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Report of the

**NINTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR THE NEAR EAST**

Baghdad, Iraq, 21 September – 1 October 1968



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THE NEAR EAST REGION

Member Countries

Afghanistan	Kuwait	Somali Republic
France	Lebanon	Sudan, The ^{2/}
Iran	Libya	Syrian Arab Republic
Iraq	Pakistan ^{1/}	United Arab Republic
Jordan	Saudi Arabia	Yemen Arab Republic

Associate Member Countries

Bahreir	Qatar
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Other Member Nations Normally Invited as Observers

Cyprus	Ethiopia	Malta
Turkey	United Kingdom	United States of America ^{3/}

^{1/} Pakistan belongs to both the Asia and the Far East Region and the Near East Region.

^{2/} The Sudan belongs to both the Near East Region and the Africa Region.

^{3/} Invited in an observer capacity in view of US AID programmes in various fields.

Note:

An application from the People's Republic of Southern Yemen was received in April 1968 and will be considered at the next session of the FAO Conference.

R E P O R T

of the

NINTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

for the

NEAR EAST

Baghdad, Iraq

21 September - 1 October 1968

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome 1968

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Inside front cover: FAO Member Countries in the Near East Region

Inside back cover: Reports of the FAO Regional Conferences for the Near East

P R E F A C E

The main decisions and recommendations of the Conference appear on pages 41-69. The 20 formal recommendations precede a Summary (pages 56-69) of Recommendations which are scattered throughout the narrative text of the Report. The latter are given in two sections: Organizational Matters, and Programme of Work. In both sections, the recommendations are grouped under subject headings listed in alphabetic order. The agency required to act is shown against each recommendation.

Under each formal recommendation, reference is made to relevant paragraphs in the narrative text. A comprehensive Subject Index follows the List of Contents. Readers are invited to consult this Index for locating subjects of interest to them.

A List of the FAO Commissions and Committees is given in Appendix E. It is hoped that this will be useful to the reader as an indication of the extensive consultations which take place in the Region between Conferences on agricultural matters and in following up technical meetings of interest.

As stated in paragraphs 228-229, the dialogue initiated at the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East should be pursued on a continuing basis. FAO wishes to review periodically with the governments and appropriate regional bodies the progress made in the implementation of the various recommendations of the Conference. It is hoped that all concerned will give their fullest co-operation to FAO in this respect. Member Governments are especially requested to keep FAO informed of action taken by them on recommendations which require their action.

REPORT

NINTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST BAGHDAD, IRAQ, 21 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER 1968

A. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East was held in Baghdad, Iraq, from 21 September to 1 October, 1968, at the gracious invitation of the Government of the Republic of Iraq. The inaugural ceremony was held in the National Assembly Hall and the plenary sessions met at the Al-Sha'ab Building.
2. The List of Delegates and observers and personnel of the Conference Secretariat is given in Appendix B attached to this Report.

INAUGURATION OF THE CONFERENCE

3. The inaugural ceremony was honoured by the presence of His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Hassan Al-Bakr, the President of the Republic of Iraq, His Excellency Dr. Abdul Hussein Wadday Al-Attiya, the Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Iraq, the members of the diplomatic corps in Iraq, and senior officers of the Government of Iraq.
4. In calling to order the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, Mr. Addeke H. Boerma, the Director-General of FAO, expressed on behalf of all participants at the Conference, his deep appreciation and warm thanks to the Republic of Iraq for the kind invitation to hold the Conference in Baghdad and the excellent arrangements made in this connection. He expressed particular pleasure in his first visit as the Director-General of FAO to the historic city of Baghdad, and to the land which cradled civilization. The Director-General then invited the President of the Republic of Iraq to address the Conference.
5. The President extended a warm welcome to the delegates and wished the Conference all success and earnestly hoped that its deliberation would result in recommendations of vital importance to the Region as the agricultural sector was the corner-stone in the economy of countries in it and an overwhelming proportion of the population of the Region, reaching in some cases 70 to 80 percent, were engaged in agriculture.
6. The President proudly announced that Iraq, the granary of the world in the dawn of civilization and for long thereafter but bequeathed subsequently with ignorance and poverty by the greedy and ravaging invaders, was now engaged in valiant efforts to restore the agriculture prominence of the fertile Mesopotamian valley. The President reaffirmed his faith that Iraq was destined to assume before long her natural place in the community of prosperous and happy peoples of the world.
7. The President commended FAO for its inspired leadership in the attempts to secure, through co-operative action among Governments, a guarantee for the dignity of man and his right to a decent living. In the accomplishment of its heavy responsibilities the President pledged Iraq's full support to FAO. The President also thanked participating countries and organizations.

8. The Director-General expressed his deep gratitude to the President for finding time, despite the numerous and pressing demands of the affairs of the State, to address the Conference. This was a token of the deep interest the President took in the FAO and its objectives. The Director-General took pride in the interest that the President had displayed, as to be effective FAO needed the support of all the member countries, especially the support of the leaders.

ELECTION OF CONFERENCE OFFICERS

9. Following the tradition, the Conference unanimously elected as its Chairman the Head of the Delegation of the host country, His Excellency Dr. Abdul Hussein Wadday Al-Attia, the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Iraq.

10. In accordance with past practice, the Conference elected as its Vice-Chairmen all Heads of Delegations. The Chairman congratulated the Vice-Chairmen and invited them to relieve him from time to time and to chair the Conference in turn.

11. In accepting the office, the Chairman warmly thanked the delegations for the honour bestowed on him and wished the Conference all success on behalf of all, including the farmers.

12. The Chairman pointed out that while problems of agriculture varied from country to country in the Region and had local characteristics, the Region as a whole had a primarily agrarian economy; suffered from severe weather, scarcity of water, inadequate technical know-how and capital. These factors formed a vicious circle and led to low production, trade deficit, and consequently, low income and low standard for the people. The situation was further aggravated by the population explosion.

13. The Chairman emphasized that the development of agriculture was the corner-stone of a balanced economic and social development as the agricultural resources only were inexhaustible and renewable while natural resources such as minerals and oil are sooner or later bound to dry up. Agriculture could provide a sound basis for generating capital.

14. There was no one formula for the solution of the problems of all countries. Mutual co-operation and assistance among the countries of the Region through exchange of views and experiences, and through co-ordinated attacks on common problems represented the best assurance for a speedy elimination of the problems of poverty and malnutrition from the Region.

15. The Chairman expressed the earnest hope for the establishment of a common market in the Region.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

16. The Conference adopted the proposed Agenda with Item 4 amended as follows:

The Director-General's Introductory Statement with Special Reference to:

- (a) Reorganization of FAO's Regional Structure
- (b) Reorientation of Regional Conferences
- (c) Use of Arabic as a limited working language of FAO.

The above amendments had been formally communicated to the Director-General by the Government of the United Arab Republic following receipt of the provisional Agenda but prior to the commencement of the Conference. The Director-General had accepted the proposed amendments, subject to the approval of the Conference. As the proposed amendments had been received at FAO Headquarters only a few weeks before the opening of the Conference, the background Working Document (NERC 68/10) could not be circulated to the Member Governments prior to the Conference.

The Agenda as approved is given in Appendix A to this Report.

17. The Conference elected the following member countries to the Drafting Committee, the names of the representatives who served on the Committee being shown against each country:

Iraq	- Mr. Haidar El-Haidari
Lebanon	- Mr. Sultan Haidar
Libya	- Mr. Nuri Mohammad Rahuma
Pakistan	- Mr. Iqbal Masud
Somalia	- Mr. Abd-ur-Rahman Mohamed Hassan
UAR	- Mr. Helmy E.I. Salem

18. The Drafting Committee elected as its Chairman the representative of the host country. The Reports Officer, Dr. M.R. Khan of the Conference Secretariat, served as Rapporteur.

19. Dr. A.R. Sidky, Assistant Director-General of FAO for Near Eastern Affairs, took the opportunity of the first meeting of the Conference, the last one before his retirement in 1970, to thank the member countries for their continued support in the discharge of his duties. The Heads of Delegations joined the Director-General in paying a warm tribute to Dr. Sidky for his valuable contribution to the development of Policies and Programmes of the Organization and, in particular, for his contribution in the promotion of agricultural development in the Near East Region. Special tribute was paid to Dr. Sidky for his untiring zeal in the promotion of regional co-operation and his warm friendship for all.

B. THE WORK OF FAO IN THE NEAR EAST AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Introduction

20. In his Introductory Statement, the Director-General expressed pleasure in his participation for the first time in an FAO Regional Conference for the Near East in his new capacity as the Director-General of FAO, and thanked the countries of the Region for their support to and confidence in him.

21. While appreciating the magnitude of the task that he had taken up, the Director-General assured the Conference that he would do everything that lay in his power to carry the task through with success. He recalled the more than two decades of his experience of FAO and his unswerving belief in the importance to mankind of the objectives of the Organization.

22. The Director-General then summarized his plans for the development of FAO as a whole, the thinking which lay behind them and the progress which he had been able to make in his first eight or nine months in office.

23. As the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East preceded the very important Fifty-first Session of the FAO Council due in October 1968, the Director-General stressed that an expression of views at the present Regional Conference on the vital matters, such as the proposed reorganization of the FAO and Programme of Work and Budget for 1970-71 which would be considered at the ensuing Session of the FAO Council, could be of immense value.

Reorganization of FAO Structure

24. The Director-General referred to the origins and aims of the Review which was authorized by the FAO Conference at its Thirteenth Session in 1965. In pursuance of the directives of that FAO Conference, a Review Team had been set up to study the existing organization and to make suggestions for its improvement. The report of the Review Team, containing many sweeping recommendations, was considered by the FAO Conference at its Fourteenth Session in 1967. Among other things, the Review Team proposed that the FAO Regional Offices should be replaced by regional departments at FAO Headquarters. While agreeing with much that the Team had said, the FAO Conference was unable to accept its recommendations as they stood.

25. At its Fourteenth Session, the FAO Conference, therefore, adopted Resolution No. 1/67 of 23 November 1967 concerning the reorganization of FAO which, among other things:

Requests the Director-General, in consultation with the Ad Hoc Committee on Organization, to take appropriate interim steps during the 1968/69 biennium within the approved level of the budget for that biennium to make organizational adjustments including, if necessary, a modest redeployment of staff:

- (i) aimed at a more effective system of communication between the field and Headquarters so that decisions can be made more expeditiously and queries from the field can be handled more quickly,

- (ii) in order that the operations of FAO in the field may be more efficiently conducted so as to provide more effective programming and managerial attention to country and regional projects and programmes sponsored by FAO, including projects financed by UNDP and other sources, and
- (iii) to consolidate general administrative and support functions, and to improve personnel administration;

"Further requests the Director-General to develop, in consultation with the Ad Hoc Committee on Organization, a detailed reorganization plan for FAO for submission to the 1968 Session of the Council for its consideration;

"Authorized the Council to review and approve a reorganization plan sufficiently detailed to be used as the basis of presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1970/71."

26. After extensive consultations by the Director-General with his senior colleagues, on the one hand, and the Ad Hoc Committee, on the other, an agreed report on the Reorganization of FAO Structure was finally completed in June 1968 for submission to the Council for its consideration at its Fifty-first Session in October 1968. This report (Council Document CL/51/9 of 22 June 1968) had already been distributed to member countries. The recommendations in the above report on the regional and country organizations, including regional conferences were circulated to the present Regional Conference as Working Document NERC 68/9.

27. A number of important changes had already been put into effect at FAO Headquarters within the authority granted to the Director-General through the FAO Conference resolution quoted in paragraph 25 above.

Reorganization at FAO Headquarters

28. The Director-General stated that one very important change already made was the establishment at Rome of a new Development Department. Although it came under the ADG formerly in charge of the Programme and Budgetary Service, it was very much more than an extension of that Service. It picked up, for example, some of the original suggestions of the Review Team by including an Area Service Division. This Division consisted of Services for each region together with a Field Co-ordination Service. Its main function was the co-ordination of FAO's field programmes, in particular those projects financed by UNDP. Thus it would appraise new projects (working in liaison with the Economic Analysis Division), channel them to the most appropriate technical division for implementation, and see that they are put in hand with a minimum of delay. It was hoped in this way to speed up and to improve the implementation of FAO's field projects.

29. In addition, special operational services were being set up in those technical divisions which carry the heaviest load of field projects. The intention was to relieve specialist professional staff of much of the burden of routine and administrative work now falling to them which could often be carried out by operation-oriented staff. In this way, the Organization expected to be able to make full and better use of all the qualifications of its professional staff.

30. The Development Department would, in the same way, handle projects under the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign. It would also be concerned with joint projects under a new type of arrangements with donor countries which seemed likely to become of great importance. An increasing number of donor countries were now turning to FAO for guidance in establishing bilateral projects. In some instances these projects were being operated on a joint basis with FAO.

31. The Development Department also included an "Investment Centre". This was an extension of the former FAO/IBRD Co-operative Programme to cover also joint projects with the Regional Development Banks such as in Africa, the Far East and Latin America. It was hoped also to interest some commercial banks in agricultural investment. The Director-General reported that he had had discussions with Mr. McNamara, the new President of the World Bank, who assured the Director-General of his firm intention to develop further the FAO/IBRD Co-operative Programme, and to expand still more the Bank's activities in the agricultural sector.

32. Located in the Development Department was also the FAO/Industry Co-operative Programme. It sought to interest industrialists in appropriate projects which came through FAO field programmes, and equally sought to develop projects for investment (mainly in the agricultural processing industries) which might have been suggested by one or the other of the large industrial firms affiliated to the Programme.

33. The Conference supported the establishment of the Development Department at Headquarters. In view of the concern expressed by some countries in this regard, the Director-General assured the Conference that the creation of the Department did not represent a tendency towards over-centralization. In order for the Organization to be effective, it was necessary that an overall view of the countries' needs, priorities and capacity for absorption of assistance should be taken. The constituent divisions and services of the Organization were not individually able to take such an overall view. It was for this purpose that the Development Department was entrusted with the responsibility for an overall appraisal, in consultation with appropriate divisions in the Organization, the member countries and others concerned, of the needs and priorities of the member countries and for the formulation of the Organization's assistance programme.

34. The Director-General further assured that the reorganization provided for an appropriate degree of flexibility so that changes, as necessary, could be made on the basis of new situations and experiences.

Reorganization of FAO Regional Offices

35. While recognizing that most of FAO's field work was done at the country rather than at the regional level, nevertheless the Director-General and the Ad Hoc Committee believed as did the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference, that the regional offices should be retained; that they could make an important contribution to FAO policy formulation, for example, through their detailed knowledge of the specific conditions and political realities of the Region. They further believed that the regional and the country approaches were complementary.

36. At the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference, several countries maintained that the regional offices should not only be retained but strengthened. Strengthening the regional offices did not necessarily mean adding to the number of regional officers, but rather in improving the quality of their work. The Director-General and the Ad Hoc Committee considered that one good generalist from each technical division would be adequate to provide a balanced team. This would release some professional staff for other duties. It was also fully appreciated that to function effectively regional offices should be more closely associated with policy matters and kept more fully

informed of FAO developments than they sometimes were in the past. The regional offices should be allocated increased travel funds and be directly involved in the formulation of projects through participation in task forces which might be raised for specific purposes.

37. The Ad Hoc Committee's views on what should be the functions of the Regional Representatives and outposted officers were spelled out in the Regional Conference Working Document NERC 68/9 (see Appendix D).

38. The Conference agreed that the FAO Regional Office in the Near East should be retained and expressed the view that this office should be strengthened to improve the quality of its work; be more closely associated with policy and planning matters, and be kept more fully informed of FAO developments. The Conference, however, stressed that the staff strength of the Regional Office must not be sacrificed for the sake of other understaffed areas, but on the contrary should be increased where necessary.

39. The Conference fully supported the Director-General's proposals for delegating more responsibilities and appropriate authorities to the Regional Offices.

40. The Conference agreed that Regional Offices and Country Missions are complementary.

41. The Conference supported the proposed duties, responsibilities and functions of the Regional Representatives, and divisional outposted officers as listed in Working Document NERC 68/9. It further agreed that the Regional Representative should keep an overall watching brief on the FAO operations in the countries of the Region concerned.

42. While some delegations suggested that the member countries should be consulted on the appointment of regional representatives and their term of office should be concurrent with that of the Director-General appointing them, the Conference accepted the Director-General's submission that it would be in the best interest of all concerned to leave to the Director-General the choice of his representatives in the regions and the determination of the term of their office.

Co-operation with UN Regional Economic Commissions

The Director-General stated that:

43. "The closest co-operation between FAO and the Regional Economic Commissions was the gine qua non for successful international action at the regional level, because these Commissions had been given broad responsibilities for economic and social development, and it was largely within this same area that FAO carried out its specialized functions. This was recognized by FAO when establishing joint divisions with the Regional Economic Commissions. But the scope of the programme of work of the Divisions jointly agreed to was limited to the economic and social rather than technical aspects of food and agricultural problems for which FAO had global responsibility. The situation was further complicated by the fact that government bodies, such as the sessions of the Regional Economic Commissions and the FAO Regional Conferences, meeting separately, sometimes took decisions which were likely to cause overlapping or confusion. Until these basic difficulties were resolved, a co-ordinated approach in UN affairs could not be achieved merely by shifting regional action to Headquarters.

44. "One possible approach could be for FAO to join forces with the UN Regional Economic Commissions with a clear recognition of each other's functions and to develop closer working relations than hitherto. This would result in operational efficiency and all-round economy. The posts of Executive Secretaries of the Regional Economic Commissions would be combined with those of FAO Regional Representatives. The Executive Secretary

would thus become the FAO Regional Representative. He would have a dual capacity, as in addition to his responsibility to the Secretary-General of the UN with respect to the work of the Regional Economic Commission, he would be responsible to the Director-General of FAO in his capacity as FAO Regional Representative.

45. "Under this arrangement, FAO would supply a Deputy Regional Representative who would also act as Director of the Joint Agriculture Division. The new Agriculture Division would absorb the existing Joint Regional Economic Commission FAO Agriculture Division and its director would also be in charge of all FAO personnel situated at the seat of the Regional Economic Commission.

46. "Significant differences between the various regions existed which might make such an arrangement impracticable at present in some regions. Although integration might be the ultimate goal, it appeared to be feasible at present only in the case of one or two regions. In such region(s), the possible merger as described in the above paragraphs could be tried out.

47. "Relationships with UN Regional Economic Commissions were hardly relevant at present in the Near East Region. It was hoped to establish closer working relations with the UN Economic and Social Office at Beirut. Some countries of the Region were, of course, also members of the UN Economic Commissions for Africa and for Asia and the Far East.

48. "The FAO Regional Office in the Near East should, therefore, continue at its present site at Cairo."

49. While welcoming the proposals of the Director-General for closer co-ordination of FAO with the UN Regional Economic Commissions, the Conference did not support the possible merger of the FAO Regional Office in the Near East with any UN Regional Economic Commission or any other UN Regional Offices.

50. The Conference expressed the apprehension that the possible merger, if carried through, would lead to inadequate attention being focussed on agriculture as the UN Regional Commissions were concerned with all sectors of economic and social development.

51. The Conference was also of the opinion that the appointment of the Executive Secretary of a UN Regional Economic Commission as the Regional Representative of the Director-General of FAO was very likely to jeopardize the identity of FAO.

52. The Conference welcomed the proposal for fruitful collaboration to be established between the FAO and the Office of the UN Bureau of Economic and Social Affairs at Beirut, and requested the Director-General to take appropriate measures to ensure the necessary collaboration and to explore with the United Nations the possibilities of strengthening the Beirut Office with special reference to the proposed collaboration.

Country Missions

The Director-General stated that:

53. "It had long been FAO's policy, reaffirmed by the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference, to increase the number of country representatives. They provided a more direct link with country thinking and country programmes than was possible through regional offices. They were particularly valuable in countries where FAO had many development projects.

54. "There were some anomalies between the position of FAO representatives in different countries. FAO had rather few full time country representatives and more often they were field experts who combined (with difficulty) their specialist functions with those of country representatives. Some were paid from UNDP funds, in which case they were attached to UNDP Resident Representatives as Senior Agricultural Advisers. But, though selected by FAO, there was a risk that their responsibilities to FAO and the UNDP might become confused. This was an important problem which the Director-General intended to follow up actively in the coming months. A possible solution could be to share the cost of such posts between FAO and UNDP on some basis to be agreed. This would ensure their administrative responsibilities to FAO."

55. There might be other solutions on which the Director-General invited suggestions.

56. The Conference supported the proposals for strengthening the Country Missions. It took note of the intention of the Director-General to assign 60 Country Representatives to begin with.

57. In this connection, the Conference noted that while the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in a country is responsible for keeping an overall watching brief on all development assistance activities in that country, it was not always possible for him to devote adequate attention to agricultural matters, concerned as he was with other sectors of economic and social development in the country of his assignment.

58. The Conference also noted the practical difficulties inherent in the existing arrangements for the appointment of FAO/UNDP Senior Agricultural Advisers, particularly the dual loyalty of these officers to UNDP and FAO, which did not always enable them to be effectively responsible to FAO. The Conference welcomed the proposed further consultations of the Director-General with the UNDP and fully supported his plans for pursuing with the UNDP the possibilities of sharing the costs of Senior Agricultural Advisers between FAO and the UNDP with a built-in insurance that these Advisers shall be responsible to and controlled by FAO alone.

59. The Conference welcomed the Director-General's proposals to delegate increasing authorities to the FAO country representative in order to enable them to make on-the-spot decisions on the promotion and operation of development assistance programmes in the countries concerned.

