

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Date: 10/23/2010

GAIN Report Number:

Iraq

Post: Baghdad

Iraqi Set to Establish Iraq's Largest Date Palm Plantation

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

General Information:

According to Iraqi media reports, an Iraqi investor will plant the largest palm plantation in Iraq in the coming year. The project is set to establish 115,000 palm trees in the province of Basra and as a result, contribute to the revitalization of palm farming in Iraq, after at least three decades of unabated deterioration.

The executive director of the project and agricultural investor, Reda Ibrahim Saleh, indicated the farm will be established in the Ktebaan area, within the Abe Alkaseep district, and planting should start by next year.

The area planted is expected to encompass 5,000 acres and would cost \$20 million to complete. This is considered to be the largest private sector agricultural project implemented in Iraq to date. This farm is also expected to be the fourth largest palm plantation in the Middle East.

The on-farm assets are expected to include a laboratory for textile cultivation and a dates packaging factory. The intention is to export a large percentage of dates.