

Saudi Arabia adds four crops to export ban list

The newspaper Al-Eqtisaadiah reported last Saturday that Saudi Arabia will ban the export of four new crops by November. The Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture announced that corn, olives, grapes and pumpkins will be added to the list of crops banned for export. Exports of watermelons, peaches, potatoes, onions and tomatoes were banned earlier.

The Ministry took the decision in an effort to save water used for irrigation. Crops already grown will have to be sold in local markets, restricting the need to produce surplus amounts for export. The Ministry has previously put in place a strategy to reduce water consumption in the agriculture sector.

According to albawaba.com, farmers who grow crops in an area exceeding 100 hectares have been warned that their farms will be shut down. The Ministry promised to compensate farmers for their losses from SR4,000 to a maximum of SR200,000 (€870 – 43,500). Gradually, the farmers will have to move into growing crops in greenhouses and conservatories and adopt new methods of irrigation to conserve water.

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