
استثمر في عُمان
Invest OMAN
وزارة التجارة والصناعة وترويج الاستثمار
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion
وزارة الثروة الزراعية والسمكية وموارد المياه
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources
Al-Najd Agricultural Zone
Your Investment Opportunity
Dhofar Governorate - Sultanate of Oman

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Invest Oman Lounge
Your business start-up journey starts here

"We look forward to seeing our country a destination for pioneering investments, notably in spheres that consolidate our approach to expand the volume of the national economy and diversify the sources of income."

The royal speech of His Majesty
Sultan Haitham bin Tariq – "may Allah protect him"
2022 ,11 January





His Excellency
Dr. Saud bin Hamoud Al Habsi
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources

The Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources seeks to support investment opportunities for the private sector and to establish partnerships that contribute to the agricultural development of the Sultanate of Oman. The issuance of the Al Najd Agricultural Zone Guide aims to establish strategic partnerships with the private sector through major projects, infrastructure and quality-based initiatives, and the development of livestock breeding. I am pleased to present this publication as a valuable addition to the continuous efforts of the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources in the Sultanate of Oman, which strives to achieve food security and enhance agricultural sustainability in line with Oman Vision 2040. This guide represents a qualitative step in highlighting the promising investment opportunities in the Al Najd Agricultural Zone in Dhofar Governorate, which is one of the most strategic regions for food security activities in the Sultanate of Oman. It reflects the Ministry's commitment to strengthening the investment environment in food security activities by providing all the information and resources that investors may need. The guide also highlights the unique advantages of the Al Najd region, including fertile land, availability of water resources, advanced infrastructure, and its proximity to land, sea, and air border crossings — making it a leading model for sustainable agricultural development. At the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources, we are working to provide an attractive investment environment in the agricultural sector, supporting farmers and investors through incentives, simplified procedures, and the application of the latest agricultural technologies that enhance productivity and promote environmental sustainability. This guide comes as a comprehensive reference for guidance and orientation, enabling investors to make the most of the available resources. In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all stakeholders and investors in the Al Najd Agricultural Zone, with our strong belief that the private sector is the permanent and most important strategic partner in playing a crucial role in enhancing Oman's position as a leading investment destination in the agricultural sector. I wish them continued success and prosperity.

Purpose of the Guide

Defining the progress of mechanisms agricultural projects and accompanying them.

Providing distinct and attractive business environments for investors, farmers and consumers.

Identifying incentives, for local and foreign investors.

Al-Najd Agricultural Zone



Oman is an ambitious and welcoming nation

Oman offers a quality of life unparalleled by any other country in the region, providing a true community with world-class amenities for businesses and people. Our cost of living is lower than many of our regional competitors and a combination of market access and economic diversity provides the resources any company needs to flourish.

Oman's unique character can be attributed to its people, location, infrastructure, collaborative business community, government support and an unprecedented array of cultural and sporting activities.

Al-Najd Agricultural Zone



Robust Evolving Economy

Oman has a fast-diversifying economy with local-to-global growth prospects
Oman has been classified as an attractive investment environment as “BBB-” with Stable Outlook .
Ranked 4th most attractive country for foreign direct investment in 2023 in the FDI Standouts Watchlist
IMF predicts Oman to have the highest economic growth rate in the Arab World in 2025.

Business Friendly

Low on bureaucracy and tax, big on ambition and enterprise.
%100 foreign ownership
No restrictions on profit repatriation, currency exchange, dividend transfers
Quick, hassle-free business set-up
Set up online from anywhere in the world
Legal transparency
No personal income tax
Signatory to WTO, GCC common market, GAFTA
25-year track record of success in public-private partnership

Free Trade Agreements

Oman’s FTAs give businesses access to over 780 million consumers
Our FTAs are a cornerstone of our economic progress.

- USA
- European Free Trade Association countries (EFTA)
- Singapore
- South Korea

Cost of Doing Business

The World Bank ranks Oman as one of the most cost-effective countries in the Middle East for doing business in terms of labour, utilities, facilities, transportation, financing costs and taxes.

