



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING SUMMARY

DECEMBER 2025

The Values360Ventures Team conducted this summary;
contributor is: Ms. Salwa Zahid





The rising demand for locally cultivated crops in Saudi Arabia is driven primarily by population growth and heightened health consciousness among consumers. There is an increasing preference for domestically grown fresh vegetables, alongside a notable surge in the demand for oilseeds and pulses, such as chickpeas and soybeans, indicative of a shift towards protein-rich diets. This trend highlights a broader consumer movement towards healthier food options, suggesting that local agriculture plays a crucial role in meeting these evolving nutritional needs.

Various regions across the country contribute uniquely to agricultural production. The Northern and Central regions focus on staple crops such as wheat and dates, thereby reinforcing food security and diversifying crop production. The Eastern region is recognised for its date farming and aquaculture practices, further bolstering the national food supply. Meanwhile, the Southern region specialises in producing coffee, honey, and a variety of fruits, which enhances the local economy through the cultivation of speciality crops.



Environmental undertakings have seen significant achievements, with 118,000 hectares of degraded land rehabilitated and over 7,800 endangered animal species reintroduced. To further enhance sustainable agricultural practices, innovative technologies are increasingly being adopted. These include intelligent farming techniques, greenhouses, and precision agriculture, which aim to optimise resource utilisation amid water scarcity and an arid climate. Government initiatives support local farmers in adopting organic farming methods, alongside advancements in irrigation practices that underpin cereal production under challenging environmental conditions.

The demand for advanced farming technologies has escalated, with controlled-environment agriculture (CEA), hydroponics, and vertical farming experiencing substantial growth. Greenhouse production increased by 58%, and organic farming expanded by 18%, illustrating the effectiveness of technological integration in improving production efficiency. Furthermore, innovations such as solar-powered desalination and LED lighting systems significantly enhance crop yields while improving energy and water efficiency in harsh climates. The market for CEA-related technologies continues to expand, alongside a growing need for sustainable food sources.





Despite opportunities present in sustainable agriculture, several challenges persist. Concerns about resource reliance, particularly on non-renewable water sources, pose risks of groundwater depletion. Irrigation practices require optimisation to combat environmental issues related to land protection and waste management. Additionally, food waste remains a significant problem, accounting for more than 33% of total production. However, increasing government funding for sustainable farming technologies and a growing market for organic products offer pathways for strategic growth and international collaboration in the agricultural sector.

REFERENCES

1. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/Pages/default.aspx>
2. <https://saudi-agriculture.com/>
3. <https://www.imarcgroup.com/saudi-arabia-agriculture-market>



VALUES AT THE CORE • VALUES AT THE CORE •

**VALUES
360
VENTURES**