

Report of the

# **EIGHTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST**

---

Khartoum, The Sudan, January - 2 February 1967



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
ROME, 1967

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Report of the Seventh FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, Cairo, United Arab Republic, 19-31 October 1964.

R E P O R T

of the

EIGHTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

for the

NEAR EAST

Khartoum, The Sudan

24 January - 2 February 1967

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
Rome 1967



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## Foreword

The basis of this Report consists of the sectional summaries drawn up and approved by the Conference at the close of discussion of each agenda item. Supplementary information is as usual contained in the Appendices. The reasons for this departure from previous practice of drawing up a full-length report for approval at the Conference itself were explained at the Conference and are in accordance with the various directives issued by FAO's governing bodies for the reduction of documentation.

Several of the items discussed introduced a wide range of aspects of agricultural development and the reader who is interested only in specific specialized fields of action is advised to consult the index which follows this foreword. The numbers listed under each heading indicate the paragraphs in the text of the report that are of relevance.

Appendix C to the Report lists a summary of the recommendations, directed to Governments and to the Director-General, that emerged from the discussions. Here again, the relevant paragraphs in the body of the text are given so as to enable the reader to consider the recommendation in its appropriate context.





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\*Numbers refer to paragraphs of the text



## I. INTRODUCTION

### Organization of the Conference

1. The Eighth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East was held by the courtesy of the Republic of The Sudan from 24 January to 2 February 1967 in the Rural District Council building in Khartoum North.

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

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

3. The following were represented by observers:

Holy See  
Turkey  
United States of America

4. The following members of the United Nations family sent representatives:

United Nations (UN)  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)  
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)  
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)  
UN/FAO World Food Program (WFP)

5. The following governmental organization was represented by an observer:

League of Arab States

6. The names of the delegates, representatives and observers, and of FAO staff in attendance, are given in Appendix I to this report. Officers of the Conference are also listed.

### Opening of the Conference

7. The Inaugural Ceremony was held in the Hall of the Rural District Council, Khartoum North, and was honoured by the presence of His Excellency The President of the Sovereignty Council of State, Sayed Ismail El Azhari, His Excellency The Prime Minister, Sayed Saddik El Mahdi, and other senior members of the Host Government.

8. In calling to order the Eighth FAO Regional Conference, the Director-General extended, on behalf of all participants to the meeting, his appreciation to the Government of the Republic of The Sudan for inviting FAO to hold the Conference in Khartoum. He thanked the Government for the excellent arrangements made.

9. He cited the bold, imaginative steps taken by the Sudan in the all-important field of irrigation, so relevant to conditions in this part of the world, and which was an inspiration to all in the matter of agricultural development in much of the Region.

10. He then invited the President of the Sovereignty Council of the Republic of The Sudan, His Excellency Sayed Ismail El Azhari, to address the Conference.

11. The President began by welcoming all Conference participants as guests to his country. He then spoke of his appreciation of FAO's humanitarian efforts to free all peoples from poverty and hunger. The hazards, famines and catastrophies that beset humanity knew no political or racial barriers. Their avoidance called for unity and joint action, which world organizations such as FAO were best suited to promote.

12. He asked that FAO therefore give ever-increasing consideration to the aspirations of developing countries. Development required time, patience, research and adequate resources; and account needed to be taken of individual environmental requirements in adapting outside techniques to local conditions.

13. In wishing FAO every success in the accomplishment of its heavy responsibilities in bringing about cohesiveness, cooperation and congenial work in agriculture and its related economic, social and cultural spheres, the President concluded by pledging the Sudan's continued support to the Organization, and by wishing the Conference every success.

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

14. At its first working session, the Conference elected as its Chairman, His Excellency Mohammed Khogali, Minister of Agriculture and Forests of the Republic of The Sudan and leader of the Host Government delegation to the Conference.

15. Upon assuming his place, the Chairman, after expressing his thanks to the Conference, recalled past procedure whereby all Heads of delegations were designated as Vice-Chairmen. His proposal that this procedure be again followed was unanimously accepted.

16. The Conference adopted the following agenda, which included the Secretariat's original proposals as well as an amendment by the Government of the United Arab Republic on the use of the Arabic in FAO Regional and Technical Conferences, and on the work and findings of FAO Regional Commissions and Committees held during the past biennium.

