

DRAFT
FAO studies elaborated on the basis of national strategy papers
for agricultural development

REGIONAL STRATEGY
FOR AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY
IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE COUNCIL OF ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY

CAEU

(Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria,
Yemen.)

Cairo, 30 May 2002

COUNCIL FOR ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY

Table of Contents

	Page
Executive Summary	i
1. THE SETTING	
1.1 Food Security	1
Food Demand and Nutritional Needs	
Food Supplies	
Food Insecurity and Poverty	
1.2 Policy and Programme Highlights	2
Economic and Institutional Policies	
Social Policies and Programmes	
1.3 The Agricultural Sector	6
Agriculture in the Economy	
Land Use, Farming Systems and Institutions	
1.4 Recent Performance	9
1.5 Governments Sectoral Objectives, Policies and Programmes	11
Agricultural Production and National Food Security	
Rural Poverty and Household Food Security	
Agricultural Production Promotion Policies and Programmes	
Prospects for Trade in Agricultural Products	
2. REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTION: SCENARIOS FOR WORLD FOOD SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP	
2.1 Major Challenges and Constraints	13
2.2 Strategic Orientations	14
2.3 Resources Implications to 2010	14
2.4 Actions to be taken at National, Regional and International Levels	19
Annex Tables	21

Executive Summary

The population of the countries of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) reached 178 million in 2000 and is growing at the rate of 2.5% annually. Although the average daily per caput caloric supply of CAEU countries amounted to 2,648 kcal in 1998-1999 period, large variations still exist among the member countries. The average daily food intake in 3 countries is above 3,000 kcal and falls in 4 countries below the average 2,700 kcal necessary to satisfy the food needs of the population. The extreme cases are Somalia, Yemen and Iraq after the UN sanctions imposed since 1991.

While the overall situation is mixed, the groups most vulnerable to food security risks are the small nomadic population, desert shepherds, landless labourers, families with very small land holdings under rainfed condition and the urban unemployed.

The share of agriculture in the combined GDP of the CAEU countries was estimated to be 21% in 2000, and varies widely among countries to reach 37% in the Sudan and 24% in Syria. It is also estimated that 39% of the total labour force in CAEU countries engage in agriculture, but the percentage increases to 71% in Somalia, 61% in the Sudan and 51% in Yemen. This makes the agricultural sector critical for improving food security and alleviation of poverty in the region.

Cotton is still the predominant agricultural export crop of the countries of the CAEU, although its share had declined considerably from 33.5% in 1979-81 to 22% in 1999-2000. On the other hand, the share of live sheep and milled rice in total agricultural exports is rising. With respect to agricultural imports, the dominant commodity is wheat (17% of total agricultural imports in 2000) followed by refined sugar and maize.

In the majority of CAEU countries where the public sector used to have a strong role in investment and trade, liberalization has been the policy since the late 1990's. especially in the export sector, though it has declined from earlier levels. Governments' intervention in agriculture, which used to include licensing major crops, setting procurement prices for key agricultural commodities, and allocating production inputs and credit has considerably declined. These interventionist policies have created divergence between domestic and international prices which is now being addressed by many members of the CAEU with some positive results.

It is recognized that CAEU countries have to improve land fertility, increase irrigation efficiency, raise crop and livestock productivity, streamline market and price policies for agricultural inputs and outputs, strengthen research and extension and rationalize the credit system in support of market-oriented agriculture. In order to make agriculture more efficient and to provide a better environment for regional food security, policy and institutional reforms should be pursued. CAEU countries are also faced with a very limited availability of freshwater for irrigation due to low rainfall and severe competition from other users.

Food security is one of the most important objectives in the CAEU countries. FAO's Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) is already at the operational stage in five countries of CAEU: Egypt, Mauritania, Syria, Sudan and Yemen and will be launched shortly in Jordan. Draft National Strategies for Agricultural Development and Food Security: horizon 2010, have been elaborated in all countries as a follow up to the World Food Summit.

Only two countries of CAEU are members of the WTO (Egypt, Mauritania) and Jordan, Sudan and Yemen are in the process of accession. At present intra-CAEU trade is less than 3% of total merchandise exports and imports. The prospects of expansion for intra-regional-trade in agricultural products are low because of lack of complementarity in production mix, insistence of some countries to be self-sufficient in vegetables, poultry meat and milk, artificial barriers to trade and sometimes political differences. The removal of these barriers will provide the needed impetus for the expansion of trade in agricultural and food products and will improve the food security of all members of the CAEU.

The estimated investment needs (including all sources, which are mainly private) amount to a minimum of US\$ 62 billion ¹ for the period 1998-2010. Overall, irrigation would require at least some US\$ 15 billion, livestock development US\$ 10 billion and agro-industry and marketing about US\$ 19 billion and 7 billion respectively. Additional investment of US\$ 10-15 billion will be needed also to cover the vital areas of agricultural research, extension and training, fisheries development and rural infrastructure.

Special efforts are required to mobilize financial resources. The various agreements already signed in support of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) are encouraging. However the achievement of food security objectives calls for an increased effort to muster resources within CAEU's member states as well as the international community.

FAO can use its technical assistance programmes and activities to increase productivity, to diversify production and to promote trade growth, including intra-regional agricultural trade. Harmonisation of phyto- or zoo-sanitary trade measures among countries and application of international norms and standards within the Codex Alimentarius are emphasized. FAO training programmes would also assist CAEU member countries in coping with changing international trading environment particularly on the disciplines and opportunities emerging from the Marrakech agreement, and in preparing for the up-coming trade negotiations on agriculture.

Most of the activities mentioned above could be undertaken within the framework of a "Regional Programme for Food Security in the Member Countries of the CAEU".

¹ These figures only provide at this stage a broad order of magnitude. More precise and detailed estimates will be needed at the various operational levels with the participation of the countries concerned.

1. THE SETTING

1.1 Food Security

Food Demand and Nutritional Needs

The population of the countries of the *Council of Arab Economic Unity* (CAEU) ² ranges from 2.7 million in Mauritania to 68 million in Egypt. In 2000, the total population of CAEU region was estimated to be 178 million and was increasing at the rate of 2.5% annually. Foreign residents are numerous in several countries.

The countries of the CAEU have achieved mixed results with regard to food supply and consumption. During 1998-99, the daily calorie supply per caput amounted to more than 3,000 kcal in three countries:³ Egypt, Libya, Syria. It ranged between 2,500-3,000 kcal in Jordan and Mauritania, and fall between 2,000-2,500 kcal for Sudan, Iraq and Yemen. Conflict ridden Somalia was only about 1,552 kcal. On average the 1998-99 figure was 2,648 kcal.⁴ This is to be compared with 2,670 kcal in 1979-81. The unequal access to food among the population, particularly for the poor, resulted in unsatisfied nutritional needs that reached high incidence in several countries.

