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**Report of the**  
**SEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**FOR THE NEAR EAST**

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Cairo, United Arab Republic, 19-31 October 1964



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

*The following reports of earlier meetings in this series have been issued:*

Report of Regional Conference for the Near East, Cairo, 2-14 February 1948.

Report of the Second Near East Regional Meeting on Food and Agricultural Programs and Outlook, Bloudane, Syria, 28 August - 6 September 1951.

Report of the Third FAO Regional Meeting on Food and Agricultural Programs and Outlook in the Near East, Cairo, Egypt, 1-9 September 1953.

Report of the Fourth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, Damascus, United Arab Republic, 10-20 December 1958.

Report of the Fifth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, Teheran, Iran, 21 September - 1 October 1960.

Report of the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, Tel Amara, Lebanon, 30 July - 8 August 1962.

REPORT  
of the  
SEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
for  
THE NEAR EAST

CAIRO, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

19-31 October 1964

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Rome, Italy

21389/E



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## I. INTRODUCTION

### Organization of the Conference

1. The Seventh FAO Regional Conference for the Near East was held in Cairo, U.A.R., by the courtesy of the Government of the United Arab Republic from 19-31 October, 1964.

2. The Conference was attended by delegations from the following countries:

Afghanistan	Pakistan
France	Saudi Arabia
Iran	Somalia
Iraq	Sudan
Jordan	Syria
Kuwait	United Arab Republic
Lebanon	United Kingdom
Libya	Yemen

3. The following countries and organizations were represented by observers:

United Nations	UNTAB
ILO	WHO
UNESCO	League of Arab States
UNICEF	United States of America
UNRWA	

4. The list of participants is given in Appendix A of this report.

### Opening of the Conference

5. The Conference was opened by Mr. B.R. Sen, Director-General of FAO, who welcomed delegates and expressed his gratitude to the Government of the U.A.R. for the hospitality it had offered and to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States for the facilities this Organization had made available. The Director-General expressed his satisfaction at the fact that the Conference was taking place in Egypt, the cradle of one of the oldest civilizations on earth, and, together with Mesopotamia, the place where settled agriculture had originated. He pointed out that this was the third time that a FAO Regional Conference had been held in this country, a fact which underlined the strong support which the U.A.R. had always given to the work of FAO in the Near East. The Director-General expressed his satisfaction at the fact that all the countries of the Region had sent delegates to participate in this Conference.

6. The Conference then heard a message from the President of the U.A.R., Gamal Abdel Nasser, who, after welcoming the delegates, observers and the Director-General of FAO, expressed his wishes for a profitable Conference and a pleasant stay in the U.A.R.

7. This message was followed by an address by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, His Excellency, Mr. Abdel Khalek Hassouna, who expressed his pleasure in being able to welcome the participants in the building of the Arab League. He referred to the recent agreement between FAO and the League of Arab States which committed the two organizations to close cooperation in the field of agriculture. He recalled the recommendation of the Economic Council of the Arab States in December 1963 which pointed to the great need to increase agricultural production and create the Agricultural Committee which should coordinate work in Arab countries on all aspects of plant and animal production, education, research and extension. He then referred to a number of activities which the organization had undertaken to implement the recom-

mentation of the Economic Council in the field of agriculture in which he felt very satisfactory cooperation had been achieved. Finally, he expressed his wishes for a successful meeting and assured the Conference of the continued support of the Arab League.

8. The Conference was then addressed by His Excellency, the Minister of Agriculture of the U.A.R., Dr. S.A. El Khishen, who referred to the present Conference as a Summit meeting, inasmuch as it could be considered as the climax of all regional activities in the field of agriculture during the past two years and in that it was the major policy-making body in the field of agriculture at the regional level. He expressed his satisfaction at the new scope of FAO's activities which included a trend towards greater implementation of development projects and an increased regional approach. He expressed his agreement with the selection of the planning of agricultural education and training as the principal theme of this Conference since the shortage of trained personnel at all levels was one of the major bottlenecks in development programs. In this regard he felt that a coordinated agricultural education program, using the available facilities in the region, should be developed. The Minister also referred to the important conclusions of the UN Conferences on the Application of Science and Technology and on Trade and Development, and hoped that these would be carefully considered by the Conference.

9. The Minister then referred to economic and technical cooperation which, with the creation of the United Nations and the accession to independence of the developing countries, was no longer only a relationship between metropolitan powers and their dependent territories, but had expanded in scope and had become an obligation rather than a handout. He quoted President Nasser in saying that this obligation was vital for peace.

10. The Minister expressed his wholehearted support for the noble ideals of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign and declared the readiness of the U.A.R. to contribute to its success both at the national and international levels, as well as to the work of FAO generally and finally expressed the hope that the deliberations of the Conference would contribute to the success of the organization's mission in the Near East.

#### Election of Officers and Adoption of the Agenda

11. The Conference proceeded to elect as its Chairman His Excellency, Dr. S.A. El Khishen, Minister of Agriculture of the U.A.R. and leader of the U.A.R. delegation to the Conference. All Heads of Delegations of Member Countries were designated as Vice-Chairmen.

12. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

#### A. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
3. Adoption of the Agenda

#### B. THE WORK OF FAO IN THE NEAR EAST IN RELATION TO THE FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN, THE UN DEVELOPMENT DECADE AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

4. The Food and Agriculture Situation in the Near East
5. Review of FAO's Activities in the Near East



C. MAJOR POLICY QUESTIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE NEAR EAST

6. The World Food Congress and Future Direction of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign
7. The Planning of Food and Agricultural Education and Training
8. The Application of Science and Technology to Agriculture
9. Measures for enlisting the Fuller Participation of the People, especially Farmers, in the Agricultural Development Program
10. Trade Problems and Prospects in the Region

D. CONCLUDING ITEMS

11. The Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region
12. Adoption of the Report.

II. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

A. THE WORK OF FAO IN THE NEAR EAST IN RELATION TO THE FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN, THE UN DEVELOPMENT DECADE AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

(a) The Food and Agriculture Situation in the Near East

Statement by the Director-General

13. The Director-General initiated his statement by referring to the scope of regional conferences whose purpose was to review the agriculture situation in terms of the progress that had been made over the past two years and of the plans ahead. This review should reveal the obstacles to agricultural development to which the Conference would have to find solutions and the means to coordinate all the efforts which were necessary to put them into practice. The broad indications contained in country statements and the outcome of the discussions on the major policy questions on the agenda would be taken carefully into account by the Director-General in the general orientation of FAO's future work.

14. The Director-General established the background against which the development of agriculture in the Near East had to be viewed by referring to the rate of population growth of no less than 2.5% per year which will increase the population of the region by 50% by 1980 and by 150% by the year 2000.

15. The agriculture situation in the Near East had made a sharp recovery in 1962/63 and, although this was due in part to better weather conditions, improved agricultural techniques had also played their role. However, the animal husbandry development had continued to be unsatisfactory and had failed to cope with the growth of population and increased demand. The Near East Meeting on Animal Production and Health, held in Beirut in September 1964, had underlined the desirability of making the region more self-supporting in livestock products.

16. The Director-General referred to the difficulties presented by the climate of the region, but stated that many advances in technology were available which could help to overcome these obstacles. Increasing the water supply for irrigation was undoubtedly of great importance and considerable efforts were being made in this direction, but the Director-General pointed out that these developments must be accompanied by measures for raising yields, and progress could only be expected by a combination of these two strategies.

17. The Director-General expressed his satisfaction at the fact that comprehensive planning had now been widely accepted throughout the region and pointed to the measures FAO was taking to help countries in their planning efforts, such as the creation of a task force of economic planning, the establishment of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning and the appointment of a Planning Adviser in the Regional Office in Cairo.

18. Planning should also be complemented by adequate steps in the field of agricultural education and by efforts to change the farmers' attitude towards the employment of new techniques and by a more intensive application of science and technology to agriculture. With regard to the latter, the Director-General gave examples of the achievements of the Wheat and Barley Improvement Project, the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign Fertilizer Program and the Locust Control Project which FAO had undertaken with the help of UNSF and EPTA. Nevertheless, more efforts were needed regarding the social aspects of agricultural development. Plans must take full cognizance of the attitudes, values and aspirations of the farmers. On the basis of such knowledge,

governments could take measures to promote and encourage farmers' organizations such as cooperatives, farm forums and youth clubs. Related to these was the need for introducing and strengthening agricultural information services and for a better utilization of mass communication media to foster agricultural development.

19. The Director-General then referred to the international trade situation of the Near East countries. He pointed out that while the trade balance as a whole had remained favourable during the last two years, due to a big increase in earnings from oil, those countries which had to rely on agricultural exports for their foreign exchange earnings were facing a very serious situation. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had put particular stress on the need to expand trade between the developing countries themselves which had been decreasing during the last decade. The Director-General expressed his satisfaction at two events which he felt were in the right direction, namely, the Arab Common Market Agreement in which Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Syria and the U.A.R. participated, and the Economic Cooperation Agreement between Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

20. The Director-General referred to the discussions on the Mediterranean Development Project which had taken place at the meeting held in Nîmes this year and expressed his satisfaction that the idea of integrated development planning had now gained full recognition. Twelve spearhead development zones planned in accordance with the principles of the Mediterranean Development Project had been established and were being guided technically by FAO and assisted financially by UNSF. Four of these were already operating or approved in countries of the region, namely, Syria, Lebanon, U.A.R. and Iraq. Recognition of the effectiveness of the Mediterranean Project had prompted suggestions for similar initiatives in other areas and the Director-General referred to a proposal made recently to undertake a Mediterranean-type project for the territories bordering the Persian Gulf. FAO was now studying the technical possibilities of establishing permanent agriculture in the Persian Gulf area and if such information proves favourable, the Mediterranean pattern could be repeated in this area. The Director-General requested the Conference to let him have its preliminary reactions to this idea.

21. The Director-General gave a brief account of the development of the World Food Program and expressed the opinion that this experiment had proved successful and would be extended and enlarged.

22. While efforts to raise domestic resources for agricultural development needed to be increased, the requirements of outside assistance could be expected to grow for the foreseeable future. The Director-General complimented the Government of Kuwait for establishing the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development which was assisting several Arab states on some vital projects. He then pointed to another development of special significance, namely, the recently concluded agreement between IBRD and FAO, which foresees that FAO and the Bank will cooperate in reviewing the economic situation in various countries and in identifying and preparing agricultural projects of the type the IBRD is willing to consider financing, as well as in appraising such projects and providing supervision of their execution and operation. A team of specialists assembled in FAO for this purpose, supported by the expertise of the entire organization, had already participated in 25 missions, a number of them in the Near East.

23. The Director-General emphasized the need for supporting investment by greater attention to administration and quoted the World Food Congress as stating: "weakness in administrative structure can be a more serious barrier to progress than economic difficulties or deficiencies in natural resources". In this connection, it was important to undertake a systematic assessment of the countries' agricultural manpower requirements by categories and to adapt the capacity of agricultural education and training institutions to the results of such studies.

24. The Director-General then expressed the conviction that the basic purpose of the

Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign was winning increasing understanding among the people of the Near East and ever greater support of the governments. Nevertheless, the Director-General felt that there was still a long way to go before all the countries of the region would be able to establish strong and effective national bodies to arouse public interest in the Campaign and to ensure proper presentation and active cooperation of all important groups of these bodies. He recalled that the World Food Congress had called upon each country "to place its national FFHC committee on a continuing basis until final victory was won in the battle against hunger". Furthermore, the Economic and Social Council had urged that governments, the UN and the Specialized Agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations should intensify their fight against hunger in order to promote all appropriate initiatives within the Development Decade. He requested that these recommendations, as well as other measures, such as the enlistment of the active support of voluntary groups, particularly in regard to the Young World Mobilization Appeal, should be taken into account by delegates when considering the relevant item of the agenda. He also expressed the hope that the first Near East FFHC Week, which was to take place from 23 to 30 November 1964, would provide an immediate opportunity for increasing youth participation in the Campaign as a prelude to the Young World Appeal beginning a year later.

25. The Director-General drew attention to the desirability of introducing changes in the structure, function and purpose of regional conferences, with a view to providing a platform on which all interested and concerned groups could meet and debate the region's present and future programs. This was being attempted on a limited scale this year and the Director-General requested a clear statement of the views of the Conference on this question.

26. The Director-General referred to the recent establishment of a Joint Division for Atomic Energy as part of the cooperation between the International Atomic Energy Agency and FAO. This Division would be established at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna and would pool the resources of the two organizations in the use of nuclear energy in agriculture.

27. The Director-General explained that in his judgment, and with the guidance of the Conference and Council, FAO's Program of Work should be strengthened particularly with regard to the following subjects so as to better assist developing countries:

- (i) The methods to accelerate economic growth by the application of science and technology;
- (ii) The regulation of trade to assist development;
- (iii) The greater involvement of people in the effort to fight hunger, malnutrition, poverty and want.

Against this background the Director-General was now giving particular attention to the preparation of an Indicative World Plan for agricultural development, which should provide a meaningful framework for all the efforts of FAO to assist developing countries and for the countries themselves in their planning. The Plan would attempt to establish production, consumption and trade targets, which, in turn, should become the starting points for policies and programs aimed at achieving these targets. While considerable time would be required to develop such a Plan, he hoped that a global framework could be submitted to the Second World Food Congress to serve as a focus for discussions, and he intended to include the necessary provision for this work in the budget for 1966/67.

