

Afghan Saffron rated best in the world for third consecutive year

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The Afghan Saffron has been rated as best Saffron in the World for third consecutive year by international institute based in Brussels, it has been reported.

The rating by International Taste and Quality Institute was given after collecting around 300 Saffron samples from around the world.

Founded in 2003, the International Taste and Quality Institute has been testing and recognizing different food products globally.

Afghan Saffron costs around \$2,000 per kg and is exported to Europe, United States, and Gulf countries, carrying the ISO Certification mark.

Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock informed regarding an increase of 17 percent in the outcome of Saffron cultivation in the country.

4,000 kilograms of Saffron was produced in Afghanistan last year but the figure jumped to 4,675 kgs this year with majority of this being produced in western Herat province.

The Ministry said earlier this year "This shows about 17 percent increase in the production of Saffron."

Distribution of Saffron crocus bulbs, equipment and training 335 students on how to plant and collect Saffron, and as well the expert advisory have been identified as the main reasons for the increase, the ministry said.