

Japan to import 20,000 tonnes of Kandahari pomegranates

Bashir Ahmed Nadem - Jun 9, 2008 - 17:05

KANDAHAR CITY (PAN): Officials of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce in the southern Kandahar province say they will export up to 20,000 tonnes of pomegranates to Japan this year.

The birthplace of the Taliban movement, Kandahar is Afghanistan's top fruit-producer, with great demand for its pomegranates in the domestic market and abroad.

Provincial Chamber of Commerce head Razaq Rafiqi said a delegation of the chamber recently held fruitful talks with two Japanese companies on pomegranate exports.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was also signed with the Japanese companies some two weeks back. Rafiqi pointed out other MoUs on grape exports had already been inked with Saudi Arabian and the United Arab Emirates.

The two countries have been regular buyers of Kandahar grapes in recent years, according to Rafiqi, who deplored that the central government was not doing enough to help fruit farmers in the province.

Officials say fresh and dry fruits worth \$35 million were exported last year from the Kandahar province alone, where growers are expected to see a considerable boost in fruit production in 2008.

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