

**Report of the**

# **FIFTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

**for the**

## **NEAR EAST**

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**Teheran, Iran, 21 September - 1 October 1960**



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

R E P O R T

OF THE

FIFTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

FOR THE NEAR EAST

TEHERAN, IRAN

21 September - 1 October 1960

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Rome, Italy

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### Organization of the Conference

The Fifth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East was held at Teheran, Iran, from 21 September to 1 October, 1960.

The Conference was attended by Delegations from the following Member Countries:

|             |          |                      |
|-------------|----------|----------------------|
| Afghanistan | Jordan   | Sudan                |
| Ethiopia    | Lebanon  | United Arab Republic |
| France      | Libya    | United Kingdom       |
| Iran        | Pakistan | Yemen                |
| Iraq        |          |                      |

Observers from the following Member Countries attended the Conference:

|        |         |               |
|--------|---------|---------------|
| Greece | Morocco | United States |
| Italy  |         | of America    |

The Permanent Observer of the Holy See and Observers from the following Organizations were present:

|                |        |                |
|----------------|--------|----------------|
| United Nations | WHO    | League of Arab |
| ILO            | UNICEF | States         |

A list of participants in attendance is given in Annex I to this Report. Conference Officers are given in Annex II.

At the inaugural ceremony, held at Ebn-e Sina Hall at the University of Teheran, the Conference had the honour of receiving a message from H.I.M. the Shah, which was read by His Excellency, Mr. Ibrahim Mahdawy, the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister expressed his appreciation to the Director-General for organizing the Conference and welcomed the participants. He noted that many of the agricultural problems are common to all the countries of the Near East and expressed his belief that the Conference could make an important contribution towards the solution of these problems.

The Director-General of FAO then welcomed the delegations on behalf of the Organization. He thanked the Government of Iran for its generosity in making the many facilities available for the successful conduct of the Conference. He noted that, with the present rate of growth, the world population which is now about 3 thousand million, would double in about 35 years. However, he expressed his belief that if the advancements in the science of agriculture were applied by all countries, the production of food and agricultural products could keep abreast of population growth for the foreseeable future.

At the opening of the First Plenary Session the following day Dr. G.A. Davatchi, Professor of the University of Teheran, was elected Chairman of the Conference. The following Vice-Chairmen were elected:

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Afghanistan          | Dr. M.N. Kechawarz   |
| Ethiopia             | Mr. P. Woldemariam   |
| France               | Mr. R. Lignon        |
| Iraq                 | Dr. A.R. Hassan      |
| Jordan               | Mr. N. Giha          |
| Lebanon              | Mr. H. Najjar        |
| Libya                | Mr. H. El-Jawhary    |
| Pakistan             | Mr. M. Yamin Qureshi |
| Sudan                | Mr. M.A. Mehcimied   |
| United Arab Republic | Dr. A.A. Moursi      |
| United Kingdom       | Mr. Z. Horn          |
| Yemen                | Mr. M.F. Leheta      |

The following Agenda was adopted:

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. Trends and Objectives of the Work of FAO in the Near East: Introductory Statement by the Director-General
5. Review of the Food and Agricultural Situation in the Region: Statements by Delegates

C. GENERAL POLICY QUESTIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

6. Agricultural Development Plans and Planning in the Region:
  - (a) National Agricultural Plans and Experience, with Particular Reference to Programming Methods and Organization
  - (b) Implementation of Recommendations of Mediterranean Development Project
7. Organization and Training for a Co-ordinated Approach to Rural Improvement

8. Improvement of Food Crops with Special Reference to a Long-Term Wheat and Barley Project, and the World Seed Improvement Program
9. Problems in Farm Development under Dry Land and Irrigated Conditions
10. The Development of Livestock Industries in the Region with Special Attention to Policy and Organizational Considerations
11. Status of the Fisheries Industry in the Region and its Potential Contribution to Improvements in Nutrition and in Standards of Living
12. Status of Forestry and Forest Industries in the Region and their potential contribution to Economic Development.

D. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF FAO IN THE NEAR EAST NOT DEALT WITH ELSE-  
WHERE WHICH REQUIRE CONFERENCE GUIDANCE OR GOVERNMENT ACTION

13. (a) Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign  
(b) World Agricultural Census  
(c) Development of Current Agricultural Statistics  
(d) The Use of Fertilizers for Increasing Production  
(e) Promotion of Food Consumption Surveys  
(f) Development of Local Foods for Supplementary Feeding Programs  
(g) Feeding of Industrial Workers  
(h) Agricultural Information Services  
(i) Policy Implications of Reports of Meetings and Surveys:
  - i. First Near East Meeting on Soil Survey and Classification, Beirut, December 1959,
  - ii. Livestock and Meat Marketing Survey,
  - iii. Near East Marketing Centre on Fruit and Vegetables, Cairo, January-February 1960, and
  - iv. Technical Meeting on Co-operatives in the Near East, Cairo, October 1959.

E. CONCLUDING ITEMS

14. The Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region
  15. Adoption of the Report
-

A drafting committee was appointed for the final report from the delegations of Iran, Pakistan and the United Arab Republic.

Closing Session of the Conference

At its closing session the Conference adapted the text of the Report in its present form.

The Chairman thanked the Delegations and Observers for their attendance and for the valuable contributions to the discussions, and the Director-General and his Secretariat for the careful preparation and arrangements for the Conference.

Dr. A.R. Sidky, the Regional Representative for the Near East, thanked the Delegations and Observers on behalf of the Organization, for their participation, and expressed his appreciation to the Chairman for his skilful handling of the Conference and to the Government of Iran for the splendid facilities that had been made available.

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## II. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

### TRENDS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WORK OF FAO AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN THE REGION

#### 1. Statement by Dr. B. R. Sen, the Director-General

The Director-General made a summary review of the agricultural situation in the Region and the main developments since the Fourth Regional Conference of FAO. From the information available it was obvious that there were problems of considerable magnitude and gravity. For the third successive season several countries of the Region, namely Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Region of the United Arab Republic had suffered severely from drought which had particularly affected grain and livestock production. In consequence, the expansion of agricultural production in the Region, as a whole, had been temporarily halted and on a per caput basis was no higher than during 1953/54.

Agricultural exports had also been affected by the persistent drought and total export earnings were further reduced by a sharp fall of international cotton prices in 1957 and 1958. Cotton export earnings recovered somewhat in 1959 on account of a notable improvement in world prices and a very large increase in the total volume of exports. On the other hand, countries in the Region were compelled to increase substantially their imports of grain to meet serious deficiencies in the local supply. The fall in prices of agricultural exports was also responsible for the deterioration of the terms of trade of several countries. For the Region, as a whole, the purchasing power of agricultural exports, in terms of imported manufactured goods remained largely unchanged over the period 1952/54-1959, although the volume of exports from the Region increased by nearly one-third.

Among the main steps taken by the Governments were: a) the formulation and implementation of overall agricultural programs; b) the planning and construction of large scale irrigation works; c) land reform measures in several countries; and d) general improvement in farm productivity through better farming practices. It was hoped that in due course all these measures would be reflected in larger per caput production and improved standards of living throughout the Region.

In carrying out these measures, the Member Governments had received full co-operation from FAO under both its Technical Assistance and Regular Program activities. The Mediterranean Development Project had now reached an advanced stage and its main findings, which had already been reviewed by the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference last November, could now be examined by countries in the Near East for their effective implementation.

In fulfilment of a resolution adopted at the last Regional Conference in Damascus, two senior planning consultants were appointed

to investigate planning, organization and methods with a view to suggesting improvement. These consultants visited several countries and individual country reports had already been transmitted to the governments concerned, and a general report was being submitted to this Conference for consideration.

The Director-General informed the Conference that the First Near East Meeting on Livestock Production and Animal Health had submitted some very important recommendations, that investigations had been made regarding the possibility of establishing an Animal Health Institute in the Near East, and that the Meeting had decided to divide it into a number of sections distributed throughout the Region and co-ordinated by one central office. The United Nations Special Fund had approved this project.

FAO had also been able to give much-needed assistance in the production of vaccines to combat the widely spread epizootic of African Horse Sickness which affected draught animals in the Region. Fortunately, this epizootic had apparently been stemmed.

The consultants concerned with the Wheat and Barley Project had made some recommendations which were to be reviewed by this Conference. Other recent activities in the Region included the First Near East Meeting on Soil Survey and Classification held at Beirut in November 1959; the Technical Meeting on Co-operatives in the Near East held at Cairo in October 1959, and the Near East Marketing Centre on Fruit and Vegetables held in Cairo during January and February 1960. The recommendations of these meetings would be considered by the Conference. FAO had also prepared a report for improving the marketing of livestock between the Near Eastern and North African countries.

The Director-General made reference to the fact that new avenues for FAO assistance to the Region were now open under the projects submitted to the Special Fund. The financial resources now available from this UN Agency to finance development were an encouraging sign of international co-operation. However, Governments had to be careful not to misuse such funds. Especially important was the need for co-ordination so as to avoid overlapping activities between the various agencies supplying capital and technical help. The main responsibility for this co-ordination lay with the Governments concerned, but FAO could give valuable assistance in this connection in view of its wide knowledge of the agricultural situation in individual countries and in the world as a whole.

The Director-General called the attention of the delegates to the various items of the agenda designed to bring about a fruitful discussion of the measures to be adopted or emphasized in the immediate future for further improvement of the food and agricultural situation in the Region. The key issues with which the Conference was concerned appeared to fall into three broad fields: the improvement of national agricultural programming methods and organization; the raising of agricultural productivity levels; and, the improvement of the social and institutional climate for agricultural producers.

Finally, referring to the Freedom-From-Hunger Campaign of FAO, the Director-General stressed the point that "hunger and poverty go together". Consequently, all measures aimed at raising per caput income levels would contribute largely to improve the average diet of the population. The main objectives of the Campaign and the contribution to be given by Member Governments in the Region were to be discussed under a special item of the agenda. FAO was most appreciative for the support some countries in the Region were already giving in this respect and for the message of His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Iran on the occasion of the launching of the Campaign, in which he particularly stressed the need to alleviate poverty in order to preserve world peace.

## 2. The Food and Agricultural Situation in the Region

### (a) Current Situation

#### Production Trends

The Conference noted that in 1959/60 agricultural production in the Near East was approximately at the same level as in 1958/59. Whereas the production of cotton, sugar and other products had increased, there was a sharp decline in grain production due to drought conditions in many countries. For the 1960/61 season, estimates available in FAO were still limited, but it appeared that the total volume of agricultural production would probably be larger than in 1959/60. Nevertheless, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Region of the United Arab Republic reported for the third successive year drought had severely affected agricultural production, particularly grains. Drought had also affected the 1960/61 crops in Iran.

In Sudan, where climatic conditions in 1959 were more favourable than in 1958 and agricultural production registered a notable improvement, the prospects for grain production in 1960/61, however, did not appear so bright. In Ethiopia, the 1958/59<sup>1</sup> crop year was about normal, but during 1959/60 food crops in the northern and eastern provinces had been severely affected. It was estimated that due to drought and also to a serious locust plague about 167,000 tons of grain with an estimated value of US \$12 million were lost in these areas. In Afghanistan, favourable climatic conditions and governmental efforts this year had resulted in an increase in production of most grains and in cotton output, but there was a 40 per cent loss in the fruit crop over the previous year due to late frosts and hail. In 1960/61, general conditions in West Pakistan were normal and, on the whole, cereal production was

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<sup>1</sup>/ As reported by the Ethiopian delegation at the Conference the crop years referred to were 1957/58 and 1958/59. They have been moved one year ahead to be consistent with the rest of the report and FAO's statistical procedures.

about 13 per cent larger than in the previous season. Cotton production also increased, but there was a decline in sugar cane and tobacco production as compared to 1959/60.

Overall livestock production in the Region was estimated to have remained almost unchanged during the last season. In some countries, livestock had been adversely affected not only by weather conditions but also by some epizootics. Afghanistan reported that although control of animal pests and diseases had improved considerably since 1945, certain diseases such as lung strongilosis were affecting seriously the sheep population. Horse sickness which was apparently eradicated in 1959 re-appeared in 1960. The country was urgently in need of receiving FAO's contribution in the form of expert advice or of vaccines and the necessary material to prepare them locally. The Afghan delegation repeated its request made at the last Regional Conference for FAO's co-operation to establish a bacteriological institute in their country.

In Iraq, during the past three years apart from drought, parasitic, viral and bacterial diseases accounted for a great loss of livestock, particularly sheep. Parasitic diseases alone had affected about 600,000 animals. South African Horse Sickness had caused great losses which was a serious blow to agriculture in a country where horses are so widely used for draught purposes. About 13,000 horses were reported lost through this disease.

Other countries also reported losses of livestock on account of various animal pests and diseases.

#### Agricultural Trade

The Conference noted that since the last Regional Conference there had been very sharp fluctuations in the agricultural trade of the Region. In 1958, the volume of agricultural exports was some 6 per cent less than in the previous year and combined with a 10 per cent fall in unit value, this had reduced total export earnings from these products by 16 per cent. In 1959, the volume of exports rose considerably but average prices of agricultural exports were again lower and the recovery in total earnings was only of the order of 7 per cent.

The above figures represented the general trend, but did not reveal the even sharper fluctuations by commodity groups. In 1959, for instance, the volume of cotton exports jumped by about 40 per cent over the average level of previous years, whereas grain exports reflecting the fall in production went down to 900,000 metric tons, which was the lowest level reached in a decade, and was only about half the volume of the 1953-57 average.

As was to be expected, there was a very substantial increase in the Region's grain imports during 1959, and their volume had again been large in 1960. Although a net exporter of agricultural products, as a whole, the Near East has been on a net import basis for foodstuffs



(mainly grains) in almost every postwar year. In 1959, as compared to 1958, the net imports of food products were estimated to have risen by two thirds. Thus, the reduced production of grain, the staple food of the Region in 1958/59 and 1959/60 has been reflected in larger imports and smaller exports.