Food Supplies

The production of cereals in the CAEU reached 30.7 million metric tons in 2001. In the same year, the CAEU region produced 21.6 million metric tons of vegetables, 2.29 million metric tons of red meat, 1.16 million metric tons of poultry meat, 7.3 million metric tons of cow milk and 7.7 million metric tons of other milk. The self-sufficiency ratio was 64% of total calories consumed. The CAEU countries are dependent on the international market for their basic foodstuffs, and import annually a large quantity of cereals. In 2000, they imported 12.4 million metric tons of wheat (including wheat equivalent of flour), 2.02 million metric tons of rice, 7.02 million metric tons of maize and 1.33 million metric tons of barely. In the same year, they imported 1.82 million metric tons of refined sugar and 0.63 million metric tons of milk equivalent.

Food Insecurity and Poverty

According to FAO estimates, the undernourished population of the CAEU countries ranges from 72% in Somalia, 37% in Sudan, 24% in Yemen, 21% in Iraq to 3% in Syria, Jordan and Libya, with women and children among the most vulnerable groups. The percentage of malnutrition in children under the age of 5 was 48% in Mauritania, 46% in Yemen, 5% in Jordan and 11% in Egypt⁵. Malnutrition remains a serious health problem in CAEU where under nutrition as well as over-nutrition are found. Chronic undernutrition (stunting) and micronutrient deficiencies are most prevalent in rural areas. Iron deficiency

² The CAEU is composed of 10 members : Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen.

³ The source for all data concerning production, consumption and trade of agricultural products is FAO. For other data, sources are specified in the reference tables.

⁴ An average 2,700 kcal per caput/day is roughly estimated to be necessary to satisfy the populations' food needs.

⁵ World Bank, World Development Report 1998/99, Table 2, pp. 192-193.

anaemia is a common problem, goitre is endemic and rickets and other nutritional deficiencies, such as zinc, are also prevailing.

Information about the extent of poverty is patchy and inadequate. The World Bank reports the following information about the level of poverty in some of the CAEU countries:⁶

	Percent of population below poverty line	Percent of population living below	
		US\$ 1	US\$ 2
Egypt	23 (1995)	3.1 (1995)	51.9 (1990-91)
Jordan	12 (1995)	2.0 (2000)	23.5 (1992)
Mauritania	47 (1995)	28.6 (1995)	68.4 (1988)
Yemen	19.1 (1992)	-	- -

In rural areas, the poor are mainly farmers with little or no land, and agricultural labourers. Poverty is also common among small nomadic population and desert shepherds. A small group of extreme poor, including widows, sick and disabled older people, depend heavily on direct income transfers.

1.2 Policy and Programme Highlights

Economic and Institutional Policies

CAEU was established by the Economic Council of the Arab League in 1957 and held its first meeting in 1964. The Arab Common Market (ACM) is a direct offshoot of the CAEU. The CAEU has a very broad agenda. It covers fiscal, monetary and trade aspects with the objective of enhancing Arab Economic Unity. It also covers such topics as economic planning, statistical harmonization and trade legislation. The role of CAEU is one of advocacy and coordination and not of direct execution. The work of its Secretariat is tailored to these two specific roles.

All CAEU countries are members of League of Arab States (LAS) and of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), and seven of them make up the Arab Common Market (ACM) i.e. Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Syria and Yemen

The ten members of the CAEU are heterogeneous with respect to their resource endowment and level of economic and social development. The member countries can be classified into three groups: (i) oil exporting countries (Iraq and Libya); (ii) lower middle income countries (Egypt, Jordan, Syria); and (iii) the LDCs (Palestine, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen). The salient features of the resource endowment and economic characteristics of the three groups are shown in Table 1 and 2⁷. The following observations can be made.

First, the oil exporting group generate almost 50% of CAEU’s GDP but has less than 20% of its population. It dominates the total merchandise exports of CAEU and has the highest share of intra – CAEU Trade (49%). The group possesses 21% of CAEU’s cultivated

⁶ World Bank, World Development Report 1998/99, Table 4, pp. 196-197.
⁷ For more details; see Annexes 1,2 and 3.

land, 36% of its irrigated land and 35% of its annual freshwater supply. However, it accounts for less than 5% of CAEU's agricultural population.

Second, the lower middle income group is inhabited by half the population of the CAEU's countries, has the second largest share of its agricultural labour force and proportionately less share of its cultivated land (25%). The group has the largest share of CAEU's agricultural exports (77%) and produces the largest proportion of its food crops (about 80% of its cereals and vegetables).

Third, the LDC group is inhabited by one third of CAEU's population but generates only 8% of its GDP and has a small share of its merchandise trade (5% each for exports and 11% imports). It has the highest proportions of CAEU's agricultural population, agricultural labour force and cultivated land but the lowest share of its irrigated land (24%) and annual freshwater supply (16%). The group produces only 15% of CAEU's annual cereals and 8% of its vegetables.

Fourth, animal stock is primarily concentrated in the LDC group (83% of cattle and 71% of sheep and goats) where the status of animal health is extremely poor and hence the potential is not well exploited.

Fifth, intra-CAEU trade is small, less than 3% each of merchandise exports and imports; intra-regional exports are dominated by the oil exporting group and intra-regional imports by the lower middle income group.

Economic reforms and structural adjustment programmes were adopted by most of the Governments of CAEU in the 1990s to: (i) reduce the role of the state in the management of the economy and to strengthen the market-based economic system; (ii) improve the regulatory environment for the private sector; and (iii) reduce price distortions.

To enhance the role of the private sector and improve efficiency of the economy, most governments initiated privatization programmes. Public sector enterprises were removed from the control of ministries and restructured as affiliates under diversified financially independent holding companies.

In agriculture, the following policy measures have been taken during the 1990's: (a) removal of crop licensing and delivery quotas; (b) liberalization of producer prices, marketing for most commodities (with some exceptions such as sugar cane in Egypt); (c) removal of subsidies on feed, fertilizer and pesticides; (d) increased role for the private sector in input distribution; (e) liberalization of land rents; and (f) cost-sharing with the beneficiaries of irrigation and drainage schemes. The reforms have led to renewed investment in agriculture and encouraged farmers to raise production in response to market opportunities.

In a few countries, mainly Syria, Iraq and Libya, state control in the agricultural sector still prevails and is managed by a hierarchy of public institutions. The instruments of control include annual production targets by area for each major crop, establishment of procurement prices, subsidies, inputs delivery to farmers and decisions regarding financial and marketing arrangements for agricultural produce.