15%
corporate tax

5%
VAT

Regionally competitive utilities, wage and business costs

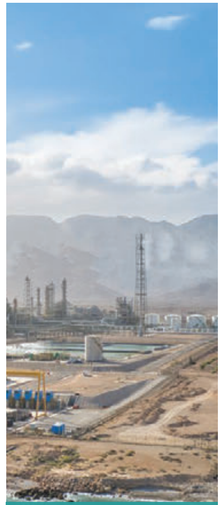
Highly attractive business rates

Oman Vision 2040

Oman's ambitious economy is guided by Oman Vision 2040, an innovative strategy that prioritizes a diversified, dynamic and globalized economy with advanced human resource development, an efficient and competitive private sector and growth powered by non-hydrocarbons.



People & Society



Economy and Development



Governance & Institutional Performance



Environmental Sustainability

Four Main Pillars

People & Society

Enhancing family and community health and well-being
Upholding Oman's identity and heritage
Developing the national technical and entrepreneurial capabilities

Economic Development

Creating wealth through economic diversification and private sector partnership
Ensuring balanced governorate development
Preserving environmental sustainability
Building world-class infrastructure and liveable cities

Governance & Institutional Performance

Improving governance effectiveness and the rule of law.

Environmental Sustainability

Sustainability of Natural Resources
Green and Circular Economy
Food and Water Security.

Agriculture in Oman

Al-Najd Agricultural Zone



Agriculture in Oman

The sector contributed US$1.4 billion to GDP in 2023. Oman currently ranks fourth in the MENA region.

A strategic location at the crossroads of trade routes, competitive operating costs and numerous free trade agreements along with world-class infrastructure and logistics capabilities have made Oman a popular hub for the sorting, packaging and distribution of food products to the GCC, Asian and African markets and beyond.

Central to the success of the sector has been an eco-system of government incentives and initiatives including the training and up-skilling of workers in the sector as well as the streamlining of procedures, processes and regulations.



Important Laws and Regulations for Investment in Food Security

01 Land Law issued by Royal Decree 5/80

02 The usufruct law issued by Royal Decree 5/81 regulating the use of the lands of the Sultanate of Oman (amended) and its executive regulations.

03 Protection of Water Wealth Law issued by Royal Decree 29/2000

04 Management of Pastures and Livestock Law issued by Royal Decree 8/2003

05 Veterinary Quarantine Law issued by Royal Decree 45/2004.

06 Agricultural Quarantine Law issued by Royal Decree 47/2004.

07 Executive Regulations of Pastures and Management of Livestock Law 12/2005

08 System of Agriculture issued by Royal Decree 48/2006 and its amendments

09 Executive Regulations of Veterinary Quarantine Law issued by Ministerial Decision 107/2008

10 Regulation of Wells and Aflaj issued by Ministerial Decree 3/2009

11 Seeds and Nurseries Law issued by Royal Decree 42/2009

12 Veterinary Medicines Law issued by Royal Decree 34/2017

13 The law prohibiting the ownership of land and real estate by non-Omanis in some places issued by Royal Decree 29/2018

14 Foreign Capital Investment Law issued by Royal Decree 50/2019

Al-Najd Agricultural Zone



Introduction

Aligned with Oman Vision 2040 goals to enhance food security and make the most of its natural advantages and resources, Al Najd Project aims to transform agricultural production in Oman with sustainability at the heart of all its operations and activities. A strong ecosystem of support – cluster zones, processing and packaging plants on industrial estates and free zones, technical support, R&D collaborations, warehousing and more – means farmers are able to maximise the value of their produce and connect to domestic and international markets with ease through the region's exceptional connectivity, transport and logistics network. The region offers a fully integrated ecosystem that includes agricultural cluster zones, processing and canning factories within industrial and free zones, as well as technical support, collaboration in research and development, storage facilities, and various other support services. This integrated system allows farmers to maximize the benefits of their products and facilitates access to local and international markets through a robust network of communication, transportation, and logistics services within the region.

