

Egyptian professionals to visit CIBUS TEC

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As the agro-industry sector keeps growing in Egypt, a large delegation of Egyptian operators will attend the CIBUS TEC exhibition in Parma from October 27 to 30.

As part of the 2009 promotional program, the Italian Trade Commission (ICE) office in Cairo organized a mission of 10 Egyptian professionals to the next edition of CIBUS TEC exhibition, while five more professionals are on the waiting list.

The interest for the event is the result of the continued expansion of food production and agro-industry in Egypt.

Specialized in the production of "commodities" such as rice and cotton until a few years ago, Egypt has recently become a major producer and exporter of citrus fruits and vegetables, thus establishing a processing industry that plans significant investments on account of new needs and increasing awareness of the hygiene and quality standards of domestic market (80 million inhabitants).

The planned projects include three tomato processing plants, two for the expansion of tropical fruit juices industries (Egypt is a major producer of mango and lime) as well as new dairies.

Modernization plans are expected for breeding farms and poultry slaughter and processing industry, after the massive wave of bird flu in 2006 caused the closure of all poultry and birds open-air markets in large urban centers as well as of many processing plants and slaughterhouses.

For 10 years the business turnover of big supermarket chains in the food business has been growing as well, reaching about \$ 5 billion a year (estimates by "Business Monitor International Food Report"), due to the entry of international chains such as Carrefour and Spinneys and the expansion of the Egyptian chain Metro, which has now 42 retail outlets throughout the country.

These data have prompted the Ministers for Agriculture of Italy and Egypt Mr. Luca Zaia and Mr. Amin Abaza, during their latest meeting in Egypt on October 1, to create a working group to study forms of industrial collaboration and enhance trade of agricultural products between the two Countries.

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