28. The Director-General referred to the need for FAO to better fulfil its role of promoting the rational utilization of fishery resources, and indicated that he would make proposals in this regard to the Thirteenth Session of the FAO Conference. While there have been some signs of a breakthrough on this front, fisheries was still making only a small contribution to human nutrition and economic development. He expressed

the hope that this Regional Conference would make specific recommendations on this matter.

29. The Director-General concluded by expressing the hope that this Conference would generally endorse his ideas on the future work of FAO and the conviction that the countries were aware of the urgency of the task confronting the Near East.

#### Review of the Current Situation of the Region

30. The Conference heard statements by various delegations in which they referred to the most important aspects of agricultural development in their countries over the past two years and to the measures they were taking to accelerate development. The statements of the governments particularly touched upon their preoccupation on how to meet increasing demand for food and raw materials by the rapidly growing populations, and the problems of obtaining the required funds for their investment programs necessary to accelerate the development of their agriculture, and pointed out the need for concerted policies on the national and international levels to solve them. The Conference felt that the debates which were to follow on the specific agenda items should be guided by the policy indications contained in these statements as well as in the introductory remarks by the Director-General of FAO. The following is a summary of the major points raised.

31. The Conference stressed that agricultural production must not only keep pace with population growth but must also outstrip it to bring about an improvement in living standards. The delegates agreed that to bring about such a development the farmer must 1) be offered incentives through guarantees of economic returns for his products and assured market outlets, 2) become interested in adopting advanced methods of production through providing sufficient credit at reasonable terms, 3) be assured to have available in time and in adequate quantities the necessary input factors for efficient production, mainly selected seed, fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides, necessary equipment and timely as well as adequate water supplies in case of irrigated crops.

32. The delegates stressed in their reports the importance of streamlining their agricultural services, in particular the extension services and the training facilities, to bring home to the farmers the advantages to be obtained through applying to their farms the results of scientific research and new techniques that have been tested and proven useful to farmers under similar agricultural conditions and farm enterprise patterns.

33. The principal agricultural policy objectives aimed at and expressed by governments in their statements to the Conference are well summarized in the following four points: 1) to achieve self-sufficiency in food requirements to the extent compatible with other needs of the economy, aiming at the same time at improving nutritional standards; 2) to bring about an increase in agricultural production; 3) to increase the real income of the farmer; and 4) to reduce the pressure of the population on land.

34. The Conference affirmed again the importance of planning in order to achieve a balance between the development of agriculture and that of other economic sectors, and to channel the limited resources of capital and trained manpower that are available to agriculture to such projects and programs that are most likely to bring about the overall development of agriculture. Such a course offers improvements of social as well as economic nature, not only to the rural people but also the population at large through more ample and cheaper food supplies.

35. The delegates noted that most countries already had planning organizations that functioned well. Some member nations actually were in their third five-year plan and could show considerable progress towards reaching their planned targets and in achieving the desired rate of growth in the agricultural sector as well as in the gross national product.

36. Some delegates referred to the establishment of the Near East Agricultural Planning Commission resulting from the recommendations of the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East. The Commission would permit close cooperation among the national planning organizations of the region and, it was hoped, would result in the coordination of plans as they affect the common interests of the region, as in the field of trade for instance. It will further make possible the exchange of experience, especially in the implementation and follow-up of plans.

37. In their statements the delegates emphasized again the importance of adequate educational facilities to train the ever-growing number of technical and administrative personnel that are required if the execution of their agricultural programs, projects and plans are not to be retarded. Indeed many delegates referred to new agricultural schools at various levels and agricultural, forestry and veterinary colleges that had been established or enlarged during the past two years or which were being planned for the near future. It was stressed that the turning out of new technicians and graduates was not sufficient to secure their services to the governments unless salaries and employment conditions offered would prove attractive enough to get and keep them in the positions where they are needed.

38. The Conference voiced the conviction that changes in farm structure and tenure through successful land reform linked with strong cooperative organizations were a precondition to the real improvement of living conditions of the farm family and to the changeover from the status of subsistence farming to that of commercial farming.

39. The delegates expressed realization that with the improvement of production leading to steadily increasing marketable surpluses, the organization of marketing and the finding of markets would assume great importance. Standardization of products and quality, proper storage and handling and improvement of transport and shipping facilities would become necessary and require considerable technical assistance that FAO could provide.

40. The Conference shared the Director-General's concern over dietary deficiencies, especially of animal protein and the slow growth, in some cases even regression, of the livestock sector. The delegates stressed the importance of reversing this trend by improving the fodder basis through better range management and forage grown under irrigation, as well as through the selection and breeding of better animals. It was recognized that while most of the measures for the improvement of livestock production were of a long-term nature, the improvement of veterinary service should receive particular emphasis inasmuch as it could produce quicker results.

41. The delegates believed that the recent efforts to expand both inland and sea fishery through modern technology and equipment show a relatively new and very promising source of cheap animal protein for the region that should be exploited to the utmost in order to offer the people a more balanced diet. FAO had already been of great assistance in this matter and should continue to give assistance in this field.

42. The Conference noted that in spite of general efforts by countries to increase their forest production, the Near East region continued to rely on imports of roundwood, sawnwood and pulp and paper products to the extent of 140 million dollars annually. It further noted that the implementation of development plans aiming at raising the economic and social levels of the people is further increasing the demand for wood products such as furniture and plywood and boxes for packaging perishable agricultural products; and lastly, that the demand for pulp and paper products is also rapidly expanding.

43. The Conference noted that the past two years had seen renewed efforts of some governments towards forest protection from grazing. Also, forestry plantations for windbreaks and soil protection had been extended in many countries of the region.

44. The Conference viewed with concern the problems arising from unstable weather conditions. The resulting large fluctuation in the production of rainfed crops, in particular grain, could put the economy under great strain. The application of modern technology and soil and water conservation methods would reduce considerably the effects of weather hazards and should in future be pursued with still greater vigor.

45. The Conference, in connection with the above, stressed the necessity to expand irrigation wherever possible, be it through dam construction or pumping of ground water. Increasing resources of the latter were being discovered through ground water surveys, many of which were being conducted with the assistance of FAO. A number of delegates pointed to projects of large dam construction and irrigation systems with colossal implications for the agricultural potential of their countries.

46. Some delegates expressed their concern over the gradually increasing losses of irrigable land through salinization and water logging. Partly a consequence of poor irrigation practices, but in the main a result of inadequate drainage and periodical flooding, the solution of the problem would require investments in the construction of canals and drains that might reach formidable proportions and demand considerable research and investigations.

47. The delegates expressed their views on the necessity to coordinate research on an intra-regional basis. The exchange of information obtained through research in countries of similar ecological, social and economic conditions as exist in the region would result in great advantages and considerable saving in time and money to the Member Countries.

48. As a logical sequence to the nutritional problems, the Conference underlined the importance of the FFHC which it recognized as an important means to increased world-wide awareness of the problems of hunger and malnutrition. The Conference expressed its satisfaction at the many actions which had already taken place and referred to the enthusiastic response of the people. It appealed to FAO and to the national committees to continue their efforts and to highlight the Campaign with special events, such as had taken place in the past during the World Freedom-from-Hunger Week. It appealed to countries to strengthen their FFHC national committees and to put at their disposal the means to carry out their tasks effectively. Finally, the Conference expressed full support for the Freedom-from-Hunger Declaration and the conclusions of the World Food Congress.

#### (b) Review of FAO's Activities in the Near East

49. The Conference welcomed the review of FAO's activities in the Near East presented by the Regional Representative, and, as a whole, endorsed it while the following items received particular consideration.

#### Implementation of Recommendations of the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

50. The Sixth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East had made 74 recommendations, of which 58 were addressed to FAO and 16 to the governments of the region. Annex XIV of the Director-General's Program of Work and Budget for 1964/65 listed the recommendations and the action FAO had taken. Since this paper was compiled, some changes had taken place regarding several recommendations, and thus, of the 58 recommendations requiring action by FAO, 45 had been included in the Program of Work and Budget for 1964/65. Of the remainder, 5 will be partially implemented and 8 had been excluded, largely due to budgetary limitations.

51. The Conference was pleased to hear that FAO had placed 45 of its recommendations on the Program of Work and Budget for 1964/65. There was a feeling that an appraisal

and evaluation of the results obtained from these 45 projects would be of value to the recipient governments of the region and to FAO. The Conference agreed that such an appraisal was largely the responsibility of governments who had to decide whether the methods followed and the results achieved were in line with what was expected.

52. The importance of the activities in the field of inland fisheries was discussed and the Conference suggested their inclusion by Member Governments in their 1965/66 EPTA requests.

53. Many aspects of agricultural research were discussed and there was a general feeling that agricultural research should, as far as possible, be conducted through the existing national institutes rather than by the foundation of new institutes which are expensive to establish and would take time to produce results. It was also felt that such agricultural research institutes should first be on a national scale and expand to a regional scale at a later stage. It was thought that FAO should assist in the coordination of the work of such national institutes by drawing up long-term programs for research and recommending specific aspects of such research to those institutes best qualified for such work. In this connection, the satisfactory experience of the Mediterranean Forestry Sub-Commission was brought to the attention of the Conference. There was also mention of the necessity of exchange of information both on basic and applied research.

54. The Conference noted that the Near East Animal Health Institute publications would appear twice a year and expressed the opinion that rigid time schedules should not be followed, but that material should be published when available. This view referred to the Public Information Bulletin, while technical material, it was recognized, would be distributed when worthwhile results had been obtained.

55. The Conference stressed the importance it attached to FAO having a source of funds to help in the control of new epizooties.

56. In reviewing FAO's activities, emphasis was laid rather on the action which FAO had taken than on the results obtained. However, the discussions which would take place on specific items of the agenda were, to a large extent, an appraisal of the work done by FAO on the recommendations of the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, and would shed light on the effectiveness of FAO's activities in general in the region.

57. The Conference noted with interest that FAO had made considerable progress in evaluating agricultural education and research facilities in the Near East region. A survey and appraisal of agricultural education institutes and a survey and appraisal of agricultural research institutes had been completed and would soon be published.

58. Of the 16 recommendations made to governments, replies regarding the national position had been received from only three governments (Kuwait, Jordan and Sudan). It was hoped that further replies would be received in the near future so that the exact position regarding these recommendations might be known.

#### Activities of Regional Commissions and Committees

59. The Conference agreed that the regional commissions and committees played an increasingly important role in the agricultural development of the Near East region. It noted with satisfaction that since the last Regional Conference, two new commissions, as well as one committee, had been established, namely:

- (a) The Near East Plant Protection Commission (established by the Twelfth FAO Conference in 1963);
- (b) The Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning (established by the FAO



Council in July 1963);

- (c) The FAO Committee on Horticultural Production in the Near East and North Africa (established by the Twelfth FAO Conference in 1962).

60. In considering the need for the Near East Commission on Agricultural Statistics to establish a regional research and training institute in agricultural statistics, the Conference hoped that it would be possible for the instruction to be given in at least one of the official languages of FAO normally used in the Near East region.

61. In discussing the Near East Plant Protection Commission, the hope was expressed that the regional plant protection institutes, recommended by the Second FAO Plant Protection Meeting for the Near East, could be established as early as possible. It was pointed out that interest in the protection of agricultural products in storage was inadequate, a recent survey having shown that 50% of food was damaged by pests and mould, and 16% was lost completely.

62. The Conference welcomed the establishment of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning and the majority of the delegations endorsed the recommendations adopted at its first meeting, including the establishment of a Near East Agricultural Development and Planning Institute. The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic confirmed the offer to establish this Institute in Damascus and to provide all facilities, including lands, buildings and part of the operating costs.

63. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 1/64

THE CONFERENCE

Noting the recommendation of the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East for the establishment of a Near East Agricultural Planning Institute as endorsed by the First Session of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning;

Welcoming the continued interest of the Member Governments of the region for the establishment of the Institute;

Noting further the offer of the Syrian Arab Republic to provide facilities and part of the operating cost of the Institute;

Invites the Member Countries of the region to declare their support for the establishment of the Institute in Damascus and their willingness to share in the expenses for its operation.

64. It was agreed by the Conference that the scope of the Institute could be, and should be, complementary to the proposed International Institute for Agricultural Development. The Institute could serve as a secretariat to the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning and would be instrumental in the training of personnel engaged in agricultural development and planning. It could also be called upon to review and evaluate projects, programs and plans, if submitted by Member Countries, and to carry out specific research when requested by the Commission or any of its members.

65. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Fourth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission, held in Beirut in June 1964. In doing so, it pointed out that greater efforts were necessary in the administrative and industrial sectors for which, in turn, it was necessary to improve the collection of forestry information and statistics and the study of market trends. The Conference agreed that forest policy and land use planning should be viewed in the context of economic and social

planning and that the adequate participation of foresters in land use planning should be ensured.

66. The Conference recommended that FAO should organize another seminar on shelter-belts and urged Member Governments to supply the secretariat with material to complete the envisaged study.