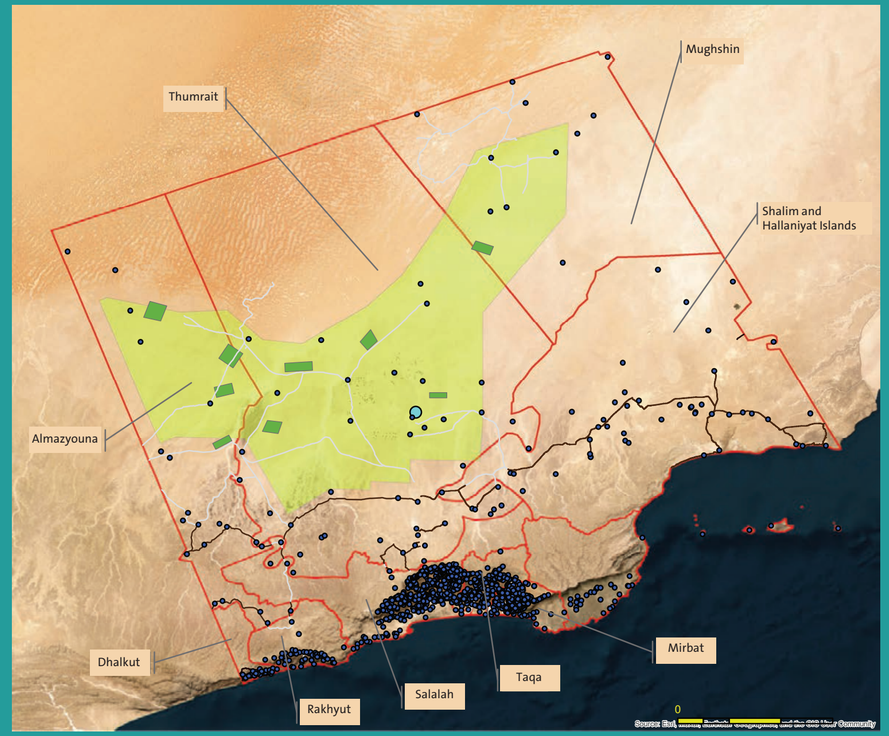
The social impact of the agricultural hub is clear and tangible, as it provides quality job opportunities and creates promising prospects for small and medium-sized enterprises along the value chain. It also delivers a wide range of social and economic benefits to the broader community. Currently, most cultivated land is concentrated within a geographic area that includes the Hanfit triangle - Shisr - Hila Al Rakah and extends to include Doka, Qatbit, Bin Khutar, Marmul, Mudayy, Al Mazyoona, and Baithna.



Al-Najd Agricultural Zone



Al-Najd Agricultural Zone



Scopes of the Zone

642,495,000 m²
Agricultural and Livestock

2,248,603 m²
Logistics

28,062,000 m²
Industrial

Investment areas:

01 Live Stock
02 Open Fields and Greenhouses
03 Agri-food processing Industries
04 Aquaculture projects
05 Frankincense
06 Production Inputs Complex
07 Other Projects

An Environment for Growth

Al-Najd Agricultural Zone



Climate

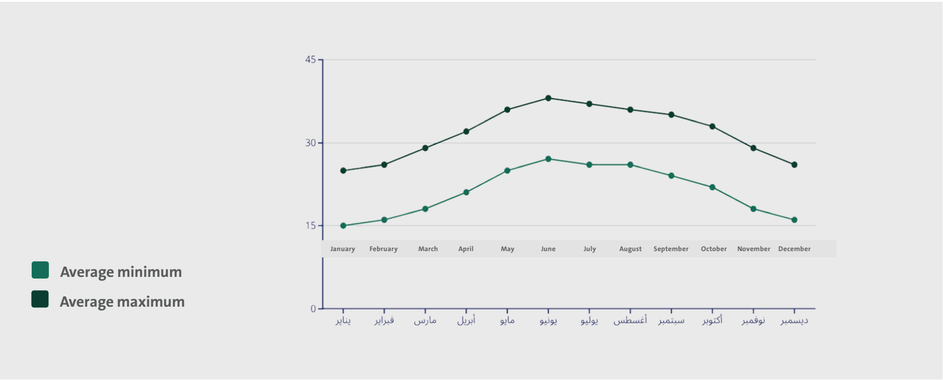
Al Najd zone enjoys moderate temperatures, making it possible to cultivate a variety of crops.

Moderate temperatures throughout the year

Scattered Rain

Diverse terrain

Average temperature



Water

Al-Najd Zone strives to achieve a balance between agricultural development and the preservation of precious water resources. This approach not only ensures the sustainability of agriculture in the region but also contributes to enhancing water and food security at the national level. These practices can also be considered a model for other areas facing similar challenges in water resource management.