Table 1: Percentage Shares of Sub-groups of CAEU by Resource Endowment

Sub-group	Total population (2000)	Agricultural population (2000)	Agricultural labour force (2000)	Arable land and land under permanent crops (1999)	Irrigated Land (1999)	Annual freshwater withdrawal (most recent data)	Animal stock 2002	
							cattle and buffaloes	sheep and goats
(i) Oil exporting countries ^{a/}	15.8	3.8	2.9	20.8	36.3	34.8	2.9	11.3
(ii) Lower middle income countries ^{b/}	50.0	43.7	41.8	24.9	39.8	49.1	14.3	17.3
(iii) LDCs of CAEU ^{c/}	34.2	52.5	55.3	54.3	23.9	16.1	82.8	71.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
CAEU total in absolute figures	178.11 million	68.4 million	24.4 Million	33.2 million ha	11.2 million ha	143.7 billion m ³	55.9 million	137.7 million

^{a/} Iraq, Libya.

^{b/} Egypt, Jordan, Syria.

^{c/} Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan Yemen.

Source: FAO Production Yearbook 1997; World Resources 1998-99.

Table 2. Percentage Shares of Sub-groups of CAEU by Economic Aggregates

Sub-group	GDP 2000	Total merchandize trade (1999-2000)		Agricultural merchandize trade 1999-2000		Intra-CAEU trade 1995		Net deficit in food trade 2000	Outstanding external debt (2000)	Debt payment (2000)	Cereal production 2000-2001	Vegetable production 2000-2001	Red meat production 2000-2001	Poultry meat production 2000-2001
		Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports							
(i) Oil exporting countries ^{a/}	47.7	45.6	27.5	3.2	25.3	48.7	32.6	30.9	4.7	13.3	7	12.8
(ii) Lower middle income countries ^{b/}	46.6	37.1	61.9	77.4	62.6	40.4	42.5	57.6	68.7	87.5	80.3	78.5	47	74.4
(iii) LDCs of CAEU ^{c/}	7.7	4.9	10.6	19.4	12.1	10.9	24.9	11.5	31.3	12.5	15.0	8.2	42.9	12.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	46	100.0
CAEU total in absolute figures US\$ billion	268.0	28.3	38.6	3.1	9.9	2.0	2.3	6.6	85.2	3.2	30.1 million m.t	21.9 million m.t	2.20 million m.t	1170 thousand m.t

^{a/} Iraq, Libya

^{b/} Egypt, Jordan, Syria

^{c/} Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen

Sources: FAO Trade Yearbook 1996; FAO Production Yearbook 1997.

World Bank, World Development Report 1998/99.

Organization of Islamic Conference, Statistical Yearbook of the OIC countries, 1998.

Centre Islamique pour le Developpement du Commerce, Report Annuel, 1996-1997.

Social Policies and Programmes

CAEU Governments have a long-standing commitment to social progress and equity. The measures taken to fulfill this commitment include: land reform, national public health network, comprehensive education and training systems, direct and implicit subsidies on different commodities and services. In some countries, these measures have contributed significantly to the improvement of living standards for the majority of the population. For many years, food subsidies were the major instrument of a social safety net, although, in recent years attempts have been made to reduce them. Indeed, Government intervention at the producer and consumer levels also contributes to (i) spiralling inflation and high subsidies which pre-empt productive investment in agriculture and agro-industry, and (ii) low productivity in agriculture.

1.3 The Agricultural Sector

Agriculture in the Economy

The share of agriculture in total GDP is 21% in 2000. But this average conceals wide differences among countries. The share of agriculture in GDP ranges from 2 to 10% in Jordan and Libya, between 10-20% in Egypt and Yemen, from 20-30% in Mauritania and Syria and exceeds 30% in Sudan.

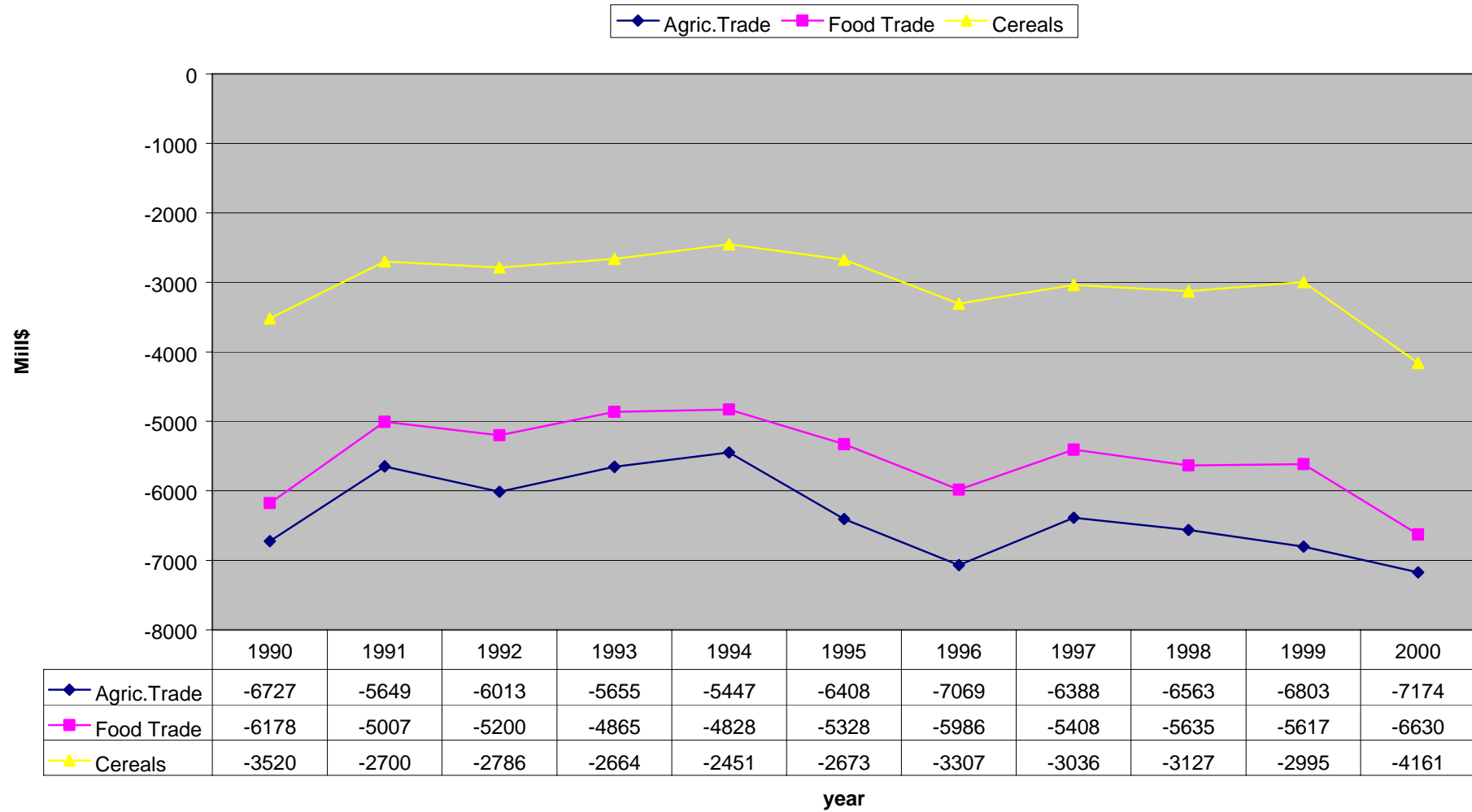
For CAEU as a whole, the share of the agricultural labour force to total labour force has declined from 45% in 1990-91 to 39% in 2000. In Egypt, which has the highest population, some 33% of the total labour force is in agriculture. However, 55% of CAEU's agricultural labour force is in the four LDCs (Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen).

