

Report of the

SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

for the

NEAR EAST

Tel-Amara, Lebanon, 30 July - 8 August 1962



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.

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

R E P O R T

OF THE

SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

FOR THE NEAR EAST

TEL AMARA, LEBANON

30 July - 8 August 1962

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, Italy

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I. INTRODUCTION

Organization of the Conference

1. The Sixth FAO Regional Conference was held in Lebanon from 30 July to 8 August 1962, at Tel Amara Agricultural Research Station.
2. The Conference was attended by Delegations from the following countries:

AFGHANISTAN	PAKISTAN
IRAN	SAUDI ARABIA
JORDAN	SUDAN
KUWAIT	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
LEBANON	UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC
LIBYA	YEMEN
FRANCE (representing French Somaliland)	UNITED KINGDOM (representing Aden, Bahrain, Muscat and Oman, Trucial Oman)
3. The following countries were represented by observers:

DENMARK
NETHERLANDS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
4. The Permanent Observer of the Holy See and representatives from the following Organizations were present:

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES	UNESCO
UNITED NATIONS	UNICEF
UNTAB SPECIAL FUND	UNRWA
WHO	
5. A list of participants in attendance is given in Appendix A to this Report. Conference officers are given in Appendix B.
6. The Director-General opened the Conference by expressing the appreciation of FAO at being able to hold the Sixth Regional Conference in Lebanon, a country which had played an important role in FAO's work, and had already been the scene not only of a previous Regional Conference, but also of many technical meetings and working parties.
7. Mr. Joseph Scaff, Minister of Agriculture for Lebanon, then said that he had great pleasure in welcoming the delegates to the Conference on behalf of the President of the Republic, His Excellency, Mr. Fouad Chehab. He traced briefly the rapid growth of FAO in recent years under the leadership of Dr. Sen, and noted that FAO activities, though as always based on the Regular Program, were becoming more and more operational in character with the growth of Technical Assistance, Special Fund, Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, and so on. This change in character permitted FAO to play an increasing part in promoting the development of the agriculture of Member Countries. The Minister thanked

FAO particularly for the various kinds of assistance given in connection with recent Lebanese plans and projects for agricultural development. He continued that, because of the conjunction of the U.N. Development Decade - 1960-1970 - with the climax of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, the influence of this Conference on the preparation of the next Program of Work and Budget for FAO would have a considerable importance. The Minister expressed the conviction that all delegations would work together to this end in a spirit of solidarity and goodwill.

8. Dr. A.R. Sidky, FAO Regional Representative in the Near East, extended the grateful thanks of FAO to the Minister of Agriculture for his warm welcome and for the support he had given to the Conference. He pointed out that the Regional Conference offered the opportunity to apply at a regional level the principles of international co-operation which were now being recognized as instrumental in promoting human well-being. The Near East Region had already been the scene of a number of regional projects, such as the Mediterranean Development Project, the Wheat and Barley Improvement Project, the Locust Project, and the Animal Health Institute. These showed what could be achieved on a regional basis, and the importance attached to the Conference by the Governments, as indicated by the composition of their delegations, augured well for further action at this level.

9. Following the inaugural ceremony, His Excellency Mr. Joseph Scaff, Minister of Agriculture for Lebanon, was elected Chairman. The Heads of Delegations were then elected Vice-Chairmen as follows:

Afghanistan	Nour Ali
France	Michol Cépède
Iran	Mohdi Khazoni Moghadam
Jordan	H.E. Qasim Rimawi
Kuwait	Khalil Eid
Libya	Munir A. Baaba
Pakistan	Mohammed Khurshid
Saudi Arabia	H.E. Sheikh Abdulrahman Ben Al-Shoikh
Sudan	Hussein Sharfi
Syrian Arab Republic	H.E. Abdel-Wahab Akkad
United Arab Republic	Abdel-Aziz Hussein
United Kingdom	John C. Eyre
Yemen	Farouk Mikaty

10. 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. 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. Planned Agricultural Development in the Region
 - (a) Review of Progress Made in Formulation and Implementation of Plans Since the last Regional Conference
 - (b) Mediterranean Development Project - Progress of Follow-up Action
 - (c) Improving the Statistical Basis for Agricultural Planning
 - i. World Census of Agriculture
 - ii. Standardization and Co-ordination of Agricultural Statistics
 - (d) Commodity Questions
 - i. Commodity Reporting and Analysis as Tools for Development Planning
 - ii. Prospects for International Trade in Agricultural Products of Interest to the Region
 - (e) Effective Use of External Assistance
 - i. Technical Co-operation Programs
 - ii. World Food Program
7. Integrated Development and Use of Land and Water Resources
8. Crop Production
 - (a) The Special Role of Horticultural Crops
 - (b) Current Development of Selected Crops such as Wheat, Barley, and Grain Legumes, etc.
9. Some Problems in the Formulation and Implementation of Fishery Policies in the Region
10. Movement of Agricultural Products from Production to Consumption
 - (a) Processing and Preservation
 - (b) Marketing, including Storage and Transportation
11. The Role of Agricultural Education and Training, Research and Extension in Relation to Agricultural Development
12. Agricultural Information

D. SPECIFIC FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE NEAR EAST NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE,
WHICH REQUIRE CONFERENCE GUIDANCE OR GOVERNMENT ACTION

13. Report of Action taken on Recommendations of the Fifth Regional Conference for the Near East
14. Increased Use of Fertilizers
 - (a) Needs and Problems of Supply
 - (b) Progress Report on the Fertilizer Program
15. Animal Production and Health
 - (a) Present Status of Animal Health in the Region
 - (b) Animal Production including Research and the Possibility of Establishing a Regional Institute
16. Policy Implications of Reports of Meetings
 - (a) Near East Forestry Commission
 - (b) Near East Meeting on Food Consumption Survey
 - (c) Near East Meeting on Plant Protection

E. CONCLUDING ITEMS

17. The Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region
18. Adoption of the Report

11. A drafting committee was appointed for the final report from the delegations of Lebanon, Jordan, Libya, Pakistan, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the United Arab Republic. A list of Working Papers for this Conference is given in Appendix C to this Report.

Closing Session of the Conference

12. At its closing Session the Conference adopted the text of the Report in its present form.

13. Dr. A.R. Sidky, Regional Representative of the Director-General for the Near East Region, thanked the delegates on behalf of the Organization for their active participation and expressed his appreciation to the Chairman for his skillful handling of the Conference, and to the Government of Lebanon for the kind hospitality and for the splendid facilities made available to the Conference.

14. The Chairman thanked the delegates and observers for their attendance and for their valuable contribution to the discussion, and the Director-General and the FAO Secretariat for their careful preparation for the Conference.

15. The Head of the delegation from the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of all the delegations, expressed his appreciation of the work performed by the Chairman, the Director-General, the FAO Secretariat and the drafting committee, and thanked the Government of Lebanon for the excellent arrangements and facilities made available for the Conference. This was seconded by the heads of many delegations.

II. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

THE WORK OF FAO IN THE NEAR EAST AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

1. Statement by the Director-General

16. The Director-General reminded delegates that they were assembled to discuss and offer advice on problems affecting the whole field of agricultural development, and consequently the economic progress of the Near East Region. Countries would be able to benefit by the experience of other countries which are faced with common problems, while FAO would benefit from guidance as to the manner in which it could best serve the needs of the whole region.

17. Amongst the most serious obstacles to economic development and the improvement of general well-being in the region was the fact that the agricultural sector in most of the countries had been going through a difficult period in spite of the strenuous efforts made by governments to bring about improvements. Not only had total agricultural production been stagnant, but food production in particular had lagged while population had increased at an accelerated rate. In addition, earnings from agricultural exports, on which economic development in the Near East, except in oil-producing countries, depends, had been most disappointing. Recent signs of improvement in production due to abundant and well-distributed rainfall in most parts of the region only served to emphasize the crucial dependence of the agriculture of the region on timely rainfall. This highlighted the importance of the conservation of moisture and the integrated development and use of land and water resources.

18. The Director-General continued that in his opinion the issues were of such magnitude and complexity that only the adoption of radical measures could hope to solve them. It might be necessary, among others, to attempt a modification of the economic and social structure; to change the system of land tenure; to transform the outworn pattern of foreign trade and the internal production structure; to set aright gross inequalities in income distribution; to train the broad masses in technical skills; and to promote social security and give special encouragement to individual initiative. In short, each country in the region would have to formulate a clear and well-defined development program, taking into account both immediate and long-term needs and giving a prominent place to agriculture to enable it to contribute effectively to economic growth. Earlier regional conferences had devoted attention to this important question of planning, and many countries now had sufficient experience to permit a useful exchange of ideas on selected aspects of planned agricultural and economic development in the region.

19. The Director-General reported that it had been possible to hold, in Cairo, in March and April of 1962, the Regional Training Centre on Agricultural Development Planning that was requested by the two previous regional conferences. The proposal that FAO should set up a Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning, was a direct outcome of this Training Centre.

20. Comprehensive planning in all its phases required equally comprehensive statistics. For this purpose, as also for international co-ordination, special efforts were needed to improve existing statistics in respect of coverage, accuracy, timeliness and comparability. While some countries had already included the development of food and agricultural statistics as an integral part of their agricultural development plan, the Director-General hoped that other countries would also attempt to develop their statistical systems on a sound and permanent basis.

21. In addition to soundly constructed plans based on good information, countries also needed resources for implementation. It was a question not only of financial resources, but also of resources of skilled manpower, of knowledge and of techniques for innovation. In financial terms, assistance to Near East countries, which, during the last ten years had been channelled through FAO, by way of EPTA, the Special Fund, FFHC Funds, Funds-in-Trust, FAO/UNICEF projects, etc., amounted to over 40 million dollars. The volume of assistance was continuing to increase year by year, though it still fell far short of what was needed.

22. The World Food Program, with an initial outlay of 100 million dollars, would shortly be put into operation on an experimental basis under the joint sponsorship of FAO and the UN, and this would usher in a new era in surplus utilization. The Director-General hoped that the experimental projects would demonstrate the wider scope and possibilities for such a program, so that it would receive massive support in the future, commensurate with the total stockpile and the needs of developing countries.

23. The Director-General pointed out that economic development continued to be obstructed by the traditional land tenure system in the region, aggravated by small holdings. No country was likely to develop very far or very fast while it retained a system of land tenure which offered no incentive to the farmer. In order to assist governments in their efforts to overcome these obstacles, the Director-General indicated that it might be possible before long to establish a regional post for land tenure and settlement in the Near East Regional Office.

24. The Director-General continued that planning and implementation of development projects was dependent on an efficient apparatus of government and administrative services. There was much to be done in the building up of administrative services with fully-trained staff of high calibre, capable of formulating policies and projects, and able to implement such projects in all their phases. Without the fulfilment of these conditions, the mere provision of additional funds from external or internal sources would have little effect.

25. The Director-General then referred to FAO's Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign launched in 1960. This was, he said, essentially an educational Campaign to stimulate the willing and understanding co-operation of the masses in support of development programs. He reported that Member Nations in the Near East Region had taken a leading part not only in bringing the central message of the Campaign to the notice of their public, but also in giving

practical shape to the concrete measures that the Campaign visualized as cooperative ventures on an international scale. National Campaign committees, established in several countries, had initiated action in the various fields within the Campaign framework. For the future it was most important to ensure harmony between the public support generated by the Campaign, and the governmental measures for balanced economic and social development which alone would provide a long-term answer to the problem of hunger. ^{1/}

26. The Director-General mentioned the World Food Congress to be held in Washington in June 1963, the midpoint of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign. It was intended to help ensure identity of purpose and method between the public and the private groups within a country. The World Food Congress was designed to highlight the world objectives of the Campaign, discover gaps in knowledge, and point to directions in which greater efforts were called for. It was the first world congress of its nature, bringing together on a single platform an enlightened cross-section of leading world citizens, prominent scientists and research workers in the various disciplines dealing with food production and nutrition, economists specialized in the problems of economic development, and representatives of farmers' organizations and citizen groups allied with the world-wide movement against hunger and want.

27. The Director-General said that the Member Nations of FAO attached the utmost importance to this Congress believing it would give a fresh impetus and purpose to the work of the Organization in its fight against hunger and poverty. Humanity had many problems remaining to be solved, but a world where every man, woman and child could be provided with the primary necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter was no longer a utopia. Advanced countries had come to accept as common place that national economic prosperity depended not on the privilege of the few, but on the welfare of all within the community. What was true of a national community was no less true for the world community as a whole. No country or group of countries could for long insulate its prosperity against the rest of the world.

28. The Director-General noted that the United Nations Development Decade, was "a program for international economic co-operation during the 1960's". It asked Member States, both developed and developing, to intensify their efforts to accelerate progress toward self-sustaining economic growth; recommended a substantial increase in the rate of growth of the developing countries; and called upon the Member States as well as the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies to undertake appropriate policies and actions for this purpose, including an increase in the flow of development resources, public and private, to developing countries. The Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, since it represented an intensification of FAO's activities for increasing food production, improving nutrition and raising standards of living of the world population was FAO's part in the Development Decade.

29. Backed by this program, FAO would be in a position to play a more active role in the removal of hunger and in improving the living standards of the rural people, in strengthening the agricultural base of the developing countries, not only by making its experience and advice available to such

^{1/} The Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign itself formed the subject of a separate meeting running concurrently with the Regional Conference, the results of which are reported in a separate document.

countries at the stage of the formulation of their policies and plans, but also by assisting in the formulation of their various nutritional and production goals. To achieve these goals would imply reaching certain targets for the supply of agricultural requisites, as well as taking appropriate institutional and organizational measures, and in both these directions FAO could supply valuable assistance, particularly over the next decade.

30. The Director-General mentioned one subject which he considered to be of overriding importance, namely the dissemination of scientific information. He thought Member Countries should ask themselves whether the machinery whereby the fruits of research are made available to the cultivator was adequate to the great opportunities for advance which offer themselves. The farmer must have access to the results of research so that he could step up production and thus benefit from higher standards of living. The information should be conveyed to him in a language which he could understand and through media of communication appealing to his imagination.

31. The Director-General concluded that the old limitations on development - money, man and scientific knowledge - no longer applied. Accelerated development was now possible if there was a clear sense of direction and purpose. External assistance was necessary but was most effective when it formed an integral supplement to national effort. Each country had to have a design for economic development extending to all sectors. The dominant position that agriculture occupied in the structure and functioning of the economies of the countries in the region must be recognized. Economic development in these countries, at least in the early stages, would depend very largely on the growth of output of the agricultural sector and on the changes in its structural and functional organization. The best plans for agricultural development, however, were not enough unless such plans receive the propulsive thrust of the people and the peasantry. The FFHC provided a vehicle to promote such motivation. The road was clear for a great advance in mobilizing public opinion and support in efforts to find a permanent solution to the problems of hunger and want.

2. The Food and Agricultural Situation in the Region^{1/}

32. The Conference noted that the broad features of the food and agricultural situation in recent years in the Near East continued to present a number of disappointing features. In strong contrast to the rapid progress achieved earlier, the region's agricultural production had recently failed to keep pace with the growth of population. Several countries had suffered from droughts almost continuously for four seasons. Food production in particular had lagged, and it seemed that in spite of a steep rise in imports the per caput supply of grains must have been reduced. Trends in the region's agricultural exports were equally discouraging, and although export earnings from agricultural products had recovered somewhat in 1960, there had been a further decline in 1961 which did not appear so far to have been arrested during 1962.

^{1/} In the following paragraphs statements concerning developments in the overall food and agricultural situation of the region are based on FAO production and trade indices for the Near East which cover the following countries : Aden, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Muscat and Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trucial Oman, Turkey, United Arab Republic, and Yemen.

Agricultural Production 1960/61 and 1961/62

33. After rising only slightly in 1960/61, the region's agricultural production had fallen by 2 to 3 percent in 1961/62, according to preliminary FAO estimates. The production of grain had declined by a further 2 million tons in 1961/62 from the drought-affected level of the previous year, and would have been even lower had there not been some slight improvement in Iraq, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. In Turkey, there was a sharp fall in grain production in 1961/62. In the United Arab Republic the production of wheat, barley and maize was slightly lower in 1961/62, while because of reduced Nile water supplies the rice area had declined sharply and production had fallen by 23 percent, necessitating government control of the distribution of this crop.

34. In spite of the largest acreage for many years, the United Arab Republic cotton harvest had decreased by 30 percent in 1961/62, mainly as a result of unusually severe outbreaks of cotton leafworm. Saudi Arabia reported heavy losses of livestock as a result of continued severe drought. However, in most countries where grain production had been small in 1961/62, there had been sharp increases for some other products. Jordan reported a continued rapid expansion in the production of tomatoes, citrus, fruit and olive oil. In Lebanon, the short supply of irrigation water had been used more carefully to maximize returns from cash crops such as fruits and some vegetables. Cotton production in the Syrian Arab Republic had been little affected by the drought.

35. Several countries reported that they had been comparatively free from the unfavourable conditions that had affected production over so much of the region. In Afghanistan, the production of grains, cotton, oil seeds and fruit had increased very rapidly in recent years. The production of a number of crops in Pakistan reached new record levels in 1961/62, indicating that the targets of the Second Five-Year Plan for almost all crops would not only be attained but were likely to be exceeded. There had been a very large rise in cotton production in Sudan in 1961/62.

36. For the 1962/63 season it seemed from the limited data so far available that the regional production situation was more encouraging. The Conference noted with satisfaction that there had been abundant and well distributed rainfall over most of the region, including those areas that had been hit by almost continuous droughts over the past few years. A third successive large grain harvest in Afghanistan had necessitated heavy government purchases in order to maintain farm prices. In the Syrian Arab Republic too, large crops of wheat, barley and cotton were expected. In Lebanon, prospects were for a large wheat crop. In the United Arab Republic the anticipated Nile water supply had allowed for a significant expansion in the rice area for 1962/63. By contrast olive production in Jordan would probably be about 20 percent of last year.