Water sources in the Al Najd Zone

Main source: Groundwater aquifers

Replenished by:

Rainfall
Surface water runoff from valleys (wadis)

Water extraction methods:

Wells

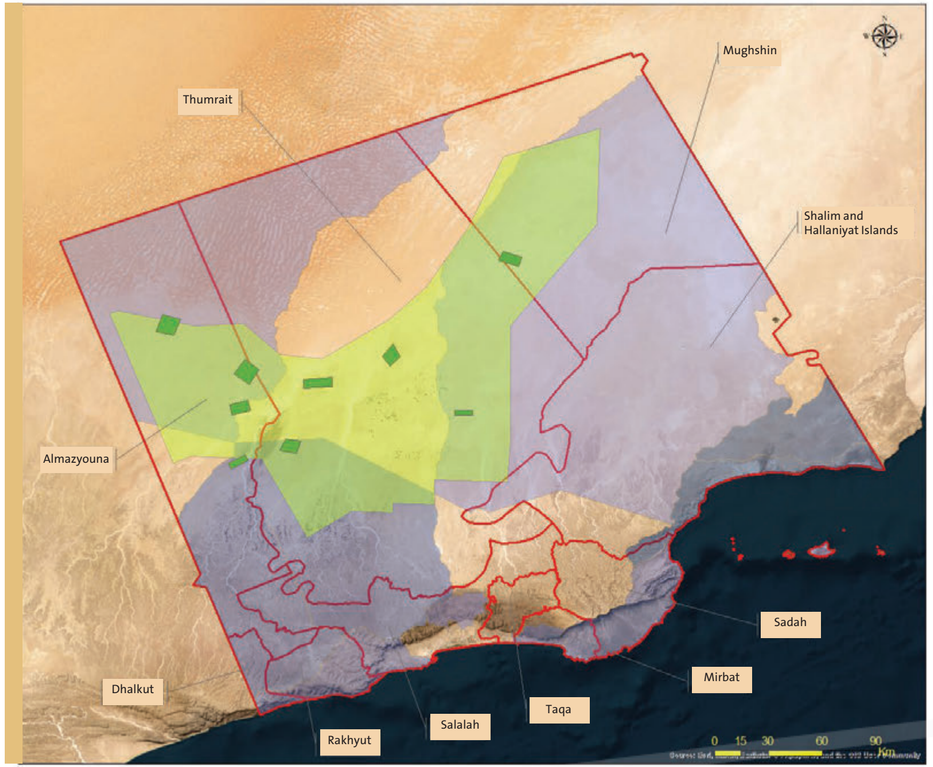
Water Quality and Management

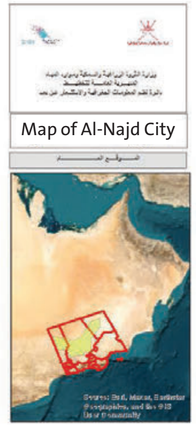
1. **Quality:** Groundwater in Al Najd is generally of good quality

2. **Ensuring sustainability:** Long-term water availability is secured through:

Government regulation
Sustainable management practices, **such as:**
Drip irrigation
Sprinkler irrigation
Any other technique contoibute in reducing Consumption

Al-Najd Agricultural Zone





Department of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing

Soil

The region’s soil supports a range of crops while sustainable soil management practices – such as crop rotation, organic fertilization and the use of soil conditioners - improve fertility.

These distinctive characteristics of Al Najd's soil, combined with sustainable agricultural practices, create an ideal environment for the growth of a diverse range of crops. This wise management of the soil also ensures the sustainability of agricultural production in the long term.

Characteristics of Al Najd Soil

Soil Texture

It ranges from sandy loam to clay loam.
providing an ideal balance between water drainage and moisture retention.

