



وكالة ترقية الاستثمارات في موريتانيا  
AGENCE DE PROMOTION DES INVESTISSEMENTS EN MAURITANIE

# INVESTMENT GUIDE

## AGRICULTURE IN MAURITANIA



An aerial photograph of a vast agricultural landscape. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by large, rectangular plots of land. Some plots are covered in a light, silty water, while others are dark brown, suggesting they are recently plowed or have been left fallow. A network of dirt roads and irrigation channels crisscrosses the fields. In the distance, the land continues to stretch out under a hazy, overcast sky. The word "AGRICULTURE" is superimposed across the center of the image in large, bold, white, semi-transparent capital letters.

# AGRICULTURE



IN MAURITANIA



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GENERAL DATA  
**ON MAURITANIA**



The Islamic Republic of Mauritania (RIM) is in West Africa and covers an area of 1,303,700 km<sup>2</sup>. It is a junction between sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa. It is characterized by its attractive beaches overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, over a length of 754 km, its vast desert areas are adorned with enchanting sand dunes and mountain ranges.

Mauritania, which has an estimated population of about 4,500,000, has significant economic resources consisting mainly of minerals, hydrocarbons, animal

resources and fish, in addition to large arable areas and a favorable climate to produce large quantities of renewable energy.

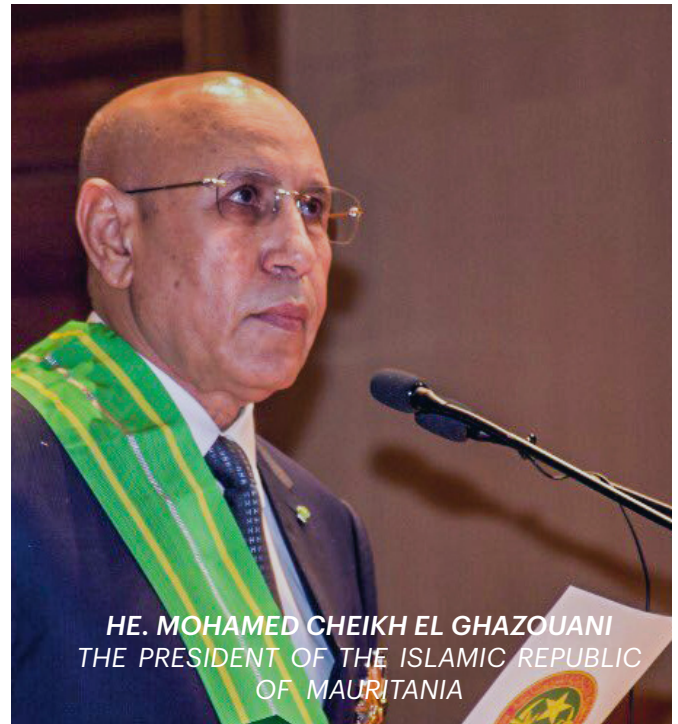
The growth rate reached 5.6% in 2019, before registering a contraction of 2.3% following the spread of the new coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19). But growth is expected to return in 2021 with a forecast of 3% and an increase over the next two years to exceed 6% by 2023.





It has also become an example in the sub-region following the successful organization of free and transparent presidential elections that have enshrined the peaceful alternation of power between two democratically elected presidents, based on what the constitutional rules dictate.

Mauritania stands out in the Sahel region for its political stability and security, which has led it to set an example in the fight against violent extremism, terrorism and trafficking of all kinds, through a security approach that combines ideological and political aspects, on the one hand, with security and military capacity building, on the other.





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# INTRODUCTION



Mauritania has an estimated potential for **500,000 ha** of arable land with high productivity averages, largely in the fertile southern areas bordering the Senegal River where irrigated **agriculture** is **concentrated**.



Other areas are also in agriculture:  
The **arid zone** which is characterized by very high temperatures, dry air and very low rainfall, the **Sahelian zone** of the South alternates a dry winter and a rainy summer season and the maritime zone, which corresponds to a wetter coastal strip, with lower temperatures and therefore suitable for crops, including market gardeners and arboreals.

**Agricultural soils** in Mauritania are poorly exploited with speculation in rice, wheat and various other traditional cereals, in addition to vegetables, **sugar cane, fruit trees** and large oases of palm trees that give leave to produce large quantities of **dates**.



Nevertheless, Mauritania also has considerable **water** resources which it uses for irrigation in certain **agricultural** areas, and surface waters which feed the numerous dams built in rocky areas and **“wadis”** adjacent to rivers and lakes, in addition to the **underground reserves** that can be mined through artesian wells.



The agricultural sector in Mauritania benefits from conventions and **partnerships** with the most important funds and international organizations **acting in the field**, given the enormous potential that the country has allowing it to contribute to national supply, regional and global agricultural products.