67. The Conference noted the work of the Commission's Working Parties on Forestry Education, Research and Forest Range Management which met during the Session, and endorsed the decision to amalgamate the Working Party on Forestry Education and the Committee on Forestry Research into one subsidiary body, under the name of the "Working Party on Forestry Education and Research of the Near East Forestry Commission". It hoped that the Director-General would approve the proposed amalgamation. The Conference also endorsed the decision to amend the name and terms of reference of the Working Party on Forest Range Management to take into account all the factors relevant to forest range management within the framework of forestry and watershed development as a whole, under the new name of "Working Party on Watershed and Forest Range Management of the Near East Forestry Commission".

68. As regards research, it was agreed by the Conference that the formulation of an integrated regional forestry research program could be attempted, in particular for research on eucalyptus.

69. Finally, the Conference, recognizing the paramount role which the World Forestry Congresses play in the formulation of world and regional forestry policy, strongly recommended that all Member Governments send a delegation to the Sixth Congress to be held in Spain in 1966.

70. The Conference welcomed the establishment of an FAO Committee on Horticultural Production and looked forward to the meeting to be held at the end of 1965.

#### Mediterranean Development Project

71. The Conference devoted particular attention to the Mediterranean Development Project and especially to the conclusions of the meeting held in Nimes in May 1964.

72. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

#### RECOMMENDATION No. 2/64

##### THE CONFERENCE

Noting with satisfaction the action undertaken by the Director-General in pursuing the Mediterranean Development Project in accordance with the recommendations of its Sixth Session;

Having reviewed the results of the Meeting on Mediterranean Development held in Nimes in May 1964;

Believing that implementation of many Mediterranean-type projects should be supported by cooperative arrangements among interested groups of countries;

Stresses that such cooperation should involve countries of similar stages of development and of similar economic and social conditions;

Emphasizes that FAO action should continue to proceed according to the Organization's established regional structure;

Invites Member Governments acting individually or in groups to take whatever action they deem appropriate:

- (a) to establish institutes supported by the necessary documentation facilities for the training of personnel for development agencies and for marketing and credit institutions;
- (b) to create improved facilities for the marketing of their agricultural produce and ensure the widest possible cooperation and consultation with regard to these marketing problems;
- (c) to adopt measures designed to create and improve the financing facilities for agricultural investment and for the establishment of national credit cooperatives or similar institutions;

Recommends that Mediterranean-type projects and action should be extended as far as possible to all countries of the Near East region; and,

Urges the Director-General of FAO and the Managing-Director of the UN Special Fund to give favourable consideration to requests from countries acting separately or in groups for assistance in connection with the further implementation of Mediterranean-type projects, especially along the lines indicated above.

73. In adopting this recommendation unanimously, the Conference recognized that the countries bordering the Persian Gulf were included in the Near East region, and that the creation of new training institutes should not preclude the strengthening of existing institutes within and outside the region.

74. As regards requests for new Mediterranean-type projects, it was agreed that FAO would first of all undertake preliminary studies on the basis of which the Director-General, in consultation with the corresponding bodies and governments, would decide on the initiation of such projects.

#### Meetings, Seminars, Training Centres and Regional Surveys

75. Before discussing the policy recommendations arising out of the technical meetings which had been held in the region during the last two years, the Conference expressed the wish that FAO should attempt a more equitable distribution of meetings, seminars and training centres among the countries of the region. To achieve this, it called on Member Governments to offer adequate facilities for the holding of such meetings to FAO whenever possible.

76. As regards technical meetings, seminars and training centres, the Conference stressed their value and stated that they could play an important role in training government officials and giving them opportunities for exchanging ideas; this was essential if national administrations were to be strengthened to enable them to fulfil their functions satisfactorily. The Conference noted that 29 such meetings have been held over the last two years and it considered in detail certain policy recommendations which required action at the ministerial level for their follow-up.

77. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the WHO/FAO/UNICEF Regional Seminar on Applied Nutrition for the Near East (September/October 1963), and reaffirmed the need for strong national nutrition committees as recommended by numerous conferences of FAO. It also suggested the formation of a joint FAO/WHO Regional Nutrition Committee, as recommended by the joint WHO/FAO/UNICEF Regional Seminar on Applied Nutrition. The Conference suggested that the means of establishing such a Committee might be studied by FAO's Near East Regional Office. The Conference noted with satisfaction the willingness of WHO to cooperate in the formation of such a Committee and agreed that it was necessary to direct nutritional work towards the need of the individual.

78. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 3/64

THE CONFERENCE

Reviewed and endorsed the recommendations made during the WHO/FAO/UNICEF Seminar on Applied Nutrition, held in Cairo in September and October 1963, concerning the need for establishing strong national nutrition committees to assist in the formulation of national food and nutrition policies;

Emphasized the need for training of nutrition workers of various categories;

Requested the Director-General to seek ways and means through which the establishment of a joint FAO/WHO Regional Nutrition Committee can be accomplished.

79. The Conference recognized the need for reducing food losses through waste which occurred on account of improper handling and storage conditions. It also noted the need for taking into account health problems, such as the control of bilhariazis, which results from the extension of irrigation, thereby stressing the importance of safe community water supplies.

80. The Conference stressed the need for food consumption surveys, for the training of staff to carry them out and for the correct interpretation of the data so that governments could establish sound food and nutrition policies. Discussions extended to the problems of the feeding of industrial workers, and the Conference expressed interest in the joint FAO/WHO Seminar on the subject to be held late in 1965. The Conference welcomed the cooperation of WHO in all these activities and requested that the Organization should continue to strengthen its collaboration.

81. With regard to the Farm Broadcasting Seminar (March/April 1964), the Conference felt that this field had considerable scope for expansion in the future and expressed satisfaction at FAO's activities in this connection. It stressed that the use of broadcasting for the diffusion of information and advice on agriculture was of great value to the farming population and could contribute to the expansion of marketing and related services. It insisted on the need to take great care to check carefully all information which was intended for broadcasting.

82. As to the Third Meeting of the Working Party on the Development of Grazing and Fodder Resources of the Near East (April 1963), the Conference endorsed the recommendations, and gave emphasis to those asking for the improvement of animal health and veterinary services and for measures to increase the carrying capacity of range land coupled with better management, soil conservation and erosion control practices.

83. With regard to publications, the Conference once again stressed the need for FAO to produce a high-quality regular publication, approximately on the lines of the UNESCO "Courier", which was considered essential to reach selected sectors of the public, particularly university and trade circles, and to enlist their support for FAO activities. It recommended that the Director-General should study the possibilities of producing such a publication and submit proposals on the subject to the Thirteenth Session of the Conference.

B. MAJOR POLICY QUESTIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEAR EAST

(c) The World Food Congress and Future Direction of  
the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign

84. Document NERC 64/4 was introduced by the Deputy Coordinator for the Campaign. The attention of the Conference was drawn to the recommendations of the World Food Congress and the guidance of the Conference was sought on the implementation of these recommendations. The views of the Conference were also requested on the role and programs of national FFHC committees; on the scheme for cooperation between committees in developed and developing countries; on the plans announced for a second World Freedom-from-Hunger Week in October 1965; and on the Young World Mobilization Appeal, which was launched by the Director-General in June 1964.

85. The Conference warmly endorsed the decision to continue the FFHC Campaign until the end of the United Nations Development Decade in 1970. Some delegates felt that this was too short a period and, recognizing that the Campaign was proving of great value in stimulating wider interest in the problems of hunger, strongly urged that FFHC should be considered as an integral part of FAO, and as a means of complementing FAO's regular program by enlisting new resources in the fight against hunger. The Conference laid stress on the responsibilities that should be assumed by non-governmental organizations representing the various sectors of public opinion.

86. The Conference approved the decision to hold periodic World Food Congresses, and some delegations asked the Director-General to consider by what means governmental participation in future congresses could be strengthened, so that recommendations of future congresses might have greater authority.

87. The dual role of the FFHC as an educational force and as a means of initiating action was recognized. The Conference considered the nature of FFHC action projects and strongly endorsed the view that such projects must be for work of permanent value and not merely palliatives. This would ensure that the limited funds likely to be available from Campaign sources would be used to maximum advantage, and would assist also in forming a link of continuing interest between donor and recipient countries. It was pointed out that the value and effectiveness of a project was greatly increased if it was originated by the people who would benefit from it. The Conference noted with approval a number of suggestions for the consideration of possible joint action in support of a project or projects of value to the entire Near East region.

88. The Conference recognized the potential importance of effective national committees and urged the establishment of such committees in all countries of the Near East region. Strong support was expressed for the expansion of the activities of national committees into rural areas, as a means of supplementing normal programs of rural education, and as a way of ensuring the active participation of rural populations in Campaign actions. At the same time, it was agreed that the task of arousing public opinion in all sectors of the community remained of paramount importance and must be continued and expanded.

89. The importance of linking information and development action was stressed and it was suggested that FFHC propaganda should focus attention particularly on the need to increase productivity and to eliminate waste. A proposal that the attack on food wastage from all causes might be the theme of a special FFHC initiative within the region was widely supported.

90. The Conference agreed on the paramount importance of education at all levels of FFHC action, and many delegations gave details of plans for increasing the activities of their national committees in this field. It was agreed that additional educational material was needed and that more instructional films would be of great value.

91. FAO plans for partnership between committees in developed and developing countries were warmly welcomed and it was agreed that such partnership could be of great value for the furtherance of the Campaign. It was suggested, however, that it might be of even greater value to link together committees with similar problems and at similar stages of development. The Conference agreed that an extension of the partnership scheme on these lines would be helpful and asked that it be initiated.

92. Several delegations felt that for the creation and continued effective working of national FFHC committees, the assistance of both the Coordinator's Office and the Regional Office was of the greatest importance, and asked the Director-General to consider the appointment of a full-time officer to work with FFHC committees in the region as soon as funds permitted. Strong stress was laid upon the value of an exchange of visits between committee officers and of ensuring a regular flow of information between committees. It was agreed that a system of regular reporting should be worked out with the assistance of the Coordinator's Office and of the Regional Office.

93. Delegates gave encouraging reports of their national committees' activities and of plans for the Regional Freedom-from-Hunger Week to be held in November 1964. FAO's proposal for a second World Freedom-from-Hunger Week in October 1965 was warmly welcomed, and in particular the decision of the Director-General to launch a Young World Mobilization Appeal was strongly endorsed. The Conference agreed that it was of the utmost importance to enlist the active participation of young people in the Campaign, and pledged its support for the Young World Mobilization Appeal.

(d) The Planning of Food and Agricultural Education and Training

94. Item 7 of the agenda was introduced by the consultant, Dr. Felix Brucher of the Ford Foundation, Damascus, who drew the attention of the Conference to some major aspects of agricultural education and training in the region. The Conference then listened with interest to statements by delegations on the present status, recent developments and future plans for agricultural education and training in their respective countries. From the discussions it was apparent that all the countries represented recognized the basic importance of education and training in agriculture, and the need for careful planning was repeatedly stressed. It was noted that agricultural education and training should be an integral part of agricultural development and that planning for agricultural education and training should consequently be within the context of overall national plans for economic and social development.

95. The Conference recognized the need for a permanent body to oversee these important functions and adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 4/64

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the importance of planning of food and agricultural education and extension for Member Countries of the Near East region;

Recommends to the Director-General to study and explore the possibility of establishing a Commission on food and agricultural education and extension in the Near East region at the earliest possible time.

96. The Conference further discussed the problems of agricultural education and training in terms of three major levels, namely, 1) higher, or university level; 2) intermediate level (to prepare agricultural technicians or field assistants) and 3) practical or farm level (for practical farmers - both men and women).

97. Discussions centered largely on intermediate level training and its importance for agricultural development was repeatedly stressed. It was felt that training at

this level should be practical, functional and job-oriented in order to turn out agricultural technicians with knowledge and skills in specialized fields of agricultural production, and that the centres for these trainees should be attached to existing experimental farms, agricultural research stations, and/or agricultural extension units. In discussing this point it was evident that most of the countries recognize the need for close coordination between the major technical agricultural services, i.e. research, extension and education. In connection with the foregoing, and considering the increased demand for technical assistants and skilled workers in various fields of agricultural engineering, including power machinery, drainage at the farm level to work on existing farms and in reclamation areas, the Conference recommended that the Director-General assist with the planning of technological training courses in these fields.

98. On the practical or farm training level, the need for short courses, seasonal and subject matter training, was stressed, as well as the fact that such training should, wherever possible, be conducted with the help of the existing agricultural services and local leaders at the field level.

99. In considering the difficulties in making agricultural education and training more practical, it was noted by the delegates that proper legislation is needed, and adjustments made in existing civil service regulations and institutional arrangements, in order to support and speed up improvement of such education and training.

100. For higher or university level agricultural education, the importance of quality as against quantity with respect to graduates was recognized, and it was noted that overproduction of university trained agriculturalists should be guarded against. It was also felt that college study plans and courses should be continuously reviewed and kept up-to-date in order to turn out engineers familiar with arising developmental problems of agriculture of the country and the latest scientific methods of agriculture. Both for higher and intermediate levels, the need for careful manpower requirement studies was underlined by the Conference.

101. The Conference agreed that it was important for governments to make adequate institutional arrangements for absorbing trained manpower at the various levels of activity. It was agreed that this aspect of planning had special relevance for new programs of training and action, as, for example, in the case of fisheries and home economics.