Nutrients

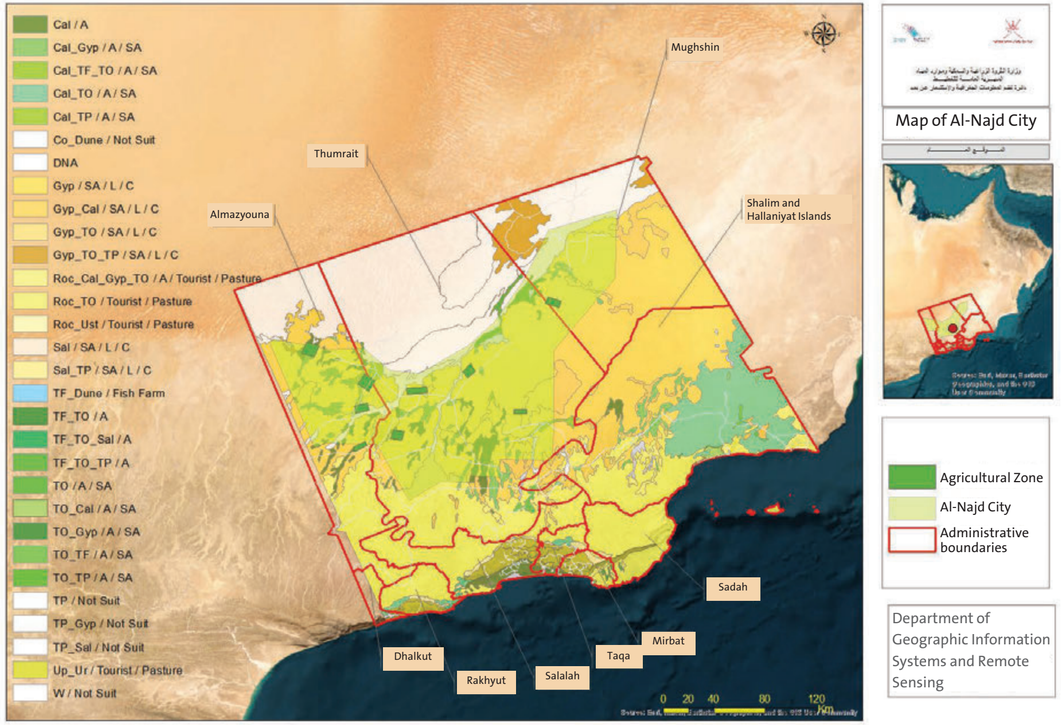
Contains the essential macro and micronutrients for plant growth Includes:
nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and trace elements
Moderate levels of organic matter

pH Levels

Typically range between 6.5 to 8.0
Considered neutral to slightly alkaline
Suitable for most crops
Allows for optimal nutrient availability and microbial activity

Soil Management

Conduct regular tests to monitor:
(Nutrient levels, pH levels, Other soil properties)
Apply precise nutrient management
Implement timely interventions to address soil health issues



Fields of Opportunities



Fields of Oppertunity

The Najd agricuttural region is famous for It's diverse crops, the most important of



Fruit

Citrus, Pomegranates
Mango, bananas, figs
and lime fruit



Vegetables

Watermelon - Cantaloupe
Tomato - Pepper -
Eggplant - Zucchini -
Cucumber - Pumpkin -
Onion



Field crops

Wheat - Barley - White
Corn - Sunflower - Corn
- Canola



Fodder crops

Rhodsgrass
Alfalfa



Dates

Fard
Khalas
Majhool



Industries

Production inputs



Fish Farming

Tilapia



Animal Wealth

Cows - Poultry
Livestock

Enablers

Al-Najd Agricultural Zone



Future Fund Oman

Finance Incentives

Financial assistance for agricultural investment projects is provided through the US$0,1 billion Oman Future Fund set up by Oman Investment Authority to fund up to forty percent at the inustment volume. Over the next five years, it will allocate ninety percent of its capital to new or existing projects. Of the remaining seven to ten percent will be allocated to SMEs and three percent to start-ups.

Financing options for foreign direct investment projects are also available from Development Bank which has loan capacities of up to thirteen million dollars with nineteen million possible in certain cases.



Investment Incentives

Investment Incentives

50 Omani Rials/feddan for the first 100 feddan, and 5 Omani Rials/ feddan for any additional area, which equates to a %90 reduction from the base price.

Feddan= 4200 m²

Grace period for usufruct fee payments

up to three to five years, depending on the type of agricultural activity and crops.

