

## **QDB launches Home Farming Program in time for AgriteQ 2018**

*Returning as development sponsor for AgriteQ, QDB announces new Home Farming Program initiative to encourage agribusiness.*

**Doha, Qatar – March 2018.** Qatar Development Bank (QDB) today announced the launch of its new Home Farming Program, alongside its participation in the 6th Qatar International Agricultural Exhibition (AgriteQ), as part of its ongoing efforts to spread agricultural innovation among Qatari farmers and enhance food security in the region through the funding of fisheries, livestock, and other agricultural sectors.

The Home Farming Program will work to provide agribusiness entrepreneurs with the tools, network, and capital to achieve food security and self-sustainability, and to reduce food imports. Training workshops, advisory services, and funding are key aspects of the initiative. The program especially targets entrepreneurs who can invest in greenhouses, and build a business, as well as the stay at home women who would like to start developing home farms.

QDB returns to AgriteQ as development sponsor for its sixth edition from March 20 to 22 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC). The event's objectives are in line with the bank's mission to support small and medium sized enterprises across agriculture, aiming to highlight innovation in agricultural techniques, and pinpoint the road map to achieve food security and sustainable development. It is an ideal opportunity for industry specialists to explore a wide range of agricultural technologies, equipment and related products, while meeting key decision-makers, gaining valuable insights, and discovering current best practices.

Mr. Abdulaziz bin Nasser Al Khalifa, CEO of Qatar Development Bank, said: "Our objective with the new program is to partner with existing and aspiring home farming entrepreneurs to help them become better equipped to build SMEs and home businesses, generating an increase in local agriculture, and improving Qatar's domestic food production. From workshops, training programs, and networking events to funding and providing market insights, QDB promises to be with you all the way while you develop your idea into a successful business."

The Home Farming Program will be officially launched at the AgriteQ 2018 event, focused on partnering with farmers to help create a sustainable business, from seed to shelf, around the farming of potatoes, mint, cucumbers, beans, watercress, eggplant, lettuce, coriander, green onions, chilli, chilli, and parsley.

Applicants will benefit from the QDB investment team's training, insights, and technical support, following which successful entrepreneurs will be provided with a maximum of QAR 70.000 for greenhouse construction, irrigation equipment and tools, water desalination units for agriculture, and other new technologies to improve agricultural production. Financial conditions are a profit ratio of 1%, with a maximum financing period of up to 4 years, and a grace period of up to 6 months.

As per the bank's commitment to ensuring your success, further advisory and training services will continue to be provided, including access to community events, industry insights, and additional support as needed.

This support to the local agricultural sector aims to achieve Qatar's food security objectives in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, and directly contribute to increasing the capacity of local farmers and supporting crops in the coming seasons.

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