Iran, for instance, reported at the meeting that during 1960 it had been compelled to make special arrangements for the import of 300,000 metric tons of wheat due to the fall in local production. Afghanistan also indicated that at the end of 1958/59 crop season, it had to import about 90,000 tons of wheat to meet deficiencies in local production. During 1959/60, the Egyptian Region of the United Arab Republic imported wheat and wheat flour amounting to 1.2 million metric tons of wheat equivalent, partly to compensate for the low rice harvest. A similar situation had to be faced by the Syrian Region due to low wheat production during the period under review.

For the Region, as a whole, gross grain imports in 1959 jumped to 3.8 million metric tons from about 2.9 million in 1958. Net imports of grains thus reached 2.9 million tons or double the 1958 level.

During 1960, grain exports appeared to have remained small, reflecting the low harvests of 1959/60, but the large volume of cotton shipments had continued. World grain prices had in general remained fairly stable so far in 1960. Cotton prices had been recovering slowly, with no further set-back for long-staple varieties since the end of the first quarter of the year.

#### Government Action

All Governments represented at the meeting reported that since the last Regional Conference they had undertaken a variety of measures to promote the development of agricultural resources and to bring about an improvement in agricultural productivity. Agricultural programming was the most comprehensive of these measures. Several countries had continued the implementation of their agricultural programs, whereas others had put new programs in operation. 1/

Among the more specific projects concerned with the expansion of the area under cultivation, a major development had been the signing of the Nile Waters Agreement between the Governments of Sudan and the United Arab Republic late in 1959 that opened the door for the construction of the High Aswan Dam which had already been started in the Egyptian Region, and of the Roseires Dam in Sudan. At the same time, the latter country was reported to have taken active steps to initiate construction not only of the Roseires project but also of the Khashm-El-Girba project. In Ethiopia, the Government had completed the

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1/ For further details see next section of the report.

construction of the Koka Dam. In Iraq, settlement work continued in the greater Mussayib and other irrigation projects. In Afghanistan, the construction work of the Jalalabad Canal project had started and was expected to bring about 32,000 hectares of new land under cultivation.

Of particular significance in the Near East had been the steps taken by various countries in order to improve the institutional framework of agriculture. Land reform measures were among the most salient features in this respect. In May 1960, a land reform law received final approval of the Iranian Senate. Among other objectives the law had that of increasing agricultural production and the improvement of the standard of living in rural areas through a more equitable distribution of income derived from agriculture. In Ethiopia, the newly established Agricultural Development Board had prepared a land reform program which will be carried out throughout the entire country. In Iraq, some 3,200 land owners had been brought under the terms of the Agrarian Reform Law of 1958. Of the 844,000 hectares already taken over by the Government some 188,000 hectares had already been distributed to 8,178 farm families. Other countries in the area had also continued with the implementation of their land reform programs. The United Arab Republic announced that its new 10-year development program, gives particular emphasis to the consolidation of small farm holdings. In the Egyptian Region, there were about 1 million of such holdings in a total area of approximately 2.4 million hectares. The multiplicity of small holders makes it almost impossible to establish sound irrigation and drainage practices, and crops are generally planted in uneconomic small parcels.

The improvement of marketing facilities and marketing methods was another institutional aspect that had received careful consideration. The Sudanese delegation reported that with the help of FAO the Government of Sudan had built a modern slaughterhouse. In Khartoum, a large pasteurization plant was being established. Dairies were being established by the Government in all the large towns. Progress in marketing facilities for livestock and products were also reported in Ethiopia. In Baghdad, a new dairy plant, with a total capacity of 20,000 litres per day started production last June. In Karachi, a milk processing plant will be established shortly with the help of UNISTEP and FAO. An abattoir was also to be established. The Iranian delegation expressed its dissatisfaction with the standards of grading and packing of various products prevailing in the country. This made it difficult, for instance, to find suitable markets for raisins and dates, and to a certain extent for citrus fruits. Steps were being taken to remedy this situation.

Among other measures reported at the Conference to develop agriculture, the following were mentioned as examples. Research work was being conducted in several countries with a view to diversify agricultural production and avoid extreme dependence on a small group of commodities. Work was being carried out to improve dietary standards

by paying particular attention to the production of protective foods such as meat, milk, fruits and vegetables. Many countries reported on the stern measures they have been adopting to control animal pests and diseases along with the introduction of better pastures and pasture management practices. Concerted efforts along all of these lines were important as per caput consumption of animal products was still very low in the Region.

Increased production and self-sufficiency in certain basic foods was also being sought in some countries. In Pakistan the removal of controls on prices and movement of wheat started in October 1959 was working very satisfactorily. A minimum price of wheat had been guaranteed to farmers and at the same time the Government was issuing wheat stocks liberally from its reserves in order to prevent speculation and protect the consumers.

Credit facilities were being increased in order to provide farmers with the necessary tools of production, particularly in those areas where land reform is under way. Co-operative organization was being pursued despite limitations imposed in most cases by individualistic habits and traditions as well as the ignorance of farmers regarding the advantages of co-operative organization.

Forestry development had received considerable attention from Governments. In Sudan, for instance, the country's forest reserves had been considerably increased. About 2,800 hectares of artificial forests were established in 1960 and timber production was on the increase. In Ethiopia, preparations were being made for the establishment of a forestry institute shortly. In Iraq, the afforestation of 360 hectares was carried out during 1959-60. In the United Arab Republic the new development plan in the Egyptian Region included the establishment of nurseries for the production within five years of 5.3 million wood trees, mostly poplar, to be planted along irrigation and drainage canals. The Syrian Region was considering extensive re-afforestation, the introduction of new species of trees and a survey and aerial mapping of the forested area of the country.

Regarding fisheries, the Government of Pakistan had been encouraging private enterprise to build boats and their number had increased substantially in recent years. A modern fish harbour designed by FAO experts had been built in Karachi with the help of ICA. It had a large ice plant and a cold storage processing plant for fish freezing and canning and for the preparation of fish oil, etc. In Sudan, inland fisheries showed some progress especially in the White Nile, but transportation difficulties were still a handicap to this industry. For marine fisheries, work had been carried out on transplantation of shells, but the question of deep sea fishing had not yet been touched and it was hoped FAO would be able to help in this respect.

Finally, many delegations wished to put on record their appreciation for the assistance FAO has been rendering in many of the above

activities either through visits of members of its permanent staff or with the help of specialists sent under the Technical Assistance Program. In some fields the progress achieved was to a large extent, due to the assistance received from the Organization. The Representative of the League of Arab States expressed the view that the agreement recently signed with FAO will no doubt be of great value to the future development of agriculture in the Region.

(b) Commodity Trends and Outlook in International Trade

The Conference was informed of the trends in international trade and medium term outlook for selected agricultural commodities of interest to the countries of the Near East.

It was noted that the position of the agricultural countries generally continued to be affected by the long-term tendency in industrialized countries for the demand for agricultural products to grow more slowly than incomes and total output. To some extent this was an expression of technological change which results in economies in the use of raw materials and replacement of natural agricultural materials by synthetics. In part, it reflected changes in the pattern of demand in high income countries in favour of final products with a relatively smaller content of raw materials. In the case of foodstuffs, it reflected the low and decreasing income elasticity of demand for all basic foods at rising income levels. Finally, the imports into industrialized, and in some cases, less industrialized countries as well, had been restricted by policies of agricultural protectionism, farm income support, and balance of payment protection. All these factors, limiting the relative growth of demand in international markets, had been largely responsible for the unfavourable trend in the terms of trade of many agricultural exporting countries in recent years.

The general outlook for the next few years was for the continuance of the same basic features. For several agricultural commodities the prospects were for the continued tendency for supplies in world markets to exceed import demand at present prices.

As regards commodities of particular interest to the Region, the world grain situation continued to be dominated by the persistent excess of production over commercial demand, resulting in large surplus stocks accumulated in North America, which were likely to increase still further by the end of the 1960/61 season. The export prospects for barley and durum wheat from the Region appeared to be more favourable than for other grains because of the export possibilities in the markets of Western Europe, where the livestock industry and the demand for "pasta" was expanding. At the same time, the semi-permanent nature of the world grain surpluses ensured that countries interested in obtaining surplus grain supplies on concessional terms could rely on a reasonable continuity in the availability of such supplies.

Dried Fruit tended to lose ground to fresh fruit and other forms of processed fruit, though the import demand for dates was rising in the Near East itself, in Eastern Europe, and in the Far East. The outlook for cotton, which was the major agricultural export of the Region and accounted for a very high proportion of the export earnings of several countries was more satisfactory and had been improving recently. There was an upward trend in cotton consumption in almost all regions of the world, while the Near East occupied a special position as the chief supplier of long-staple qualities.

The Conference considered the information on longer-term trends in international commodity trade, placed before it, to be of great interest to the Governments of the Region. It was felt that such studies provided a valuable basis for planning, since the scope and nature of different policy measures tended to vary according to the specific characteristics of individual commodities and groups of commodities and in line with their position and outlook in international trade. The importance of such studies has been accentuated by the recent trends towards regional trading arrangements, which may have far-reaching effects on trade and production patterns of participating and non-participating countries, and by deteriorating terms of trade of several agricultural exporting countries. The Conference noted that the Tenth Session of FAO's Conference "attached particular importance" to the FAO studies for improving the techniques available for commodity trend studies, and expressed a hope that such studies would be intensified still further both within the FAO and on a country basis.

## GENERAL POLICY QUESTIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

### 1. Agricultural Plans and Planning

#### (a) National Agricultural Plans and Planning Experience with Particular Reference to Programming Methods and Organization

The Conference reviewed the developments in the field of agricultural planning since its last session and the Report on Agricultural Development Planning Methods and Organization, containing the conclusions of the FAO Near East Planning Survey. One of the striking features of that period had been the growing recognition by the Governments of the Region of the need for improving their planning mechanism and for translating the general objectives into well formulated plans capable of effective implementation. Considerable progress was also made in the fields of organizational structure and methodological approach to planning and programming.

The speed with which such developments progressed depended on the resources that were available, especially of finance, trained personnel and basic economic and statistical information; and on the economic, social and political environment and other special circumstances in each country.

The Conference endorsed the general conclusions on planning organization, based on the FAO Near East Planning Survey and in particular the need for central planning and policy making agencies, and for effective co-ordination between them and the planning agencies in the agricultural and other sectors. In this connection, it was emphasized that clear directives on the overall objectives of planning and similar broad questions of policy are required from the central policy-making body, while the exact functions and inter-relationship of the other planning bodies should be precisely defined. This did not mean that a development program had necessarily to be evolved from the centre, nor that its implementation had to be centralized. The purpose of central machinery was merely to ensure that conflicting decisions on different aspects of development and planning were avoided and that the separate government departments charged with the translation of general policies into a definite program of work were not left without guidance.

The Conference was informed of the changes already introduced along these lines by Iran, the United Arab Republic and Iraq and of the proposed changes in the Sudan. In the United Arab Republic, the High Council of National Planning was the highest policy body under the Chairmanship of the President of the Republic. It was responsible for decisions on broad problems of development and it determined the overall policy objectives and goals of the development program. These broad directives were subsequently translated into a plan frame by the National Planning Committee which indicated the proposed targets and the allocation of expenditures between the different phases and economic sectors. Each Ministry and public organization had their own committee for the development and follow-up of the program of work in their sectors and they were also responsible for reporting on the progress of investment programs and such aspects as production, income, employment and trade. In Iran, the central planning and policy-making authority was vested in the High Economic Council under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The High Economic Committee for the Plan Organization was responsible for the preparation of the broad framework of the Plan. The formulation and implementation of sectoral plans would be carried out by the respective ministries through their individual Ministerial Planning Committee.

A number of countries, for example Pakistan, found it advisable to transfer the executive authority for the implementation of agricultural projects to the Ministries of Agriculture and to establish special planning units responsible for the examination and implementation of the development projects prepared in various technical divisions of the Ministry. These units formed also the liaison between the

Ministry of Agriculture and the Central Planning Authority. In the case of Pakistan, the final authority for planning is the National Planning Commission. In several countries, including Sudan, the provinces and districts actively participate in the formulation and implementation of agricultural development projects. In Iraq major organizational changes were introduced in the past two years. The Development Board and the Ministry of Development, responsible in the past for the study and execution of development projects, were abolished and replaced by the Economic Planning Board and the Ministry of Planning. These two bodies were now the final authority for planning but co-operated with all ministries and public agencies concerned with the formulation and implementation of development activities. Each ministry now had a Planning Committee which co-ordinated its development activities under the Provisional Economic Plan 1959/60 - 1962/63 and reported periodically to the Ministry of Planning. The Provisional Economic Plan covered all the major projects already started by the previous Development Board but also included new projects considered economically essential and complimentary to those major projects.

As regards planning techniques, the Conference noted the rapid changes introduced in most countries. In contrast with the relatively rough and ready selection of development projects most governments now attempt to map out the objectives, path and strategy of development that would bring about a sustained growth in the economy. The Conference recognized in this respect the basis consideration on planning methods discussed in the Near East Planning Survey Report and the two approaches, namely, the "project approach" whereby separate projects in the agricultural and other sectors were assembled into one national program and the "programming approach" under which different projects were made to fit into a framework of objectives, targets and other broad requirements determined in advance by the central planning agency. It was agreed that these two approaches were not mutually exclusive and that in practice the project approach generally tended to merge into an overall programming approach. In fact, for example, the development program in the United Arab Republic has incorporated the project approach and the programming approach in the context of a balanced national development plan.