#### 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 REGION AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

4. The Food and Agriculture Situation
  - a) Policy Statement by the Director-General
  - b) Statements by Delegates
5. Report on FAO Program Implementation in the Region, including the work and findings of FAO Regional Commissions and Committees held during the past two years.
6. Utilization of the Arabic Language in FAO Regional and Technical Conferences.

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

7. World Food Program
8. Trade and Development
  - a) Major Issues in International Commodity Trade
  - b) Market Organization and Government Services
  - c) Agriculture and Industrial Development
9. The Management and Rational Utilization of Fisheries Resources with Special Reference to Problems of Common Exploitation
10. Dry Farming in Areas of Low Rainfall
11. Planning, Organization and Financing of Area Development through Land Settlement Projects
12. Mobilization of Rural Youth for Development
13. Coordination of Activities in the Fight Against Malnutrition in Children

D. CONCLUDING ITEMS

14. The Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region
15. Date and place of the next Regional Conference

17. The Conference was informed that, faced with a request to shorten the duration of Regional Conferences, the Secretariat had reached the conclusion that the only course leading to this objective which would not affect the depth of policy orientation of such conferences lay in altering reporting procedure. The new sectional summary approach to be tried was explained, as was the departure from an inflexible drafting committee in favour of cooption, on a day-to-day basis, of a very small number selected from among those delegates who had contributed most to the debate on the item on which a particular sectional summary report was being drafted. The procedure proposed was adopted by the Eighth Near East Regional Conference.

## II. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

### THE WORK OF FAO IN THE REGION AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

#### Statement by the Director-General

18. In introducing this item, the Director-General began by stressing the imbalance between population growth and the production of food supplies, which was assuming dangerous proportions. For while the general trend of agricultural production remained slowly upward, this was largely due to greater output of non-food commodities. Food production remained practically unchanged whilst population continued to increase by about 2.5% per annum, with the net result that per caput production continued to fall.

19. The Director-General then traced the history of the Organization, particularly over the last decade which had brought self-government to so many nations and with it a rising insistence for a better and fuller life for the vast masses of people who had acceded to political independence. There had taken place a parallel radical transformation in FAO, from early limitation to studies and purely advisory duties, to a much fuller share of technical assistance and pre-investment studies leading to investment.

20. With such specific objectives in view FAO had entered into a cooperative agreement with the International Bank (IBRD), and negotiations were now under way with the African and Asian Development Banks in an effort to channel further substantial investment into agricultural development activities.

21. In order to give further momentum to the process of development, the support of private enterprise had now been enlisted, in the form of the FAO/Industry Cooperative Program, to join the ranks of aid from bilateral and international sources. This new joint program was based on the concept that private enterprise in the developed world had a vital role to play in providing the essential elements for increased productivity and greater employment opportunities through exchange of technical and economic information on developmental activities, investment needs and prospects for furthering foreign investment, - and through mobilization of the managerial ability, scientific experience, technical knowledge and capital resources of private industry in investment operation.

22. But the domestic production or expansion of agricultural requisites would take time; and as an immediate measure to meet rising demand, the urgently needed massive imports which were restricted by shortage of foreign exchange, the Director-General referred to his proposals for a Food Production Resources Program, now under study by a 20-nation Committee set up by the FAO Council and aided by several interested international organizations.

23. He then turned to the need for an overall framework for these and other activities and, in this connection, explained the scope and purpose of the Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development. The first sub-regional contribution to the World Plan was the provisional Indicative Plan for the Near East which had already been sent to the Governments concerned. He explained that this and similar studies for other regions would lead to an Indicative Plan at the world-level. They would be presented for discussion at the next World Food Congress, and further reviewed by the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference in 1969.

24. The Plan would seek to measure the growth in the effective economic demand for food and agricultural raw materials resulting from the inevitable rapid increase in population over the next twenty years and a simultaneous effort by developing countries for substantial improvement in national income per caput. It would also

project market possibilities for agricultural exports from developing to developed countries as an aid to realistic national overall planning within an international framework. It was an attempt to arrive at an integrated strategy for agricultural development.

