

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

This report covers key developments in Jordan's agricultural sector for August 2015.

General Information:

Jordan Suffers from Heat Wave

A major sandstorm blanketed most parts of the Jordan as an unprecedented heatwave sent temperatures scorching to 41 degrees Celsius in Amman, the highest reading since 2010. The southern regions, the desert, and the Jordan Valley had temperature readings of 45 degrees Celsius. In the Za'atari refugee camp, it was so hot that those in the camp were able to fry eggs without using a stove. More than 81,000 people live in Za'atari, currently the largest refugee camp in the Middle East

It is expected that crop losses will be at least 25 percent of the current crops being grown in the Jordan Valley, which fortunately is the low production season. The poultry sector is also affected but no estimates on the size of loss.

United States Increases its Humanitarian Assistance

The United States is providing an additional \$65 million in humanitarian assistance to the UN World Food Program (WFP), which feeds nearly six million Syrians every month. The announcement, which includes \$21.3 million for Jordan, allowed the continuation of services to some 440,000 Syrian refugees living in urban communities, which would otherwise have been cut-off on August 1.

Jordan Exports 1,200 Tons of Tomatoes Daily

Jordan's daily exports of fruits and vegetables to Arab Gulf countries and Iraq have reached around 4,000 tons, including 1,200 tons of tomatoes. A Ministry of Agriculture spokesperson noted that tomatoes are being sold at reasonable prices, despite the fact that the heat wave that is causing losses has yet to trigger a price increase.

Jordan's Fruit and Vegetable Exports attain 500,000 Tons as of July

Jordan's exports of vegetables and fruits continued their gradual rise reaching half a million tons as of July. The Minister of Agriculture stated that Jordan's exports of vegetables and fruits in July stood at 100,000 tons, an increase of 25 percent from 2014. However, the volume of exports to July of 2015 decreased to 491,000 tons compared to 541,000 tons in the same period of 2014, due to the closure of the Syrian and Iraqi borders. The Minister indicated that the surge in exports in July was as a result of tapping into the Gulf States since the beginning of May.

Irrigation Water Infringements

Authorities of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), under the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, discovered an illegally carved hole into a water carrier in the Central Jordan Valley. The violators carved a 20x25 cm hole into the carrier, which originates from the King Talal Dam. The hole was left open, causing flooding in the surrounding area when water was supplied through the carrier. JVA proceeded against the violators, sending its reports to the prosecutor general.

Additionally, JVA authorities uncovered a number of assaults on its network in southern Amman, in which 5,400 M3 of water were being stolen daily. The Royal Badia and Gendarmerie forces raided the site, cutting off the water supply and referring the violations to the prosecutor general.