Within agriculture the Governments were increasingly emphasizing the need to establish a balance between projects that were designed exclusively to enlarge the area under cultivation and projects for increasing yields on existing areas. Although irrigation projects may accomplish both objectives, it was recognized in general that failures to effect improvements in agricultural practices to raise the yield per hectare will hinder the benefit that could otherwise be derived from expensive irrigation and reclamation schemes. In addition, certain other criteria for the selection of agricultural projects were discussed at the Conference. In Iraq, the Planning Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture was preparing a long-term plan for the development of agriculture which would be a part of the Overall Development Plan. In this agricultural plan production targets for

various agricultural commodities were being considered in the light of expected changes in their domestic and foreign demand. In Sudan, for example, projects were selected on the basis of quick returns and with maximum effects on social improvement. In Pakistan, the main emphasis was given to low cost projects which would increase crop yields rapidly. The Conference also noted with interest the concentrated and selected area approach in Pakistan and their model scheme for increasing agricultural production in seven selected districts in the western part of the country.

The Conference laid particular emphasis on the methods for effective implementation of agricultural plans and projects. The delegates underlined the need to establish an adequate organization both for the formulation and the implementation of development plans. The basic pre-requisites for successful planning included the building up of an effective structure of agricultural services, especially at the farm level, and the creation of incentives as well as the removal of obstacles in the way of improvement of agricultural practices by the multitude of small farmers. Another pre-requisite of successful planning is the improvement of the institutional environment of the farming community, including land reform and tenancy systems, adequate marketing services, promotion of co-operatives and the supply of credit and production requisites.

The shortage of trained personnel in all branches of agriculture, and the lack of research, basic information and statistical data were recognized as limiting factors to progress in the formulation and implementation of agricultural development planning. The Conference underlined the importance of training and noted some of the actions contemplated by Governments to effect improvements. The delegate of the United Arab Republic informed the Conference of the establishment of a National Planning Institute in June 1960 to provide training in the various aspects of planning and to encourage planning research and related studies and he offered to extend these facilities to the Member Countries of the Near East. Other delegates also stressed the importance attached to the need for training and described the steps taken to remedy the lack of trained personnel.

The Conference, while recognizing the assistance rendered by FAO to Member Countries under the Regular and the Technical Assistance Programs, called for further help from FAO and other international agencies to supplement the national efforts. It noted with appreciation the work undertaken by FAO on the general analysis of the problems of agricultural development planning like the Near East Planning Survey and the study of the whole broad field of programming for agricultural development that will be published in this year's issue of the annual report on the State of Food and Agriculture. The delegations of Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan and the United Arab Republic expressed their appreciation of the services rendered by FAO experts in enhancing development of agricultural planning in their own countries. Finally, the Conference noted with satisfaction that the



Director-General was taking the necessary action to implement the recommendation adopted at the Fourth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, requesting the establishment of a Regional Training Centre on Agricultural Development Planning. The following resolution was approved:

The Conference

Recognizing:

- i. the growing awareness of the usefulness of development planning and programming in the Near East as indicated by the large number of countries engaged in the formulation and execution of development plans;
- ii. the need for establishing a suitable body to ensure the correct formulation of development programs with the full collaboration of representative groups of various sectors of the economy;
- iii. the necessity of developing the proper administrative mechanism for implementation of development plans in general and specifically of the agricultural program with full participation and support of the farming community, and
- iv. the necessity for a careful choice of planning methods, best suited to local conditions, and ranging from the project to the comprehensive and national planning approaches;

Noting:

- i. the efforts of FAO to assist Member Countries in the Near East in the formulation and implementation of their development programs under the Regular and Technical Assistance programs, and its intention to hold in 1962 a regional training centre in agricultural development planning;
- ii. the general conclusions of the FAO Survey on Agricultural Development Planning Methods and Organization in the Near East, and
- iii. the generous offer of the United Arab Republic to extend the training facilities of the newly established National Planning Institute to other Member Countries in the Near East;

Recommends to Member Governments:

- i. to examine carefully the recommendations of the general report on Agricultural Development Planning Methods and Organization in the Near East prepared by FAO and to make use of them in so far as they are relevant and applicable to local conditions, and

- ii. to widen and co-ordinate their approach to agricultural programming and to undertake preliminary organizational activities in the fields of agricultural public administration and organization, agricultural research, agricultural education and extension, credit and marketing facilities and the provision of properly trained personnel;

Recommends to the Director-General:

- i. to continue assisting Member Governments in the Region in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of plans;
- ii. to explore the possibilities for wider exchange of information and experience among Member Governments;
- iii. to explore the possibilities of how best to make use of the offer presented by the United Arab Republic for Member Countries in the Near East to take advantage of the facilities of the newly established National Planning Institute;
- iv. to help Member Governments to carry out economic studies essential to development planning, and
- v. to organize the curriculum of the proposed FAO Regional Training Centre in Agricultural Development Planning so that it includes consideration of the special problems of agricultural planning discussed at the Conference.

(b) The Mediterranean Development Project

The Conference briefly reviewed the history and purpose of the Mediterranean Development Project, which had already been approved by the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference, Rome, 1959 and by the Fourth FAO Regional Conference, Damascus, 1958. The Conference expressed their appreciation to the Organization for launching this project. The observer from the League of Arab States declared that the League was in agreement with the project and ready to co-operate.

It was suggested that the project be extended to the Red Sea and the Director-General replied that he hoped to be able to carry out similar projects in other parts of the world, if and when finances allowed.

A number of delegates explained specific steps undertaken by their Governments in line with the recommendations laid down in the Final Report. These statements made it clear that countries would continue with these activities and that they would take advantage of facilities offered by the United Nations Special Fund and other external help.

The Conference also discussed further possibilities of implementing the recommendations of the Final Report. It recommended Member Governments to establish Spearhead Development Zones, a step already being taken in some countries. It also recommended Member Governments to consider that specific regional development projects could be initiated to help forward the development of the Region. This co-operation should explicitly include exchange of information on programs and policies established in participating countries. A proposal was made that a Regional Research Institute should be set up to carry out and co-ordinate work on problems concerned with arid and semi-arid areas.

The Conference noted with satisfaction that the Director-General intended to call a general Mediterranean Conference in 1961 in order to provide an opportunity for a more thorough appraisal of the Mediterranean Development Project Report, for the examination of concrete proposals concerning rapid implementation of the project and to consider what further steps should be taken.

The Conference expressed the hope that Governments, in the meantime, would prepare reports on progress and plans for implementation of the Report for presentation to the Mediterranean Conference in 1961. The following resolution was approved:

#### The Conference

Emphasizing the importance of rapid implementation of the project both on a country and regional basis,

#### Recommends to Governments:

- i. that each Member Government establish at least one spearhead development zone taking advantage in particular of facilities offered by the United Nations Special Fund;
- ii. that Member Governments consider what steps should be taken to establish specific regional development projects as recommended in the Report of the FAO Mediterranean Development Project, and
- iii. that Member Governments proceed with the preparation of national reports on steps being taken and proposals for further action for presentation to the Mediterranean Conference to be held in 1961;

Recommends to the Director-General that a Regional Research Institute be established to carry out and co-ordinate work on problems of arid and semi-arid zones.

## 2. Organization and Training for a Co-Ordinated Approach to Rural Improvement

The Conference showed a great interest in rural improvement programs, the various approaches that might be adopted, and the problems that were involved in co-ordinating and integrating such programs. The delegates emphasized that still more consideration should be given to the rural population including the nomads.

Among the measures to be taken, agrarian reform would have to function as the basis for rural improvement since it would lead to a more equitable distribution and an increase of national income. This, in turn, would favour the implementation of other rural improvement programs.

It was agreed that a well organized agricultural extension service is essential for the success of all rural improvement programs. Integration between agricultural extension, home economics, co-operatives and credit must also be achieved.

The Conference felt that a co-ordinated approach to rural improvement was absolutely necessary in order to be most effective. This would require the following steps:

- i. integration and co-ordination of rural improvement programs at all levels;
- ii. setting up of required organization, administrative and training arrangements needed to achieve such integrated programs, and
- iii. associating the people in the planning and implementation of programs intended for their benefit.

The delegates expressed different opinions on how best to obtain this integration. Some favoured the creation of a national high co-ordinating body. Some seemed to question the practicability of grouping all the rural improvement programs under a single organization and felt that the desired integration could be partly realized through the formation and functioning of local committees.

A need was expressed for exchange of information on the matter of co-ordination and integration of rural improvement and on how the Ministries concerned co-operated with each other in the various programs. In some countries this was done through the "block" or the "village aid" system. The programs were planned, responsibilities assigned and the whole work co-ordinated through the Development Councils. The following resolutions were approved:

### The Conference

Emphasizing the need for technical guidance and assistance in the field of Rural Improvement,

Recommends to the Director-General:

- i. to undertake a study of the present situation and problems encountered in the Region in the field of rural improvement, as soon as funds become available;
- ii. to convene a technical meeting on problems in rural improvement which, in the light of the above study, and with emphasis on agrarian reform, would consider the setting up of a technical working party, and
- iii. to assist in the organization of National Seminars intended to facilitate co-ordination of rural improvement programs.

3. Improvement of Food Crops with Special Reference to the Wheat and Barley Project and the World Seed Campaign

(a) World Seed Improvement Program

The Conference gave full support to the World Seed Improvement Program. It was pointed out by the delegates that unless there was in each country an adequate seed production, inspection and distribution mechanism and an efficient extension service through which seed of valuable new varieties is made available to the farmers, neither the farmers nor the country, as a whole, will get the full benefit.

Delegates of the different countries, in reporting on the progress being made by their National World Seed Improvement Program Committees, indicated the steps that were being taken to increase seed production to the extent needed in order to make large quantities of seed of new varieties available to the farmers without delay.

Several delegates stated that their National Seed Improvement Committees were now concentrating on two or three of the most important objectives of their programs, so that by the end of 1961 they will have some very tangible results. Furthermore, the delegates expressed the intention of their Governments to continue all of the activities already commenced as an integral part of the Freedom-From-Hunger Campaign. The following resolution was approved:

### The Conference

Noting the importance of work done in other parts of the world on crop variety improvement and seed certification,

Recommends to the Director-General to publish periodically lists of the important commercial crop varieties, with their characteristics, on a world wide basis and indicating the possible sources of supply.

#### (b) Wheat and Barley Project

The Conference considered the report entitled "A Review of Progress in the Near East Wheat and Barley Breeding Project from 1952 to 1960", and was in general agreement with the recommendations therein contained.

The Conference recognized the importance of greatly increasing the yield per hectare of both wheat and barley as well as increasing and stabilizing the total production throughout the Region. It was pointed out that increasing the efficiency of production of wheat and barley per unit area will release land for the production of vegetable proteins (grain legumes) and other protective foods, as well as for cultivated fodder crops and sown pastures so badly needed as a basis for livestock improvement.

Several countries expressed the need for experts to develop high quality disease resistant varieties of wheat; the main reason being losses from disease, poor seed, poor cultivation, increasing population and the realization that new improved varieties often gave very much higher yields than the local varieties. The inclusion of a cereal technologist for the wheat and barley project was also suggested.

Some countries expressed the need for special equipment, for the conducting of yellow rust research and the testing of wheat breeding material and for expanding research on control and epidemiology of rust.

The attention of the delegates was drawn to the importance of the 7th FAO Meeting on Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production to be held in Beirut, 22-29 May 1961. The Governments were urged to send several delegates to this meeting, the leader being the national member of the Working Party on Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production.

Attention was also drawn to the Eastern Mediterranean Series of National Cereal Improvement Training Centres, the first of which will be held in Lebanon, 30 May - 7 June 1961, and of which succeeding ones will be held in Cyprus, Iraq, Jordan, Libya and the Northern and Southern regions of the United Arab Republic, which are the other countries participating in this series.

The Conference took note that in Sudan and Ethiopia, an increase in yields and production of wheat was necessary. It was pointed out that the rising standard of living in the Sudan was creating a greatly increased demand for wheat flour to use in place of sorghum and millet. The following resolutions were approved:

The Conference

Noting with satisfaction the work already accomplished by the Wheat and Barley Project, and

Noting the recommendations of the consultants in the Report, "A Review of the Progress in the Near East Wheat and Barley Project", and

Recognizing the importance of broadening the scope of this project,

Recommends to the Director-General:

- i. that Ethiopia and Sudan be included in the Wheat and Barley Regional Project;
- ii. that a cereal technologist be assigned to the project;
- iii. that the recommendations made by the consultants in the Report, "A Review of the Progress in the Near East Wheat and Barley Project" be implemented as soon as possible, and
- iv. that the work of rust control and epidemiology be expanded.

(c) Horticultural Development

The Conference recognized the great importance of fruit and vegetable production in the Region, particularly in relation to the impressive programs of land development and irrigation throughout the Region, which will result in large areas devoted to intensive production of early vegetables and selected fruits for exports and domestic use.

Most Governments in the Region have already made considerable progress in improving and expanding their fruit and vegetable production. However, more rapid progress could be made if the technical staff in the various aspects of this subject could be strengthened and expanded. The importance of having adequate extension services to carry the research results to the growers was also emphasized. In order to assist the Governments in their efforts to accelerate horticultural production, FAO was requested to provide additional assistance through regional technical meetings, experts and fellowships.

In view of the importance of potato production in some countries in the Region, the wish was expressed that assistance be given in developing this crop and particularly in improving the seed material. Delegates expressed the desire that the training facilities of the Vegetable Breeding and Seed Production Centre, which it is intended to establish in the Southern Region of the United Arab Republic, should be made available to the trainees from all the countries of the Region.