The relative decline in the role of agriculture, in recent years, partly reflects the strong growth in other sectors, particularly oil, services and construction. The GDP share of the first agricultural export item (cotton) has decreased from 33.5% in 1979 – 81 to 22% in 1999-2000, while the share of the main agricultural import (wheat) has increased from 14% to 18% during the same period. The Chart below shows the trend in the net trade of total agriculture, food and cereals trade.

Land Use, Farming Systems and Institutions

Total land area in the CAEU is 802.2 million ha. Arable land plus permanent crops occupied 37.0 million ha in 1999 of which 11.2 million ha were irrigated land. Nearly 55% of the arable land is located in the LDCs which also have the largest share of CAEU's agricultural labour force (55%). The oil exporting group has only 3.0% of CAEU's agricultural labour force but 36% of the irrigated land.

Net Trade Value for Total Agric., Food and Cereals Trade for CAEU Countries



Most farmers are smallholders, e.g. in Egypt 70% of holdings have less than 1 feddan (0.42 ha). However, land distribution may be highly skewed in some cases as shown by ancient data which are probably still significant. For instance in Jordan 25% of the total holdings were less than 1 ha, and totalled only 2% of the cultivable area, while 0.5% of the holdings were more than 1,000 ha and occupies 18% of the cultivable area (1983 census). In Syria, although the average farm size is 9.2 ha it is fragmented into 3-4 parcels. The 1981 census of agriculture showed that over 50% of the landholdings were less than 2 ha and occupied only 3% of the total land. On the other hand, less than 1% of the holdings were of an average size of more than 50 ha and occupy 30% of total land.

The cropping pattern in the CAEU is dominated by cereals, particularly wheat (4.8 million ha), barley (2.8 million ha), maize (1.3 million ha), sorghum (5.2 million ha) and rice (757,000 ha) but also vegetables (1,231,308 ha) and fruit (1,244,051 ha), in addition cotton (698,514 ha) concerning mainly Egypt, Syria and Sudan. However, in terms of value the two most important crops in each country are as follows:

Country	Highest crop in value	Country	Highest crop in value
Egypt	Sugarcane, Tomatoes	Mauritania	Rice, Maize
Iraq	Wheat, Tomatoes	Somalia	Sorghum, Sugarcane
Libya	Wheat, Tomatoes	Syria	Wheat, Barley
Jordan	Tomatoes, Potatoes	Sudan	Sugarcane, Sorghum

In most CAEU countries farming systems rely upon irrigation which is constrained by the availability of water. However rainfed agriculture is important in some countries. In Syria about 77% of the total cultivated area is used for winter crops, mainly cereals and winter vegetables under the rainfed conditions while nearly 80% of wheat production and 45% of barley production are under rainfed conditions in Iraq. Rainfed agriculture is also important in parts of Sudan and Yemen.

The CAEU countries have a cattle and buffalos population of 56 million head which is largely concentrated in the LDCs (especially Sudan and Somalia) and some 138 million sheep and goats of which two-thirds in the LDCs of CAEU. Livestock potential is not well exploited in the LDCs due to problems of animal disease and poor marketing facilities.

Livestock is raised under predominately traditional systems of production. These include small farmers who raise small herds of cattle, sheep and goats in villages and around small towns for their household requirements of milk and meat as well as for market sale. The animals are fed mainly on crop residues. Concentrates are usually not given. Sheep and goats are also raised in relatively larger flocks by nomads and transhumant tribes in the steppes. They depend mainly on rangeland but in dry years they move closer to crop areas to graze agricultural by-products. The cattle owners of Somalia and the Sudan also follow this practice. The severe shortage of feed have forced many farmers, especially in the lower middle income group of CAEU, to move towards an integrated system of farming in which forage production, e.g. berseem, is assuming greater importance.

The poultry industry developed rapidly during this decade especially in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Syria, while little progress has been recorded in Mauritania, Somalia and the Sudan.

Annual poultry production in Sudan is less than that of Jordan, while its population is 6 times more than that of Jordan. Moreover the country has vast potential to produce food for poultry.

A number of institutions provide support to the agricultural sector in CAEU member countries. Normally, the ministries of agriculture are responsible for the formulation and execution of government policies and programmes in the sector. The ministries of water and irrigation also have responsibility for the planning and implementation of development activities. These institutions have both regulatory and organizational functions. Other public institutions involved in the agricultural sector include agricultural marketing, credit, and research organizations. However the private sector is increasingly involved in agricultural marketing and processing as well as in the import of farm inputs and some extension.

1.4 Recent Performance

The performance of the agricultural sector from 1990-91 to 2000-01 is presented in the table below by country groups. The production of cereals increased from 24.5 million m.t in 1990-91 to 30.1 million metric tons in 2000-01. The increase of 37% was achieved and shared by the lower middle income group countries and the LDCs of CAEU. In the former, which had a 45% increase in output, the success was entirely due to higher yields in Egypt and Syria. In the latter group, which had had a 7% increase in output, the success was entirely due to increase of area under cereals, particularly in the Sudan which increased the area under cereals by almost two-thirds, from 5.2 million ha in 1990-91 to 6.6 million ha in 2000-01. Wheat production in CAEU countries reached 11.5 million metric tons in 1996-97, an increase of 30% over the 1990-91 level. The main contributing factors were some increase in area (Egypt and Syria) and a sharp rise in yields, particularly in Egypt and Syria, 27% and 52% respectively. The increase in the production of maize was 25%, and was a result of yield increases in Egypt and Syria. Between 1990-91 to 2000-01, the production of sorghum (which are primarily grown in the Sudan, Somalia and Yemen) increased by 11%, reaching 4.0 million metric tons. This increase was caused by the expansion of area in the Sudan and Somalia and by higher yields in the Sudan and Yemen.