International Trade in Agricultural Products

37. While some countries had not shared in the unfavourable agricultural production situation that had prevailed over much of the region in 1961/62, and the immediately preceding years, none of them had been able to escape the effects of the continued deterioration in the situation for agricultural exports in world markets, as well as the sharp year-to-year fluctuations that occurred in the world prices of agricultural products.

38. In 1960 the region's earnings from agricultural exports had continued their gradual recovery from the low level of 1958, though they remained some 60 percent less than in 1957. In 1961, however, trends were much less favourable. Both the volume of exports and average prices declined, and the Near East's earnings from agricultural exports had fallen by nearly 10 percent to a level only slightly higher than in 1958.

39. The volume of exports in 1961 had been sharply affected by the poor crops in many countries. Grain exports had declined again, reaching less than half their 1958 volume, and grain prices had also fallen. Rice exports especially had been reduced and the United Arab Republic had had to prohibit exports from the poor crop harvested in 1961. Shipments of cotton also fell sharply, largely because of the low level of production in the United Arab Republic. Cotton prices had averaged somewhat lower in 1961 than the year before, and for long and extra long-staple varieties had weakened perceptibly during the first half of 1962.

40. The Conference was particularly concerned at the longer-term trends in the region's agricultural exports. Except for the oil-producing countries, economic development in the Near East was largely dependent on the amount of annual export earnings from agricultural products. Over a period of approximately a decade, an expansion of well over one-third in the volume of the region's agricultural exports had brought only about 4 percent more in export earnings. Even this small increase was in current prices, and it appeared that "real" earnings from agricultural exports (i.e. their purchasing power for manufactured goods) had actually fallen over this period, in spite of the substantial increase in the volume of shipments.

41. At the same time, there had been a rapid rise in recent years in imports of agricultural products. While there had been a slight decrease in these imports in 1961, they remained very large in relation to earlier years. Grain imports, mainly from the United States on concessional terms under Public Law 480, were again large in 1961, though they fell by almost 10 percent from the high level of 1960.

42. The Near East remained a substantial net exporter of agricultural products as a whole, but for foodstuffs the region had been on a net import basis in almost every postwar year. In 1961, the rapid rise in net imports of food had been halted for the first time for some years, and the net import of grain, though still large, had fallen by about 10 percent.

Food Supplies in Relation to Population

43. On a per caput basis the region's food production was estimated to have declined by about 3 percent in 1960/61 and by a further 4 percent in 1961/62. The peak of per caput food production reached in 1958/59, had probably been about 15 percent above the prewar level. By 1961/62, however, this gain over the low prewar average appeared to have been approximately halved.

44. The biggest reductions in per caput production had been in grains, which were the staple food in all Near East countries and contributed the greater part of the calories. Per caput food supplies had, however, been

kept up to some extent by the large increases in imports and decreases in exports of grains. By 1961/62, on the other hand, when there had been a further fall in grain production and net imports also were smaller, per caput grain consumption must have declined. In the countries most severely affected by droughts it was likely that consumption had fallen earlier and more seriously,

45. The Conference considered that the situation regarding the consumption of livestock products gave cause for concern. The statistical information on the livestock sector was particularly unreliable and incomplete, but all the available evidence pointed to very low levels of animal protein intake, which might even have been declining in some countries in recent years.

Government Action

46. Delegations outlined to the Conference the various projects and measures under way in their countries for the development of agriculture. In almost all cases these now formed part of an integrated program for the agricultural sector as a whole, which itself was conceived within the framework of an overall plan for economic and social development. Recent developments in agricultural planning are reviewed in the next section of this Report.

47. The recent situation had emphasized once again the heavy dependence of the region's agricultural production on the scanty and highly variable rainfall, and in most countries programs for the better use of water resources played a key role. In Afghanistan, in addition to new irrigation projects, attention was being paid to the improvement of existing irrigation systems. In Jordan the East Ghor Canal Project, which was entering its second stage, was likely to be completed sooner than expected, and the Yarmook Project was expected to be completed soon. Intensive prospecting for fresh well water was being carried out in Kuwait. It was reported that in Pakistan 100,000 acres of good agricultural land were going out of cultivation every year as a result of water-logging and salinity; while the Government was taking all possible measures, the process of reclamation was bound to be slow. Legislation concerning water usage and conservation was under consideration in Saudi Arabia. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the Rastan and Muhardeh Dams had been constructed as part of the Ghab Project, many other smaller projects were under way, and studies were being conducted on the Euphrates Dam. In Lebanon a Five-Year Plan of Leb.£ 54 million for developing utilization of irrigation had been passed in 1961.

48. The need for basic research and surveys, including statistical data, was increasingly recognized. The Conference welcomed the assistance that was being provided by the United Nations Special Fund in these and related fields. Many countries were carrying out surveys of their water resources. In Lebanon, the Institute for Agricultural Research had been raised to the status of a Directorate-General, in order to increase its facilities and resources, and in Pakistan the Food and Agriculture Council was being reorganized to undertake long-term and fundamental research of national importance.

49. A number of countries reported important modifications in the organization of their agricultural services. A re-organization of the Ministry of Agriculture had been carried out in Lebanon and was under way in Jordan. Pakistan proposed to extend to other districts its Model Scheme, under which a concentrated drive to step up production in selected spearhead zones had been launched in 1960; an Agricultural Development Co-operation had now been set up in each province and would be ready to undertake full operations in the coming winter. In the United Arab Republic, general organizations had been established to look after

private and public activity in various sectors of the economy, including, in the food and agricultural field, cotton, food industries, milling and baking, storage and grain elevators, aquatic resources, land reclamation, land settlement, desert development, and agricultural cooperatives.

50. Many countries were strengthening their extension services. In Jordan and Lebanon more emphasis was being given to the agricultural services at the district level. Extension services in the Provincial Agricultural Departments of Pakistan were being expanded so that there would be an agricultural officer for each Union, covering approximately 10,000 persons. Extension units and province extension committees had been established in Sudan. In the Syrian Arab Republic, mobile extension units had been set up, equipped with the facilities required for practical extension. In the United Arab Republic, the role of cooperatives and the agricultural centres in extension work was being stressed.

51. Land reform measures continued to be implemented in a number of Near East countries. The Conference was informed that although land distribution was not a problem in Jordan legislation had been prepared for the distribution of state domain. In West Pakistan the redistribution of land had been completed, and in addition four million acres had been consolidated; in East Pakistan, 360,000 acres of land had been acquired and were being allotted to tenants.

52. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the distribution of land to farmers under the agrarian reform had been made conditional on their joining cooperative societies, of which there were now 235; credit for farmers and for cooperatives was made available by the Agricultural Cooperative Bank. In the United Arab Republic, the village cooperative, of which there were now 4,050, played an active role in all agricultural activities; village banks had been established to provide credit for farmers, and since the middle of 1961 loans had been granted interest free by the Agricultural Cooperative Bank. The Conference took note of the progress of the experimental schemes of mechanized cooperative farming that were being carried out in East and West Pakistan.

53. Important new developments in agricultural marketing included the taking charge of all internal and external trade transactions in cotton in the United Arab Republic by the Egyptian Cotton Commission and the National Public Organization for Cotton Trading; the Ministry of Economy now fixed prices before each season, as well as the terms and the dates of delivery of the cotton to the Commission. In order to permit larger carryover stocks of wheat it had been decided to set up 49 further elevators in the United Arab Republic, with a total capacity of 840,000 tons. A Marketing Bureau had been established in Jordan; particular attention was also being paid to the construction of village roads. In Lebanon the Fruit Office had been re-organized. In Libya, grains and olive oil were now purchased by the Government at fixed prices at the time of harvest. In Pakistan all exportable supplies of superior rice is procured by the Government. In Saudi Arabia, efforts were being made to find the best way to utilize the large amounts of meat slaughtered during the pilgrimage season.

54. Saudi Arabia was also formulating quarantine legislation. In Pakistan a National Animal Disease Control Committee had been appointed and had prepared a master plan for the prevention, control and eradication of 27 major livestock diseases. Two animal feed plants, mainly utilizing industrial by-products, had been set up in West Pakistan and another was to be established in East Pakistan. In many countries, mass vaccination campaigns against the major epizootic diseases had resulted in an appreciable increase in the livestock population. In Lebanon, an animal quarantine centre was being established for the control of imports of live animals.

55. A number of countries were devoting increased attention to the development of their fisheries, which could make an important contribution to animal protein supplies. Pakistan's exports of fishery products had expanded rapidly and considerable progress had been made in the gradual mechanization of the fishing fleet, in the construction of fish harbours and jetties, the establishment of processing plants, and the provision of research facilities. In Sudan, extensive work had been carried out in stocking ponds, the fish resources of the Nile and the Red Sea were being investigated with a view to building a fish canning factory, and it was proposed to establish a research institute for hydro-biological investigations.

56. Many countries reported on their programs in the field of forestry. The Conference noted that in Jordan there was an extensive afforestation program. In Pakistan there had been a substantial increase in the forest area, and intensive inventory work was being carried out as a basis for the establishment of forest industries. A Forestry Division was to be added to Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Agriculture. Afforestation, reconnaissance surveys, mapping and reservation were proceeding rapidly in Sudan.

GENERAL POLICY QUESTIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

1. Planned Agricultural Development in the Region

(a) Review of Progress Made in Formulation and Implementation of Plans Since the Last Regional Conference

57. The Conference reviewed recent progress in the formulation and implementation of agricultural plans in the countries of the Near East, together with the development of FAO's assistance to Member Governments in their agricultural planning.

58. Since the last Regional Conference, less than two years before, substantial progress had been made in agricultural planning in the Near East. While most of the earlier plans had been confined to public investment projects only, comprehensive plans, covering the whole of the economy including the private sector, had now been drawn up in many countries. All these new plans paid due attention to the agricultural sectors.

59. The Conference noted the reports on the progress made in the execution of the comprehensive plans since 1960 in Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the United Arab Republic. During 1962 the implementation of such plans had begun in Afghanistan, Jordan and Sudan, and their main provisions in regard to agriculture were described to the Conference by the delegations of these countries. Among other Near East or closely related countries, comprehensive plans had also been formulated in Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Libya and Turkey. The preparation of Lebanon's new plan was expected to be completed by the end of the year.

60. The machinery for planning had been further developed in a number of countries. In Lebanon the Ministry of Planning had been re-organized to include, besides the High Council of the Plan, a central department for statistics and a department for research and long-term studies; it was also proposed to establish a planning section in the Ministry of Agriculture. In Sudan, new planning machinery had recently been established, including an Economic Planning Secretariat in the Ministry of Finance and Economics.

61. While considerable progress thus appeared to have been made in methods of plan formulation and in planning organization, the Conference noted that it was too early to say whether the new round of plans would show a similar improvement in their implementation. An encouraging sign, however, was that increased attention was being given in some countries to the field organizations required to assist in the execution of agricultural plans. In Afghanistan, for example, District Agricultural Development Committees were being set up, consisting of representatives of the local administration, the extension service and the Agricultural Bank, and a certain number of farmers. In Lebanon an Institute of Development had been established to train multi-purpose teams that would work at the village level.

62. In line with the greatly increased emphasis on agricultural planning in the Near East, FAO had endeavoured to expand and to make more effective the assistance it was able to offer in this field. The Conference especially welcomed the Regional Training Centre Agricultural Development Planning that had been held at Cairo in March and April 1962 on the invitation of the Government of the United Arab Republic. FAO hoped to hold further such training centres in the future.

63. The Conference welcomed the Director-General's decision to establish a task force of Agricultural Planning Economists under the new Regular Program of Technical Assistance, including a Regional Planning Economist for the Near East. This officer would be available mainly to carry out short-term advisory missions in the countries of the region, which should greatly reinforce the longer-term advisory projects under the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance and also the work of the Regional Agricultural Economist.

64. The Conference noted that the participants at the Cairo Training Centre had expressed the view that some more permanent machinery was needed whereby the problems encountered in the region's agricultural planning could be regularly reviewed and studied. The Conference endorsed this view and recommended the establishment of a Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning, if possible, by the next session of the FAO Council. The Commission would consist of representatives of governments, who would meet regularly, say once a year. An FAO staff member would be appointed as Secretary of the Commission, to service its meetings, and other Headquarters and regional staff would

participate in its work when necessary. The Commission would formulate its own detailed program of work in the light of the developing situation. The Conference believed that, in addition to assisting in the solution of the technical problems of agricultural planning, such a Commission would contribute to co-operation and co-ordination of activities in the field of agricultural planning in the region.

65. The following recommendation was approved:

Recommendation No. 1

THE CONFERENCE

Noting

- i. the growing importance of economic development planning in the Near East Region as a contribution to increasing production and incomes and raising the levels of living of the people;
- ii. the need to ensure the proper formulation of agricultural programs and projects, within the framework of general programs of economic development, and a suitable organizational structure for the achievement of targets;;

Appreciating the proposals made by the Director-General on the rendering of advisory services as well as the provision of training facilities, and that the experimental special program of Regular Program of Technical Assistance be mainly directed toward assistance in the field of agricultural development planning;

Realizing

- i. the need for the training of sufficient personnel in the field of agricultural planning and the great importance of the establishment of training centres on the subject, the usefulness of which was shown by the one held at Cairo during March and April 1962;
- ii. the need for some standing machinery whereby the problems encountered in the region's agricultural planning could be regularly reviewed;

Welcoming the offers made by several delegations to make facilities in their countries available to the other countries of the region, including those of the Institute of National Planning in the United Arab Republic, and of the numerous institutions in Pakistan, and fellowships for students from the Arab States at the National Institutes of Development and of Public Administration in Lebanon;

Recommends to Member Countries carrying out plans for agricultural and general economic development that they should establish agencies for the following up and appraisal of projects, to assure the proper execution of projects and the achievement of targets at the proper time, and to allow for the quick modification of projects in the shortest possible time and at the lowest cost;

Requests the Director-General to consider

- i. rendering assistance to Member Countries to help them strengthen their agricultural planning agencies or establish them if none exist;
- ii. establishing without delay the cadre of highly qualified agricultural planning economists to be financed under the Regular Program of Technical Assistance, including the Agricultural Planning Economist to be assigned to the region to assist the countries of the Near East in solving their problems;
- iii. allocating the necessary funds for the holding of further training centres on agricultural planning, and for the granting of FAO fellowships for the study of agricultural planning under the Technical Assistance programs, in order to help the countries of the region to train their personnel;
- iv. under Article VI, paragraph 1, of the Constitution of FAO, establishing a Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning to cover the Near East Region as defined by FAO;

Proposes

- i. that the terms of reference of the Commission should be to review and exchange (both by means of regular meetings and by correspondence) information and experience on agricultural plans and planning and on the problems encountered in the formulation, execution, following up and evaluation of such plans in the countries of the region, and to make recommendations to Member Governments on means of improving their agricultural plans and to FAO on the assistance which could be provided for this purpose, with due regard to the different stages of development reached by the various countries of the region;
- ii. that the terms of reference of the Commission should cover in particular:
 - (a) the provision of guidance to its members and to FAO regarding training programs and facilities required for improving agricultural planning, and of assistance to members in arranging National Training Centres;
 - (b) the investigation of specific problems of agricultural planning, either through the establishment of working groups or other subsidiary bodies, or through special research studies carried out by FAO or by governmental or non-governmental institutions;
 - (c) assistance to its members in obtaining the services of suitably qualified experts in agricultural planning;

Requests that the Commission should be set up as soon as possible, and that the Director-General therefore submit a proposal for its establishment to the FAO Council at its next Session.

66. The Conference considered further that for the work of the proposed Commission to be fully effective, it would need the services of a body of highly-qualified experts in agricultural planning. It therefore recommended

the establishment of a Near East Agricultural Planning Institute, and the following recommendation was agreed upon:

Recommendation No. 2

THE CONFERENCE

Noting the need for training facilities in agricultural planning, and for research and studies on the various aspects of the formulation, execution, following up and evaluation of agricultural plans in the countries of the Near East;

Believing that for the sound and effective working of the proposed Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning, it will need the services of a body of highly-qualified expert in agricultural planning;

Requests the Director-General to consider

- i. establishing a Near East Agricultural Planning Institute with a permanent secretariat;
- ii. that the Institute should train personnel in agricultural planning techniques and in the functions involved in the implementation of plans, should support the work of the Commission by providing it with the necessary studies and surveys and conducting the research necessary for sound recommendations in the field of agricultural planning, and should, on request, analyze the technical and economic feasibility of national agricultural plans that might be submitted to it for review;
- iii. that, in response to the offer of facilities by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Institute should be established at Damascus;
- iv. exploring the possibilities of financing such an Institute, in particular through the United Nations Special Fund.

(b) Mediterranean Development Project - Progress of Follow-up Action

67. The Conference reviewed the activities undertaken by the Organization within the framework of follow-up action on the FAO Mediterranean Development Project. These activities can be grouped under three main headings: (a) assistance to governments in the establishment and planning of Regional Development Zones; (b) organization of inter-governmental consultations on selected problems of Mediterranean development; (c) carrying out of joint regional projects, e.g. studies and surveys for the establishment of a refrigerated network for the marketing of perishable agricultural products from the Mediterranean Area (Cold Chain).