Contract period

May extend up to 25 - 99 years according to the views of specialists in calculating the long-term feasibility of the project.

Abundance of agricultural land

96 % of the land is arable.

Supporting Logistical Enablers



Port of Salalah

Connects to 68 international hubs on a weekly basis and ranked 2nd most efficient container port globally in the 2023 according to container Ports Performance Index published by the World Bank and S&P Global.
One of the world's largest trans-shipment ports and the central hub for container distribution and transportation in the region, Port of Salalah connects both Europe and Singapore. With operations supported by state-of-the-art freight handling infrastructure, it hosts more than 2,500 vessel calls each year.

https://www.salalahport.com.om

Tel :+968 2322 0000



Raysut Industrial City

Leveraging the agricultural output of the region, Raysut Industrial City is a hub for the processing and packaging of food for domestic consumption and international markets. Its advanced warehousing facilities provide secure and efficient storage solutions for perishable foodstuff. The industrial city is just 4 kilometers from the Port of Salalah and 20 kilometers from Salalah International Airport.

opaz.gov.om

info@opaz.gov.om

Tel : +968 2450 7500



Al Mazunah Free Zone

With specialties including livestock, fruit and vegetables, Al Mazunah Free Zone is the gateway for transit trade to Yemen and East Africa. Its facilities include modern cold storage and warehousing as well as international standard food processing and packaging units. Logistics and transport services are also available. Businesses based on Al Manzunah Free Zone benefit from a range of incentives.

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Supporting Logistical Enablers



Salalah International Airport

Just 20 kilometers from Port of Salalah, Salalah International Airport supports the movement of goods across continents with connections to major cities in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe. Equipped with state-of-the-art cargo handling facilities designed to efficiently manage a wide range of freight types, including perishable goods, the airport provides secure refrigerated and temperature-controlled storage facilities. It uses automated cargo handling systems to streamline processing, reduce turnaround times and enhance overall efficiency while on-site customs services and streamlined clearance processes facilitate quick and efficient import and export of goods.
On-going developments and expansions aim to increase the airport's cargo handling capacity, ensuring it can accommodate growing demand.

salalahairport.co.om

Tel :+968 2435 1234



Salalah Free Zone

Offering a wide range of impressive facilities including offices, warehousing and retail outlets, Salalah Free Zone is home to a selection of large, multinational companies as well as SMEs involved in agri-tech, food processing and packaging.
Adjacent to the Port of Salalah and Salalah International Airport, the free zone ensures efficient transportation and logistics of goods while its cutting-edge cold storage and warehousing facilities preserve the freshness and quality of perishable goods, including fruits and vegetables.
Companies based on Salalah Free Zone enjoy a range of benefits including exemptions on corporate tax, customs duties, and personal income tax for a specified period.

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Existing Food Security Projects

Al Bashayer Red Meat Company

The company's strategy aims to import live animals, including cattle, goats, sheep, and camels, from various countries with the goal of raising them under a specific fattening program in order to improve the quality of their meat. Slautering and rexporting.

Established in 2016
Thumrait– Dhofar gov

Annual abattoir production capacity
43,000 tons

Brands:
MT
Bushra بشرى

Capacity of:

90 Small animals: thousand

12 Large animals: thousand

Al Najd Agriculture Development Company

With the goal of enhancing food security in Oman and producing animal feed and other agricultural crops.

Established in 2010
Thumrait– Dhofar gov

Total production capacity
54
thousand tons for all crops

Farms
Hanfeet Farm
Dukhah Farm
Wadi Bani Khutar Farm

Total farm area
20 thousand acres

Existing Food Security Projects

شركة تنمية زراعة عمان
Oman Agriculture Development Company

Oman Agricuture Development Company

It is one of the pioneering projects in Oman, preserving the date palm tree as a social and economic heritage, while opening new horizons and opportunities for investment in the production and processing sectors of the date industry beside other fruit and vegetable eultivation, processing and marketing.