Reorientation of Regional Conferences

60. In pursuance of the directive of the Fourteenth Session of the FAO, the Ad Hoc Committee on Organization carefully examined the reorganization of regional conferences within the framework of measures proposed for reorganization of the regional structure. It was on the basis of the findings of such examination that the Director-General would prepare a revision of the authority and terms of reference of regional conferences for submission to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. This examination by the Ad Hoc Committee and the Director-General resulted in the following being put before the Fifty-first Session of the FAO Council (paragraphs 111-116 of Council document CL 51/9 of 22 June 1968):

- (a) "The important role of these conferences is to identify felt needs of the region to be taken into account in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for the immediately ensuing biennium, in accordance with Rule XXXIV-2(g). Although this is stated to be their major role in paragraph 630 of the Fourteenth Conference Report, it would only be possible if the timing of the Regional Conferences were advanced to the early part of the non-Conference year, before the Director-General had begun to prepare his draft Programme of Work. It would mean, in effect, that the cycle of Regional Conferences would have to take place within two to six months of the close of the FAO Conference - an arrangement that seems quite impracticable. Furthermore, the Director-General's general plans and priorities are outlined in the early months of the biennium for consultation directly with governments. Two simultaneous systems would be likely to conflict.
- (b) "Regional Conferences should, however, play a major role in the development of FAO's Programme on a medium-term basis. With the completion of IWP and the adoption of a global and regional development strategy, the general lines of the Programme of Work can be envisaged for a longer period than a biennium. In that case it should be possible to involve the Regional Conferences more actively in the planning of the medium-term programme.
- (c) "Although the Regional Conferences do not have a constitutional status, they do have a distinct influence on FAO affairs. Their main functions may be so defined:
- (i) to indicate areas of need and highlight conditions in the Region that should be taken into account in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget; (ii) to indicate what the countries of the region can do for themselves in solving their problems and what external help is needed; (iii) to serve as a medium through which the major policy objectives of the Organization can be aired and interpreted according to the needs of the region; and (iv) to give an opportunity for countries to hold consultations at a high level.
- (d) "Regional Conferences should be able to make recommendations to governments, to the Director-General, to the Regional Economic Commissions and to the Council. It would be desirable that the recommendations submitted to the Council should be concise, few in number and deal solely with the most important priority matters affecting the region in question. The Director-General should analyze these recommendations and indicate to the Council the extent to which he had been able to take them into account in framing his Programme of Work and Budget proposals; and where he had not been able to do so, to specify the reasons. This would enable the Council to be apprised of the recommendations emanating from Regional Conferences.

- (e) "The FAO Regional Conferences could be held either jointly with, or separately from, the Sessions of the Regional Economic Commission. Considering the importance of agriculture in the regions, however, it is preferable that they should be held separately. Should circumstances warrant that they be held jointly, an important sector of the joint agenda should be devoted to agriculture and related fields for which joint preparations should be made by the two Organizations, with the assistance of the Joint Regional Economic Commission/FAO Agriculture Division.
- (f) "In the event that the Regional Conference is held separately from the Session of the Regional Economic Commission, there should be mutual consultation on the drawing up of the agenda of both Sessions, as is now done with ECLA. Appropriate staff of the one body would participate in the meeting of the other. It would be desirable that decisions and recommendations reached at FAO Regional Conferences should provide the policy guidance for the sessions of Regional Economic Commissions and should not call for reconsideration. In any case the reports of Regional Conferences are important instruments for the work of the Regional Representatives."

61. The Director-General invited the Conference to express its views on these proposals.

62. The Conference expressed general agreement with the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the role and functions of regional conferences.

63. The Conference stressed that regional conferences should have a constitutional status and that their main functions and terms of reference should be defined, and urged the Director-General to prepare a revision of the authority, functions and terms of reference of regional conferences for submission to the FAO Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. The Conference expressed the hope that this revision would be ready for consideration by the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference in November 1969. Relevant in this connection is also Conference Recommendation No. 3 on page 42.

64. While recognizing that the timing of a regional conference does not permit the Director-General to take into account its recommendations relating to short-term needs and emergencies, the Conference urged the Director-General to explore extra-budgetary resources for assistance to meet such needs and situations.

65. The Conference agreed that recommendations emanating from a regional conference should be concise, and should deal solely with the most important priority matters affecting the Region in question.

66. The Conference did not support the suggestions for joint regional conferences of the UN Regional Economic Commissions and the FAO. It was stressed that such joint conferences would not meet the needs of the member countries and the FAO satisfactorily inasmuch as these would be required to cover a wide range of subjects and thus would be unlikely to devote adequate attention to the problems of and programmes for the development of agriculture of the region concerned. The Conference stressed that the review of the food and agriculture situation in a region, formulation of recommendations of action by

Governments individually and jointly, by FAO, and above all promotion of co-operative actions by the countries in a region should be the main task of the FAO Conference for that region. The Conference, therefore, recommended that the FAO Regional Conferences should be continued to be held separately from UN Regional Economic Commission Conferences. The Conference, however, fully supported the proposals for appropriate consultations to be held between the FAO and the UN Regional Commissions concerned in the planning and organization of Regional Conferences of the two Agencies so that undesirable and avoidable duplication could be eliminated.

67. The Conference drew to the attention of the member countries the importance of sending strong delegations to regional conferences and adequate preparation in the countries for successful participation in the deliberations. In this connection, the Conference suggested that the member countries might consider the desirability of organizing pre-conference inter-divisional and sub-sectorial discussions in order that the national delegations to a conference may be fully briefed on the problems, current actions, and possible future action. It was further suggested that, as far as possible, the member countries might appoint their delegations well in advance and that continuity might be maintained in delegations from conference to conference.

68. The Conference also suggested that, preparatory to the holding of a regional conference, the member countries might wish to propose items for inclusion in the agenda for the Conference and expressed the view that such proposals would help orient the deliberations of the Regional Conference more closely to the needs of agriculture in the member countries of the Region.

Use of Arabic as a Working Language of FAO

69. The Conference received a progress report on the introduction of Arabic as a limited working language in FAO following a recommendation of the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (Khartoum, January 1967). The FAO Conference, at its Fourteenth Session in November 1967, had:

- (a) Approved the adoption of Arabic as a limited working language, to be used for interpretation in the FAO Conference sessions, as well as the FAO regional and technical conferences for the Near East, as from the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East and the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference;
- (b) Requested the Director-General to study the necessary measures for translating into Arabic certain documents and publications of FAO within the agreed limits of a specific schedule; and
- (c) Decided that the Programme Committee of the FAO Council should undertake an initial and periodic review of the Organization's language policy and practice, including all future proposals for changes or additions in the light of applicable criteria, including specifically the definition of the concepts of working language and official language for various purposes and the classification of conferences and sessions from the point of view of the use of languages.

70. In compliance with the above action of the FAO Conference, interpretation from and into Arabic was provided at the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East and would be provided at all subsequent FAO meetings in the Near East Region in the 1968-69 biennium. The League of Arab States had given valuable assistance in the recruitment of the necessary interpreters and the Observer from the League of Arab States informed the Conference that his Organization had decided, at the request of the Director-General of FAO, to contribute an amount of \$35,000 towards the cost of interpretation at the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference in November 1969. The necessary funds would be made available whenever FAO called for them. The Conference unanimously expressed its great appreciation for the steps already taken by the Director-General and by the League of Arab States.

71. For the 1970-71 biennium, it was stated on behalf of the Director-General that he was prepared to include a provision in his Programme of Work and Budget, that would enable him to provide Arabic interpretation services at all FAO meetings in the Region and at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference in 1971. In addition, documents and publications would be translated and reproduced within a limit of 1.8 million words. The material to be translated into Arabic would include all the preparatory papers and the reports of the meetings to be held in the Near East Region during the biennium, and, in addition, certain other documents that remained to be selected within the limits of the capacity of three Arabic translators and one reviser. The training and selection of competent translators and interpreters would require careful attention, as there was a scarcity of such staff at present and the co-operation of all Arab States and of the League of Arab States would be an indispensable prerequisite for setting up satisfactory services.

72. The Conference expressed its support concerning the Director-General's proposals summarized above but reserved its agreement as to the number of words to be translated and the number of translators and revisers to be engaged. The Conference emphasized that the extent of the services to be provided was a matter for consideration by the FAO Conference at its Fifteenth Session in 1969, in the light of the recommendations of the Eighth and Ninth FAO Regional Conferences for the Near East and of the action of the FAO Conference at its Fourteenth Session. Furthermore, the Conference recommended that the Director-General should endeavour to obtain further the necessary funds in order to provide greater facilities towards a fuller use of the Arabic language.

73. The Conference also recommended that a questionnaire should be circulated to the Governments concerned, in order to obtain their views regarding the priorities that they attached to various classes of documents, publications and correspondence. The replies to this questionnaire would guide the Director-General's choice in selecting those documents and publications that had the greatest practical interest and importance for agriculture.

74. As to correspondence addressed by the Governments of Arab States to the Organization, there was no provision, in 1968-69, for its translation from Arabic. In order to ensure co-operation in this matter, the Director-General expressed the hope that Governments that were accustomed to writing to FAO in English or in French would continue to do so, as this would reduce delays in dealing with correspondence received.

75. The Conference further noted with appreciation that the League of Arab States had prepared an Arabic version of the Basic Texts of FAO (Volumes I and II) and that these would be published under the joint sponsorship of the two Organizations. The Conference recommended that the Arabic version of these Basic Texts (Constitution, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure of the Conference, Council and statutory bodies established under Article V of the Constitution) should be submitted to the appropriate bodies of the Organization for official adoption.

76. The Conference reiterated the hope, expressed by the Eighth Regional Conference for the Near East, that the Organization would gradually grant Arabic as soon as possible the same status as that given to the other working languages of the Organization.

77. Relevant in this connection is also Conference Recommendation No. 1 on page 41.

State of Food and Agriculture in the Near East

78. The Director-General referred to the state of food and agriculture in the Region. The discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the Conference in this connection are reported in paragraphs 97 - 108.

Programme of Work and Budget

79. The Director-General stressed the role of FAO in catalysing agricultural development in member countries. It has the competence and experience for assisting member countries through the identification and definition of their problems, the assembly of technical data, completion of feasibility studies, and for facilitating the investment of capital, domestic, foreign, private and public. However, FAO has unavoidably to work within the priorities established by the Member Governments. The Director-General invited the member countries to take full advantage of the expertise and experience available at FAO in assigning national priorities for the development of agriculture so that the available resources and services could be geared to the real needs of agriculture.

80. The Director-General submitted that while he would do his best to meet the wishes of the member countries in the Near East Region, the measures that he could take on the various recommendations emanating from this Conference would, of course, be subject to the approval of the FAO Conference.

81. The Conference noted with appreciation the Director-General's decision to request the next FAO Conference to approve funds which could be drawn upon to make available high level consultant services on special problems facing member countries.

Areas of Concentration

82. The Director-General referred to his efforts, notably by co-ordination through the new Development Department, to secure a more speedy and streamlined implementation of projects and to eliminate unhelpful competition between divisions within FAO and to focus the main efforts in five key areas. These areas cut across the lines of divisional responsibility within FAO. The Director-General intended that in each area all the divisions concerned should work together as an integrated team. This did not mean, of course, that other important issues would be neglected. But it was certain that by such concentration and team work FAO could accomplish more than if the technical divisions worked more or less independently on largely unrelated problems, however significant these might be in their specialized fields.

83. The five areas for concentration indicated by the Director-General were:

- (a) The new high-yielding varieties, particularly of wheat and rice developed in Mexico and the Philippines, respectively. This break-through which could have a major and continuing impact on the food situation in the developing countries, called for immense efforts by the developing countries themselves, by international agencies, and by donor countries in order to turn the vast promises into reality;
- (b) An all-out drive to overcome the protein deficiency in the developing regions. Lack of protein was probably the most serious nutritional deficiency in the developing countries, especially among mothers and children in the lower income groups. The most practicable solution of the protein gap appeared to lie not only in increasing the output but also in lowering the cost of animal proteins including fish, increasing the content of protein, especially vegetable protein, in staple foods, and encouraging its consumption, by improving its palatability and by mass consumer education. Where economically feasible, the production and consumption of non-conventional proteins, such as yeasts and certain vegetable concentrates, should also be encouraged and developed;
- (c) Prevention of waste. Loss of millions of hectares of fertile land through erosion, water-logging and salinity, or inadequate drainage was a striking example of indirect waste. In addition, heavy pre-harvest losses occurred due to pest infestations; similar post-harvest losses occurred during storage and marketing of foods, especially of perishable foods. Such losses added up to many billions of dollars a year. It was much less costly to save than to produce a ton of grain; the reduction of waste was clearly the best use of resources;
- (d) Mobilization of human resources in the rural areas. Only through fuller utilization of human resources in the rural areas could the panic flight to the towns of the rural unemployed be slowed down. Integrated rural development seemed to hold the best promise so far for successfully handling this very complex social problem; and
- (e) Increased earning and saving of foreign exchange. Falling prices of agricultural export commodities and unpredictable fluctuations in earnings added immeasurably to the difficulties of planning for economic and social development and investment. While export earnings were always at the mercy of world market fluctuations, import savings were much more within the control of individual governments. There was an ever-increasing need for team work among the developing countries for dependence on local and regional, rather than on foreign products.

84. The Director-General emphasized that the proposed five areas of concentration interlock closely. For example, the better use of rural manpower has an obvious connection with the increased output of high-yielding cereals and of protein foods. Large supplies of these foods and a reduction of waste can contribute substantially to the saving of foreign exchange, and often to larger exports as well. Together the five areas cover a big segment of the agricultural sector. The Director-General believed that they constitute a comprehensive and balanced work programme for FAO, and invited the Conference for general comments on them.

85. The Conference was assured by the Director-General that the five areas of concentration were to serve only as broad outlines of a strategy for action. Obviously, there will be need for establishing priorities within priorities and, in case of urgency, projects outside the five areas of concentration will have to be taken in hand.

86. The attention of the Conference was drawn to the fact that the available resources under the Regular Programme permitted the Organization to meet only a limited proportion of the needs of the governments for development assistance and that to meet the remaining needs, extra-budgetary resources have to be mobilized. These resources primarily come from the United Nations Development Programme, and governmental and non-governmental assistance programmes. For effective mobilization of these resources, it is very important that governments specify their priorities for assistance. It is further necessary that the requests for assistance from these extra-budgetary resources be formulated and formally submitted by the governments concerned, with clear indication of the services and facilities that the governments themselves are able to mobilize.

87. The Conference fully supported the Director-General's proposals for concentrated action on the five areas described above and invited the member countries to take these areas into account, as far as possible, in their national development plans, and to collaborate fully among themselves and with the Director-General for a speedy translation of these proposals into action programmes on both national and regional levels.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

88. The Director-General stated that the success of the UN family of specialized agencies in improving the political, social and economic situation of the world would depend in large measure on the extent to which all the agencies worked together as a team. If they dissipate their energies in jurisdictional disputes or in meaningless competition they would get nowhere.

89. FAO was the only UN Agency with the specific responsibility for working out UN food and agricultural policy; there was no question about it. But unless FAO could coordinate its thinking with that of the agencies responsible for other sectors, and with the thinking of those responsible for an overall view of the world economy, all these agencies would end up with a sad confusion of thought and action and be quite ineffective in stimulating world development.

90. The Director-General reported on his successful negotiation of an agreement reached between the Directors-General of ILO, UNESCO and FAO in respect of agricultural education, hitherto a field of disputed responsibility among these three agencies mentioned above. This agreement defined the respective responsibilities of the three agencies and the way in which they would co-operate henceforth. The Director-General expressed the hope of reaching a similar agreement with UNIDO before the end of the year. FAO had been working closely and harmoniously with GATT and UNCTAD on all questions of agricultural trade. FAO had similar close relations in their respective fields with WHO, WMO, UNICEF and with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Particular attention was drawn to co-operation with WHO in the closely related fields of irrigation and water-borne diseases. Equally important was the co-operation with members of the UN system in other areas such as rural development, work-oriented literacy, and nutrition and home economics.

91. The Director-General specially mentioned the relevance of the Indicative World Plan to the UN's Second Development Decade. FAO had been preparing the necessary projections for development planning through its IWP, geared to provide realistic targets for agricultural production, consumption and trade in 1975 and 1985. It would also suggest policies by which these targets might be reached. FAO was now interpolating all estimates to give similar targets for 1970 and 1980, the period of the second development decade. And FAO was in close contact with the UN (for example, through Professor Tinbergen, the Chairman of the appropriate UN Committee) to ensure complete comparability in methods of working of the two agencies.

92. The Conference noted with satisfaction the collaboration established between FAO and other agencies. In this connection, the Conference emphasized that FAO's collaboration with other UN Agencies should be primarily concerned with integration of agricultural development with those in other related sectors, and with the avoidance of duplication of efforts, and that such collaboration must fully recognize FAO's specific responsibility for working out UN food and agricultural policy.

93. The Conference noted with great appreciation the desire of some of the developed countries to channel their assistance to the development of agriculture in the developing countries through the FAO. The Conference further noted with gratification the successful negotiations that the Director-General has already concluded with some of the donor countries, notably Denmark.

COUNTRY STATEMENTS

94. Heads of Delegations presented statements, as usual, at the Conference. The special feature of these statements was that, invited by the Director-General, the delegates paid particular attention to such vital matters as reorganization of FAO, Regional structure, reorientation of regional conferences, use of Arabic as a working language, and the five areas of concentration as proposed by the Director-General.

95. The Country Statements, in addition, dealt with the state of food and agriculture in their respective countries, the current government efforts for the improvement of agriculture, the volume of development assistance available and the impact of these agricultural activities on the economic and social situation in the country. These statements also indicated the felt needs for intensified efforts in the development of agriculture and the scope of international co-operation in meeting these needs.

96. The views expressed and recommendations made by the Conference on these issues are recorded in the relevant sections of this Report.

State of Food and Agriculture

97. The tempo of development of agriculture in the Region as a whole continued to increase during the biennium at an accelerated pace. Obviously, there were appreciable differences in the efforts expended and their impacts on agricultural production, and effective availability of food in the various countries.

98. There were some spectacular developments in the Region in the production of wheat and rice, specially as a result of the introduction of the high-yielding varieties. Pakistan, long handicapped with increasing deficits in food grains, had almost achieved self-sufficiency within a very brief period of two years. Wheat imports into West Pakistan had ceased completely and the province was now a net exporter of 300,000 to 500,000 tons of rice annually. East Pakistan was also expected to become self-sufficient by 1970. In Iraq wheat production increased over 50 per cent to 1.5 million tons; barley production increased 40 per cent to 850,000 tons and rice production went up by 30 per cent. The achievements of Iraq become all the more significant viewed against the fact that until only two years ago Iraq used to import wheat and rice valued at more than \$30 million annually. Iraq's production of rice during 1968 was expected to be even higher as a result of the increased use of fertilizers which had been made available to farmers at subsidized prices. Iraq, in fact, was faced with the problem of success, that is, how to market its exportable surplus and how to prevent disincentive to farmers which might be caused if prices of their produce were allowed to fall as a result of surplus production. Lebanon reported a six-fold increase in the yields of MexiPak wheat over conventional varieties under experimental conditions. The results of these activities initiated with assistance from the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations were to be extended to a great number of countries in this Region and in Africa. Jordan's recently released wheat (Deir Alla) was showing great promise in rainfed areas. The Delegate of Syria also reported considerable activities in his country on high yielding varieties of wheat and the consequent development of a variety which appears to hold very good promises.

99. Crops were generally good in the Region in the last two years. The Region's food production rose by about two per cent and three per cent, respectively, in 1966 and 1967, and thus roughly kept pace with the annual growth of population of about 2.5 per cent. Indeed, per caput food production in the Region remained more or less unchanged since 1962.

100. Lack of protein continued to be a serious problem in several countries of the Region, especially among the mothers and children. The demand for protein foods continued to increase among the wealthier classes. As the growing demand was not matched by increased production, prices rose sharply, making them still less attainable by the poorer classes.

101. Moreover, the effective demand for food was going up with economic development. The population of the Near East is growing at the rate of about 2.9 per cent per annum. The per caput income rose somewhere between 1.5 and 3.5 per cent per annum. The effective rate of growth of demand for food reached 3.5 - 4.0 per cent while the growth of food production was only about 2.8 per cent per annum. Consequently, there was a rapid rise in food imports over the last decade, particularly of cereals, followed at some distance by sugar and livestock products. These imports widened the deficit trade balance and further reduced the scarce domestic capital available for investments, specially in agriculture. There was, however, some decline in 1967 in food imports as a result of a generally good harvest, but this may be only a temporary pause. There was, therefore, need for a still faster growth of food production in the Region.

102. Many governments were putting much greater emphasis on agriculture in their planning and investment programmes. They may well have been influenced by the rapid depletion of North American grain stocks, so long a bulwark against famine in times of emergency.

103. On the other hand, the long years of gradual development of research and extension services, of long-term investment in irrigation and infra-structure, of the improvement in agricultural institutions, all these were at last beginning to yield dividends. Farmers were taking more readily to the use of fertilizers and improved practices. Governments were making greater efforts to provide essential inputs. Of special importance in some countries was the widespread adoption of the high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice.

104. FAO and other international agencies had done much to bring home to governments the gravity of the food problem. More positively, they had made some contribution in field studies and investment. FAO's work on irrigation, on the prevention of erosion, and on the control of locusts was familiar to the countries of this Region.

105. The Region could, therefore, look to the future with cautious optimism. Hunger and malnutrition were still rampant. The food problem of the Region and of the world was still far from solved; nor could it be finally solved while population grew at its present frantic rate.