68. The Conference was informed of the main characteristics of the UN Special Fund/FAO pre-investment projects for the establishment of regional development zones which are now being carried out in several Mediterranean countries. The main aim of these pre-investment surveys is to provide governments with specific measures and proposals for development framed and correlated so as to induce a process of accelerated economic growth in particular zones or regions within a given country. The proposals take

due account of the complementarity between the social, economic and technical aspects of development, as well as of the complementarity between different sectors of agriculture and between agriculture and other sectors. The Conference agreed that the integrated approach underlying the pre-investment surveys gave them a unity of purpose which was well in accordance with the conclusions of the FAO Mediterranean Development Project. It was emphasized, however, that in the establishment of regional development zones, special attention should be paid to the different conditions and characteristics of the countries of the Mediterranean Basin.

69. The Conference welcomed the gradual extension of the network of development zones to the Near East Region and took note with interest of the information supplied by delegations regarding projects for integrated agricultural development which are being carried out in their countries. It also noted a proposal for undertaking of a survey of the Red Sea Area. The Conference was informed of the interest of the Government of Jordan to participate in the Mediterranean Development Project.

70. The Conference stressed the importance of regional co-operation in accelerating progress in the Mediterranean countries and confirmed its support for the action taken by the Director-General to strengthen co-operative action among the Mediterranean countries. In this connection, the establishment of a Cold Chain Project, the setting up of an FAO Expert Group on Mediterranean Development and the organization of inter-governmental consultations were particularly welcomed.

71. The Conference noted with interest the proposal to hold the next inter-governmental consultation on Mediterranean Development Problems at Nimes, France. It also noted with appreciation the offer made by the Centre international des hautes études agronomiques, recently established by the Organization for Economic Development and the Council of Europe at Bari and Montpellier, to make available the facilities provided by this Centre to the countries of the Near East Region.

72. The Conference adopted the following:

Recommendation No. 3

THE CONFERENCE

Expressing its appreciation of the action taken by the Director-General within the framework of follow-up action on the FAO Mediterranean Development Project;

Emphasizing its support for the establishment of an FAO Expert Group on Mediterranean Development to advise on the economic, technical, administrative and financial problems involved in regional agricultural planning; and

Considering the wide scope and far-reaching implications of the activities undertaken, particularly as regards the operation of pre-investment surveys for the establishment of regional development zones within the framework of overall development plans and the promotion of the Cold Chain Project;

Requests the Director-General to continue these activities and to provide the necessary facilities for pursuing further the implementation of the recommendations of the FAO Mediterranean Development Report.

(c) Improving the Statistical Basis for Agricultural Planning

i. World Census of Agriculture

73. The Conference reviewed the progress in national agricultural censuses and the plans and preparations in countries which have not yet taken the 1960 census. It was noted that only six countries (Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, and the U.A.R.) had taken a census of agriculture within the framework of the 1960 World Census Program. Three of these countries took the census on the basis of sampling.

74. The processing of the Libyan Census Data had been completed and the results already printed. That of Pakistan was more than half completed. In the U.A.R., processing had started. In Lebanon, field work was still in progress.

75. The assistance given by FAO Technical Assistance experts to these countries in the planning and organization of the censuses was appreciated. Special mention was made of the valuable assistance rendered to Pakistan through the Regional Census Advisers, of the assistance given to the Libyan Government in the processing of their census data by electronic computers and of the Training Centre on Tabulation of Census Data held in Cairo.

76. In Jordan, the enumeration of the census was expected to start in November 1963 referring to the crop year of 1962/63. The Syrian Arab Republic was planning to take the census in 1965/66, and work on estimation of important crops had already begun. In Sudan it was proposed to take the census over a period of four years with funds provided from the Seven-Year Plan then under consideration. In Saudi Arabia, the enumeration of holdings had been initiated in certain zones. The need for technical advice and assistance to these countries was emphasized.

77. Compared with other regions, the participation of Near Eastern countries in the 1960 Census was considered far from satisfactory and called for special efforts to assist countries in developing their censuses, especially in relation to the 1970 Census. In this connection, the Conference stressed the need for early and adequate preparations for the 1970 Census on the part of FAO and Member Governments to ensure fuller participation and improvement of the quality and timeliness of census results. Among the factors which contributed to the success of the 1960 Census in different parts of the world were the regional adaptation of the World Program, the use of sampling in different phases of the census and the use of experimental censuses. Among the promotional aspects, the Conference noted that the appointment of regional census advisers and the organization of seminars on the evaluation, analysis and uses of census results contributed to the participation of nearly all countries in the Far East and more than 30 countries in Africa in the 1960 Census Program. It was essential to consider all these factors and others which would help in achieving fuller participation in the 1970 Census and improving quality and timeliness of census results.

78. In this connection, it was emphasized that in some cases the timing of training centres organized by FAO did not permit all countries to benefit equally from them. It is important to plan such training centres or seminars early to provide help well in time. Emphasis was also laid on early planning for the speedy tabulation of census data. The experience gained from the

tabulation of the Libyan Census by electronic computers would be helpful in rendering similar assistance to other countries. In this respect, the Conference welcomed the establishment by FAO in co-operation with the United Nations, under EPTA, of an electronic computing centre in Cairo, which, at an appropriate stage, is meant to meet the needs of the countries in the region, and particularly for processing the 1970 censuses. It was appreciated that when the Centre becomes fully operational in the course of three years, from the very beginning it would provide facilities for countries in the region for training in the use of modern processing equipment and for speedy processing of important data on request. The Conference appreciated the offer from Pakistan to use that country's data processing centre for training fellows from countries in the region.

79. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 4

THE CONFERENCE

Considering the important uses of the results of agricultural censuses for various purposes of economic development planning, as well as for the development of adequate systems for current agricultural statistics;

Noting that a number of countries in the region have never taken a census of agriculture and that certain measures have been most effective in promoting fuller participation in other regions, as for example the appointment of regional census advisers in the Far East and the organization of seminars on evaluation, analysis and uses of census results in the Far East and Africa; and

Welcoming the establishment of an electronic computing centre in Cairo under the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance;

Recommends to Member Governments

- i. that those which have not yet participated in the 1960 World Census Program do so as soon as possible within the framework of the FAO World Program;
- ii. that those which have taken censuses should utilize the experience and information obtained from the census for the development or improvement of their systems for current agricultural statistics;
- iii. that they should allocate the necessary funds for these purposes and make use of the possibilities available in the FAO Technical Assistance Program;
- iv. that they should make early plans for training their personnel at all levels, making use of the technical assistance program of FAO and keeping in mind the facilities and possibilities afforded by the electronic computing centre and the proposed Near East Regional Training and Research Institute in Agricultural Statistics.

Requests the Director-General to consider

- i. appointing as soon as possible from Regular Program Technical Assistance Funds or Expanded Program Technical Assistance Funds, a regional census adviser to assist countries in the development of

their censuses within the framework of the 1960 World Census Program, in the preparation of census results for its various uses, especially for developing sampling systems for current information, and to study the various technical and other problems facing countries with the aim of making suitable recommendations for promoting fuller participation in the 1970 Census Program;

- ii. organizing a regional seminar on evaluation, analysis and use of agricultural census and survey results similar to those conducted in Africa and the Far East;
- iii. ways of facilitating the use of the Cairo electronic computing centre in due course by countries in the region for training and processing of important data; and
- iv. completing the preparatory work for the 1970 Census of Agriculture as early as possible, taking into consideration the factors which have contributed to the increased participation in the 1960 Census and others which would ensure a fuller participation in the 1970 Census and an improved quality and timeliness of census results.

ii. Standardization and Co-ordination of Agricultural Statistics

80. The Conference considered that one of the most needed measures to improve national planning and to facilitate international efforts for economic development was the improvement of basic statistics as to their coverage, accuracy, timeliness and comparability. There was an obvious need in countries of the region to develop their statistics on a sound and permanent basis as an integrated part of the overall development programs. This, in fact, had been planned in the United Arab Republic where the necessary funds for the development of statistics were allocated from the budget of the agricultural development plan. Furthermore, in rendering assistance to countries, the Conference felt that high priority should be given to statistics for assistance in other programs to be more fruitful.

81. The Conference appreciated the efforts which were being made by FAO to assist countries in developing their food and agricultural statistics within a co-ordinated standardized framework. Since the last Regional Conference, Technical Assistance experts had been giving direct advice to seven countries in the region. A technical meeting on food consumption surveys was held in Beirut, in 1962. A training centre on the methodology of food consumption surveys was being organized in Yugoslavia, to which most countries of the Near East Region had been invited. A seminar on agricultural economic statistics was also being organized in Turkey. The Conference felt the desirability of repeating the training centres and seminars.

82. The Conference noted with satisfaction the progress made in the preparation of methodological publications on area statistics, on quality of census data and on food consumption surveys.

83. The Conference noted the expansion of regional statistical activities to assist countries in the development of efficient samplings systems for continuous surveys for current information needed for planning follow-up of implementation and assessment of programs. Special emphasis was placed on the need to intensify the use of statistical designs in agricultural

experiments, and their large scale application in cultivators' fields to provide a basis for setting up realistic targets and for direct extension to the farmers of improved methods of production. Work on standardization of production statistics, the promotion of statistical work on prices, index numbers and agricultural income also needed to be intensified. To improve the timeliness of statistical information, the development of suitable methods for early and accurate forecasts of crop production was of great importance.

Paragraph 84.

84. The Conference expressed satisfaction at the establishment by the Director-General of a Regional Commission on Agricultural Statistics to advise Member Countries on the development and standardization of their statistical services and to convene study groups or other subsidiary bodies of national experts required for the purpose. The first meeting of the Commission was expected to be held before the end of 1962 and it was hoped that countries in the region would soon apply formally for membership and participate actively in the meetings of the Commission and its working groups. The work of the Commission and its recommendations should always take into consideration the local conditions and the limited facilities and resources available.

85. The Conference appreciated the contacts made by FAO with the United Nations Special Fund Authorities on the establishment of the Near East Regional Research and Training Institute in Agricultural Statistics requested by Member Countries in this region, to provide long-term programs of statistical research and training under local conditions. Most of the countries in the region had already approved the project and five had agreed to contribute towards meeting its cost. It was pointed out that Member Countries should submit the project to the United Nations Special Fund through the Resident Representative of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, and indicate their agreement to contribute to the budget of the project.

86. The Conference noted with satisfaction that FAO work in statistics in the region was developing on a much larger scale than ever before to cope with the increasing demand for reliable statistics. The Conference however felt that a number of activities could not be properly carried out with only one statistician in the region. These included the adequate servicing of the regional statistical commission and its technical working groups and the follow-up of their program of work and recommendations in the field; the implementation and co-ordination of work of the electronic computing centre; the follow-up and implementation of the Special Fund project on research and training; the promotion of technical advice in the field of censuses, current agricultural statistics, food consumption surveys, surveys on farm practices and agricultural experiments. Additional staff and regional statistical advisers similar to arrangements successfully made for other regions were therefore required. It was also noted that the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference felt strongly that the regional statistical staff should be strengthened, so as to expedite the improvement of agricultural statistics and the training of personnel; and that the adequacy of the regional statistical organization should be reviewed when proposals for the 1964/65 Program of Work were being formulated.

87. The Conference adopted the following recommendation :

Recommendation No. 5

THE CONFERENCE

Noting the great need for development and improvement of food and agricultural statistics in the region to improve national planning and to facilitate international efforts of economic development;

Appreciating the efforts and plans made by the Director-General to assist countries in developing their food and agricultural statistics within a co-ordinated standardized framework and the activities carried out since the last Regional Conference;

Welcoming the establishment of the Regional Commission on Agricultural Statistics to advise Member Countries on the development and standardization of their statistical services within the framework of FAO's work in statistics and to convene study groups or other subsidiary bodies of national experts required for the purpose;

Appreciating the contacts made by the Director-General with the United Nations Special Fund Authorities in connection with the Research and Training Institute in Agricultural Statistics;

Noting the expansion of the statistical activities in the region to include the standardization of production statistics, the promotion of statistical work on prices, index numbers and agricultural income and the assistance needed by countries in the use of statistical designs in agricultural experimentation, especially those conducted in cultivators' fields;

Realizing the increased scale of statistical operational activities in the region and the need for strengthening the statistical set up as recommended by the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference;

Noting further the recommendations made by the last Regional Conference and the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference for the immediate appointment of a regional biometrician;

Recommends to Member Governments:

- i. to allocate the necessary funds and resources for developing their systems for food and agricultural statistics on a sound and permanent basis by integrating such development in the overall development programs and making use of the facilities rendered by FAO under the technical assistance programs;
- ii. to send in their formal requests as soon as possible for membership of the Regional Commission on Agricultural Statistics, if they have not already done so;
- iii. to participate actively in the work of the Statistical Commission and its working groups and to utilize this machinery for the development of their systems for food and agricultural statistics within a standardized and co-ordinated framework;
- iv. to submit the project of the Near East Research and Training Institute in Agricultural Statistics to the United Nations Special Fund, as soon as possible, if they have not already done so;

Requests the Director-General to consider

- i. organizing a seminar on the analysis and uses of food consumption survey data;
- ii. including in the Regular Program of Work and Budget of 1964/65 at least one additional post of a regional statistician;

- iii. appointing as soon as possible one regional statistical adviser from the Regular Program of Technical Assistance to assist countries in the promotion and development of food consumption surveys and the development of continuous surveys for current information needed for planning, follow-up of implementation and assessment of progress;
- iv. allowing for the repetition of training centres and seminars on food and agricultural statistics, as far as feasible;
- v. continuing his efforts in connection with the United Nations Special Fund project for a Research and Training Institute so as to expedite its consideration by the Special Fund Authorities;
- vi. including in the program of work the promotion of studies and the compilation of data related to the measurement of agricultural productivity.

(d) Commodity Questions

i. Commodity Reporting and Analysis as Tools for Development Planning

88. The Conference in considering the subject of commodity reporting and analysis as tools for development planning, recognized that commodity prospects, policies and trading arrangements were major factors to be taken into account in the economic plans of developing countries. Much of the relevant information is available in the regular surveys of the commodity situation undertaken by FAO and other organizations, but it was considered that the work would be usefully complemented if similar studies were undertaken on a national basis. The country concerned would then be able to examine the situation from its own special viewpoint and make full use of the information FAO is able to provide. Few agricultural commodities are completely homogeneous and the situation facing the various grades and varieties produced in individual countries of the region might be quite different from the global situation. It was further recognized that countries with a vital interest in the commodity in question are better situated, both from the point of view of gathering the necessary data and of deploying the requisite resources, than are central organizations with a very much broader field to cover.

89. In view of these considerations the Conference felt it desirable that special facilities should be provided for improving information on national commodity situations and for rendering advice on such questions as short and long-term outlook in world markets, commercial policies and possibilities for international action with a view to assuring improved and stable market outlets. The Conference noted that in some countries of the region the establishment of commodity analysis units was being hampered by the lack of adequately trained personnel. It accordingly requested the Director-General to provide whatever assistance might be possible under EPTA or other programs in the initial establishment of such units in the countries concerned.

90. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 6

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the importance of commodity reporting and analysis as tools for development planning and policy-making;

Appreciating the valuable help already extended by FAO in establishing national commodity analysis units;

Requests the Director-General to consider providing further assistance as soon as possible to those countries wishing to establish such units within their government framework.

ii. Prospects for International Trade in Agricultural Products of Interest to the Region

Short-Term Prospects

91. The Conference noted that the short-term prospects for an expansion of trade in the major export products of the region were not encouraging. Turkey was expected to import large quantities of wheat on concessional terms during 1962, and concessional grain shipments to the United Arab Republic were also likely to increase. Both citrus fruit and dried fruit were also facing marketing difficulties. Generally speaking, prospects for any substantial growth in world trade in cotton during the 1962/63 season were not bright as there seemed to be little scope for higher mill consumption in Western Europe, Japan and India. On the other hand, some expansion in trade with Eastern European countries seemed probable, since these countries had recently increased purchases from sources other than the U.S.S.R. Rice exports from the Near East were on a reduced scale during the first half of 1962 but the position is expected to improve during the second half due to better prospects for the 1962 harvest.

Long-Term Prospects

92. As regards longer-term prospects, the Conference noted that FAO had recently undertaken a series of projections for the year 1970 ^{1/}. These projections were based on certain specific assumptions about population and income growth in individual countries and regions to which were applied coefficients measuring the income elasticity of demand for different commodities according to the differing levels of national income per head in the various countries. The resultant projections of total demand for a given commodity were then confronted with an estimate of the possible level of production of that commodity around 1970, based on recent trends in areas, tree numbers, yields, etc., and, where relevant, on the assumed overall growth in Gross National Product, and on the policies and aims of governments.

93. It was noted that on the basis of the assumptions made, the demand for grains for human consumption in the Near East was projected to increase by some 40 to 45 percent over its 1957-59 level. With this increase in potential demand, estimates of the possible rise in the production of grains

^{1/} Agricultural Commodities - Projections for 1970

in the region imply that if the rate of growth of national incomes and of grain production over the past decade should continue during the sixties the region would be approximately self-sufficient in wheat, with the exception of Pakistan and the United Arab Republic, which would continue to have large import requirements. If rates of growth in gross national product of current national plans (which imply high rates of growth in grain production) were achieved, the region might be expected to have a relatively large surplus in coarse grains. The region's exportable surplus of rice was also projected to increase considerably in the period up to 1970, largely as a result of rising supplies in the United Arab Republic. Stronger competition might eventually have to be faced in the disposal of this surplus. Prospects for further increases in the region's cotton production would be largely influenced by trends in cotton production and policies in the United States by the growth of textile industries in this and other developing regions. Given that United States production continues to be regulated, and provided that a considerable proportion of the increased output of the Near East and other low-income regions could be absorbed internally, equilibrium could be maintained on the world market during the sixties.

