

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

Jan 2016

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 financial institutions, private banks, international development organizations, governments and other groups involved in agriculture and agribusiness.

MedAgri is the source for information on Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. [The website](#) provides information on sectors, investment-related topics and projects, events and meetings. It also features news, videos and publications.

This quarterly update brings you the latest agricultural news from the heart of the SEMED region.



*Best wishes for a fruitful 2016  
from your MedAgri team!*



## EGYPT



### **EBRD finances expansion of Egypt's leading food producer, November 2015**

Faragella, a family-owned company that is now a leading food producer in Egypt, will boost its financial and production capacities with the help of the EBRD. [More →](#)

### **Egypt and Ukraine strengthen cooperation in landmark trade deal, November 2015**

The world-renowned Egyptian cotton will now be exported to Ukraine in exchange for wheat. [More →](#)

### **Egypt and Sri Lanka to sign knowledge-sharing agreement, October 2015**

The Ministries of Agriculture will exchange information and experiences about best agricultural practices in dry zones. [More →](#)

### **Wheat sector consolidation to foster efficiency in Egypt, October 2015**

FAO and the EBRD are supporting the creation of a wheat suppliers' association to facilitate public-private dialogue and stimulate the private sector investment needed to ensure food security. [More →](#)



### **Saudi Zamil Industrial installs a logistics platform for cereals, fruits and vegetables, September 2015**

The company's new infrastructure is indicative of a trend toward increasing fruit and vegetable exports in Egypt. [More →](#)

### **National project to build 60 silos to be completed in January 2016, September 2015**

The Minister of Supply shares news about subsidies, wheat supply, and other agricultural projects. [More →](#)

### **Egypt's ArJu Food Industries targets \$91mn in revenues in first year, July 2015**

The Danish-Egyptian joint venture is already showing positive results in regional markets. [More →](#)

### **Egypt and Sudan in talks to cultivate 100,000 acres in Blue Nile, July 2015**

The move would reinforce agricultural cooperation between the two countries and support food security. [More →](#)

**AfDB approves €50.20 million loan for National Drainage Programme to boost agriculture in Egypt, June 2015**

The programme will optimize the benefits of irrigation by draining excess irrigation water from agricultural land in order to reduce water logging and soil salinity as well as make more land available for cultivation. [More →](#)

 **MOROCCO**

**Moroccan traders are betting on Africa, December 2015**

Morocco is now targeting Africa to market its food products as one step to improve the competitiveness of agriculture and agribusiness in Morocco. [More →](#)

**Morocco finalizes an agribusiness development strategy, September 2015**

The promising new strategy will initially focus on high-value chains with export potential and is the first step to reviving the industrial food industry. [More →](#)



**EBRD and EU bring Moroccan fruit juice to new export markets, July 2015**

The EBRD provided EUR 3.6 million in mezzanine finance to Citruma in the first deal of its kind for the Bank in Morocco. [More →](#)

**Domestic olive oil production struggles to penetrate the international market, July 2015**

During the last decade, Morocco has produced nearly 100,000 tons of olive oil yet its taste and quality do not meet international requirements. [More →](#)

**The Doukkala-Abda region breaks all production records, July 2015**

The 2014-2015 crop year saw record production for the main sectors, including sugar beets and winter cereals. [More →](#)

**Improved irrigation services for farmers in Morocco, July 2015**

A World Bank-financed project will modernize irrigation infrastructure and increase capacities of service providers to ensure that 9,300 farmers have a reliable water service needed to grow higher-value crops. [More →](#)

**A national strategy against food waste in Morocco, July 2015**

The action plan developed with FAO will cut food losses and waste in half by 2024. [More →](#)

**Morocco solidifies its commitment to fight climate change, July 2015**

Morocco declared it will cut its emissions by 13 percent in the next 15 years. [More →](#)

**Eighth annual “Olive Caravan” comes to a close, June 2015**

The traveling event, which included training sessions and technical support for 1,500 olive oil producers, is part of an initiative to develop Moroccan agriculture in general and the activities of small farmers in particular. [More →](#)