25. In concluding, the Director-General referred briefly to some of the agenda items of particular importance to agricultural development in the Region. He mentioned the need for improving the dry farming sector in which special surveys, studies and techniques needed to be applied. He stressed also two important considerations - integration of approach and concentration of effort - in accelerating development. Such an approach to area development provided a pattern for subsequent expansion on a wider basis. He referred to the World Food Program as a means of channelling multilateral food aid for emergency relief, and for promoting economic and social development, particularly through labour-intensive projects in rural areas, and for pre-school and school feeding. He urged Governments to take the necessary measures to put the Program's limited resources to the most effective use. Lastly, he stressed the role of rural youth in development, in transforming society and in creating employment opportunities; and allied to this, he referred to the serious nutritional problems among children and the expansion of activities that were necessary before the demand for protein-rich foods for infants and young children could be adequately met.

26. The Director-General ended with a plea for coordination and cooperation among Ministries, Governments, bilateral and multilateral aid programs, banking institutions, agricultural information services, youth services and private enterprise, if the world was to avoid the impending catastrophe of a rapidly deteriorating world food situation.

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

27. Country statements that followed reflected the vital role of agricultural development to national economic and social progress. They emphasized intensification of national effort that had generally taken place. The contribution of UNDP, FFHC and WFP toward achieving this end was recognized.

28. The Conference expressed concern, however, at the growing imbalance between population growth and food production, further aggravated by climatic factors inherent in the Region. It also expressed concern over the decline in world food surpluses and expressed the hope that countries who had the capacity to do so would increase their acreage under food crops so that the additional produce could meet the requirements of needy countries. The need for family planning, in certain countries, was stressed by some delegates, and the possibility of including such programs in FFHC activities was mentioned.

29. In respect of climatically less-favoured areas of the region and their inherent low productivity, apart from the dry-farming aspects dealt with under a separate item, attention was drawn to the potentialities of hydroponics for increasing food production. FAO was invited to hold an international technical meeting by Kuwait in that country on the development of hydroponics on commercial lines, and it further suggested that consideration be given to the setting up of a special unit in this field at Headquarters, with a section based in the Near East Regional Office.

30. An increased emphasis to developing the livestock resources of the region was urged. This would not only contribute to improvement of the diet but also enhance export possibilities, and provide the basis for agro-allied industries. In this respect the Conference noted the difficulties in provision of feed, water and animal health measures that would need to be overcome. It considered the advisability of setting up an Animal Diseases Diagnostics Unit of the Near East Animal Health Institute in Somalia.

31. It also realized that the work of the Near East Animal Health Institute should be paralleled by similar progress in improvement in animal husbandry and production. In view of rapidly increasing demands in the region for meat, eggs and milk, as indicated by the Near East Sub-Regional Study for the Indicative World Plan, the Conference urged governments to ensure:

- (a) High level country representation at the forthcoming first meeting of the Near East Animal Production Working Party;
- (b) that high priority be given to animal (including poultry) husbandry and production, research, training and other projects suitable for submission for UNDP/SF assistance, which would, together, form the Near East Animal Production Institute.

It requested the Director-General of FAO to give all possible assistance in attaining these objectives.

32. In summarizing the efforts required for enhanced overall agricultural production, the Conference noted the importance of research work as an essential basis for any stable development program. Appreciating the need for strong and able research organizations in many countries in the region, it called upon Member Governments to give their utmost attention to strengthening and stabilizing their research set-ups with a view of providing far greater flexibility and wider coverage. It further endorsed the recommendations of the first meeting on Agricultural Research Organization held in Lebanon in 1961.

33. In the interest of exchange of experience in improved agricultural techniques, it was suggested that a six monthly progress report be prepared comparing problems encountered and achievements made in comparable areas elsewhere, both within and outside the Region.

34. The Conference requested that further use be made of international conferences as a medium for promoting international cooperation regarding major agricultural crops and problems.

35. The Conference welcomed the initiative of the Director-General in increasing availability of agricultural inputs and, in this respect, supported his proposals to set up a Food Production Resources Program. It hoped that the study to be made on the matter would shortly be completed and that implementation of the Program would soon be possible. Certain delegations urged, however, that emphasis on inputs should not detract from efforts at overall integrated action, and that programs to accelerate inputs should proceed through a preliminary experimental phase.

