



Monthly Sectoral Review of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

FEBRUARY 2026

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AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

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The Sustainable Rural Agricultural Development Program "Reef" is run by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture in Saudi Arabia. Its main goal is to improve the skills of small-scale agricultural producers and rural institutions to help them access resources, services, and markets. The program started in 1442/2020 and aims to boost food security by meeting 43% of the food energy needs in targeted regions and 19% of the total needs in the Kingdom. It also focuses on providing safe food, promoting healthy eating, ensuring a consistent food supply, involving more women in the workforce, and protecting the environment.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

FEBRUARY 2026



The program targets eight sectors aligned with Saudi Vision 2030 to advance economic and social development while promoting effective use of agricultural and water resources. The total funding for the program is unspecified, but about 12 billion riyals will be allocated by the end of 2025 for several key sectors.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

FEBRUARY 2026



The first program focuses on increasing Arabica coffee production from 800 tons to 7,000 tons yearly by 2025. The second program aims to boost beekeeping and honey production from 2,100 tons to 7,500 tons and stop importing honey by 2025. The third program intends to enhance rose cultivation from 500 million to over 2 billion roses annually. The fourth program will improve the production of fruits like pomegranates, figs, and grapes.



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

FEBRUARY 2026



The fifth program supports small-scale fishermen and fish farmers, increasing fish production from 108,000 tons to 170,000 tons annually. The sixth program seeks to grow red meat production from 853,000 tons to 980,000 tons and increase milk production. The seventh program works on improving rainfed crops like sorghum, sesame, and millet, aiming to boost their production significantly. The eighth program focuses on increasing the potential of smallholdings and traditional agricultural activities to reach 40,000 smallholdings by the end of 2025.

The program has been recognized with the FAO Global Technical Recognition Award for its excellence in agricultural development and contributions to food security. The Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture accepted the award at the FAO's 80th anniversary event in Rome.

REFERENCES

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