



## USDA Agribusiness Trade Mission to the Republic of Iraq



From June 7-9, nearly 20 U.S. companies are participating in an inaugural Agribusiness Trade Mission to Baghdad, Iraq. The mission is connecting U.S. suppliers with Iraqi buyers to create business opportunities and support growth in the Iraqi food and agricultural sector.

**Goal:** To provide U.S. participants with first-hand market information, access to government decision makers, and one-on-one meetings with business contacts, including potential agents, distributors, and partners so they have the opportunity to position themselves to enter or expand their presence in the Iraqi market. By the same token, the mission is expected to expand the range of commercial options available to the Iraqi food and agricultural sector.

While Iraq still depends on imported agricultural products such as wheat, rice, edible oils, pulses, poultry, red meat, and a range of consumer-ready products to feed its growing urban middle class and millions of low-income consumers, its agricultural sector is growing and strengthening. It has great potential to further boost productivity and output of a broad array of farm products. The private sector's access to modern agricultural inputs will also play a key role in revitalizing Iraqi agriculture.

**Objective:** To promote U.S. agricultural exports to and boost productivity in Iraq's developing agricultural sector. The mission is expected to improve U.S. agribusiness ties with Iraq through meetings between U.S. producers and Iraqi buyers, and secondarily, between Iraqi producers and U.S. investors. The mission's focus is to introduce U.S. agricultural commodity, input, and food product suppliers to prospective Iraqi importers. Areas these U.S. companies cover include production, food processing, grains and pulses, ready-to-eat retail products, fruits, vegetables, meat and poultry, equipment, irrigation, investment, and storage.

Iraq's major agricultural products are wheat, barley, rice, vegetables, dates, cotton, livestock, and poultry. Agriculture accounts for 9.6 percent of Iraq's gross domestic product and about 20 percent of the country's labor force.

**Background:** The mission is being held in Baghdad, Iraq, June 7-9, 2010. Iraqi entrepreneurs are traveling to Baghdad to meet with U.S. agribusiness participants. This gives U.S. and Iraqi producers, processors, traders, and potential investors the opportunity to get to know one another. The mission consists of a series of one-on-one meetings between selected U.S. and Iraqi companies. Seminars on 'best practices' in international trade are also being held.

### **Agenda:**

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| Monday, June 7    | Opening plenary session with USDA, U.S. Embassy, Iraqi government, and U.S. and Iraqi industry representatives; presentations by public and private sector officials. |
| Tuesday, June 8   | One-on-one business meetings; reception hosted by U.S. Ambassador.  |
| Wednesday, June 9 | One-on-one business meetings; closing events.   |