106. A rational and speedy solution of the food problems of the Region called for more determined and co-ordinated action, on national and international levels, to lift agriculture in the Region from its present state, the main features of which are:

- (i) Inadequate training facilities and lack of employment opportunities have resulted in large numbers of unemployed and under-employed people, especially in the rural areas, and have contributed to the shortage of qualified national technicians and skilled manpower at all levels and in all fields.
- (ii) Inadequate co-ordination between livestock and crop production and extension of cultivation into nominal range areas have stagnated livestock production, contributing to deficiencies of animal protein in the human diet.
- (iii) Inadequate national programmes for soil conservation, range and forest management have led to extensive areas being over-grazed and ravaged by wind and water erosion; the resulting sediments reduce the storage capacity as well as the useful life of storage reservoirs and clog irrigation channels.
- (iv) Misuse of scarce water resources along with lack of drainage has aggravated salinity and water logging, causing great areas of irrigated land to be abandoned, and seriously reducing productivity in many other areas.
- (v) Inadequate provision of necessary infra-structure including research and training facilities, extension services, transportation facilities including farm-to-market roads, marketing, storage and processing facilities, along with inadequate provision of inputs such as fertilizers, improved seed, pesticides and farm machinery, cripple the efforts of the most energetic and conscientious farmers to improve agricultural production.
- (vi) Shifting cultivation and nomadism, which have constituted the way of life of many of the Region's peoples, can no longer satisfy the food requirements of rising populations.
- (vii) Inadequate reliable statistics make it difficult to prepare realistic development plans.

107. The means were there to bring about a steady improvement in nutrition, through the development of agriculture. Not one thing, but the combined effect of a multitude of efforts had all contributed to this technical capacity for solving food problems. What was needed was the will and energy to make use of the new tools. There was little choice. Complacency and ineffectiveness would threaten the society with the familiar quagmire of hunger. Determined and concerted efforts could bring the vision of a world free of want within the realm of the possible.

108. The Conference appealed to the member countries to mobilize increased resources to bridge the food gap, especially the protein gap, and urged them for their fullest co-operation with FAO.

REVIEW OF FAO'S ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

109. The Conference welcomed the Regional Representative's Review of FAO's Activities in the Region and considered the general situation, trends and policies, current activities and proposed future action of FAO in the various fields of food and agriculture in the Region. Planned future action was reviewed with particular reference to its relevance in the light of the Director-General's proposed five areas of concentration. The Conference gave general support to the action proposed in the Review and reiterated its earlier endorsement of the five areas of concentration selected by the Director-General. In so doing, it welcomed the Director-General's stated intention to exercise flexibility in programming to permit dealing with important fields not covered by the five areas.

Regional Approach to Problems

110. A constant theme pervading the discussions was the emphasis on the regional approach to the solution of problems, as reflected in the call for strengthening or establishing regional commissions, supporting regional projects and continuation and improvement of the Regional Conference.

Regional Commissions

111. The Conference called for adequate support to permit existing Commissions to implement recommendations and work effectively and also to permit the establishment of needed additional ones. Early activation of the already approved Animal Production and Health Commission as well as establishment of the Agricultural Marketing Commission, recommended by the Thirteenth Session of the FAO Conference, and of a Food and Nutrition Commission, recommended by the Eighth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, were requested. New proposals were put forward for establishment of Commissions for Fisheries and the Mobilization of Human Resources for Rural Development. It was recognized that the full value of Commissions could be realized only if there were participation by all governments concerned. In this connection, FAO financial assistance to permit attendance of government representatives was requested. The Conference noted, however, that FAO's constitutional provisions, along with general budgetary limitations made such support difficult. The Conference considered it most important that a solution of this financial problem be found, particularly since the possible abolition of the Technical Committees which precede the sessions of the FAO Conferences would cause the work of the regional technical commissions to assume increased importance.

112. Some delegations expressed the view that the establishment of Regional Commissions should be limited to priority needs. Other delegations drew the attention of the Conference to the financial difficulties faced by some Member Governments in sending delegations of suitable size to make the maximum contributions to the success of conferences and meetings.

113. Clarification was effected regarding the functioning or details of establishment of several of the Commissions. The Land and Water Commission was established to deal with both irrigated and dry farming. Its proper functioning required the establishment of National Committees and action so far had been taken only by the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Republic, Kuwait and Libya. For Iraq and Jordan such national committees have already been established. The second session of the Commission would be organized

in the second half of 1969 and the central feature of the agenda would be a review of the UNDP-supported projects both in the Technical Assistance and Special Fund sectors to assess results, identify gaps in assistance and devise means of filling these gaps. As regards the preliminary technical meeting, negotiations were proceeding with UNDP in an effort to obtain the financial support needed to bring together project directors, co-directors and others involved. It was suggested that a group of consultants from the Region should assess UNDP-assisted land and water use projects in the field. There was no current budget for implementation of this suggestion, but it could be raised at the second session of the Commission. The specific views of the Conference regarding work in the field are incorporated in Recommendation No. 17.

114. The Food and Nutrition Commission, which was to have been established as a joint FAO/WHO body, was unanimously requested, in view of WHO's difficulties at present in formally joining such a Commission, to be established as an FAO body with WHO extending cooperation in its activities. Conference decisions for action are detailed in Recommendation No. 8.

115. The First Session of the Near East Commission for Animal Production and Health would be held in early 1969. The Commission may meet as one body or in sub-commissions for Animal Production and for Animal Health. In addition to discharging the usual functions of a commission, it may also assume responsibility for co-ordinating work of the Near East Animal Health Institutes and proposed regional animal production institutes depending on the decision taken by participating Governments regarding financing of the present UNDP-supported Co-ordination Unit for the Animal Health Institutes located in Beirut. Recommendation No. 6 details Conference decision on action required.

116. The proposal advanced by the Conference to establish a Commission on Mobilization of Human Resources for Rural Development is dealt with in Recommendation No. 7.

117. In respect of the newly advanced proposal to create a Near East Fisheries Commission to deal with inland and marine fisheries including the Mediterranean, the Conference noted that the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission had very recently endorsed a Kuwait Conference (FAO Technical Conference of Fishery Representatives of the Near East Countries, Kuwait, 10-15 October 1966) recommendation for a fisheries resources appraisal of the Gulfs to be integrated with the Indian Ocean programme, and had agreed on steps to plan and develop the resources of the area and to co-ordinate national programmes pending possible assistance from the UNDP and contributions from the developed countries. The Conference expressed its appreciation of this action by the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission which, along with other FAO assistance, would be most valuable to Governments during the period when the possible establishment of a Near East Fisheries Commission is under consideration. Relevant in this connection also is Recommendation No. 8.

Regional Institutes

118. FAO was urged to provide support for regional research experimentation and training institutes in such fields as Statistics (in Baghdad, as recommended by the Fourth Session of the Statistics Commission), Agricultural Planning, Animal Production and Health, Food and Nutrition, Home Economics, Marketing (in Beirut) and Plant Production and Protection.

119. Similarly, it was proposed that the highly successful UNDP(TA)-Supported Regional Wheat and Barley project should be expanded to cover other crops, including maize, sorghum and rice, and other major crops; and the Delegate of Pakistan suggested that a regional centre for this purpose should be established in Pakistan. Recommendation No. 13 gives in detail the action proposed in this connection.

120. Many delegates expressed their appreciation of the preliminary results of the regional project on Vegetable Improvement and Seed Production and requested the continuation and expansion of its activities. Relevant in this connection is Recommendation No. 14.

121. The operations of the Animal Health Institute should be expanded and parallel arrangements made to cover also animal production, including feed and fodder.

122. The Conference particularly emphasized the complementarity of national activities in tackling problems of a regional nature and agreed that under the present circumstances a more practical approach to regional projects might be to organize national units whereby each country could concentrate on those aspects of the problems which were most prevalent within her territories, and to co-ordinate the efforts in the various countries through a central machinery. In this connection, the complex of the national Animal Health Institutes in the Near East and the Inter-regional Desert Locust Control project were cited as examples. In the case of the former, six member countries (Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Sudan and the United Arab Republic) had established national Animal Health Institutes with UNDP assistance and the request of the Government of Afghanistan for UNDP assistance in the establishment of an Animal Health Institute was due to be approved shortly. Each national institute concentrated its activities on those animal diseases which were most prevalent in the country concerned. The central co-ordinating unit, located in Beirut, co-ordinated the activities of the various national institutes, arranged for exchange of information and training of personnel as well as provided technical services in epizootiology and instrument maintenance. In the case of desert locust control, national activities were co-ordinated in sub-regions through sub-regional desert locust control organizations, while the overall co-ordination was achieved through the Desert Locust Control Committee which was established under the aegis of FAO and of which all the 42 countries lying in the desert locust invasion area were members.

123. The Conference recalled that for obtaining assistance in the establishment of regional projects from sources other than FAO such as UNDP and bilateral aid agencies, it was necessary that governments, individually or jointly, submit formal requests with a clear indication of the services and facilities that they were themselves able to mobilize.

124. Nevertheless, and despite the administrative and financial difficulties, the Conference urged that FAO use its good offices in seeking financial support for regional projects especially where projects organized on a regional basis would best serve the interest of all concerned.

125. The Conference recognized that effective establishment of international co-ordination usually took many years. For example, it took about 25 years to achieve the present degree of international collaboration in the control of the desert locust. The Conference requested the Director-General to urge the governmental and non-governmental aid agencies, e.g., the UNDP, Rockefeller Foundation, etc., to recognize the importance of their association for long periods in the successful implementation of regional projects.

Agricultural training

126. Giving consideration to training in a more general sense, the Conference recognized the need for a properly integrated system covering all levels from farmers through agricultural policy makers. It was suggested that much more emphasis should be placed on intermediate as opposed to university level training so as to ensure the availability of adequate numbers of practically trained field workers. In training such staff, over-specialization was to be avoided. Then, too, the Conference urged that much greater attention should be given to the development of training facilities for women in the field of home economics. The views of the Conference on needs for training in inland fisheries are recorded in paragraph No. 164.

Mobilization of Human Resources

127. Going beyond training, the Conference attached considerable importance to other aspects of the mobilization and development of human resources. Governments were urged to undertake broad rural and community development activities which involved comprehensive action and improved organization within the agricultural sector, bringing together all of the services, facilities and incentives, including land reform, required for farmers to adopt improved technology and achieve more efficient and increased production. Translating this increased production and income into better levels of living also required action beyond the agricultural sector in fields such as family life, health, literacy and other forms of education, communications, recreation and supply of consumer goods. Special efforts would need to be made to develop co-operatives and other local organizations where farmers, farm women and youth would have an opportunity to participate in planning and to acquire leadership capacity and experience in managing their own affairs as preparation for wider participation in local governments. The Conference suggested that during the next ten years, the governments in the Region should place special emphasis on projects in the human resources and rural development field.

Desert Locust

128. The Conference viewed with deep concern the emergency situation, resulting from the rapid increase in the scale and extent of infestation by the desert locust from the beginning of 1968. In this connection, the Conference noted with appreciation the warning issued by the Director-General in December 1967 to the member countries on the impending danger and the action taken by the governments individually and collectively. The Conference commended the excellent co-operation displayed by the Governments and international agencies in combating the crisis. Special appreciation was expressed for the assistance given by India, Jordan, Pakistan, the Sudan and the UAR in intensifying control operations in Saudia Arabia, the assistance of DLCO(EA) to the Sudan and that of Iran to Pakistan. The Conference expressed its gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme and the United States Agency for International Development for their very prompt and generous assistance for strengthening the emergency control operations.

129. The Conference underlined most emphatically that the present emergency is added proof that despite the effective technological tools available at present and the extensive efforts made nationally and internationally, the desert locust will continue to threaten from time to time. Continued and close vigilance was, therefore, imperative to minimize these threats. Special consideration was given to the need for more intensive regional co-operation in the control of the desert locust. Control measures had to be undertaken wherever outbreaks occurred, while continuing attempts were made to locate and control outbreaks at the source.

130. The Conference further emphasised that there should be no relaxation of the vigilance after the present crisis has been brought under control. Instead, the long-term plans for continuing survey, research and control on the breeding grounds should be appropriately strengthened.

131. The Conference recognized the desirability of a revolving emergency fund to permit prompt mobilization of services and facilities for combating emergency desert locust situations which might develop in the future. In this connection, the Conference requested the Director-General to approach the FAO Council and Conference to place a sufficient amount of emergency funds at his disposal for helping any country or groups of countries in the desert locust invasion area. The Conference also agreed that an appeal should be made to all concerned for contribution to a suitable emergency fund.

132. The Conference noted that the technical aspects of the present crisis, control operations, as well as long-time strategy were to be examined at the Twelfth Session of the Desert Locust Control Committee to be held in Rome, 7-11 October 1968 and that the report of this Session was planned to be submitted to the Session of the FAO Council, Rome, 7-22 October 1968.

133. Recommendation No. 15 details Conference decision on action requested.

Agricultural Marketing and Trade

134. The Conference placed considerable stress on the need for aid in developing regional marketing policies and organization. Particular attention should be directed to fruits and vegetables but action was also required in respect of grains and livestock products. The work in marketing and production of fruits and vegetables should be closely associated through appropriate co-ordination of the respective commissions and commodity studies. Geographically, the emphasis should be on the Near East proper with due consideration to relationship with other regions. It was noted that the Regional Commission on Horticultural Production for the Near East and North Africa at its first Session to be held in Beirut, Lebanon, 7-12 October 1968, would look into this subject. It was also due to be discussed at the Seminar on Marketing Programmes, Procedures and Organization in November 1968, also in Beirut.

135. Several countries reported programmes for the improvement of agricultural marketing. Strong appeals were made for the establishment of a Regional Agricultural Marketing Institute in Lebanon. Relevant in this connection is Recommendation No. 9.

136. Several delegates also referred to suggestions made earlier at various forums for the organization of an Arab Common Market to promote increasing demands of domestic and regional products rather than of foreign products in order to save scarce foreign exchange earnings. Relevant in this connection is Conference Recommendation No. 18.

Food and Nutrition

137. The Conference stressed the need to place considerably greater emphasis on the area of food and nutrition and recommended that governments make the necessary organizational and administrative arrangements to deal with the many facets of this broad field. Food and nutrition considerations had to become a permanent element in planning. Regardless of whether the planning took place in the central planning authority, the Ministry of Agriculture or elsewhere, specialists in food and nutrition had to be involved and the Conference urged the implementation of the Fourteenth FAO Conference Resolution on the

establishment of nutrition units in Ministries of Agriculture. There was also a need for a co-ordinating mechanism to bring together all the ministerial and other interests involved in planning and implementing a satisfactory nutrition policy. Special emphasis was laid on the need for training various categories of nutrition workers at different levels and for the inclusion of nutrition in the training of agriculturalists. Recommendation No. 5 details Conference decision on action required.

Agricultural Planning

138. The Conference noted general weakness of planning in the agriculture sector and called upon governments to establish or strengthen agricultural planning units, both within Ministries of Agriculture, and central planning authorities and other concerned organizations. The vital importance of reliable statistics for efficient planning was stressed. The need for continuous evaluation of progress and follow-up of the implementation of these recommendations was particularly emphasised.

Agricultural Statistics

139. The Conference endorsed the recommendations made by the Fourth Session of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Statistics, held in Baghdad, Iraq, from 10 to 17 September 1968 and urged member countries and FAO to take the necessary action for their implementation.

140. The importance of further intensifying statistical activities in the Region was stressed and the Conference fully supported the establishment of the proposed Regional Research and Training Institute in Statistics in Baghdad with assistance from the Special Fund of the United Nations Development Programme. Recommendation 11 details Conference decision on action required in this connection. It was noted with gratification that the Government of Iraq had already submitted a formal request to the UNDP for assistance. The Conference requested the Director-General to urge its approval and implementation as soon as possible in order to provide timely assistance to countries in their preparation for and execution of the 1970 agricultural censuses. Until such a project became fully operational, the Conference considered it essential to continue the regional project on statistical training assisted by UNDP (TA).

141. The Conference laid particular stress on the need for having a perspective in the timing of statistical activities of member countries and the FAO in the coming years so as to have them geared to urgent requirements of data and studies. In this connection, it was necessary to have close co-operation and co-ordination between the various national agencies for rationalizing the process of data collection and use.

142. The Conference expressed satisfaction on the high degree of co-ordination of the activities of the Near East Commissions on Agricultural Planning, Agricultural Statistics and Plant Protection. Further satisfaction was expressed on the initiation of joint activities by the Commissions on Statistics and Plant Protection for estimating damage or losses caused by plant pests and diseases, and other losses between harvest and consumption. These activities were closely related to "War on Waste", one of the agreed five areas of concentration.

143. The importance of initiating work on livestock statistics similar to that on waste was also stressed. Such work would facilitate the study on the regional integration of cereals and livestock sub-sectors as recommended by the Fourth Session of Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning.

Animal Production and Health

144. The Conference felt need for more active participation of the countries themselves in formulating and implementing plans for the development of the work of FAO in animal production and health. The need also for regular consultations and discussions between countries on problems of common interest such as the prevention of the spread of disease, the movement of livestock and livestock products between countries (now of increasing importance) and the steps to be taken to improve livestock and increase their productivity in the light of the grave situation revealed by IWP studies, was fully recognized.

145. It was recognized throughout the Region that there was a great need for the dissemination, in national languages, of up to date information on animal production and health matters as well as of the results of research and studies undertaken by the various projects already mentioned, and of other national research institutions working in this and allied fields.

146. The Conference supported Somalia's request for assistance in the establishment of a Veterinary Diagnosis Laboratory and the attention of the Delegate of Somalia was drawn to the requirement of formal submission of a request.

147. The Conference fully supported Syria's request to the UNDP(SF) for assistance in the establishment of an Animal Husbandry Research and Training Institute and hoped that this would, when approved, become one of the components of the eventual Near East Animal Production Institutes.

148. The views and decisions of the Conference in the field of animal production and health are given in Recommendation No. 6.

Land and Water Use

149. The Conference was unanimous in confirming the high priority which should be given to land and water use problems in the region, under conditions of arid, semi-arid, and dry-land farming as well as under those of irrigated agriculture. The subjects which were the most frequently mentioned in this connection during the discussion were: better dry-land farming techniques, soil conservation, exhaustive inventory of soil and water resources, including in particular underground aquifers, proper distribution and application of irrigation water and drainage, chiefly as a means to control waterlogging and salinity which are widespread in the Region.

150. For the intensification of the activities of the Regional Commission on Land and Water Use in the Near East, the Conference, after having discussed the work of that Commission, approved the Recommendation No. 17.

151. The Conference recalled the recommendation made at its Eighth Session for holding a Seminar on Arid, Semi-Arid and Dry-land Farming and reiterated the importance of the recommended Seminar. In this connection, the Conference noted with appreciation the invitation extended by the Delegation of Jordan for holding the Seminar in that country. Recommendation No. 20 details Conference decisions for action in this respect.

152. The Conference supported the proposal of the Delegate of Iraq for holding a Seminar on Waterlogging, Soil Salinity, and Land Reclamation. The Conference also supported Iraq's proposal for examining at the proposed Seminar the possibilities of establishing a Regional Training Institute in this field. In this connection, the Conference noted with appreciation Iraq's invitation to hold the Seminar in that country. Recommendation No. 19 details Conference decisions for action in this respect.

Plant Production and Protection

153. Considerable attention was given to the rapidly increasing activities throughout the Region in introducing and cultivating high yielding varieties of cereals, especially wheat and rice. The need for stressing similar activities on other cereals such as maize and sorghum, as well as on pulses was repeatedly mentioned. Recommendation No. 13 details Conference decision on action in this respect.

154. A strong plea was made for improvement in the production of fruits and vegetables, with particular reference to quality. Iraq referred to heavy nematode infestation and the FAO assistance received for combating this menace. The need for the continuation of the regional projects on the improvement of fruits and vegetables, and for increased availability of improved vegetable seeds was stressed. It was noted that the Regional Commission on Horticulture in its October 1968 session in Beirut would consider these matters in detail. Relevant in this connection is Conference Recommendation No. 14.

155. The critical desert locust invasion is dealt with in paragraphs 128 - 133. Intensified and co-ordinated action in plant protection was urged. Recommendation No. 15 is relevant in this respect.

156. Recommendation No. 10 details Conference decisions for action in establishing a Regional Plant Production and Protection Institute for the Near East.

Forestry Development and Soil Conservation

157. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Fifth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission held in Amman, Jordan, 25-30 September 1967. It singled out as of particular importance to the Region the following two recommendations to the Director-General of FAO.

- (a) "To organize a seminar on afforestation by quick-growing species, in particular Eucalyptus, in arid and semi-arid zones, utilizing the experience of North African countries.

- (b) "To organize a seminar or training centre for the countries of the Near East Forestry Commission, in the course of which high-level representatives of national forest administrations and of national authorities responsible for forest industries, overall economic development planning and related activities could discuss the methodology worked out for the forestry contribution to the IWP with the object of ensuring that it provides the maximum information required to assist the development of forestry and forest industries in the Region".

158. The development of the protective functions of the present meagre forest resources of the Region and substantial increase in the establishment of forest plantations, including planting of trees on agricultural land was emphasized. Special stress was laid on multi-purpose functions of forests, such as regulation of water flow; prevention of soil erosion; and sheltering agricultural crops, livestock, protection of wildlife and recreation.

159. The establishment within the Region of Institutions in all three levels of forestry education - professional, technical and vocational, was welcomed. The Syrian Delegate and the Observer of the League of Arab States invited member countries to continue making use of the Near East Forest Rangers' School at Lattakia, Syria, which had been continuously assisted by FAO and the UNDP for the last ten years and which was now being taken over by the League of Arab States with the support of Member Governments. Further, the Conference noted with appreciation the generous offer of the Iraqi Government in giving some fellowships for students, to study at the College of Agriculture and Forestry of Mosul University and urged member countries to avail themselves of this offer.

160. The Conference urged member countries to examine the possibilities of creating man-made forests to supplement the production from existing natural forests, and to provide for the supply of their future wood needs for forest industries and possible export. FAO was requested to assist the countries of the Region, whenever possible, towards achieving this goal.

161. The Conference viewed with concern the inadequacy in the Region of national programmes for soil conservation, range and forest management, thus permitting extensive areas to be ravaged by wind and water erosion, shifting cultivation and desert advance, thereby diminishing areas available for cultivation and marginal areas. It urged Member Governments to take the necessary steps to prevent this waste of resources.