The production of vegetables between 1990-91 and 2000-01 increased by 33% and was confined primarily to Egypt, Jordan and Syria. For the Lower middle income countries of the CAEU, the increase was 5% and below the growth of population.

The production of red meat increased from 1,516 thousand metric tons in 1990-91 to 2,225 thousand metric tons in 2000-01, a 47% increase. Poultry production rose by 75% during the same years but this increase was confined only to the lower middle income group, particularly in Jordan and Egypt. In 1996-97, the countries of CAEU produced 14 million tons of milk compared with 10.03 million metric tons in 1990-91. The increase is largely confined to the 3 lower middle income group as well as to the Sudan.

Table 3. The Performance of the Agricultural Sectors 1999-91 - 2000-01 by Country Groups

Groups	Area (1000ha)		Production (1000mt)	
	1990-91	2000-01	1990-91	2000-01
(i) Oil exporting countries				
All cereals	3,686	2,952	3,328	1,403
Wheat	1,612	1,375	1,466	683
Maize	88	64	208	57
Vegetables	316	532	3,401	2,812
Milk	-	-	645	761
Red meat	-	-	138	172
Poultry	-	-	166	140
(ii) Lower middle income countries				
All cereals	6,337	5,819	16,755	24,179
Wheat	2,235	2,713	6,720	10,361
Maize	909	902	5,166	6,694
Sorghum	143	164	657	943
Vegetables	554	714	11,411	17,087
Milk	-	-	3,819	5,638
Red meat	-	-	675	1,050
Poultry	-	-	408	870
(iii) LDCs of CAEU				
All cereals	6,78	8,027	4,298	4,525
Wheat	455	218	676	460
Maize	325	369	309	318
Sorghum	4,881	7,001	2,973	3,061
Vegetables	143	170	1,504	1,809
Milk	-	-	5,856	7,605
Red meat	-	-	703	1,003
Poultry	-	-	65	103

Source: FAO Production Yearbook 1997.

One can note that the adoption of improved technology by farmers has occurred more in the irrigated sector than in the rainfed sector.

In 1997 fish catch (both marine and freshwater) in CAEU countries amounted to 760 thousand metric tons, of which close to 50% was marine catch. This is a 30% increase over the 1991 catch. Another 10 thousand tons of fish came from aquaculture, primarily from Egypt, Iraq, Libya and Syria.

Except for Mauritania, the per caput annual food supply from fish and seafood is much below the world average of 13.5 kg. It is 0.6 kg in Syria, 1.2 kg in Iraq, 1.7 kg in the Sudan and 6.9 kg in Egypt.

1.5 Government Sectoral Objectives, Policies and Programmes

The overall agricultural objectives of all CAEU countries are to increase productivity per unit of land and water by making more efficient use of these two limited resources, reduce unit costs of production and increase national farm output and farmers' income. The drive for efficiency should move forward in the context of equity, taking into account issues of poverty alleviation, provision of a social safety net, human development, and sustainability of the development process, including the protection of the environment.

Agricultural Production and National Food Security

Ensuring food security for a rapidly growing population is a common objective of the member Governments of CAEU. In this regard the conservation of water and land resources remains the most important. Through competitive substitution of imports, the agricultural sector could also contribute to foreign exchange balance in some CAEU countries.

In the crops sector, most governments plan to remove remaining distortions (trade barriers, subsidies, price control, etc.). For the livestock sector the emphasis is placed on improving livestock productivity on small farms through the more efficient use of fodder crops, as livestock competes directly with food crops for the use of scarce land and water resources. Improved animal health is an essential component for modernizing the livestock sector, especially in the LDCs of the CAEU.

There appears to be very little scope for food self-sufficiency in Libya which will continue to rely on imports to meet its food needs and the oil income makes it possible to do so. The same applies to Jordan in view of the severe shortage of water and the potential for earning more foreign exchange through tourism and other services. For the remaining countries, enhanced food security depends on how the available resources are managed. The potential for increasing the yields of crops and livestock exists in Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Somalia and Yemen and could be a major factor in reducing dependence on imported food. Sudan is one country where vast resources for agricultural expansion exist and it could become a major source of food supply in the region. However, a political climate to promote investors' confidence is required to attract investment specially from the oil exporting countries of the Near East and North Africa.

Rural Poverty and Household Food Security

Several governments have consistently followed a policy of poverty alleviation in both rural and urban areas. In the agricultural sector such measures as land redistribution reducing and eliminating government intervention in the pricing and marketing of agricultural input and outputs have been taken.

At present the agricultural sector is increasingly viewed by many CAEU Governments as important for generating rural employment. It is well recognized that an increase in rural incomes and employment cannot come from agriculture alone; it requires diversification through small-scale industries, services and other activities.

The CAEU's Governments are targeting poverty among the landless and small farmers who rely on rainfed agriculture in low rainfall areas. Households headed by women

are the most vulnerable. Poverty pockets are dispersed over many regions in countries of CAEU, particularly in Mauritania, Yemen, Iraq, Sudan and Somalia.

Food aid in cereals has fluctuated around 2,926,903 and 697,761 tons between 1990-91 and 1999-2000 for the group as a whole, its share of total cereal imports ranged from 6.1% to 1.1%. The food aid component of cereal imports has been, however, considerably higher for Sudan and Somalia, 35% and 51% respectively in 1993/94, mainly to displaced population as a result of civil strife and conflict.

Agricultural Production Promotion Policies and Programmes

A variety of public services are available to support agriculture and agribusiness in the CAEU countries. These include extension support to farmers with emphasis on promoting low cost technologies, water saving devices and resource conservation (Jordan); enhancing irrigation use efficiency and related research (Egypt); assuring a smooth transition of agriculture to market economy (Syria); and land consolidation (Yemen).

In 1994 FAO launched a Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) targeted towards low income and food deficit countries. At present, Phase I of SPFS is operational in five countries of the CAEU: Egypt, Mauritania, Syria, Sudan and Yemen, and under preparation for Jordan. Agreements have been signed with the World Bank, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and United Nations Development Programme. Agreements are under negotiation with other financial institutions. This programme benefits also from technical assistance of one hundred country experts within the framework of South-South Cooperation.