In this guide, we will discuss in detail Mauritania's agricultural potential, the opportunities for investment in this sector and the availability of the infrastructure necessary for its development.



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# MAURITANIA'S AGRICULTURAL **POTENTIAL**

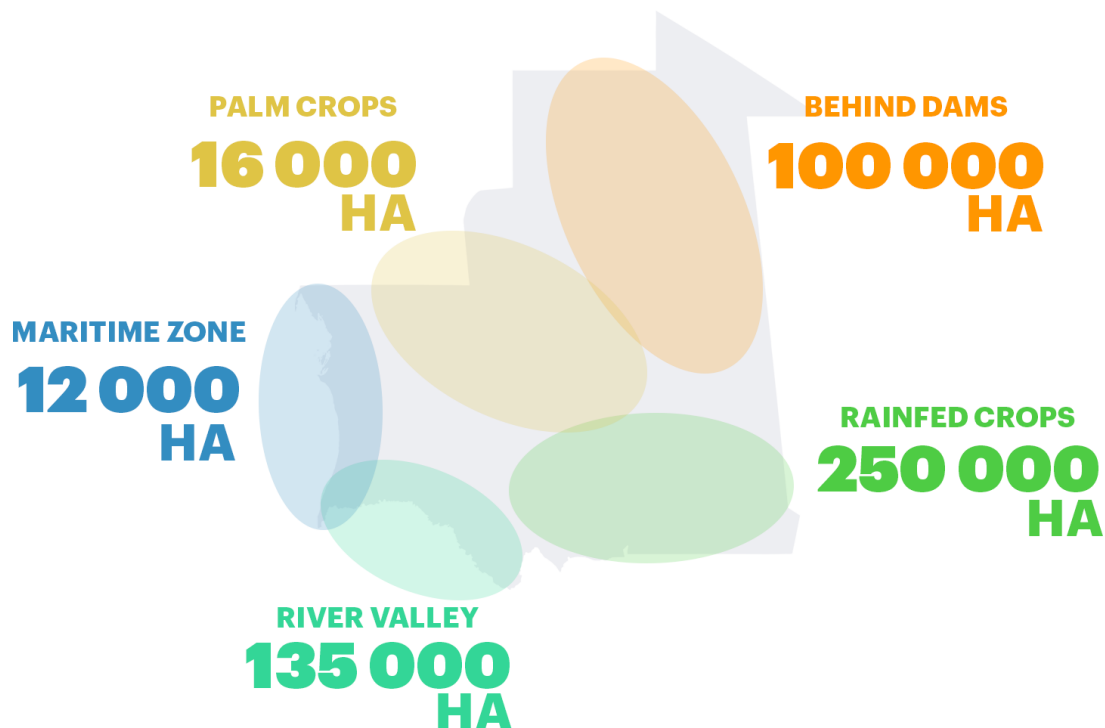


Mauritania's potential for arable land is approximately **513,000** ha distributed as follows: **135,000** ha in the Senegal River Valley, **12,000** ha in the maritime zone, **250,000** ha in rainfed crops, **100,000** ha, in decline crops and behind dams and **16,000** ha of palm crops.

These areas are characterized by their **high fertility**, their diversity in terms of agricultural sectors distributed mainly in **rice production, cereals**, especially in the valley area and those of **rainfed crops**.

While the coastal area is the preferred market gardening area, the **oases** are, for the most part located in the following regions: Adrar, Assaba and the two Hodh.

In **addition** to these potentialities, wetlands also exist in Mauritania with vast exploitable areas, such as Lake Rkiz, Lake Aleg, Lake Kankossa, Lake Maal, Tamourt N'aaj and the Mahmouda Pond... and many other areas with significant surface water resources that make them suitable for good agricultural use.



According to the data of the Ministry of Agriculture, the exploitation of these areas is of the order of **70,000** ha, for irrigated agriculture, and of **180,000** ha, for rainfed agriculture, this represents a low rate of development of the overall potential available in Mauritania.



Mauritania's water resources potential is estimated at **11.4 billion cubic meter** per year, which can be irrigated in various ways for agricultural areas throughout the national territory, but with a rate of utilization for the needs of agriculture that does not exceed **15%**.

This low level of exploitation of these potentials and available resources explains why agricultural production in Mauritania is still unable to meet the domestic needs of the country and even less to participate in the high demand of the markets of the sub-region. A situation that explains why the investment opportunities are very attractive in a context of high demand and low supply, despite the existence of means of production.



Official figures indicate that food self-sufficiency in rice does not exceed **60%**, while for cereals it is only **37%**.

The other agricultural sectors are still unable to reach a significant level of production, despite **strong domestic** demand and the cost in terms of foreign exchange **imports**.

As an example, we can cite the sugar industry whose experiments have shown that large quantities could be produced in Mauritania, while imports of this commodity are in the range of approximately **4,000,000 kg per year**, which makes this speculation a very attractive **investment opportunity** in terms of profitability.

