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Jordan Grain Trade and Business Facilitation – A Grain Standards Workshop

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Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, Agriculture in the News, Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security, SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities,

Approved By:

Ali Abdi, Minister-Counselor

Prepared By:

Mariano J. Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché, Mohamed Khraishy, Agricultural Specialist, and Ibrahim Al-Habbal, Marketing Assistant

Report Highlights:

FAS Amman in cooperation with the U.S. Grains Council and the Amman Chamber of Commerce organized on September 19-20, 2017, in Jordan a first of its kind grains standards workshop. The “Session on Grain Trade and Business Facilitation” workshop counted with the participation of representatives from Jordan’s Ministries of Agriculture and Industry, Trade, and Supply, as well as the Jordanian Food and Drug Administration and key importers. The underlying concern throughout the workshop has been to improve mechanisms for trade facilitation. One of the key recommendations from the workshop’s discussion has been the call for the adoption of modern, standardized procedures for sampling grain imports.

General Information:

FAS Amman in cooperation with the U.S. Grains Council and the Amman Chamber of Commerce organized on September 19-20, 2017, in Jordan a first of its kind grains standards workshop. The “Session on Grain Trade and Business Facilitation” workshop held at the chamber’s headquarters counted with the participation of representatives from Jordan’s Ministries of Agriculture and Industry, Trade, and Supply, as well as the Jordanian Food and Drug Administration and key importers. The underlying concern throughout the workshop has been to improve mechanisms for trade facilitation.

One of the key recommendations from the workshop’s discussion has been the call for the adoption of modern, standardized procedures for sampling grain imports. Samples need to be drawn in conformity with international practices and in adherence to technical norms. There is a need to standardize inspection procedures in order to obtain more uniform results.

The workshop’s participants remain concerned that samples drawn are not necessarily reaching testing labs securely in a timely manner. The quality of samples is often degraded while in route to testing facilities due to mishandling; resulting in increased kernel breakage that skews findings. To help mitigate this concern, attendees stressed the need for developing an integrated feed and grain testing laboratory in the Aqaba area staffed by qualified and experienced technicians; grain shipment vessels are discharge at the Port of Aqaba, approximately 336 kilometers by road from Amman and the nearest testing facilities.

There is a need to adopt a standardized methodology for calculating the number of permissible broken kernels and averaging these by lots. Similarly participants called for studying the possibility for increasing the permissible number of broken kernels and pulses bringing these more in line with international standards.

Workshop participants called for the establishment of a committee of qualified experts to collect samples, as well as for retesting in those cases when initial test results fail to meet Jordanian specifications. The attendees requested also a review of the country’s technical grain standards and clarification of import standards, as well as that vessels be permitted to discharge prior to receiving lab test results (as a means of cutting back on or even avoiding demurrage charges). Importers raised as well concerns about inadequate infrastructure in free zones necessary for the discharge and proper storage of grains.

Some of the attendants suggested that international pre-shipment inspection companies be assigned to monitor the handling and loading operations of grain shipments in the country-of-origin, as well as be present during the discharge in Jordan. Traders and their representatives are also requesting that they be permitted to attend inspection and testing operations.

The workshop brought to light the need for greater transparency, to include better access to information on grains, inspections, and inventory stock levels. The formation of an appeals committee to deal with challenges to sample testing results was similarly raised. Participants strongly advocated also for the implementation of a memorandum-of-understanding between the Ministry of Industry, trade, and Supply and the Jordanian Food and Drug Administration to better inspection and testing procedures and standards.

Jordan has a population of 10,248,069 (Central Intelligence Agency – July 2017 estimate). Since the onset of the civil war in Syria and resulting refugee crisis, one of Jordan’s most pressing socioeconomic challenges has been managing the influx of 650,000 UN-registered refugees, more than 80 percent of whom live in Jordan’s urban areas. Jordan’s own official census estimated the refugee number at 1.3 million as of early 2016. Jordan is not a significant producer of wheat or grains (i.e., corn).