Wildlife Management

162. In response to a question from the Somali Delegate on the subject of wildlife conservation and management, the Conference was informed that FAO was actively involved in this field, in close co-operation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the International Biological Programme. Particular activities included the establishment by the Fourteenth FAO Conference of a new unit in the Forestry and Forest Industries Division to promote activities related to wildlife management, national park and recreation, and the finalisation of a draft African Convention for the Conservation

and Management of Wildlife. It also noted that the UNESCO/FAO Conference on Conservation and Management of the Resources of the Biosphere put great emphasis on wildlife management and asked FAO to play a special role in this field. The Conference noted the request of the Delegate of Somalia for assistance of the World Food Programme in the management of wildlife in Somalia.

Fisheries

163. The value of fish in filling the protein gap in the Region was recognized and the Member Governments urged to give due priority to fishery development on national and regional bases.

164. The Conference noted that following suspension for about two years it appeared that the Special Fund supported project for the development of fisheries in the Gulf of Aden might be resumed soon. Final arrangements for commencing operations under the Special Fund supported fisheries project in Somalia were at a very advanced stage of negotiations. A Special Fund assisted fisheries project in Jordan was expected to commence operations soon. Iraq reported a comprehensive agreement with the USSR for assistance in the development of the fisheries resources of the Gulf. Kuwait laid special stress on the development of fisheries and reported the launching of an ambitious programme. Interest continued among the countries concerned for a co-operative survey of the fisheries resources of the Gulf. The urgency for organizing the Near East Regional Training Centre on Inland Fishery Management and Fish Culture was stressed. The Centre recommended by the Fifth Regional Conference and reiterated by the Sixth had been programmed and budgeted by FAO for 1966 but was postponed on account of delays in negotiations with the host country.

165. The considerations of the Conference relating to the establishment of a Near East Fisheries Commission are reflected in paragraph 111 and Recommendation No. 8. Conference decision for action to establish a Regional Fisheries Institute for the Near East are detailed in Recommendation No. 12.

Agricultural Research

166. Delegations repeatedly referred to the need to strengthen both scientific and applied research with particular emphasis on the latter. As regards fields requiring special attention, arid lands, livestock pasture and fodder crops, fruits and vegetables and cereal crops were mentioned most frequently. There was a desire to intensify co-ordination of research activities and exchange of information and the Conference expressed the wish for a review of the progress in agricultural research to be considered at the next Regional Conference. In this connection the Conference expressed enthusiastic support for the work of the FAO Documentation Centre.

Saving and Earning Foreign Exchange

167. The Conference took note of the Director-General's comments on the priority concerned with the earning and saving of foreign exchange, but there was only limited discussion on this part of his statement. Some delegates mentioned the progress made by their countries in lowering food imports and, in a few cases, in achieving more than self-sufficiency for some important cereals. Although many of the countries in the Region were still far from self-sufficient, the introduction of high yielding varieties, together with government incentives to increase production had, in a few countries, led to the problem of exportable surpluses. If these products were to be competitive on world markets increasing attention must be given to the lowering of unit costs of production. Feed grains were mentioned as a possibility for increased intra-regional trade, which would allow for production and improvement in quality to be developed in areas with low production costs. The problems of marketing the future expansion in

production of certain fruits and vegetables were mentioned by several delegates. While much of the trade in these products is currently within the Region, concern was expressed about the prospects of increasing exports to European countries. The Conference expressed appreciation for the work already carried out by the FAO on fruits and vegetables and of the plans to explore possibilities of further assistance to the Region through market research and the dissemination of market information. Relevant in this connection is Conference Recommendation No. 9.

Agricultural Financing

168. The Conference supported the Director-General's policy of strengthening FAO's co-operative activities with the World Bank and the Regional Banks and welcomed the setting up in the Development Department of an Investment Centre which would cover the co-operative programmes already established with the multi-lateral financing institutions as well as possible future arrangements with private banks. The Conference hoped that these arrangements would result in an enhanced flow of external financial and capital resources to the countries of the Near East Region for agricultural development.

169. The Conference noted with appreciation the assurance that the President of the World Bank had given to the Director-General of his intention to expand still more the Bank's activities in the agricultural sector and, with this end in view, to develop further the FAO/IBRD Co-operative Programme. While the activities of this Programme in this Region had been very limited in 1966 and 1967, the Conference noted the large increase that was taking place in 1968 in the Programme's mission activities in the countries of the Region and hoped that this stepped up effort would, in the near future, be reflected in a much larger volume of loans and credits approved for agricultural projects. It was, however, realized that this would depend on an early replenishment of the resources of the International Development Association.

170. It was explained to the Conference that FAO's policy was to promote the case for highest priority being accorded to investment in, and financing of, agricultural development, whether the resources were to come from domestic or from external sources. FAO's investment service activities were in line with this policy and ought to remove a major constraint in the way of external financing, namely shortage in the developing countries of well-prepared projects ready for financing. With this end in view, the FAO/IBRD Co-operative Programme had been providing assistance to the Member Governments in the identification and preparation of projects by sending missions in agreement with the Bank. The Conference noted that the procedure for regulating such assistance was simple, as outlined in the brochure recently circulated, and appreciated the steps taken by the Programme to disseminate information on the outline to be followed in project preparation.

171. Other activities undertaken by the FAO, in line with the policy to promote agricultural investment financing, included the screening and follow through of UNDP projects. The Conference considered useful the steps taken to impart investment orientation to these projects and hoped that the joint review of these projects with the Bank and the UNDP could, in due course, enable the building up of a large pipe-line of investment projects for the countries of the Region.

World Food Programme

172. General satisfaction was expressed with the work of the World Food Programme in the Region. In forestry and allied fields some nine World Food Programme projects were approved and operational, involving a total cost to the World Food Programme of some US\$10 million. The Conference recommended further utilization of the World Food Programme's resources in such projects especially when they are labour-intensive.

Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign

173. The continuing importance of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign was recognised and Member Governments were encouraged to intensify their efforts to establish and make effective use of National Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign Committees. The Conference endorsed the Report of the Second Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign Conference for the Near East, Baghdad (Iraq), 19-20 September 1968.

Field Programmes

174. The Conference requested the member countries to further intensify their efforts in ensuring that national supporting services and facilities were available for technical assistance requested in order that the optimum use could be made of the assistance when delivered.

175. The Conference noted that existing arrangements provided for FAO experts to consult the governments on the drafts of the final reports before their departure from the country on completion of their assignments and for the governments to receive a copy of the summary of conclusions and recommendations soon after the completion of each assignment or project, especially where the formal submission of the final report was likely to take time. The Director-General assured the Conference that he would give special attention to a strict adherence to these arrangements and to the early submission of the full final reports.

176. The Conference emphasized that development projects, including those implemented with international assistance, should be subjected, in addition to periodic evaluations, to an evaluation by specialists possibly about mid-way in the duration of the project, in order that the objectives as well as the plans of execution may be reoriented, as necessary, to take into full account the changing circumstances and the shift of emphasis that might have taken place. The Conference invited the member countries to co-operate fully with FAO in connection with such evaluations.

C. MAJOR POLICY QUESTIONS OF CONCERN TO THE REGION

THE INDICATIVE WORLD PLAN

a) The Provisional Near East Study: Summary and Conclusions

177. The Conference reviewed the Near East Study of the Indicative World Plan in the light of the Summary and Conclusions presented in NERC 68/3. The value of the Indicative World Plan in establishing a long-term strategy for agricultural development within the framework of overall economic growth was recognized. The Conference was informed that with the first stage of work relating to the preparation of regional studies nearing completion, the second stage of combining them into a world picture for consideration by the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference in November 1969 was now under way. Further, FAO proposed to cooperate closely with the UN in its work on the Second Development Decade by interpolating for 1970 and 1980, the period of the Second Development Decade.

178. The importance of the Near East Study in providing a frame which would help governments to formulate their agricultural plans and policies within a well-defined regional context was stressed. At the same time, it was pointed out that since conditions were in a state of flux in the Near East, it was difficult to forecast developments for as long a period as twenty years. However, some of the countries in the Region had prepared a perspective plan whose scope and range conformed to that of the Near East Study.

179. The need for setting up an inter-ministerial committee in each country to examine the Near East Study in the light of its national plan was emphasized. Some countries had already set up such committees and the Conference hoped that a similar step would be taken by the other countries of the Region. It was felt that the setting up of such a committee would facilitate contact and exchange of information between the Indicative World Plan unit at FAO Headquarters and the member countries of the Region.

180. Since technological developments such as the introduction of high-yielding varieties of cereals, specially wheat and rice, would materially alter the production possibilities envisaged in the Near East Study, it would be necessary to revise it at appropriate intervals. The Study was indeed provisional and it was proposed to revise it in the light of the comments offered by the Member Governments and in the light of such developments in agriculture as had not been taken into account fully at the time of the preparation of the Study.

181. The major emphasis in the Study on expansion of food production and improving the level of food consumption and nutrition was recognized to be in line with the requirements of the countries of the Region. It was noted that if the increase in food production envisaged in the Study were achieved, calorie levels, which were low in most of the countries of the Region, would be brought up to required levels, the total protein intake would also be higher, but that in view of the relatively slow rate of growth of livestock production, the intake of animal protein would not show any major change. It would, therefore, be necessary to increase the production of livestock products and to popularise consumption of protein-rich vegetable foods like pulses, and take measures aimed at directly improving the consumption levels, especially of the lower income groups. The proper formulation and implementation of these measures would call for a well-coordinated national policy for food and nutrition. Since fish constituted a valuable protein, the development of fishery resources in the Region was also stressed.

182. There was general approval of the strategy of agricultural development outlined in the Near East Study. However, it was pointed out that in view of the foreign exchange earnings from export crops, it might be necessary to devote irrigated areas to growing

these crops rather than cereals. There was also difficulty in adopting a cereal-legume rotation in the higher rainfall areas, as recommended in the Study, in view of the large inputs required for the production of legumes. However, with farm mechanization, the importance of which had been stressed in the Study, legume production in rotation with cereals was now becoming feasible.

183. The difficulty in attaining faster overall growth rates on account of the limited prospects for agricultural exports indicated in the Near East Study was underlined. National production targets had to be adjusted to world market demand and for this a picture of the world situation was essential. It was pointed out that the trade prospects outlined in the Near East Study were provisional pending completion of the world study, which would indicate global export availabilities and import requirements for individual commodities. This would necessitate revision of the provisional national production and/or demand objectives in the regional studies so that the associated export availabilities and import requirements for each commodity came into approximate balance when aggregated at world level.

184. Nor could export prospects for individual commodities be considered in isolation. Export prospects for individual oilseeds produced by the countries of the Region, for instance, had to be considered both in relation to that of other oilseeds and of competing livestock products in the rest of the world.

185. The scope for expansion of intra-regional trade in agricultural products, both unprocessed and processed, had been indicated in the Near East Study. The Conference stressed the importance of increased intra-regional trade in view of the existence of complementarity in production in the countries of the Region, the possibility of reducing production costs by creating larger markets and saving in foreign currency. It took note of the work done in this field by the League of Arab States and recommended that Member Governments should consider the need for a clearing house for international payments as a valuable prerequisite for increased intra-regional trade and should adopt trade policies for the promotion of such trade, such as liberalization of both tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, the granting of regional preferences and the conclusion of bilateral trade agreements on agricultural products. The Conference further endorsed the recommendations of the Fourth Session of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning that FAO, in cooperation with the national governments, the League of Arab States and other international bodies, should undertake a case study on the integration of grains and livestock sub-sectors in the Region, as these commodity groups seemed to offer particular possibilities for increased intra-regional trade.

186. The need for finding new and enlarged export markets outside the Region was also stressed. It was noted that FAO is already active in supplying information on the world commodity situation both for short-term prospects and for longer-term projections but that FAO had a particular role in helping the countries of the Region which it should continue to play in cooperation with other international agencies competent in the field in overcoming the difficulties of marketing the exportable surpluses of the Region.

187. It was noted that in respect of forest products, the demand would grow substantially, involving a level of imports in 1985 about three times the present level. Unless vigorous action was taken in the future to develop the region's forestry and forest industries, the import bill would rise to even higher levels. Almost two-thirds of the imports would be accounted for by pulp and paper products.

188. The Conference emphasized the importance of accurate basic statistics for the formulation of the Indicative World Plan. It was necessary that Member Governments should scrutinize carefully the data in the Near East Study and send their comments to FAO. This would be of considerable value to FAO in revising the Study.

189. The Conference felt that the methodology and assumptions made in the Near East Study should be clearly stated so that their limitations might be seen. In this connection, the Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Fourth Session of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning that a seminar should be arranged to discuss the methodology followed in the Near East Study.

190. It was felt that there was no conflict between the five areas of concentration mentioned in the Introductory Statement of the Director-General and the conclusions of the Near East Study. However, the Member Governments had to determine, in the light of their respective needs and resources, and in the light of the long-term strategy of development laid down in the Near East Study, the priorities within the areas of concentration.

b) Economic Incentives and Marketing for Expanded Agricultural Production

191. The Conference recognized that increased agricultural production will not materialize without provision of appropriate incentives, and removal of hindering disincentives.

192. Attention was drawn to the many types of incentives and the Member Governments were advised to anticipate the consequences of these, possibly in terms of cost and benefits, before they were implemented. Such economic evaluation should be done from the overall point of view of the economy as a whole, and not alone from the farmer's or the Government's point of view.

193. It was recognized that imponderables may make an economic evaluation of incentives difficult, but even if cost and benefits of incentives cannot be quantified satisfactorily, the analysis would still be useful in that it requires one to question the effectiveness and consequences of incentives in the short as well as in the long run.

194. On the basis of such an assessment the Member Governments could make a rational choice of the measures that would lead to an optimum utilization of human and natural resources available in the country and thus accelerate the rate of growth in the level of welfare to the fullest possible extent.

195. The distinction between the short term price policy (such as price supports and input subsidies etc.), medium and long term structural policy (such as improvements in marketing, land tenure, infrastructure, training, research, and education and extension, etc.) was noted.

196. Attention was drawn to the problems of disposal of agricultural production resulting from economic incentives in some countries in the Region, the need for lowering the costs of production of the products involved, improving the quality, and for creation of storage, preservation and processing facilities.

197. Problems of surplus disposal were not likely to arise if producers' prices were allowed to rise by removing disincentives which tend to maintain prices below the free-market level.

198. Attention was drawn to the fact that in several countries of the Region improvements in marketing (including the provision of storage, processing facilities and slaughter houses) had not kept pace with increasing production, and Member Governments were urged to establish or expand marketing departments in the Ministries of Agriculture.

199. The Conference was informed that FAO proposes to hold in 1969 a Regional Seminar on the Implementation of Incentive Measures.

c) The Integrated Rural Institutional Development Approach -- A System of Institutions and a Strategy for Accelerated Agricultural Development

200. The Conference considered and gave strong support to the approach elaborated in NERC 68/5, for organizing and establishing the system of institutions required to provide farmers and their families all of the incentives, facilities and services needed for increased agricultural production and income, the prerequisites of an improved level of living in rural areas. It was noted that work in this broad field fell within one of five areas of concentration proposed by the Director-General, namely, Mobilization of Human Resources for Rural Development.

201. Concentrating utilization of scarce human and financial resources, successively in areas or zones of a country until nation-wide coverage was achieved, was considered a practical way to provide all of the facilities and services required to make an impact on agricultural production. The Conference endorsed the establishment of agricultural development centres as the mechanism for bringing together at the field level all relevant facilities and services - agricultural, home economics and youth extension; credit and savings, farm supply depot, market assembly and storage; plant protection; veterinary and irrigation services; the headquarters for cooperatives and other farmers' organizations; facilities for applied agricultural experimentation and for technicians and farmers training. To be successful these centres would have to be supported by appropriate organizational and administrative arrangements at higher levels and by national policies and action in areas such as land reform, research, and higher education.

202. In this connection, the Delegate of Syria drew the attention of the Conference to the role of agricultural cooperative unions, farmers' unions, peasant unions, and the agricultural technicians association and syndicates, in agricultural development with regard to the participation of the people concerned.

203. Achievement of improved levels of living demanded action beyond the agricultural sector in family life, health, education, transport, electrification, housing, social services and recreation etc. The Conference stressed that as rapidly as resource availability and administrative capacity permitted, an agricultural development centre should be expanded into a comprehensive rural development centre making available these additional facilities and services.

204. Throughout the discussions, the Conference emphasized the need for active involvement of women in agricultural and rural developments. Home economics extension would be an essential element in an agricultural development centre. Member Governments were urged to create and develop home economics services, develop training facilities, and to make greater use of facilities already available in the Region.

205. The Conference recognized that the comprehensive approach to agricultural and rural progress offered excellent opportunities for a cooperative effort by FAO, other agencies in the UN system, other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, bilateral and philanthropic agencies. Representatives of Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization, UNICEF, WHO, ILO, and the UK especially indicated their desire to be associated with FAO's work in the field. The Director-General's policy of continuing and strengthening cooperation with other agencies and institutions was commended.

206. Delegates drew attention to the valuable experience already accumulated in the Region in the Comilla and Peshawar Rural Development Academies of Pakistan, in the UAR, Iraq, Somalia, Jordan, Syria and other countries. The Conference expressed the desire to exchange, perfect and adopt this experience and to this end called for establishment of a Commission on Mobilization of Human Resources for Rural Development for the Near East (Recommendation No. 7 and paragraph 127).

d) Feed Production and Livestock Development

207. The Conference fully recognized the great importance of the livestock industry in the overall economy of the Region. A number of delegates drew attention to the low productivity of livestock which was depressing the overall agricultural growth rate as well as adding to the existing problem of protein deficiency.

208. It was agreed that increased feed production at economic prices and improved utilization of the range areas were the primary requisites necessary to bring about major changes in the situation. The improvement of the vast area of arid grazing lands found in the Region presented, however, special problems.

209. The largely nomadic population of these areas represent a human resource whose way of life has to undergo radical changes if an improved utilization of the range land is to be brought about. Progress is bound to be slow in making these changes, and undoubtedly the problem warrants greater attention.

210. In contrast to this it was noted that the prospects for intensive livestock production in the Region showed promise due to the progress being made in cereal production programmes through the use of high-yielding varieties. Some countries have already made considerable progress with these and are now in a position to increase the production of feed for livestock, including poultry.

211. The Conference emphasized the need for an improved utilization of cereals and other agricultural by-products as components of animal feeds. This also applied to animal by-products from slaughterhouses which represented a waste which no country could afford.

212. A number of delegates thought that following the recent successes achieved in cereal breeding, efforts should be made to evolve new breeds of livestock suitable for the different environmental conditions encountered in the Region.

213. It was considered that greater emphasis needed to be placed on the training of animal husbandry and production specialists. Some delegates felt that this training needed to be a separate discipline from veterinary science.

214. The urgent need for improved livestock statistics in the Region was generally recognized and it was noted that this was an essential prerequisite for effective livestock development planning. In view of the long-term nature of livestock development, delegates stressed the importance of according a higher degree of priority to livestock development in national plans.

215. The Conference drew attention to the role which the Near East Animal Production and Health Commission could play in the dissemination of information on animal health, production and planning. The need for such an information service was requested by delegates. It further stressed that the Near East Animal Health Institutes should be expanded and increased and parallel arrangements made to cover animal production also.

e) Drainage and On-Farm Development: Keys to Successful Irrigation

216. The Conference noted that the lack of drainage facilities, and insufficient attention to on-farm development had been identified by the provisional FAO Indicative World Plan Study for the Near East as being the main limiting factors to successful agriculture in the Region. In this connection, the Conference agreed that coordinated action was needed in the three broad fields of land and water development techniques, agricultural production, and rural institutions and services, along the lines proposed in Document NERC 68/7.

217. During the course of the discussion, new reference was made to the Regional Commission on Land and Water Use, and the wish was expressed that this Commission, as well as its National Committees when created, could provide a useful meeting ground for hydrologists, hydrogeologists, and soil scientists, engineers, agronomists and foresters, extension workers, public health specialists, economists and policy makers, to coordinate their action in the broad field of land and water development and use.

218. Several delegations described the importance of irrigation and drainage problems in their countries and the measures taken in this connection. Similarities between the situation in some countries of the Region were highlighted and the need for an increased exchange of information, on a bilateral basis, as well as under the aegis of the Commission. Stressing the importance of land reclamation, the delegation of the Republic of Iraq proposed that FAO organize in future a seminar on the subject of irrigation and drainage in that country.

219. Several delegations also stressed the need for FAO to keep abreast of advanced techniques, such as the joint use of surface and underground water, including vertical drainage through tubewell irrigation by sprinkling, evaporation and seepage control and in cooperation with WMO and UNESCO in respect of weather modifications.

f) Mechanization and Increased Agricultural Production

220. In reviewing the working document NERC 68/8 on Mechanization and Increased Agricultural Production, the Conference recognized the importance of mechanization and underlined the difficulty of importing adequate machinery due to lack of foreign exchange. It gave particular attention to the problems of training of labourers and foremen in the use and maintenance of farm machinery and of farmers, extension workers, cooperative officials etc. in its use and management. Assistance was requested in establishing national training centres for this purpose. It was suggested that the question of recognition of this type of training should be considered in the countries of the Region so as to encourage students and officials to acquire the practical knowledge and skills that are needed.

221. The Conference underlined the difficulty experienced in the Region in providing adequate supplies of spare parts. Even with legal requirements for the provision of necessary spare parts, there were universal difficulties in developing adequate distribution systems.

222. There was repeated reference to the difficulties arising out of the lack of implements specifically designed for the conditions in the region and the importation of widely diversified and, sometimes, unsuitable machinery. Careful attention to such problems by countries in the region in cooperation with FAO and other interested agencies was called for.