Al Najd Farm

Location:
Mekshan

Planted area:
7.857 feddan
100,000 of palm trees
the Fard, Khalas, and Medjool varieties

Water source:
ground water

Rahab Farm

Location:
Marmoul Area in Shaleem and Halaniyat Islands

Planted area:
11,905 feddan
40,000 palm trees
of the Fard, Khalas,
.and Medjool varieties
30,000
Omani lemon trees

Water source:
ground water

A'SAFFA FOODS S.A.O.G. الصفاء للأغذية ش.م.ع.ع

A'Saffa

One of the leading joint-stock companies in food security in the Sultanate of Oman. The company owns an integrated farm for broiler chicken production.

2001 Established in
Thumrait– Dhofar

Total farm area
11.905
thousand tons

Production Capacity
42
thousand tons for all crops

MT

Brands

خيرات khayrat
طيبات TAYBAT
الصفاء A'SAFFA

Investor Journey



Provides up-to-the-minute insights and information on opportunities across Oman in sectors powering our dynamic economy.

02

Facilitating and fast-tracking business set-up, provides a complete range of services for a hassle-free investment .journey

01

03

- One-stop shop
- Dedicated advisors
- Quick and easy completion of procedures
- Integrated digital platform
- Call centre
- Co-ordination with major authorities
- Administrative support and advice
- Logistics support
- Assistance for entrepreneurs and companies of all sizes

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Invest OMAN Lounge

The official gateway to major investments in Oman

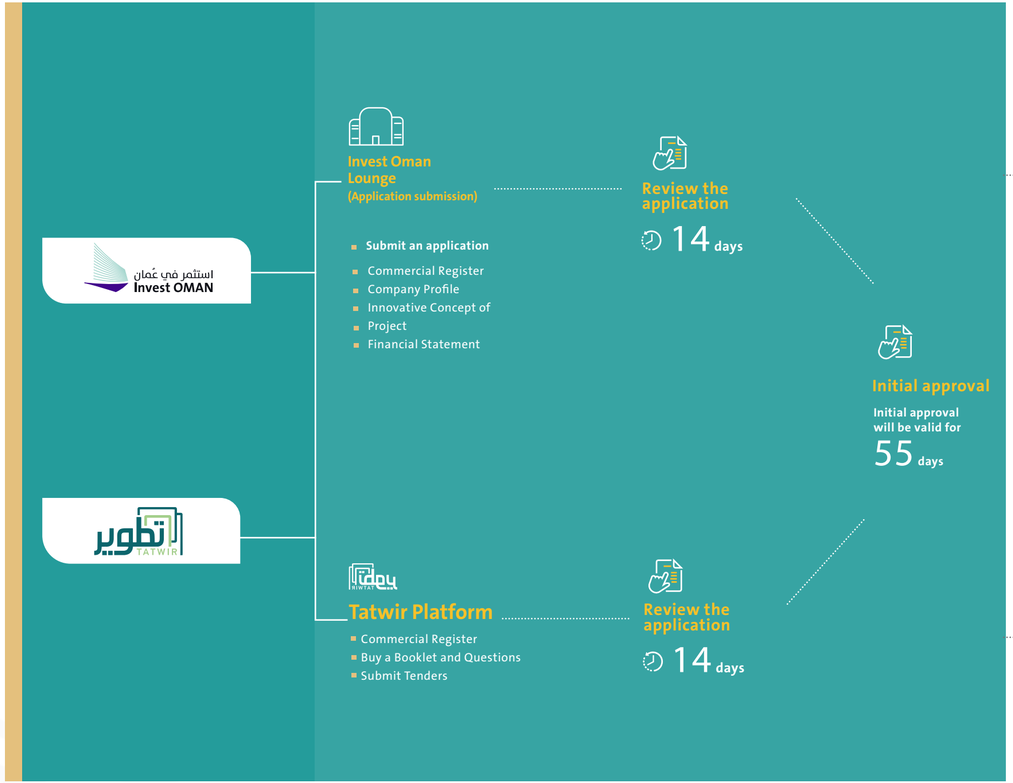
04

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Al-Najd Agricultural Zone



Your business start-up journey starts here



Final Approval

Review the application and ensure that all investment requirements are met.

- Detailed feasibility study (marketing, technical, economic) from one of the ministry's approved consulting firms
- Financial solvency
- Submission of the project execution plan
- Conducting field studies (soil and water testing)
- Obtaining approvals from the Environment Authority and Nama Company
- Obtaining approval from the relevant authorities

Contract Signing and Execution


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