36. Two of the key problems in the implementation of agricultural development in the region were the availability of finance and trained personnel. The importance of the proposed Food Production Resources Program in relieving the pressure on the scarce foreign exchange resources of developing countries arising from the need to meet the rapidly growing demand for agricultural requisites by imports was acknowledged. It was suggested that the multilateral component of the Program should be enlarged and that the criteria for assistance should be made more flexible. Stress was laid on the need for financial cooperation between the countries of the region as well as cooperation in the fields of training and research.

37. The Conference also welcomed other recent initiatives taken by FAO in the field of joint projects, including the FAO/Industry Cooperative Program and the FAO/IBRD Cooperative Program as means of promoting and financing development. It urged that more attention and emphasis be given by the latter to the needs of the Near East regional countries. It was hoped that negotiations underway between FAO and the African and Asian Development Banks would result in additional investment for agricultural development in this region. The Conference expressed appreciation for the help rendered by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in this field.



38. In the light of the information given by the Director of the FAO/IBRD Program, it was requested that more publicity be given to the Program among the developing nations and that progress reports on its activities be presented to member countries. It was further requested that member countries be supplied with the pro forma prepared by the Program for drawing up projects to serve as guidelines to countries. Regarding the relationship between the Program and the Divisions concerned in FAO and the Agricultural Division of the IBRD, the Conference was assured by the Director-General that there was no overlapping between the Program and the Technical Divisions of FAO. Further enquiries were raised about the Missions sent out by the Program and how they were initiated. The Director of the Program stated that it was being done on the initiative of the countries concerned, the IBRD, and the Program. The Conference expressed concern over the slow progress of the Program in the Near East Region and requested the activation of the Program in the Region.

39. On organizational matters, mention was made of the desirability of strengthening the Regional structure in the interest of a better balance between Headquarters and the Regional Office, and of inter-changeability between Headquarters and outposted staff. Reference was also made to the need for bringing about greater equality and uniformity among the Regional Offices of FAO (in respect to their functions) in identifying development projects and their execution. Stress was also laid on the importance of the qualifications and duration of appointment of regional staff as affecting the work of the Regional Offices. The appointment of highly qualified officers and technicians as against generalists, especially at the Divisional level at Headquarters, was pressed.

40. Reference was made to the importance given in the Thirteenth Session of the FAO General Conference to strengthening the work of the Organization in the field of agricultural information. The role of the FAO Information Service in assisting developing countries in building up sound and effective agricultural information services was emphasized. Other matters raised were: the possibility of offering field staff periodic "refresher courses"; the need for greater travel funds and opportunity for longer country visits; and for better coordination between field experts and outposted technical staff. It was requested that these matters be brought to the notice of the Review Team studying the general structure of the Organization.

41. The Conference, in recognizing the importance of coordination of all development projects, called upon Member Governments to pay attention to the need for such coordination between the different aid programs, with the aim of achieving an integrated plan of work in line with their social and economic development plans.

42. In relation to poor attendance at regional technical meetings, the Conference urged Governments to consider ways of improving their participation. At the same time it asked FAO to take necessary measures to reduce the number of meetings to the barest minimum and consider financing attendance of at least one participant from each of the countries directly concerned with the subject matter to be discussed.

43. The Conference noted the lack of adequate opportunity for consideration of the work and findings of FAO Regional Commissions and Committees. The Conference considered the report of the Secretariat on the subject (document NERC 67/3 Addendum). It was noted that the report did not adequately cover the points involved. The Conference further expressed concern over the multiplicity of regional bodies especially those dealing with locusts and requested that a comprehensive study be made of the Near East statutory and other similar bodies and be presented to the next session of the Regional Conference.

44. The Conference urged that future Regional Conferences be reorganized to allow for the holding of regional technical commissions and panel meetings immediately prior to the Conference to define the needs and priorities for action in each technical field. In order to make the discussions of the FAO Regional Conferences

more beneficial to the member countries, this Near East Regional Conference proposed that the agenda for the future Regional Conferences be drawn up to emphasize the specific aspects of agricultural production and should have as special subjects on the agenda "Crop Production", "Crop Protection", "Soil Survey and Soil Fertility", "Mechanization", "Availability of agricultural inputs and steps to increase them", "Animal Production and Health", "Sources of external financing of agricultural development projects", "Operation of EPTA Program", "Agricultural Research", etc., and to be reflected in the FAO Conference.