The Conference supported the need for the organization of seminars on the expansion of olive oil and pistachio production, especially with respect to the rejuvenation of old olive orchards and the top working of wild olive and pistachio trees. The following resolutions were approved:

#### The Conference

Recognizing the importance of fruit and vegetable production in the Region,

#### Recommends to Governments:

- i. to take all the necessary steps to increase the production of fruit and vegetables through the use of better propagation material, improved cultural practices, strengthening of pest and disease controls and rejuvenation of neglected orchards, and
- ii. to establish community gardens in the less developed areas, in order to introduce better and more diversified field foods and to demonstrate improved cultural procedures;

#### Recommends to the Director-General:

- i. to convene a technical meeting on fruit and vegetable production in the Region with emphasis on pest and disease control. One of the objectives of the meeting would be to consider the setting up of a permanent technical working party on the subject;
- ii. to establish a study group on potato seed production, and
- iii. that seminars on the expansion and production of olive trees and pistachio be organized.

#### 4. Problems in Farm Development under Dry and Irrigated Conditions

Farm Planning and Development could lead to improved farming, particularly through analyzing and ascertaining production possibilities



and establishing desirable combinations of enterprises, such as the most suitable types of crops and livestock for balanced production to obtain maximum returns and the conservation of resources. Relevant local data on input and output factors were pointed out as indispensable for setting up the most effective farm organization. Such data are necessary to develop effective programs for the increased production and improved conservation and for replacing the present inefficient and wasteful methods. The inter-relationships between soils, crops and livestock were mentioned in explaining the need for complete coverage in farm development planning. Improvements in land tenure were mentioned as a pre-requisite for some of the other improvements.

The success of the Training Centres and Working Parties on Farm Management held in the Far East Region was taken as an indication of the advisability of holding similar meetings in the Near East Region.

Dlegates presented statements dealing mostly with reviews of what is being done either directly in farm development or in meeting the requirements for farm planning and development. In particular, the delegates endorsed the need for improving farm practices on already established irrigation areas and the need to introduce improved farm practices with new irrigation schemes.

For Iran, a number of activities contributing to farm development were listed including the following: establishment of a soil and water laboratory; experiment stations for irrigation, land reclamation, mechanization, crops and livestock. Other research was carried out under both irrigation and dry farming conditions. There was also a soil and water training centre for agricultural engineers. Different kinds of demonstration farms were reported in operation with expansion being arranged for activities of these farms and for extending services to farmers, especially in irrigation practices. Soil erosion caused by removal of vegetation from dry lands was reported as a most pressing problem. Reducing overgrazing by developing farms to support both crops and animals was suggested. In Iran it was considered essential to establish a farm planning and development centre; to establish a land reclamation institute; to institute short courses for leaders of farm planning; and to prepare necessary handbooks on farm planning and development.

In the United Arab Republic the common problems of soil and water conservation were emphasized and a number of areas with problems of sand drifts, overgrazing, salinity and inefficient use of limited supplies of water were described. The following measures were listed as being used in combatting these problems: controlling run-off by water-spreading; contour farming and strip cropping. A number of drought-resistant native and improved plants had been used effectively on an experimental basis. Establishment of a dry farming research station in the Syrian Region was reported. Progress in

development of surface and underground water was also reported and hopes were expressed for assistance of FAO in exploration of possibilities for much further development of groundwater. Land Reform involving both problems and opportunities was regarded as a key factor in farm development. These problems were said to merit the full attention of the countries and FAO. The idea of establishing a regional working party in farm planning and development was suggested.

In Pakistan the subject of farm development was considered to be of the greatest importance and it was noted that the problems of water use, irrigation, water-logging and salinity must be attacked on a country and international basis. Lack of attention to suitable cropping systems and cultural practices were reported as major factors in the loss of land through water-logging and salinity. In the Ghulam Mohammed Barrage Area, comprising about 3 million acres, the cultivation of paddy has been banned in the perennially irrigated area and replaced by alternative crops to prevent water-logging and salinity. Iran supported the formation of a regional working party and setting up of a centre for imparting information to Government officials on land and water use, cropping systems and co-ordination of programs based on economic considerations.

In Iraq there has been extensive use of demonstration plots in the farms themselves by the extension service in their work in Farm Development. Many suitable practices were reported as being demonstrated. Very encouraging improvement in yields from reclaiming water-logged saline lands, principally through good drainage has been obtained. The importance of drainage in preventing further losses was also stressed.

In Sudan although extension and education services have been most valuable in improving farm management and farm production, progress is expected to be slow. For this reason legislation was introduced to ordain and control the use of irrigation water and irrigable lands. A Land Use and Rural Water Development Advisory Board had been established to advise on the dry land farming, the Department of Agriculture was expanding experiment station work, and credit was provided to farmers by the Agricultural Bank.

The delegate of Lebanon reported that only a very limited amount of work had been done so far in the Region in economics at the farm level. He pointed out the very serious shortage of basic data as limiting work in Farm Management and stated emphatically that the situation required much more attention at the farm level. The following resolution was approved:

#### The Conference

Recognizing the possibilities for increasing production and promoting conservation through improved farm practices in the irrigated and dry farming areas, particularly in the environment created by the land distribution programs in the countries in the Region, and

Noting the frequency of crop failure and starvation of livestock due to improper methods of dry farming and range management,

Recommends to Governments to give increased attention to assistance in farm planning and implementation of proper utilization and improved production practices in the development of irrigation schemes and in dry farming, especially by sponsoring the experimental and other research necessary to provide the basic data for servicing the proposed production planning, extension and other educational programs, and

Requests the Director-General to consider the establishment of a Near East working party for the collection and dissemination of information on farm planning and development.

#### 5. The Development of the Livestock Industries

The Conference recognized the importance of the livestock industry in the Region. A rapidly increasing human population on an improving standard of living indicated a growing demand for livestock products. Unfortunately, standards of animal husbandry and productivity were low, and despite a steady improvement in disease control production of meat, milk and wool fell far short of the needs of the Region.

The comprehensive nature of the report of the First Near East Meeting on Animal Production and Health was noted and the recommendations of the report were endorsed by the Conference.

The Conference noted with satisfaction that the Special Fund Project for the Near East Animal Health Institute was likely to be implemented in the near future. It believed that a similar type of project was needed for research and training in animal husbandry. The problems of nutrition, breed selection, management and climatological physiology required urgent attention and a strong recommendation was made to FAO to assist countries in drawing up a detailed request for submission to the UN Special Fund.

The delegate of the United Arab Republic drew attention to a recommendation of the 1958 Damascus Regional Conference on the need to establish a climatological laboratory to carry out research on all the problems associated with acclimatisation of stock to various environments, such research to take into account all factors of climate, nutrition, management, housing, etc. In this regard it was suggested by the delegate that such research would logically belong to a unit of the proposed Near East Animal Husbandry Institute and proposed that such a unit should be established in the Egyptian Region of the United Arab Republic.

Improved education in all fields of the livestock industry both at higher and lower levels is needed. An appeal to FAO to build this up by providing experts and fellowships was made. Attention was drawn to the Special Fund Project under consideration for Ethiopia in the establishment of a School for Veterinary assistants.

The problems of the nomad and his flocks were discussed. From the livestock disease angle seasonal migrations played an important role. For instance in the recent epizootic of African Horse Sickness it seemed certain that infection was widely distributed by such movements. It was appreciated that it was not practicable to limit these seasonal movements but countries were asked to consider the possibility of immunizing herds against prevalent diseases before permitting them to cross borders. In Sudan free immunization against Rinderpest was given to all nomadic herds entering the country and this proved practical and popular. It was recommended that the FAO/OIE Near East Committee on Animal Health should give this matter its attention.

The Conference agreed that the deterioration of the range lands was the most difficult and urgent problem facing the livestock industry. The vicious cycle of overgrazing - pasture destruction and soil erosion must be stopped. The Conference recommended that measures to rehabilitate these range lands should be undertaken. It was suggested that a station or stations to study this problem be established as a unit or units of the proposed Near East Animal Husbandry Institute. The delegate of Afghanistan suggested that such a unit be established in his country.

The reduction of livestock numbers in overgrazed areas (increased by better disease control) should be undertaken by improving marketing and processing. Improved fodder production and conservation required active development to reduce the effect of draughts.

The Conference stressed the need for investigation into the production and use of concentrated foodstuffs within the Region, many of which were by-products of the milling industries. This work might appropriately be sponsored by the proposed animal husbandry institute. The delegate of Pakistan suggested that this unit be located in his country.

Complaints were made regarding alleged failure to report outbreaks of epizootic disease. The Conference agreed that even where doubt regarding diagnosis exists, the reporting of a suspected outbreak should be made immediately by cable so that neighbouring countries might be forewarned. The normal authority to receive such a report was the International Office of Epizootics in Paris.

The Conference stressed the need to strengthen veterinary departments within the Region so that in the event of an epizootic disease gaining entrance, it would be quickly encompassed and suppressed. An inefficient veterinary service constituted a danger not only to the country itself but to the Region as a whole. Furthermore,

with the increased traffic in livestock and livestock products the danger of disease transmission might be expected to increase and unless stringent precautions were undertaken, great losses from diseases such as Rinderpest, Bovine Pleuro-pneumonia and many others would occur.

The present outbreak of African Horse Sickness had caused, and still was causing, great losses in the Region. Vaccine supplies were insufficient. The Conference acknowledged the part played by the Onderstepoort Laboratory and the Razi Institute in meeting the tremendous demand for vaccine. It noted with appreciation that funds had been provided to FAO by the Contingency Fund of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board to assist in the struggle against the epidemic. Being informed that the funds were not sufficient to meet demands following on further spread of the disease, the Conference recommended an immediate approach to the Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board for additional financial help.

As Horse Sickness was a completely new disease in the region, it was not possible to forecast the progress of the epizootic. It was, however, essential to build up adequate vaccine production units within the region and for this purpose technical assistance in the form of experts and equipment was urgently required.

Referring to a proposal for the appointment of a veterinarian to the Regional Office, the Conference noted that that this recommendation had been made in the two previous regional meetings in the Near East and it hoped that the Director-General would be able to provide for this in the near future. The following resolutions were approved:

The Conference

Noting the comprehensive discussions and recommendations of the First Near East Meeting on Animal Production and Health,

Recognizing the imperative need for further co-ordinated research and training in animal husbandry, including nutrition, animal breeding, climatology and management,

Appreciating the great influence of climate and environment on the development of animal breeding and production programs within the region, and

Noting the contribution which concentrated animal foodstuffs manufactured from mill and other by-products could make to improve livestock production,

Endorses the recommendations made at the First Near East Meeting on Animal Production and Health, and

Recommends to Member Governments:

- i. to give consideration to the establishment of a Near East Animal Husbandry Institute on the same pattern as that proposed for the Near East Animal Health Institute;
- ii. to establish a climatological centre as a unit of the Institute, and
- iii. to establish as part of the Institute, a unit to investigate the use of milk and food processing by-products for use as concentrate feeds for animal and poultry feeding;

Requests the Director-General to assist the Member Countries in the Region to ascertain the types of units and their location for the establishment of a Near East Animal Husbandry Institute and in clearing up the necessary submission to the Special Fund;

The Conference

Impressed by the great losses to the liv stock industry through disease as exemplified by the present epizootic of African Horse Sickness;

Recommends to Member Governments:

- i. that national veterinary services should be strengthened to facilitate the immediate suppression of outbreaks of infectious diseases;
- ii. that outbreaks or suspected outbreaks of infectious diseases should be reported by telegram to neighbouring countries and to the International Office of Epizootics in Paris, whose responsibility it is to notify all Member Countries, and
- iii. that import and export of livestock and unprocessed livestock products should be carefully controlled. In this connection, attention should be paid to the provision of free prophylactic immunization to the nomads' herds which move between countries;

Recommends to the Director-General:

- i. to appoint a Veterinarian to the Near East Regional Office to assist in the co-ordination of animal health measures between countries, and
- ii. to arrange a Meeting of the FAO/OIE Committee of the Near East Working Party on Animal Production and Health to take place in 1961;

Requests the Director-General to investigate the possibility of obtaining further emergency funds to assist the countries in the Region in the control of the recent outbreaks of African Horse Sickness. 1/

The Conference

Considering the importance of sheep production in all countries of the Near East, and the fact that the utilization of natural pastures is an important practical and economical means of engaging in this activity,

Noting the progressive deterioration and increasing bareness of the ranges owing to overgrazing and the uprooting of woody plants for fuel, as well as the progressive decrease in pasture area as a result of the development of dry land farming,

Recommends to Member Governments:

- i. to take all practical steps to stem the encouragement of dry land farming on lands more suited to pasture and to encourage the use of other fuels to reduce the destruction of woody plants, and
- ii. that, should a Near East Animal Husbandry Institute be established, at least one unit of it should be given the responsibility of research and training on the problems of management of livestock on rangelands and the most efficient use of these lands;

Requests the Director-General:

- i. to consider making available to Governments the services of botanists and ecologists to draw up inventories of valuable fodder species;
- ii. to assist Governments through whatever source of funds available, to implement programs for the regeneration of range and pasture lands in the countries in the Region, and
- iii. to advise the Animal Production Committee of the Near East Working Party on Animal Production and Health to pay attention and study ways and means of solving the problems of range and pasture improvement.

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1/ As a result of this recommendation an additional sum of \$75,000 was subsequently made available to FAO for this purpose from the UN Contingency Fund.

6. Status of the Fisheries Industry in the Region  
and its Potential Contribution to Improvements  
in Nutrition and in Standards of Living

The Conference stressed the need to increase the fish supply to assist in meeting the growing demand for animal proteins in the Near East. The delegates recognized that the fisheries industry in many countries in the Region remains to be developed and that the execution of a balanced program of simultaneous development of capture, preservation, marketing, management and research and the co-ordination of these efforts with other fields, such as land and water use, transportation and credit, would need competent fisheries administrations with adequate authority and skilled personnel. The Conference urged the establishment or the strengthening of fisheries departments in the public administration.

While appreciating the assistance rendered by FAO in initiating a fishery statistical project in the Egyptian Region of the United Arab Republic, the Conference felt that it would be desirable to extend and develop such programs throughout the Region in order to ensure adequate statistical information which is a pre-requisite for planned fishery development.