**Fruits and vegetables make up 60% of Morocco’s agricultural exports, May 2015**

The sector is an important contributor to total crop production and provides almost 500,000 jobs. [More →](#)

 **TUNISIA**



**From tree to table: making organic extra virgin olive oil the Traditional Way in Tunisia, October 2015**

Despite Tunisia’s climb up the global olive oil ladder, much of the North African country’s oil is made using traditional methods. [More →](#)

**Tunisian olive oil exports reach record high, July 2015**

Exports of olive oil reached a record high of 242,000 tons this year, a seven-fold increase compared to the previous season. [More →](#)

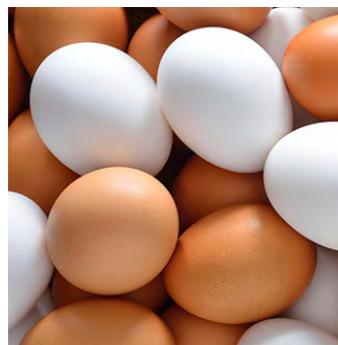
**Sousse plays host to third “Med Mag Oliva” exhibition, June 2015**

Tunisia’s biggest olive oil event focused on “science and technology in the service of olive growing” following record harvest. [More →](#)

**Tunisian producer receives \$26M loan from IFC, June 2015**

The long-term financing package to Sfax-based CHO will benefit local olive mills and farmers and support the development of Tunisia’s olive oil sector. [More →](#)

 **JORDAN**



**EBRD helps modernize poultry production in Jordan, September 2015**

The EBRD is providing a EUR 19 million loan to local producer Al Jazeera Agricultural Company PSC to help increase the supply of safer and more hygienic products for consumers. [More →](#)

**Jordanian stakeholders gather to face escalating water scarcity, September 2015**

A national consultation workshop under FAO’s Water Scarcity Initiative in the Near East and North Africa takes steps to reduce agricultural water productivity gaps and improve drought preparedness. [More →](#)

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 Regional
 

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**EBRD organizes its first south-eastern Mediterranean business forum in Morocco, November 2015**

The business forum "Unleashing the potential" focused on the economies of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. [More →](#)

**New FAO/CIHEAM partnership focuses on food security, nutrition, and resilience in the Mediterranean region, October 2015**

The International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) and FAO have signed a strategic partnership to strengthen the livelihoods of rural communities in the Mediterranean region. [More →](#)

**Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture will sign free trade area agreement with Italy, Jordan, and Lebanon, October 2015**

This new agreement will expand the trade flow of agricultural products between the four countries and increase Egyptian exports. [More →](#)

**Initiative to strengthen partnership between EU and SEMED enters second phase, July 2015**

The four year-old ENPARD South initiative facilitates information exchange and the development of public policies to support farmers and rural populations. [More →](#)

**World Expo project on Mediterranean dairy products takes place at French pavilion, June 2015**

The EU-funded LACTIMED project intends to strengthen the production and distribution of dairy products in the Mediterranean region with a focus on Egypt, France, Italy, Lebanon and Tunisia. [More →](#)

**FAO Investment Learning Platform is now online**

The new [FAO "Investment Learning Platform" \(ILP\)](#) website for investment practitioners and government provides a single entry point for agricultural investment guidance and resources for agricultural and rural development.

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 Publications
 

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A new joint report, "[The Agrifood sector in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean: Key trends in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan](#)", published by FAO and the EBRD, seeks to keep investors abreast of current trends in agribusiness and food security in the SEMED region.

The population of the SEMED region is expected to increase quickly while per capita income growth changes the dynamics of food and agriculture. Demand for meat and dairy products, oilseeds and sugar is expected to rise, with higher income levels and a more educated urban population translating into greater demand for higher quality food products. The report contains four country notes with analyses of food consumption patterns, production and trade, as well as recommendations for agricultural policies.

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