

Kandahar dry fruit export mounts to \$21 million

Bashir Ahmad Nadem - Jul 10, 2008 - 18:05

KANDAHAR CITY (PAN): officials of Kandahar Chamber of Commerce say in last six months dry fruit value \$21 million have been exported from southern Kandahar province.

Abdul Raziq Rafiqi, head of Kandahar Chamber of Commerce told Pajhwok Afghan News on Thursday in an exclusive interview that the export of dry fruit was about 2400 tons which is far more compared with previous years.

He said almond, risen, dried apricots, pistachio and others were among the exported dry fruit.

Rafiqi added the fruit were exported through chamber of commerce to Pakistan, India, Norway, Brazil UAE, Russia and Ukraine.

He said 13500 tons dry fruit has been exported to Russia and Ukraine in last six months through Mazar-i-Sharif.

Rafiqi said US provided machinery to traders for removing cover from almonds but added the machinery was now out of order and presently over 2000 male and female workers clean the almond.

However Rafiqi said that the traders are facing a heavy tax which is a big problem with the finance ministry.

He said several exported items were exempted from tax except pistachio, and Qaraqul until the regime of Dr. Najib.

Rafiqi added he several times discussed the issue with officials and they have agreed to lift taxes on exported goods, but had not been practically implemented.

Rafiqi said the fresh fruit export will also increase this year particularly pomegranates and grapes.

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