

## Bahrain to offer new lands for agriculture

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More plots of land will soon be allocated for agricultural investment as Bahrain seeks to bolster food security. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister directed the Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry to offer new lands for agriculture and make them available soon through the government land investment platform.

He said the move is part of efforts to ensure sustainable food security and achieve the goals of the comprehensive development march, led by King Hamad. The Deputy Premier affirmed the keenness of the government, led by Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to boost partnerships with the private sector to invigorate investments and increase local agricultural production. He issued the directive during a visit to the Farmersâ?? Market at Budaiya Botanical Garden.

The Deputy Premier was received by Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister Wael Al Mubarak, National Initiative for Agricultural Development secretary-general Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa and senior officials. Shaikh Khalid praised the 10th edition of the market this year, stressing its success in highlighting local produce and supporting Bahraini farmers.

Thirty-one farmers, four agricultural companies, five plant nurseries, four apiaries, four companies specialised in dates and 20 productive families are taking part in the event. It has been organised by the Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry, in collaboration with the NIAD. A total of 10,461 visitors flocked to the venue on the first day of the event, which also includes a dedicated children's corner, where Saeed (Arabic for happy), the ministry's children's mascot, will keep younger members of the family entertained. The Deputy Premier noted the role of the market as a weekly meeting place for Bahraini families.

He met the participating farmers and representatives of agricultural companies, commending their keenness to preserve agricultural work as a characteristic feature of Bahraini identity. He pledged government support for Bahraini farmers to help them overcome challenges. Al Mubarak expressed thanks and gratitude to Shaikh Khalid for the visit and praised the government's backing for the agricultural sector. He announced that the market will continue to be held in the evenings during the Holy Month of Ramadan. He also said that the market area would be expanded to accommodate more participants next year.