The results of Phase I of the SPFS are promising. The SPFS approach is to integrate agricultural projects that aim to increase food production and productivity, while reducing the year-to-year variability of production and improving access to food. This is done through a multidisciplinary participatory approach on an economically and ecologically sustainable basis. Particular attention is paid to the socio-economic constraints that prevent farmers from adopting the technologies and methods offered in terms of different irrigation systems, intensification of crop production and diversification of production systems.

Prospects for Trade in Agricultural Products

Among the CAEU member countries Egypt and Mauritania are the only members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Jordan, Sudan and Yemen are in the process of accession.

After the decomposition of their major trade relations with the former USSR, countries like Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Yemen have tried to divert their trade to other customers, especially to the East European states, European Union countries and the Gulf States.

In future, two factors will determine the prospects for agricultural exports: (i) the relationship between international prices and domestic prices, and (ii) the continuation or not of the state monopoly over the exports of selected agricultural products. Clearly, the two factors are intertwined. For example in 1996 Syria reduced profit margins for wheat and barley and cancelled delivery margins for lentils to encourage its free marketing. International

price competition has forced the private sector to work more efficiently in marketing agricultural export products.

Egypt has a strong comparative advantage for horticulture products (fruits and vegetables) and cotton. Egypt also has advantages in terms of location and climate that are attractive features for foreign buyers. However, the country's agricultural exports face competition with other suppliers for a share of the most likely markets – the EU, Eastern Europe and the Gulf States. It is consequently of particular importance to take measures which would facilitate investor's response to the policy changes that are put into effect. FAO's experience in the field of international trade of agricultural products might be very useful in terms of advice at the levels of both individual country and CAEU.

FAO can contribute, through its various technical programmes and activities, to increasing productivity, diversification and competitiveness of agricultural export products in member countries of the CAEU, and promoting trade growth, including intra-regional agricultural trade, in line with the complementarity and comparative advantage position of the various countries. FAO can also provide assistance to member countries in adjusting to the changing trading environment, complying with commitments under the Marrakesh Agreement and preparing for future trade negotiations.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTION: SCENARIOS FOR WORLD FOOD SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

2.1 Major Challenges and Constraints

The major challenges facing the agricultural sector of most CAEU countries are summarised as follows:

- (a) reduced availability of fresh water for irrigation due to limited rainfall and competition from other users. Scarce irrigation water will continue to be treated as a "free good" by farmers, and therefore not used efficiently as long as they do not at least bear the cost of delivery from the irrigation system;
- (b) ecological threats to food production resulting from the loss of forest trees, soil erosion, salinity and overgrazing of rangelands and the loss of agricultural land to urbanization. In some irrigated areas the excessive use of fertilizers and insecticides is also considered to be a threat to soil and water quality;
- (c) the policy framework within which the agricultural sector operated until the beginning of the 1990's was heavily influenced by the public sector at all levels.

The constraints in meeting these challenges are many but the following four must be highlighted:

- (a) the weakness of institutions to implement the necessary adjustment measures to modernize agriculture and make it more efficient and competitive;
- (b) the inappropriate legal framework to facilitate the major adjustments required;
- (c) a pricing system which ignores the opportunity cost of resources, especially of water;
- (d) the slow absorption of technology by small farmers who do not receive good extension advice and do not have easy access to credit.

2.2 Strategic Orientations

The most important components of the CAEU countries strategies are the provision of basic staples, the efficient use of water for irrigation, the enhanced role of the private sector and the promotion of trade.

The CAEU countries are faced with difficult choices as to the balance between relying on domestic production and import supplies for meeting food demand. Governments have started to adopt the second option only gradually. The policy of agricultural self-reliance will necessitate making the agricultural sector more competitive.

Irrigation is constrained by the availability of sustainable water supply at reasonable cost. The use of groundwater for irrigation has reached its limits in some countries (for example in Syria and Jordan) and no further expansion can be sustained. However, there is considerable scope for increasing water use efficiency in existing irrigated areas through improved practices and use of water saving technologies.

The role assigned to the private sector in the economic reform has not yet provided cost-effective services and production inputs to the agricultural sector. There is a need to clarify which aspects of agricultural development are to be assigned to the private sector, which aspects are to remain within the domain of the public sector and which are the areas for partnership between the private and public sector. As long as there is uncertainty, the private sector will shy away from investing in crop and livestock production, agricultural processing and the marketing of agricultural produce.

Food security could be enhanced significantly by better circulation of trade information on basic crops within CAEU and the broader regions, as well as by easier and commonly agreed exchanges of main commodities among member states. There is considerable potential to increase CAEU trade by reducing sanitary and phytosanitary barriers and technical obstacles, promoting the reduction and harmonization of tariffs, and adopting the norms and standards of Codex Alimentarius. Countries that are not members of WTO could aim at membership or request observer status in order to better assess the opportunities of full membership.

2.3 Resources Implications to 2010

As a follow up to the World Food Summit, draft National Strategies for Agricultural Development and Food Security: Horizon 2010 were elaborated for the CAEU countries, taking into account available information, development plans, past performances, capacity to absorb investments and their profitability, both qualitatively and quantitatively. All CAEU countries aim to increase agricultural production and productivity while improving food security, particularly through reduction of poverty.

In order to maintain per caput cereal consumption, it is necessary to almost double production between 1990 and 2015. This implies strategic and priority actions for both rainfed and irrigated crops. For irrigated crops in particular, the strategy should focus on measures to use water efficiently on a sustainable basis: use of treated water, surface water collection, economic pricing of water and the application of water saving technologies and water harvesting techniques.

For rainfed crops, emphasis should be on introduction of drought resistant varieties, efficient use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, avoidance of repeated monocropping and abandonment of deep ploughing and overgrazing.

Livestock production should be promoted through rangeland conservation practices, production of fodder under irrigation, rotations including legumes in rainfed areas, and improved availability of coarse grains either through increased production or through imports.

The private sector has been under-utilized in the development of agriculture, especially in the areas of small-scale irrigation, livestock farming, aquaculture, agro-processing and rural finance. Efforts are needed to remove the constraints which inhibit such private initiatives.

Governments trying to liberalize and privatize agricultural sectors have not stated output targets systematically. The draft National strategies provide indicative measures and targets for increased production. For example in Syria, the goals for the period 1997-2010 are an increase in yields of rainfed crops by 25%, improved water management on 200 000 ha, 0.2 million more cattle, 4 million more sheep and goats, 12,000 metric tons more meat production and 300 new small-scale fish ponds. Egypt's national strategy goals for 2010 include increasing the area under irrigation by 62,500 ha annually, increasing cropping intensity by 18%, increasing the stock of cattle and buffalo by 1.5 million herd and increasing poultry meat production by 251 thousand tons.⁸

A first estimation of the resources needed to meet these objectives by 2010 had been made in the context of the draft National Strategies. Nevertheless, in the absence of adequate data for all the investment components in the national strategies, and in order to enable comparisons and aggregations for the region and across countries, a more general and uniform approach has been adopted by FAO in the preparation of the table below. It should be noted that investment needs comprise gross private and public investment. Also, an important part of this investment consists of labour provided by the farms themselves, namely through people's participation activities. Such investment in human resources may account for 40% or more of certain components of investment.