102. After reviewing the recommendations of the First Near East Seminar on Higher and Intermediate Agricultural Education held in Beirut in 1963, the Conference endorsed them and requested the Director-General to implement them as soon as possible. The Conference also urged Member Governments to take the necessary action required of them for the successful implementation of the recommendations. The Conference further suggested that in carrying out the recommendations, the cooperation and assistance of sister organizations, whose activities touch upon agricultural education and training, should be obtained as may be appropriate.

103. In the light of these discussions, the Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 5/64

THE CONFERENCE

Considering the increasing demand for technicians and assistant technicians in the different fields related to food and agriculture;

Recognizing that it is necessary to survey the present and future supply and demand of qualified and experienced personnel and workers in these fields;

Noting the useful information which had been submitted to it on the planning of teaching and training in food and agriculture;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO to take the steps which he considers necessary and feasible to provide the essential specialized services to:

- (a) evaluate the present and future situation of the supply and demand of qualified personnel at all levels in the fields of:
  - (i) agricultural engineering, irrigation and drainage.
  - (ii) fisheries, fish culture and fish industries.
  - (iii) veterinary medicine and animal disease control.
  - (iv) animal production (and its close relationship with animal and public health).
  - (v) agricultural industries.
- (b) assist and advise governments of the region on the organization of training courses in these fields and on the development of existing teaching institutions and the creation of new ones, so that the availability of qualified personnel and workers can be made to correspond to the present and future requirements of the countries of the region.

104. The Conference noted with satisfaction the developments in higher forestry education in some countries of the region, as well as plans for the establishment of higher forestry education in others. The Conference considered, however, that there was still a greater need for technicians at the intermediate level, and estimated that the present rate of rangers' training should be increased about tenfold.

105. The Conference expressed its thanks to the Director-General for the effective and considerable assistance rendered by FAO, under EPTA, to the Near East Forest Rangers' School and adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 6/64

THE CONFERENCE

Considering the importance of developing further forestry education in the region;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO to continue its technical and financial assistance to the Regional Forestry School at Lattakia, Syria, until the end of 1970;

Recommends to Member Governments to take advantage of the facilities offered by the joint FAO/ILO scheme of fellowships to send participants to courses on the rationalization of forestry operations and forest workers' training methods, as recommended by the Fourth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission.

106. In view of the importance of animal production and veterinary activities in the production of animal proteins, and the need for more trained people in these fields, the Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 7/64

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the importance of veterinary activities in the productivity of animal protein resources;



Noting the need for training the young rural farmers in different activities related to animal diseases, vaccinations, milk hygiene, artificial insemination work, poultry disease, combat of parasites, etc.;

Recommends to the Director-General to study and explore the possibility of establishing national animal production and veterinary training centres in Member Countries of the Near East region for the above mentioned purposes.

107. The Conference discussed with interest the vital role of home economic extension in rural development through work with farm women and families. It noted with concern the lack of trained home economics extension workers and the need for providing for this subject in faculties of agriculture. The Conference, however, was pleased to hear of the development of home economics courses in the U.A.R., Iran and Pakistan and of the proposed training at an intermediate level in Jordan, and recommended that full use be made of these existing facilities in training personnel from other countries of the region. The Conference felt that if programs of home economics are to expand adequately, governments would have to give suitable recognition to home economists and, among other measures, make provision in the national budget for their employment. Several delegates felt that assistance was needed from FAO and other agencies in the provision of fellowships for the training of home economics extension workers. The Conference also recommended that a technical meeting on the subject of home economics extension be convened as soon as possible.

108. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 8/64

THE CONFERENCE

Reaffirmed the need for trained home economics extension personnel to work with farm families and for including training in human nutrition as a subject in all faculties of agriculture;

Considering the scarcity of institutions in the region that undertake this training which must include both agricultural and home economics subjects;

Recognizing that full use must be made of existing facilities;

Recommends to the Director-General:

- (a) that the FAO/UNICEF Sponsored Rural Home Economics Course at the Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, be expanded into a permanent regional training centre without excluding the possibility of developing other institutions in the region for the same purpose;
- (b) to explore the possibilities of providing a regional home economics expert to this centre after the present FAO/UNICEF assistance is terminated;
- (c) that FAO and other interested agencies explore the means of assisting in this training by the provision of fellowships;
- (d) that, in view of the recommendations of the Sixth FAO Near East Regional Conference on the holding of a technical meeting on home economics extension and its relation to agricultural extension, and the increasing need felt by the countries of the region for such a meeting, the Director-General take the necessary steps to organize such a meeting at the earliest possible opportunity and seek ways to finance it.

Recommends to Member Governments:

- (a) to provide fellowships for women students from their countries to study at this training centre and at other institutions in their own countries or in the region where similar facilities are offered or planned;
- (b) that all governments in the region, who have not already done so, establish a home economics extension service and create appropriate positions for graduates of such institutions in order to attract suitable candidates for this type of work;
- (c) to work towards the establishment of national medium level training facilities for home economics extension workers which could also provide in-service training.

109. Following a discussion on the services provided to the region by the Arab States Fundamental Education Centre (ASFEC), in training hundreds of men and women in community development, including agriculture extension, cooperatives and home economics, and believing that FAO experts working with ASFEC should be made available to extend advisory services and to conduct studies in the countries of the region, the Conference requested the Director-General to make adequate provision in his Program of Work and Budget for this purpose. The Conference also expressed the hope that it would be possible to increase the number and duration of visits of regional officers to Member Countries so that they could make substantial contributions to each country's requirements in their technical fields.

110. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 9/64

THE CONFERENCE

Considering the importance of ASFEC as a Regional Centre for training hundreds of men and women in community development, including the fields of agricultural extension, cooperatives and home economics;

Recognizing the importance of these fields in the development of the countries in the region;

Noting that FAO experts working in the Regional Office and ASFEC should be made available to extend advisory services and to conduct studies in the countries of the region;

Requests the Director-General of FAO to continue his support for ASFEC in its expanded program, and to give full consideration in making sufficient provision in his Program of Work and Budget for the travel of the FAO experts of the Near East Regional Office and ASFEC to serve the countries in the region.

111. The Conference noted with satisfaction that the countries of the region are making positive efforts to improve their systems and programs of agricultural education and training by applying more realistic methods, commensurate with the needs of trained manpower categories for dynamic agricultural development.

(e) The Application of Science and Technology to Agriculture

(1) Increased Production and Productivity

112. The Conference heard an introductory statement by the FAO consultant, Mr. Wesley R. Nelson. He said that climatic conditions always have been and always will be controlling factors in the growing of agricultural crops. The truth of this axiom is unavoidable, but we can, through the use of technological knowledge, work with nature or oppose some of her freakish aspects and thus avoid complete subservience to the whims of weather.

113. He noted that in the Near East Region, the dominant element which controls agriculture is the low rainfall and its uneven distribution. Appropriate selection of crops and growing seasons, and proper tillage, soil protection and harvesting practices can ensure success for rainfed agriculture, but in much of the region, agriculture which is dependent on rains is so unsatisfactory and financially perilous that recourse is made to irrigation whenever possible.

114. Science and technology can, he continued, be applied with exactitude in the field of irrigation, but due to the complexities involved in bringing water to the lands and ensuring productive use by the farmers, there are great possibilities of making serious mistakes by neglecting to collect all the basic data or of interpreting them incorrectly, before proceeding with development. He emphasized that since water is the limiting factor in the Near East, careful surveys and appraisals of land and water resources must be made as a basis for getting maximum benefit from the limited water resources. He pointed out that science and technology had made great strides in recent years in the field of food and agriculture and that countries in the Near East can make significant increases in production by making appropriate application of these findings.

115. He noted that many countries in the region are undertaking or preparing to undertake major irrigation projects and pointed out the importance of complete engineering, soils and geology studies in trying to avoid costly mistakes.

116. He said that while irrigation holds out great hopes for increasing production in the Near East, it is only one facet of the entire picture which must be studied in all its parts such as forest management, range management, soil and water conservation, fisheries, etc. All of these must be integrated in a practical way and all the recent findings of science and technology brought into full play if we are to meet the challenge laid down by the Director-General in his opening statement - to free the world from hunger.

117. Following the consultant's statement, delegates contributed much valuable information concerning the programs which were underway in their countries to protect their lands, make wider use of their water resources, and increase production and productivity of agricultural crops.

118. All the countries recognized the need to carry out studies, surveys and investigations of adequate scope prior to undertaking development.

Development of Land and Water Resources

119. The Conference recognized the fundamental importance of land and water resources of the region as the basis for agricultural development and the need for coordination of efforts to obtain maximum benefits from the deployment of the region's trained personnel and facilities in the fields of land and water investigation, development and conservation. It recommended that a Near East land and water use commission be established with assistance from FAO and to which any country of the region so desiring may adhere; and which would operate on the same general lines as do existing regional commissions.

120. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 10/64

THE CONFERENCE

Considering that the proper use of land and water forms the basis for all agriculture, and that to achieve such proper utilization there are wide opportunities for the application of science and technology in a coordinated manner throughout the region;

Aware of the danger of expanding existing or creating new institutes in such fields as soil research, or technical training schools in such fields as mechanized farming and irrigated agriculture without some central coordinating body such as the proposed commission;

Recommends that the Director-General of FAO take such steps as he considers advisable and feasible to establish a Near East land and water use commission, to which any country of the region may adhere, and which will operate on the same general lines as the existing commissions; and,

Suggests that initially, the duties of the Near East land and water use commission shall be to:

- (a) Review the current situation with regard to land and water use in the region;
- (b) Establish standard methods of investigation, classification and reporting, so as to facilitate land and water resource surveys, and to ensure that the results of such surveys can be put to good use, not only within the country immediately concerned, but also transferred to other countries in the region.
- (c) Provide guidance to Member Governments on training facilities and programs, as well as advice on additional facilities and courses required if Member Governments, and the region as a whole, are to have the trained staff and executive personnel necessary for the planning and implementation of national land and water utilization programs. The commission would pay particular attention to the possibilities of establishing a regional soil research institute and technical colleges for training technicians in the fields of mechanized agriculture, irrigated farming and farm drainage practices.
- (d) Facilitate exchange of information by providing a documentary service and take necessary action to draw the attention of Member Governments to scientific and technical advances applicable in the efficient investigation, development and conservation of the land and water resources of the region.
- (e) Identify problems requiring research, help in establishing research priorities and in coordinating such research, and allocating specific subjects to the most suitable institute within the region, so that the most efficient use is made of the limited number of research personnel and facilities within this developing region.

121. It was suggested that the work of the commission would lie mainly in the following fields, but the list may be enlarged or contracted as the work of the commission proceeds:

- (i) Surveys: soil surveys and classification, soil fertility surveys; water

resources (surface and underground) surveys; dryland farming surveys; agroecological surveys.

(ii) Utilization: land use capabilities classification; soil and water management and conservation; reclamation of saline soils; farm irrigation and drainage; dryland and irrigation farming practices.

(iii) Planning: farm planning and management, economic appraisals.

122. The Conference discussed the soils problems of the region at considerable length and noted the many problems common to countries of the region requiring research and trained personnel. It recognized the need for the establishment of a regional soil institute, but decided that its implementation should be deferred until it had been considered by the proposed Near East land and water commission.

123. The problem of finding economical means for developing underground water resources was discussed and the assistance of the United Nations agencies in studies and investigations of methods for developing underground water supplies, especially from limestone formations, was particularly requested.

124. The Conference agreed that studies need to be undertaken on the application of atomic energy, as well as of solar energy, oil and other fuel sources, to demineralize water for use in irrigation.

125. The importance of providing adequate drainage when planning new irrigation projects was stressed. The attention of the Conference was called to the unfortunate experience of the countries on the great river valleys of the region due to inadequate drainage in some irrigated areas, and the technical and financial difficulties of now having to add such systems as agricultural production declines due to salinity, alkalinity and waterlogging.

126. The Conference agreed on the great importance of following up soil surveys with adequate interpretation in terms of land classification so as to render them most useful for agricultural planning. Such interpretation, it was pointed out, should be supported by actual farm experience and experimental work in pilot areas.

127. The Conference considered the enhanced value of natural resources brought about by the application of science and technology and the need for having this enhanced value reflected in the laws governing the use of land and water. The Conference was interested to learn that at least one country in the region has recently created a national board for water and land use, indicating a realization of the basic importance of water in the national economy, and suggested that other countries consider similar action.

#### The Role of Mechanization in Increasing Agricultural Productivity

128. The Conference took note of the importance of mechanization in increasing agricultural production, both in irrigated and rainfed zones of the region, but emphasized that there were difficulties in the successful adoption of improved farm machinery and power by farmers. One of the problems was the great diversity of types and models of machinery and equipment, from a great variety of sources, which aggravated the difficulty of providing spare parts and repairs and emphasized the importance of more careful evaluation and selection of the appropriate machinery.

129. The Conference suggested that the Director-General should make an assessment of the relevant data on the status of agricultural machinery within the region with a view to convening a meeting of a working party whose function would be to evaluate the report of this assessment and propose feasible ways and means for promoting the development and use of agricultural machinery, economically feasible, durable and practical for use by the farmers of the region and adaptable to the local soil and climatic

conditions.