The Conference observed that the fish wealth of common water bodies like the Red Sea, the South East Mediterranean, the North-West Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, the Nile and the Euphrates-Tigris are shared jointly by several countries and that they are confronted with similar problems of capture, utilization and administration of fisheries in these waters. Therefore, the need for a regional meeting of the fisheries authorities of Member Countries was suggested to review the available information regarding the fisheries in the Region and to arrive at conclusions as to the ways and means of further development of the fisheries industry in the Near East.

The Conference recognized the major contribution of inland waters in fish production in several countries in the Near East and expressed the need for organizing, in due course, a training centre on fish culture and inland fishery management in the Region with FAO's assistance.

The Conference appreciated the availability in Pakistan of training and programming facilities in inland and marine fisheries and fisheries technology and suggested that other countries in the area might take advantage of these, as and when feasible, to train their fisheries workers.

The Conference also recognized the desirability of exchanging information, facilities and personnel among the Member Countries in the Region in the promotion of fishery development. The following resolutions were approved:



The Conference

Considering,

- i. that various countries in the Region share common aquatic food resources, the South-East Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the North-West Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, the Nile Basin and the Euphrates-Tigris Basin being noteworthy instances, and
- ii. that the countries of the Region are confronted with similar problems of production, processing, marketing and administration in the field of fisheries, and

Recognizing,

- i. that a joint approach in fisheries development on the part of the Governments would, hence, be highly desirable, and
- ii. that for such a common approach, it would, at the present stage, be of definite advantage if an opportunity could be provided to the countries of the Region for joint technical discussions and exchange of views on fisheries problems;

Requests the Director-General to consider the possibility of convening, at an opportune time, a regional meeting on fisheries in which the fisheries authorities and specialists in the countries of the Near East would participate.

The Conference

Considering the need for statistical information for planned fishery development, and

Noting the efforts made in the United Arab Republic and Pakistan in organizing fisheries statistics,

Recommends to Member Governments that such measures be developed and extended in the Region with the assistance of FAO.

The Conference

Considering

- i. the potential contribution that the seas, the large river basins, and inland waters in general in the Region, might make to the national income and to protein food supplies;
- ii. that fishery development is still at an early stage in many countries in the Region, and

- iii. the heavy, elaborated tasks involved in successfully steering and executing fishery development programs;

Recommends to Member Governments to urgently take effective steps towards the establishment or strengthening of their fisheries administrative services;

Recommends to the Director-General to organize as soon as possible and at some suitable location within the Region a training centre on fish culture and inland fishery management, to assist Member Countries in the training of personnel for inland fishery development.

#### The Conference

Noting with appreciation an offer of facilities in Pakistan for training inland and marine fisheries and fisheries technology,

Commends these facilities to Member Governments in the Region to train their fishery workers, and

Recommends to Member Governments to exchange information, facilities and personnel among Member Countries in the Region with a view to furthering fishery development.

#### 7. Status of Forestry and Forest Industries in the Region and their Potential Contribution towards Economic Development

The Conference took note of the present status of forestry and forest industries in the Region and expressed its concern about their unsatisfactory situation. The Near East has the smallest proportion of land under forests and per capita wood consumption is the lowest in the world. Due to lack or shortage of sufficient technical staff even the existing forests cannot be properly managed. The Conference noted with satisfaction that serious steps had been taken to establish institutions for training forestry personnel and stressed the need to maintain and expand those facilities. It particularly welcomed the opening of the Near East Forest Rangers School at Lattakia and hoped that full use would be made of its facilities. The teaching at this institute is being carried on in Arabic.

The Conference also emphasized the importance of forest inventories, demarcation and determination of ownership as well as the regulation of rights of usage. It recommended that countries should make the best use of their forestry resources keeping in mind that exploitation must not lead to destruction of either forests or forest lands.

The Conference recommended the introduction of fast growing species in areas where natural forests no longer exist or are inadequate. The Conference stressed the dual role of the forests for production and land protection and recommended that a knowledge and understanding of forestry be spread amongst all sections of the population, especially by practical demonstration in order to make the public forest-minded. The importance of forests as a source of employment and income and, therefore, of value in providing assistance to social problems was noted and the role of forests in water conservation, prevention of erosion, improvement of rangelands, etc., was discussed.

The Conference stressed its belief that modern science and technique provided many of the answers to the forestry problems of the Region and, therefore, urged Member Governments to take every possible step to utilize this information to improve the present situation. The following resolution was approved:

The Conference

Noting the very small amount of forests and the present low per caput consumption of wood in the Region and the inevitable rise in the demand of wood of all kinds due to the rapid increase in population and the improvement of living standards,

Recommends to Member Governments:

- i. to take steps to conserve and develop existing forest resources;
- ii. to carry out afforestation to supplement natural forests;
- iii. to ensure the creation of proper forest services;
- iv. to implement management plans which are essential for the proper utilization of forest resources in the context of general agricultural, economic and social development;
- v. that facilities for training in graduate and post-graduate forestry and research be established or expanded in the Region, and
- vi. to take advantage of the available training facilities in Pakistan by expanding these facilities possibly through the assistance of FAO and the United Nations Special Fund so as to provide opportunity for training and research to candidates from the countries of the Region;

Recommends to Member Governments that all Arabic-speaking countries should take advantage of the facilities at the Near East Forest Rangers' School at Lattakia, possibly by including fellowships in their Technical Assistance Programs for fellows to be sent there.

REVIEW OF SPECIFIC FAO ACTIVITIES WHICH REQUIRED  
CONFERENCE GUIDANCE OR GOVERNMENT ACTION

1. Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign

This important topic was introduced to the Conference both in the opening statement of the Director-General and as a separate point on the agenda by the Regional Representative for the Near East Region.

The Director-General emphasized that the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign is not intended to replace any programs at present under way for the improvement of food supplies and better nutrition. It is intended to supplement and reinforce programs which Governments and international agencies are already carrying out and to create a better climate of opinion in which these programs will work with greater effectiveness.

Since the authorization of the Campaign at the Tenth Session of the Conference, FAO has undertaken a number of preparatory steps in order to create interest by governmental and non-governmental organizations and to set up the organizational machinery to initiate and conduct the Campaign successfully.

The Campaign was officially launched at FAO Headquarters on 1 July, 1960 and delegates reported that special ceremonies took place on about the same date in a number of countries in the Near East Region.

It was noted that several Governments in the Region already have formulated a national development program and that the other Governments are, or will be, taking this essential step. In so far as they raise the standard of living of their people, such programs represent an active step towards freedom from hunger. As the delegate of Pakistan expressed it "in its intensified efforts Pakistan has a scheme which touches the heart of all existing deficiencies and which will be executed in co-operation with all the international agencies willing to lend us their support". Similar sentiments were expressed in the statements of other Member Countries of the Region.

The Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign provided an excellent focal point for such effort which would be undertaken in addition to the already existing development programs on the national and international level.

It was recognized that it would be of great benefit to the countries in order to achieve their goal, if such national programs could be co-ordinated, where necessary or desirable, at the regional or international level.

On the international level FAO, in co-operation with other international organizations, would provide the necessary leadership

and co-ordination. On the national level, activities under this campaign would be carried out by governments, private organizations, foundations, religious and other groups and individual men and women of goodwill.

The Conference agreed that such national activities should be planned and co-ordinated by national Campaign Committees.

Delegates of several countries informed the Conference that such National Campaign Committees already had been established or were in the process of formation. In other countries, serious consideration was given to the establishment of such committees. Several of the countries already had made financial contribution to the general Trust Fund of the Campaign.

The Conference felt that the three main types of activities under the Campaign - (a) information and education, (b) research, and (c) both short-term and long-term action projects - provided ample opportunity for each country to start those actions considered to be most important in the light of its specific national problems and opportunities. In this connection, the Conference stressed that under the Campaign due attention should be given to programs designed to improve the utilization of land and other resources such as those dealing with irrigation, dry-land farming, fertilization and improved seeds. Special emphasis was also placed on the need for improvement of animal husbandry and animal health in the Region and for using the available fish resources more effectively in order to increase the protein intake of the population.

It was noted that projects under the Campaign should not be limited to those directly affecting the production of foodstuffs. Mention was made of the possibility of including in the National Campaign projects for forestry improvement, as well as projects designed to strengthen the institutional framework, including extension work and organization.

The Conference realized that most of the regional funds for action under the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign would have to be raised on the national level, since any voluntary contribution on an international level could never be sufficient to meet the vast needs in the world. It would be the task of each National Committee to organize and supervise the fund raising in the country, and to decide how the funds collected could best be used. The Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign publication "National Action Projects - A Selection" could be used as a guide to select projects which will make a significant contribution.

It was considered highly desirable that countries adopt certain measures to promote and maintain an ever-growing interest in the Campaign. This could be done through pamphlets, leaflets, posters, special issues of postage stamps and special headings on official correspondence. The following resolution was approved:

## The Conference

Recalling the resolution of the Fourth FAO Regional Conference which welcomed the proposal to launch a Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign,

Noting the extent of hunger, including under-nourishment and malnutrition, that still exists in the world today and the increasing aggravation of the situation by the rapid population growth especially in developing countries, and

Noting that the Tenth Session of the Conference through resolution 13/59, with unanimous support of all Member Governments, authorized the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign under the leadership and general co-ordination of FAO,

Considering that in the Near East Region the rate of expansion of agricultural production lags behind the needs of the rapidly growing population; that the Campaign, therefore, calls for special attention and support;

### Recommends to Member Governments:

- i. to establish national campaign committees if they have not yet done so in order to plan and support action at the national level;
- ii. to give active consideration to the possibility of sharing in the form they find most appropriate, in the general campaign expenses of the Organization which are essential to develop the Campaign both on a national and an international level;
- iii. to formulate national programs, co-ordinated at the regional or international level;
- iv. that, in order to popularize the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, they consider translating this expression into an adequate idiomatic motto in the country's language to be printed on all appropriate types of official correspondence, and
- v. to authorize the issuance of postage stamps referring to this Campaign.

## 2. World Agricultural Census

The Conference appreciated the increased participation of Member Countries in the Region in the 1960 World Census of Agriculture, the assistance provided by FAO through experts, the Training Centre on

Agricultural Censuses held in Damascus, 21 May - 30 July, 1959, the Regional Office and by the FAO publications on censuses and surveys and on data processing. The Conference noted that one of the factors that contributed to increased participation was the flexibility of the 1960 World Census Program through its adaption to local conditions of the Region and the importance given to the role of sampling in census taking and even as a substitute for complete enumeration wherever resources and facilities for complete enumeration are lacking.

The Conference noted that participants in the Near East Training Centre on Agricultural Censuses took active part in the Census programs in their respective countries.

The Conference further stressed the many problems which faced most of those countries that are participating in the 1960 Census Program and the difficulties which prevented a few other Member Countries from participation. The need for evaluating the census plans and procedures adopted by the Member Countries and the difficulties faced by all countries in the Region was recognized by the Conference. It urged FAO to carry out at some convenient time a study of census problems and census plans in the Region and make recommendations to this end.

The urgency of training national technical personnel in general data processing methods was stressed and the Conference strongly recommended that the resolutions and recommendations of the Fourth Near East Regional Conference and the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference requesting the organization of a regional training centre on data processing to be implemented, as soon as possible. The delegation of Lebanon reminded the Conference that the invitation to hold this training centre in Lebanon was still standing and that his Government would extend all host facilities to the centre.

The Conference appreciated the efforts of the Director-General to establish a central project for tabulating agricultural censuses by electronic equipment, and welcomed the initiative of the Government of the United Arab Republic, the Central Statistical Institute of Italy and of FAO and other interested international organizations in this respect. The Conference emphasized the pioneering and research nature of the project for tabulating the agricultural census of the Egyptian Region by electronic equipment and urged the Director-General to organize a training program around this project in order to familiarize national technicians of Member Countries with the use and the potentialities of modern electronic devices in the processing of census and survey data. The following resolution was approved:

#### The Conference

Noting the difficulties faced by some Member Countries in the planning and execution of their agricultural censuses or in the tabulation of census results due to lack of funds and trained personnel or to other factors resulting in the non-

participation of some countries in the FAO Program for the 1960 World Census of Agriculture or in delays in the tabulation and publication of the census results,

Considering:

- i. the increased participation of Member Countries of the Region in the 1960 World Census Program as compared with the 1950 Program;
- ii. the initiative of FAO in co-operation with the Government of the United Arab Republic and the Central Statistical Institute of Italy in the project for the Central Tabulation of the Agricultural Census of the Egyptian Region by electronic equipment, and
- iii. the international significance of this project and its pioneering and research nature,

Appreciating the assistance provided by FAO through field experts, the Near East Regional Office, the Near East Training Centre on Agricultural Censuses, the Near East Census Conference for adapting the 1960 World Program to the special needs of the Region and through the FAO publications disseminating technical and practical information on planning and conducting agricultural censuses and surveys and on data processing methods,

Recommends to Member Governments:

- i. that Member Countries which have not yet participated in the 1960 World Census Program exert every effort possible to conduct censuses of agriculture taking full advantage of the flexibility of the FAO program and its regional adaptation as well as of the technical assistance provided by FAO in this field, and
- ii. that the unique opportunity provided by the Project for the Central Tabulation of the Agricultural Census of the Egyptian Region of the United Arab Republic by Electronic Equipment be utilized for the training of national technicians in the use of electronic processing machines by organizing training programs around this project;

Recommends to the Director-General:

- i. that Near East Training Centre on Data Processing Methods recommended by the Fourth Regional Conference, the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference and by the Near East Census Conference, be held as soon as possible, and



- ii. that a study be made of the census plans and methods used by countries in the Region which are participating in the FAO 1960 World Census Program and of the difficulties faced by them and by those countries which are not participating with the view of making recommendations for the promotion of fuller participation in future census programs and for the improvement of current census methodology and procedures;

Requests the Director-General to investigate the possibility of appointing census experts to conduct this study.

