

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 4/23/2014

GAIN Report Number:

Egypt

Post: Cairo

Nile Nuggets for April 2014

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Approved By:

Ron Verdonk

Prepared By:

Mohamed Hamza & Ahmed Wally

Report Highlights:

News on developments in agriculture and food in Egypt.

Nile Nuggets

News on Developments in Agriculture and Food in Egypt

April 2014

EGYPT WORKS TO REIN IN THE BREAD OF THE MASSES: On Sunday, April 13, 2014, Egypt launched a pilot project in the City of Port Said and introduced for the first time, a smart card for subsidized bread. According to Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade, by July 2014, food subsidy beneficiaries in all governorates will be able to buy their bread with their subsidy smart cards. Ministry announced this month that every beneficiary is allowed 150 loaves/month or 5 loaves/day. In order to encourage people to consume less balady bread, the beneficiary will get points added to his card in the event s/he does not consume the monthly allotment. In this way, the card holder can buy other foodstuffs from one of the 1,000 plus Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade shops.

OPTIMISM OVER LOCAL WHEAT OUTPUT AND WHAT WILL MARKETED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE BREAD OF THE MASSES: Egypt has signed 186,000 contracts to buy 4.25 million metric tons of 2014 crop from local farmers. According to Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR), this could help the world's largest wheat importer cut its wheat imports. If the amount agreed in the contracts is delivered, it would be 18 percent increase from the 3.6 million tons of wheat the government bought from farmers last year. Typically, ministry projections about the amount of wheat it will procure from farmers are overly optimistic. In 2013, the government forecast that it would buy around 4-5 million metric tons of wheat from local farmers but ended up procuring only 3.6 million metric tons. On the other hand, the MALR estimates its 2014 local wheat crop at 9.1 million metric tons. The ministry also estimates total area planted with wheat at 3.2 million feddans (1.344 million hectares).

TRACKING AGRICULTURE FROM ABOVE AND BEYOND: Egypt's second telecommunication satellite was launched on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, from Kazakhstan by Russia's Baikonur spaceport. The satellite is equipped with advanced technologies that are used to take "visible-range and infrared photographs". The data collected by the satellite will be used in agriculture, ecological and geographical research. The Egyptian cabinet said that the new satellite will serve the industrial, agricultural, mineral, planning and environmental fields in Egypt as well as support development projects in the Arab region.

EU DENIES IMPOSING RESTRICTIONS ON EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURE EXPORTS: The European Commission (EC) in Cairo denied reports on some news sites that the European Union (EU) had imposed new restrictions on the Egyptian agriculture exports. This came after some news sites published inaccurate information that the EU decided increasing the quantities that are being inspected from Egypt by all EU countries from 5% to 10% of the vegetables and fruits imported to make sure that they meet the standards of the EU.