130. The Conference also considered the problems of working out suitable arrangements for making it possible for the region's many small farmers to acquire needed machinery. Several delegates reported on various ways in which their governments have solved this problem, including government, cooperative and private machinery stations which make services of power and equipment available on a hire basis.

Animal Production and Health Measures for Improving Production

131. The discussion brought out that the problems of increasing animal productivity are proving more difficult to solve than those involved in the control of animal diseases. Solutions of the animal productivity problems in the arid and semi-arid climate found in the region generally required basic changes in the whole mode of life of the stock owners.

132. The Conference recognized that successful disease control measures without corresponding improvements in grassland management, nutrition, marketing and animal utilization might lead, in many areas, to insupportable pressure on the land and to a reduction in production. Animal production in the region is failing to keep pace with increasing requirements due to growth in population, rise in living standards and lack of proper utilization of the surpluses of livestock and animal products in some countries of the region.

133. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Second Near East Meeting on Animal Production and Health held in Beirut in September 1964 and recommended the establishment of a Near East animal production institute, as proposed by that meeting; and recommended that a meeting of the Animal Production Committee of the Animal Production and Health Working Party be convened as soon as possible, to consider and work out the system of organization for the proposed institute.

134. The Conference also considered the need for having available a reliable source for the distribution of improved livestock and poultry breeding stock in the region and recommended that a regional animal breeding centre be established, requesting the United Nations Special Fund to provide financial assistance. It was stressed that if such a centre is organized, a definite relationship should be established, between it and the proposed animal production and health institute, so that the centre's activities can be guided by the research of the institute and other national research organizations of the region.

135. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 11/64

THE CONFERENCE

Recalling the recommendation made by the Second FAO Near East Regional Meeting on Animal Production and Health held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 29 September to 1 October 1964, to establish a Near East animal production institute;

Recognizing the importance of the availability of a reliable source for the distribution of improved livestock and poultry;

Convinced that many countries of the region depend presently on unreliable and/or expensive sources for the importation of improved livestock and poultry to be used in their national breeding programs;

Noting the importance of a reliable source to supply such breeding stock whose production should depend on the results of research on the suitability and

adaptability of foreign breeds to the region;

Realizing that there are some countries in the region which have already developed some of their native breeds which can be propagated and made available to the other countries;

Appreciating that a definite and fruitful relationship should be established between the animal production institute and the breeding centre, so that the centre's activities can be guided by the research of the institute and the other national research organizations of the region;

Recommends the establishment of a regional animal breeding centre as a United Nations Special Fund Project;

Requests the Director-General to support such a request to the United Nations Special Fund for financial assistance.

136. The Conference stressed the importance of livestock marketing and development of marketing, processing and meat distribution. The development of simple abattoirs, processing and food storage facilities in the semi-arid areas as a means of utilizing culled animals and surplus stock prior to their loss from starvation was also brought out.

137. The Conference gave considerable attention to goats and the damage caused to range and forests in the semi-arid areas. It was agreed that it was necessary to prohibit the goat from many forest areas, but a solution was difficult because of the great importance of this animal to large numbers of people in some areas as a source of meat, skins and milk. It was stressed that there was still a lack of information on the effects of exclusion of goats in many of the arid and semi-arid areas on the composition and productivity of range lands and that there was no simple and easy solution to this problem. It was urged that FAO should make available to Member Governments any reports or studies already completed on this subject, and to undertake further studies on the place of goats in forest management. Such studies should consider the possibilities of replacing goats with improved breeds or other kinds of livestock, as well as alternative systems of goat management.

138. The Conference was advised of the project which the World Food Program is presently carrying out in the Syrian Arab Republic aimed at the settlement of nomadic people and at improving their livestock. The need was urged for establishing a regional research and training centre at Wadi Al Aazib, and of creating a regional post in fodder development and range management, as recommended by the Third Meeting of the FAO Working Party on the Development and Grazing of Fodder Resources of the Near East, held in Damascus in April 1963.

#### Crop Improvement Measures

139. The Conference recognized the many common problems of crop production in the region which can be better solved through coordinated efforts, as is being done in the case of the Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production Project. The importance of applying similar efforts in the promotion of other cereal crops, grain legumes, truck crops, industrial crops and forage crops of the region, which required similar methods and techniques, was considered.

140. While discussing the Wheat and Barley Project, the Conference considered the report of the First Regional Training Centre on Wheat and Barley Breeding in the Near East and adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 12/64

THE CONFERENCE

Noting with satisfaction the work already accomplished by the Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production Project which is a very good example of the coordinated work, and also noting the various recommendations made in the paper circulated on this Project; and,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening the Project and broadening its scope;

Recommends to the Director-General:

- (a) that one breeder cum agronomist and one seed production specialist be assigned to the Project, each to be headquartered at a strategic research station in the region;
- (b) that the Project be promoted as a major activity in the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign and allotted more financial support;
- (c) that the possibility of establishing one or two regional breeding centres be explored;
- (d) that the more advanced countries of the region help the other countries by providing experts, scholarships/fellowships and training facilities;
- (e) that in order to increase the overall production of food grains, maize and sorghum crops be included under this Project;
- (f) that the various other recommendations made in the paper circulated on this Project be implemented. These are:
  - (i) strengthening the breeding and other improvement programs, including yield trials and seed production and distribution;
  - (ii) ecological survey of the region through joint efforts of FAO/UNESCO/WMO;
  - (iii) continuing the holding of national, sub-regional and regional training centres, as well as a Mexico training centre.

141. The Conference recommended the establishment of a regional institute for crop production, including appropriate research units for the development of better varieties and providing facilities for training research workers from the different countries of the region. The Conference requested the Director-General to assist in the establishment of the proposed institute and to support the request to the UN Special Fund for financial assistance.

142. Reference was made to the FFHC Project on Fertilizer Use being carried out in some countries of the region. There had been a very remarkable increase in fertilizer use in some countries. The FFHC Project was considered very beneficial but it was suggested that this program, which has up to now been confined to annual crops, should be extended to perennial crops such as fruit trees.

Plant Protection

143. Repeated references were made to crop losses, sustained through pests and diseases all over the region, and to the need for making the fullest use of advances



made in science and technology in combatting them. In particular, concern was expressed over the growing infestation of soils and plants in irrigated areas in Jordan. Crop losses were generally estimated to be around 20 per cent of the total value of the crops, and, in some cases, the losses went up as high as 30 per cent.

144. While urging the application of modern methods of plant protection, the Conference noted that the wide use of pesticides had created problems of toxic residues in crops and soils, insect resistance to insecticides and destruction of beneficial insects, and had proved expensive. These considerations led the Conference to suggest the exploration of the possibilities of biological control and the integration of chemical control with biological control.

145. The Conference recognized that several of the plant pests and diseases, causing severe damage in the Near East Region, were common to large parts of the region and could be best and most economically investigated on a regional basis, with the resulting information being made available to all countries of the region. This was necessary in order to make the maximum use of available resources, technical personnel, funds and other facilities. Above all, there was the paramount need to coordinate efforts for research and surveys, establish mechanisms for the technical training of junior scientists and other personnel and promote regional cooperation in applying the results of research.

146. The Conference welcomed the establishment of the Near East Plant Protection Commission and hoped that its first session would consider the various problems of plant protection more specifically and fully than could be possible in the Conference. It endorsed the recommendation made by the Second FAO Plant Protection Meeting for the Near East in November 1962, for the establishment of regional plant protection institutes on different subjects and in different countries of the region, with the assistance of the United Nations Special Fund. In this connection it was informed of the interest of Sudan and Pakistan in such institutes on weed control and plant quarantine, respectively. Expressions of similar interest were given on behalf of Jordan and Lebanon, for institutes on plant parasitic nematodes and biological and integrated control, respectively. In establishing such institutes, however, it was essential to take into account existing facilities.

147. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 13/64

THE CONFERENCE

Noting the heavy damage caused to crops and crop produce in storage by pests and diseases in the region;

Appreciating the great value of plant protection measures in increasing agricultural production and improving the quality of the crop produce;

Convinced of the continuing need for adequate and well-coordinated research and surveys on plant pests and diseases in the region;

Recognizing the paramount importance of technically trained personnel of different levels throughout the region required for research, surveys and application of plant protection measures;

Believing that the Near East Regional Office in Cairo could render valuable and much-needed assistance to the countries of the region in the field of plant protection if adequately staffed;

Requests the Director-General:

- (a) to provide all possible assistance to such of the governments as may indicate their firm interest in the establishment of one or the other of the eight regional plant protection institutes on different subjects in their countries with the assistance of the United Nations Special Fund, as recommended by the Second FAO Plant Protection Meeting for the Near East;
- (b) to make the necessary provision for at least one regional training course in plant protection during the 1965/66 biennium;
- (c) to further strengthen the Near East Regional Office by the appointment of two more specialists, in addition to the one already existing, so as to adequately cover the three main activities of plant protection related to pests, plant diseases and plant quarantine.

Recommends to Member Governments:

- (a) to examine the possibility of establishing one of the proposed eight regional plant protection institutes in their respective countries physically as national projects, but retaining their regional character and technical scope;
- (b) to actively cooperate in the work of the Near East Plant Protection Commission, established in 1963, for the common benefit of the region as a whole and to take full advantage of the advice of the Commission for (a) coordination of their research and survey programs on plant pests and diseases of regional importance with those of the other governments; (b) improvement of the methods of plant pest and disease control and application techniques; and (c) as far as possible, standardization of plant quarantine procedures and techniques.

Interaction of Means for Increasing Productivity

148. The Conference gave attention to the need for considering the interaction among the various means for increasing agricultural production. It was recognized that successful application of science and technology on a farm usually involves a combination of practices and requires adjustment in land use, labour requirements, capital needed and the structural organization of farming units. Reference was made to efforts in some countries to plan and implement, on a pilot basis, farming systems which incorporate optimum land use and farming practices on typical farms in the areas in which land and water development projects are being carried out. These farms then serve to test the economic feasibility of improvements under farmers' conditions and provide useful demonstrations to the farmers of the area covered by the development project.

149. The Conference stressed the importance of keeping in mind the economic implications for farmers, as well as the country as a whole, when considering the application of science and technology for increasing production. It was emphasized that research on economic aspects should go hand in hand with research on technical problems.

150. It was pointed out that, in addition to the important economic implications of the interaction among measures for improving production within the farming unit, interaction between major land uses is of great importance. Forestry improvement, for example, is very much dependent on development of more suitable systems of livestock production in many areas. In some of the semi-arid areas, the integration of crop and

livestock production may be essential for satisfactory development of agriculture in those areas.

#### The Role of Modern Forestry Methods

151. The Conference agreed that under the arid and semi-arid conditions prevailing in the Near East, the protective value of forestry is of great importance as an integral part of the overall land use economy. Afforestation and sound forest management are necessary for soil and watershed protection in many catchment areas. The need to establish windbreaks and shelterbelts in agricultural areas to protect soils, crops and pasture lands, especially in the dry season, is understood by the forestry and agricultural officers of many countries of the region.

152. Afforestation requires special techniques in this region, particularly in mountain areas with low rainfall. Badly eroded soils, sand dunes and other ecologically unfavourable sites may need to be rehabilitated and put under forest cover. Impressive results, however, can be obtained even under extreme arid conditions by preparing the soil to increase its moisture retention capacity, by using drought resistant trees, by careful selection of sites, by the use of better nursery and plantation techniques, contour terracing and other methods which need to be widely extended. Modern inventory methods and improvement in logging and sawmilling operations can lead the way to self-sufficiency.

153. Tree planting has become accepted as the most promising answer to the problem of wood shortage in arid lands; an important conclusion, since some of the most remarkable recent advances in forestry have taken place in the field of man-made plantations. Irrigated forest plantations such as those of dalbergia, hybrid populus and eucalyptus can compare favourably with other cash crops.

#### Improvements in Fisheries Production

154. The Conference noted the vital role that fisheries can play in the achievement of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign and in the improvement of nutrition and health. It welcomed and generally endorsed Recommendation No. 8/63 of the Twelfth Session of the FAO Conference which envisaged that FAO should, through its Fisheries Division, assume in future years the role of the leading intergovernmental body in encouraging rational harvesting of food from the oceans and inland waters. The working papers on fisheries education and training and on resource appraisal, pollution danger, and a Near East fisheries technical meeting proposal, were also deliberated upon.

155. The Conference considered the latest advances achieved in the field of application of science and technology to fisheries and the progress made so far in the countries of the region. It was noted that all countries were interested in developing their fisheries, in regional collaboration and in continued external assistance, particularly from FAO.

156. The Conference emphasized the need for the establishment of a Near East regional data processing centre to collect and collate all available data and to draw up tentative fisheries atlases, charts and fishing calendars for the waters of the Near East. It also requested the holding of a Near East technical meeting on fisheries at an early date, for the exchange of views and the formulation of recommendations regarding the fisheries resources of the region and their exploitation through appropriate national and international action.

157. The Conference welcomed the trend for intensive cultivation of marine and inland waters, including algae culture, for food production. It also stressed the potential dangers of water pollution to aquatic life and requested the appointment of a short-term consultant on this subject.

158. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 14/64

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the urgent need for basic information on the availability of aquatic harvests and the characteristics of the fishing grounds in the seas of the Near East to achieve optimum fishing;

Recommends that as an immediate step towards providing such information, a data processing centre be established at the Near East Regional Office to collect and collate all existing data available from different sources and to draw up tentative fisheries atlases, charts and fishing calendars for the waters of the Near East;

Noting that a nucleus of fisheries workers and institutions has come into existence in a number of countries in the region, as shown in the directories appended to Conference Document NERC 64/5;

Considering that several of the Near East countries, especially those that border common bodies of water and share identical resources, have many fisheries problems in common, to be tackled jointly or on similar lines;

Recommends to the Director-General that a technical meeting of the fisheries representatives of the Near East countries be organized as soon as possible to exchange views and to make recommendations regarding their fishery resources and their exploitation through appropriate national and intergovernmental action;

Recognizing the danger to aquatic life, especially to fisheries, from the discharge of oil and other industrial wastes and municipal sewage into various water bodies in the Near East;

Requests the Director-General to consider the possibility of assigning a short-term consultant on water pollution to assess the actual dangers of pollution at least in the major waters of the region and to formulate suitable remedial measures.

159. The Conference stressed the importance of improving estuarine and sea fishing through programs for the mechanization of boats and the improvement of fish landing, transport and marketing. Taking into account the scarcity of trained staff in the field of fisheries, the Conference agreed that a detailed survey of fisheries education in the region should be carried out, and requested that a short-term consultant be assigned to this task as recommended by the First Near East Seminar on Higher and Intermediate Agricultural Education.

160. The Conference welcomed the offers of Syria to open the Fish Culture Training School at Kalat-al-Moudik, to students from the other countries of the region, and of the United Kingdom to make available the facilities and benefits of the new Special Fund Project of Fisheries Exploration and Training in the Gulf of Aden to the other Near East countries in the area, as well as to coordinate the work of this project with the proposed data processing centre at the FAO Near East Regional Office.

(ii) Statistical Requirements for the Application of Science and Technology

161. The Conference confined itself to the consideration of agricultural economic statistical requirements in the application of science and technology for increased agricultural production and productivity. Other statistical requirements for planning increased agricultural production, such as census data on holdings and areas under different crops, production and consumption statistics and the application of statistical methods to agricultural experimentation had been taken up at the Sixth and previous Regional Conferences.

162. The Conference recognized that agricultural economic statistics generally, and in particular statistics on agricultural prices, labour force and wage rates, costs of farm production, agricultural income and sector accounts, input/output relationships and productivity, are essential tools for the rational application of science and technology to agriculture. They enabled decision making in this respect in accordance with the principles of agricultural economics, thus ensuring their profitability and the general increase in the welfare of the farming population and the whole country. Such data have to be compiled in accordance with acceptable accuracy standards.

163. The Conference noted that most countries in the region were handicapped in their planning of agricultural developments by the many gaps in their agricultural economic statistics and were now engaged in strengthening their statistical services to enable the filling of these gaps and the improvement of the quality of the data. The Conference welcomed the work currently undertaken through the Near East Commission in Agricultural Statistics to standardize producer price statistics, and recommended that this work be extended to other types of agricultural prices in national programs and in the work program of FAO. Some delegates stressed the need to include statistical development as an integral part of national development plans; others indicated the urgent need to provide adequate training facilities in economic statistics and to develop methods for the compilation of such data under diverse and differing marketing practices and under conditions where farmers hesitate to provide accurate information.

164. The Conference welcomed the recent improvements in the Trade Yearbook of FAO by including monetary value data in addition to quantities and by increasing the country coverage. Special mention was made of the need to supplement the FAO international trade publications by providing trade data by origin and destination to assist countries in the marketing and estimation of demand for different agricultural products which are essential to planning increased agricultural production as well as in contributing to the requirements of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

165. The Conference was unanimous in stressing the urgent need for national and international action to further improve the state of national and international programs in the field of agricultural economic statistics and adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 15/64

THE CONFERENCE

Invites Member Governments to expand and improve their statistical services so as to enable the compilation of the required economic data needed for planning increased production.

Recommends that the Director-General increase the assistance to Member Governments in the field of economic statistics through:

- (a) the holding of regional training centres on important aspects

of agricultural economic statistics;

- (b) expanding the international standardization and compilation of agricultural statistics of trade, prices, wages, labour force, production costs, agricultural sector accounts and productivity;
- (c) the preparation of technical manuals on prices, index numbers, agricultural sector accounts, surveys of farm production costs and on the measurement of agricultural productivity.

(iii) The Promotion of Agricultural Processing Industries

166. The Conference considered the subject under discussion on the basis of Document NERC 64/7. It was recognized that agricultural processing industries would have to be promoted in order to ensure that the raw products derived from farms, forests, and seas reach their final destination.

167. The Conference considered that such industries offered one of the most promising approaches, and were an essential complement to any measures for increasing agricultural production and productivity, as they were incentives to primary producers. Furthermore, agricultural industries were among the most appropriate and promising starting points for a general and broader program of industrialization. Therefore, every possible effort should be made to spread such industries throughout the country in the rural areas, or as near as possible to the primary producer. Such a development could contribute to the solution of the problem of the unhealthy rate of urbanization, and directly improve the social and economic conditions of the majority of the population. It was noted, however, that the establishment of processing industries in rural areas did not mean that such industries always have to start on a small scale. The size of operation will depend on a number of factors, such as the characteristics of the raw material, the amount available, etc. In case supply of raw material could be efficiently organized, and market prospects were good, especially if an export outlet is likely, plants of a medium or large scale may have an advantage right from the beginning.

168. The Conference stressed that rural industrialization development planning, both in terms of human skills as well as raw materials needed to be given much more emphasis and governments should design such plans for each specific zone of their countries. It recommended that such planning should be one of the major economic and social objectives in governments' development programs.

169. The Conference recognized that many more industrial activities based on products of farms, forests and fisheries need to be developed. It was, however, realized that lack of funds and skilled personnel, especially technicians, technologists and managerial staff, were a hampering factor and that therefore education and training had to be accelerated rapidly.

170. The Conference recognized that pilot processing units offer unique opportunities for a specialized, rapid technical education and training. It noted that very favourable results were obtained in training personnel at various levels of skills by using the facilities of such pilot processing units, which were established with the help of the UN Special Fund in the Sudan and Syria, and were intended for education, training and applied research. It also noted that similar results were obtained in Libya, where, under Government Trust Fund operations, an experimental pilot tannery and a date syrup processing plant were now in successful operation after a period of specialized in-plant training.

171. The Conference noted that not all the raw material derived from farms, forests and seas could be subjected with advantage to processing, or industrial treatment.

The primary producer, therefore, needed more advice with regard to the raw material to be made available to industry, and how and when it should be delivered in order to make the entire operation a profitable business concern. It was recognized that industry had particular requirements which could only be met if proper contacts between primary producers and industries were established. It would appear that in many instances industries would be interested to organize such contacts by making available field personnel which would be of value for both industries and agriculture. If this could not be done, governments would then have to set up industrial extension services, so that from the beginning there was no artificial separation between activities in industry and agriculture. Reference was also made to the desirability of contracts to be made between industries and farmers in order to produce commodities as required by industry. Since, from an economic point of view, it is desirable for processing plants to work continuously, such a system could bring about the necessary variation in products grown as much as possible throughout the year.

172. The Conference agreed that agricultural and industrial developments in many instances are only different terminologies that apply to the same processes and activities to promote social progress and economic growth throughout the widest possible segment of the population. In many spheres, the two activities are fundamentally identical, and therefore have to supplement and reinforce each other.

173. Several delegations discussed ways and means to promote a suitable industrial climate and made reference to facilities offered by their governments, such as granting tax exemptions in the initial period of the enterprise, export bonuses, no limitation on dividend profits, provided part of the profits were returned to the industry, or were invested in other enterprises, etc.

174. Several delegations made it clear that more help from FAO would be required, and noted with satisfaction that within the Organization there is full integration of industrial development activities, and also recognition of the fact that promoting agricultural industries requires a rather complex series of action programs. The Conference was pleased to note that FAO was fully prepared to assist and advise on industrial development programs.

175. The Conference also noted with satisfaction that FAO's activities in food processing and food industry development are expanding rapidly, and that a food technologist for the region will be appointed in the near future.

176. The need for food standards and legislation to assist the development of food processing industries was noted, and the attention of delegates was called to the FAO/WHO Food Standards Program and the Codex Alimentarius.

177. The Conference also took note of the forthcoming ECA/BTAO/FAO Conference on Pulp and Paper Development for Africa and the Near East, to be held in Cairo in March 1965.

178. The Conference welcomed Resolution No. 28/63, adopted during the Twelfth Session of the FAO Conference in 1963, which "requests the Director-General, in formulating his Program of Work and Budget for 1966/67, to give particular attention to strengthening those aspects of the Organization's activities which can assist the developing countries to achieve a rapid and sound expansion of industries, either based on renewable natural resources, or designed to meet food and nutritional needs".

179. Furthermore, the Conference agreed that agricultural industrial development was of such importance for the developing countries that it needed to be given fuller attention, and therefore recommended that it should become an important item on the agenda of the Thirteenth Session of the FAO Conference to be held in 1965.

180. The Conference also requested that the subject should be a major topic on the agenda of the next Regional Conference for the Near East.

Observations on Some Specific Industries - Livestock Industries

181. The importance of developing the slaughter stock trade and meat industries was stressed by the Conference. Such livestock industries might take the form of factory-type abattoirs and cold storage plants, small mobile abattoirs, food storage depots, small dairy plants and cheese factories.

182. Heavy losses of stock are suffered each year in a number of countries as a result of starvation and the extensive migratory movements which take place in the arid and semi-arid areas. It was agreed, therefore, that it was of the greatest importance to establish such livestock industrial enterprises in or adjacent to the semi-arid grazing lands, as a means of making full economic use of the stock for the production of valuable raw materials, such as animal protein foods, relieving the pressure on the land and increasing the income of the nomadic producers.

183. The present wastage of by-products in slaughtering and meat industries was also discussed, and the Conference stressed the need to give more attention to by-products processing as these by-products were urgently needed for the poultry industry, requiring increasing quantities of animal protein foods. The better use of by-products having biological value was also stressed.

184. The Conference agreed that the importance of hides and skins improvement programs was a matter of great concern to almost every country of the region. The value of this raw material could be greatly increased by measures aimed at improved flaying, curing and grading techniques, and the valuable assistance given by FAO was fully recognized. Improvement of this raw material is of vital importance for export, whilst tanneries will never flourish if they cannot rely on a regular supply of first-class raw material.

185. The importance of utilizing more wool for the manufacture of carpets - especially hand-woven - was mentioned, as this small-scale industry could contribute to the betterment of life in villages.

186. It was stressed by a number of delegations that industries based on animal products often had to be encouraged and sponsored directly by governments, as private enterprise, even if willing and interested, was rarely equipped to deal with the many administrative and other institutional problems involved.

Cereal and Flour Processing and Bread-making

187. Several delegations reported on this subject and notice was given of the laboratory now being established in Lebanon to investigate problems of bread and bread-making. The findings of this laboratory, and of the one previously established in the U.A.R., will be useful for most countries in the region.

188. The Conference noted with satisfaction that FAO has been aware of the many problems involved, and already provided assistance to the region on this subject in the past. The Conference took cognizance of the FAO consultant at present visiting several countries in the region to determine the needs and possibilities for a regional bread improvement program, in which the existing facilities would be strengthened and training centres could be organized. It was agreed that problems in bread-making are common throughout the region where Arab-type bread is the major food. Improvements in milling and baking operations are needed to avoid the sizeable losses now occurring in grains, flour and bread on account of improper grain handling and storage methods and inadequate bread manufacture and marketing procedures.



189. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 16/64

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing that bread is the main food in the region and that the use of bread is increasing;

Noting that the use of imported grain and flour and the shifting of bread-making from the home to bakeries results in certain problems in making good bread;

Realizing that the nutritional enrichment of flour and bread provides easy and cheap means of providing needed nutrients to populations;

Recommends:

- (a) that the Director-General endeavour to provide, through country studies, training centres, demonstration bakeries or other means, assistance to countries of the region in their efforts to assure that bread-grains and flour make the maximum contribution to the nutritional health of the people;
- (b) that the outcome of studies on cereal and flour processing and bread-making, which were being carried out, be circulated to Member Countries in the region.

Forest and Forestry Products Industries

190. The Conference noted that the Near East Region continues to be a wood-deficit area, in spite of the great efforts made in the conservation of forests and re-forestation. There has been an appreciable rise in per capita consumption of industrial wood and especially processed products like plywood, paper and paperboard. The increase in consumption, however, has far outstripped the increase in local production, and imports of forest products therefore have increased. Carefully planned and sustained planting programs, mainly with selected quick-growing species in order to ensure sufficient raw material, are of the utmost importance.

191. Wood-based packaging materials, such as sawn-wood, veneer, wood-based panels and paperboard, which are greatly needed in the region, are now mainly imported. Consequently it is justified to evaluate the possibility of local production of these materials.

192. The Conference noted with satisfaction that FAO is well prepared to assist in forest industries investment projects.

Fishery and Fisheries Products Industries

193. Climatological conditions, the poor means of communication and transport and the lack of preservation and processing facilities have retarded progress in the development of fishing industries. Recently, however, improvements in communication and the availability of ice and refrigeration facilities have provided some incentive for the promotion of fish processing and trade, notably in Pakistan.

