Here is the quarterly update of agricultural news from the heart of the SEMED region

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**Egypt**

**Egypt: National Level Stakeholder Consultations for the Country’s Agricultural Investment Mapping, October 2014**
Consultations involving the public and the private sector started on the 19th of October and will be ongoing until the beginning of next year to map investment opportunities in Egypt’s agricultural sector. Discussions are facilitated by FAO, under a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP), and will build on the conclusions of the agribusiness investment forum organized by FAO and the EBRD in June 2013.

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**EBRD and a commercial co-financing Egyptian bank considers providing a working capital loan of USD 48 million to Medsofts Company, August 2014**
Medsofts is one of the key agricultural commodity importers and supply chain managers in Egypt, involved in the trading of corn, wheat, and soybeans.

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**New strategy to keep Nile Water and boost agriculture, June 2014**
The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture wants to boost agricultural production to improve the country’s self-sufficiency.

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**Egypt aims to boost wheat self-sufficiency, June 2014**
Nine new silos with a combined capacity of 45,000 tonnes were inaugurated in the port city of Alexandria, with an additional 18 units, each capable of holding 5,000 tonnes of grain. This is due to be completed by June next year.

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**Government considers raising price of wheat to encourage farmers to step up production, May 2014**
The price increase would encourage local farms to sell more wheat to the state and make Egypt less reliant on imports.

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**Egypt’s 2014/15 wheat imports to top 10 million tonnes, April 2014**
A survey of 10 traders focused on the Egyptian wheat market showed imports for 2014/15 were expected to hold steady at 10.5 million tonnes.

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**Jordan**

**Freeze working to modernise its fisheries sector, April 2014**
Egypt will monitor its fish stocks better thanks to the first phase a new project aiming at raising the national per capita consumption of fish.

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AFED’s seventh Annual Conference will take place in Amman on 26-27 November and will focus on food security options for Arab countries.

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**Jordan: Fifth Conference of OLIVEBIOTEQ, Amman November 2014**
The fifth conference of OLIVEBIOTEQ took place in Amman on 3-6 November 2014. The conference is organized by AARENINA (Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa), ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas) and NCARE (National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension). The conference will bring together scientists, technicians, managers, exporters, policy makers, and students to exchange their experience on new approaches related to olive production and marketing.

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**Investing in Efficiency: Water along the Food Chain, March 2014**
FAO and the EBRD organized a forum in Amman under the patronage of the Jordan Ministry of Agriculture on water efficiency and productivity in key food chains. The forum brought together policy-makers, international organisations and investors.

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EBRD supports Jordan’s poultry industry, February 2014  
The EBRD and its donors are providing international expertise to  
promising agribusiness companies, with a special focus on the  
poultry sector.  
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EBRD supports Moroccan fruit processing, November 2014  
The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
(EBRD) is lending EUR 4 million to fruit-processing company  
Frulact to support the expansion of its activities in Morocco.  
The loan will provide financing to develop a new processing  
factory for strawberries, peaches and other fruits in the Larache  
region, in the north of the country. This project will support  
local fruit producers as Frulact increases its purchases to meet  
accelerating demand for fruit-based yogurts.  
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The European Union (EU) provides EUR 60 million in support  
of agricultural development in Morocco, July 2014  
The European Commission has committed EUR 60 million to the  
second phase of Plan Maroc Vert with the objective of improving  
the production of dates, olives, almonds and red meat.  
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Morocco: first Arab and African producer of fish, June 2014  
FAO has released a new study on Morocco’s fishery sector,  
highlighting that the country is the first producer of fish in Africa  
and the Arabic world, with a total production of 1 million tonnes.  
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Morocco highlights family farming, April 2014  
Morocco wants to encourage family farming, which represents  
80% of all farms in the country. One of the challenges is the  
modernization of agricultural practices in order to diversify the  
rural economy.  
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Morocco — Oilseeds Sector Review  
This joint publication of the Food and Agriculture Organization  
(FAO) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and  
Development (EBRD) reviews Morocco’s oilseed sector.  
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Regional

The 32nd Session of the Near Regional Conference of FAO  
endorsed three regional initiatives focusing on  
(i) water scarcity, (ii) small scale agriculture for inclusive  
growth, and (iii) resilience for enhanced food security and  
nutrition. The initiatives address major and long-standing  
challenges in the region.  
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Improving crop-water productivity in water scarce  
countries, August 2014  
In the context of FAO’s Regional Initiative on Water Scarcity, a  
regional training workshop was organized in Cairo on AquaCrop,  
a crop water productivity model.  
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Publications

**Tunisia — Review of the Olive Oil Sector and Policy Options**
This study was carried out under the cooperation between FAO and the EBRD in order to promote responsible private agribusiness investment in the EBRD’s portfolio in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) region. The review will help facilitate public-private dialogue in the sector.

**Jordan — Water along the food chain**
This analytical work in partnership with EBRD, will be soon published. Water scarcity in Jordan represents the main issue and the country is bound to an imbalance between available resources and their use by all sectors. The analysis identifies the country’s poultry meat sector for domestic consumption and high-value market fruits and vegetables of the Jordan Valley as areas which deserve priority investment attention.

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