### 3. Development of Current Agricultural Statistics

The Conference noted the great importance of improving data on current agricultural production, yields and area under various crops, prices and income, employment in agriculture, consumption of fertilizers, production costs, etc. The Conference stressed the need to use statistical methods in the design of agricultural experiments and analysis of their results. Accurate data on all aspects of Agricultural Research and experiments were considered essential for development planning and in formulating agricultural policy. The Conference welcomed the advance made in this field in the Southern Region of the United Arab Republic with the assistance of FAO.

The difficulties and problems of Member Countries in their attempts to improve statistical services and quality of the data were discussed, such as the lack of sufficient funds, shortages in trained personnel, special problems of nomadic populations, effects of weather, poor transportation facilities and special problems arising from the social and economic conditions of the countries in the Region.

While appreciating the assistance given already by FAO and its Regional Office in this field, the Conference urged, if possible, the appointment of an Assistant Regional Statistician and a Regional Biometrician to be provided with adequate travel funds.

The Conference pointed out the special need for more assistance in the fields of agricultural prices and income, livestock and livestock products statistics, and recommended that training centres and seminars on these subjects be organized in the Region. The Conference also noted that some Member Countries needed assistance in field equipment and data processing machines to be provided as far as possible by FAO.

In considering the means of accelerating statistical development in the Region, the Conference attached special importance to the need for a Regional Training and Research Institute in Agricultural Statistics to be supported if possible by the Special Fund for Economic

Development. The Conference considered such an Institute to be essential for the training of national technicians in statistical methodology and in field procedures and recommended that the Director-General give assistance to Member Countries in drafting a proposal to the Special Fund for establishing such an institute. The Conference further recommended that the Director-General draw the attention of the Special Fund Authorities to the importance of supporting projects in the field of agricultural statistics.

The Conference appreciated the statistics publications of FAO, but pointed out the need for more descriptive material on the nature of the data published and on the concepts, methods and field procedures employed in their collection. The usefulness of this information as regards international comparability of data, for the users of such data in general and for national statistical authorities in the improvement of their own techniques, was emphasized. The following resolutions were approved:

#### The Conference

Recognizing the need for developing all aspects of current agricultural statistics and the importance of international comparability of the statistical series made available side by side in FAO periodic statistical publications,

Noting the explanatory material contained in footnotes and appendices to these publications and their limited size, due to limitations in space,

Realizing the greater usefulness of statistical data for various countries if more detailed descriptive material on the concepts, methods, coverage and procedures employed in compiling or computing the published series is available,

#### Recommends to the Director-General:

- i. that FAO publish a compendium to its periodic statistical publications containing more detailed descriptions of the statistical series and of the concepts, definitions, coverage, methods and procedures and of the frequency of collection of data and references to sources related to the development of the national statistical series published by FAO;
- ii. that the compendium be kept up-to-date through revised editions, and
- iii. that the publication and revision of the statistical compendium become a permanent feature of FAO's regular program.

The Conference

Recognizing that:

- i. statistical data on current agricultural statistics such as production, prices, costs, trade, employment in agriculture, etc., are essential tools for planning agricultural development and formulating agricultural and economic policy;
- ii. statistical techniques in the design of agricultural experiments and the analysis of their results are important, among others, for the improvement of agricultural techniques and the control of pests and diseases, and
- iii. the development of current agricultural statistics in countries of the Near East Region is handicapped by the lack of trained technical personnel at all levels and by the lack of research on statistical techniques, definitions and field procedures adaptable to the special agricultural and social conditions of the Region;

Noting the recommendations of the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference, the Near East Census Meeting and the Ad Hoc Committee of Statistical Experts:-

- (a) for holding a Regional Training Centre and Seminar on Livestock and Livestock Products Statistics;
- (b) for holding a Regional Training Centre on Agricultural Prices and Income Statistics;
- (c) for the appointment of a Regional Biometrician to assist Member Countries in the application of statistical techniques to agricultural experimentation, and
- (d) for the establishment of a permanent Regional Training and Research Institute in Agricultural Statistics;

Requests the Director-General:

- i. to consider organizing a Regional Training Centre on Agricultural Prices and Income Statistics and a Training Centre and a Seminar on Livestock and Livestock Products Statistics during the next three years;
- ii. to make provisions in the 1962-63 budget for the appointment of a Near East Regional Biometrician on the FAO Regular Program;

- iii. to give high priority to the establishment of a Near East Regional Training and Research Institute in Agricultural Statistics to assist in consultation with Member Governments in the formulation of a draft proposal to the United Nations Special Fund for this purpose, and initiate, as soon as possible, negotiations with Governments for working out the final proposal for submission to the United Nations Special Fund, and
- iv. to draw the attention of the United Nations Special Fund to the importance of the development of agricultural statistics in Member Countries as a pre-requisite for agricultural development in general and investment projects in particular and to the need for the support of the Special Fund to projects submitted to it in the field of agricultural statistics.

#### 4. The Increase in Production by the Use of Fertilizers

The Conference was informed that in connection with the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign the world fertilizer industry was furnishing FAO with funds for studying the potential fertilizer needs of less developed countries and for aiding the various Governments in programs for efficient fertilizer distribution and application.

The Conference noted the important role that fertilizers could play in raising agricultural production not only on land already under cultivation but also on land being brought under crops by irrigation. In most of the countries of the Near East Region the use of fertilizer was still one of the most under-exploited means of increasing production.

Several delegates indicated that their countries were giving special attention to this matter through demonstration and experimental work, and reported that great increase in production and income were obtained.

The Conference unanimously endorsed the proposed fertilizer program. Delegates drew attention to the fact that fertilizers need to be combined with effective use of water supplies, good crop rotations, green and animal manures, good seeds and other improved crop and farm management practices in order to have their greatest effectiveness and efficiency. At the same time due attention needed to be paid to means that might be used for removing economic and institutional obstacles to fertilizer use, such as the lack of credit, of adequate distribution facilities and transportation, the low level and instability of agricultural prices and the level of education of the farmers. The Conference considered the need for a Fertilizer Working Party to study the technical, economic and institutional problems in the field of fertilizer use.

It was fully understood that the countries would have to make the major contribution themselves in order to get rapid and tangible results. For this reason the Conference recommended that national fertilizer advisory groups be established under the National Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign Committees in order to make suggestions to their Governments for action programs and to assist in carrying out the national activities.

Several delegates stressed the importance of experimental work before launching an extensive demonstration program. Such experimental work would have to take into consideration the various sources of plant nutrients, as well as the cost of fertilizers, climatological and soil conditions. The following resolution was approved:

The Conference

Noting the important role fertilizers could play in increasing agricultural production and raising the standards of living in the Near East countries,

Considering the proposals of FAO for a world wide fertilizer program to be supported with funds under the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, contributed by the fertilizer industries,

Recognizing that fertilizers have their greatest efficiency and effectiveness when used in support of, and in combination with other improved crop and farm management practices, and that economic and related factors are often great obstacles to increased fertilizer use;

Recommends to the Director-General the establishment of a Near East Fertilizer Working Party in order to:-

- i. study the technical and economic problems of soil fertility in relation to other necessary improved practices, and
- ii. study the measures to be taken for the removal of economic and institutional obstacles to fertilizer use;

Recommends to Member Governments the formation of national fertilizer advisory groups under the National Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign Committee representing producers, distributors and consumers of fertilizers and Government, to study the need for action programs in the field of fertilizer application and use, make recommendations to their Government and assist in carrying out national activities to be undertaken with the assistance of FAO and other agencies.

## 5. Promotion of Food Consumption Surveys

The completion of the draft program of work for food consumption surveys as recommended by the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference was welcomed. The Conference recognized the urgency of the need for food consumption data for various sections of the population in each country in connection with the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign. It noted the relation between these data and food balance sheets information as well as the dietary and clinical nutritional surveys. The need to collect such data from households, groups and individuals, and for field trials to test procedures and to train personnel was also emphasized.

The Conference called attention to the difficult problems arising from the lack of appropriate food composition tables of local foods as consumed and the absence of national dietary standards. It was pointed out that special difficulties existed in conducting food consumption surveys and that there was a need in this respect for special assistance from FAO. In particular, the Conference recommended the organization of a regional training centre in field procedures, concepts and methodology of food consumption surveys; the program of such a centre to include an actual food consumption survey. The possibility of organizing the sub-regional training centre in line with the special needs of the groups of countries was also mentioned as an alternative to one regional centre.

The Conference welcomed the intention of FAO to hold a regional meeting to adapt the draft program of work on dietary surveys to the needs of the Near East Region and it urged Member Countries to send appropriate representatives to such a meeting.

The Conference also urged Member Countries to consider the carrying out of food consumption surveys covering all sections of the population and drew the attention of Member Countries to the need for compiling food balance sheets and carrying out other clinical nutritional surveys to supplement food consumption data. The following resolutions were approved:

### The Conference

Noting that the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference re-affirmed the importance of food consumption surveys for providing basic data for programs with nutritional, economic and social objectives and recommended the organization by Member Governments of surveys of food consumption and the preparation by the Director-General of methodological manuals and a draft program of work in this field and the organization of regional meetings to consider this program,

Considering that statistical information on food supplies made available for consumption and data on actual food consumption are seriously lacking in most Member Countries of the Region,

Realizing that the achievement of the objectives of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign requires adequate data on the present status of available supplies and on consumption patterns and their relation to nutritional requirements,

Welcomes the completion of the draft program of work for food consumption surveys and the intention to adapt this program for regional needs by submitting it for consideration by technical regional meetings,

Urges Member Governments:

- i. to organize food consumption surveys on levels and patterns of food consumption of different sections of their populations during the next few years;
- ii. to send appropriate national representatives to a regional technical meeting on food consumption surveys to be organized by FAO in co-operation with interested international and regional organizations;
- iii. to compile regular up-to-date food balance sheets urgently needed for the Third World Food Survey, and
- iv. to make use of the possibilities of technical or other appropriate assistance provided by FAO in the field of food consumption statistics including food balance sheets and other nutritional surveys;

Requests the Director-General to consider organizing regional or sub-regional training centres for the training of personnel in food consumption survey techniques.

6. Development of Local Foods for Supplementary Feeding Programs

The Conference noted the extent and seriousness of the problems of nutrition in the Region and emphasized the need which exists in all countries for the production of greater supplies of foods rich in protein, both of animal and vegetable origin to reduce reliance on supplies of dried skim milk imported from outside the Region. It likewise considered that the increased production and consumption of vegetables and fruits are highly desirable from a nutritional point of view. Such increase of production had been discussed in considerable detail under other items of the agenda and its bearing on the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign was noted by the Conference.

The Conference also recognized the need for the investigation and the application, where feasible, of the many new processes being developed elsewhere for increasing the utilization of such familiar local protein-rich foodstuffs as milk, meat, fish pulses and oil seeds. Among the important foods of this type are groundnut, sesame, cotton seed, coconut and soya-bean preparations and fish and meat meal flours. Besides making available additional foodstuffs not otherwise utilized for human consumption, these processes offer opportunities for a much wider distribution of foods abundant in a certain locality and normally restricted to that area by difficulties of preservation or transportation. Work has already begun in some countries of the Region, particularly in the United Arab Republic on development of this nature but it needs to be intensified and extended to the rest of the Region. In this connection, a discussion took place on the need for improving the present very unsatisfactory distribution of vegetables and fruit. Mention was also made of the need for supplementing national food supplies by the greater interchange of foodstuffs between countries in the Region.

The Conference felt that these new developments further emphasized the need for strong national nutrition committees and bureaux with sufficient authority and funds to promote and co-ordinate this work and re-affirmed the recommendations on this subject made at the Fourth Regional Conference.

Attention was drawn to the need for including a nutritionist in groups concerned with agricultural planning to ensure that agricultural policy will take account of the nutritional requirements of the population.

The Conference re-iterated the need for expansion in the supplementary feeding of the vulnerable groups, including pregnant and nursing mothers, infants, young children and workers. Such programs are in operation in several countries of the Region, but they are handicapped by lack of funds and trained staff. The need was expressed for a seminar on school feeding and nutrition education.

The danger of over-emphasizing the shortage of animal proteins in the diet was voiced especially as in most countries pulses and oil seeds are cheap and available and their production can be increased; no large scale supplementary feeding program should be embarked upon without adequate knowledge of the deficiencies in local diet that need to be remedied. The following resolutions were approved:

#### The Conference

Recognizing the importance of supplementary feeding of the vulnerable groups of the population,



Noting the limitation imposed by budgetary restrictions and the lack of trained personnel to develop and administer such programs, and to spread nutrition education to the public through them,

Appreciating the efforts made by Governments to supplement the diets of these groups through school meals, school gardens and maternal and child health centres,

Urges Member Governments to develop and extend their supplementary feeding programs by exploring the different means of supporting such programs, including the participation of local authorities and community organizations, and to seek local and international assistance in providing funds and training of personnel to develop and administer such activities,

Reaffirms the recommendation formulated by the Fourth Near East Regional Conference "that a Seminar on Supplementary Feeding and Education in Nutrition should be arranged by FAO in association with UNICEF and WHO";

#### The Conference

Noting that during recent years supplementary feeding programs for vulnerable groups have been based primarily on donations of dried skim milk and that these free supplies are not always available,

#### Urges Member Governments:

- i. to explore the potential local sources of foods for supplementary feeding programs, particularly those of high protein value, seeking assistance from FAO and UNICEF as needed, and
- ii. to give attention to specific development work as follows:
  - (a) to increase and make better use of local supplies of milk through the development of milk conservation programs and wider distribution through supplementary feeding programs;
  - (b) to develop the fishing industry and increase consumption of fresh, dried and processed fish and fish products;
  - (c) to encourage investigations on new processes in respect to meat products, with a view to increasing the availability of animal protein supplies;
  - (d) to encourage the production and consumption of pulses, and

- (e) to consider the possibility of promoting the development and use of new processes of preparing protein-rich foods, not yet fully utilized for human consumption, of which derivatives of oil seed cakes are of special importance;

Requests the Director-General to consider the possibility to make available assistance to Member Governments for the purpose of carrying out the necessary surveys and/or pilot studies on production, suitability or acceptability of new or little used protein-rich foodstuffs and the granting of the necessary fellowships for training of needed personnel and to contact UNICEF in order to ensure co-operation.