194. The need for further development of a wide range of fish preservation and fish products processing establishments was stressed by the Conference.

## Food Processing

195. The Conference recognized that fruit and vegetable processing will have to be expanded in most countries of the region. Of major importance here is the close cooperation between the agriculturist and the processing industry, since raw material suitable for industrial treatment must meet exacting requirements in order to produce marketable and, particularly, exportable processed products. Blending of juices also should be given further consideration. This "feedback" of information to the plant breeder, the horticulturist and other specialists in agriculture is an essential prerequisite for the development of successful large-scale food processing industries.

196. The Conference noted that steps had been undertaken by some countries to utilize surplus dates, in particular the cheaper varieties as food for livestock. Syrup manufacture could also give some promising possibilities to use this important commodity more fully.

197. The Conference noted with satisfaction that FAO was aware of the losses that occurred during handling and storage of many food and agricultural products. It was also noted that FAO constantly reviewed possibilities to reduce waste and make better use of by-products. It was agreed that well-organized processing plants could considerably reduce such losses, and that many opportunities existed to make better use of by-products, thus avoiding undesirable waste products to a greater extent.

198. The Conference also stressed that dehydration, either through improved sun-drying techniques or through artificial dehydrators, should be given greater attention. It noted with satisfaction that the UN Special Fund Project on Food Processing in Syria was carrying out intensified studies on the application of solar energy for drying fruits and vegetables, and recognized that the outcome could be of great importance for the region as a whole.

199. The packing industry for mixed and dried vegetable combinations should also be given more attention, as there appear to be potential markets abroad.

200. The Conference also noted with satisfaction that freezing practices and the establishment of cold storage chains are receiving greater attention.

201. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

### RECOMMENDATION No. 17/64

#### THE CONFERENCE

Recommends to Member Governments the establishment of institutions and organizations needed to initiate and assist the development of the principal agricultural and food industries;

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO and the Managing Director of the UN Special Fund to supply the necessary assistance to these national institutions so that they can carry out their task in relation to the establishment of the various industries needed for the economic and social development of the respective countries.

#### (f) Measures for Enlisting the Fuller Participation of the People, especially the Farmers, in the Agricultural Development Program

202. The Conference heard an introductory statement which was followed by a discussion in which it was apparent that the governments of the region are fully conscious of the importance of enlisting the people's participation, particularly that of the farmers, in the development process. Due to the varied conditions of the countries

represented, different approaches are being taken to obtain the farmers' participation. All the delegations, however, agreed that the agricultural development program should be a joint undertaking by governments on the one hand, and the rural population on the other.

203. The Conference stressed the importance of having the people participate at all stages or levels of development, particularly in the planning stage, thus ensuring that the farmers will be informed of the objectives and methods of operation before actual implementation takes place. It followed that they should continue to be involved intimately with the execution of the plans and the evaluation of results. Several delegations pointed out the importance of planning with the people not only for agriculture as such, but also for building the infrastructure upon which a dynamic agriculture depends, i.e. construction of roads, wells, culverts, dams, schools, meeting houses, libraries, etc., as is being done in several countries of the region. The Conference listened with interest to reports by delegations on the various institutional arrangements in their respective countries for involving the people actively in the development process. These take the form of village councils, basic democracies, cooperatives, chambers of agriculture and agricultural boards, all having the main objective of promoting or strengthening local self-government. The role of cooperatives in preparing individuals for responsible community leadership was noted by the Conference.

204. Concerning the problems of stimulating the farmers to participate more effectively, the Conference considered the various incentives to which they are likely to respond. Among these, the importance of the farmer's relationship to his land was stressed, an importance which is reflected in the many programs of agrarian and land reform throughout the region. Economic incentives were also considered to be of high priority as an inducement to farmers to work harder and more efficiently. Other incentives of a social nature were discussed, and here again, the local and cultural environment was considered to be a most important variable. It was felt that in some cultures the farmer's attachment to the group, and various social pressures, may sometimes be a disincentive to innovate on an individual basis. In such a case the group approach through cooperatives and other organizations would have merit. In view of the importance attached to social and cultural factors in effecting change, the Conference urged Member Governments to take cognizance of this aspect of planning and executing programs and projects of development and requested the Director-General to advise and guide Member Countries on this matter.

205. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 18/64

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing that the active and enlightened participation of farmers and others in programs of economic and social development is a vital factor for success; and,

Considering the contribution which rural sociological studies and investigations of a practical nature can make by providing helpful insight and guidance for the planning and execution of such programs;

Recommends Member Governments to make appropriate use of this discipline in the planning and execution of projects and programs requiring the people's participation, and furthermore requests the Director-General of FAO to assist and advise Member Governments in this matter.

206. The problem of communicating with the farmer and motivating him to action was discussed at some length. In this regard radio broadcasting was felt to be of considerable importance, and it was suggested that radio workshops, along the lines of the Regional Workshop held in Cairo in 1963, be held on a country basis throughout the region, with the respective countries being given guidance and assistance by FAO. The role of extension services was discussed with interest. In this connection, the value of field demonstrations and pilot projects was stressed. Mention was also made of conducting extension programs through the use of mobile teams, as in Syria, comprising specialists in the different subject matter fields. The problem of illiteracy was felt to be a major obstacle to influencing the farmer in a number of countries of the region, and this elicited the opinion that at a certain stage, and where illiteracy was high, primary education should perhaps have priority over higher education in the allocation of limited funds and other resources. The use of films was discussed, and the Conference looked to FAO to advise Member Countries on the production of agricultural films suitable for rural audiences of the region.

207. The Conference was pleased to note that evaluation studies were being undertaken by both ASFEC and the U.A.R., on a regional and country basis, respectively, on the relative effectiveness of agricultural extension methods and techniques.

208. The Conference laid considerable stress on the importance of providing the farmer with the various requirements and services for effecting change, particularly farm supplies, credit and marketing facilities. In this connection, several delegations commented in favour of the supervised credit approach by which credit supply and marketing would be coordinated, and also coordination of the work and programs of the various agencies serving the farmer, particularly the credit agency, extension, home economics, youth activities and cooperative departments.

209. In view of the importance of agricultural extension services to the success of development programs, and considering that there had been no FAO technical meeting on the subject since 1958 (Teheran), the Conference recommended to the Director-General that a technical meeting on agricultural extension be held as soon as possible. The Conference also endorsed Recommendation No. 19 of the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, requesting the holding of a regional extension training centre for senior officers of the countries of the region.

210. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 19/64

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the importance of extension services in developing agriculture in the region;

Considering that it is now six years since the last FAO technical meeting on the subject of extension was held for the region in Teheran (1958);

Recommends that the Director-General arrange for another technical meeting on agricultural extension to be held in the region as soon as possible.

(g) Trade Problems and Prospects in the Region

211. The Conference was presented with an analysis of the main trends in agricultural trade in the Near East and the prospects for the remainder of the UN Development Decade. Although the Near East, as a whole, was less dependent on agriculture for its foreign exchange revenue than other regions, many of the countries with large populations relied heavily on a few agricultural export commodities, particularly agricultural raw materials. It was noted that the region's agricultural export trade

had shown little real improvement in value terms during the past decade and, although there was distinct progress in the past two years, this had been still insufficient to meet the growing import needs. According to FAO projections to 1970, the longer-range market prospects for the region's main export commodities remained uncertain, unless there were substantial changes in national policies affecting international trade.

212. The Conference agreed that the long-term improvement of living standards required not only national action to improve agricultural productivity and diversification, but also international action to stimulate an expansion in export earnings at a rate sufficient to provide the financial resources for economic development programs. It therefore appreciated the outstanding importance of the UN Conference on Trade and Development, held in Geneva earlier in 1964, in which FAO had actively participated from the preparatory stages, and had made a major contribution to the documentation.

213. Appreciation was expressed to Dr. Abdul Moneim El Banna, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Economy of the U.A.R., who, at the request of the Director-General of FAO, presented a full review of the outcome of the UN Trade Conference. It was considered that its recommendations, which included proposals for the establishment of a periodic UN Conference on Trade and Development, as well as a permanent Trade and Development Board, might prove to be the beginning of a universally accepted code of principles for international relations in this field. The UN Conference, apart from measures aiming at the elimination or reduction of barriers to trade, had placed great emphasis on international commodity arrangements as a means of achieving more stability and predictability in the foreign exchange earnings of developing countries. It had also recommended that future commodity arrangements should provide for the improved coordination of national production and consumption policies. It further envisaged the establishment of funds to secure the implementation of agreed diversification programs in favour of developing exporting countries. Special measures to mitigate the adverse effect of competition from synthetics on the agricultural trade of developing countries had been proposed, which was of particular importance to the Near East Region.

214. The Conference believed that FAO had an important role to play in the realization of the basic aims of developing countries as expressed by the UN Trade Conference, and it welcomed the decision of the Director-General to select the question of means of regulating trade to assist development as one of the main themes in the 1966/67 Program of Work of FAO. In this connection, it welcomed the early initiative taken by the Director-General to develop working relationships with the new trade machinery when this is established.

215. The delegations reaffirmed the need for more concerted action to solve international trade problems and expand export earnings. Stress was laid on the inequalities arising between primary producing and industrialized exporting countries, which had been aggravated by recent increases in import prices of farm requisites, such as fertilizers and insecticides. Several delegations gave examples of the adverse effects on trade and instability in markets which had been caused by a lack of coordination of national production policies, and it was felt that such problems could, to a large extent, be avoided by bilateral agreements or international or regional consultations. In principle, it was felt that greater specialization of production should be encouraged within the region in areas of lowest cost, and thorough studies were needed to examine the scope for economizing on resources and increasing the efficient use of scarce capital.

216. Some delegations pointed out that although an expansion of the volume of trade might be achieved through dismantling trade barriers or liberalizing access to markets, this might not result in greater export earnings unless there was a greater organization of international markets. Various measures to sustain world prices at remunerative levels had been proposed, particularly by the Government of France, at FAO Conferences and at the UN Trade Conference. It was agreed that these proposals

deserved full study by the appropriate bodies.

217. Delegations also referred to the importance of national action to improve the efficiency of commodity trade, and to export marketing problems, which arose when domestic production outstripped local requirements. There were particular difficulties with grades and standards, and transportation. In this connection, the Conference noted with satisfaction that the Director-General proposed to extend FAO's direct assistance to developing exporting countries in work on export promotion, market surveys, grading and standardization, and other means of raising the competitive position of export commodities.

218. The Conference noted that the Organization also planned to extend its research and studies on particular commodity policy problems, notably through the network of inter-governmental commodity study groups which were organized under the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems. The FAO commodity projections of production, consumption and trade would be revised and extended to 1975 and beyond, thus providing guidelines to national planning and market surveys, as well as a commodity basis to the World Indicative Plan for agricultural development.

219. The Director-General proposed to intensify the Organization's work on the agricultural trade problems arising from competition with synthetics and on means of stimulating the growth of trade in processed products from developing countries. These issues were of special interest to the Near East Region, in view of its large exports of agricultural raw materials.

220. The Conference was informed that the Director of Special Studies of FAO, who had been one of the officers closely associated with the work of the Trade Conference and with its preparatory stages, was to undertake a comprehensive analytical review of international commodity arrangements and agreements, and of the principles governing them, supported by a series of detailed case studies. This work would greatly assist governments in their discussions of future commodity arrangements as part of the follow-up to the UN Trade Conference.

221. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 20/64

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the great importance of the UN Conference on Trade and Development;

Urges all countries of the region to implement its recommendations;

Supports generally the program of action on trade and development proposed by the Director-General;

Recommends that FAO intensify its efforts, on a regional and world-wide basis, to effect a better coordination of agricultural plans and to increase trade between the countries of the region;

Requests the Director-General:

- (a) to lend the facilities of the Organization to governments in devising measures to improve the efficiency of their national export trade;
- (b) to strengthen the FAO research and study program in the field of agriculture and commodity trade problems as related to

economic development, in collaboration with the new UN machinery and according to the working relationships which will be established between the two agencies.

C. CONCLUDING ITEMS

(h) The Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region

222. The Assistant Director-General for Near Eastern Affairs summarized the deliberations of the Conference, giving special emphasis to those points which would assist the Director-General in formulating his Program of Work for the next biennium. At the conclusion of this summary the following points were raised:

- (a) Some delegations felt that it would be more effective for the running of the Conference to elect only two vice-chairmen rather than to follow the present practice of making all heads of delegations vice-chairmen. However, the Conference did not give unanimous approval to this suggestion and requested the secretariat to study the matter further.
- (b) The secretariat should also consider the possibility of shortening future regional conferences to 8 or 10 days.
- (c) The agendas of future regional conferences for the Near East should include a review of the activities of Near East regional commissions. Some delegations felt that the agendas might be developed, in future, on a subject-matter basis rather than being of a general nature - as had been the case at this Conference.
- (d) The Conference urged the Director-General to set aside sufficient travel funds for the regional outposted officers so that they could be of maximum assistance to Member Countries.
- (e) Some delegations suggested that the Director-General consider the possibility of decentralizing further the activities of the Organization.

(i) Adoption of the Report

223. The Conference then examined the draft report, and, with some amendments in respect of substance, adopted it unanimously, with the request that the secretariat carry out any necessary editorial changes in finalizing the text for publication and distribution.