D. ORIENTATION OF THE WORK OF FAO

Introduction

223. This chapter is, in fact, a compendium of the major recommendations emanating from the present Conference, especially those relating to problems which call for a regional approach. In presenting the recommendations, an attempt has been made to make them as self-contained as possible. Appropriate cross references to the narrative text of the Report are also indicated. Obviously, due to limitations imposed by available funds, the number of recommendations included in this chapter has had to be reduced to a minimum. In different sections of the Report are also recommendations, the priority in respect of which will vary from country to country. Some of these recommendations, however, lend themselves with relative ease to action on a country basis. A summary of these recommendations is added to the present chapter, indicating the agency responsible for action, e.g. Governments, FAO or both. The Conference endorsed, in general, the recommendations of the FAO Regional Commission in the Near East. Conference decisions on these recommendations appear in the appropriate sections of the narrative part of this Report.

Areas of Concentration

224. A very special feature of the recommendations contained in this chapter is that they are oriented to the five areas of concentration proposed by the Director-General and fully endorsed by the Conference. In view of the vital importance of concentrated action on selected fronts, the recommendations relating to the five areas of concentration which appear in paragraphs 82 to 87, are also included in the present chapter as a separate and self-contained recommendation.

Indicative World Plan

225. With the completion of the first stage of work relating to the preparation of the regional studies, the second stage of combining them into a world study for presentation at the Fifteenth FAO Conference in November 1969 is being taken up.

226. It was suggested that each country in the Region set up an inter-ministerial committee to examine the Near East Study in the light of its national plan, and to keep in view the long-term strategy laid down in the Study when formulating programmes and policies for agricultural development.

227. The Near East Study is to be revised at appropriate intervals in the light of such additional information and data as might become available, and in the light of developments in the countries.

Follow-up Action

228. The Assistant Director-General, Development Department, clarified, with reference to the reorganization of FAO and of the new Department in his charge, how the resolutions adopted, as well as the needs, requests and wishes expressed during the Regional Conference, could be expressed in terms of programmes by the Director-General. He stressed the new formulation procedures, both in respect of the Regular Programme of the Organization, and of the various field programmes and projects, covering technical assistance, and pre-investment studies.

229. As regards the formulation of these two broad categories of programmes, the Assistant Director-General emphasized that the Regional Conference represented the most important step. He stressed, however, the fact that the Regional Conference was only one step in a continuous process. The dialogue on programme matters which was initiated at this Conference between governments and the Director-General would have to be pursued on a continuing basis between conferences, and it would be the task of the Regional Office to act as the intermediary, so as to ensure that this continuity was maintained.

I. FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION No. 1

Use of Arabic as a Working Language of FAO

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Action :

Appreciating the progress of the Introduction of Arabic as a limited working language in FAO,

Gratefully acknowledges the valuable contribution made by the League of Arab States, namely the preparation of a list of Arabic translators and interpreters and assistance in the recruitment by FAO of interpreters and translators for the Conference, the translation into Arabic of the Basic Texts Volumes I and II (Constitution, General Rules, Financial Regulations, Rules of Procedure, etc.) and of the second part of the FAO Regional Representative's Review presented at the Conference, and the contribution in an amount of \$ 35,000 towards the cost of interpretation at the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference in November 1969,

Recommends that the Director-General of FAO should circulate a questionnaire to the Member Governments concerned in order to obtain their views regarding the priorities that they attach to various classes of documents, publications and correspondence;

FAO : PU,
DCCPA

Urges the Director-General of FAO to submit the Arabic version of the Basic Texts to the appropriate bodies of the Organization for official adoption; and

FAO : Legal
Counsel

Expresses the hope that the Director-General of FAO should further endeavour to obtain the necessary funds in order to provide greater facilities towards a fuller use of the Arabic language.

FAO : ODG

See also paragraphs 69 - 73.

RECOMMENDATION No. 2

The Five Areas of Concentration

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Action :

Supporting the proposals of the Director-General of FAO for concentration of the work of FAO during the coming biennium in the following five areas:

Action :

- (i) Increased application of the high-yielding varieties of cereals,
- (ii) Minimization of the protein deficiency,
- (iii) Prevention of waste,
- (iv) Mobilization of the human resources of rural areas,
- (v) Increased earning and saving of foreign exchange,

Noting that the designation of the five areas of concentration would not mean the neglect of other areas, that they were to serve only as a broad outline of strategy for action and that projects outside the five areas might also be necessary,

Recognizing that since resources would be available to meet only a limited proportion of the needs of governments, it would be necessary to establish priorities within the five areas of concentration,

Recommends that governments should specify their priorities for assistance to both national and regional programmes, taking into account, as far as possible, the five areas of concentration listed above, so that through collaboration between themselves and with the Director-General of FAO, the most impact on agricultural development might be made with the available resources.

FAO/
Governments

See also paragraphs 82 - 87, 109.

RECOMMENDATION No. 3

Constitutional Status of Regional Conferences

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Noting the efforts made to meet the various suggestions made at past Sessions for improving the effectiveness of regional conferences,

Stresses the growing importance of regional conferences as a forum for examination of regional problems and requirements, the consequent need for a review of their authority and terms of reference in keeping with their major role in providing guidance to the Director-General of FAO for preparation of his overall proposals with respect to the programme of work and budget of FAO; and the necessity of considering their future relationship with both regional FAO technical committees and the Regional Economic Commissions of the United Nations in making an essentially practical contribution to overall economic and social integration and development;

FAO : ODG

Welcomes the decision of the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference to request the Director-General of FAO to prepare a revision of the authority and terms of reference of regional conferences for submission to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters;

FAO : ODG

Recommends that the regional conferences should have a constitutional status and that their main functions and terms of reference should be precisely defined;

FAO : ODG

Action :

Urges the Director-General of FAO to complete as early as possible a revision of the authority, functions and terms of reference of regional conferences for submission to the FAO Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters; and

FAO : ODG

Expresses the hope that this revision should be ready for consideration by the Fifteenth FAO Conference scheduled to be held in November 1969.

FAO:: ODG

See also paragraphs 60 - 68 .

RECOMMENDATION No. 4

Preparation for Regional Conferences

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Noting the vital role of the regional conferences in the formulation of agricultural development policies in the Region,

Considering the important role of technical commissions and technical meetings in the orientation of such policies,

Recommends that the Director-General of FAO should take appropriate steps for meetings of technical commissions and committees to be held preparatory to a regional conference so that the delegates to a conference may be fully informed on latest advances in technology and their impact on agricultural development; and

FAO : AS

Urges Member Governments to make full use of the conclusions and recommendations emerging from these pre-conference technical meetings, in briefing their delegations to the regional conferences.

Governments

See also paragraphs 60 - 68.

RECOMMENDATION No. 5

Near East Commission on Food and Nutrition

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Stressing the growing importance of establishing sound food and nutrition policies in the countries of the Region,

Believing that the establishment of a Regional Food and Nutrition Commission would stimulate the creation of national committees, improve existing ones and bring about essential regional cooperation in the planning of food and agricultural policies,

Action :

Noting the inability of WHO to join formally at present in the establishment of the Commission recommended by the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East,

Noting also the need for training various categories of nutrition workers at different levels and for inclusion of nutrition in the training of agriculturists,

Requests the Director-General of FAO to pursue the establishment of a Near East Food and Nutrition Commission as an FAO body; FAO : NU

Welcomes the offer of cooperation by WHO in the work of the Commission; FAO : IAL/NU

Requests the Director-General of FAO to convene a Seminar on Food Policy and Planning at a high level as soon as possible after Council approval for the Commission has been obtained; FAO : NU

Urges Member Governments to create Nutrition Units in Ministries of Agriculture or other appropriate Ministries dealing with agriculture and planning, and to establish National Food and Nutrition Committees, and to implement the recommendations of the Eighth Regional Conference with regard to the training of nutrition and home economics workers at different levels. Governments

See also paragraphs 111, 114, 126, 137, 181.

RECOMMENDATION No. 6

Near East Commission on Animal Production and Health

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Action :

Recognizing the great importance of the livestock industry to the development and welfare of the Near East and of the urgent need to overcome the great deficiency in protein foods; the need to ensure that member countries have the means to coordinate their policies and plans in this field, cooperate in the implementation of research, training and development projects having a regional character, secure the dissemination, throughout the Region, of the results of the work undertaken by the various projects and research institutions in this, and allied fields, and of up-to-date information on animal production and health matters of interest and application to the Region,

Recommends that:

(a) The Governments should:

Governments

accept the formal invitation to become members of the Commission recently circulated by FAO and send strong delegations to the First Meeting of the Commission to be held early in 1969;

Action :

(b) The Director-General of FAO should:

- (i) ensure that adequate provision is made for the establishment of the Commission's technical and servicing facilities either through the medium of a UNDP Regional Project or from some other source of funds; FAO
- (ii) promote on a high priority basis, and with suitable assistance from the UNDP, the establishment of national animal production institutes where they do not exist in the Region, and arrange for coordination of the activities of the complex of these institutes through the FAO Commission on Animal Production and Health for the Near East. FAO

See also paragraphs 111, 115, 144 - 148.

RECOMMENDATION No. 7

Near East Commission on Mobilization of Human Resources
for Rural Development

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Noting the predominance of rural people in the Region and the prevailing low level of living of much of this population group,

Further noting the inadequacy of development efforts of the human element in terms of sociological and cultural considerations, training and organization, and inadequate involvement of farmers, farm women and youth in planning and implementing projects intended for their benefit,

Recognizing that the improving of levels of living involves action to train and organize farm families and to provide them with incentives, facilities and services required to increase production and income,

Being concerned with the exodus of rural population to the urban areas and the consequent dislocation in rural as well as in urban areas,

Recalling that the preliminary findings of the Near East Section of the FAO Indicative World Plan studies identify lack of trained personnel, and organizational and structural weaknesses as major obstacles to the achievement of its objectives,

Further recalling that "Mobilization of Human Resources for Rural Development" is one of the five areas selected by the Director-General for special concentration in the coming years,

Recommends that the Director-General of FAO should take the necessary steps for the early establishment of a Commission on Mobilization of Human Resources for Rural Development for the Near East;

Action :

FAO : RU

Further urges all concerned to orient all development projects in harmony with this theme.

FAO/
Government

See also paragraphs 111, 116, 127.

RECOMMENDATION No. 8

Commission on Fisheries for the Near East

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Action :

Recognizing the urgency for accelerated action in the Region for the development of its fisheries resources, with particular reference to the contribution fish could make in bridging the serious "protein gap",

Recognizing that there were the problems of common interest to the countries in the Region concerning the fisheries of the basins of the Nile, the Euphrates-Tigris and the Indus as well as in the seas contiguous to the Region,

Recognizing the limited membership of the countries of the Region in the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, and the consequent inadequacy of these bodies as international agencies for promoting a coordinated and concerted action for the development of fisheries in the Near East,

Recommends that the Director-General of FAO should take suitable measures for an expeditious establishment of an FAO Regional Commission on Fisheries for the Near East to promote a rapid and coordinated development of the fisheries resources of the Region.

FAO

See also paragraphs 111, 117, 163 - 165.

RECOMMENDATION No. 9

Regional Agricultural Marketing Institute for the Near East

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Noting that although tangible efforts have been made by several governments in the Region to provide new marketing facilities and improve the transportation system within the Region, the marketing systems in many countries of the Near East need to be further improved,

Emphasizing the link between export promotion, marketing, and the expansion of production of fruits and vegetables taking place in the Near East and North Africa and the need for continued effort to improve the quality of fruits and vegetables exported by such means as introducing new methods of grading and packing, reducing the cost of production, and increasing the volume of business so as to make it more competitive on international markets,

Requests the Director-General of FAO and the Government of Lebanon to negotiate with the UNDP(SF) the initial financing of the Marketing Institute for Research, Demonstration and Training in Beirut, Lebanon, as already recommended by the FAO Regional Conferences in Damascus (1958) and Teheran (1960);

FAO/Lebanon

Recommends that the proposed UNDP/TA Project on the Establishment of an Advisory Service on Production, Marketing and Export Trade of Fruits and Vegetables which will be considered by the Near East Horticultural Commission at its forthcoming meeting in October 1968 should also be discussed at the Seminar on Marketing Programmes, Procedures and Organization in November 1968, also in Beirut;

FAO : RU
Governments

Recommends that, in view of the importance of marketing problems to the governments in the Region, FAO's activities in this field should be suitably expanded.

FAO : RU

See also paragraphs 111, 118, 167.

RECOMMENDATION No. 10

Regional Plant Production and Protection Institute
for the Near East

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Recognizing the importance of coordinated research and training in plant production and protection and exchange of information and experience among research workers in this discipline in the Region,

Action :

Considering that research and training in the disciplines mentioned above are inadequate at present in many of the countries of the Region, whose resources do not enable them to deal with the various aspects of these activities individually,

Noting that the Near East Plant Protection Commission at its Second Session in Libya in 1967 reviewed the possibility of establishing a Regional Plant Protection Institute with the assistance of UNDP(SF),

Recommends that the Director-General of FAO should take necessary measures for the establishment, with the assistance of UNDP(SF), of a Regional Institute for the Near East to carry out and coordinate scientific research in plant production and protection, and training of workers in these fields;

FAO : PL

Urges the member countries of the Region to establish national institutes within the framework of the Regional Institute;

Governments

Further requests the Director-General of FAO to consult with countries concerned regarding the location of the coordinating office;

FAO/
Governments

Agrees that if more than one country should show interest in locating the coordinating office on its own territory, preference should be given to a country in which a similar institute has not been established yet.

FAO/
Governments

See also paragraphs 118, 153 - 156.

RECOMMENDATION No. 11

Regional Research and Training Institute in Statistics

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Recognizing the importance of developing and improving food and agricultural statistics as a means of facilitating agricultural development planning and as an essential requisite for the work related to areas of concentration proposed by the Director-General,

Noting the existing gaps in statistics in respect of coverage, quality and timeliness,

Recognizing the problem of lack of adequately trained personnel at the intermediate and advanced levels in statistics and the existence of common technical statistical problems imposed by conditions prevailing in the Region;

Supports the establishment of the proposed Regional Research and Training Institute in Statistics in Baghdad with assistance from UNDP(SF);

FAO/UNDP

Action :

Welcomes the submission by the Iraqi Government request for assistance to the UNDP(SF);

Recommends that the Director-General should urge the UNDP and expedite its approval and implementation as soon as possible in order to provide timely assistance to countries in their preparation for and execution of the 1970 agricultural censuses, which were considered essential for filling in many of the statistical gaps and for providing a frame for the development of various types of enquiries;

FAO

Considers it essential to continue the regional project on statistical training under the Technical Assistance Sector of the UNDP until the recommended Institute becomes fully operational.

See also paragraphs 118, 139 - 143.

RECOMMENDATION No. 12

Regional Fisheries Institute for the Near East

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Recalling the recommendation of the Conference of Fisheries Representatives in the Near East, held in Kuwait in October 1966, for the establishment of a Regional Fisheries Institute to promote a coordinated programme for the exploitation of the fisheries resources of the Gulfs and for a Preparatory Team of experts to visit the Near East countries bordering the Gulfs of the North-West Indian Ocean to explore the possibilities for the establishment of the Institute,

Noting that the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission to which the matter was referred has already deliberated on the subject,

Reconsidering that the proposed Institute could usefully cover both marine and inland fisheries matters in the Region,

Requests that the Director-General of FAO take early measures for mounting the mission of the Preparatory Team and other appropriate follow-up measures for a speedy establishment of the Institute to cover both marine and inland fisheries;

FAO : FI

Further requests the member countries to cooperate fully among themselves and with FAO in this field.

FAO/
Governments

See also paragraphs 117, 163 - 165.

RECOMMENDATION No. 13

Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production Project

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Considering the great importance of wheat and barley crops in the Region, and the outstanding success so far achieved in testing and introducing high-yielding varieties of wheat which has been directly responsible for the breakthrough in wheat production,

Noting that this success has been possible due to the perseverance and combined efforts of member countries assisted by some developed countries and by FAO through the FFHC supported Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production Project in close collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation and Swedish International Development Agency,

Noting that there are still many problems involved in increasing the extensive use of the existing high-yielding varieties and in the continued development of better varieties for irrigated and dry-farming conditions,

Reiterating the recommendations in this behalf of the Seventh and Eighth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East,

Recommends that:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| (i) The Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production Project should be continued and intensified and the scope of the Project should be enlarged so as to cover other major food-grain crops, such as rice, maize and sorghum; | FAO : PL,
FFHC/UNDP |
| (ii) Efforts should be concentrated on the development of suitable varieties and agrotechniques for the rainfed areas which constitute the major area under wheat cultivation; and | FAO/
Governments |
| (iii) Work on diversification of agriculture on marginal lands through suitable plans and projects should be taken in hand. | FAO/
Governments |

See also paragraphs 119, 153.

RECOMMENDATION No. 14

Near East Project on Vegetable Improvement and Seed Production

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Appreciating the preliminary results of the Near East Regional Project on Vegetable Improvement and Seed Production,

Action :

Stressing the importance of vegetable production for meeting the growing local demand and for earning foreign exchange through exports,

Considering that the low level of production per unit area is due mainly to a lack of good quality seeds of high-yielding varieties and to the fact that modern improved cultivation methods have not yet been adapted to the conditions prevailing in the Region,

Recommends that the Director-General of FAO should explore all possibilities for the continuation of the project and the expansion of its activities.

FAO : PL

See also paragraphs 120, 154.

RECOMMENDATION No. 15

Desert Locust Control

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Being concerned about the serious menace of desert locusts and about the magnitude of the damage that can result from this menace if it is not controlled at the right time and place and its effects are not minimized,

Noting the difficulties involved in combating the sudden attack of desert locusts, specially difficulties relating to finance and foreign currencies which seriously handicap the control operations,

Requests the Director-General of the FAO to approach the FAO Council and/or Conference to place a sufficient amount of emergency funds at his disposal for helping any country or group of countries in the desert locust invasion areas, the management of this fund providing sufficient flexibility to enable the Director-General to help the afflicted countries as quickly as possible;

FAO : PL

Further requests that an appeal also be made for contribution to this fund by the countries outside the Region which are directly or indirectly likely to be affected by the desert locust menace.

FAO

See also paragraphs 122 - 132.

RECOMMENDATION No. 16

Development of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Noting that arid and semi-arid areas occupy vast tracts distributed all over the world, and especially in the countries of the Region, and that some of these areas have the potentiality of being brought to productive use for human welfare,

Considering that some of these areas at one time were covered with gardens and forests, but that they turned into desert after the destruction of vegetations,

Considering that countries of the Region are interested in exploring the possibilities of converting these areas, on a scientific and sound basis, into productive land as soon as possible in order to improve the economic and social conditions of the people without having to depend only on oil resources, when available,

Seeking the cooperation of FAO, UNESCO, and other UN Agencies in this connection,

Recommends that the Director-General of FAO should take suitable measures to help intensify the scientific, technical and economic studies for the development and utilization of arid and semi-arid lands; and

FAO :

Requests him to establish the necessary liaison with UNESCO, UNDP, WFP, and other UN Agencies for promoting financial support for the above studies.

See also paragraph 151.

RECOMMENDATION No. 17

Land and Water Use

Action: :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Making reference to the deliberations at its Eighth Session regarding land and water use problems in the Region, under dry-farming conditions as well as under irrigation,

Confirms the major importance of these problems, with special reference to salinity,

Notes with pleasure that the First Session of the Regional Commission on Land and Water Use for the Near East had been organized, as requested, during 1967, and endorses the conclusions embodied in the report of this First Session,

Action :

Expresses its satisfaction that necessary budgetary provisions have been made by the Director-General to permit the Second Session of the Commission to be organized during the present biennium, as recommended by the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference,

Notes with satisfaction that several member countries have already created National Committees for Land and Water Use, according to Recommendation No. 1 of the First Session of the Commission,

Recommends that the other countries of the Region which have not yet taken this step should create such Committees;

Governments

Recommends that the Director-General of FAO should continue the negotiations which have been undertaken with UNDP for the organization, early in 1969, of the technical preparatory meeting mentioned in the last paragraphs of Recommendation No. 2 of the First Session of the Commission, the purpose of which would be to review the status of all completed, operational and approved UNDP/FAO Land and Water Use projects in the Region, and draw up, if necessary, a list of additional projects which would appear essential to cover the main fields in which it would be recognized that further action was needed.

FAO : LA

See also paragraphs 113, 149 - 150, 181 - 186, 196 - 199.

RECOMMENDATION No. 18

Intra-Regional Trade in Agricultural Products

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Noting that the Provisional Near East Study of the FAO Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development suggests that world market prospects are limited for many of the major agricultural commodities exported from the Region,

Further noting that the commodities likely to be imported by some countries are the same as those exported by other countries of the Region and that extreme emphasis on national self-sufficiency by import substitution can lead to inefficient and high cost production,

Stresses the scope for and importance of increased intra-regional trade in agricultural products, both unprocessed and processed;

Takes note of the work already done in this field by the League of Arab States;

Action :

Welcomes the recommendation of the Fourth Session of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning that FAO should undertake a study of the integration of the grains and livestock sectors in the Region, since these commodity groups seem to offer particular possibilities for increased intra-regional trade;

FAO : CO, EA

Recommends that governments should consider the need for a clearing-house for facilitating international payments as an important prerequisite for increased intra-regional trade;

Governments

Recommends that governments should adopt trade policies favourable to the increase of intra-regional trade, such as the granting of regional preferences and the conclusion of bilateral trade agreements on agricultural products;

Governments

Recommends that FAO, in cooperation with national governments and other international organizations having competence in this field, should complete as soon as possible the study of the grains and livestock sectors and should also undertake other studies, both following up on the results of the grains/livestock study and investigating prospects for increased intra-regional trade in other agricultural products.

FAO/Governments

See also paragraphs 134 - 136.