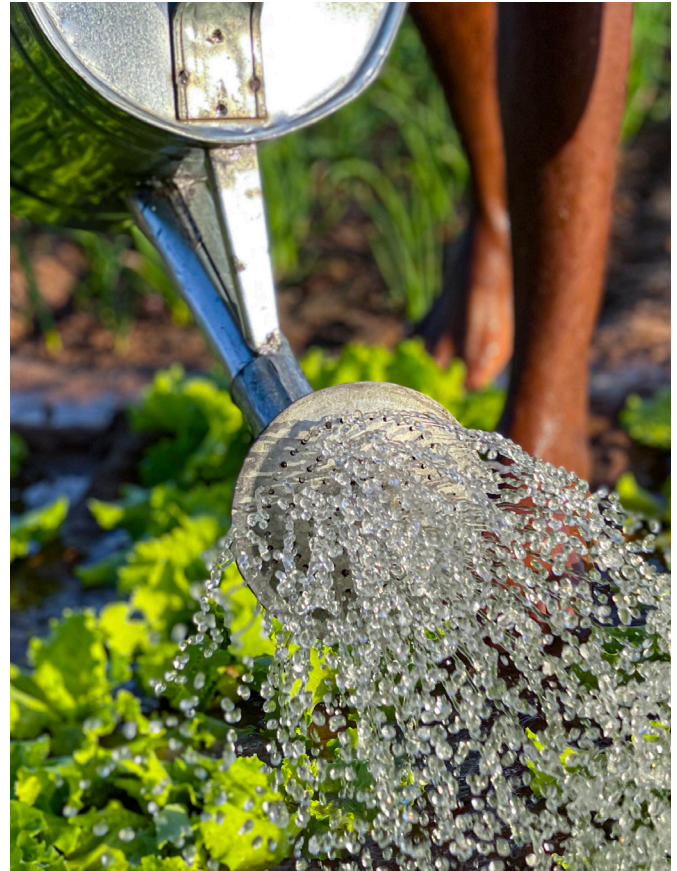


An aerial photograph of a vast agricultural landscape in Mauritania. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by a grid of rectangular fields, some appearing dark brown (possibly fallow or recently plowed) and others green. A winding dirt road or canal cuts through the fields on the left side. In the distance, a low mountain range is visible under a heavy, overcast sky with soft light breaking through the clouds.

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**THE INSTITUTIONAL  
FRAMEWORK FOR  
IN AGRICULTURE**

In the past years, the agricultural sector has undergone significant changes in the **legislation** governing **private investment** through the preparation of an Agricultural Guidance **Act**, a new **strategy** for the development of the sector by **2025**, in addition to the reform of the **tax** system and the design of a national program for the exploitation of promising agricultural sectors by **2030**.



These legal and **policy reforms** focus mainly on improving the investment climate and supporting operators in the **field** to help them achieve their development goals in the agricultural sector at all its branches, based on internationally **recognized** criteria and standards.

# INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

*Over the last few years, Mauritania has worked to develop infrastructure in the agricultural sector. This involved land management, the availability of seeds, the fight against depreddators, the construction of canals, the construction of dams, warehouses and processing plants, as well as the availability of harvesters and energy sources.*

## Agricultural development

Mauritania is working on a comprehensive strategy to accelerate the development of arable land for farmers and agricultural investors. It also supports the initiatives of private operators for land use planning and exploitation within the framework of the public-private partnership.



Regarding seed supply and the control of depredators of crops, the government gives great interest in supporting the opening of any new agricultural year by the availability of seeds and fertilizers of quality so the support on the national expertise and the cooperation with the international organizations operating in the field.

## Construction of canals, dams and irrigation systems

Mauritania has achieved several important achievements in the construction of canals, dams and irrigation systems. This includes the construction of the Aftout Essahili canal, which runs for 55 km from the Senegal River, to irrigate rice, cereal and market garden farms in this area. These achievements also include modern irrigation systems in agricultural areas of the river and the establishment of pilot farms in other locations to encourage the practice of agricultural activities



The Mauritanian government has launched a new program to build 100 dams in various agricultural areas of the country to significantly increase the area of irrigable land. The digging of a canal from the Senegal River to Lake Aleg should push the inhabitants of the area to engage in agricultural activities that this modern irrigation system now makes possible while reducing production costs by setting up systems modern irrigation accessible and possible to all.



## Availability of combined harvesters

It aims to promote the emergence of an intensive and competitive livestock sector through the development of carrier animal sectors. The purpose of this fund is to develop livestock farming, to help set up farms, to build modern slaughterhouses, to set up production plants for livestock products, to work on breed improvement, to manage the pastoral corridors and the pastoral water infrastructure, to carry out the studies and to supervise the professional organizations of the Sector.



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\*WELCOME HOME