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*Qatar's Hassad Food, an arm of the oil and gas rich state's sovereign wealth fund, has entered into a potentially-US\$1bn farmland development joint venture with the government of Sudan.*

The deal is expected to eventually provide access to up to 250,000 acres of cultivated farmland with much of the crop yields likely to be re-exported back to the import dependent Gulf region. Hassad is also believed to be in advanced negotiations with Mozambique and South Africa.

Hassad Sudan, will have a starting capital of \$100m and could attract as much as \$1bn in investments. The project will focus on growing wheat, corn and possibly soya, with 75 percent Qatari ownership.

Hassad Food also aims to conclude "huge" deals with Brazil and Argentina before year-end, focusing on wheat, corn, soya and sugar as well as livestock.

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