



Afghanistan's Economic Development

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Each week, significant economic activities and developments occur across various sectors in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan's Economic Development Newsletter covers these important and latest economic activities and advancements.



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2. 30 standards were approved during the third meeting of the Council for Standards
3. A hydroelectric dam is being constructed in Panjshir

AFGHANISTAN EXPORTED NEARLY 33,000 TONS OF FIGS IN THE YEAR 1403 SH



Figs are one of Afghanistan's agricultural products, with thousands of tons exported to foreign countries every year.

According to officials from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, a total of 32,814 tons of figs—valued at 165 million USD—were exported to various countries in the year 1403 SH. These figs were exported to India,

Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Oman, Qatar, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the Netherlands.

Official figures show that fig exports in 1403 SH increased by 28 million USD compared to 1402 SH.

Afghanistan is an agricultural country, and agriculture forms the backbone of its economy. As a result, a large quantity

of dried and fresh fruits is produced in Afghanistan and exported to neighboring and distant countries.

Kandahar, Herat, Balkh, and Jawzjan are the provinces that produce high-quality figs and supply them to the market. Afghanistan's climate and soil are well-suited for fig cultivation.

However, banking sanctions imposed by some countries and restrictions in visa issuance have been major obstacles hindering Afghanistan's ability to expand its exports globally. If these two challenges are resolved, Afghanistan could significantly strengthen and expand its presence in international markets, which would greatly benefit its agricultural sector.

Exporters of dried fruits have stated that if external barriers to their exports are lifted, the volume of dried and fresh fruit exports—including figs—would increase, and Afghan products would become more competitive in global markets.

30 STANDARDS APPROVED DURING THE THIRD MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR STANDARDS

Under the leadership of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, the third regular meeting of the Council for Standards was held on April 12, 2025. In this meeting, 30 standards across various sectors were approved.

During his speech, the Deputy PM emphasized that the council meetings focus on improving and ensuring the quality of Afghan products by approving standardized measures. These standards grant international credibility

to local products and play a crucial role in increasing exports.

The Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA) also presented its annual report at the meeting. Officials stated that in order to promote standard production, hundreds of standards have been introduced to relevant factories, companies, and institutions across various sectors. Furthermore, the authority has conducted inspections of numerous manufacturing facilities.

In this third meeting of the Council for Standards, 30 standards were proposed for approval in the sectors of food and agricultural products, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, construction materials, electronics and telecommunications, textiles and leather, environmental protection, medical devices, mining, and animal slaughtering. After comprehensive discussions, all proposed standards were approved. Additionally, dozens of testing procedures were submitted by ANSA and subsequently approved by the council.

Mullah Faizullah Tameem, Head of

ANSA, also attended the meeting and remarked that standards help increase public trust in domestic products.

Standards are essential for the production of quality goods and for ensuring the reliability of exports. When properly implemented, standards can prevent the production of low-quality items domestically and stop the import of substandard goods into the country.

The implementation of standards protects a country's economic interests, boosts trade, increases public trust in the government, and ensures

the delivery of quality services to the people.

Prior to this, the Council for Standards had convened two meetings in which

dozens of standards were approved to promote standardized production, exports, and imports.



A HYDROELECTRIC DAM IS BEING CONSTRUCTED IN PANJSHIR

Panjshir is one of Afghanistan's provinces rich in water resources. The province possesses sufficient potential for hydroelectric power generation, which can resolve local electricity shortages and help expand industrial activities in the region. A foreign international company has announced plans to construct a hydroelectric dam in Panjshir. According to local authorities of the Emirate in Panjshir, the dam will be built in Parian District, where the technical survey for the project is currently underway.

The dam is expected to cost 20 million USD and will generate 10 megawatts of electricity. Once operational, it will solve electricity

problems for 10,000 households. In addition to the Parian District project, another dam is also planned for Shotul District, where the initial survey has already been completed. This dam will generate

approximately 5 megawatts of electricity upon completion.

The Islamic Emirate has expressed its commitment to the responsible use of the country's water resources and is working to manage water sources that were previously neglected in an effective and sustainable manner.