As shown in Table 4, the estimated investment requirements of the 8 lower middle income and less developed member countries of CAEU amount to approximately US\$ 62 billion⁹ for the period 1998-2010. The composition of total investment includes US\$ 15 billion for irrigation and drainage, US\$ 6 billion for livestock development, US\$ 18,5 billion for agro-industry and US\$ 7 billion for marketing. It should be noted that the above estimates exclude the investment needs for research, extension, training, fisheries and rural infrastructure. Such investments could add up to another US\$ 10-15 billion over the period 1998-2010.

The percentage distributions of the proposed investment by sub-sectors and by sub-groups of CAEU are shown in Table 5. About 51% of the total investment is for the development of agriculture in the lower middle income group and 30% in the LDCs of

⁸ More detailed information can be found in the documents of Draft Strategy for National Agricultural Development Horizon 2010 as World Food Summit Follow-up.

⁹ These figures only provide at this stage a broad order of magnitude. More precise and detailed estimates will be needed at the various operational levels with the participation of the countries concerned."

CAEU. The share of agro-industry in total investment is close to 30%, followed by 24% for the investment needs of irrigation and drainage. Some 10% of the total investment is for livestock development. In this context, the importance of poultry as a low cost and a rapidly productive form of investment needs to be recognized as well as the development of sheep, goats, cattle and shelters for animals.

The ability to satisfy agricultural investment requirements implies particular efforts from member countries of CAEU, including the active participation of the private sector in agriculture and agro-industry. It is, however, very important that the macro-economic and legal context as well as the prevailing regulations should also enhance the efficiency of these investments.

Moreover, the CAEU member states must give particular attention to agriculture in their requests to bilateral and multilateral sources of finance. The priority given to these requests will be of utmost importance for increasing financial flows at the level needed to satisfy the investment objectives.

Table 4

CAEU
Estimates of gross investment requirements in agriculture (1998-2010)

Country	Irrigation	Non irrigated land development requirements	Establishment of permanent crops	Implements (Tractors , hand tools, etc.)	Animal Production	Agro-industry	Marketing	Total	
	Millions of US dollars							Total in millions USD	Total in millions EURO
Egypt	5,736	55	204	2,734	1,520	8,375	2,991	21,615	18,470
Iraq	2,760	151	141	2,144	904	2,210	942	9,252	7,906
Jordan	53	33	37	363	172	487	132	1,277	1,091
Libya	510	89	71	993	285	586	270	2,804	2,396
Mauritania	144	92	1	88	184	129	93	731	625
Somalia	675	170	18	354	479	466	356	2,518	2,152
Sudan	3,653	927	45	2,011	1,097	3,012	804	11,549	9,869
Syria	913	284	280	3,131	847	2,319	955	8,729	7,459
Yemen	485	145	63	765	496	942	693	3,589	3,067
TOTAL	14,929	1,946	860	12,583	5,984	18,526	7,236	62,064	53,034

The above data are gross investment needs provisional estimates for achieving the strategy's objective. They include public and private investments and the labour provided by the farmers themselves. They may differ from the national strategy papers because a uniform methodology was applied to facilitate countries aggregates.

Table 5
Percentage Distribution of Estimated Agricultural Investment by Sub-group of CAEU Countries

Sub-group	Irrigation	Non-irrigated land development	Establishment of permanent crops	Implements (Tractors, hand tools etc)	Animal production	Agro-industry	Marketing	Total US\$ million	Percent distribution of total investment by sub-group
(i) Oil exporting Countries	21.9	12.3	24.7	24.9	19.9	15.1	16.7	12,056	19.5
(ii) Lower middle income countries	44.9	19.1	60.5	49.5	42.4	60.4	56.4	31,621	50.9
(iii) LDCs of CAEU	33.2	68.6	14.8	25.6	37.7	24.5	26.9	18,387	29.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0
Value of investment (US\$ million)	14,929	1,946	860	12,583	5,984	18,526	7,236	62,064	-
As percentage of total investment	24.1	3.1	1.4	20.3	9.6	29.8	11.7	100.0	-

2.4 Actions to be taken at National, Regional and International Levels

CAEU countries plan to achieve economic integration in stages. The CAEU has established a number of Arab joint ventures and specialized unions in different fields of economic activity and a programme for the coordination of Arab Development Plans. Joint venture companies encourage closer cooperation in production and marketing of agricultural products. These include the Arab Company for Livestock Development (Damascus), the Arab Federation of Chemical Fertilizers Producers (Kuwait), Arab Sugar Federation (Khartoum), Arab Union of Fish Producers (Baghdad) and the Arab Union of Food Industries (Baghdad).

The member states of the CAEU should continue to reinforce their policies and programmes concerning (i) food security through poverty reduction and better access to food products, and (ii) improved productivity and a reduced dependency on imported basic foodstuff.

As emphasized previously, the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) of FAO which is already operating in four countries of CAEU can contribute significantly to the objectives set out in this strategy paper. The application of this Programme will require access to various sources of financing. Important efforts should be made to mobilize bilateral and multilateral financial resources needed at different stages of the Programme. It is to be noted that several agreements have been signed with the World Bank, the African Development Bank, UNDP, West African Bank of Development, Islamic Bank of Development as well as with several developing countries for technical assistance within the framework of the South-South Cooperation. But, it is advisable for CAEU member Governments to establish a special budget line reserved to the local part of financing SPFS.

The African Development Bank (ADB) has granted substantial resources for a certain number of countries (one million dollars each) to execute Phase I of SPFS, including South-South Cooperation. These resources are considered as preinvestment toward larger projects and eventually to financing the expansion phase of SPFS. Other financial institutions could consider the opportunity to follow similar assistance procedures for member states of the Council for Arab Economic Unity (CAEU).

FAO can also use its technical assistance programmes and activities to increase productivity, diversify and increase competitiveness of agricultural export products in member countries of the group, and to promote trade growth, including intra-regional agricultural trade, in line with the complementarity and comparative advantage position of the various countries.