RECOMMENDATION No. 19

Seminar on and Training Institute for Waterlogging,
Soil Salinity and Land Reclamation

Action :

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Concerned with the serious and extensive problem of waterlogging, soil salinity and land reclamation in the Region,

Emphasizing the need for specialized training at all levels and for a systematic approach to these two problems among the countries of the region,

Recommends that the Director-General of FAO should organize, at an early date, a seminar on waterlogging, soil salinity, and land reclamation under the aegis of the FAO Land and Water Use Commission for the Near East with a view to establishing a Regional Institute to specialize in the investigation into and training of technical manpower at all levels in the waterlogging, soil salinity and land reclamation;

FAO : LA

Further recommends that the member countries of the Region should avail themselves of the possibilities for coordinated action in this important field through the existing Land and Water Use Commission.

Governments

Notes with appreciation the kind invitation of Iraq to hold the above mentioned Seminar in that country.

See also paragraph 152.

RECOMMENDATION No. 20

Seminar on Arid, Semi-Arid and Dryland Farming

The Ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Action :

Recalling the Recommendation made at its Eighth Session for holding a Seminar on Dryland Farming,

Reiterating the great importance of dryland farming to a rational and speedy development of agriculture in the Region,

Recommends that the Director-General of FAO should take necessary action as soon as possible for convening the requested Seminar;

FAO : LA

Further Recommends that the member countries of the Region should make fuller use of the possibilities for coordinated action in this field through the FAO Land and Water Use Commission for the Near East; and

Governments

Notes with appreciation the invitation of the Government of Jordan for holding the proposed Seminar in that country.

See also paragraph 151.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE NARRATIVE TEXT OF THE REPORT

(a) ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
<u>Arabic as a Working Language</u>		
R21. Supports the Director-General's proposed measures for the use of Arabic as a working language of FAO but reserves its agreement as to the number of words to be translated and the number of translators and revisers to be engaged.	72	FAO: PU, CA
R22. Recommends that the Director-General should be guided by the replies to the questionnaire mentioned in Recommendation No. 1 in the choice of documents and publications to be translated into Arabic.	73	FAO: PU
R23. Reiterates the hope, expressed by the Eighth Regional Conference for the Near East, that the Organization would gradually grant Arabic as soon as possible the same status as that given to the other working languages of the Organization.	76	FAO: ODC
R24. The Director-General hopes that Governments which were accustomed to writing to FAO in English or French would continue to do so.	74	Governments
<u>Bilateral Aid, Collaboration with</u>		
R25. Notes with gratification the successful negotiations that the Director-General has already concluded with donor countries for channelling their assistance to the development of agriculture through the FAO.	93	FAO: AS
<u>Inter-Agency Collaboration</u>		
R26. Notes with satisfaction the continued strengthening of FAO's collaboration with other UN Agencies; emphasises that such collaboration should be primarily concerned with integration of agricultural development with those in other related sectors, and with the avoidance of duplication of efforts, and that the FAO specific responsibility for working out the UN food and agricultural policy must be fully recognized.	92	FAO: IAL

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
<u>Regional Conferences</u>		
R27. Expresses general agreement with the conclusions and recommendations of the <u>Ad Hoc Committee</u> on the role and functions of regional conferences.	62	FAO: ODG
R28. Recognizes that the timing of the Regional Conference does not permit the Director-General to take into account its recommendations relating to short-term needs and emergencies in his preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium, and urges the Director-General to explore extra-budgetary resources of assistance to meet such needs and situations.	64	FAO: ODG
R29. Agrees that recommendations emanating from regional conferences should be concise and should deal solely with the most important priority matters affecting the Region in question.	65	Governments/ FAO:AS
R30. Recommends that FAO regional conferences should continue to be held separately from UN Regional Economic Commission Conferences.	66	FAO: ODG
R31. Fully supports the proposals for prior consultations to be held between the FAO and the UN Regional Commissions concerning the planning and reorganization of regional conferences of the two Agencies so that undesirable and avoidable duplication can be eliminated.	66	FAO: ODG, AS
R32. Draws to the attention of member countries the importance of sending strong delegations to regional conferences and of adequate preparation in the countries for successful participation in the deliberations; suggests that member countries consider the desirability of organizing pre-conference, inter-divisional and sub-sectorial discussions so that national delegations to a regional conference might be fully briefed on the problems, current actions and possible future action;	67	Governments
R33. Suggests that prior to the holding of a regional conference, the member countries might wish to propose items for inclusion in the agenda of the Conference and expressed the view that such proposals would help orient the deliberations of the Regional Conference more closely to the needs of agriculture in the member countries of the Region.	68	Governments/ FAO: AS

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
R34. Unanimously agrees on the usefulness of the Drafting Committee and decides that at the next Conference the Drafting Committee should be elected on the same day as the other officers of the Conference, and requests the Director-General to include the election of the Drafting Committee in the proposed agenda for the coming and subsequent Conferences.	231	FAO: AS
<u>Regional Offices</u>		
R35. Agrees that the FAO Regional Office in the Near East should be retained and should be strengthened to improve the quality of its work; be more closely associated with policy and planning matters, and be kept more fully informed of FAO developments; stresses that the staff strength of the Regional Office must not be sacrificed for other understaffed areas but on the contrary should be increased where necessary.	38	FAO: ODG, AS
R36. Fully supports the Director-General's proposals for delegating more responsibilities and appropriate authorities to the Regional Offices.	39	FAO: ODG, AS
R37. Agrees that Regional Offices and Country Missions are complementary.	40	FAO: AS
R38. Supports the proposed duties, responsibilities and functions of the Regional Representatives and divisional outposted officers as listed in Working Document NERC 68/9.	41	FAO: ODG, AS
R39. Further agrees that the Regional Representatives should keep an overall watching brief on the FAO operations in the countries of the Region concerned.	41	FAO: ODG, AS
R40. Welcomes the proposal of the Director-General for closer co-ordination of FAO with the UN Economic Commissions, but does not support the possible merger of the FAO Regional Office in the Near East with any UN Regional Economic Commission or any other UN Regional Office.	49	FAO: ODG
R41. Welcomes the proposal for fruitful collaboration to be established between FAO and the Office of the UN Bureau of Economic and Social Affairs at Beirut and requests the Director-General to take appropriate measures to ensure the necessary collaboration and to explore with the UN the possibilities of strengthening the Beirut office with special reference to the proposed collaboration with FAO.	52	FAO: IAL

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
<u>Reorganization of FAO Headquarters</u>		
R42. Supports the establishment of the Development Department at FAO Headquarters. The Director-General assures that the creation of the Department did not represent a tendency towards over-centralization.	33	FAO: ODG
R43. The Director-General further assures that the reorganization provides for an appropriate degree of flexibility so that changes, as necessary, could be made on the basis of new situations and experiences.	34	FAO: ODG
<u>Senior Agricultural Advisers</u>		
R44. Welcomes the proposed further consultation by the Director-General with the UNDP and fully supports his plans for pursuing with the UNDP the possibilities of sharing the cost of Senior Agricultural Advisers between FAO and the UNDP with a built-in assurance that these Advisers will be responsible to and controlled by FAO alone.	58	FAO: ODG, AS

(b) PROGRAMME OF WORK

Agricultural Financing

R45. Supports the Director-General's policy of strengthening FAO's co-operative activities with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and with Regional Development Banks and welcomes the establishment of the Investment Centre; hopes that these arrangements would result in an enhanced flow of external financial and capital resources to the countries of the Near East region for agricultural development.	168	FAO: IC
R46. Notes with appreciation the assurance that the President of the IBRD had given to the Director-General of FAO of his intention to expand still more the Bank's activities in the agricultural sector and, with this end in view, to develop further the FAO/IBRD Co-operative Programme; notes the large increase that was taking place in 1968 in the Programme's main activities in the countries of the Region and hopes that this stepped-up effort would, in the near future, be reflected in a much larger volume of loans and credits approved for agricultural projects.	169	FAO: IC

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
R47. Considers useful the steps taken to impart investment orientation to the UNDP(SF) supported projects, and hopes that the joint review of these projects with the Bank and the UNDP could, in due course, enable building up of a large pipeline of investment projects for the countries of the Region.	171	FAO: IC
<u>Agricultural Marketing</u>		
R48. Agrees that problems of surplus disposal are not likely to arise if producers' prices were allowed to rise by removing disincentives which tend to maintain prices below the free-market level.	197	Governments
R49. Urges Member Governments to establish or expand marketing departments in the Ministries of Agriculture.	198	Governments
<u>Agricultural Mechanization</u>		
R50. Requests assistance in establishing national centres for the training of labourers and foremen, farmers, extension workers, co-operative officials, etc., in the use and maintenance of farm machinery.	220	FAO: AgS
R51. Suggests that consideration be given to the recognition of diplomas or certificates awarded on successful completion of training in agricultural machinery so as to encourage students and officers to acquire practical knowledge and skills in this field.	220	Governments
R52. Underlines the difficulty experienced in the Region in obtaining adequate supply of spare parts.	221	Governments
R53. Calls for careful attention by the countries in the Region, in co-operation with FAO and other interested agencies, to be given to the problems arising out of the lack of farm machinery specifically designed for the conditions in the Region and the importation of widely diversified and, sometimes, unsuitable machinery.	222	Governments/ FAO:AgS

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
<u>Agricultural Planning</u>		
R54. Calls upon Governments to establish or strengthen agricultural planning units, both within the Ministries of Agriculture and central planning authorities and other concerned government agencies.	138	Governments
R55. Endorses the recommendations of the Fourth Session of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning that a seminar should be organized to discuss the methodology followed in the Near East Study of the FAO Indicative World Plan.	139	Governments
<u>Agricultural Research</u>		
R56. Refers to the need for strengthening both scientific and applied research in agriculture, with particular emphasis on the latter.	166	Governments/ FAO: RU
R57. Stresses the need for FAO to keep abreast of advanced techniques, such as the joint use of surface and underground water, including vertical drainage through tubewell irrigation by sprinkling, evaporation and seepage control, and co-operation with WMO and UNESCO in respect of weather modification.	219	FAO: LA, PL
R58. Expresses the wish for a review of the progress in agricultural research to be considered at the next FAO Regional Conference for the Near East.	166	FAO: RU, AS
<u>Animal Production and Health</u>		
R59. Stresses the importance of according higher priority to livestock development in national plans, in view of the long-term nature of livestock development activities.	214	Governments
R60. Notes the urgent need for improved livestock statistics in the Region to promote effective livestock development planning.	214	Governments
R61. Draws attention to the role which the Near East Animal Production and Health Commission could play in the dissemination of information on animal health, production and planning.	215	FAO: AN

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
R62. Stresses that the Near East Animal Health Institutes should be expanded and parallel arrangements made to cover animal production also.	215	Governments/ FAO: AN
R63. Considers that greater emphasis needed to be placed on the training of animal husbandry and production specialists.	213	Governments
R64. Suggests that efforts should be made to evolve new breeds of livestock suitable for the different environmental conditions encountered in the Region.	212	Governments
R65. Agrees that increased feed production at economic prices and improved utilization of the range areas are the primary requisites to bringing about major changes in the livestock industry of the Region.	208	Governments
R66. Emphasises the need for an improved utilization of cereals and other agricultural by-products as components of animal feeds.	211	Governments
R67. Emphasises the need for better utilization of animal by-products from slaughter-houses.	211	Governments
R68. Supports Somalia's request for assistance in the establishment of a veterinary diagnostic laboratory and draws the attention of Somalia to the requirement of formal submission of a request.	146	Somalia/FAO: AS
R69. Fully supports Syria's request to the UNDP(SF) for assistance in the establishment of an Animal Husbandry Research and Training Institute and hopes that this would, when approved, become one of the components of the eventual Near East Animal Production Institutes.	147	Syria/FAO: AS
<u>Consultants for Special Problems</u>		
R70. Notes with appreciation the Director-General's decision to request the next FAO Conference to approve funds which could be drawn upon to make available high-level consultant services on special problems facing member countries.	81	FAO: ODC

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
<u>Desert Locust</u>		
R71. Underlines most emphatically that continued and close vigilance is imperative to minimize desert locust plagues; gives special consideration to the need for more intensive regional co-operation in the control of the desert locust and to the need for continuing efforts to locate and control desert locust outbreaks at the source.	129	Governments/FAO: PL
R72. Further emphasises that there should be no relaxation of the vigilance after the present crisis has been brought under control, instead the long-term plans for continuing survey; research and control of the breeding grounds should be appropriately strengthened.	130	Governments/FAO: PL
<u>Development Efforts</u>		
R73. Appeals to the member countries to mobilize increased resources to bridge the food gap, especially the protein gap, and urges them for their fullest co-operation with FAO.	108	Governments
<u>Field Programmes</u>		
R74. Stresses the importance of the governments specifying their priorities in seeking development assistance and of the request for such assistance from extra-budgetary sources to be formulated and formally submitted by the governments concerned, with a clear indication of the services and facilities that the governments themselves are able to mobilize.	86	Governments
R75. Requests member countries to further intensify their efforts in ensuring that national supporting services and facilities were available for technical assistance requested.	174	Governments
R76. Emphasises that development projects, including those implemented for international assistance should be subjected, in addition to periodic evaluations, to evaluation by specialists possibly about midway in the duration of the project and invites Member Governments to co-operate fully with FAO in connection with such evaluations.	176	Governments/FAO: AS

<u>Recommendation:</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
R77. The Director-General assures strict adherence to arrangements which provide for FAO experts to consult Governments on the drafts of final reports before their departure from the country on completion of their assignments; for the Governments to receive a copy of the summary of conclusions and recommendations soon after the completion of each assignment or project, especially where the formal submission of the final report is likely to take time.	175	FAO: AS
<u>Fisheries</u>		
R78. Urges Member Governments to give due priority to fishery development on national and regional bases.	163	Governments
R79. Stresses the urgency for organizing a Near East Regional Training Centre in Inland Fishery Management and Fish Culture.	164	FAO: FI
<u>Forestry</u>		
R80. Emphasises the development of protective functions of the forestry resources of the Regions.	158	Governments
R81. Lays special stress on the multi-purpose functions of forests.	158	Governments
R82. Endorses the recommendations of the Fifth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission to organize a seminar on afforestation by quick-growing species, in particular, Eucalyptus in arid and semi-arid zones.	157(a)	FAO: FO
R83. Endorses the recommendation of the Fifth Session of the Near East Forestry Commission to organize a seminar or training centre for high-level representatives of national forest administrations, and of national authorities responsible for forest industries, for overall economic development planning and related activities, to discuss the methodology worked out for providing maximum information required in the planning and implementation of development programmes for forestry and forest industries.	157(b)	FAO: FO

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
R84. Invites Member Governments to continue to make use of the Near East Forest School at Lattakia, Syria.	159	Governments
R85. Notes with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Iraq in providing fellowships for students from the countries of the Region to study at the College of Agriculture and Forestry of the Mosul University and urges member countries to avail themselves of this offer.	159	Governments
R86. Urges member countries to examine the possibilities of creating man-made forests and requests FAO to assist the countries of the Region towards achieving these goals.	160	Governments/ FAO: FO
R87. Urges Member Governments to take necessary steps to prevent soil erosion caused by wind and water, shifting cultivation, etc. through implementation of appropriate programmes for range and forest management.	161	Governments
<u>Follow-up Action</u>		
R88. Stresses the importance of following up decisions and recommendations of the Regional Conference through submission of specific projects.	228	Governments
R89. Stresses that the dialogue on programme matters initiated at the Regional Conference between Governments and the Director-General of FAO should be pursued on a continuing basis between conferences and it would be the task of the FAO Regional Office in the Near East to act as the intermediary.	229	FAO: AS
<u>Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign</u>		
R90. Endorses the report of the Second Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign Conference for the Near East and encourages the Member Governments to intensify their efforts to establish and make effective use of national Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign Committees.	173	Governments/ FAO: FFHC

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
<u>Home Economics</u>		
R91. Emphasises the need for active involvement of women in agricultural and rural developments and urges Member Governments to create and develop appropriate home economics services.	204	Governments
<u>Incentives, Economic</u>		
R92. Recognizes the importance of the provision of appropriate incentives and the removal of disincentives to promote increased agricultural production.	191	Governments
R93. Advises Governments to make full economic evaluation of the various types of incentives, possibly in terms of costs and benefits, from the overall point of view of the economy as a whole rather than from the farmers' and the Government's point of view alone.	192	Governments
R94. Recognizing that while imponderables make an economic evaluation of incentives difficult, such economic evaluation would still be useful in making a rational choice of the measures that would lead to an optimum utilization of human and natural resources of a country.	193- 194	Governments
R95. Notes the distinction between short-term price policy (such as price supports and input subsidies, etc.), medium and long-term structural policy (such as improvements in marketing, land tenure, infrastructure, training, research, and education and extension etc.).	195	Governments
R96. Draws attention to the need for lowering the cost of production, for improving quality and for creation of storage, preservation and processing facilities, to combat problems of disposal of economic surplus resulting from the application of economic incentives.	196- 197	Governments
<u>Indicative World Plan</u>		
R97. Recognizes the value of the Indicative World Plan in establishing a long-term strategy for agricultural development within the framework of overall economic growth.	177	Governments/ FAO: IWP
R98. Stresses the importance of the Near East Study in providing a frame which would help governments to formulate their agricultural plans and policies within a well-defined regional context.	178	Governments/ FAO: IWP

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
R99. Suggests that each country in the Region set up an inter-ministerial committee to examine the IWP Near East Study in the light of its national plan, and to keep in view the long-term strategy laid down in the Study when formulating programmes and policies for agricultural development.	226	Governments
<u>Integrated Development</u>		
R100. Agrees that co-ordinated action was needed in the three broad fields of water, land and development techniques, agricultural production and rural institutions and services.	216	Governments
<u>National Priorities</u>		
R101. Invites the member countries to take full advantage of the expertise and experience available at FAO in assigning national priorities for development of agriculture so that the available resources and services could be geared to the real and present needs of agriculture.	79	Governments
<u>Regional Commissions</u>		
R102. Expresses the view that the establishment of Regional Commissions should be limited to priority needs and draws attention to the financial difficulties faced by some Member Governments in sending delegations of suitable size to FAO conferences and meetings.	112	Governments/ FAO
R103. Considers it important that a solution be found of the problem which at present prevents FAO from giving financial assistance to Governments for their participation in FAO regional conferences and meetings.	111	FAO: ODG
R104. Calls for adequate support to permit existing Commissions to implement recommendations and to work effectively.	111	Governments/ FAO: AS
R105. Requests early activation of the Animal Production and Health Commission.	111	FAO: AN
R106. Requests the establishment of the Agricultural Marketing Commission.	111	FAO: RU

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
<u>Regional Projects</u>		
R107. Emphasises the complementarity of national activities in tackling problems of a regional nature and agrees that under the present circumstances a more practical approach to regional projects might be to organize national units and to co-ordinate the efforts in the various countries through a central machinery.	122	Governments/ FAO: AS
R108. Recalls that for obtaining assistance in the establishment of regional projects from sources other than FAO, such as UNDP and bilateral aid agencies, it is necessary that governments, individually or jointly submit formal requests with a clear indication of the services and facilities which they are themselves able to mobilize.	123	Governments/ FAO: AS
R109. Urges that FAO uses its good offices in seeking financial support for regional projects.	124	FAO: AS
R110. Requests the Director-General of FAO to urge the governmental and non-governmental aid agencies, for example, the UNDP, Ford and Rockefeller Foundations etc., to recognize the importance of their association for long periods in the successful establishment of regional co-ordination.	125	FAO: AS
<u>Rural Institutions</u>		
R111. Endorses the establishment of agricultural development centres as a mechanism for bringing together at the field level all relevant facilities and services - agricultural, home economics and youth extension; veterinary and irrigation services; the headquarters for co-operatives and other farmers' organizations; facilities for applied agricultural experimentation and for the training of technicians and farmers.	201	Governments
<u>Statistics</u>		
R112. Stresses the need for having a perspective in the timing of statistical activities of member countries and the FAO in the coming years.	141	Governments/ FAO: ST

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Action :</u>
R113. Stresses the importance of initiating work on livestock losses and damages caused by diseases.	142	Governments
<u>Wildlife</u>		
R114. Notes the request of the Delegate of Somalia for assistance of the World Food Programme in the management of wildlife in Somalia.	162	FAO: WFP
<u>World Food Programme</u>		
R115. Recommends further utilization of the World Food Programme's resources in projects in forestry and allied fields, especially when they are labour intensive.	172	Governments/ WFP/FAO:FO

E. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Date and Place of the Tenth Near East Regional Conference

230. The Conference gratefully acknowledged the kind invitations extended by Syria, Pakistan and Libya for the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East to be held in their countries. The Conference agreed to refer the three invitations to the Director-General for him to decide to accept any one in consultation with the member countries concerned. The Conference further agreed to request the Director-General to fix the date of the Tenth Regional Conference in consultation with the Member Governments.

Adoption of the Report

231. The Conference adopted the draft Report with only minor amendments. The Drafting Committee was congratulated for the excellent job it had done. The Conference unanimously agreed on the usefulness of the Drafting Committee and decided that at the next Conference the Drafting Committee should be elected on the same day as the other officers of the Conference. The Conference in this connection requested the Director-General to include the election of the Drafting Committee in the proposed agenda.

Conclusion of the Session

232. Mr. Abdurahman Mohamed Hassan of the delegation of Somalia, speaking on behalf of all the delegations, warmly thanked the Government of the Republic of Iraq for their lavish hospitality, the excellent arrangements made for the Conference, and above all the warmth with which the Conference delegations were received.

233. Earlier the Delegates of France and Pakistan, who had to leave before the conclusion of the Conference, had expressed the gratitude of their country as well as their own to the Government of the Republic of Iraq for the most generous hospitality and the excellent arrangements, and to the other delegations for their kind co-operation in making the Conference a success.

234. Mr. Hassan expressed special gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Hassan Al-Bakr, the President of the Republic of Iraq who very kindly inaugurated the Conference despite the very heavy pressure of State Affairs. Deep appreciation was expressed to The Honourable Mr. Abdul Hussein Waddy Al-Attia, the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Iraq for his very able handling of the Conference as its Chairman. Warm tribute was paid to Dr. Sidky for his unfailing endeavours for the improvement of agriculture in the Near East. Hope was expressed that following his retirement in 1970 Dr. Sidky would continue to be interested in FAO activities in the Near East. The Delegate wished Dr. Sidky a happy retirement and assured him of the warm friendship of all whom he came in contact with in the discharge of his duties as the Assistant Director-General for the Near Eastern Affairs of FAO.