#### Indicative World Plan

45. There was general recognition of the usefulness of the Indicative World Plan which would provide a frame for governments to formulate their agricultural policies within the regional and world context. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the provisional Near East Study and noted that it would be revised in the light of the comments of the Member Governments to whom it had been circulated. The limitations imposed by inadequacy of statistical and other information were recognized. The Study itself may spur governments to providing further data. The need for a more recent base period than the one adopted in the Study was pointed out.

46. The UAR delegation stated that the Plan should be dealt with by FAO as a project rather than as an organizational unit, and that it should not detract from the present functions of the divisions concerned, nor cause any overlapping.

47. The Conference urged the need for more country visits by experts responsible for the preparation of the sub-regional studies and consultation with countries on the draft plan.

48. The Conference noted that relatively little attention was given to fisheries in the Near East Study but was informed that a detailed study of fishery resources of the region had been made separately. It requested that this Study should also be circulated to the Member Governments for their comments.

49. The Conference took note of the Report of the Joint Session of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning and the Near East Commission on Agricultural Statistics. In this context delegates referred to certain countries not having been covered by the Near East Study. The Conference stressed that the country coverage in the Study should be in accordance with the member country composition of the region. In respect of Pakistan it was noted that it would be treated as a separate sub-unit like India. The conclusion arrived at by the Conference was as follows:

"Having noted that certain countries of the region have not been covered by the Near East Study of the Indicative Plan, the Eighth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East clearly understood and insisted that all countries of the region be included at the implementation stage in that Study and that the final issue of the Study be amended accordingly."

50. In commenting on this conclusion, the Director-General underlined the present evolutionary phase of the Plan during which full flexibility was needed without necessarily referring to the regional member country composition which was strictly a "servicing" unit. He assured the Conference that there was not the slightest intention that the IWP should influence or endanger this regional structure. Country grouping in elaborating the Plan was an arbitrary working device which stressed the ecological basis of a producing unit. It was at the implementation stage of the Indicative Plan that the regional member country structure would assume full significance. The final presentation of the World Indicative Plan with its supporting studies would take full note of that factor.

### Use of Arabic Language

51. In respect of the proposal for introducing the use of the Arabic language in the FAO Regional and Technical Conferences, the Conference noted that the Fourteenth Session of the UNESCO General Conference recently decided to introduce Arabic for interpretation in those of the Administrative and Program Commissions; and that the most important documents of UNESCO be translated into Arabic. The UNESCO General Conference further requested its Director-General to take appropriate measures for the implementation of this decision as from the Fifteenth Session of the General Conference, using the extra budgetary resources he could get for this end. He was also invited to add to the 1969-70 Draft Program and Budget the necessary funds ensuring the same services for the Sixteenth Session of the General Conference. The UNESCO General Conference also asked its Director-General to study the necessary measures gradually to give Arabic the same status as that enjoyed by the other four working languages.

52. The Regional Conference took note also of the fact that the ILO Governing Body, at its 167th Session, held on 19 November 1966, decided that interpretation from and into Arabic should be provided at the Plenary Meetings of future Sessions of the International Labour Conference.

53. The UAR delegation proposed that the use of Arabic in the work of FAO organs should be implemented in three stages. At first its usage was to be confined to interpretation and then at a later stage be extended to the translation of principal FAO documents and publications. This should lead finally to the adoption of Arabic as a working language. The Director-General expressed his full sympathy for the request and welcomed it. In explaining the content of the background note supplied for this item, he pointed out that he had felt that the UAR proposal had not gone far enough in presenting the case for the use of the Arabic language as a working language in FAO's work.

54. All the Arab countries, as well as Pakistan and Somalia, strongly supported the UAR proposal. It was also supported by the Iran delegation which, however, enquired whether the same possibilities would be considered for the non-Arabic-speaking countries of the region such as Iran, and it reserved the right to propose Persian as another working language for the region, should the need arise. The delegate of France supported the original proposal for the use of Arabic in Regional and Technical Conferences, but, for lack of brief, reserved the position of his Government in respect of its wider use as now proposed. The delegate of the U.K. reserved his Government's position until the matter was placed before the FAO General Conference.

