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Jordan Welcomes USDA\FAS Food for Progress 50000 MT Wheat Shipment

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SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities

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Report Highlights:

On August 29, 2017, Minister of Water and Irrigation Dr. Hazim El-Naser and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Eng. Imad Fakhoury, in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, accompanied by the U.S. Embassy Amman's Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Dr. Jim Barnhart (USAID Mission Director) and FAS Attaché Mariano J. Beillard, joined in welcoming the second and final delivery of 50,000 metric tons of hard red winter wheat under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food for Progress Program. The arrival of this second shipment at the Port of Aqaba completes the 100,000 metric tons of U.S. wheat valued at \$18 million donated by the United States to Jordan in 2017.

General Information:

On August 29, 2017, Minister of Water and Irrigation Dr. Hazim El-Naser and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Eng. Imad Fakhoury, in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, accompanied by the U.S. Embassy Amman's Acting Deputy Chief of Mission (ADCM) Dr. Jim Barnhart (USAID Mission Director) and FAS Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché Mariano J. Beillard, joined in welcoming the second and final delivery of 50,000 metric tons of hard red winter wheat under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food for Progress Program (FFP). The arrival of this second shipment at the Port of Aqaba completes the 100,000 metric tons (MT) of U.S. wheat valued at \$18 million donated by the United States to Jordan in 2017.



(L-R) Governor of Aqaba Fawaz Irshidat, U.S. Embassy Amman Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Dr. Jim Barnhart (USAID Mission Director), Minister of Water and Irrigation Hazim El-Naser, Aqaba Special Economic Zone Chair Nasser Shraideh, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Imad Fakhoury, FAS Attaché Mariano J. Beillard, Ministry of Agriculture Aqaba Director Jamal Oran, and Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply General Secretary Emad Tarawneh at the Port of Aqaba, Jordan on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, during the vessel delivery ceremony for 50,000 MT of U.S.-origin wheat under USDA's Food for Progress Program.

The donated U.S.-origin hard red winter wheat arrived at the Port of Aqaba on August 24 and is being discharged over several days to Jordanian Government-managed silos for eventual use in the production of basic Jordanian food staples.

The Jordanian government will use proceeds from the sale of the commodities to implement water projects aimed at improving water access, which will help stimulate agricultural productivity and economic growth.



(L-R) FAS Attaché Mariano J. Beillard, U.S. Embassy Amman Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Dr. Jim Barnhart (USAID Mission Director), and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Imad Fakhoury at the Port of Aqaba, Jordan on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, during the vessel delivery ceremony for 50,000 MT of U.S.-origin wheat under USDA's Food for Progress program.

This grant assistance, the fourth in five years, is designed to help offset some of the burden of the refugees displaced because of the Syrian civil war. The United States has a longstanding strategic partnership with Jordan. The Syrian civil war has now led to the influx of more than one million refugees as of 2017.

“The United States is proud to offer this wheat grant to Jordan, which will fund the development of new water resources in Jordan and support the strengthening of the agricultural sector,” said Dr. Barnhart.

“The Ministry of Water and Irrigation will use the proceeds of this wheat grant to implement a major water supply project, Sheydeyyeh-Hasa Phase One, to augment the water supply to the Capital City of Amman with an additional 20 million cubic meters per year,” said Dr. El-Naser.

Through the Food for Progress Program, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) has provided four U.S.-origin wheat grants to Jordan in the past five years: a 2011 grant valued at \$14 million, a 2012 grant valued at \$12 million, a 2015 grant valued at \$25 million, and the 2017 grant.

The Food for Progress Program is a cornerstone in USDA's efforts to support sustainable agricultural

production in developing nations and promote agricultural trade. The program helps developing countries and emerging democracies modernize and strengthen their agricultural sectors, and is in addition to the over \$1.6 billion in United States bilateral assistance allocated for Jordan in 2016.



The bulk carrier African Sunbird (IMO 9397884) with U.S.-origin hard red winter wheat at the Port of Aqaba, Jordan on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, during the vessel delivery ceremony under the USDA's Food for Progress Program.