235. Commenting on the use of Arabic for the first time at this Conference as a working language, the Delegate stressed that it was an unqualified success; a great majority of the interventions were in Arabic and the expressions were more lucid than they normally were in the past when made in the official languages of FAO.

Strong hope was expressed that the Director-General would continue his efforts towards the fuller use of Arabic as a working language. The Delegate also thanked all others who contributed to the success of the Conference, notably those who worked behind the scenes, e.g. the Drafting Committee, the FAO Experts participating in the Conference, the Secretariat, the interpreters and the translators. Before concluding, the Delegate expressed, on behalf of the Conference, good wishes to the Government of the Republic of Iraq and her people; similar good wishes were expressed to the Arab people in general in their struggle for achievement of their aspirations.

236. The Honourable Mr. Abdul Hussein Waddy Al-Attia, speaking on behalf of his Government, expressed his pleasure that the Conference was held in Iraq. He commended all the delegations for their valuable contributions to the success of the Conference, and particularly commended them on the high level of the deliberations. The Honourable Minister expressed his personal pleasure and that of the Government of the Republic of Iraq at the use of Arabic for the first time as a working language of FAO and the success achieved in this respect.

237. He appealed to the delegations for continued co-operation in attacking problems which lend themselves to common approach. The Honourable Minister thanked the Director-General, Mr. Terver, Dr. Sidky and all others in the Secretariat whose contribution, he emphasised, was of vital importance to the successful conclusion of the Conference. Before concluding, the Minister emphasised that the Conference was a continuation of dialogues initiated at earlier Conferences between FAO and the member countries on the one hand, and between member countries on the other, and earnestly hoped that this dialogue would continue between Conferences and that when the member countries meet again at the Tenth Regional Conference of the Near East much of the problems which faced the agricultural sectors in the Region today will have been considerably minimized, if not fully resolved.

238. Speaking on behalf of the Director-General Dr. Sidky requested The Honourable Mr. Abdul Hussein Waddy Al-Attia, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Iraq to convey once more the special gratitude of the Director-General to The Honourable President for his deep interest in FAO affairs. He then thanked the Chairman for his active interest in the Conference and for his efficient handling of its affairs as the Chairman. Dr. Sidky expressed the special pleasure of the Director-General in the unqualified success of the use of Arabic for the first time at the Conference as a working language of FAO and assured the Conference that everything possible would be done to ensure its fuller use. He then thanked Syria, Pakistan and Libya for their invitation to hold the next Conference in their countries and emphasised that an invitation from three governments for the same Conference was a very clear sign of the deep interest taken by the Governments in the Region in FAO affairs. Dr. Sidky concluded by expressing special gratitude to the member countries for their most ungrudging co-operation during his term as Assistant Director-General. He hoped that his interest in the agricultural affairs in the Region would continue even after his retirement.

APPENDIX A

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 AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

4. The Director-General's Introductory Statement with special reference to:
 - (a) Reorganization of FAO's Regional Structure
 - (b) Regional Conference Reorientation
 - (c) Use of Arabic as a Limited Working Language
5. Country Statements
6. Review of FAO's Present and Future Activities in the Region

C. MAJOR POLICY QUESTIONS OF CONCERN TO THE REGION

7. Indicative World Plan
 - (a) Introductory Statement on Summary and Conclusions
 - (b) Economic Incentives and Marketing for Expanded Agricultural Production
 - (c) The Integrated Rural Institutional Development Approach
 - (d) Feed Production and Livestock Development
 - (e) Drainage and On Farm Development: Keys to Successful Irrigation
 - (f) Mechanization and Increased Agricultural Production

D. CONCLUDING ITEMS

8. Orientation of FAO's Work During the Next Biennium
9. Date and Place of the Tenth Near East Regional Conference
10. Closing of the Conference

DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS ATTENDING THE NINTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR THE NEAR EAST

MEMBER NATIONS IN THE NEAR EAST REGION

AFGHANISTAN

Delegate

Mohammed Sarwar NASSERY, First Secretary, Embassy of Afghanistan, Baghdad.

FRANCE

Delegate

Jean de VAISSIERE, Inspecteur général de l'Agriculture, 21 Avenue Raymond Poincaré, Paris XVI

Alternate

René COCHARD, Commercial Attaché, French Embassy, Baghdad

IRAQ

Delegate

Abdul Hussein Waddy AL-ATTIA, Minister of Agriculture, Baghdad

Alternate

Hassan KITTANI, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad

Advisers

Abdul-Jalil AL-HADEETHY, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Agrarian Reform, Baghdad

Ali AL-RAWI, Director-General of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad

Abdul Majeed Abdul NABI, Inspector-General of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad

Adeeb Al MUTWALLI, Acting Director-General, Agricultural Research and Projects, Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad

Jabir Hamza AL-KHAFAJI, Director-General of Veterinary and Animal Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad

Abdul Amir AL-SOUZ, Acting Director-General of Agricultural Co-operatives, Ministry of Agrarian Reform, Baghdad

IRAQ (Contd.)

Advisers (contd.)

Baqir Kashif AL GITA, Director-General of Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad

Abdul Razzaq AL-HILALI, Director-General, Agricultural Bank, Baghdad

Anwar AL-HASSANI, Director-General of Planning, Ministry of Agrarian Reform, Baghdad

Hussain AL ANI, Dean of College of Agriculture, Baghdad University

Sadiq KHAYAT, Dean of College of Veterinary Medicine, Baghdad University

Abdul Wahab Mutar ALDAHIRI, Representative of Baghdad University, College of Economics and Commerce

Fadhil AL TAI, Chairman, Scientific Research Council, Baghdad

Mawlood KAMIL, Chairman of the Agricultural Technicians, Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad

Sabeeh AL WAHBI, Chairman FFHC Executive Council in Iraq

Ridha DAMIRJI, Director-General of Forests, Ministry of Development of the North, Baghdad

Akram AL JAFF, Director-General, Tobacco Monopoly Administration, Baghdad

Said Malik AL ALI, Director-General of Agricultural Office, Ministry of Planning, Baghdad

Salash El Deen Abdul Majeed AL SHAIKHLI, Director-General of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Baghdad

Jaafar KHAYAT, Director-General, Technical Teaching, Ministry of Education, Baghdad

Karany AL DOGHRAMACHI, Director-General, Poultry Company, Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad

Fadhil HAJ DULAIMI, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Baghdad

Mahdi HABIB, Director of Foodstuffs Industries, Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad

Ibrahim MUHALHAL, Assistant Director-General, Directorate General of Agricultural Co-operatives, Ministry of Agrarian Reform, Baghdad

Salah AL TABAQCHALI, Director-General of Greater Mussayib Project, Ministry of Agrarian Reform, Baghdad

IRAQ (Contd.)

Advisers (contd.)

- Salem AL HAIDARI, Director-General of Sugar Cane Administration,
Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad
- Naji AL SIEDI, Director-General of Dairy Administration, Ministry
of Industry, Baghdad
- Baha SHUBBAR, Director-General of Iraqi Dates Administration,
Ministry of Economics
- Hazim YOUNIS, Director-General of Grain Board Administration,
Ministry of Economics, Baghdad
- Abdul Kadir HASSO, Director-General of Agricultural Machinery,
Ministry of Agrarian Reform, Baghdad
- Daoud AL-JANABI, Director-General, Government Farms Administration,
Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad
- Hameed Nashaat ISMAIL, Director, Soils and Agricultural Chemistry
Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad
- Aftan AL-RAWI, Director, Horticulture Division, Ministry of
Agriculture, Baghdad
- Uthman RIDHA, Director, Plant Protection Division, Ministry of
Agriculture, Baghdad
- Mahmoud Ibrahim AL-HAMID, Director, Hydrobiology and Fisheries,
Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad
- Ridha Said MAROUF, Director, Field Crops Division, Ministry of
Agriculture, Baghdad
- Haidar AL-HAIDARI, Director, Plant Pathology and Entomology Division,
Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad
- Abdul Rahman ISMIL, Director, Animal Husbandry Division, Ministry of
Agriculture, Baghdad
- Mohammed Ameen JADDOE, Director, Technical Division, Ministry of
Agriculture
- Khalouk Mustapha KAMIL, Director, Agricultural Extension Division,
Ministry of Agriculture
- Saadoun YOUSIF, Director, Pastures Division, Ministry of Agriculture,
Baghdad
- Abdulla AL-AZZAWI, Dean, High Institute of Agriculture, Baghdad University
- Marcel DEMARCHI, Director, National Nutrition Institute, Baghdad

IRAQ (Contd.)

Advisers (contd.)

Salah Abdul WAHAB, Director, Publication and Information in the
Diwan of the Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad

Abdul Karim AL-DUKHAILI, Director, Agricultural Economics Division,
Ministry of Agriculture, Baghdad

Abdul Aziz FATHI, Consultant and Chief of Arab Experts, Ministry of
Agriculture, Baghdad

Hussain Taha AL NAJIM, Technical Director, Dairy Association, Ministry
of Industry, Baghdad

JORDAN

Delegate

Sami AYOUB, Minister of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Amman

Alternate

Dajani JAWAD, Director-General, Projects and Services, Amman

Adviser

Mahommed Hafiz SALIM, Director of Agricultural Research Department, Amman

KUWAIT

Delegate

Salem I. ALMANNAI, Director of Agriculture Department, Ministry of
Public Works, Kuwait

Alternate

Abdurrahman A/F SAIMAN, Head of Animal Husbandry, Agriculture Department
Kuwait

Advisers

Ahmed M. SHARHAN, Head of Fisheries Division, Ministry of Public
Works, Department of Agriculture, Kuwait

Badr Jasim AL BAHR, Director, Economics Statistics Planning
Board, Kuwait

LEBANON

Delegate

Sultan HAIDAR, Director-General of Animal Production Office,
Beirut

Alternate

Joseph CHAMI, Head of Planning Department, Ministry of Agriculture,
Beirut

LIBYA

Delegate

Mtawal SOLEIMAN, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Tripoli

Alternate

Mohammed Badreddin MESSAUDI, Director-General, Planning and Agricultural
Economics Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Health,
Tripoli

Advisers

Nuri Mohammed RAHUMA, Deputy Director-General, National Agricultural
Settlement Authority, P.O. Box 2485, Tripoli

Ahmed A. Naby SHAHATY, Second Secretary, Libyan Embassy, Baghdad

PAKISTAN

Delegate

A.H.M. SHAMS-UD-DOHA, HQA, Minister for Agriculture, Pakistan

Alternate

Iqbal MASUD, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Division,
Islamabad

Adviser

Syed Fida HUSAIN, First Secretary, Embassy of Pakistan, Baghdad

SAUDI ARABIA

Delegate

Hassan MESHARI, Minister of Agriculture, Riyadh

Alternate

Asad JAMJOON, Director-General of Water Affairs, Jeddah

Advisers

Hani A. AKKAD, Agricultural Engineer, Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Riyadh

Hassan H. AL-MARZ-UQI, Director, Planning Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Riyadh

Sulaiman ALSOULI, Agronomist (Soils), Ministry of Agriculture, Riyadh

Mohamed A. ELARAINAN, Geologist, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Supply, Riyadh

Ibrahim HAZIMA, Adviser -- FAO Team, Project 117, P.O. Box 558, Riyadh

Mohamed Alfaisal ALSAUD, Director-General, Water Desalination, Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Jeddah

SOMALI REPUBLIC

Delegate

Hassan H. Omar AMEY, Minister of Rural Development, Mogadishu

Alternate

Abdul Rahman ELMI AMIR, Director-General, Ministry of Agriculture, Mogadishu

Advisers

Abdurahman Mohamed HASSAN, Technical Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, Mogadishu

Ahmed S.M. ISSE, Director-General, Ministry of Rural Development, Mogadishu

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Delegate

Ahmed M. EL-ZOOBI, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of
Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Damascus

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Delegate

Sayed MAREI, Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform,
Cairo

Alternate

Abbas Ahmed EL-ITRIBY, Director-General, Livestock Production
Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo

Advisers

Hassan ABDALLAH, Director, Foreign Relations Department,
Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo

Ahmad Ibrahim ELSHABASSY, Director-General, Soils Department,
Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo

Aziz A. SALEH, Director, Foreign Marketing Division, Ministry
of Agriculture, Cairo

Helmy E.I. SALEM, Head of FAO Branch, Foreign Relations Division,
Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo

Kamal Ahmed EL-GANZOURY, Director, Technical Office Central
Unit for Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Planning,
Cairo

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Abdulrahman Mujahed HASSAN, First Secretary, Embassy of Yemen,
Arab Republic, Baghdad

DELEGATES FROM ASSOCIATE MEMBER NATIONS OF THE NEAR EAST REGION

QATAR

Sultan Rashid AL-KAWARI, Chief of Agriculture Extension Division,
Department of Agriculture

OBSERVER NATIONS (MEMBERS OF FAO) FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION

TURKEY

Observer

Ilhan GOKBUDAK, First Secretary, Embassy of Turkey, Baghdad

UNITED KINGDOM

Charles JOHNSON, Agricultural Adviser, Middle East Development
Division, Beirut, Lebanon

David John Frank BARWELL, Second Secretary, British Embassy,
Baghdad

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Observer

H. Charles TREAKLE, Agricultural Economist, United States
Department of Agriculture

PERMANENT OBSERVERS

THE HOLY SEE

Observers

John J. DONOHUE, S.J., Professor of History, Al-Hikma University
Baghdad

Richard J. MCCARTHY, S.J., Al-Hikma University, Baghdad

Robert B. CAMPBELL, S.J., Professor of Philosophy, Al-Hikma
University, Baghdad

UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Representative

Wadie HABASHI, Director, ECA/FAO Joint Division, Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia

Alternate

Frank E. PINDER, Special Adviser to Executive Secretary,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Representative

Khalil Abdelghani HAMCOURA, Inter-Regional Adviser of Agrarian
Reform, Beirut

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Representative

Omar A.H. ADEEL, Resident Representative in Iraq

Alternates

Rafik ASHA, Senior Financial Adviser to the Administrator of UNDP

S. KAR, Deputy Resident Representative

G. TEUNNISEN, Assistant Resident Representative

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

Representative

Robert Lewis COOPER, Senior Food Conservation Officer, Beirut
Lebanon

Alternate

Wlodzimierz S. PAWLIK, Programme Officer, Deputy Area Representative,
Area Office, Teheran, Iran

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Representative

Sushil K. DEY, Associate Executive Director, Rome, Italy

Alternate

M. EL-MIDANY, Chief, Near East, North Africa and Europe Branch,
Programme Development and Appraisal Division, Rome, Italy

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Representative

M.S. HAQUE, Representative in Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain, P.O. Box 2048,
Baghdad

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Representative

Abd Elwahed Mohamed ABD ELWAHED, Agricultural Attaché, League of Arab States, Tahrir Square, Cairo

OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

AFRO-ASIAN RURAL RECONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATION

Representative

Mulk Raj KAUSHAL, Director, Rural Co-operatives and Co-ordinator of Programmes, C-118 Defence Colony, New Delhi 3.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

A.H. BOERMA, Director-General

Miss Heather LAWRIE, Personal Assistant to the Director-General

Near East Regional Staff

A.R. SIDKY, Assistant Director-General for Near Eastern Affairs

Miss M. DOSS, Regional Home Economist

A.B. EL-KHATIB, Regional Water Resources Development Officer

S.T. FAROUKY, Regional Rural Institutions Officer

D.E. FAULKNER, Regional Animal Production Officer

A. HAFIZ, Regional Consultant (Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement in Production Projects)

K. HAMAD, Regional Forestry and Forest Industries Officer

T.J. JOB, Regional Fisheries Officer

L.T. KADRY, Technical Officer (Soil Survey for the Near East Region)

S.H. LOK, Regional Agricultural Economist

B. POLIAKOFF, Regional Technologist

Elmahdy E. SAID, Regional Agricultural Statistics Officer

Y. SALAH, Regional Plant Production and Protection Officer

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
(Contd.)

Development Department

P. TERVER, Assistant Director-General

J.P. BHATTACHARJEE, Deputy Director, FAO Investment Centre

Technical Department

J. VALLEGA, Director, Plant Production and Protection Division

J. de MEREDIEU, Deputy Director, Land and Water Development Division

L.B. KRISTJANSON, Deputy Chief, Farm Management and Production
Economics Services, Agricultural Services Division

B. NESTEL, Assistant to Director, Animal Production and Health
Division

Economic and Social Department

D. KIMMEL, Deputy Director, Rural Institutions Division

E. ASSELBERGS, Technical Officer, Nutrition Division

A.N. CORTAS, Marketing Officer, Rural Institutions Division

R.F. HANCOCK, Economist, Commodities and Trade Division

R.N. FODUVAL, Chief, Near East Branch, Economic Analysis Division

Department of Public Information and Legal Affairs

H.W. MANDEFIELD, Director, Publications Division

Freedom from Hunger Campaign

D. TWEDDLE, Deputy Co-ordinator

Conference Secretariat

Burnell G. WEST, Conference Secretary

M.R. KHAN, Reports Officer

A. SOLE-LERIS, Conference Affairs Officer

N. MICHIE, Conference Press Officer

Mrs. S.B. HABABO, Information Officer

Mrs. A. MICEU, Documents Officer

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
(Contd.)

Conference Secretariat (contd.)

El Sayed Attia ABOU NAGA, Chief Interpreter
Mrs. S. HAMAD, Interpreter
Abdel PARI, Interpreter
Guy d'OYLEY, Interpreter
Miss M. SWANTON, Interpreter
Miss D. PORRET, Interpreter
Pietro ZEGA, Interpretation Equipment Officer
Mrs. J. DE CESARE, Translator
Mrs. V. DI MONTE, Translator
Mrs. L. BALADI, Stenographer (Cairo)
Miss D.M.H. DE JONG, Secretary
Miss A. JOANNIDES, Stenographer
Miss M. MAURICE, Stenographer
Miss A. MAZZAUWI, Stenographer (Cairo)
Miss G. POULOT, Stenographer
Mrs. U. SHERMAN, Secretary

APPENDIX C

LIST OF CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS

NERC 68/

- 1 Provisional Agenda
- 1 - Rev. 1 Agenda
- 1a Provisional Annotated Agenda
- 2 Regional Representative's Review of FAO's Activities in the Region
- 2 - Suppl. 1 Supplement to the Regional Representative's Review of FAO's Activities in the Region
- 3 Indicative World Plan - Introductory Statement on Summary and Conclusions
- 4 Economic Incentives and Marketing for Expanded Agricultural Production
- 5 The Integrated Rural Institutional Approach
- 6 Feed Production and Livestock Development
- 7 Drainage and On Farm Development: Keys to Successful Irrigation
- 8 Mechanization and Increased Agricultural Production
- 9 Regional Structure and Reorientation of Regional Conferences
- 10 Progress Report on the Introduction of Arabic as a Limited Working Language

NERC 68/LIM/

- 1 Inaugural address by H.E. Ahmad Hassan Al-Bakr, President of the Republic of Iraq
- 2 Statement by the Director-General to the Near East Regional Conference

NERC 68/INF/

- 1 Information Note
- 2 Provisional Timetable
- 3 List of Documents for the Conference

APPENDIX D

PROPOSED FUNCTIONS OF FAO REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
AND OUTPOSTED OFFICERS

Regional Representatives

The duties and responsibilities of the Regional Representatives are proposed to include the following:

- (a) To act as the Director-General's representative in the Region on broad policy matters, and as the link between FAO and various regional bodies; and in this capacity to exercise broad representation functions vis-à-vis Member Governments and regional bodies.
- (b) When requested by the Director-General, to act as his representative at Regional FAO Conferences and meetings and represent the Organization at meetings held by other international or regional organizations or bodies.
- (c) To exercise general supervision, on behalf of the Director-General, over the Joint Regional Economic Commission/FAO Agriculture Division.
- (d) To act as the Director-General's representative in liaison on co-operative action with the Executive Secretary of the Regional Economic Commission on matters going beyond the scope of the Joint Regional Economic Commission/FAO Agriculture Division.
- (e) When instructed by the Director-General, to lead missions and Task Forces to countries of the region.
- (f) To follow and report on the work of the Country Representatives, and to assist them where appropriate.
- (g) To advise on problems of relationships with Member Governments in the Region, and to report thereon to Headquarters.
- (h) To assist in the formulation of regional policy and advise on the need for regional projects and group-country projects.
- (i) To act as Chief Liaison Officer with the Area Banks.
- (j) In general, to work in close association with DD, and with PAB, especially with regard to the work of IWP.

The Regional Representative should report on major matters directly to the Director-General. On all other matters his point of contact at Headquarters should be the ADG of DD.

Outposted Officers

The functions of the outposted divisional officers should include the following:

- (a) To participate in Task Forces for the identification, preparation and evaluation of projects and programmes (including Bank missions), or carry out these functions individually on instructions of the Division Director concerned or of the Regional Representative. The Task Forces should be small and mobile units, for which staff in the Regional Offices could serve as a nucleus increased as circumstances required by staff from Headquarters and by consultants.
- (b) To provide first-hand information to their directors on development trade and problems in the countries of the region.
- (c) To assist Country Representatives in developing programmes and solving problems in the respective countries.