94. The Conference noted that in accordance with a recommendation of the joint Session of FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and the United Nations Commission on International Commodity Trade held in Rome in May, 1962, governments were being invited to give detailed study to the projections report and to communicate their comments to the Director-General. On the basis of the comments received from governments and other interested bodies such as the Regional Economic Commissions, FAO would issue a critical review of the report later in 1962. The Conference endorsed the importance of this type of work and recommended that governments of the region should give their fullest co-operation in this study.

(e) Effective Use of External Assistance

i. Technical Co-operation Programs

95. The Conference reviewed with satisfaction the growing number of technical assistance programs sponsored by or through FAO including the rendering of technical assistance under its own Regular Program, the EPTA Program, the UNICEF/FAO Projects, the Special Fund Projects, the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, the Use of Volunteers and Associate Experts, the Funds-in-Trust, and recently the World Food Program. It noted that these and similar programs from many sources were currently available to assist member governments in the Near East in their efforts to achieve self-sustained economic growth. Each of them had its own characteristic features and its own distinctive role to play in the economic development of the countries concerned. They were all intended to complement the national resources and to provide assistance to governments over the whole range of their planning, training, pre-investment and development activities. It was appreciated, however, that their impact depended to a large extent on the highly important process of co-ordination and integration within each country.

96. Now that many countries in the Near East were implementing or were in the process of formulating national and comprehensive development plans, the problems they were facing due to the scarcity of resources both in the form of material and foreign capital and in the form of trained and skilled personnel were becoming more acute. This should, therefore, enable them to utilize the

various technical assistance funds from or through FAO for purposeful projects, to co-ordinate them adequately with other multilateral or bilateral sources and to integrate them all as effectively as possible with their own economic development plans. If effective co-ordination is not accomplished, the Conference feared the danger of weakening the effectiveness of these programs especially if they were spread too thinly over a wide area or applied on an ad hoc basis. This could also create confusion, duplication and overlapping problems in the recipient countries.

97. Various governments stressed the need for a technical manpower resources survey. It is believed that such surveys would indicate the availability of technical skills in the country and, when correlated with the foreign aid required to implement development activities, would facilitate the judicious selection of these fields of interest where the foreign aid programs could play a decisive role. The Conference asked Member Governments in the Near East to undertake such surveys and requested FAO to render all possible assistance in this field. Member Countries were also requested to strike an appropriate balance in their foreign aid programs between the provision of technical advisers and the granting of fellowships abroad.

98. With the increasing number of projects and aid programs the Conference recognized the need that FAO cells in Ministries of Agriculture should be properly strengthened and re-organized for the co-ordination of different types of programs with the assistance received from FAO. A number of countries in the Near East including, for example, Pakistan, Sudan, and the United Arab Republic, had already created such bodies in their respective ministries and the Conference called on the other countries to do so as expeditiously as possible. It was also recommended that such planning cells at the level of the Central Government should consist of officers from the provincial departments and representing different interests. Since the role of agriculture is not exclusively confined to the Ministries of Agriculture, the Conference thought it advisable - if not necessary - that proper liaison be maintained between the Ministries of Agriculture and the other public and private agencies in the country that obtain aid from sources other than FAO and that are equally entrusted with their co-ordination. The Conference further stressed the need that such co-ordination should be also carried out at the Headquarters office of FAO and similar agencies where the foreign aid programs usually emanate. In the particular case of FAO, the Conference endorsed the Forward Appraisal approach which was adopted at the 10th Session of the General Conference and which could also serve as a guideline in recommending Technical Assistance and other aid programs to Member Countries.

99. In order that these national bodies for co-ordination perform their functions, the Conference called on FAO to consider within its financial and other limitations the possibility of holding regional seminars for administrators engaged in technical assistance matters in their respective governments. These seminars could provide training facilities and permit the exchange of knowledge, views and experience on such matters as (a) methodology of preparing and submitting information on a certain project to the technical assistance authorities, (b) principles of administrative procedures for submitting applications, (c) preparation of reports and financial statements, (d) determination of types of assistance needed, and (e) principles and techniques of follow-up and evaluation of different projects.

100. The Conference further recognized the importance of providing the national administrative machineries with readily available information and advice on the various types and sources of technical assistance programs. The Conference stressed the important role of the FAO Country Representatives in this respect, as it is mentioned in the report of the 11th Session of the Conference. The Conference, therefore, recommended that Member Governments use the services of these FAO Representatives on all matters whether planned or operational. The Conference also commented on the valuable services that the Near East Regional Office had rendered in this field to Member Countries and called on FAO to consider the possibilities to strengthen the regional structure and/or to increase the funds disposable for the regional advisers to visit the countries in the region more frequently and for longer periods of stay.

101. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 7

THE CONFERENCE

Having in mind resolution No. 17/61 of the 11th Session of the Conference

Realizing

- i. the growing number of agencies offering aid and technical assistance,
- ii. the necessity to co-ordinate the technical assistance programs, and
- iii. the role that the FAO Country Representatives and the Regional Advisers could play in this field;

Recommends to Member Governments

- i. to establish and strengthen their organizations for co-ordinating and utilizing aid and assistance received from and through FAO and other agencies;
- ii. to associate the FAO Country Representative with the deliberations of their national organization in an advisory capacity;
- iii. to include posts of FAO Country Representative in their ETAP country programs. These representatives might serve a group of countries as necessity may warrant;

Requests the Director-General

- i. to strengthen the organizational structure at the Near East Regional Office in order to provide further assistance and guidance to Member Countries in the region;
- ii. to consider establishing a Near East Seminar for the national administrators engaged in technical assistance programming operations, along the lines stated in paragraph 99.

ii. World Food Program;

102. The Conference reviewed with interest recent developments in connection with the World Food Program established following the decisions taken at the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference and the Sixteenth Session of the United Nations General Assembly. This Program represented the cumulative result of FAO's exploration for the past many years of how food aid based on the productive capacity of agriculture in developed countries could be constructively used to assist the developing ones in their programs of economic development and until they make the fullest use of their agricultural resources and raise the productivity and the income of their farm producers. The Conference noted the commendable efforts of the FAO Council in April 1962 and the Inter-Governmental Committee which was composed of 20 governments designated by FAO and the United Nations in establishing a set of general regulations on arrangements and procedures for the establishment and operation of the World Food Program on an experimental basis for a period of 3 years, and on an initial target budget of \$100 million.

103. As stated in Document NERC/62/9, the Conference noted that food aid may be provided by the World Food Program, on request by interested recipient countries, under three broad categories of projects. These included projects (a) for meeting emergency food needs and emergencies inherent in chronic malnutrition including the arrangement of food reserves; (b) for assisting in pre-school and school feeding and (c) for implementing pilot projects using food as an aid to economic and social development particularly when related to labour intensive projects and rural welfare.

104. Under the first category, the Conference noted the decision of the Director-General to set aside 25 percent of the commodities during the first year and to have a special pool of foodstuff from which aid could be given in cases of emergencies on an immediate basis, thereby enabling FAO to give relief at the time when it is most needed. Likewise, the Conference welcomed the broader approach regarding pre-school and school feeding whereby the World Food Program envisages aid through community development projects, home craft projects, feeding programs for primary and secondary schools and for universities. These could indeed become a means of increasing the number of students which a given government could assist in educating and could also reduce the cost of education that sometimes represented a heavy burden on the rural families. With regard to the third category of projects, the Conference noted that their main objective was to demonstrate how and to what extent food injections from outside could be used as an incentive to production particularly to, but not exclusively, agricultural production. Selected examples of projects that might be considered under this Program were discussed for illustration purposes only.

105. These included :

- i. Migration and settlement projects to enable the new population to devote their full time to activities necessary to bring the new land under cultivation;
- ii. Land reform projects using food aid to bridge the gap in food supplies which may develop during the early stages of introducing agrarian reform;

- iii. Projects for the introduction of new and more productive crops like the growing of grain legumes instead of starch crops, putting under grass areas which are more suitable for grazing than for growing crops, etc.;
- iv. Rural community development projects to assist the population to carry out different types of work for the community as a whole like the construction of schools, hospitals, roads, etc.;
- v. Encouraging irrigation and drainage projects and other labour intensive work by supplying part of the wages in the form of food;
- vi. Promotion of better livestock feeding practices by the introduction of compound feeding stuff to supplement local supplies;
- vii. Projects for the temporary establishment of food reserves that could help reduce the pressure of grazing in selected areas and thereby re-build their vegetative cover to support more livestock and on a sounder husbandry basis in the future. It was noted that projects of this nature lend themselves to a group country or a regional approach;
- viii. Rural industries which would promote income and utilize the unoccupied time of the peasants due to seasonal occupation;
- ix. Meat production and processing including the construction of abattoirs, meat drying plants;
- x. The establishment of quarantines, etc.; and
- xi. Projects for the improvement of preservation, utilization and reconstruction of surplus foods including those commodities that are not normally distributed on a readily consumable basis like dried milk.

106. In those and similar projects the Conference emphasized that care would have to be exercised to avoid any repercussion that the injection of food aid from outside might have on the normal flow of international trade or on local production and that their operation should be also carefully timed to avoid any imbalances between internal demand and supplies. The Conference recognized that the targets of the projects aiming at \$100 million were relatively modest to cater for all the needs of the developing countries and that therefore present efforts should concentrate on well prepared projects with definite objectives and that they should also have a demonstration effect. It was further recognized that the success of this Program would depend exclusively on the type of projects that are presented in the coming three years. The Conference hoped that on the basis of the experience gained, wider multilateral food aid programs might be launched in the future.

107. In connection with pledging contributions the Conference underlined selected criteria for positive consideration. Foremost and in order to help emphasize the truly international and multilateral nature of the program and to show the unanimous endorsement of the FAO Member Countries in the Near East, the Conference expressed the wish that all countries in the Near East should

make an earnest endeavour to contribute even if in token terms. It was understood that contributions could be made in cash, in commodities, and/or in services like ocean freight and ocean insurance. A few delegations including Pakistan and U.A.R. gave clear indication that they intended to pledge. For the others, it was suggested that upon return to their respective countries they would consult with their home governments and would then indicate to the Executive Director of the World Food Program whether they were prepared to contribute to the Program and if so in which form before the Pledging Conference convenes in New York on 5 September 1962. The Conference further expressed the hope that all the members of the United Nations or members and associate members of FAO would also consider taking a positive attitude in this regard. In this respect, the Conference noted with satisfaction that the Executive Director of the World Food Program had just completed a trip to some 20 countries where the aims of the Program were discussed, and that the prospects for reaching the targets of \$100 million seemed to be good.

108. The attention of the Conference was drawn to the procedures being considered for the development and operation of projects under the World Food Program. Since this Program was a joint UN/FAO undertaking a close and constant co-operation would be necessary between the UNTAB Resident Representative and Director of Special Fund Operations, and the FAO Country Representative on all aspects of the Program. Likewise, several specialized agencies of the UN (particularly WHO, ILO, UNESCO, and also UNICEF) had agreed to collaborate closely with the World Food Program and their representatives would therefore have to be consulted whenever a project lying within their sphere of interest was under consideration. The same collaboration was also envisaged with representatives of other agencies and countries extending similar aid programs. The Conference also noted the several possibilities for a combination of FFHC projects and World Food Program projects. This co-ordination was also pointed out in both the resolutions of the UN and the FAO which approved the initiation of the World Food Program. The Conference noted with satisfaction the present intention to send a mission to selected countries, including the Somali Republic in the Near East Region to help local authorities in the preparation of a project for submission to the World Food Program and expressed the wish that similar missions could also be sponsored for other countries in the Near East.

109. The Conference was also informed that the World Food Program was currently preparing its first Program of Work and Budget for the consideration of the previously mentioned Inter-Governmental Committee at its Second Session to be held in Rome on 29 October, and that it was hoped that the Program would become operational possibly in November of this year.

2. Integrated Development and Use of Land and Water Resources

110. The Conference recognized the importance of increasing yields per unit of area with the twin objectives of raising total production and making possible diversification and flexibility in land use. It recognized further that present types of land-use were abusive in many areas, and soil erosion and destruction of vegetation, which in turn affect the water balance, were continuing. The loss was not a new thing, but with increasing population pressure on the land it had been accelerated during recent years.

111. The need for a "package" approach as the first step in the improvement of production involving simultaneous use of a number of aids such as fertilizer use, better seeds, plant protection and better cultivation was accepted by the Conference. In rainfed areas development which might follow the increase in yield include a move away from the present concentration on cereals, increase in pasture and fodder production, removal of marginal lands from cultivation and, with the interdependent improvements in the situation of the livestock, relief of pressure on grazing lands and forests. Under irrigation the package program could have even greater impact, but it was emphasized that intensification in production must be related to improvements in water management and use in irrigation. Pakistan, for example, had a tremendous problem in attempting to prevent the loss estimated at 40,000 ha annually - of good agricultural land, which occurs as a result of water-logging and salinization. The Conference recognized that the importance of this problem should be emphasized and called for an international seminar to discuss matters fully. It agreed also that the adoption of improved methods of water use could mean an expansion of the area under irrigation, which could bring further flexibility and diversification in land use as a whole.

112. It was agreed that the changes envisaged would demand bold and imaginative thinking and new systems of land and water use would have to be evolved. Consideration of the basic agricultural and human resources would be needed. Sociological and economic factors would also have to be considered so that the eventual proposals put up would indicate realistically to the national planners the alternative potential forms of land use. The place of pilot projects in the evolution of proper forms of land use was indicated by delegates from Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan and Pakistan in describing projects operating in their countries.

113. Two major aspects of development were recognized, therefore; the first being the expansion of production leading to the evolution of improved systems of land use; the second being the indication of alternative systems of land use in relation to the environment which could then be further considered in relation to other aspects of economic development planning.

114. Practical proposals for undertaking both aspects were brought up by delegates. The Conference discussed the possibilities of strengthening FAO's regional activities and considered that appointments of regional experts in dry-farming, water-use and management, livestock production, and pasture and fodder production were badly needed. Such experts could, when accompanied by others already available, in forestry and farm management, form teams who could advise governments in the broader implications and needs in sound systems of land use. Among the activities in which they could assist would be the co-ordination of regional projects like the Wheat and Barley Improvement Project, the Fertilizer Program and would include proposals for the improvement of dry-farming. They could assist in the preparation of UN Special Fund Projects, advise on the organization of services for basic resource surveys, the establishment of pilot and demonstrational projects, and in national training centres. The intimate acquaintance of the experts with the practical problems encountered in tackling land and water use and development in the region would greatly facilitate exchange of information.

115. A number of delegates considered that inadequate attention was being paid to farm mechanization. After considerable discussion, the Conference recommended a regional institute for the development and introduction of improved agricultural implements. However, the Afghanistan Delegation objected to the recommendation on the grounds that implements suitable to one country

may not be suitable to all countries in the region, and suggested that assistance in this field should be given to strengthen national institutions rather than to support a regional institute.

116. The Conference, however, adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 8

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing that by and large farm implements for the small farmer in the Near East Region have not evolved to increase efficiency and to eliminate drudgery,

Requests the Director-General

- i. to prepare a scheme for establishing a Near East Research Institute for the development and introduction of improved agricultural implements;
- ii. to take into account the proposal of the Government of Pakistan to establish this institution in Pakistan bearing in mind its suitability on account of its size, agricultural population and facilities available.

117. The Conference agreed that, linked with the team approach to technical improvement in land-use outlined above, lay the possible appointment of national land-use committees or boards. Such boards composed of specialists in various disciplines could come together to discuss land-use problems and suggest solutions. They would be the technical co-ordinating groups who could indicate potentials to planning organizations.

118. The major function of such bodies would be to explore and define alternative patterns of land use for submission to the national planning board, for examination and decision. In preparing such recommendations, they would need to assess the technical possibilities of various types of land, determine the existing patterns and trends, and estimate the consequences of present abuses in land use. They would need information on soils, climate, hydrology, topography and ecology, and the inter-relationship between agriculture, forest and range lands.

119. In making these recommendations the consumption pattern in the rural sector, and the marketing and commercial possibilities for agricultural products would be taken into account. The organization of social institutions, transport and communications should also be considered.

120. The administrative organization of such land use boards would vary from country to country. An important factor in their efficient operation would be close liaison with agencies responsible for obtaining technical information and carrying out projects on the one hand and the body charged with formulation of development plans on the other. In many countries the Board would best be located in the Ministry of Agriculture.

121. Successful operation of such boards would depend on the availability of properly trained staff. People with sound basic technical knowledge and with an understanding of the social and economic inter-relationships in different types of land utilization would be required. This additional knowledge could be obtained at a regional institute planned for this specific purpose. Such an institute could also identify problems requiring study on a regional basis, could

stimulate research in land-use problems in the various countries and could even undertake planning of specific projects for integrated agricultural development. Specific offers to be the host country were received from Lebanon and Pakistan. It was agreed however that a decision on the host country should be left to the Secretariat who would take into account all the relevant factors relating to regional needs and suitability of the country concerned in making the choice.

122. The Conference noted the establishment of a Mediterranean centre for higher agronomic study at Bari and Montpellier under the auspices of OECD and the Council of Europe. The Conference agreed that appropriate liaison might be established with this centre and the Land-Use Institute now being considered.

123. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No.9

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the need for co-ordinated approach to the different technical aspects of land use, including:

- i. specialized assistance in a number of key-subjects in the region to provide advice on services for basic resource surveys; the preparation of proposals for pre-investment surveys; the establishment of pilot projects and staff training;
- ii. assessment of the potentials for production from the land and water resources within the framework of economic and social criteria, which can permit national planning organizations to formulate their plans;

Recommends to Governments to establish land-use committees or boards which can analyze land-use problems, stimulate research in land use and determine potential forms of land use for optimum production on a sustained basis;

Requests the Director-General to consider

- i. recruiting appropriate experts for service at a regional level to work in teams as required and paying particular attention to the needs in water management and use, soils, range-management and pasture and fodder production, livestock and farm mechanization (dry farming);
- ii. exploring the possibilities for establishing a Regional Land-Use Training Research Institute to train professional officers to enable them to acquire a general understanding of the data required and useful methods in land-use planning, to stimulate basic and applied research in the region and, if necessary, undertake the planning of specific projects for integrated agricultural development.