55. The Conference adopted the following resolution:

The Conference,

Bearing in mind the civilizing and cultural mission of the Arabic language and the instrumental role it has played in imparting knowledge in many fields of human learning including agriculture;

Considering that Arabic is the national language of more than 130 million people belonging to 13 member countries of the Organization whose economy is largely dependent on agriculture;

Being aware of the mutual benefits which will accrue to these countries and to the Organization from the use of Arabic in the deliberations of the General Conference and the Near East Regional and Technical Conferences;

Requests the Director-General to present to the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference the introduction of the use of Arabic for interpretation in the General Conferences as well as the Near East Regional and Technical Conferences

as from the Ninth FAO Regional Conference and the Fifteenth Conference Session.

Requests the Director-General subsequently to study the necessary measures for translating into Arabic the most important documents and publications of FAO and gradually to grant Arabic the same status as that given to the working languages of the Organization.

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

##### The World Food Program

56. The Conference stressed the role of food aid in financing development particularly in the agricultural sector, including the mobilization of unemployed and under-developed manpower for food production and the training of skilled workers and technicians. It expressed appreciation of the assistance provided by the WFP to countries in the region in the implementation of economic and social development plans and in mitigating the hardship arising out of emergencies. The delegate of Pakistan in particular drew attention to the difficult food situation in his country caused by continuous drought. He expressed his gratitude for the 15,000 M.T. of WFP wheat recently allotted for emergency relief and also for the special mission which has been sent to Pakistan to assess the need for further assistance.

57. The Conference was gratified to note that the Program has been administered in an effective manner and had been extended on an indefinite basis for as long as multilateral food aid was found feasible and desirable.

58. It was pointed out that in order to make the greatest possible impact, food aid should be linked, wherever practicable, with other types of aid such as are offered by the UNDP (SF), the IBRD and the African or Asian Development Banks. WFP assistance could be effectively used to meet part of the governments' obligation in such joint projects.

59. The Conference noted the complementarity between food aid and other inputs for agricultural development.

60. The Conference stressed the importance of projects in the fields of soil conservation, reafforestation, land reclamation and settlement, irrigation and drainage, animal husbandry and range management, the construction and improvement of rural communications and community development. Noting the success of food aid in such projects in the region, it recommended utilization of this source of aid to the greatest possible extent, especially when the projects are of a labour-intensive or self-help nature. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the expeditious manner in which project requests have hitherto been handled by the WFP, and hoped that the same expediency would be shown in future.

61. Concern was expressed at the short-fall in the resources of the Program for which the target of \$275 million had been set by the UN General Assembly and the FAO Conference for the pledging period of 1966-68. The Conference appealed to Member Governments, and in particular to developed countries, to increase or supplement their pledges. The importance of the rich countries sharing the cost of producing food deliberately for food aid was stressed, in view of the rapid decline in world food reserves. The U.S.A. observer informed the Conference of the importance his government attached to multilateral food aid and of the liberalization of its food production policy and of its 1966-68 pledge to the Program effective 1 October 1966.

62. The Conference noted that the WFP aid should continue to be tied to specific development projects through which unemployed and underemployed manpower could be harnessed to the development efforts of the countries of the region. In selecting projects for food aid, special attention should be paid to those which stimulate food production. Care should continue to be exercised to avoid interference with normal markets of food-importing countries or to discourage domestic production.

63. The criteria or guidelines for the selection of projects for WFP assistance established by the Ninth Session of the WFP intergovernmental committees were supported. While there was general recognition for the desirability of concentrating on larger projects, it was stressed that also small projects may have real importance and impact, and consequently should receive proper attention.

64. The Conference emphasized the need to pay due attention to local dietary habits and nutrition requirements in selecting food commodities for assistance in specific projects.

65. It was suggested that consideration should be given also to the possibility of raising food aid on a credit basis through international or regional banks, or by the government concerned, to meet special emergencies, to be repaid in kind by the recipient country either in the form of the same or another commodity.

66. The Conference stressed the need for efficient reception, storage, transportation, and distribution of food aid at the receiving end. It also suggested the creation of central national offices to coordinate government services involved in the handling of food aid. It was noted that some countries in the region had already established such offices.

