P/ N: P60-34-000	2 NO
02	● FLUID- END ASSY, 4-1/2" ● P/ N: P60-44-000	2 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of **17,532/79 EURO** or **37,000,000,000 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
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