#### The Conference

Noting the importance of the inclusion of vegetables and fruit in the diet and in supplementary feeding programs,

Recognizing that in many countries there is a local and/or seasonal over-production of these foods, while other sectors in the same country are experiencing a shortage or an absolute scarcity of the same products,

#### Urges Member Governments:

- i. to increase the production of fruit and vegetables both generally and by the encouragement of school and community gardens wherever possible;
- ii. to study ways and means of improving storage, processing and distribution facilities of fruit and vegetables, and
- iii. to seek assistance from FAO and UNICEF whenever needed to carry out these programs.

#### The Conference

Considering that marketing facilities such as food processing, storage, transport and government trade regulations related to import-export licences and customs duties are often bottlenecks in the movement of food from abundant to deficient areas,

Realizing that inter-regional distribution of foodstuffs could make a real contribution to the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign,

Recommends to Member Governments to give their utmost concern and attention to the local and regional marketing facilities for the proper distribution of food among the countries of the Middle East.

### The Conference

Recognizing that nutritional programs cannot be implemented without a proper nutrition organization in the country,

Reaffirms the recommendations made at the Fourth FAO Regional Conference with regard to the establishment and strengthening of national nutrition committees and institutes or departments to carry out their programs;

Requests Member Governments to give due consideration to nutritional requirements in the planning of agricultural policies and programs, and the appointment of a nutritionist to agricultural planning boards whenever possible.

### 7. Feeding of Industrial Workers

The question of canteens or subsidized meals for feeding workers in industries is receiving increasing attention in the Region, but very little information on this subject is available.

There is evidence that, even in economically highly developed countries, workers may subsist on inadequate diets for various reasons, such as poor food habits, unavailability of the right kind of foods, economic and other reasons.

Sometimes, the establishment of industrial canteens is a necessity because of the location of plants far away from the workers' home or from other feeding facilities, or because of continuous working shifts. Under these circumstances and even when those conditions do not exist, provision of a good diet had been shown to pay in the long run, in terms of improved working efficiency, reduced absenteeism and accidents, higher morale and higher level of production.

It was agreed that the development of collective feeding for industrial workers offers important opportunities for raising levels of nutrition by: (a) improving the nutritive value of the meals; (b) instituting programs of education in nutrition; and (c) influencing trends in the consumption of various foods, including relatively new and valuable ones.

International bodies, such as FAO and ILO are paying more and more attention to this important problem. FAO has included the subject in its program of work and it will be discussed at the next meeting of the FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committee on Nutrition.

Of the Near East countries, there is considerable interest in industrial feeding in the Egyptian Region of the United Arab Republic, where the establishment of canteens has recently been made

compulsory in plants located at a distance of over 50 km. from a town. In these canteens, subsidized meals were offered to workers with two thirds of the cost being met by the employer. The following resolution was approved:

#### The Conference

Noting that while there is very little specific knowledge in the Region concerning industrial feeding practices and the influence of diet and nutrition on the health, working capacity, incidence of accidents, absenteeism and the psychological state (industrial unrest) of workers, there is ample evidence to indicate the importance of nutrition in the efficiency of the industrial worker and his productivity and in view of the recent trend to rapid industrialization in the countries of the Region;

Recommends to the Director-General to undertake in collaboration with other international and regional agencies such as ILO, the UN Bureau of Social Affairs, WHO and the Social Affairs Division of the Arab League and with the governments concerned, a survey of the facilities now available for the feeding of industrial workers in the countries of the Region;

Urges Member Governments to provide every assistance for such a survey and to consider follow-up action.

#### 8. Commodity Reporting and Analysis

The Conference suggested that the subject of price fluctuations in international markets be placed on the agenda for the next Near East Regional Conference in considering the subject of commodity reporting and analysis on the basis of a statement submitted by the delegation of the United Arab Republic.

The Conference felt that, in general, reliable information and systematic analysis of commodity developments affecting individual agricultural commodities or groups of commodities in specific countries could be of great help in long-term planning as well as day-to-day decisions of government officials, farmers and traders. In the long run, the translation of the overall needs for increased agricultural production, diversification of exports and the reduced reliance on imports, into specific national output and trade targets for different products, required an intimate knowledge of the commodity characteristics, situation and outlook at home and abroad. On a day-to-day basis, the assembly and specialized interpretation of current commodity information published in the form of regular reviews of the market situation and outlook, provided a firm factual basis on which policy decisions could be taken at all levels.

The Conference recognized that commodity work, carried out in FAO was of great value to governments but that, because of its world-wide character, it could not entirely fill the gaps in commodity information in individual countries.

The Conference was informed of the setting up of a commodity analysis unit in the department of Economics and Statistics of the United Arab Republic which has been preparing:

- (a) basic commodity research studies containing a valuable analysis of major production factors and relationships and a great deal of previously unpublished commodity statistics, and
- (b) regular reviews on the current situation and outlook for rice.

It was noted that the unit has proved to be of great value to all those concerned with development planning and various policy decisions. Apart from its own merits, this commodity work has contributed significantly towards the improvement of basic statistics and other economic information by focusing attention on the important deficiencies in the existing data and by suggesting priorities in their improvement.

It was agreed that this experience was of great interest to all governments of the Region and deserved further close consideration. The following resolution was adopted:

#### The Conference

Considering that sound knowledge of the current commodity situation, trends and outlook; and the basic economic characteristics of the individual commodity and inter-commodity relationships on the world and national levels was essential for all agricultural planning and policy making as well as for day-to-day action by government departments and individuals concerned with the production and trade, and

Considering that the lack of such knowledge contributed towards uncertainty and instability of national commodity markets,

Noting that the organization of systematic commodity analyses and research at a national level has been successfully tried in some countries of the Region with the help of technical assistance experts, and that such work can greatly contribute towards the improvement of basic statistics and economic information,

Recommends to the Director-General that the subjects of commodity reporting and analysis as tools for development planning be placed on the agenda of the next FAO Regional Conference for the Near East;

Recommends to Member Governments:

- i. to give active consideration to the setting up of national commodity analysis units within government departments with the view to
  - (a) publishing regular commodity reviews and current commodity information;
  - (b) conducting studies of important export and import commodities as a basis for policy decisions concerning national production and trade targets for different products, and
  - (c) providing the framework of permanent commodity analysis services and of training facilities in specialized commodity interpretation and research methods, and
- ii. to explore the possibilities of utilizing the Technical Assistance Funds for the purpose of appointing a high level commodity specialist to organize such a unit in each country concerned and guide it through the initial period.

9. Agricultural Information Services

The Conference realized the importance of agricultural information, though there were divergent views as to a clear demarcation line between an Agricultural Information Service and an Extension Information Service, and left it to the Member Governments to decide the type and form of service most suited to their own agricultural organizational structure. It requested FAO to assist in planning an Agricultural Information program for Member Countries requiring such assistance, and to supply suitable information media.

The value of FAO publications was recognized, the Conference stressing that their use could be greatly extended by translation into some other languages as well as the official languages, and urged FAO to explore means with the assistance of the League of Arab States or other agencies to achieve this end.

It was also suggested that there should be greater co-operation by Governments with the Regional Office in extending the use of its information material such as films, slides, posters, pamphlets, etc.

The Regional Office was asked to review or summarize the most important FAO documents and to issue to the countries of the Region such reviews or summaries in its popular and technical periodicals. The Conference further stressed the importance of co-ordination of information, especially in countries where departments of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, animal resources, etc., came under different ministries and were not serviced by an extension department located in one ministry. It appreciated the importance of personal information contacts at all levels.

The delegates noted with appreciation the work of the Regional Office in servicing the countries of the Region, welcomed the establishment of the library at the Regional Office and promised to support it by furnishing technical and other documents produced by Member Governments or interest to FAO. The following resolutions were approved:

#### The Conference

Noting the importance of agricultural information services,

#### Considering:

- i. the importance of disseminating agricultural information among farmers and the general public alike in various forms and through the different media, such as radio, press, lectures, documents, films, filmstrips and posters;
- ii. that the rural broadcasting provides a most effective medium for such purpose, and
- iii. the value of FAO information material in the languages of the Region;

Recommends to the FAO Regional Office to strengthen its information service by:

- i. seeking means for the translation of relevant FAO documents into more languages than the FAO official languages;
- ii. translating FAO documents, etc., into Arabic jointly with the League of Arab States or with other assistance;
- iii. reviewing and summarizing FAO material in popular documents, and
- iv. acting as clearing office to advise Member Countries on new FAO literature;

Recommends to Member Governments:

- i. to decide for themselves the most suitable information and extension organization structure to suit their needs;
- ii. to strengthen and put to greater use rural broadcasting services as an effective means of disseminating agricultural information;
- iii. to seek assistance from FAO and other UN and bilateral agencies for fellowships and training of personnel for the development of more effective agricultural information programs in their countries;
- iv. to exchange their publications through the Near East Regional Office, and
- v. to make better use of the facilities provided by the Arab States Fundamental Education Centre for training in visual aids.

10. Policy Implications of Reports of Meetings and Surveys

(a) First Near East Regional Meeting on Soil Classification and Survey, Beirut, November 1959.

The Conference examined all the recommendations formulated at the above meeting and gave full endorsement to them. These recommendations covered the following subjects:

Recommends to Member Governments:

- i. to centralize all soil survey and classification work into one unit;
- ii. to use aerial photos and aerial photo analysis for soil survey and classification work;
- iii. to prepare a map of the major soils of each country, as a basis for a FAO soil map of the Region;
- iv. to promote studies on soil salinity and alkalinity for use in reclamation of land;
- v. to establish organizations with full authority to promote soil and water conservation, and
- vi. to establish a permanent organization of soil scientists in the Region;



Recommends to the Director-General:

- i. to publish a Soils Map of the Region;
- ii. to establish a working party on soil classification and survey with biennial meetings;
- iii. to review, abstract, and compile, appropriate literature on cartographic procedures for preparation and publication of soils maps to promote uniformity in the Region;
- iv. to prepare a bibliography of soils publications in the Region to promote co-ordination, correlation and standardization of soils activities in the Region; and
- v. to study soil fertility requirements in the Region and appoint a regional soil fertility specialist.

(b) Livestock and Meat Marketing Survey

The Conference welcomed the special FAO study of the possibility of meeting the great and often unsatisfied demand for meat in major consumption areas in the Near East from supplies available in surplus countries in the Region and North East Africa, indicating the scope for improvement in marketing arrangements. Of the agricultural commodities which offered scope for expanded trade within the Region, one of those with the greatest potential was livestock and meat. However, export of livestock and meat from the main producing areas of the Region has declined in recent years or remained stagnant. The Conference emphasized the urgency of the problem in view of the sharp increase in demand in the Region anticipated over the next decade. Attention was drawn to the effect on trade of the necessary strict quarantine and veterinary regulations and the need for animal disease control.

It was further noted that currency problems and other difficulties to agree on mutually satisfactory terms of sale had in some cases led to a reduction in trade and the hope was expressed that these problems would gradually be overcome. The Conference stressed the anomaly of large surpluses in some of the producing countries and the great need for good quality meat in many of the consumption centres in the Region. In this connection attention was drawn to the convention between members of the Arab League which opened the way to the elimination of trade restrictions between them.

The Conference recognized that the problems which now confronted the expansion of inter-regional trade in livestock and meat are complex and that any long-term program should recognize that the provision of effective incentives to producers and traders is essential to a quick and economical solution. The Conference fully endorsed the conclusions of the survey and brought especially to the attention of Governments that:

- i. Governments in importing and exporting countries give increased attention to the improvement of domestic and external marketing arrangements and practices for live-stock and meat, and take the initiative in introducing improvement through the compilation of basic and reliable data, through systematic investigations and research aimed at modernizing present facilities and methods, and establish, where appropriate, bodies or organizations to undertake such work;
- ii. Governments should give special attention to the capital requirements involved in the establishment of new and modern facilities in the field of transport, processing, storage and handling of livestock and meat. Where local capital is inadequate or unavailable the possibility of obtaining funds from international lending and financing organizations or from foreign sources when mutually satisfactory arrangements are feasible, should be explored more actively;
- iii. the training of technical and administrative personnel to undertake research and planning surveys, and to administer and operate the necessary facilities is essential and should have high priority in any improvement program.

(c) Near East Marketing Centre on Fruit and Vegetables, Cairo 1960

The Conference considered the report of the Marketing Centre with special reference to Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, held in Cairo in January-February, 1960, and took special note of the following policy recommendations:

- i. that Governments of the Region make a systematic survey of the transport developments needed to facilitate the marketing of agricultural perishables and that they might request the help from FAO and the United Nations as needed;
- ii. that special attention be given to the establishment of more effective market information collection, analysis and dissemination systems and to the recruitment and training of personnel needed to operate them;
- iii. that detailed surveys on marketing be undertaken in the countries of the Region, with a view to a more complete assembly of information on agricultural marketing for further analysis in a comparable meeting of regional specialists and that FAO be requested to give all the necessary assistance in the execution of such surveys;

- iv. that special departments for agricultural marketing should be established with the necessary qualified staff to carry out surveys which should be followed up by research on urgent problems and the introduction of useful lines of development. Such departments would also offer general advice to Governments on matters affecting the marketing of agricultural produce and in some cases carry out investigations to assess the possibilities of expanding foreign trade, and
- v. that FAO proceed in consultation with the Governments of the Region to finalize arrangements for the establishment of the permanent marketing and training institute as recommended by the Fourth FAO Regional Conference in the Near East.