#### Trade and Development

##### Major Issues in International Commodity Trade

67. The Conference reviewed the major features of the current and prospective international trade situation for agricultural products and their implications for the future trade and economic development of the region.

68. Concern was expressed at the widening gap between the slow growth of exports from developing countries and their rapidly rising import requirements. This situation was being aggravated by unfavourable trends in the terms of trade and through increasing competition from synthetics. The Conference also noted with concern the Secretariat's projections showing that an even slower growth of the value of agricultural exports seemed likely in the future.

69. The Conference reaffirmed the urgent need to expand the export earnings of developing countries but realized that the overall problems of foreign exchange shortages could not be dealt with in terms of agricultural trade alone. The development of agricultural trade and international negotiations concerning it, must be viewed within a frame which included all types of trade. Nevertheless, the Conference stressed the necessity for changes in the organization of world markets for agricultural commodities and expressed interest in current developments in international thinking on individual commodity agreements.

70. The Conference noted with concern the very rapid rise in imports even of agricultural products into the region which had taken place in recent years. In the future, higher populations and higher per caput incomes would greatly increase domestic demand, the satisfaction of which might either be detrimental to exports or result in higher imports. In both cases the foreign trade balance would suffer and therefore the Conference felt that a high degree of priority must be given to increasing regional agricultural production, particularly of grains and livestock

products. The value of the Indicative World Plan in providing a world framework within which national policies for production and trade might be formulated was stressed.

71. A number of delegates underlined the necessity for the developed importing countries to give freer access to their markets by lowering or removing import barriers. It was noted that such obstacles tended to be greater for processed than for unprocessed products and that this was a particular problem for the developing countries. The problems posed by competition from synthetics was recognized as being very complex. It was pointed out that much could be done to offset the advantages of synthetics (by lowering production cost of the natural product, by lessening its price fluctuations, by improving its quality and by undertaking research into its utilization.)

72. The Conference expressed keen interest in the Secretariat's projections which indicated that the fastest rates of growth in demand for many agricultural commodities were likely to occur in the developing countries and that, to meet this demand, there were likely to be large opportunities for intra- and inter-regional trade between developing countries, over and above the increased production needed for domestic consumption. Delegates stressed the importance of increased trade within the region and pointed out the various opportunities for such trade. The Conference realized, however, that an increase in trade between developing countries often required the creation of new commercial channels, new transport facilities and new methods of financing, as well as finding solutions to problems of sanitary and quality control.

73. The Conference requested FAO to help Member Governments in their attempts to increase trade both within the Near East Region and between it and other developing regions. It was pointed out that the recently held Joint Session of the Near East Commissions on Planning and Agricultural Statistics had recommended the strengthening of regional economic cooperation but that details still needed to be worked out. It was also noted that both the Arab Common Market and the Organization for Regional Cooperation and Development already provided an institutional base for promoting intra-regional trade. The Conference noted FAO's increasing concern with problems of inter- and intra-regional trade and that it was already preparing a comprehensive matrix of trade flows which would provide a much-needed base for identifying present patterns of trade and their possible expansion within the region. It was suggested that FAO should consider establishing a special forum to study ways and means of achieving closer regional cooperation in matters of agricultural commodity trade.

#### Market Organizations and Government Services

74. The Conference discussed the marketing facilities in the region. It was noted that as a result of anticipated expansion of agricultural production and increasing consumption, the present capacity of major marketing facilities would have to be greatly expanded. Some countries had already large grain or cold-storage construction programs underway. For some countries in the region, it was thought that the investment estimates for improving marketing facilities as provided by the Secretariat were on the conservative side.

75. The Conference appreciated the role of FAO in assisting in the necessary studies and surveys but urged follow-up in the form of concrete investment proposals. The private sector would continue to play an important role in financing certain types of facilities. For large scale construction programs, however, the considerable capital which would need to be forthcoming from external sources would remain the primary concern of governments. The Conference therefore urged such governments to give attention to identifying the investment requirements involved in the construction of marketing facilities for submission to such sources of aid as UNSF or IBRD.

76. Delegates agreed that the establishment of adequate marketing organizations and the promotion of dynamic and well-managed institutions should be an integral part of government development programs. Examples were cited of recent legislation for the establishment of marketing boards and similar organizations.