124. The Conference noted the importance of irrigation in all the countries of the region. Special consideration was given to the need for drainage of irrigated lands.

125. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No.10

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing

- i. the inherent danger of water logging and soil salinization in the region unless special measures are adopted to prevent its occurrence;

- ii. the especially difficult problem encountered in Pakistan and the considerable efforts made to combat the danger in that country;

Requests the Director-General to consider making arrangements to hold in Pakistan a seminar on Methods of Water Use and Management in Irrigation with particular reference to prevention of water logging and salinity, as soon as possible.

3. Crop Production

(a) The Special Role of Horticultural Crops

126. The Conference stressed the growing importance of fruit and vegetable production in the Near East, which is reflected by the increase in the area devoted to those crops.

127. The Conference heard reports on present status of horticulture in various countries of the Near East region, and noted that the situation varied considerably. In spite of the increase in production during the last few years, some countries were still far from meeting their own needs; others exported moderate amounts of certain varieties of fruits and vegetables while a few countries in the region were regular exporters of horticultural products.

128. The Conference noted that in view of the increase in internal consumption, due to improvement in standards of living and to the growth of population, and in view of export prospects, most of the Near Eastern Governments had established plans for the development of horticulture, and special incentives were being given in certain countries to those farmers who are willing to go into fruit production. The important programs of land development and irrigation throughout the region would result in large areas devoted to intensive production of fruits and vegetables.

129. Mention was made of the need to develop home production of horticultural crops as a means to improve the diet of the people and several delegations pointed out the benefit these high return crops can bring to national economies.

130. Emphasis was laid on the necessity to improve the yields of fruits and vegetables in order to facilitate diversification of agriculture and to offer horticultural products at more competitive prices on the foreign markets by lowering the costs of production.

131. Different measures were mentioned in order to achieve this aim, amongst which the following two points were particularly stressed and received much support:

- i. The production and use of vegetable seeds of high quality and the improvement of fruit tree propagation material, with special reference to its health status. It was pointed out that the setting up by FAO of a project aiming at the improvement of vegetable seeds, organized along the lines of the Wheat and Barley Project, would be of great interest for the countries of the Near East.
- ii. The Organization of training courses at a technical level, especially in the field of fruit production, for the personnel charged with guiding and helping the farmers.

132. The idea was expressed that some areas of the region may be more particularly adapted to the production of certain fruit or vegetable species and that it would be of great interest to determine the specific potentialities of these areas in order to develop a more specialized production. Towards this goal, the conduct of a survey was proposed.

133. The Conference approved the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 11

THE CONFERENCE

Noting the importance of fruit and vegetable production to the economy of some countries of the region; and

Recognizing the need to investigate the possibility of export;

Requests the Director-General to consider the possibility of assisting countries in conducting a survey on request to assess:

- i. potentialities for optimum cultivation of fruit and vegetable in Member Countries;
- ii. possibility of processing; and
- iii. possibility of trade in fresh and processed fruits and vegetables within and outside the region.

134. Attention was drawn to the increasing menace of nematode infestation resulting in a decrease in yields as a consequence of the expansion of irrigated areas. The problem of insect resistance to pesticides was also brought up and it was indicated that more and more importance should be given to biological control methods.

135. The need to improve the marketing of fruits and vegetables was also expressed and several delegations insisted on the necessity of developing the fruit and vegetable processing industry in order to increase the market value of low grade products and to make better use of the temporary surpluses at certain periods of the year.

136. The Conference approved the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 12

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the growing importance of horticultural production in the countries of the Near East Region;

Realizing the need to improve yields and quality of horticultural crop production;

Requests the Director-General to study the possibility of establishing a regional program relating to the improvement of horticultural crops similar to the existing project in wheat and barley improvement; and to consider including within this program the setting up of training courses at regional and national levels on techniques of cultivation of horticultural crops.

(b) Current Development of Selected Crops such as Wheat, Barley and Grain Legumes

137. The Conference took note of the Wheat and Barley Improvement programs in the countries in the region, and was informed that in many cases new varieties which potentially could improve yields and also were resistant to serious diseases and other crop hazards had been produced in recent years. In some countries efforts had already been undertaken to develop good seed production programs.

138. The importance of the work of the Committee for Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production in the Near East was stressed. The Conference heard that through international co-operation many useful varieties and breeding material for country programs had been introduced, as well as providing technical information necessary for increased production.

139. The importance of good seed multiplication and distribution projects was stressed as the natural follow-up to a successful breeding program. It was agreed that this was necessary in order to extend to the farmers the direct benefit from improved varieties.

140. The Conference supported the recommendation of the Committee for the Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production in the Near East, that a mailing list of cereal crop workers be prepared and maintained within each country and the personnel included in the lists should receive FAO publications in the subject concerned.

141. Concern was expressed about the effective use and continuity of highly trained national personnel in research projects and the Conference urged Member Governments to do everything possible to make the best use of these technicians.

142. The Conference took note that the Government of Saudi Arabia, after outlining its present technical activities in Wheat and Barley Improvement and reviewing cooperative efforts with other countries, requested to become a participating member of the Committee for the Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production in the Near East.

143. Grain legume production and improvement was discussed and the relative position and importance in the economy of the area was stressed. Many countries stated their intention to increase the production of this important source of protein. It was specifically recommended that FAO should consider the establishment of a World Catalogue of genetics stocks of grain legumes similar to that of Wheat, Barley and Rice.

4. Some Problems in the Formulation and Implementation of Fishery Policies in the Region

144. The Conference reviewed the fisheries situation in the region and re-affirmed its belief that the seas and inlandwaters in many areas were capable of more rational and intensive exploitation with consequential benefits in the form of increased supplies of valuable animal protein and, in some cases, important savings of foreign exchange.

145. Current fishery development plans and contemplated programs in a number of countries were discussed, indicating, in some cases, a greatly increased interest in the possibilities for fishery development and in others more encouraging progress in the implementation of programs already under way. Reference was made to plans for the future development of fisheries in Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and the Syrian Arab Republic. In Pakistan, an extensive program of development was well advanced, supported by appropriate legislation and a wide range of fishery services. In the United Arab Republic the program of research and development had produced encouraging results in certain fields. New fishery legislation had been adopted and a fisheries section established in Libya, while in Sudan, some personnel had been trained and a survey was being carried out prior to setting up a fish canning industry.

146. The need to formulate well-defined and clearly understood fishery policies was recognized, but it was agreed that one of the most serious obstacles to the formulation of realistic development policies was the lack of basic information, especially concerning the potentialities of the resources, and the desirability of pre-investment surveys in many areas was emphasized. It was recognized that in some cases, especially where deep-sea fisheries were concerned, such surveys were costly and beyond the means of the countries concerned. Considerable external aid would be required and FAO was urged to give assistance in this respect. Co-operation would also be necessary among countries having a common interest in a particular sea or inland water area.

147. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 13

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing that there are extensive sea and inland water areas in the region about which too little is known at present to permit reliable forecasts concerning the potential yields of fish and shell-fish and that this lack of knowledge constitutes a serious element of risk in development programs based on these areas;

Noting that certain of these areas are of interest to more than one country;

Recommends to Member Governments

- i. that due regard be paid to the desirability of pre-investment surveys where the exploitation of such areas is contemplated;
- ii. that with regard to the conduct of such surveys, consideration be given to the need for equipment, supplies and highly trained personnel not available in most countries of the region;
- iii. that countries should cooperate, as appropriate, in the organization of surveys of sea and inland water areas of common interest;

Requests the Director-General to advise Member Governments concerning the need for and the organization of such surveys.

148. With regard to the implementation of fishery development programs, the general weakness of government fishery services was recognized and, in particular, the acute shortage of trained personnel was emphasized. There was widespread support for the organization of a regional training centre on inland fisheries management and fish culture. In this connection the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic proposed that the Director-General might consider the feasibility of establishing, in due course, a Regional Training Institute to meet the continuing demands of the region, and offered the facilities available at the Kalaat El Moudik Fish Culture Station. At the same time it was noted that in some countries the availability of graduates qualified for higher specialized training in fisheries work was severely limited, a factor which, in itself, restricted the development of the fishery industries.

149. With regard to fishery development planning and programming, it was felt that fisheries should, as far as possible, be brought within the scope of current and proposed measures to improve general planning in the countries of the region, with a view to ensuring that fishery plans were integrated more closely within overall economic development plans. Fishery activities were closely linked with many other activities, e.g. transport, market facilities, education, etc., outside the jurisdiction of the government fishery services which, therefore, should maintain co-ordination with other government departments concerned.

150. Appreciation was expressed of the assistance already rendered by FAO in a number of countries but it was urged that FAO's assistance to the region in this field, should be greatly extended through expert advice, training centres and the strengthening of the staff of the Regional Office.

151. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 14

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing

- i. that in many countries of the region the formulation of realistic fisheries policies and programs is rendered difficult owing to the lack of essential basic information concerning fishery industries;
- ii. that the planning and implementation of fishery development programs is still seriously impeded by the general weakness of the government fishery services;
- iii. that there is a critical shortage of trained personnel to staff the fishery services;

Recommends to Member Governments

- i. that necessary steps be taken to make an inventory of the fishery industries and analyse existing information concerning fish production and trade, and on this basis to formulate or review their fishery policies and legislation with a view to establishing realistic development targets;
- ii. that urgent steps be taken to establish or strengthen the fishery services consistent with the scope and magnitude of the fishery development programs;

- iii. to review their needs for trained personnel in the various branches of fisheries work, to organize or seek training facilities for fisheries personnel and provide for the effective employment of such personnel after training;

Requests the Director-General

- i. to advise Member Governments concerning the information required and the analysis of such information for the purpose of planning;
- ii. to advise and assist Member Governments in determining their needs for trained personnel, to provide all possible opportunities for the necessary training under the various FAO programs and in particular to consider the possibility of organizing regional training facilities for inland fishery management and fish culture.

5. Movement of Agricultural Products from Production to Consumption

(a) Processing and Preservation

152. The Conference noted the important role of processing and preservation of agricultural products in its broadest sense including forestry, fisheries, animal products, and all agricultural products, in their movement from producers to the ultimate consumer. The delegates recognized the role of treatments, processing and preservation in reducing waste, assuring best quality, and improving the usefulness and appearance of agricultural products. The Conference heard reports that significant progress had been made in various countries on the processing of food products as well as non-food agricultural products, particularly hides and skins. The need for further research and information for the efficient handling of the region's agricultural products was also emphasized.

153. The Conference discussed the great scope which exists for the improvement of existing food processing facilities as well as the need to establish additional facilities and noted the various ways in which FAO can aid the nations of the region in such developments.

154. The Conference felt that aid might be provided by the assignment of a specialist or specialists in the processing of agricultural products at NERO and the establishment of some central regional organization to deal with technical problems arising in the processing of both perishable and non-perishable products.

155. The Conference emphasized the need for thorough study and surveys which must be conducted before the establishment of new industries. It also noted that whereas export may often appear to be an easy way to dispose of surplus fruits and vegetables, in reality many such products are already being supplied by the technically developed countries and care needs to be taken to avoid flooding international markets.

156. The Conference recognized the possibility that solar energy might eventually be applied in the processing of various agricultural products.

157. The Conference noted the impressive development of refrigeration facilities in some countries of the region but emphasized that much more is to be done to provide adequate services in all countries of the region.

158. The Lebanese Delegation drew attention to the Regional Training Centre in Dairy Technology planned to be held at Turnbol, Lebanon, late in 1962 or early in 1963, and stated that such a Training Centre, discussed at the Athens Meeting in October 1961, would be of interest to the countries of the region.

159. A further point discussed by the Conference was the relation of the village level processing of farm products to the subsequent development of larger scale commercial enterprises. The view was expressed that small scale village level processing is an essential stepping stone towards more extensive industrial development. Mention was also made of the possible need for a comprehensive survey of all rural industries in order to assure that all such activities are directed towards providing the greatest nutritional, social, and economic benefits.

160. The Conference also re-emphasized the close inter-relationship which exists between processing and marketing activities and advised that specific attention should be given to this in new areas of settlement and development.

161. Among the items which the Conference noted as being in need of more research and exact definition were the finding of the best location for processing facilities, the selection of products which should be handled at the village level; the optimal size of processing facilities (both at village level and at larger scale) in relation to current and anticipated production; the types of investment required; engineering studies on plant design; and organization of processing cooperatives, at a regional level. The Conference expressed the hope that FAO might be able to provide aid in most of these aspects but that this should be done, if possible, on a regional level.

162. The Conference noted that facilities for research and training were available in several countries and discussed proposals that the existing institutions might be strengthened and used for future regional research and training projects in the processing of agricultural products. So as to provide in an orderly manner for such developments in the region, the Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 15

THE CONFERENCE

Considering the future need for collective action in the processing and preservation of agricultural products in the Near East;

Recognizing that a better understanding of the processing problems at both village and commercial level is essential for substantial planning and development;

Appreciating the contribution which properly developed processing of agricultural products can make to the nutritional health and standard of living of the people in the region;

Requests the Director-General to consider collecting information on specific research and development projects undertaken and planned in the region on the processing of agricultural products and disseminating this information to interested Member Countries.

(b) Marketing

163. The Conference recognized that agricultural development projects and changes in production problems accentuated the need for improved assembly, transport, storage, and sales methods. The importance for the region of expanding trade through the introduction and establishment of improved marketing facilities and methods was stressed. Discussion on this subject centered on the desirability of making arrangements for marketing the increased agricultural output that would be forthcoming as a result of the implementation of development projects.

164. The Conference was of the opinion that the establishment of a "Cold Chain" perishable agricultural produce was of great interest because in many countries in the region there were fruits and vegetables which could find markets in high income areas. It was noted that the necessary technical studies should not be limited to increasing exports to European markets but should also take into account the need to establish and expand cold chains and refrigerated transport facilities within the region. Particular attention should be given to the reduction of transportation costs of perishable produce, quality requirements and the establishment of grade standards in conformity with the proposals of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. In this connection the desirability of setting up a uniform system of grading and standardization on a regional basis was stressed. The Conference welcomed the proposal that a technical meeting be convened in Lebanon on the establishment of Cold Chain marketing facilities and organization in which trade and government representatives of interested countries in the region would participate.

165. Population increments and rising incomes were causing in many countries in the region a rapid expansion in demand, particularly for livestock and horticultural products, fish, and sugar. This was exerting pressures on existing marketing arrangements and structures and would call for new approaches to food marketing and distribution. The marketing and distribution of meat could be greatly improved and prices to consumers reduced through the introduction of refrigeration and freezing. In several countries in the region, these developments were now beginning. More experience had to be obtained in the handling, storage and distribution of refrigerated and frozen meat and more accurate information was needed on consumer attitudes in the Near East. The Conference recognized the value of further investigations into the feasibility of modifying established consumer preferences for fresh as against refrigerated and preserved produce including meat, milk and dairy products to permit adoption of new marketing methods.

166. The Conference stressed the importance of marketing and processing facilities in areas where governments are now undertaking programs to put land holdings on a broader basis and to settle new farmers. For the success of these programs it was essential that arrangements for the effective marketing of the produce from these farms go simultaneously with new settlements. Close integration of production plans with processing and sales arrangements were essential if producers were to make the best use of their new resources and obtain a satisfactory remuneration. The assembly and analysis by FAO of experience on the organization of marketing and ancillary processing services for new agricultural development zones would be helpful to governments in the region.

167. Large scale cereal storage programs were now being undertaken in the region. The Syrian Arab Republic had approved a project to construct 15 grain silos, three seed plants and a feed mill. In Afghanistan and Lebanon, the Cereal Bureaux had established substantial facilities for grain storage. The Conference considered that the establishment of such facilities was of paramount importance in reducing the often very heavy losses due to insect infestation and poor storage methods and facilities.

168. In many countries in the region organizations to improve the marketing of agricultural products were or had recently been established. The Cooperation and Marketing Department in Pakistan had for many years given a lead to marketing development in Pakistan. In Lebanon marketing organizations for fruits and vegetables, silk and cereals had been established. The Marketing Bureau recently established in Jordan had wide responsibilities in the field of external and internal marketing. In Libya a marketing department was now initiating improvement measures at the federal level. The Conference considered that in view of these developments the need for training, demonstration and research in the field of food and agricultural marketing was even more urgent than in the past. The Conference was informed that permanent centres to conduct practical research, demonstrate improved methods and train personnel in the marketing of agricultural produce were now under consideration or had in principle been approved by the Governments of Pakistan, Jordan, and Lebanon. The assistance of international agencies, particularly the United Nations Special Fund, was of essential importance in this respect. Besides permanent centres, there was a continuing need for short term training centres in the marketing of specific commodities. The Hides and Skins Marketing and Processing Centre for countries in the Near East and Africa to be held in Turkey, in November 1962, was of great interest to countries in the region. The Conference urged Member Governments in the region to participate in this Centre.

169. The Conference welcomed the offer by the Government of Lebanon to host a regional marketing centre. It was proposed that this centre, to be organized along similar lines to the regional fruit and vegetable marketing Centre in Cairo in 1960, would deal with urgent marketing problems in the region, particularly grading and standardization, reduction of marketing costs, transportations and storage problems, and export control methods.

170. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 16

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing

- i. the scope for expanding horticultural exports to profitable markets in Europe;
- ii. the possibilities for establishing a cold chain and other marketing facilities to export these products to Europe, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference;

Recognizing the valuable work already undertaken by FAO in keeping Member Governments informed about developments with respect to the common agricultural policy of the European Economic Community;

Recognizing the needs in the region for a technical meeting on cold chain and a regional training centre;

Requests the Director-General

- i. to consider undertaking either in the context of the cold chain project or otherwise a special study concerning the possible effects of the common agricultural policy of the European Economic Community on the future of the major export products of the Near East Region with particular reference to horticultural products. The results of this study should be communicated to Member Governments in the region.
- ii.. to consider convening a cold chain technical meeting and a regional marketing training centre.

6. The Role of Agricultural Education and Training, Research and Extension in Relation to Agricultural Development

171. The Conference noted the progress made by Member Governments in the fields of Agricultural Education and Training, Research and Extension, and the efforts made to strengthen and develop their institutions and services concerned.

172. An increasing awareness of the important role of agricultural education and training, research and extension in meeting the present and future requirements of agricultural development was indicated by the Conference, which also expressed its understanding of the problems confronting these institutions and services.

173. The urgent need for further improvement of agricultural education at all levels was strongly emphasized by the Conference, as an indispensable requirement for the proper implementation of any kind of agricultural development programs and projects in all countries of the region. It was further recognized that institutions of higher and intermediate agricultural education are not keeping pace with the vast and varied demands which the rapid agricultural development of countries is creating for technicians in all fields related to food and agriculture.

174. It was pointed out that in several cases, although efforts are being made to increase the number of training institutions and the number of graduates and trainees, the provision of appropriate training facilities and well-trained teachers constitutes the main problem confronting agricultural education.

175. The need for training in specialized fields so as to meet present and future requirements of the different phases of agricultural development programs was also recognized. For technical work, higher and intermediate agricultural education was found to be necessary depending on the type of work to be performed. On the other hand, training of skilled labourers in certain fields of specialization was also considered to be a necessity.

176. The Conference recognized that in most countries of the region the needs for trained personnel in agriculture must be estimated by planning boards and training institutions. In Pakistan, for example, this is carried out by the National Planning Board and provisions for training made accordingly; when necessary new institutions or training centres are established.

177. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 17

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the importance of agricultural education for the development of agriculture in the region, and the need to find ways and means for improving agricultural programs and methods of teaching agriculture;

Noting the problems confronting agricultural education in schools of various levels;

Requests the Director-General to consider through Technical Assistance or other appropriate means:

- i. making provisions for holding an agricultural education meeting for the Near East Region during 1963;
- ii. holding a training centre in agricultural education for the region.

178. In the field of agricultural research the need for effective co-ordination of all research efforts both at the national and provincial levels was stressed by delegates. It was reported that in some countries national research councils have been created. The Conference was of the opinion that applied research properly related to present and foreseeable agricultural problems, is particularly needed in all countries of the region, but in order to achieve maximum effectiveness and allow for a proper utilization of results, a very close co-ordination should be established with the agricultural education institutions and with the extension services.

179. The importance of giving agricultural research institutions an appropriate degree of autonomy was stressed by the Conference. It was informed that a National Scientific Research Council was being established in Lebanon which would give priority to agricultural research and would be financed by allocating about one percent of the national budget.

180. With regard to personnel engaged in agricultural research it was felt by the Conference that the highest level of education should be secured.

181. The Conference expressed the need for FAO to continue and expand its efforts and assistance for the promotion and co-ordination of agricultural research activities between individual countries of the region. The latter should be realized through the Office of the FAO Regional Representative and by the organization of further meetings for this purpose.

182. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 18

THE CONFERENCE

Considering

- i. the role which agricultural research plays in the utilization of agricultural resources and in increasing and improving agricultural production;

- ii. that agriculture is faced in the Near East countries with many similar problems that need to be studied on a regional basis;

Noting that FAO assistance in strengthening the organizational and administrative structure of agricultural research in the region, had been given through the First Technical Meeting on Agricultural Research held in 1961 at Tel Amara;

Recognizing the need for a standing machinery to co-ordinate the efforts in agricultural research and to give guidance in planning research activities;

Requests the Director-General to consider establishing a Near East Commission on Agricultural Research under Article 6, para.1, of the Constitution. This Commission should review and promote exchange of information and experiences in agricultural research problems of the region; establish working groups on special problems; co-ordinate efforts in agricultural problems common to the countries with the object of standardizing the methods and approach being used and reviewing and evaluating the results obtained, and to make recommendations to Member Governments on methods of improving and strengthening agricultural research and to FAO on the assistance it could provide for this purpose.

183. Agricultural Extension was considered by the Conference as the keystone of agricultural development. Efforts in the field of research will not be effective unless they reach the farmer for application.

184. The Conference recognized the importance of providing adequate training to extension workers both in the subject matter and in extension education, and for expanding and improving the present facilities for training in agricultural extension. Particular efforts should be made to introduce agricultural extensions and rural sociology as subjects of studies in colleges and faculties of agriculture and at other appropriate levels. It was noted that some countries of the region have already adopted this sound policy.

185. The Conference realized the need to carry out systematic research in rural sociology and extension methodology, feeling that many conditions regarding ethnic groups, social problems relative to settlement projects, social standards, habits and customs merit study and well-planned research. There was a general agreement on the need to conduct studies and research on the extension methods which have been used for the last ten years without systematic evaluation of their effectiveness.

186. The Conference stressed the need for more facilities for training of extension service personnel at all levels. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for training in the use and production of audio-visual aids and for better equipment.

187. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 19

THE CONFERENCE

Appreciating the statement made by the Director-General in his opening address, pointing out that farmers must have access to results of agricultural research in order to step up production;

Recognizing that extension services are now considered a keystone in agricultural development for channeling technical information and recommended practices to farmers in a language which they can understand and in a form in which they can apply;

Noting the urgent need to strengthen agricultural extension services to increase and improve farm production of Member Countries of the region;

Realizing that efficiency in extension work is directly related to the number of well-trained and informed extension personnel;

Aware that periodical training covering different aspects of extension activities will greatly help in solving many of the problems hindering the efficiency of extension services;

Recommends to Member Governments

- i. to include an adequate number of fellowships for training extension personnel in specific fields of extension work, such as program planning, audio-visual aids, youth club movement and leadership in their Technical Assistance and other programs;
- ii. to seek provision for providing more and better equipment for audio-visual production;

Requests the Director-General to consider

- i. holding a regional agricultural extension training centre to train senior officers for this service;
- ii. assisting to establish national agricultural extension centres to train other levels of extension workers;

188. The Conference noted that although the term agriculture should be used in its broadest sense to include all activities related to rural life, women's role on the farm is often overlooked. Besides her normal work as a homemaker which includes the use of all available resources, especially of surplus food products, the Conference noted that in the Middle East her duties include the carrying of water and fuel, taking of produce to the market, care of small animals, dairy work and work in the fields during the harvest. It was recognized that improvement of conditions in the home and in the status of women is essential to agricultural and economic development, and that the education of farm women and their training in home economics is an important aspect of rural development programs. The Conference was aware that, as in agricultural extension, a major obstacle to the establishment or development of home economics extension programs was the lack of trained personnel, and it stressed the need for national and regional facilities for such training. It was informed of the facilities available in countries of the region, and of the types of assistance that could be obtained from international agencies.

189. The Conference reviewed the projects in home economics extension that were already established in the region and noted that they played an important rôle in community development programs. It was also pointed out that home economists can play an important rôle in maternal and child health centres by instructing nurses and midwives in simple nutrition education and home improvement; in social service centres by training social workers in those aspects of home economics that will make their work more effective; and in schools, where school feeding, vegetable gardening and nutrition education programs can do much to raise the health standards of children. Teaching people to help themselves and to make the best use of available resources is one of the basic aims of home economics. The Conference noted that recommendations in the field of home economics education had been made at previous technical meetings of FAO on extension, at the Vocational and Technical Training Meeting in Cairo, December 1957, and at the Arab League Social Welfare Seminar in Kuwait, in 1958.

190. The Conference adopted the following recommendations:

Recommendation No.20

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the essential rôle that home economics extension plays in an overall program of rural development;

Noting that home economics extension services are at different stages of development in countries of the region;

Considering the need for an exchange of information and experiences in the fields of home economics extension and nutrition education between countries of the region;

Requests the Director-General to consider calling a regional technical meeting before the next Regional Conference, on home economics extension, including nutrition education;

Recommendation No.21

THE CONFERENCE

Noting that in spite of the many efforts being made by governments, non-governmental bodies and international agencies to improve the level of living of people in rural communities, some parts of the population in countries of the Near East, especially mothers and children, continue to suffer from malnutrition and under-nourishment;

Recognizing that there is among rural populations insufficient nutritional knowledge and poor distribution of information on how to increase the production and use of better foods;

Realizing that factors which contribute to family well-being are often inter-dependent with agricultural production, and always related to economic and social progress;

Being aware of the fact that in most countries in the region the lack of trained personnel is a major limiting factor in the development of nutrition education and of a home economics extension program;

Recommends to Member Governments

- i. the establishment of nutrition education and home economics extension services where these do not exist and the strengthening of existing services;
- ii. to give due consideration to the strengthening of national institutions engaged in the training of extension personnel, in their technical assistance programs;

Requests the Director-General to seek ways and means, possibly in collaboration with UNICEF, to strengthen existing services and institutions through the provision of seminars and courses in agricultural and home economics extension which emphasize nutrition, horticulture, animal husbandry and poultry with the objective of improving nutritional levels of the people.

191. The Conference listened with interest to a statement made by the Acting-Director of the Near East Forest Ranger's School at Latakia, Syrian Arab Republic, reporting on its activities and progress made.

192. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 22

THE CONFERENCE

Noting the satisfactory development of the Near East Forest Ranger's School (under the auspices of FAO) in Latakia, Syrian Arab Republic, now in its third year of operation with forty-four students in attendance;

Commends the Host Country and the Director-General for the continued generous assistance afforded to the School;

Concurs fully with the recommendation of the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference that the "School should continue to be supported by FAO and strengthened through EPTA" in addition to services already provided by FAO, with particular reference to supplying staff for the School by financing the posts of Director, Assistant-Director and an instructor;

Commends Member Governments and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for the extent to which they have availed themselves so far of the facilities available at the School; and

Convinced that the future of the School can best be assured, in the long run, if approximately half of the twenty places available annually are absorbed by fellowships under technical assistance programs;

Recommends to Member Governments concerned to expedite payment of contributions punctually towards annual running expenses, as delayed payments risk placing the School in a difficult financial situation.

7. Agricultural Information

193. The Conference re-affirmed the recommendation made by the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference (November 1961) that FAO should help Member Governments to strengthen their agricultural information services in their efforts to increase food production and improve the marketing and distribution of food. Under this recommendation it was noted that the regional conferences would be invited to formulate their needs as regards the strengthening of their agricultural information services with emphasis as a first step on rural and farm broadcasting programs. The situation and needs as revealed by Member Governments at each regional conference would help to determine the immediate measures to improve agricultural information services.

194. The Conference discussed the physical difficulties of distributing agricultural information to farmers as well as the problems of designing programs suitable to the wide range in the levels of education and receptivity of the rural community. It was agreed that in preparing the farm programs, full account must be taken of the basic differences in the sociological, psychological and economical background of the audience. Distribution methods would need to be varied according to the nature of the information material produced and the area to be reached.

195. Illiteracy has focussed attention on farm broadcasting. There is in all countries of the region an urgent need for developing regular farm broadcasting programs. The Conference referred to experiments made in several Near East and African countries where the governments have supplied extension workers with transistor radios and slide projectors to assist in performing their work. The delegates requested FAO to consider the possibility of supplying transistor radios to countries that are planning or have already organized farm broadcasting, with the object of enabling community listening in all areas.

196. However, the development of farm broadcasting programs should not be delayed until ways and means of supplying radios can be found. Many tea shops scattered throughout most of the countries of the region have radios, and most of the farmers spend their afternoons or evenings at the tea shops. Farm programs can thus be designed for broadcasting at convenient periods that will catch most of the farmers.

197. In view of the request made by several countries for the provision of radio transistors, it was suggested that all countries in the region accept the principle of importing the sets without charging duties, sales tax, and local registration of Community Farm Transistor Radios. Furthermore, it was suggested that consideration be given to the selection of a test area for Farm Broadcasting; that the exact needs be studied for a planned and well produced farm program; and that the potential farm audience be surveyed and evaluated with the object of supplying the required number of transistor receivers to assure a total audience.

198. The Conference recognized the necessity for training farm radio broadcasters as an integral part of any farm broadcasting program. It also stressed the necessity of convincing the national and private broadcasting companies to give the space and time required for the production of well-balanced farm broadcasting programs. These programs would have to be organized on a regular basis with well produced programs and with a correct timing.

199. The Conference also stressed the importance of establishing a regional exchange centre for the distribution of literature, documentation, films and pictures prepared by specific countries that could be used in other countries of the region.

200. Some countries in the region already have access to a well-equipped film industry, have mobile film units for projections in the field but do not have the film production experts that could supervise the making of an agricultural extension film. The help of FAO in this particular field would be extremely valuable.

201. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 23

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing that agricultural information services provide channels for rapid communication to bridge the gap between research and the farming community;

Noting that the use of a variety of methods in communicating with the farmers helps them accept new ideas and concepts in the agricultural practices;

Taking into account that effectiveness of mass-media methods depends on capable and well-trained personnel;

Requests the Director-General to consider setting up an agricultural extension and technical information commission under Article 6, para.1, of the Constitution. This Commission should be composed of professional experts in the following fields:

1. Agricultural extension specialists
2. Agricultural journalists
3. Farm broadcasting specialists
4. Farm television program experts

The functions of this Commission should be:

1. to plan methods for assisting Member Countries to strengthen their national agricultural information services;
2. to make available competent officers to survey, analyze, evaluate and recommend specific improvements required to establish a fully efficient information service;
3. to study and recommend methods for providing equipment, material and technical assistance needed to make agricultural information services most efficient.

202. The Conference discussed the need for, and the possibility of establishing a regional marketing information service. It was agreed that such a service would be useful if it could be organized on an economical basis. It was noted that there was a need for both farmers and merchants to have daily information on the movement and prices of fruits and vegetables. For other products such as livestock, grains and cotton, the information could be supplied on a weekly or monthly basis depending on the season, product, etc..

203. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 24

THE CONFERENCE

Noting

- i. the need of making market information in the different countries of the region available daily to the various countries;
- ii. the difficulty of obtaining and disseminating such information by any individual country on a multilateral basis;
- iii. the mutual benefits to the countries of the region that will be derived from receiving such market information;

and, in accordance with the recommendation of the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference in 1961,

Recommends to Member Governments to consider the possibilities for the establishment of a regional marketing information service to collect market information from various countries of the region and to disseminate such information on a daily basis;

Requests the Director-General to consider carrying out as soon as possible a study to determine ways and means of establishing such a regional marketing information service. This study should include the following points:

- (a) feasibility of establishing such a service;
- (b) necessary organization and staff required;
- (c) cost estimate for establishing and operating this service;
- (d) ways by which these costs could be financed.

SPECIFIC FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE NEAR EAST NOT DEALT WITH
ELSEWHERE WHICH REQUIRE CONFERENCE GUIDANCE OR GOVERNMENT
ACTION

1. Report of Action Taken on Recommendations of the Fifth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

204. The Conference showed great interest in introducing for the first time this subject for discussion at the Regional Conferences and expressed its appreciation for the initiative taken by the Near East Regional Office in this regard. This step helps to make clear the importance of regional conferences

and the degree of positive consideration that Member Governments and FAO pay to the deliberations and recommendations that take place in these conferences. It helped both Member Delegations in their respective countries and in later conferences, and also FAO to formulate a clearer picture of what has taken place and to thereby propose their future course of action with continuity of purpose and objectives.

205. These recommendations further served to illustrate the difficult and complex nature of the agricultural problems of the region and the sound approach adopted to find a solution to them. They also indicate the confidence that these countries continue to have in FAO and in its sincere endeavours to help them solve their agricultural problems and to assist them in the process of accelerating economic development.

206. An analysis of the action taken since the last Regional Conference revealed that of the fifty recommendations directed to FAO, thirty-three were included in the Program of Work for 1962/63 and have been or will be fully implemented. Ten are being partially implemented and only seven could not be considered, largely due to budgetary limitations. It was however gratifying to note that consideration will continue to be given to finding ways and means to implement the latter either in FFHC, the WFP or other means. The Conference therefore expressed its appreciation to FAO for these positive results, for its explicit recognition of the importance of regional conferences, and for its strong support in carrying out the recommendations that emanate from the regional conferences. The Conference also wished to propose to FAO to explore the possibilities of reporting to the Regional Conference on the actions taken at the general conferences with regard to these recommendations.

207. On the governments' side, the Conference noted that there were 53 recommendations directed to Member Governments. These were later assembled in a questionnaire by the Regional Office for the Near East and communicated to Member Governments with a view to compiling a summary of actions taken by Member Governments. In a few cases, some delegations presented a separate list of the actions they took or envisaged to carry out in this regard. Other delegations reported that their countries have implemented many of these recommendations and brought the actions taken to the attention of the Conference during the course of deliberations on the various items of the agenda. The Conference proposed that these could be singled out and requested FAO to complete a list of actions taken by the respective governments in the Near East as was done in document NERC 62/19 and distribute it for the information of Member Governments.

