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"Dubai Farmsâ?? programme launched to support Emirati farmers

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H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, and Chairman of the Higher Committee for Development and Citizens Affairs, has launched the â??Dubai Farmsâ? programme, offering a host of services and incentives aimed at supporting Emirati farmers who own productive agricultural projects.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed stressed the vital importance of local agriculture in Dubai, and the need to develop and sustain it to reflect His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoumâ??s visions and **objectives of the Dubai Social Agenda 33** to focus on building the capacity of strategic sectors and **to contribution to the emirateâ??s economy,**.

â??Today we launched the â??Dubai Farmsâ?? programme to support productive Emirati farmers, by offering them a full suite of incentives and services that support the development of the emirateâ??s agriculture sector and enhance the sustainability of crops, all leading to enhanced contribution to the emirateâ??s GDP. We will continue our efforts to make Dubaiâ??s agriculture more productive and sustainable,â?• Sheikh Hamdan said.

â??People are the focus of Dubaiâ??s future vision, while sustainability, leadership and competitiveness are its key pillars. Our strategic priorities include supporting Emirati farmers and promoting the culture of local agriculture, which helps solidify Dubaiâ??s food security systems and ensure a sustainable future in which the next generations are self-sufficient. We have issued directives to establish a farmersâ?? association that brings together amateurs and professionals alike, to ensure continuity of jobs in agriculture. Agriculture is key to Dubaiâ??s sustainable future, and it is our responsibility to ensure our citizens and the next generations enjoy the best life has to offer,â?• he concluded.

Comprehensive package of services and incentives to Emirati farmers

Dawoud Al Hajri, Director-General of Dubai Municipality, said the â??Dubai Farmsâ?? programme, to be implemented by Dubai Municipality, aims to offer farmers a comprehensive package of services and incentives, including workshops, regular lab testing, partnerships, social support and other incentives that help their farms continue operating and become highly productive, all in support of Dubaiâ??s Food Security Strategy. The programmeâ??s objectives are strategic priorities to build sustainable food systems and enhance the sustainability of food sources, which ultimately raises Dubaiâ??s prosperity and quality of life.

A comprehensive programme aimed at supporting Emirati farmers and promoting local farming, â??Dubai Farmsâ?? offers, through Dubai Municipality, farming consultation services, subsidised farming supplies, required lab testing, pest control services as well directing farmers to meet local market needs, and contracting with a specialised distributor of crops.

The programme will also launch several events including the â??Best Home Gardenâ?• competition, the Gulfood Agrotech exhibition, as well as the â??Local Dates Weekâ?• which will be organised next July to celebrate the popular fruit. During the recently held Gulfood exhibition, Dubai Municipality signed a cooperation agreement with GMG to market and sell farmersâ?? products. GMG will collect, package and market the crops across local outlets.

Other incentives offered include offering competitive prices for farming supplies, machinery and irrigation systems. The â??Dubai Farmsâ?• programme will also see the organisation of the â??Plant Your Foodâ?• initiative, which aims to encourage house gardening, the Hatta Farming Festival and other seasonal farmers market events.

In addition to launching the farmersâ?? association, the Smart Farming Platform, which supports Dubai Municipalityâ??s digital transformation efforts, will help provide technical details, improve efficiency and raise awareness among farmers.