

**Press Release 10.07.2007**

## **Almarai grew its net profit in 1st half 2007 by 35.7% to SAR 288.3 million**



In the 1st half 2007 Almarai Company (Almarai) generated a consolidated net profit of SAR 288.3 million, an increase of SAR 75.9 million or 35.7% compared to the same period last year (SAR 212.4 million). The consolidated net profit for the quarter grew by 35.8% to SAR 165.3 million compared to the same period last year (SAR 121.8 million).

Sales for the period ended June 30, 2007 amounted to SAR 1,712.7 million compared to SAR 1,322.1 million in same period last year, which represents an increase of 29.5%. The consolidated operating profit also grew substantially by 36.7% to reach SAR 335.7 million versus SAR 245.6 million for the comparative period last year. The earnings per share (EPS) for the period ended June 30, 2007 increased to SAR 2.64 compared to SAR 2.12 in the same period 2006. This performance is the result of the company's plans to achieve continued growth in sales and profits.

In June 2007, The Board reviewed the progress on the 5 Year Plan which was approved last year and included approximately SAR 4,000 million of capital expenditure over the period from 2007 to 2011. The Board approved additional capital expenditure amounting to SAR 700 million, so the total capital expenditure for the 5 year plan is SAR 4,700 million. These significant investments will be made to further strengthen Almarai's position as the leader in the GCC food market, as well as ensuring the Company's continued strong profit growth and return on investment.