



وزارة البيئة والمياه والزراعة  
Ministry of Environment Water & Agriculture

المملكة العربية السعودية Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

# Agriculture in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

April 2019



# Agriculture in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

## Area

Saudi Arabia, located in the South Western of Asia, covers a large area of about 2 000 000 Km<sup>2</sup>, which is about 80 % of the total area of the Arabian Peninsula

## Challenges

- Hot and dry climate with low precipitation
- Sandy soils with low fertility and soil salinization
- High incidence of animal diseases & agricultural pests
- Water is a scarce source for agriculture and other uses

## Directions

- Efficient use of water for agriculture and other uses.
- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Adoption of innovative agriculture technologies
- Sustainable food security
- Development of agro-economic international relationships
- Contributing to sustainable rural development and empowering small farmers
- Promote plant and animal health and ensure the safety of agricultural outputs





## Major Contributions of Agricultural sector in Saudi Arabia

- Even though the agriculture sector of Saudi Arabia face many challenges, the country has the largest dynamic agricultural projects in the Middle East related to date palm ,poultry, dairy and aquaculture.
- Saudi Arabia is well known as a net food importing country, however the country sustain self-sufficiency and even produce surplus food products: Fresh milk 122%, table eggs 115%, dates 115% and vegetables 70%.



Agriculture sector provide 30% of the total food available for consumption



Total workers involved in Agriculture sector are 910,000



This sector contributes 53 billion SR annually to the GDP (estimated at 3.4% of non-oil GDP).



Agricultural Farms 262,000  
Animal Herds and Fish Farms 84,567  
Total Agricultural Holdings 346,567



# Diverse Agricultural Commodities

- Modern technologies are widely adopted by many large scale agricultural activities.
- The government consistently supports the agricultural sector in compliance with WTO commitments.

## Arid



## Mediterranean



## Mountainous



## Tropical & Semitropical





# Top Agricultural Exports of Saudi Arabia



## Vegetables

- Cauliflower & Broccoli
- Cabbage & brassicas
- Egg plants
- Cucumbers and pumpkins



## Dairy & Poultry Products

- Cheese & Fresh Cream
- Buttermilk
- Fresh Milk
- Skimmed, dried, Condensed & evaporated milk



## Fruits

- Dates
- Figs
- Grapes





# Agriculture Research Institutional Structure

## Ministry of Environment, Water & Agriculture (MEWA)

1

National Agriculture & Animal Resources  
Research Center, Riyadh

2

Camel & Range Research Center  
+ Olive research unit, Al-Jouf

3

Agricultural Research Center, Jazan

4

Horticultural Research Center, Najran

5

Date Palms Research Center, Al-Ahsa

6

Organic Agriculture Research Center, Al-Qassim



6 Research  
Centers-  
MEWA

29  
Universities  
With 5  
Agriculture  
Colleges

KACST



# Agriculture Research Related Institutional Structure

## MEWA Research Partners in Saudi Arabia

- King Saud University** College of Food & Agriculture Sciences, Agriculture Research Center, 7 Research Chairs
- King Abdulaziz University** Faculty of Meteorology, Environment and Arid Land Agriculture, Water Research Centre, Central Arid Zone Research Institute
- King Faisal University** College of Agricultural & Food Sciences; College of Veterinary Medicine, 5 research center
- Qassim University** College of Agriculture & Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences Research Center
- KAUST** King Abdullah University of Science & Technology, Desert Agriculture, Core Agriculture Laboratories, Water Desalination and Reuse Center, Desert Research Institute
- KACST** King Abdul Aziz City for Science & Technology, Life Science and Environment Research Institute, Funding's agency





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Looking forward to welcome  
you in Saudi Arabia

