

# Rain, Recovery and Risk

## Bahrain's Farms Face Mixed Season

TDT | Manama  
Neethu V / Hasan Barakat

This year's rainfall has presented a varied outlook for Bahrain's agricultural sector, with farmers reporting some crop damage alongside encouraging signs of renewed growth as the season progresses. While certain open-field farms were affected by heavier showers, others operating within controlled environments were largely able to remain protected.

Across Bahrain, heavy showers hit open fields unevenly, while protected farms shielded their crops, highlighting a growing divide in how agriculture responds to changing weather patterns.

At Abdulwahab farm, Farooq said greenhouse-style structures have become essential rather than optional. Most crops are grown under covered systems, which reduces exposure to sudden rain and extreme heat.

The result is stability. Crops continue to grow under controlled conditions, with minimal disruption, while drip irrigation ensures precise water use regardless of rainfall. Even so, he



A glimpse of rain fed agriculture at Al Jasra Organic farm



noted that the real challenge arrives later. As temperatures climb toward June, heat begins to cut into yields, reducing output despite careful irrigation.

### Damage

In contrast, open-field farming tells a different story.

At Al Jasra Organic Farm, where all fertilizers and manure are prepared in-house, manager Wahid said several crops, including sunflowers and gourds, sustained visible

damage due to the recent rains. However, he noted that the recovery process has already begun.

"Some of the crops were damaged by the rain, but new green leaves are returning," he said, pointing to fresh growth across the farm.

He explained that local and regionally adapted crops tend to recover faster, while imported varieties remain more vulnerable to Bahrain's sudden weather shifts.



Farooq at Abdulwahab farm

Despite the damage, rain is not considered a loss.

Wahid stressed that rainfall plays a deeper role, naturally delivering nutrients such as magnesium sulphate into the soil, improving plant health in ways irrigation alone cannot replicate.

"Rain is not only water," he said. "It also brings nutrients that help plants become greener and healthier."

This season also revealed how critical timing has become.

Tomatoes, planted in October and harvested from December, delivered strong results, with yields reaching around five tonnes before the season tapered off in March. As temper-

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For Bahrain's farmers, rain is no longer simply good or bad. It is a test of preparation, a measure of resilience, and a reminder that even with modern systems, agriculture remains tied to forces beyond control.

atures rise, only heat-tolerant crops such as okra, sweet corn, amaranth and long beans continue to survive.

Farmers are increasingly paying close attention to rainfall dates, humidity, and seasonal timing, especially as weather patterns become less predictable. For Bahrain's cultivators, this year's rains were a reminder of how closely farming remains tied to nature.

## Employee Wins BD 31,000 Compensation

● Employee served 15 year

● Court ruled the dismissal unfair

● The employer failed to prove misconduct

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Rehab Mohammad



lawyer Zahra Neama

The High Labour Court ordered a company to pay around BD 31,000 to a former employee after ruling that his dismissal was unfair and lacked proper notice, ending a dispute following 15 years of service.

According to lawyer Zahra Neama, her client had worked with the company for more than 15 years, earning a monthly salary of BD 1,900 before his employment was abruptly terminated without valid justification or settlement of his dues.

The company defended its decision, arguing that the termination was a disciplinary action based on alleged employee violations; therefore, no compensation or notice payment was required.

However, after reviewing testimonies and evidence from both parties, the court found that the employment contract was open-ended and that the employee had not received his final salary of BD 1,391 after lawful deductions. Because the company failed to prove payment, the court ordered it to settle the amount.

On the issue of dismissal, the court ruled that the employer provided insufficient evidence to justify termination. It also rejected the company's witness statements, noting there was no proof that the employee committed the alleged violations.

The court further stated that the mandatory three-month notice period was not observed, rendering the dismissal unlawful.

As a result, the court awarded BD 5,238 in lieu of notice and BD 20,962 as compensation for unfair dismissal.

In addition, the court ruled in favor of the employee regarding unused annual leave, finding no credible evidence that he had received or used his entitlement. It awarded BD 3,438 for 60 days of unused leave covering the last two years and part of the third year.

The company must pay the full amount, along with statutory interest for delayed payment, and to issue an official certificate of service covering the employee's tenure.

## Our Eyes Under Pressure... The Cost of a Digital Life

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Ghadeer Alkumaish

As digital devices dominate daily routines across Bahrain—from classrooms and offices to entertainment—eye specialists report a noticeable rise in cases of eye fatigue linked to prolonged screen use, particularly among students and working professionals.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Dr. Walaah Ahmed Mounier, Ophthalmology Consultant at Dr. Haifaa Eye Hospital, said digital eye strain has become one of the most common complaints in recent years.

"Patients frequently report headaches, pain around the eyes, blurred vision, dryness, and difficulty focusing," she said. "In some cases, especially among children, there is also excessive blinking and a constant feeling



of eye fatigue."

She explained that the condition is becoming increasingly widespread due to uninterrupted screen exposure and a lack of regular breaks, especially in academic and work environments.

However, Dr. Mounier clarified that screen use does not directly cause permanent vision loss.

"Screen use alone is not proven to directly cause vision loss. It is a multifactorial issue that includes genetics, environmental factors, and lifestyle habits. However, prolonged screen exposure is a significant contributing factor," she noted. She also warned that working or stud-



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**"Protecting our eyes is no longer optional—it is essential"**

DR. WALAA AHMED MOUNIER

ying in poorly lit environments can worsen symptoms and increase discomfort.

Experts say the issue is not only the duration of screen time but also how it is used—reduced blinking, continuous focus, and poor lighting all contribute to strain.

**YOU**  
KNOW WHAT

**Follow the 20-20-20 rule**

- Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds
- Take regular breaks away from screens to rest your eyes
- Use lubricating eye drops to prevent dryness
- Ensure proper and balanced lighting while using devices
- Avoid prolonged screen use in dark or poorly lit rooms
- Blink frequently to keep eyes naturally moist
- Maintain a safe distance from screens during use

## 10-Year Sentence in Airport Drug Bust

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Rehab Mohammad

The High Criminal Court has sentenced a defendant to 10 years in prison, fined him BD10,000, and ordered his deportation, while acquitting a second suspect in a drug smuggling case uncovered at Bahrain International Airport.

The case began when a customs officer flagged a suspicious image during routine X-ray screening of a passenger's luggage. A search revealed narcotics hidden inside food items, including nuts, fruits, and cigarette packs, carefully concealed among



clothing to avoid detection.

Authorities from the Anti-Narcotics Directorate launched an investigation, during which the first defendant admitted he had been assigned to deliver the drugs using a "dead drop" method—leaving the package at a prearranged location for collection.

Officers monitored the operation and arrested the second suspect when he arrived at the site and attempted to flee after noticing police presence.

Investigations later linked the individuals to a wider drug trafficking network.

## Seafood Supply Surge

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Fish markets are witnessing a noticeable abundance and variety of seafood, with Omani and Pakistani fish widely available after the fishing ban on safi, shaari, and andaq came into effect on April 1.

This has helped boost supply and provide consumers with multiple alternatives. Prices for safi currently range between 2.5 and 3 dinars per kilogram, depending on quality.

Other options such as Bahraini hamour and hamam fish are also available, although many customers continue to prefer Omani safi and shaari.