The Conference considered that the implementation of the recommendations of the Marketing Centre would greatly benefit all countries in the Region. Modern methods for the packing, storage, refrigeration and transport of perishables are mostly lacking in the Region, and one of the economic challenges facing countries in the Region is the introduction of up-to-date and efficient marketing methods and procedures. The Conference laid special stress on the need for marketing training and research on the national as well as the regional level. The Conference was informed about the developments with respect to the permanent marketing training and research institute which the Government of Lebanon had offered to host. The plan for the Institute had been worked out in some detail and Governments in the Region had been informed about it.

The Conference emphasized the need for such an Institute and for active support of several Governments to justify the establishment of this project. The following resolution was approved:

#### The Conference

Considering the crucial importance of agricultural marketing and distribution in reducing the cost of food to consumers and raising producers' incomes,

Endorses the report of the Marketing Centre held in Cairo in 1960, and

#### Recommends to Member Governments:

- i. to follow up this Centre by the convening of periodical national training courses, for example as has been done in Iran, to provide practical instruction in improved marketing methods and practices to producers, merchants and Government personnel, and
- ii. that in view of the urgent need for a permanent marketing training and research Institute in the Region, this project be submitted to the UN Special Fund and that the Governments in the Region indicate at their earliest convenience their support and participation;

Requests the Director-General:

- i. to consider undertaking further regional marketing surveys along the lines of the livestock and meat marketing survey and that special attention be given to a study on existing refrigeration and transport facilities to avoid current waste of perishable agricultural commodities, and
- ii. to consider calling a technical meeting on marketing in the Region to study and analyse the results of these surveys and to decide upon profitable lines of action.

(d) Technical Meeting on Co-operatives in the Near East, October 1959

The Conference noted the policy recommendations of this meeting and called upon the League of Arab States to initiate, as soon as practicable, the follow-up required for the implementation of the recommendation of the meeting which referred to the organization of a regional co-operative union. Such an organization would act as a clearing house for the exchange of information, experience, leadership and guidance in the field of co-operatives. When such follow-up action was begun by the League of Arab States it was understood that both FAO and ILO would be informed and consulted.

The meeting report, which was before the Conference, requested that further technical information be provided by FAO on the subject of supervised credit as successfully carried out in other areas of the world. The delegation of Lebanon requested that a pilot project in supervised credit through co-operatives be initiated by FAO in the Region and offered their country as a possible location for this pilot project.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region

This subject was introduced by the Director-General's Regional Representative who outlined the situation with reference to the Regular Program, ETAP, UN Special Fund, and other possible avenues of assistance in technical and economic development of the Region.

The Regional Representative commented on all aspects of the Agenda and in summarizing the conclusions and major recommendations of the Conference, indicated that with the present budgetary provisions of the Regular and Technical Assistance Programs, only a few of the requests for further action in the Region could be met.

Even with an increase in the budgets it was not likely that all requests could be met and priorities would have to be established. In this regard the Forward Appraisal, approved in principle by the Tenth FAO Conference, would be taken into account. On the other hand, the UN Special Fund undoubtedly offered opportunities to carry out those projects which fell within its terms of reference.

The rapid development of the co-operation between the countries in the Region in seeking a solution to many common problems in agricultural development will make for more efficient use of the limited personnel and finances available, and the Organization will give every assistance possible in developing such projects and, in particular, in assisting countries to prepare submissions to the Special Fund.

The Regional Representative expressed appreciation of the response of the countries in the Region to the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign and felt confident that with the action proposed by the Governments in the Region, great progress would be made towards fulfilment of the ideals and objectives of the Campaign.

In the discussion which followed the Regional Representative's statement, various matters were raised in relation to future work in the Region as follows:

- (a) Strengthening of the Regional Office: the Conference considered that a great deal more assistance could be given to the Region if the staff of the Regional Office were strengthened and more funds were made available for travel to allow the Regional staff more frequent visits of longer duration in each country.
- (b) Climate Investigations: the Conference requested that FAO should give consideration to work on factors which might improve the climate in the Region, such as artificial rain-making.
- (c) Regional Institutes, Training Centres and Seminars: it was recommended that in the planning of the establishment of regional institutes, seminars and training centres, and in the relevant proposals submitted to the UN Special Fund, the need for equitable distribution of such institutions between the countries of the Region should be kept in mind.

### III. SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE

#### (a) Resolutions Recommending Action by Governments:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Page  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| On Agricultural Plans and Planning: to implement recommendations of the general report on Agricultural Development Planning methods; to broaden programming and undertake organizational activities in public administration, organization, agricultural research, agricultural extension, credit, marketing and training personnel.                                                                                                               | 17-18 |
| On Mediterranean Development Project: to establish 'Spearhead' zones; to establish regional development projects; to prepare for a Mediterranean Conference in 1961.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 19    |
| On Horticultural Development: to increase production of fruit and vegetables; to establish community gardens.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 24    |
| On Problems in Farm Development under Dry and Irrigated Conditions: to give increased attention to farm planning, proper land utilization and improved production practices under irrigation and dry farming.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 27    |
| On The Development of the Livestock Industry: on Animal Production and Health to consider the establishment of a Near East Animal Husbandry Institute including a climatological centre and a milk and food processing by-products unit; to strengthen veterinary services and to report outbreaks of infectious diseases; to control imports and exports of livestock and livestock products; to improve land use and range management practices. | 29-31 |
| On Status of the Fisheries Industry: to improve statistical information on fisheries administrative services; to exchange information facilities and personnel among Member Governments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 33-34 |
| On Status of Forestry and Forest Industries: to take steps to conserve and develop forestry resources; to take advantage of facilities of the Near East Forest Rangers School at Lattakia; to improve training facilities for forestry; to take advantage of available training facilities in Pakistan.                                                                                                                                            | 35    |
| On Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign: to establish national Campaign committees; to share general campaign expenses; to formulate national programs; to translate the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign into the language of Member Countries; to issue special postage stamps.                                                                                                                                                                              | 38    |

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| <u>On World Agricultural Census:</u> to participate in 1960 World Census of Agriculture; to utilize the central tabulation centre in the Egyptian region of the U.A.R. for training of national technicians.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 39-41 |
| <u>On Increase in Production by the Use of Fertilizers:</u> to form National Fertilizer Advisory Groups.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 45    |
| <u>On Promotion of Food Consumption Surveys:</u> to organize food consumption surveys; to compile food balance sheets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 46-47 |
| <u>On Development of Local Foods for Supplementary Feeding Programs:</u> to develop and extend supplementary feeding programs; to explore and develop potential local sources of foods for supplementary feeding programs; to establish school and community gardens; to improve storage, processing, distribution and marketing facilities; to give consideration to nutritional requirements in planning of agricultural policies and programs.                                                                                                       | 49-51 |
| <u>On Feeding of Industrial Workers:</u> to provide assistance for a survey of facilities available for feeding industrial workers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 52    |
| <u>On Commodity Analysis:</u> to set up national commodity analysis units; to seek assistance in organizing commodity units.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 53-54 |
| <u>On Agricultural Information Services:</u> to make better use of radio in disseminating agricultural information; to seek assistance in training personnel; to exchange publications and utilize the facilities of ASFEC.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 55-56 |
| <u>On Soil Classification and Survey:</u> to centralize all soil survey and classification work in one unit; to use aerial photos and aerial photo analysis for soil survey and classification work; to prepare a map of the major soils of each country as a basis for a FAO soil map of the Region; to promote studies on soil salinity and alkalinity for use in reclamation of land; to establish organizations with full authority to promote soil and water conservation; to establish a permanent organization of soil scientists in the Region. | 56-57 |
| <u>On the FAO Livestock and Meat Marketing Survey:</u> to give attention to improvement of domestic and external marketing arrangements, including modernizing facilities and methods of processing; to improve transport, storage and handling of livestock and meat and training necessary personnel.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 58    |

On The FAO Near East Marketing Centre on Fruit and Vegetables: to convene periodic national training courses for marketing and to provide practical instruction in improved marketing methods and practices to producers, merchants and Government personnel.

58-59

(b) Resolutions Recommending Action by the Director-General

On Agricultural Plans and Planning: to explore possibilities for exchange of information and experience among Governments; to explore possibilities of using facilities of National Planning Institute in U.A.R.; to assist Governments with economic studies; to organize curriculum at proposed FAO Regional Training Centre in agricultural development planning to include consideration of special problems in agricultural planning discussed at the Regional Conference.

18

On Mediterranean Development Project: to establish a regional research institute to study problems of arid and semi-arid zones.

19

On Co-ordinated Approach to Rural Improvement: to undertake study of present situation and problems; to call technical meeting on problems in rural improvement; to consider establishing a technical working party.

21

On World Seed Improvement Program: to publish lists of important crop varieties.

22

On Wheat and Barley Project: to include Ethiopia and Sudan in the Project; to implement recommendations of consultants regarding the Project; to have a cereal technologist attached to the Project; to expand work on rust control and epidemiology.

23

On Horticultural Development: to convene a technical meeting on fruit and vegetables; to establish a study group on potato seed production; to organize seminars on expansion of olive and pistachio.

24

On Problems in Farm Development under Dry and Irrigated Conditions: to establish a working party on farm planning.

27

On The Development of the Livestock Industries: to assist Member Countries to ascertain types of units and their location required in a regional Animal Husbandry Institute; to appoint a veterinarian for the Near East Regional Office; to call a meeting of the FAO/OIE Committee of the Near East working party on Animal Production and Health in 1961; to obtain emergency funds for control of African Horse Sickness; to furnish technical assistance in botany, ecology and pasture improvement.

30-31



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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <u>On The Fisheries Industry in the Region:</u> to convene a regional meeting on Fisheries for the Near East; to convene a training centre on fish culture and inland fisheries management.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 33-34 |
| <u>On World Agricultural Census:</u> to establish a training centre on data processing methods; to study census plans and methods of Member Countries and assist in solving special problems and in promotion of full participation in future census programs; to investigate the possibility of appointing census experts for this study.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 40-41 |
| <u>On Development of Current Agricultural Statistics:</u> to publish regularly a compendium to its periodic statistical publications; to organize a Regional Training Centre of agricultural prices and income statistics and a training centre and seminar on livestock and livestock products to statistics; to appoint a Biometrician to the Near East Regional Office; to establish a Near East Regional Training and Research Institute in Agricultural Statistics; to draw attention of the UN Special Fund to the importance of the development of Agricultural Statistics. | 42-44 |
| <u>On The Increase in Production by the Use of Fertilizers:</u> to establish a Near East Fertilizer Working Party.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 45    |
| <u>On Promotion of Food Consumption Surveys:</u> to organize Regional or Sub-Regional Training Centres for Food Consumption Surveys.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 47    |
| <u>On Supplementary Feeding Programs:</u> to arrange a Seminar of Supplementary Feeding in association with UNICEF and WHO; to give assistance on surveys or pilot studies and production, suitability or acceptability of new or little-used protein rich foodstuffs for supplementary feeding with possible co-operation from UNICEF.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 50    |
| <u>On Feeding of Industrial Workers:</u> to undertake a survey of facilities now available for feeding industrial workers in collaboration with such agencies as ILO, UN Bureau of Social Affairs, WHO and the Social Affairs Division of the Arab League.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 52    |
| <u>On Commodity Reporting and Analysis:</u> to put commodity reporting and analysis on agenda for next Conference.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 53    |

On Soil Classification and Survey: to publish a Soils Map of the Region; to review, abstract, and compile, appropriate literature on cartographic procedures for preparation and publication of soils maps to promote uniformity in the Region; to prepare a bibliography of soils publications in the Region to promote co-ordination, correlation and standardization of soils activities in the Region; to establish a working party on soil classification and survey with biennial meetings; to study soil fertility requirements in the Region and appoint a regional soil fertility specialist.

57

On Near East Marketing Centre on Fruit and Vegetables: to undertake regional marketing surveys with special attention to available refrigeration and transport facilities; to convene a technical meeting on marketing; to assist Governments in preparing Special Fund Project for a marketing, training and research institute for the Region.

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Delegates:

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Acting Director of Agriculture  
Aden

YEMEN

Delegate:

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Permanent Observer

HOLY SEE

Permanent Observer of the Holy See  
Manoutchehr Soleimanipour

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UNITED NATIONS

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Deputy Correspondent of ILO in Iran

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Otto Lehner

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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A. Szarf  
Acting Chief  
Current Reports Section  
Commodities Division

ANNEX II

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

Chairman

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Gholam Abbass Davatchi | Iran |
|------------------------|------|

Vice-Chairmen

|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Mohamed Nacer Kechawarz | Afghanistan          |
| Pascal Woldemariam      | Ethiopia             |
| Raymond Lignon          | France               |
| Abdul Razzak Hassan     | Iraq                 |
| Negib Giha              | Jordan               |
| Hamad Al-Jawhary        | Libya                |
| M. Yamin Qureshi        | Pakistan             |
| Mohamed Ali Miheimied   | Sudan                |
| A.A. Moursi             | United Arab Republic |
| Z. Horn                 | United Kingdom       |
| M.F. Loheta             | Yemen                |

General Secretary

|                 |                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Burnell G. West | Liaison Officer for<br>the Near East |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|

Assistant Secretary

|             |                                          |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|
| Khalid Abed | Regional Agricultural<br>Economist, NERO |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|

Liaison Officer

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Hossein Ali Shoybani | Iran |
|----------------------|------|

Conference Officer

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Mrs. Z. Samii | Iran |
|---------------|------|





