

Gheras advances sustainable and smart farming in Sharjah

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The initiative, located in Al Dhaid, aligns with the vision of HH Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi and encompasses a state-of-the-art honey and therapeutic products factory, with an expected annual production of up to 120 tons.

The project also includes student housing, administrative offices, meeting facilities, advanced irrigation networks, and smart agricultural technologies tailored for arid desert environments.

Al Dhaid was selected for its favorable agricultural conditions, strategic location, historical significance in farming, and proximity to universities and agricultural colleges. This positioning facilitates collaboration with academic institutions, linking research and education with practical agricultural applications.

Innovative technology for arid farming

Maryam Al Junaibi, Agricultural Sector Director at Sharjah Agriculture and Livestock Production Establishment (Ektifa), highlighted that the project employs a pioneering cooling system designed specifically for desert climates.

Operating under positive air pressure and powered by solar energy, the system leverages the physical properties of water and air to reduce water and energy consumption by up to 70 percent. It also allows direct use of well water without the need for desalination, making it one of the first systems of its kind globally.

Currently, three hectares are under cultivation in the first phase, producing approximately 10 tons annually, with projected capacity set to reach 250 tons upon project completion.

Sustainable and organic production

Gheras produces organic crops using innovative Emirati-developed techniques and non-GMO seeds preserved for more than 50 years. The farm cultivates a diverse range of fruits and vegetables, including citrus, broccoli, tomatoes, leafy greens, strawberries, and organic blueberries, all grown exclusively on-site.

The project places a strong emphasis on training and capacity-building, with dedicated programs for agriculture students and plans to establish a visitor center.

Spanning 32 hectares, Gheras combines modern greenhouses, open-field cultivation, nurseries, and packaging facilities, reinforcing Sharjah's commitment to safe, locally produced food and sustainable agricultural development.