2. Increased Use of Fertilizers

(a) Needs and Problems of Supply

208. The Conference was informed of the steps taken by the Organization in response to a recommendation of the Fourth Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East that FAO should explore the possibilities to provide developing countries with fertilizer materials on favourable terms. The matter had been discussed at the Eleventh Session of the FAC Conference which requested the Director-General "to study, within the general framework for economic development, all possible ways by which fertilizer exporting countries might facilitate the movement of fertilizers to needy countries". As a first step in pursuance

of the above Conference resolution, the Director-General had addressed, last May, a communication to all Member Countries which are regular fertilizer exporters inviting comments on:

- (a) the type of co-operation governments of the fertilizer exporting countries would be willing to give in order to increase the movement of fertilizers under special terms to countries in the Far East Region;
- (b) whether the same type of co-operation might be extended to developing countries in other areas.

209. The Conference, noting with approval the action taken, stressed the particular importance to the countries of the Near East Region of an increased supply of fertilizers on easy terms as an important part of economic assistance to developing countries. It appreciated that this was a complex question and would need careful investigation in the light of the many factors involved. The Conference noted that some of the possible arrangements now under consideration included the granting of long-term credit facilities, the acceptance of soft currencies in payment for the material provided, the selling of fertilizers at concessional prices or outright donations in bilateral or multilateral programs including the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign. In working out these arrangements special care would need to be taken to provide the necessary guarantees that provision of fertilizers on special terms would not interfere with the normal commercial trade channels. On the recipient side the provision of fertilizers on easy terms should not be regarded as a permanent "give away" operation. In the long run, the most effective step would be, insofar as economically feasible, an adequate local production of fertilizer materials. Several countries in the region had important deposits of phosphate and potash, exploitation of which was developing rapidly. Plans had also been drawn up for the utilization of natural gas for the production of nitrogenous fertilizers. Pre-investment studies and surveys could make an important contribution towards the building up of efficient fertilizer industries in the region.

210. The Conference agreed that in order to carry further the action initiated by FAO, countries should give careful thought to their policies and plans with regard to the use of fertilizers over the next 5-10 years, in cases where this had not already been done. Such studies should as far as possible be quantitative, based on a careful assessment of the amounts which could be actually put into good use for the increase of agricultural production, bearing in mind the need to develop concurrently larger and more efficient research and extension services, and efficient channels of supply to farmers who do not at present apply fertilizers. In countries where FAO soil fertility advisors are at work, these officers could assist in the preparation and assembly of the information required. For other countries, the data could be collected by FAO by means of a questionnaire.

211. The Conference noted that there was a continuing need for up-to-date information on trends in production, consumption and prices of fertilizers and urged FAO to continue and develop its publications in this field.

(b) Progress Report on the Fertilizer Program

212. The Conference had recognized the importance of fertilizers in crop production in its deliberations on a number of agenda items, and noted with approval the steps taken to foster their use in the region. It was informed that the Fertilizer Program is organized by FAO under the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, is financed by the World Fertilizer Industry and is carried out partially in the field in co-operating Member Countries and partially at FAO Headquarters. The field program receives the greater part of the budget and staffing. The Headquarters activities include overall planning of the program in co-ordination with an advisory panel set up by FAO and the Fertilizer Industry and marketing and development studies of fertilizer use, based on the results of the field program and other information.

213. Three regions have been recognized for the Campaign in order to make most effective use of the funds available: they were demarcated on the basis of broad similarities in climate, agriculture and farming methods. They include the Northern Latin American, the West African, and the Near East/North African regions. The countries which have agreed to co-operate in this program in the last of these regions are Lebanon, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Turkey.

214. The Project Manager is located at FAO Headquarters and each region has a regional leader. In the Near East/North African Region the leader is located in Damascus and is assisted by soil fertility specialists in Turkey and Morocco.

215. The objectives of the program which are to demonstrate to farmers the value of fertilizer use, so as to persuade more to use fertilizers, and to estimate the value of the responses obtained with a number of crops, are fully in accord with the Conference's attitude towards this form of development.

216. In the Development and Marketing Studies, FAO working on the results of the field program along with economic information from the countries concerned, is examining broad questions such as the relationships between fertilizer consumption and crop production on a national scale; and the study and removal of obstacles, both economic and social, to the rapid development of fertilizer use. The economics of using fertilizers will also be examined in relation to local crop and fertilizer prices. These development and marketing studies will help demonstrate to governments how effective fertilizers can be in securing the increases in the production of food and other crops which will be necessary to feed the increasing population. They will also form the basis for long-term forecasts of the quantities of fertilizers which will be needed by the different countries.

217. The Conference learned with approval the rapid progress made in the field program as indicated by the expansion in the number of trials and demonstrations as shown below:

<u>Country</u>	<u>S e a s o n</u>		
	<u>1961/62</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1962/63</u>
	Winter crops 1/	Summer crops 2/	Winter crops 3/
Lebanon	15	10	95
Morocco	130	100	350
Syrian Arab Republic	160	80	390
Turkey	470	840	790

1/ Wheat, barley, lentils, vetches, olives

2/ Maize, sorghum, cotton, potatoes, sugarbeet, ground-nuts, sunflowers

3/ Projected.

218. The Conference noted with approval the excellent accord achieved between the three interested parties and the readiness of the World Fertilizer Industry to sponsor the program for a further year.

3. Animal Production and Health

(a) Present Status of Animal Health in the Region

219. The Conference was informed of the action that had been taken by FAO in respect of the emergency that had arisen from the introduction of the Sat.I type of foot-and-mouth disease into the Near East, and of the plans that had been made to contain the epizootic by creating peripheral barriers of animals immunized with the living Sat.I vaccine developed at the Purbright Virus Research Institute, and further barriers in uninfected territory by immunization with inactivated vaccine. The cost of producing and transporting the very large quantities of vaccine that would be required was put at 6 - 8 million dollars, and it had been suggested that European countries might be prepared to contribute largely to this cost as a means of protecting European agriculture from the much greater loss that would be incurred if this type of virus spread to Europe. So far, finance for this purpose had not been secured. There were certain supplies of these two vaccines that were available only through FAO, but it was necessary that individual countries should finance these purchases themselves.

220. The Conference was also informed of the present position of the Near East Animal Health Institute. Of the five units, two were not yet operational - the United Arab Republic and Iran, but it was possible that these two countries would complete the necessary formalities at any moment. Considerable progress had been made in the recruitment of staff for the Institute, and where possible, a group or a team from a country had been recruited, headed by one or two very senior workers, who would plan and start the research and hand over to other workers from perhaps their own Institutes, the Senior Expert returning from time to time to give supervision and direction. In this way it was foreseen that a close liaison would be established with Institutes and Universities overseas, more training facilities would be available, guest-workers would be attracted, and there would be mutual advantages.

221. The Governments reported on the present animal disease situation in their countries, and noted with satisfaction the improvements that had been made in the control of epizootic diseases. At the same time recent experience emphasized the dangers of infection with fresh diseases, arising from the improved transport facilities and the increased demand for animal products.

222. The Conference considered that to meet this situation greater direct interchange of information was desirable between veterinary services of neighbouring countries, and that greater consideration should be given to the improvement of quarantine services. In the framing of regulations governing the import of animals, due regard should be paid to the interests of neighbouring countries, whose economies might well be placed at risk by purely nationalistic policies. Some countries reported on their quarantine and control of export of animals.

223. A desire was expressed for a publication or a regular series of bulletins from the Near East Animal Health Institute in accordance with the accepted principle that the Institute should serve the interests of all countries in the region.

224. Emphasis was laid on the need for a continued medical and veterinary attack on the zoonoses, and one national committee of this type had already been formed.

225. All countries agreed upon the need for frequent meetings of the Animal Health Committee of the region, particularly with a view to re-activating the 1946 Agreement, signed at Baghdad, by most of the Arab countries.

226. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 25

THE CONFERENCE

Having taken notice of the discussions and general recommendations of the last two regional conferences, of the Eleventh Session of FAO Conference, and of the First Seminar on Animal Production and Health in the Near East;

Recognizing the importance of trade in animals and animal products between different countries in order to improve the standard of living and general nutrition in the region;

Noting the need for co-operation between the different countries in the region and the international organizations for an efficient campaign against animal diseases;

Recommends to Member Governments

- i. to strengthen national veterinary services in order to make them more efficient in the campaign against these diseases both within the countries and at their frontiers;
- ii. to notify as rapidly as possible all neighbouring countries and also FAO and OIE of every new outbreak of disease;
- iii. to collaborate with the objective of unifying and co-ordinating animal health legislation as well as the regulations controlling imports and exports of animals and animal products;

Requests the Director-General

- i. to continue to give full support to the Institute of Animal Health in the Near East, making available to it the assistance of eminent specialists in this subject especially for the preparation of vaccines in particular cases;
- ii. to consider organizing one or more meetings of the FAO/OIE Committee of the Working Group on Animal Health and Production in the Near East;

- iii. to consider the possibility of the publication of a periodical bulletin from the Near East Institute of Animal Health in order to inform the countries of the Near East of the research activities of the various sections of the Institute and the services that this Institute might be able to give in the fields of diagnosis, biological products and vaccines as well as other relevant information concerning the activities of the Institute which would be of interest to the countries in the region;
- iv. to consider taking immediate steps to have at his disposal the funds necessary to help the countries of the region in checking current animal diseases as quickly as possible;
- v. to consider submitting a proposal to the Twelfth Session of the Conference for the establishment of a permanent fund or source of funds to be available at all times at his disposal, for immediate use to assist countries in the control of new epizootics such as African Horse Sickness and new types of Foot-and-Mouth disease and other diseases, liable to cause great economic losses.

(b) Animal Production Including Research and the Possibility of Establishing a Regional Institute

227. The delegations reported on the many problems they faced in improving animal production, particularly the development of the suitable types and breeds of livestock for efficient production and suitability to the environment. One of the major problems was the great losses due to starvation in drought periods. There was general agreement on the need for improved water supplies for more effective use of the range, as well as irrigation for fodder production. It was considered that every effort should be made to advise farmers on the use of livestock in conjunction with farming. This integration of livestock with cropping was considered to be essential to assist in maintaining soil fertility and improving the economic stability of the farming systems.

228. There was full agreement on the need to establish a Near East Animal Production Institute. It has been generally felt that national research units should be established to solve national problems, particularly in view of the variations in environment, but some major basic research problems could probably be handled on a regional basis. The research results from all units should be disseminated throughout the region. For this purpose, it was considered essential that a Regional Livestock Expert be appointed to the Near East Regional Office to co-ordinate the work and to assist in establishing a Near East Animal Production Institute at the appropriate time.

229. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 26

THE CONFERENCE

Noting

- i. the need for increasing animal production in the region to meet the growing demand for human consumption and the difficulties involved in attaining the necessary increase;

- ii. the advantages of integrating livestock production with agricultural crops in assisting in maintaining soil fertility, increasing production, and improving farmers' incomes;
- iii. the need to improve management practices and evolve livestock with greater genetic potential;

Recommends to Member Governments

- i. to establish, where necessary, livestock research stations and/or strengthen existing stations, to make available to farmers knowledge on improved management and livestock of high production potential, suitable to the environment;
- ii. to provide facilities for training of personnel on animal production on a national and regional basis;
- iii. to co-operate in the establishment of a regional institute for animal production and in the exchange of information;

Requests the Director-General

- i. to appoint as soon as possible a regional livestock production adviser to assist countries in establishing livestock research units and co-ordinate the research and facilitate exchange of information in the region. Such an adviser also to assist the countries in the region in the establishment of the Near East Animal Production Institute;
- ii. to consider calling a meeting of the Committee on Animal Production of the Near East Working Party on Animal Production and Health as soon as possible, to discuss common problems and, in particular, the establishment of a Near East Animal Production Institute.

4. Policy Implications of Reports of Meetings

(a) Near East Forestry Commission

230. The Conference was informed by the Secretariat of the discussions held and the recommendations passed by the Near East Forestry Commission at its Third Session, held at Adana (Turkey) in May 1962. On this basis it reviewed the main forestry problems of the region and agreed that the rational management of the natural forests still subsisting in the region would not suffice to ensure a level of forest production in keeping with the economic and social development objectives of the region. It therefore appeared that one of the main lines of forestry development in the region should be the expansion of the forest area through quick-growing tree plantations. It was felt that such plantations, yielding 3-4 times as much as natural forest stands, would help to alleviate the present shortage of timber for rural consumption and make a major contribution to industrial development in the region. However, it was noted that in carrying out a policy of forest expansion, there were four main issues to be taken into consideration:

- i. The Present competition for land between forestry and livestock production. It was recognized that forestry programs in the region are strongly conditioned by the pressure of livestock - mainly sheep and goats - on derelict lands. A pre-requisite for the success of a dynamic forest policy in the region is therefore the provision of alternative sources of fodder for livestock and alternative employment for the pastoral population. The Conference recognized the existence of divergent points of view and policies regarding goat and sheep grazing and agreed that the absence of adequate and reliable data on the economics and social implications on sheep and goat grazing was greatly hampering any further success in this matter.
- ii. The expansion of forest research. The Conference agreed that extensive tree-planting programs would necessarily have to rely on the utilization of exotic, quick-growing forest species, and it was felt that this would require a substantial amount of preliminary research work on seed problems and on the utilization of modern cultural methods, both mechanized and otherwise. It was also felt that such programs would require preliminary education of the local populations concerned, which could be achieved by the establishment of networks of village tree plantations, for the dual purpose of experimentation and demonstration.
- iii. The necessity of establishing sound forest policies and of evaluating the present level and pattern of wood consumption, and an estimate of future timber demand, in order that the volume of the forest investment can be best adjusted to the needs of the region. In this respect, the Conference noted the repeated requests of the Near East Forestry Commission that the Forestry and Forest Products Division of FAO include a Timber Trends Study for the Near East in its program of work, and recognized the necessity for such a study to be based on adequate analysis of present consumption levels and patterns, undertaken on a national basis.
- iv. The development of pulp and paper industries. Near East countries presently have relatively high imports of paper and paperboard and in these countries the demand for paper and paperboard at low income levels considerably exceeds the growth rate of their national economies, as measured by Gross National Product or other indicators. Due to shortages of foreign exchange, these countries are anxious to replace pulp and paper imports by domestic production wherever economically feasible and technically possible, particularly since most of the countries in these regions have domestic raw materials for pulp and paper production: timber from natural forests and plantations, bamboo, reeds and grasses, agricultural residues and waste paper. However, the main economic deterrents to local pulp and paper production in the region are the

relatively small size of the present domestic markets and the lack of developed industrial infra-structure (inadequate transport, power, chemicals or industrial water supply.) Consequently, the Conference felt that the holding of a Near East Pulp and Paper conference to evaluate the prospects for development of the pulp and paper industries of the region could make a major contribution to the promotion of overall industrial development in the countries concerned.

231. The Conference took note of the preparations under way for a regional training centre on watershed management to be held in September 1962. It expressed its gratitude to the Lebanese Government for acting as host to this training centre.

232. The Conference noted with interest that the Saudi Arabian Government was planning the establishment of a department of forestry in the Ministry of Agriculture.

233. The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 27

THE CONFERENCE

Noting the recommendations made by the Near East Forestry Commission at its Third Session;

Endorses these recommendations in their entirety;

Welcomed a statement made by the United Arab Republic Delegation that their Government will investigate the possibilities to act as host to a Near East conference on pulp and paper development

Recommends to Member Governments

- i. to place with the assistance, if necessary, of multilateral and bilateral agencies, increased means at the disposal of the forest research institutes in the region for the carrying out of a program of trials and demonstrations on the utilization of quick-growing forest species, in co-ordination with the program put into operation by the Joint Sub-Commission on Mediterranean Forestry Problems;
- ii. to undertake national surveys on timber requirements and resources, requesting assistance, where necessary, from international agencies and bilateral aid programs;
- iii. to undertake experiments to determine the conditions (age of plants or coppice shoots, season of grazing, duration and density of grazing) under which grazing, particularly by goats and sheep would be least harmful to the various types of natural vegetation;

Requests the Director-General to consider

- i. organizing a seminar on the technical, economic and social problems involved in goat raising on arid and semi-arid lands;
- ii. organizing a training centre for forestry personnel on the application of mechanical methods in cultivation of quick-growing trees particularly poplars and eucalyptus and logging of forest trees, in a Near East country;
- iii. organizing a training centre for forestry personnel, with the object of harmonizing the methods to be followed by the forestry research institutes in undertaking experimental work of common interest to all the countries in the region;
- iv. arranging for the early completion of an FAO timber trends study for the Near East Region;
- v. organizing a conference on pulp and paper development for the Near East.

(b) Near East Meeting on Food Consumption Survey

234. The Conference noted that the planning of national food and nutrition policies had to be based on an accurate knowledge of the actual levels and patterns of food consumption as well as of expenditure for food by social, economic and geographic groups, obtained through food consumption surveys.

235. The Conference appreciated the action taken by the Director-General in implementing the recommendation of the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference and the Fifth Regional Conference by holding the Near East Technical Meeting for the study and adaptation of the "FAO World Program for Food Consumption Surveys" to local conditions and needs, and in organizing an advanced Training Centre on Methodology of Food Consumption Surveys in Yugoslavia, in August and September this year to which participants from Near East countries, responsible for the planning and direction of national food consumption programs were invited. The Conference noted with satisfaction that a manual on Methodology of Food Consumption Surveys was in preparation.

236. The Conference was informed of the items discussed at the Technical Meeting including consideration of the Draft Program of Food Consumption Surveys as to the general types of surveys to be undertaken; the objectives of food consumption surveys, their scope and coverage; the design of surveys and organization of field work; methods of collecting information, of tabulation, and of presentation of results; and evaluation of the accuracy of the survey results.