The harmonisation of phyto- or zoo-sanitary trade measures among countries is part of the conditions required to facilitate and stimulate intra-regional trade of agricultural products. International norms and standards within the Codex Alimentarius are a fundamental technical and regulatory basis for the establishment of national regulations. FAO could assist member countries in areas such as training of managers in legislation and technical matters, and regional co-operation for laboratories and other scientific instruments of control. It has already created an Internet site on the Codex Alimentarius¹⁰ as well as on the Uruguay Round Agreement¹¹, in which reference information and texts are available jointly with a description

¹⁰ <http://www.fao.org/>

¹¹ <http://www.fao.org/ur>

of FAO's assistance programmes in these fields. Other programmes aiming at these objectives are training for assessing the changing conditions of the international trading environment, in the context of the disciplines and opportunities emerging from the Marrakech agreement, and preparation for the up-coming trade negotiations concerning agriculture.

Most of the activities mentioned above could be undertaken within the framework of a "Regional Programme for Food Security in the Member Countries of the CAEU".

Annex 1

CAEU International transactions

Country	Exports of goods and services (1) *			Imports of goods and services (2) *			Current account balance (3) *			Total debt service (4) *			Ratio (4) / (1)		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Egypt, Arab Rep.	6,992	8,647	15,975	9,822	14,109	22,758	-438	-2,381	-1,171	1,235	3,074	1,708	18%	36%	11%
Iraq	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Jordan	1,579	2,489	3,536	3,336	3,728	5,796	281	-411	59	210	624	781	13%	25%	22%
Libya	23,523	11,464	n.a.	11,167	8,960	n.a.	8,214	2,201	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Mauritania	265	473	378	473	619	500	-133	-10	-22	48	146	100	18%	31%	26%
Somalia	200	90	1,838	534	346	n.a.	-136	n.a.	n.a.	13	11	1	6%	12%	n.a.
Sudan	810	653	n.a.	1,597	1,291	1,871	-316	-372	-1,553	264	50	62	33%	8%	3%
Syrian Arab Republic	2,381	3,413	6,555	4,629	3,374	5,762	251	1,762	164	382	1,273	344	16%	37%	5%
Yemen, Rep.	n.a.	689	4,305	n.a.	969	3,150	n.a.	739	2,063	73	169	221	n.a.	25%	5%
TOTAL	(35,750)	(27,923)	(32,587)	(31,558)	(33,396)	(39,837)	(7,723)	(1,528)	(-460)	(2,225)	(5,347)	(3,216)	(6%) **	(19%) **	(10%) **

() Total on partial data.

* Source: World Development indicators 1997 - The World Bank

** Average ratio for the countries that have both (1) and (4) data available.

n.a: no data available

All data in Millions of US Dollars

Annex 2

CAEU Share of food imports compared to exports of goods and services

Country	Food imports (1) *			Exports of goods and services (2) **			Ratio (1) / //(2)		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Egypt	1,871	2,429	2,724	6,992	8,647	15,975	27%	28%	17%
Iraq	1,832	1,496	1,428	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Jordan	458	639	710	1,579	2,489	3,536	29%	26%	20%
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1,116	1,155	634	23,523	11,469	n.a.	5%	n.a.	n.a.
Mauritania	83	126	150	265	473	378	31%	27%	40%
Palestine	40	39	62	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Somalia	100	72	81	200	90	n.a.	50%	80%	n.a.
Sudan	372	192	154	810	653	1,838	46%	29%	8%
Syrian Arab Republic	514	709	2,416	2,381	3,413	6,555	22%	21%	n.a.
Yemen	682	597	657	n.a.	689	4,305	n.a.	87%	15%
TOTAL	7,068	7,454	9,016	(35,750)	(27,923)	(34,630)	(20%) ***	(27%) ***	(28%) ***

() Total on partial data.

* Source: FAOSTAT 1998

** Source: World Development indicators 1997 – The World Bank

*** Average ratio for the countries that have both (1) and (2) data available.

n.a: no data available

All data in Millions of US Dollars

Annex 3

CAEU Selected Indicators

INDICATORS	UNIT	1990-91	1998	1999	2000
Population & Agricultural Labour Force					
Population	1000	140,795	169,653	173,809	178,109
Population annual growth	Percent	3.1	2.4	2.4	2.5
Rural / Total Population	Percent	55	53	52	52
Agricultural Labour Force	1000	21,628	23,876	24,186	24,511
Agricultural Labour Force/Total Labour Force	Percent	45	40	39	39
Land Use					
Total Land	1000 HA	802,198	802,198	802,198	
Arable Land + Permanent Crops	1000 HA	32,718	37,028	37,037	
Permanent Pasture	1000 HA	234,342	234,676	234,671	
Forest and Woodland	1000 HA	67,117			
Irrigated Land	1000 HA	9,993	11,272	11,254	
Agricultural Production - Major Items					
Tomatoes	1000 MT	5,899	8,229	8,600	9,184
Indigenous cattle meat	1000 MT	549	713	694	741
Cow milk, whole, fresh	1000 MT	5,125	6,873	7,221	7,313
Food Production					
Food Production Index	1989-91=100	101	130	123	129
Per caput Food Production Index	1989-91=100	90	97	88	91
Foreign Trade - Exports					
Total	MLN US\$	27,765	23,697	26,336	30,451
Agricultural	MLN US\$	2,019	2,598	2,249	3,912
Major Exports (share in Agriculture)					
Cotton lint	Percent	22	19	18	24
Sheep and Goats	Percent	14	8	9	14
Milled paddy rice	Percent	1	5	4	3
Foreign Trade - Imports					
Total	MLN US\$	26,156	39,620	39,343	37,916
Agricultural	MLN US\$	8,207	9,160	9,052	11,086
Major Imports (share in Agriculture)					
Wheat + Flower, wheat equiv.	Percent	25	22	19	17
Sugar refined	Percent	9	8	8	7
Maize	Percent	5	6	6	10
Land & Inputs					
Total Population/Arable Land	Inh / HA	4	5	5	-
Fertilizer Use/Arable Land	kg nutrs./HA	35	58	63	-
Tractors/Arable Land	no/ 1000 HA	7	8	9	-
Food Supply					
Per caput Dietary Energy Supply	kcal /day	2,644	2,655	2,641	
Per caput Dietary Protein Supply	g / day	74	72	71	

Source : FAOSTAT

INDICATORS ¹	UNIT		INDICATORS ¹	UNIT	1991-1996
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	MLN US \$	268,020	Annual growth rate:		
Agricultural GDP as share of total GDP	Percent	21	GDP	percent	4.1
Gross National Product per caput	US \$	1,500	Agricultural production Index	percent	4.9

Note : Agricultural GDP includes Forestry & Fisheries

Source: World Bank, FAOSTAT, African Development Bank.

¹No data for Libya , Somalia , Sudan.