Amman Chamber of Commerce
List of Attendees at the Discussion Session on Grain Trade and Business Facilitation

S/N	Name	Company/Authority
01	Dr. Hayel Mohamed Ebedat, General Manager	Food and Drugs Administration
02	Eng. Emad Al-Tarawneh, Assistant Secretary General	Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply
03	Eng. Jamal Al-Batsh, Assistant Secretary General of Fisheries	Ministry of Agriculture
04	Dr. Samy Al-Adwan, Assistant Secretary General for Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture
05	Dr. Ayman Al-Salti, Marketing Manager	Ministry of Agriculture
06	Eng. Asmaa Shaderma, Head of the Pesticide Residual Analysis Section	Ministry of Agriculture
07	Eng. Zeyad Shawaret, Head of the Field Crops and Greens Section	Ministry of Agriculture
08	Eng. Eyad Saleh, Feeds Section	Ministry of Agriculture
09	Eng. Islam Maghayreh, Manager of Directorate of Industry, Trade, and Supply in Ma’adaba	Directorate of Industry, Trade, and Supply in Ma’adaba
10	Khaldoun Khalil Abou Zeid	Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply
11	Moayyad Al-Faouri	Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply
12	Eng. Mohamed Al-Momen	Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply
13	Eng. Maan Mahmoud Al-Ghalayni	Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply
14	Eng. Naaman Al-Alawneh	Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply
15	Eng. Thaer Abou Hassan	Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply
16	Eng. Atef Alawneh	Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply
17	Abdullah Khaled Al-Tobsi	Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply
18	Rania Ghanem	Food and Drug Administration
19	Eng. Mohamed Saad Al-Batayneh, Head of the American Chamber of Commerce	American Chamber of Commerce
20	Mahdi Al-Aqrabawi, Executive Director for	Amman Municipality

	Health and Professional Control	
21	Samir Mansour	
22	Shaden Al-Mejalli	U.S. Embassy Amman
23	Lana Al-Nemri	American Chamber of Commerce in Amman
24	Laura Comanescue	Romanian Embassy
25	Nehad Al-Alleni	Syndicate of Agricultural Engineers
26	Rashad Toqan, Board Member	Al-Aqaba Containers Port
27	Eng. Mowaffaq Al-Khashman, Manager	Aqaba International Laboratories/Hayyan
28	Eng. Omar Dalal'ah	Aqaba International Laboratories/Hayyan
29	Eng. Taqwa Tayseer Arabeyyat, Head of the Food Section at Laboratories	Jordanian Specifications and Standards
30	Mohannad Atta Abou Safeyya, Laboratories Section	Jordanian Specifications and Standards
31	Mahmoud Taher Wafa	Customs Directorate
32	Mahmoud Al-Rashdan	Customs Directorate
33	Dr. Mohamed Al-Khraisha, Food Safety Consultant	"Guarantee" Food Safety Systems Consultants
34	George Khayyat	Regional Company for Drugs Manufacturing
35	Hossam Deraneyyeh	Hossam Al-Din Deraneyyeh Establishment
36	Moussa Wakeeleh	National Poultry Company
37	Ramy Al-Nashasheby	First Company for Grain Trading
38	Tony Farran	Ghazi Al-Qaddoumi Commercial Establishment
39	Qais Sonqort	Soqort Poultry Farms Company
40	Jad Wakeeleh	Al-Aqaba Vegetable Oils Refining Company
41	Abdul Kareem Sha'aban	Mahmoud Sha'aban and Sons Company
42	Eng. Basma Hassan	Grain Import and Enhancement
43	Dr. Emad Zoreyqat	Jordanian Cooperative Establishment
44	Ra'afat Fareh Oudet-Allah	
45	Ali Abdi	U.S. Embassy\FAS OAA Cairo
46	Mohamed Khraishy	U.S. Embassy\FAS OAA Amman
47	Wayne Bacon	U.S. Grains Council