

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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GAIN Report Number:

Iraq

Post: Baghdad

Mesopotamian Minute for February 27, 2011

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

This version of the *Minute* includes coverage on teaching Qadisiyah widows about beekeeping, developing some sorely needed cold storage, Iraqi participation in the International Poultry Expo in Atlanta and working to increase the influence of the private sector in the Iraqi agricultural economy.

General Information:

MESOPOTAMIAN MINUTE

- Current News on Agriculture & USDA in Iraq -

Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad

Sunday, February 27, 2011



Widows in Diwaniyah Learn Beekeeping – AgAdvisor Omar Shwani conducted beekeeping training for 10 widows in Diwaniyah who before the training had little opportunity for income generation. In addition to assisting these women, bees are important for crop pollination, honey production and a source of income. The beekeeping farm will assist the local economy by providing jobs and a local source of food for the population.



Baghdad PRT Supports Cold Storage – PRT Baghdad will support the conversion of an existing storage unit in Ma'dain county (southern Baghdad province) into a two-story cold storage facility. Local farmers will see immediate benefits from the cold storage unit. Their goods can go directly from the field to the cold storage facility. The cold storage unit will help ensure fresh goods are marketed which should result in an improved income flow local farmers once it is operational. Cold storage availability and electricity supply remain a considerable challenge in Iraq.

Attend International Poultry Expo In Atlanta
Marketing Advisor, Mohamed Ibrahim accompanied 13 (8 pictured) Iraqi businessmen annual poultry exposition. The Iraqis met with representatives of U.S. poultry producers and company representatives during their visit as attended a poultry seminar. The Iraqis were very with the substance and content of the exposition.



Iraqis
– USDA
to the 63rd
feed
well as
satisfied

Iraqi Leaders Talk – USDA staff hosted nine



Iraqi private sector agribusiness leaders for a conversation over dinner concerning challenges facing the sector and ways to unify the voice of Iraqi producers with a view to contributing to policy making that can move the agricultural sector forward. Many of the business leaders expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of support for agribusiness development offered by the Ministry of Agriculture, but also expressed confidence in Iraq's potential to develop its agriculture sector to increase production and sales.

Personnel Update - There are currently 30 USDA personnel in Iraq including those with Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), at Embassy Baghdad or embedded with U.S. military units.