237. The present situation and future plans for food consumption surveys in countries of the region were reviewed by both the Meeting and the Conference. Surveys had been undertaken in several countries, but with a few exceptions, the Conference noted that these had often been limited in scope and coverage and needed international assistance. Special mention was made of the valuable assistance given by the Regional Office of FAO in this regard.

238. Attention was drawn to the value of conducting surveys of nutritional status at the same time, and on the same groups, as those of food consumption. Joint FAO/WHO collaboration in such surveys was noted and approved.

239. The Conference was informed of the nutrition survey that had recently been undertaken in Lebanon with bilateral assistance, which covered dietary, clinical and biochemical aspects. Although a large number of individuals of different ages and economic groups had been investigated and valuable information collected on the health side, it was felt that in future surveys the statistical framework should be improved.

240. The Conference concurred with the Meeting in stressing the importance and urgent need of accurate data on food consumption as the factual basis for nutritional, economic, and social programs. In most countries of the region, such data are at present scanty and in many cases unreliable and there was an obvious need for intensifying this work. The importance of compiling regular up-to-date food balance sheets to supplement the information from the surveys was reiterated.

241. The Conference also agreed that international food composition tables were of definite value but that countries should prepare as soon as possible a set of national tables based on local foods and popular dishes.

242. The Conference recognized that one of the main obstacles to the formulation and implementation of proposed programs of food consumption surveys is the lack of sufficient adequately-trained personnel. Although efforts had been made in individual countries to increase the number of experts qualified to plan and conduct such surveys, it was felt that this was a field where international co-operation could be most useful and, therefore, the Conference recommended that in the planning of technical assistance in the field of food consumption surveys to be provided by FAO and other bodies, this problem should receive primary consideration.

243. The Conference also noted that the FFHC includes among its action projects the preparation of food balance sheets, the conduct of food consumption surveys and the training of personnel for both.

244. The Conference agreed that the Meeting had provided an excellent opportunity for an exchange of views between agricultural economists, nutritionists and statisticians concerned with food consumption surveys, and for a review of the work currently under way in each country. It was therefore recommended that technical meetings of that kind be held at intervals of not more than five years.

245. The Conference adopted the following recommendations:

Recommendation No. 28

THE CONFERENCE

Stressing the importance and urgent need of data on food consumption in different sectors of the population as a factual basis for nutritional, economic and social programs;

Realizing that in most countries of the region such data are at present scanty and in many cases unreliable

Re-affirming the recommendations made to Member Governments at the Fifth FAO Regional Conference;

Appreciating the action taken by the Director-General in organizing a technical meeting for regional adaptation of the World Program for Food Consumption Surveys, and the arrangements made for a training centre on the subject to be held this year, as well as for a manual on Food Consumption Surveys;

Noting the recommendations made by the Technical Meeting on Food Consumption Surveys;

Being aware that the promotion of food consumption surveys and food balance sheets and the training of staff form an important part of the FFHC action projects;

Recommends to Member Governments

- i. to assemble more information on food consumption and nutritional status as a basis for nutritional economic and social programs through the intensification of food consumption surveys;
- ii. to prepare as soon as possible a national list of foods and popular dishes, recording their composition, whenever available, in the same classification as those adopted for international tables;
- iii. to compile regular up-to-date food balance sheets;
- iv. to make full 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;
- v. to request assistance in the organization of food consumption surveys and in the training of national technicians at all levels, through their technical assistance programs, including UNICEF;

Requests the Director-General

- i. to give high priority in promoting FFHC action projects to the organization of food consumption surveys, the preparation of food balance sheets and training on both;
- ii. to arrange for periodical technical meetings or seminars, at no longer than five-year intervals, at which economists, nutritionists and statisticians could review the progress of food consumption surveys in the region and plan future action.

246. The Conference was informed that a survey was planned on the feeding of industrial workers, and that as a result of the recommendation of the Fifth Regional Conference that FAO undertake "a survey of facilities in

the region for the feeding of industrial workers" a consultant is to be employed to make the survey, and a technical meeting will be organized at a later date to discuss the findings and to recommend action. Questionnaires have been sent out to governments requesting available information, and asking if they are interested in having the consultant visit their country.

(c) Near East Meeting on Plant Protection

247. The Conference stressed the great importance of plant protection in the Near East and underlined the urgent need for further and more intensive action in this field. It realized that, while considerable efforts were required to increase agricultural production and improve the economic conditions of the farmer, a single pest outbreak could nullify much of such efforts and spread misery and hunger over vast territories. In some cases the damage caused seriously affected the volume and quality of agricultural trade.

248. The Conference also expressed satisfaction over the positive consideration the Director-General to implement many of the recommendations of the First FAO Plant Protection Meeting, held in Damascus in September 1961. These included, among others, the establishment of a Plant Protection Committee, a Plant Protection Agreement for the Near East, and a Regional Plant Protection Research Institute. The Conference was informed that a second Plant Protection meeting for the Near East was scheduled to be held in Amman, 5-9 November 1962.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

1. Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region

249. The recommendations of the Conference regarding the future orientation of FAO's work in the Near East Region are embodied in the preceding chapters of this report. In a final statement the Director-General's Regional Representative, Dr. A.R. Sidky, focussed attention on the Conference's views concerning the most pressing needs of the Region to proceed with orderly development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries aimed at making the best use of land and water resources and improving the nutritional standards of the people.

250. Dr. Sidky noted that there were many recommendations for action by both the Organization and by Member Governments. He said the Organization would do its utmost, within the limits of its resources, to implement those recommendations directed to the Director-General. He mentioned that, besides the FAO Regular Program, the main sources through which FAO can channel assistance to Member Countries are: the UN Special Fund, the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance, the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the World Food Program, the joint FAO/UNICEF program, OPEX and Funds-in-Trust. These sources had greatly extended the scope of possible FAO assistance, and Dr. Sidky emphasized the importance of proper coordination within the countries if these and other sources of technical assistance are used effectively for the countries' development.

251. Dr. Sidky indicated that in his view the broad directives given by the Conference for the future work of FAO in the Region in support of or complemented by Government action as necessary, included:

1. Increased and improved cooperation on a regional basis on problems of agricultural development.
 2. More emphasis on comprehensive development planning.
 3. Improved or increased coverage, accuracy, timeliness and comparability of agricultural statistics, with increased participation in the World Census of Agriculture.
 4. More attention to technical meetings, seminars, and training centres so as to increase the number of trained personnel in all fields of activity.
 5. Closer cooperation between research, education and extension, with adequate attention being given to home economics extension and nutrition education.
 6. Strengthening or organizing agricultural information services and the use of mass information media, particularly farm broadcasting, as a means of getting information directly to farmers as well as in support of extension services.
 7. Increasing crop production especially by wider use of fertilizers.
 8. Improved marketing, processing, preservation and storage methods and facilities.
 9. More and better forest education, forest research, forest plantations and forest industries.
 10. Strengthening animal health facilities and services and developing livestock production.
252. Dr. Sidky noted that one of the most promising features of the Conference was that Member Countries had shown a growing awareness of the need for an overall and integrated approach to agricultural development.

III. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE

	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Page</u>
	<u>Number</u>	
(a) <u>Recommendations Requiring Action by Member Governments</u>		
<u>On Agricultural Plans and Planning:</u> to establish agencies for the following-up and appraisal of projects; to assure proper execution of projects and achievement of targets on time; to allow for quick modification of projects in short time and at low cost.	1	16
<u>On World Census of Agriculture:</u> for Member Countries who have not participated in the 1960 World Census of Agriculture to do so; to utilize experience and information obtained from the census for development or improvement of systems for current agricultural statistics.	4	21
<u>On Agricultural Statistics:</u> to allocate funds and resources for developing systems for food and agricultural statistics; to participate in work of Statistical Commission and its working groups and utilize this machinery for development of systems for food and agricultural statistics within a standardized and co-ordinated framework; to submit the project of the Near East Research and Training Institute in Agricultural Statistics to the UN Special Fund.	5	23-24
<u>On Technical Co-operation Programs:</u> to establish and strengthen organizations for co-ordinating and utilizing foreign aid; to associate the FAO Country Representative with the deliberations of their national organization (for co-ordination) in an advisory capacity; to include posts of FAO Country Representative in their EPTA country programs.	7	29
<u>On Development and Use of Land and Water Resources:</u> to establish land-use committees to analyze land-use problems, stimulate research in land-use and determine potential forms of land-use for optimum production.	9	35
<u>On Fishery Policies and Development:</u> to pay due regard to desirability of pre-investment surveys prior to exploitation of areas; to give consideration to the need for equipment, supplies and trained personnel for such surveys of sea and inland water areas of common interest; to make an inventory of fishery industries and analyze information on fish production and trade and to formulate needed policies and legislation; to establish or strengthen the fishery services needed; and to review needs for trained personnel, organize or seek training facilities for fisheries personnel and provide effective employment for such personnel.	13-14	39-41

	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Page</u>
	<u>Number</u>	
<u>On Agricultural Education and Training, Research and Extension:</u> to include fellowships for extension personnel in technical assistance and other programs; to provide more and better equipment for audio-visual production; to establish or strengthen extension services for rural women; to strengthen national institutions engaged in training of extension personnel.	19-20-21	47-50
<u>On Forest Rangers School:</u> to expedite payment of contributions punctually towards annual running expenses.	22	50
<u>On Agricultural Information Services:</u> to consider establishing a regional marketing information service.	24	53
<u>On Animal Health:</u> to strengthen national veterinary services; to notify neighbouring countries, FAO and OIE of every new outbreak of disease; to collaborate with the objective of unifying and co-ordinating animal health legislation and regulations controlling imports and exports of animals and animal products.	25	58
<u>On Animal Production:</u> to establish livestock research stations or strengthen existing stations; to make available to farmers knowledge on improved management and livestock of high production potential; to provide facilities for training of personnel on a national and regional basis; to co-operate in the establishment of a Regional Institute for Animal Production.	26	59-60
<u>On Forestry:</u> to give increased support to forest research institutes; to undertake national surveys on timber requirements and resources; to undertake experiments to determine the conditions under which grazing would be least harmful to various types of natural vegetation.	27	62
<u>On Food Consumption Surveys:</u> to assemble more information on food consumption and nutritional status through intensification of food consumption surveys; to prepare national food composition tables; to complete regularly up-to-date food balance sheets; to utilize FAO assistance in the field of food consumption statistics; to request assistance in the organization of food consumption surveys and in training technicians.	28	64-65
<u>(b) Recommendations Requiring Action by the Director-General</u>		
<u>On Agricultural Plans and Planning:</u> to render assistance to Member Countries to help strengthen or establish agricultural planning agencies; to establish a cadre of agricultural planning economists to assist countries of the region with their planning problems; to allocate funds for further training centres on agricultural planning and for fellowships in planning; to establish a Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning; to establish a Near East Planning Institute to train planning technicians and give support to the Planning Commission - the Institute should be in Damascus; to explore the possibilities of financing such an Institute through UN Special Fund.	1-2	16-18

	<u>Recommendation Number</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>On Mediterranean Project:</u> to continue to provide necessary facilities for implementation of recommendations of the FAC Mediterranean Development Report.	3	19
<u>On World Census of Agriculture:</u> to appoint a regional census adviser; to organize a regional seminar on evaluation, analysis and use of agricultural census and survey results; to facilitate the use of the Cairo electronic computing centre by Member Countries of the Region; to complete the preparatory work for the 1970 Census of Agriculture.	4	21-22
<u>On Standardization and Co-ordination of Agricultural Statistics:</u> to organize a seminar on the analysis and uses of food consumption survey data; to include in the Regular Program of Work and Budget of 1964/65 at least one additional post of a regional statistician; to appoint one regional statistical adviser for food consumption surveys and surveys of current information; to allow for the repetition of training centres and seminars on food and agricultural statistics; to continue the efforts to establish a Research and Training Institute (for statistics) through UN Special Fund; to include in the program of work the promotion of studies and the compilation of data related to the measurement of agricultural productivity.	5	23-25
<u>On Commodity Reporting and Analysis:</u> to provide further assistance to countries wishing to establish national commodity analysis units.	6	26
<u>On Technical Co-operation Programs:</u> to strengthen the organizational structure at the Near East Regional Office; to establish a Near East Seminar for national administrators engaged in technical assistance programming operations.	7	29
<u>On Integrated Development of Land and Water Resources:</u> to establish a Near East Research Institute for the development and introduction of improved agricultural implements; to consider establishing this institute in Pakistan; to recruit regional teams to assist countries with such problems as water management and use, soils, range management, pasture and fodder production, livestock, farm mechanization; to explore the possibilities of establishing a Regional Land-Use Research Institute; to make arrangements to hold in Pakistan a seminar on Methods of Water Use and Management in Irrigation.	8-9-10	34-36
<u>On the Special Role of Horticultural Crops:</u> to study the possibility of assisting countries to survey the potentialities for cultivation, processing and trade in fresh and processed fruits; to study the possibility of establishing a regional program to improve horticultural crops similar to the wheat and barley program.	11-12	37

	<u>Recommendation Number</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>On the Formulation and Implementation of Fishery Policies:</u> to advise Member Governments on the need for and the organization of surveys of sea and inland water areas; to advise Member Governments concerning the information required (for formulation and implementation of fishery policies) and the analysis of such information for the purpose of planning; to advise and assist Member Governments in determining their needs for trained personnel, to provide all possible opportunities for the necessary training.	13-14	39-41
<u>On Processing and Preservation of Agricultural Products:</u> to collect information on research and development projects on processing of agricultural products; to disseminate this information to interested Member Countries.	15	42
<u>On Marketing:</u> to undertake a special study concerning possible effects of the common agricultural policy of the European Economic Community on export products of the Near East; to communicate the results of this study to Member Governments in the region; to consider convening a Cold Chain technical meeting and a Regional Marketing Centre.	16	44-45
<u>On Agricultural Education and Training, Research and Extension:</u> to consider holding an agricultural education meeting for the Near East during 1963; to consider holding a training centre in Agricultural Education for the region; to establish a Near East Commission on Agricultural Research; to hold a regional agricultural training centre for senior officers; to assist in establishing national agricultural extension centres to train other levels of extension workers.	17-18-19	46-48
<u>On Home Economics:</u> to consider holding a regional technical meeting on home economics extension and nutrition education; to establish regional and/or national programs, as well as seminars and courses in nutrition, agricultural and home economics extension, horticulture, poultry and animal husbandry.	20-21	49-50
<u>On Agricultural Information:</u> to set up an Agricultural Extension and Technical Information Commission; to carry out a study to determine ways and means of establishing a regional marketing information service.	23-24	52-53
<u>On Animal Health:</u> to continue to give support to the Near East Animal Health Institute; to organize one or more meetings of the FAO/OIE Committee of the Working Group on Animal Health and Production in the Near East; to consider publishing a periodical bulletin from the Near East Animal Health Institute; to take immediate steps to have funds to help countries of the region in checking current animal diseases; to submit a proposal to the 12th Session of the Conference for the establishment of a permanent fund to assist countries in the control of new epizootics.	25	58-59

	<u>Recommendation Number</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>On Animal Production:</u> to appoint a regional livestock production adviser; to call a meeting of the Committee on Animal Production of the Near East Working Party on Animal Production and Health to discuss, among other things, the establishment of a Near East Animal Production Institute.	26	59-60
<u>On Forestry:</u> to organize a seminar on the technical, economic and social problems involved in goat raising on arid and semi-arid lands; to organize a training centre for forestry personnel on the application of mechanical methods in cultivation of quick growing trees; to organize a training centre for forestry personnel to harmonize methods of research; to arrange for the early completion of an FAO timber trends study for the region; to organize a conference on Pulp and Paper Development for the region	27	62-63
<u>On Food Consumption Surveys:</u> to give high priority in promoting FFHC action projects to the organization of food consumption surveys, the preparation of food balance sheets, and training on both; to arrange for periodical technical meetings or seminars, at no longer than five-year intervals.	28	64-65

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Ministry of Agriculture,
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Program Liaison Division,
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LIST OF CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS

NERC 62/1	Provisional Agenda
1(c)	Provisional Annotated Agenda
2	Review of the Food and Agricultural Situation in the Region
3	Planned Agricultural Development in the Region
4	World Census of Agriculture
5	Standardization and Coordination of Agricultural Statistics
6	Commodity Reporting and Analysis as Tools for Development Planning
7	Long-Term Prospects for International Trade in Agricultural Products of Interest to the Region
8	Effective Use of External Assistance Technical Co-operation Programs
9	World Food Program
10	Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign in Relation to Economic Development and the World Food Congress
11	Integrated Development and Use of Land and Water Resources
12	The Special Role of Horticultural Crops
13	Current Developments of Selected Crops such as Wheat, Barley and Grain Legumes
14	Some Problems in the Formulation and Implementation of Fishery Policies in the Region
15	Processing and Preservation
16	Marketing
17	The Role of Agricultural Education and Training, Research and Extension in Relation to Agricultural Development
17/Add. 1	The Role of Home Economics in Improving Rural Welfare
18	Agricultural Information
18/Add. 1	Farm Broadcasts
19	Report of Action taken on Recommendations of the Fifth Regional Conference for the Near East
20	No document
21	Progress Report on the Fertilizer Program

APPENDIX C (Cont'd)

NERC 62/22

- The Present Status of: (a) The Near East
Animal Health Institute: (b) The Establish-
ment of an Animal Production Institute in
the Near East
- 23 Near East Forestry Commission
24 Mediterranean Development Project
25 Proposed Time-Table
26 Opening Remarks by Dr. B.R. Son,
Director-General of FAO
27 Response by Dr. A.R. Sidky, FAO Regional
Representative
28 The Work of FAO in the Near East and the
Food and Agriculture Situation - Introductory
Statement by the Director-General
29 Agenda
30 Near East Meeting on Food Consumption Surveys
31 Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region

