

# MedAgri

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

Dec 2014

MedAgri is a network of practitioners committed to sharing knowledge on agricultural investment in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) region. Its members belong to international finance institutions, private banks, international development organizations, governments and other institutions involved in agriculture and agribusiness.

MedAgri covers the following four countries: Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. It was founded by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Its website - [www.medagri.org](http://www.medagri.org) - provides information on investment projects, sectors and subsectors, investment-related topics, events and meetings. It also features news, videos and publications.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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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### **Egypt 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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## Jordan

### **Jordan: Seventh Annual Conference of the Arab Forum for the Environment (AFED) in Amman – Presentation of a Flagship Report on Arab Food Security, November 2014**

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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 **Morocco**
**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 yoghurts.

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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.

It puts forward a series of policy options for the development of the sector.

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 **Tunisia**
**Tunisia: Perspectives on the olive oil sector, November 2014**

FAO and the EBRD organized a workshop on the olive oil sector in Tunisia on the 11th of November 2014 in Tunis. The objective of the workshop was to present the main findings of a recent study on the Tunisian olive oil sector and gather feedback from private and public stakeholders. The study will eventually help identify priority investments and elaborate policy options for the development of the sector.

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**Olive Oil: A Bumper Harvest in Tunisia, November 2014**

While worldwide production of olive oil is having an off year, the harvest in Tunisia is shaping up to be one of the best ever. Perfect weather conditions for productivity helped ready olive trees for the a record season. And while it is a great gain for the Tunisian olive oil sector, the bumper harvest is posing some problems.

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**Water: Tunisia's other development challenge, September 2014**

The World Bank provides support to Tunisia to help the country meet its water challenges through a series of projects geared towards upgrading its distribution infrastructure in order to reduce the use of water.

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**EBRD supports microfinance in Tunisia, March 2014**

The EBRD is stepping up its support to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in Tunisia with a loan of EUR 5 million to Enda Inter-Arabe, the oldest microfinance institution in the country.

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## Regional

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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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## Soon on MedAgri

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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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## Contact Us

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# MedAgri

[www.MedAgri.org](http://www.MedAgri.org)

**MedAgri Network**

FAO Investment Centre - TCIC  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, Italy

[MedAgri@fao.org](mailto:MedAgri@fao.org)



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations