

Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform

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COMMODITY BRIEF NO 7 **Lentils and Chickpea**

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Introduction

This paper presents a brief picture of the main developments related to Chickpeas and Lentils, covering the state of production, trade, and policies at domestic and international levels. Lentils and chickpeas were probably one of the first pulse crops to be domesticated and originated in the fertile crescent of the Near East. They date back to the beginnings of agriculture itself. The earliest carbonized remains (10 000 years old) were unearthed at Tel Mureybit on the banks of the River Euphrates in Northern Syria. Today, India, Canada, Turkey, Australia, Nepal, United States, Bangladesh and China are the world's top producers of lentil.

There are two types of chickpeas:

- 1) **Desi** - 85% of the world's production. Grown mostly in Bangladesh, India & Pakistan.
- 2) **Kabuli** - 15% of the world's production. They are grown mostly in Turkey, Syria, Iran, and Mexico.

1. Area and conditions of planting Lentils and Chickpea

In the tropics and subtropics with summer rainfall, chickpea is grown on residual soil moisture or under irrigation. In the subtropics with winter rainfall, the crop is generally sown during the spring. It usually receives few or no inputs other than labour and seed.

Lentil is grown in the subtropics with winter rainfall, in warm temperate regions, and in the tropics and subtropics with summer rainfall, either during cool dry seasons or at high altitudes.

Lentils mainly planted in Syria in those region (Aleppo, Al-hassakeh, Edlib,and Hama) While chickpea mainly planted in Sweda, Rural Damascus, Hama, and Al Qunaitera.

2. International Production of Chickpea and Lentils

Chickpea

The chickpea originated in West Asia. The crop is grown on small-scale farms as a food and cash crop. The immature pods, shoots and seed may be used as vegetables. In 2005 world production was 9,171,930 Tones from 11 million hectares of which 98% was from developing countries. Yields have remained relatively stable over the past two decades, ranging from 0.7 to 0.8 t/ha we can see the largest chickpea producer is India which produce in 2005 about 6,000,000 Tones (Table 1)

Table 1- World chickpeas productions Metric tones

Chick-Peas Production (Mt)	Year					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
India	5,120	3,855	5,473	4,130	5,770	6,000
Pakistan	565	397	362	675	611	868
Turkey	548	535	650	600	620	610
Iran, Islamic Rep of	242	269	300	310	310	310
Mexico	234	326	235	240	240	240
Myanmar	84	119	212	228	230	230
Australia	162	258	136	178	140	189
Ethiopia	165	176	187	114	136	135
Canada	388	455	157	68	51	98
Syrian Arab Republic	65	60	89	87	45	55
Morocco	15	32	51	43	42	42
Yemen	37	37	36	36	36	36
Malawi	35	35	35	35	35	35
Other Countries	288	339	362	366	358	324
World	7,947	6,894	8,284	7,110	8,625	9,172

Source: FAOSTAT

Lentils: In 2005 world production was 4,031,537 Tones from 4 million hectares. Yields have remained relatively stable over the past period ranging from 0.7 to 1.0 t/ha (table 2). Constraints to production are low, unstable yields and high production costs, which cause many farmers to stop production. The harvest is labour-intensive, and a delayed harvest results in loss of seed yield from pod dehiscence and pod drop.

Table 2- World lentils productions Metric tones

Lentils Production (Mt)	Year					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Canada	914	566	354	520	962	1,188
India	1,079	915	974	880	1,100	1,000
Turkey	353	520	565	540	540	555
United States of America	137	131	114	111	190	231
Australia	163	266	67	207	132	169
Nepal	137	143	148	150	159	161
China	116	120	125	132	150	160
Syrian Arab Republic	73	177	133	168	125	154
Iran, Islamic Rep of	78	104	117	120	125	125
Bangladesh	128	126	115	116	122	122
Ethiopia	59	65	38	36	35	35
Morocco	3	13	42	34	36	35
Pakistan	35	27	26	29	31	26
Russian Federation	3	5	8	12	13	12
Mexico	9	3	9	9	9	9
Other Countries	81	64	72	67	71	51
World	3,369	3,247	2,907	3,131	3,800	4,032

Source: FAOSTAT

3. International Chickpea and lentils trade

The largest Chickpea supplier in all over the world in 2004 was Turkey. It's export's value was \$ 69 million and it accounted about 21 % of all world export values. Mexico and Iran and Australia accounted 67, 47, 46 Million US \$ respectively. The total world exports value of Chickpea in 2004 was \$ 333 Million as shown in table 3.

Table 3- World Export value of Chickpea 2004 (Million \$)

Chick-Peas Exports - Val (million \$)	Export Values	Share
Turkey	69.2	20.8
Mexico	67.6	20.3
Iran, Islamic Rep of	47.1	14.1
Australia	46.5	14.0
Canada	32.3	9.7
Syrian Arab Republic	12.7	3.8
India	7.9	2.4
United States of America	7.6	2.3
Tanzania, United Rep of	7.4	2.2
Pakistan	5.2	1.6
Other Countries	29.7	8.9
World	333.3	100.0

Source: FAOSTAT

While the total Chickpea import value reached 364 in 2004, Spain was the most important imported country. The total import values about \$ 54 million in 2004 with share about 15 % from total import values followed by India and Algeria with total import values \$51 and % 39 respectively. First ten countries account 70 % of total world import values (table 4)

Table 4- World Import values of Chickpea 2004 (Million \$)

Chick-Peas Import - Val (million \$)	Import Values	Share
Spain	53.9	14.8
India	51.2	14.1
Algeria	38.5	10.6
Bangladesh	31.3	8.6
Pakistan	23.8	6.5
Italy	18.7	5.1
UK	11.5	3.2
Jordan	10.8	3
UAE	9.6	2.6
USA	9.4	2.6
Other Countries	105.3	28.9
World	364	100

Source: FAOSTAT

The total world export values of Lentils in 2004 were about \$ 497 Million. Canadian Lentils export values reached \$ 159 million in 2004 that account 32 % of world export values followed by Turkey, India Australia with \$ 85, 66, 59 million respectively. See table 5

Table 5- World Export value of Lentils 2004 (million \$)

Lentils Exports - Val (Million\$)	Export values	Share
Canada	158.6	31.9
Turkey	85.4	17.2
India	65.7	13.2
Australia	59.2	11.9
United States of America	45.3	9.1
Syrian Arab Republic	27.9	5.6
China	10.1	2.0
United Arab Emirates	9.8	2.0
Nepal	7.0	1.4
Belgium	5.3	1.1
Other Countries	23	4.6
World	497.3	100

Source: FAOSTAT

Total lentils imports values were \$ 507 Million in 2004. First ten imported countries account about 51 % from total world import. Bangladesh was the first imported country it accounts \$60 million with 11 % from total world lentils imports followed by Egypt and Sri Lanka \$44 and \$ 31 million respectively (table 6)

Table 6- World import value of Lentils 2004 (million \$)

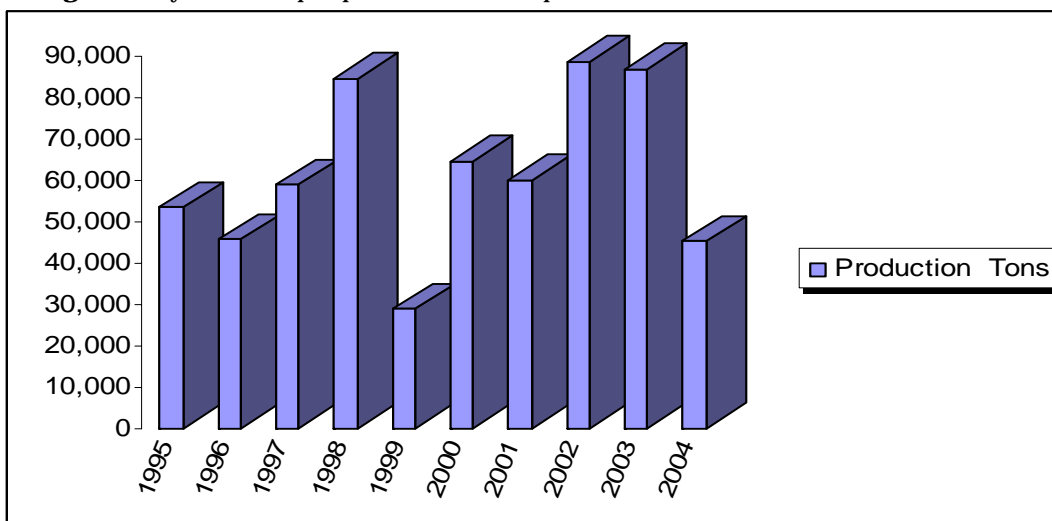
Lentils imports - Val (Million\$)	Import values	Share
Bangladesh	54.9	10.8
Egypt	43.9	8.7
Sri Lanka	30.7	6.0
Colombia	25.9	5.1
Spain	22.8	4.5
Algeria	21.0	4.1
Sudan	17.9	3.5
Germany	14.6	2.9
Italy	14.4	2.8
Pakistan	13.9	2.7
Other Countries	246.7	48.7
World	506.7	100.0

Source: FAOSTAT

4. Syrian Production of Chickpea and Lentils

Lentils is cultivated in Syria in (Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Idleb, Hama) those four region is accounted about 99% of Syrian Lentils production While Chickpea is mainly cultivated in Aleppo, Dara'a and Idleb. Production of those areas is accounted about 70% of Syria chickpea production. Chickpea production has significant increasing last few years but it has shapely decreased in 2004. The total production of chickpea in 2004 was 45,000 tons from plant 76,000 hectares also the yield was low relatively to previous years. Comparing to 2003 the total productions was 87,000 tons it was from plant 100,000 hectares (see Figure 1).

Figure 1- Syrian Chickpea production development (Tons)



Source: NAPC database

We can notes from the table below that yield of Syrian Lentils is stabile more or less and it's range from 0.9 to 1.3 tons/ha . In addition, production almost stabile but it decrease in last year (2004) it was 125,300 tons and that's from plant 137,419 hectares.

Table6- Syrian lentils production, area, and yield

Lentil	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Area (ha)	122,774	139,091	121,156	138,847	137,419
Yield (calculated) (tons/ha)	0.6	1.28	1.1	1.21	0.91
Production (tons)	73,018	177,467	132,805	168,437	125,300

Source: NAPC Database

5. Syrian trade of Lentils and Chickpeas

The high quality of Syrian lentils is recognized in foreign markets, where they are usually sold at a premium price. Comparing to 1993-95, the average annual exported lentil volume, in 2002-2004, declined sharply by 44% reaching 59.8 thousand tons corresponding to US\$ 26.5 million (42% less than 93-95 average value), with an average unit value of 442.5 US\$/ton. In 2004, lentils exported quantities reached unprecedented level with 71.5 thousand tons corresponding to US\$ 28.2 million, implying an annual increase of 44.3% and 28.4% in quantity and value, with respect to 2000. The main destination countries in recent years have been Egypt (42% in 2003 and 52% 2004), S. Arabia, Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon. In the last two years, Iraq lost its position as a main partner (**Table8**).

Table 8 - Syrian Lentils Export values and main destinations

Years	Exports		Unit value US\$/Ton	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US\$		
Av 95-97	106,808	45.7	427.5	Turkey 28.7, India 20.6, Iraq 9.4, Egypt 7.5
Av 02-04	59,785	26.5	442.5	Egypt 33.5, Iraq 20.3, S. Arabia 16.9, Jordan 8.6
2000	16,457	10.4	629.9	Turkey 53.2, S. Arabia 26.2, Jordan 9.1, Lebanon 7.1
2001	30,904	18.5	599.8	Other Countries** 57.2, S. Arabia 18.0, Jordan 11.7
2002	38,168	22.4	585.6	Iraq 65.7, S. Arabia 12.8, Jordan 8.6, Other Countries* 5.2
2003	69,728	28.8	413.1	Egypt 40.3, S. Arabia 15.9, Bangladesh 13.5, Turkey 9.9
2004	71,459	28.2	394.8	Egypt 52.8, S. Arabia 21.1, Jordan 8.2, Turkey 4.5

Source: General Department of Customs

*Including lentils for seed

** As mentioned in GDC database

Chickpea is another traditional Syrian export, mainly cultivated on rainfed land. Indeed chickpea production and export was affected by the draught of 1999 and 2000. Chickpea annual export increased sharply from 4.5 thousand tons valued at US\$ 4.2 million, in 1995-1997, to 12.7 thousand tons in 2002-2004 valued at US\$ 6.5 million. Between the two periods, the average unit export value registered a significant decline reaching 511.9 US\$/ton. In 2004, chickpeas exports reached unprecedented level with 29.5 thousand tons, corresponding to US\$ 12.8 million, implying a very significant increase of 40.6% in quantity and 21.0% in value, in comparison to 2000. The main destination countries in 2004 were Jordan (more than the half), Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq (see Table 8)

Table 8 – Syrian Chickpeas Export values and main destinations

Years	Exports		Unit value US\$/Ton	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US\$		
Av 95-97	4,467	4.2	930.0	Lebanon 44.4, S. Arabia 21.0, Jordan 13.6, UAE 6.8
Av 02-04	12,745	6.5	511.9	Jordan 59.5, Egypt 11.0, Lebanon 6.7, S. Arabia 5.8
2000	7,533	6.0	795.3	Jordan 66.1, S. Arabia 21.6, Lebanon 8.4, Kuwait 1.8
2001	1,067	0.7	702.1	S. Arabia 52.1, Jordan 41.2, UAE 5.9
2002	460	0.4	907.9	Jordan 57.2, Lebanon 16.4, Italy 11.4, UAE 7.0
2003	8,316	6.3	760.3	Jordan 77.3, Egypt 6.8, S. Arabia 6.1, Lebanon 4.3
2004	29,459	12.8	435.6	Jordan 50.8, Egypt 13.5, Lebanon 7.6, Tunisia 5.9

Source: General Department of Customs

6. Syrian Trade Policies of Lentils and Chickpea

The Government concentrates its intervention on some “strategic” crops (wheat, cotton, barley, sugar, lentils, tobacco, and chickpeas), while the equilibrium of other agricultural markets is essentially determined by the interaction of supply and demand. In addition to

the intervention of market and prices, the Government intervenes in the agricultural sector through physical planning of areas to be planted under strategic crops.

Marketing of these two products is left to market forces. The farmers can sell their product either to the private sector or to the GECPT. Farmers normally prefer to sell to the private sector since they receive a higher price. Before the season 2005/2006, official public procurement prices have not been increased with the aim of encouraging private sector participation in domestic and foreign trade. In this season, administrated prices have increased significantly for these two products (As shown in the previous table) from 16 Sp/kg for red lentils and 17 Sp/kg for white lentils to 23 Sp/kg for both, and from 17.80 to 25 Sp/kg for chickpeas. This increase came as a respond to the dramatic increase of their prices domestically and internationally, since administrated prices are considered far away of domestic consumer prices which reached about double for lentils and more than that for chickpeas.

Table5- Buying price of strategic crops, 2003/04

Crops	buying price SP/kg
lentil	23.00
Chickpeas	25.00

Source: Ministry of Economy and Trade (MET)

Conclusion

Lentils and Chickpea characterized by native origin in our region thus the government concerned on plant those crops, which are very important for both farmer and government. Those crops play very important role in serve soil. Recently international trade of Lentils and chickpea increases. Also those crops are characterized by stability of productivity last few years. Since Lentils and Chickpea are good cash crops we can increase the total planted area in rainfed and margin area. Through this technique we can expand the exported amount of Lentils and chickpea especially to usual destination for our exports such as Egypt, Jordan, S. Arabia, and Lebanon and expand our destinations to other Arab countries and other world.

Resources

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