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APPENDIX B

LIST OF CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- NERC 64/  
1 Provisional Agenda  
1a Provisional Annotated Agenda  
2 The Food and Agricultural Situation in the Near East  
3 Review of FAO's Activities in the Near East  
3 Sup.1 Mediterranean Development Project - Report of the Nimes Meeting  
4 The World Food Congress and Future Direction of the Freedom  
from Hunger Campaign  
5 The Planning of Food and Agricultural Education and Training  
6a The Application of Science and Technology to Agriculture -  
The Appraisal and Use of Land and Water Resources  
6b Statistical Requirements for Agricultural Development  
7 The Promotion of Development of Agricultural Processing  
Industries  
8 Measures for Enlisting the Fuller Participation of the People,  
especially Farmers, in the Agricultural Development Program  
9 Trade Problems and Prospects in the Region  
10 The UN Conference on Trade and Development
- NERC 64/Conf.  
1 Director-General's Statement  
2 Role of FAO in World Fishery Development  
3 Studies and Investigations which lead to Increased Production  
and Productivity - Statement by Mr. Wesley R. Nelson  
4 Fisheries Education and Training in the Near East  
5 The Application of Science and Technology to Fisheries in the  
Near East Region  
6 List of Agricultural Education and Training Institutions in  
the Near East Region  
7 Summary of Recommendations adopted at the Second FAO Near East  
Regional Meeting on Animal Production and Health  
8 Director-General's Opening Statement  
9 Review of FAO's Activities in the Region - Statement by the  
Assistant Director-General for Near Eastern Affairs  
10 Orientation of Discussion of Review of FAO's Activities in  
the Region  
11 Near East Agricultural Planning Institute  
12 Resolution on Industrialization adopted at the Twelfth Session  
of the FAO Conference  
13 Planning of Food and Agricultural Education and Training -  
Introductory Statement by Dr. Felix Brucher, Ford Foundation,  
Damascus  
14 Follow-up of Recommendations passed by the First Near East  
Seminar on Higher and Intermediate Agricultural Education  
15 Orientation of Discussion on Application of Science and  
Technology to Agriculture  
16 Introductory Statement on the Role of FAO in World Fishery  
Development  
17 The Promotion of Development of Agricultural Processing  
Industries - Introductory Statement



List of Documents cont'd.

NERC 64/Conf.

- 18 Measures for Enlisting the Fuller Participation of the People  
in the Agricultural Development Program - Introductory  
Statement
- 19 Revised Recommendations
- 19 Sup.1 Revised Recommendations
- 20 Agricultural Trade - Statement by Dr. Abdul Moneim El-Banna,  
Ministry of Economy, UAR
- 21 Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region.

APPENDIX C

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE

	<u>Recommendation Number</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
(a) <u>Recommendations Requiring Action by Member Governments</u>		
<u>Agricultural Planning Institute</u> : invites Member Governments to declare their support for the establishment of the Institute in Damascus and their willingness to share in the expenses for its operation.	1/64	63
<u>Forestry</u> : The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Near East Forestry Commission.		65
<u>Sixth Forestry Congress in Spain - 1966</u> : to send a delegation to the Sixth Forestry Congress.		69
<u>Mediterranean Development</u> :	2/64	72
(i) to establish institutes supported by the necessary documentation facilities for the training of personnel for development agencies and for marketing and credit institutions;		
(ii) to create improved facilities for the marketing of their agricultural produce and ensure the widest possible cooperation and consultation with regard to these marketing problems;		
(iii) to adopt measures designed to create and improve the financing facilities for agricultural investment and for the establishment of national credit cooperatives or similar institutions.		
<u>Nutrition</u> : The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the WHO/FAO/UNICEF Regional Seminar on Applied Nutrition for the Near East and reaffirmed the need for strong national nutrition committees.		77
<u>Pasture and Fodder</u> : The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Working Party on Grazing and Fodder Resources in the Near East, which asked for improvement of animal health and veterinary services and measures to increase the carrying capacity of the rangeland.		82
<u>Agricultural Education and Training</u> : The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the First Near East Seminar on Higher and Intermediate Agricultural Education.		102
<u>Forestry Education</u> : to take advantage of the joint FAO/ILO scheme of fellowships to send participants to courses on rationalization of forestry operations and forest workers' training methods.	6/64	105

	<u>Recommendation Number</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
<u>Home Economics Training:</u>	8/64	108
(i) to provide fellowships to women students to study the Home Economics Course at Cairo University or at other universities or training centres in the region where home economics courses are available;		
(ii) for all governments - who have not already done so - to establish a home economics extension service and create appropriate positions for graduates in home economics;		
(iii) to work towards establishing national medium-level training facilities for home economics extension workers.		
<u>Animal Production and Health:</u> The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Second Near East Meeting on Animal Production and Health.		133
<u>Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement Project:</u> The Conference recommended that the more advanced countries of the region help the other countries by providing experts, scholarships and training facilities.	12/64	140
<u>Regional Crop Production Institute:</u> to establish a regional crop production institute.		141
<u>Plant Protection:</u>	13/64	147
(i) to examine possibilities of establishing one of the eight plant protection institutes in their respective countries;		
(ii) to actively cooperate in the work of the Near East Plant Protection Commission.		
<u>Economic Agricultural Statistics:</u> to expand and improve their statistical services so as to enable the compilation of the required economic data for planning increased production.	15/64	165
<u>Rural Industrialization:</u>		168
(i) to make rural industrialization development planning one of the major economic and social objectives of countries' development programs;		
(ii) to establish institutions and organizations needed to initiate and assist the development of the principal agricultural and food industries.		
<u>People's Participation:</u> to make appropriate use of rural sociological studies and investigations in planning and execution of development programs requiring people's participation.	18/64	205

	<u>Recommendation Number</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
<u>(b) Recommendations Requiring Action by the Director-General</u>		
<u>Agricultural Development and Planning Institute:</u> The Conference endorsed the recommendation of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning, including the establishment of a Near East Agricultural Development and Planning Institute.	1/64	63
<u>Forestry:</u> The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Near East Forestry Commission.		65
<u>(a) Working Party on Forestry:</u> The Conference endorsed the decision to amalgamate the Working Party on forestry education and the Committee on forestry research into one body under the name of "Working Party on Forestry Education and Research of the Near East Forestry Commission".		
<u>(b) Working Party on Forest Range Management:</u> The Conference endorsed the decision to amend the name and terms of reference of this Working Party to include watershed protection.		
<u>Seminar on Shelterbelts:</u> to organize a seminar on shelterbelts.		66
<u>Mediterranean Development:</u>	2/64	72
(i) that Mediterranean-type projects and action be extended as far as possible to all countries of the region;		
(ii) urges the Director-General of FAO and the Managing Director of the UN Special Fund to give favourable consideration to requests for assistance in implementation of Mediterranean-type projects.		
<u>Regional Nutrition Committee:</u> The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the joint WHO/FAO/UNICEF Seminar on Applied Nutrition and requested the Director-General to seek ways and means of establishing a joint FAO/WHO Regional Nutrition Committee.	3/64	77
<u>Animal Production and Health:</u> The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Working Party on Development of Grazing and Fodder Resources of the Near East, which asked for improvement of animal health and veterinary services and measures to increase the carrying capacity of the rangeland.		82
<u>FAO News Bulletin:</u> to study the possibilities of producing a publication similar to UNESCO's "Courier" for selected sectors of the public, particularly university and trade circles, to enlist their support of FAO's activities.		83

	<u>Recommendation Number</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
<u>FFHC:</u>		
(i) to initiate a partnership scheme between committees with similar problems and similar stages of development;		91
(ii) to consider the appointment of a full-time officer to work with FFHC Committees in the region, as soon as funds permit;		92
(iii) The Conference endorsed the Director-General's decision to launch a Young World Mobilization Scheme.		93
<u>Near East Commission on Agricultural Education and Extension:</u> 4/64 to study and explore the possibility of establishing a Near East Commission for agricultural education and extension.		95
<u>Training Courses on Land and Water Use:</u> to assist with planning of technological training courses in power machinery, irrigation and drainage at the farm level.		97
<u>First Near East Seminar on Intermediate and Higher Agricultural Education:</u> The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the First Near East Seminar on Intermediate and Higher Agricultural Education and requested the Director-General to implement them.		102
<u>Planning Agricultural Education:</u>	5/64	103
(i) to evaluate the present and future situation of the supply and demand of qualified personnel at all levels in agricultural engineering, fisheries, animal health, animal production, agricultural industries;		
(ii) to assist and advise governments on the organization of training courses in these fields.		
<u>Forestry Education:</u> to continue FAO's technical and financial assistance to the Regional Forestry School at Lattakia until 1970.	6/64	105
<u>Training Centres on Animal Production and Health:</u> to study the possibilities of establishing national animal production and veterinary training centres to increase the production of animal proteins.	7/64	106
<u>Home Economics Training:</u>	8/64	108
(i) to expand the FAO/UNICEF-sponsored Rural Home Economics Course at Cairo University to a permanent regional training centre;		
(ii) to explore the possibilities of providing a regional home economist to work at the Home Economics Centre at Cairo University if this becomes a permanent regional training centre;		

	<u>Recommendation Number</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
(iii) to explore the means of assisting the centre with fellowships;		
(iv) to convene a technical meeting on home economics extension.		
<u>Support for ASFEC:</u> to make adequate provision in the FAO Program of Work and Budget for FAO experts working in ASFEC, as well as those working in the Regional Office, to extend advisory services and to conduct studies in countries of the region.	9/64	110
<u>Land and Water Use Commission:</u> to establish a Near East land and water use commission.	10/64	120
<u>Animal Production and Health:</u> The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Second Near East Meeting on Animal Production and Health and asked the Director-General to:		133
(i) establish a Near East animal production institute;		
(ii) convene a meeting of the Animal Production Committee of the Near East Working Party on Animal Production and Health.		
<u>Animal Breeding Centre:</u> to establish a regional animal breeding centre.	11/64	135
<u>Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement Project:</u>	12/64	139
(i) to assign one breeder-cum-agronomist and one seed production specialist to the project;		
(ii) to promote the project as a major activity under FFHC and allot more financial support;		
(iii) to explore the possibility of establishing one or two regional breeding centres;		
(iv) to include food grains, maize and sorghums in the project;		
(v) to strengthen the breeding and other improvement programs;		
(vi) to make an ecological survey of the region jointly with UNESCO and WMO;		
(vii) to continue to hold national, sub-regional and regional training centres as well as a Mexico training centre.		
<u>Regional Crop Production Institute:</u> to establish a regional crop production institute.		141

	<u>Recommendation Number</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
<u>Plant Protection:</u> The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Second Near East Plant Protection Meeting and requested the Director-General:	13/64	147
(i) to assist in the establishment of eight regional plant protection institutes in different subjects in member countries;		
(ii) to provide for at least one regional training course in plant protection during 1965/66;		
(iii) to appoint two additional officers in plant protection so as to adequately cover plant pests, plant diseases and plant quarantine.		
<u>Fisheries:</u>	14/64	158
(i) to establish a data processing centre at the Near East Regional Office;		
(ii) to convene a technical meeting as soon as possible;		
(iii) to assign a short-term consultant on the dangers of water pollution to aquatic life.		
<u>Fisheries Education:</u> to appoint a short-term consultant to survey fisheries education.		159
<u>Economic Statistics:</u>	15/64	165
(i) to convene regional training centres on important aspects of agricultural economic statistics;		
(ii) to expand the international standardization and compilation of agricultural statistics;		
(iii) to prepare technical manuals on prices, index numbers, agricultural sector accounts, surveys of farm production costs, and measurement of agricultural productivity.		
<u>Rural Industrialization:</u> to include agricultural industrial development as an important item on the agenda of the Thirteenth Session of the FAO Conference and on the agenda of the Eighth Near East Regional Conference.		179- 180
<u>Flour Processing and Bread-making:</u>	16/64	189
(i) to endeavour to provide, through country studies, training centres, demonstration bakeries, etc., assistance to countries in the region in their efforts to ensure that bread grains and flour make the maximum contribution to nutritional health;		

	<u>Recommendation Number</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
(ii) to circulate to member countries in the region the reports of studies that were being made on cereal and flour processing and bread-making.		
<u>Agricultural and Food Industries:</u> (to the Director-General of FAO and the Managing Director of the UN Special Fund): to supply the necessary assistance to national institutes and organizations established to initiate and assist the development of the principal agricultural and food industries.	17/64	201
<u>People's Participation:</u> to assist and advise member governments in the use of rural sociological studies and investigations in enlisting people's participation in development programs.	18/64	205
<u>Agricultural Extension:</u>	19/64	
(i) to hold a regional extension training centre for senior officers of the countries of the region;		209
(ii) to convene a technical meeting on agricultural extension.		210
<u>Trade and Development:</u>	20/64	221
(i) to intensify FAO's efforts, on a regional and worldwide basis, to effect better coordination of agricultural plans and to increase trade between countries of the region;		
(ii) to lend the facilities of the Organization to governments in devising measures to improve the efficiency of their national export trade;		
(iii) to strengthen the FAO research and study program in the field of agricultural and commodity trade problems as related to economic development, in collaboration with the new UN machinery.		





