



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agriculture Newsletter

January – June 2020

1st Edition

Algeria and Tunisia

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Dear reader,

We are proud to announce this year's first edition of our Newsletter! We would like to help keep you updated on the latest news related to agrofood and events in Algeria and Tunisia from January to June 2020. We are always looking forward to hear from you, for any additional information please contact us on:

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VISITS

ALGERIA - Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture

On March 9, 2020, Ambassador Robert van Embden visited the then Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development where he introduced the agricultural counsellor, Ms. Sabrina Waltmans, who in turn provided clarifications on the missions of the agricultural section of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Algeria and some cooperation projects in key priority areas such as dairy production, potatoes, greenhouse horticulture and the processing industry. The Ambassador offered the study on potato processing, done on behalf of RVO, to the Minister.

Form their part, the Minister of Agriculture and the Delegate Minister for Saharan Agriculture expressed the wish of Algeria to benefit from the Dutch experience.

Mid June a new Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hamdani, was appointed.

EVENTS

ALGERIA - Seminar on dairy livestock improvement



Within the framework of the Algerian-Dutch cooperation, the embassy organized a seminar on

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, on the importance of high-quality genetic traits with good management of nutrition for dairy cows. This seminar was organized together with the National Chamber of Agriculture. The meeting was attended by, among others, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Algeria, a representative of the Dutch Cooperative for Genetic Improvement CRV, central directors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the director of the government agency for AI (CNIAAG).

The representative of CRV gave a presentation on livestock improvement and the role of nutrition.

ALGERIA - Dutch Day in Constantine

On March 12, 2020 The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Algeria organized a day of promotion for the Netherlands in the central eastern city of Constantine with various activities including:

- 1- A workshop on best management practices for dairy farms, intended for students, professionals and officials in the field of dairy farming. The seminar was led by the Dutch expert Mr. Fokko Tolsma with a practical component at the educational farm of the El Khroub Institute of Veterinary Sciences, part of the University of Constantine
- 2- An information session on the vision on agriculture of the Dutch government and various programs for bilateral cooperation for professionals in the agricultural field.



ALGERIA -Seminar potato processing The Hague



On March 4 RVO and the Embassy held a seminar in the Hague in order to present the results of a study on potato processing in Algeria. The number of participants was around 30 representing different parts of the value chain. Besides the study, also the financial instruments to support Dutch companies were presented. Part of the seminar was dedicated to group discussions to see if there would be potential interest in a cluster approach of the market. The conclusions were positive.

In Algeria the processing of potatoes for crisps and fries is rather limited, although there is a large demand in the country. A steady and reliable stream of inputs for processing is one of the needs for the realization of professional processing industry and is still missing in Algeria. This means there are opportunities throughout the potato value chain.

The report on potato processing can be found at <https://www.rvo.nl/sites/default/files/2020/01/Potato-Processing-and-storage-in-Algeria.pdf>.

Companies can express their interest in participating in a cluster with the Embassy.

ALGERIA - Potato donation during Covid-19

On 18 May, Robert van Embden, the ambassador in Algiers, handed over a donation to an Algerian foundation that provides food aid to widows and orphans. The action took place during the last week of the holy month of Ramadan as part of a symbolic solidarity initiative of the Netherlands Embassy in Algeria targeting vulnerable groups. This support consists of a donation of 180 quintals of potatoes for the families of orphans in the Wilayas of Mostaganem and Mascara.

The potato sector is a key sector of cooperation between the Netherlands and Algeria. In fact, the Netherlands has been the main supplier of potato seeds to Algeria for decades: 80% come from our country.

Conversely, Algeria is the main buyer of Dutch seed potatoes.



NEWS

Food processing

ALGERIA: import of refurbished equipment for processing allowed

During the last Council of Ministers, the Algerian government validated the decision to authorize the customs clearance of refurbished processing lines and equipment.

Few weeks earlier, the Algerian President insisted on the development and promotion of the processing industry of agricultural products. The complementary finance law will allow the import of refurbished equipment for production lines and used lines with less than 5 years of use.

It is not yet clear however whether these refurbished facilities will benefit the finance (bank loans up to 90% from the project cost) announced by the President for the new agricultural products processing investments in the south of the country. For more information <https://www.algerie-eco.com/2020/06/15/tebboune-veut-lacquisition-par-lalgerie-dusines-doccasion-en-bon-etat-dans-les-pays-developpes/>

Dairy sector

TUNISIA – Import of 5.000 heifers yearly to rebuild livestock

The National Day of Tunisian agriculture took place on May 12, 2020. During a press conference the Tunisian Minister of Agriculture announced a set of measures that will be taken to support the sector.

For the cattle sector, he declared that in order to rebuild the livestock, an annual subsidy will be granted for the purchase of 5,000 heads of purebred heifers.

Investment

ALGERIA - The Complementary Finance Law 2020



An encouraging sign for the Algerian economy is that the parliament passed recently a new legislation (finance law 2020) allowing foreign investors to take majority stakes in projects of non-strategic sectors, as the country seeks to diversify its economy away from oil and gas.

In the finance law 2020, the rule for the distribution of share capital 49/51% has been removed. The agriculture sector as well as food processing industry will benefit from this regulation as they are not on the list of so-called strategic sectors.

This comes with the announcement of the Ministry of Agriculture of the intention to create the National Office of Saharan Agriculture for the promotion and support of investors - local and foreign - to launch industrial agriculture in the south of Algeria. The FL 2020 also removes the obligation to resort to local financing of investments. This will allow foreign investors to invest with their own capital.

Link to full text of the CFL 2020:

<https://www.joradp.dz/FTP/jo-francais/2020/F2020033.pdf>

TUNISIA - Orange Knowledge Program tender for TMT+ trainings



Orange Knowledge Programme

This programme aims to contribute to a society's sustainable and inclusive development by offering access to education and training to professionals and organisations.

Calls for joint proposals for Tailor-Made Training Plus (TMT Plus)

Within the framework of the Orange Knowledge Program, a call for proposals for a tailor-made training (TMT) has just been launched by NUFFIC. The grant that will be awarded is 125.000 euro, with the objective to create jobs in agriculture and agricultural growth. The deadline for submission of applications is 10 September 2020.

To access the call and the required documents, follow this link:

<https://www.nuffic.nl/en/subjects/call-for-joint-proposals-tailor-made-training-tmt-plus-orange-knowledge/>

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