LIST OF FAO COMMISSIONS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES
IN THE NEAR EAST AS OF 1 APRIL 1968

ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND HEALTH DIVISION

Name	<u>Animal Production and Health Commission in the Near East</u> (Article VI-1 of the Constitution)	AN : NEA
Origin	Established by Resolution 3/49 of the Forty-Ninth Council Session (October 1967).	
Purpose	(a) To advise and make recommendations to the Director-General of the Organization and to Governments of the region on any matters related to animal husbandry, production and health;	
	(b) To promote co-ordination of national animal husbandry, production and health research, training and development projects already established or being established;	
	(c) To support the work of the national projects referred to above by the joint elaboration of projects for assistance required to solve regional animal husbandry, production and health problems.	
First Session	1969	
Membership	Open to all Member Nations and Associate Members in the FAO Near East Region. Membership shall comprise such eligible nations as notify the Director-General of their desire to be considered as members.	
Rules of Procedure	General Rules of the Organization.	
Achievement 1964/67	The Commission was established in 1967.	
Relation to Program of Work 1968/69	See narrative in Program of Work and Budget 1968/69, page 96 paragraph 14. The First Session (AN 873) is scheduled to be held in 1969.	

FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS DIVISION

Name	<u>Near East Forestry Commission</u> (Article VI-1 of the Constitution)	FD : NEFC/
Origin	Established by the Seventh Session of the Conference in pursuance of a resolution of the FAO Amman (Jordan) Forestry Conference, 1952.	
Purpose	To advise on the formulation of forest policy and to review and co-ordinate its implementation on the regional plane; to exchange information and, generally through special subsidiary bodies, advise on suitable practices and action in regard to technical and economic problems; and make appropriate recommendations in relation to the foregoing.	
First Session	Teheran, September 1955.	
Membership	Open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO whose territories are situated wholly or in part in the Near East Region, or who are responsible for the international relations of any non-self-governing territories in the region. Membership comprises such eligible nations as have notified the Director-General of their desire to be considered as members.	

The present membership is:

Afghanistan	Pakistan
Cyprus	Saudi Arabia
Ethiopia	Somalia Rep.
France	Sudan
Iran	Syrian Arab Rep.
Iraq	Turkey
Jordan	U. A. R.
Kuwait	United Kingdom
Lebanon	Yemen Arab Rep.
Libya	

Rules of Procedure Adopted at its Second Session, Cairo, October 1958, and amended by its Third Session, Turkey 1962. The amended Rules of Procedure were confirmed by the Forty-Third Session of the Council.

Achievement 1964/67 Sessions were held in 1964 and 1967 which reviewed progress in forest policy and forest development in the region and made appropriate recommendations.

Relation to Program of Work 1968/69

Pattern of Sessions 1964, 1967.

LAND AND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Name Regional Commission on Land and Water
Use in the Near East
(Article VI-1 of the Constitution) LA : LWU/

Origin Established by Resolution 9/48 of the Forty-Eighth Council Session (1967). Originally established by the Forty-Sixth Council Session (1965) as a Working Party under Article VI-2 of the Constitution.

Purpose

- (a) The formulation of the program of work of the Commission in relation to improved land and water use in the Region.
- (b) The establishment of priorities for the gradual elimination of factors limiting the more efficient use of land and water resources (with particular reference to the farm level of operations).
- (c) The formulation of recommendations regarding measures to be adopted by Member Countries of the Region in the specialized fields of land and water use, both for irrigated and dryland areas.
- (d) The formulation of recommendations regarding ways and means in which FAO could assist countries of the Region in the development of land and water use, both in irrigated and dryland areas, as found necessary.
- (e) The consideration of problems referred to the Commission by the Director-General, the FAO Conference or Council and the preparation of suitable reports, including relevant recommendations.
- (f) When appropriate, the establishment of working parties to deal with specific land and water use problems, on the basis of terms of reference to be determined in each case by the Commission.

- (g) The compilation of data relating to development and conservation of the land and water resources of the Region and promotion of exchange of information in this field between members of the Commission.

First Session	Beirut, 28-30 September 1967.														
Membership	Such Member Nations and Associate Members serviced by the Near East Regional Office, as have notified the Director-General of their desire to be considered as members. The present membership is: <table><tr><td>Afghanistan</td><td>Pakistan</td></tr><tr><td>Iran</td><td>Saudia Arabia</td></tr><tr><td>Iraq</td><td>Somali Republic</td></tr><tr><td>Jordan</td><td>Sudan</td></tr><tr><td>Kuwait</td><td>Syrian Arab Rep.</td></tr><tr><td>Lebanon</td><td>U. A. R.</td></tr><tr><td>Libya</td><td>Yemen Arab Rep.</td></tr></table>	Afghanistan	Pakistan	Iran	Saudia Arabia	Iraq	Somali Republic	Jordan	Sudan	Kuwait	Syrian Arab Rep.	Lebanon	U. A. R.	Libya	Yemen Arab Rep.
Afghanistan	Pakistan														
Iran	Saudia Arabia														
Iraq	Somali Republic														
Jordan	Sudan														
Kuwait	Syrian Arab Rep.														
Lebanon	U. A. R.														
Libya	Yemen Arab Rep.														
Rules of Procedure	General Rules of the Organization.														
Achievement 1964/67	Established by the Forty-Eighth Council Session (June 1967) following recommendations made by the Thirteenth Session of the Conference.														
Relation to Program of Work 1968/69	Following the recommendations made by the Conference at its Thirteenth Session (See Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Conference, page 39, paragraph 200), the Commission will promote interest and studies in the Near East Region in the field of Land and Water Use with particular attention to dryland farming and irrigated agriculture. The Second Session (LA 852) will be held in 1969 if funds become available.														
Pattern of Sessions	Biennial.														

PLANT PRODUCTION AND PROTECTION DIVISION

Name	<u>Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Eastern Region of its distribution area in South West Asia</u> (Article XIV of the Constitution)	DL : SWA
Origin	Established in December 1964 within the framework of FAO by agreement approved by the Twelfth Session of the Conference (Resolution 44/63) on the basis of a recommendation made by a special FAO conference held in Teheran, 1-4 October 1962. (Basic Texts, Vol. III, Fascicle 10).	
Purpose	To carry out all possible measures to control plagues of the Desert Locust within their countries and to reduce crop damage by adopting the following essential procedures: (a) maintaining a permanent locust information and reporting service; (b) maintaining an adequate permanent locust control service; (c) holding reserves of insecticides and application equipment;	

- (d) encouraging and supporting such training, survey and research work, including where appropriate the maintenance of national research stations for the study of the Desert Locust, as may be considered desirable by the Commission and as are compatible with the resources of the country;
- (e) participating in the implementation of any common policy of locust control or prevention which may be approved by the Commission;
- (f) facilitating the storage of any items of anti-locust equipment and insecticides held by the Commission and permitting the duty-free import or export without hindrance of such goods and equipment as well as the free movement within the country of such goods and equipment;
- (g) providing the Commission with any information it may request to carry out its functions effectively.

First Session	Teheran, December 1964.				
Membership	Membership entails the obligation to contribute to the Commission's budget in accordance with a scale of contributions determined by the Commission. The present membership is: <table><tr><td>Afghanistan</td><td>Iran</td></tr><tr><td>India</td><td>Pakistan</td></tr></table>	Afghanistan	Iran	India	Pakistan
Afghanistan	Iran				
India	Pakistan				
Rules of Procedure	General Rules of the Organization.				
Achievement 1964/67	The Commission held three sessions and concentrated its activities on developing and co-ordinating field research, selection of suitable candidates for high-level training and organizing special surveys in high frequency breeding areas. This helped to keep the present recession in being. Due to absence of any swarms, no control operations were undertaken.				
Relation to Program of Work 1968/69	See narrative in Program of Work and Budget 1968/69, page 192, paragraph 44(c).				
Pattern of Sessions	Annual.				
Subsidiary Body	Executive Committee.				

Name Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East
(Article XIV of the Constitution)

DL : NE

Origin Under the authority of Resolution 9/61 of the Eleventh Session of the Conference, and on the recommendation of a special conference which met in Beirut, 15-18 March 1965, the FAO Council approved the Agreement for the establishment of the above Commission at its Forty-Fourth Session by Resolution 6/44. (CL 44/20 and Supplement 1). (Basic Texts, Vol. III, Fascicle 11).

Purpose To carry out all possible measures to control plagues of the Desert Locust within Commission members' countries and to reduce crop damage by adopting the following procedures:

- (a) maintaining a permanent locust reporting and control service;
- (b) holding reserves of insecticides and application equipment;
- (c) encouraging and supporting such training, survey and research work, including where appropriate the maintenance of national research stations for the study of the Desert Locust, as may be considered desirable by the Commission and as are compatible with the resources of the country;
- (d) participating in the implementation of any common policy of locust control or prevention which may be approved by the Commission;
- (e) facilitating the storage of any items of anti-locust equipment and insecticides held by the Commission and permitting the duty-free import or export without hindrance of such goods and equipment as well as the free movement within the country of such goods and equipment;
- (f) providing the Commission with any information it may request to carry out its functions effectively.

First Session 1968.

Membership The Members of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East shall be such Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization situated in the region defined as consisting of the territories of Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Republic, Yemen and of other territories in the Arabian Peninsula situated south of latitude 27 degrees north, as accept the Agreement.

The present membership is:

Jordan	Sudan
Kuwait	U. A. R.
Lebanon	

Rules of Procedure General Rules of the Organization.

Achievement 1964/67 The Commission was established as of 21 February 1967 upon the signature of three Governments, namely Jordan, Lebanon and Sudan.

Relation to Program of Work 1968/69 See narrative in Program of Work and Budget 1968/69, page 192, paragraph 44(c).

Pattern of Sessions None held to date.

Name Near East Plant Protection Commission
(Article VI-1 of the Constitution)

PL : PPC/NE/

Origin Established by Resolution 40/63 of the Twelfth Session of the Conference (1963), on the recommendation of FAO Plant Protection conferences for the Near East (1961/1962) and the Eleventh Session of the Conference.

Purpose To advise the FAO Conference and members of the Commission on matters relating to the protection of plant resources in the region.

First Session Jubeihch, Amman, June 1965.

Membership Open to all Member Nations and Associate Members in the Near East Region.
The present membership is:

Iran	Pakistan
Iraq	Saudi Arabia
Jordan	Somali Republic
Kuwait	Sudan
Lebanon	Syrian Arab Republic
Libya	U. A. R.
	Yemen Arab Republic

Rules of Procedure Adopted at its First Session and confirmed by the Thirteenth Session of the Conference.

Achievement 1964/67 The Commission held its First (1965) and Second (1967) Sessions and reviewed the current situation and recent developments in plant protection within the Region, dealt with special plant protection problems, made recommendations on co-operative action to be taken by participating governments and established the future program of work of the Commission. Recommendations dealing with various phases of plant protection were communicated to participating governments by FAO.

Relation to Program of Work 1968/69 See narrative in Program of Work and Budget 1968/69, page 194, paragraph 44(i). The Third Session (PL 884) is scheduled to be held in 1969.

Pattern of Sessions Biennial.

Name FAO Commission on Horticultural Production in the Near East and North Africa
(Article VI-1 of the Constitution)

PL : HPC/NE/

Origin Established as a Committee by the Director-General in June 1964 on the authority of Resolution 43/63 of the Twelfth Session of the FAO Conference, 1963. In accordance with the terms and nomenclature of Article VI-1, it was renamed a Commission by the Forty-Seventh Session of the Council (Oct. 1966).

Purpose To promote international collaboration in the study of technical problems and the establishment of a balanced program of horticultural research at an interregional level.

First Session 1968.

Membership Open to all FAO Member Nations and Associate Members of the Near East and North African Areas.

The present membership is:

Afghanistan	Kuwait	Somali Republic
Algeria	Lebanon	Sudan
France	Libya	Syrian Arab Republic
Iran	Morocco	Tunisia
Iraq	Pakistan	U. A. R.
Jordan	Saudi Arabia	United Kingdom
		Yemen Arab Republic

Rules of Procedure General Rules of the Organization.

Achievement 1964/67

Relation to Program of Work 1968/69 See narrative in Program of Work and Budget 1968/69, page 186, paragraph 23(a). The First Session (PL 882) is scheduled to be held in October 1968.

Pattern of Sessions None held to date.

Name Commission on Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production in the Near East (Not yet formally established) PL : NEW/

Origin At its Forty-Seventh Session (1966) the Council deferred action on formally establishing this as a statutory body under Article VI-1.

Purpose To strengthen national programs on wheat and barley improvement and production through advice on breeding procedures, seed multiplication and distribution, experimental work on cereal production in general, the training of technical personnel, supplying of outstanding world sources of germ plasm and encouragement of co-operative exchange of information and material between participating countries.

First Session First ad hoc Conference, Istanbul, June 1952.

Membership Open to all Member Nations in the Near East Region.
The present membership is:

Afghanistan	Nigeria
Cyprus	Pakistan
Ethiopia	Saudi Arabia
Iran	Sudan
Iraq	Syria
Jordan	Tunisia
Kenya	Turkey
Lebanon	U. A. R.
Libya	

Rules of Procedure General Rules of the Organization.

Achievement 1964/67 The Eighth ad hoc Conference was held in 1965.

Relation to Program of Work 1968/69 See narrative in Program of Work and Budget 1968/69, page 184, paragraph 19 (Wheat and Barley, iv). The Ninth ad hoc conference (PL 833) is scheduled to be held in 1969.

Pattern of Sessions 1965, 1969.

Name FAO Commission on the Development of Grazing and Fodder Resources of the Near East (Not yet formally established) PL : NEG/

Origin Recommended by an FAO technical conference held in Baghdad on 1 November 1954. At its Forty-Seventh Session (1966) the Council deferred action on formally establishing this as a statutory body (regional commission) under Article VI-1.

Purpose To promote the development and to minimize further deterioration of the native range resources. To foster collaboration in research and information dealing with cultivated pastures, native ranges and their integrated use in a stable grazing system ensuring soil and water conservation and maximum use of crop lands and crop residues.

First Session First ad hoc Conference, Cairo, March 1956.

Membership Member Nations in the Near East Region.

Rules of Procedure General Rules of the Organization.

Achievement 1964/67 A summary report and bibliography was prepared and has been distributed for comments (The Range and Fodder Situation in the Near East, K. Ibrahim, 1967).

Relation to Program of Work 1968/69 No sessions are planned in 1968/69. The summary report on the Near East situation will be revised on the basis of comments from the Members of the Commission. This document will be particularly pertinent for developing a sound research policy.

Pattern of Sessions 1958, 1963.

Name FAO Desert Locust Control Committee
(Article VI-2 of the Constitution)

PL : LCC/

Origin Established in January 1955 by the Director-General on the recommendation of the Working Party on Desert Locust Control (Rome, September 1954) as an expansion of the previous Co-ordinating Committee for the Control of the Desert Locust in the Arabian Peninsula. The Eighth Session of the Conference endorsed the establishment of the Committee and approved its terms of reference.

Purpose (As modified by the Forty-Fourth Session of the FAO Council:)

- (i) Keeping the desert locust situation under review.
- (ii) Co-ordinating the desert locust control campaign in the Arabian Peninsula.
- (iii) Co-ordinating desert locust control campaigns in other portions of the desert locust area, when such additional co-ordinating activities are considered desirable by the Committee.
- (iv) Promoting the co-ordination of national and international policies toward preventative measures of desert locust control, and
- (v) Giving general policy guidance to the Director-General regarding the programs financed under the Trust Fund set up to ensure that as from the conclusion of the United Nations Special Fund Desert Locust Project on 1 July 1966, certain activities begun or strengthened during the period of United Nations Special Fund support may be continued at an international level; and reviewing the annual budget and financial reports of the Trust Fund.

First Session Rome, April 1955.

Membership Member Nations and Associate Members affected by the desert locust or participating in international campaigns to control the desert locust.

The present membership is:

Afghanistan	India	Mauritania	Sudan
Algeria	Iran	Morocco	Syrian Arab Rep.
Bahrain	Iraq	Niger	Tanzania
Cameroon	Israel	Nigeria	Togo
Central Afr. Rep.	Ivory Coast	Pakistan	Tunisia
Chad	Jordan	Portugal	Turkey
Dahomey	Kenya	Qatar	Uganda
Ethiopia	Kuwait	Saudi Arabia	United Kingdom
France	Lebanon	Senegal	U. A. R.
Ghana	Libya	Sierra Leone	U. S. A.
Guinea	Mali	Somali Rep.	Upper Volta
		Spain	Yemen Arab Rep.

Rules of Procedure General Rules of the Organization

Achievement 1964/67 The Committee held sessions in 1964, 1966 and 1967. It reviewed the work of the international campaign in Saudi Arabia and promoted co-ordination of national and international policy toward preventive measures of Desert Locust control. The major achievement is the establishment of an international Trust Fund, contributed by all the countries affected by Desert Locust, with a view to ensuring that as from the conclusion of the UNDP (SF) Project certain activities, begun or strengthened during the period of the Project, may be continued at an international level.

Relation to Program of Work 1968/69 See narrative in Program of Work and Budget 1968/69, page 192, paragraph 44(c).

Pattern of Sessions 1964, 1966, 1967.

Subsidiary Bodies FAO Northwest African Desert Locust Research and Control Co-ordination Sub-Committee . FAO Arabian Peninsular Desert Locust Control Sub-Committee.

Name FAO Committee on the Control of the Sunn Pest of Cereals
(Article VI-2 of the Constitution)

PL : CSP/

Origin First established as a Working Party on the recommendation of the Ninth Session of the Conference.

Established by the Director-General in 1962 as a Committee on the recommendation of the Eleventh Session of the Conference.

Purpose To strengthen international co-operation through co-ordination of research and exchange of information on methods of controlling the sunn pest.

First Session Ankara, December 1956 (as Working Party).

Membership

Afghanistan	Lebanon
France	Morocco
Greece	Syria
Iran	Turkey
Iraq	

Rules of Procedure General Rules of the Organization .

Achievement 1964/67 The Committee held its Second Session in 1966 to exchange information on methods of controlling Sunn Pest, and of strengthening international co-operation through co-ordination of research; and to discuss national programs relating to Sunn Pest activities, investigation and control. A general program of work, mainly concerning the long-term ecological survey of Sunn Pest populations, was established for the FAO regional experts. Various documents on research and control techniques were prepared and distributed by the FAO Sunn Pest Information and Documentation Centre.

Relation to Program of Work 1968/69 See narrative in Program of Work and Budget 1968/69, page 193, paragraph d(i).

Pattern of Sessions 1956, 1966.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION

Name	<u>Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning</u> (Article VI-1 of the Constitution)	EA : NEAP/	
Origin	Established by the Fortieth Session of the Council (June 1963) by Resolution 2/40 on the recommendation of the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, held at Tel-Amara, Lebanon in July -August 1962.		
Purpose	To review and exchange information and experience on agricultural plans and planning and on the problems encountered in the formulation, execution, following up and evaluation of such plans in the countries of the region, and to make recommendations to Members of the Commission on means of improving their agricultural plans and to the FAO Conference on the assistance which could be provided for this purpose, with due regard to the different stages of development reached by the various countries of the region.		
First Session.	Cairo, 16 - 21 December 1963.		
Membership	Membership in the Commission is open to all Member Nations and Associated Members of FAO whose territories are situated wholly or partly in the region concerned or who are responsible for the international relations of the non-self-governing territories in the region. Membership comprises such eligible nations as have notified the Director-General of the Organization of their desire to be considered as members. The present membership is:		
	Afghanistan	Kuwait	Somali Rep.
	France	Lebanon	Sudan
	Iran	Libya	Syrian Arab Rep.
	Iraq	Pakistan	U. A. R.
	Jordan	Saudi Arabia	United Kingdom
			Yemen Arab Rep.
Rules of Procedure	Adopted by the First Session of the Commission in 1963, and confirmed by the Council at its Forty-Third Session.		
Achievement 1964/67	The Commission held two sessions. In 1964 it drew up a list of basic data and studies required for agricultural development planning as well as the curricula for the training program of the proposed Near East Agricultural Development and Planning Institute. The 1966 Session was held jointly with the Near East Commission on Agricultural Statistics and discussed the Near East Study by the Indicative World Plan and formulated a phased program for development of data and economic studies for agricultural planning in countries of the Near East.		
Relation to Program of Work 1968/69	See narrative in Program of Work and Budget 1968/69, page 293, paragraph 31. The Fourth Session (EA 804) is scheduled to be held in 1968 and the Fifth (EA 817) in 1969.		
Pattern of Sessions	Biennial.		

STATISTICS DIVISION

Name Near East Commission on Agricultural Statistics AGS : NE
(Article VI-1 of the Constitution)

Origin The Eleventh Session of the Conference (November 1961) approved the creation of the Commission and requested the Director-General to establish and adequately service a permanent regional agricultural statistical commission for the Near East.

Purpose To review the state of food and agricultural statistics in the region and advise member countries on the development and standardization of agricultural statistics within the general framework of FAO's work in statistics, and to convene study groups or other subsidiary bodies of national experts required for this purpose.

First Session Amman, 12 - 19 November 1962.

Membership Open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO whose territories are situated wholly or partly in the region or who are responsible for the international relations of any non-self-governing territories in the region, and comprises such nations as have notified the Director-General of their desire to be considered as members.

The present membership is:

Afghanistan	Lebanon	Somali Rep.
Iran	Libya	Sudan
Iraq	Pakistan	Syrian Arab Rep.
Jordan	Saudi Arabia	U. A. R.
Kuwait		Yemen Arab Rep.

Rules of Procedure General Rules of the Organization.

Achievement 1964/67 Two sessions were held at which recommendations were worked out on the Methodology of Agricultural Surveys, the Standardization of Cereal Statistics and Agricultural Price Statistics; the Near East supplement to the 1970 World Census of Agriculture was developed and a program for the developing statistics and studies needed for current and perspective agricultural development planning was shaped.

Relation to Program of Work 1968/69 The Fourth Session (ST 825) is scheduled to be held in 1968.

Pattern of Sessions Biennial.

Reports of the FAO Regional Conferences
for the Near East

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 Programmes and Outlook, Bloudane, Syria, 28 August - 6 September 1951.

Report of the Third FAO Regional Meeting on Food and Agricultural Programmes 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.

Report of the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, Khartoum, The Sudan, 24 January - 2 February 1967.

