

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

News on developments in agriculture and food in Egypt.

Nile Nuggets

News on Developments in Agriculture and Food in Egypt

June 2014

NEW PRESIDENT AND NEW MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: In June 8, 2014, Abdul Fattah al-Sisi was sworn in as Egypt's president after winning 96% of the vote in the May presidential election for a four-year term. Nine days later, June 17, 2014, Dr. Adel El-Beltagy was sworn in as Egypt's new Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) succeeding former Minister Ayman Farid Abu Hadid. The new Minister previously served as Director General of the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and Egypt's Agricultural Research Center. In his first statement, El-Beltagy said that MALR is implementing a strategy to deal not only with the water crisis but also the agricultural sector as a whole in the upcoming period. The strategy is divided into parts: One is to zero in on optimal water usage by altering irrigation practices while encouraging proportionately more planting of water-efficient crops while the second aspect will aim to improve national agricultural knowledge and promote the Genetically Engineered Products sector.

SAUDI'S ALMARAI AND PEPSICO TEAM UP TO MAKE EGYPTIAN MILK AND JUICE: Saudi Arabia's Almarai, the Gulf's biggest dairy company, and U.S. soft drinks giant PepsiCo will invest at least \$345 million in Egypt over the next five years. The announcement is a new indication that after three years of stagnation due to political and economic instability following Egypt's 2011 revolution, foreign investment is making a comeback. This substantial outlay includes setting up a new juice factory, expanding existing facilities and creating a new 5,000-cow dairy farm. Almarai's CEO Abdulrahman Al Fadley said he hoped to increase the investment amount to about \$560 million over five years. The additional \$200+ million (over the initial \$365 m) would be spent on another dairy farm, which would be the biggest in Egypt, accommodating 20,000 cows.

CACTUS FRUIT "TEEN SHOKI" BACK ON THE STREETS OF EGYPT:



Cactus fruit or prickly pears ("Teen shoki" in Arabic) are back on the streets of Egypt. Street vendors have a special technique in peeling and putting the pears inside plastic bags, and this makes it safe to buy them from carts, unlike some other food served on the streets. The price of one fruit this season is LE 1 compared to 75 piasters last year, about \$1.4 (\$1 = LE7.20). Total production area for this June/July fruit all of which is for local consumption is about 3,000 acres producing around 30,000 tons. The fruit has high levels of antioxidants, high levels of potassium and is a very good source of vitamin C, B1 and B2.