77. The Conference noted the valuable contribution that properly managed cooperatives could make towards improving the position of the farmer. An instance was given of compulsory marketing cooperatives being introduced in land reform areas.

78. Attractive and stable prices were the best stimuli for increased production. Where countries were largely dependent for their exports on highly competitive markets the difficulties they faced in fully implementing such price policies for certain commodities were underlined.

79. The Conference considered grades and standards the pivot of the marketing system. The need for introducing uniform grades and standards on a regional basis was emphasized. It was suggested that countries study and take advantage of efficient grading systems that existed in the region. The Conference emphasized that FAO and the Member Governments give high priority to establishing uniform grades and standards, especially for the major perishable commodities in the region. The attention of the Conference was drawn to the work of FAO's commodity study groups on products such as citrus fruits, bananas, etc.; the problems of grading and of achieving uniform standards for trade are among the subjects considered in the meetings of the study groups, participation in which is open to all interested countries.

80. The great importance of developing a marketing news service was stressed. In several countries such a service was or would soon be operating and the Conference considered that the time had come to devise a system for intra-regional exchange of information. The Conference requested FAO to continue to promote the establishment of marketing news services. The need for a central clearing and dissemination point for such information was discussed, and the possible role of the Near East Regional Office in this matter was underlined.

81. The Conference emphasized the need for the establishment of marketing departments, preferably attached to the Ministry of Agriculture. In view of the lack of qualified marketing staff, one of the functions of such departments would be the training and research aimed at improving marketing facilities. The progress of UNDP (SF) projects concerned with marketing development in the region was noted. The Conference recommended that individual countries devote greater attention and effort to establishing and strengthening such departments by making adequate provisions in their national budgets. The Conference welcomed the proposal that FAO planned to convene in 1968 a Regional Centre on marketing organization, programs and procedures.

82. The need for greater regional cooperation was discussed. The recommendations of the FAO Near East Regional Conference on the Marketing and Refrigeration of Perishable Produce to establish a joint or mixed Near East Marketing Organization to handle, transport and refrigerate perishable foods was supported. However, some reservations were expressed as to whether such an organization would not be premature at the present time.

83. Unanimous support was given to the establishment of a Near East Commission on Agricultural Marketing as recommended by the above-mentioned Conference, and whose terms of reference should include identification of investment requirements involved in the establishment of marketing facilities, examination and evaluation of marketing problems of the region, and the formulation of measures for their solution.

Agriculture and Industrial Development

84. The Conference, which had repeatedly stressed the essential role of agriculture as a basis for the region's economic development, emphasized the consequent importance of close inter-dependence between agricultural production and industrial development based on food and non-food agricultural raw materials. It urged governments to give special attention to this relationship, particularly in the initial stages of industrialization in the region and emphasized the impact of better prices to the farmer for the products he supplied to agro-based industries.

85. It stressed the many problems that needed to be faced in promoting this relationship: capital, technical and managerial skills, dependable supplies of cheap good quality raw materials, adequate markets both locally and abroad. It urged FAO to provide assistance in this field in the form of pre-investment surveys and in the establishment of pilot plants as a basis for research and experimentation, demonstration and extension and for training of technical and managerial skills that are in increasing demand.

86. In this connection the Conference underlined the importance of ensuring that clear divisions of responsibilities were laid down within the U.N. family between FAO and UNIDO in the matter of industrial development based on agricultural raw materials. The need for coordination between FAO and UNICEF in the field of development of protein-rich foods was also emphasized.

87. FAO was requested to give guidance in the establishment of industries producing fertilizers, pesticides, farm machinery and other inputs needed in agriculture. In this respect and in the field of training, the need for help from developed countries was also indicated.

88. The validity of exchange of intra-regional information on experience in the development of agro-allied industries was stressed, as was the desirability of coordination and cooperation at the regional level in matters of research, technical training and planning.

89. The role of the joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius was raised in connection with standards in the processing of foods. Governments were reminded of the existence of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, membership to which was open to all Member Governments of the two sponsoring organizations.

90. The emphasis to be given to protein-rich foods in industrial food processing was underlined. The region's potential abundance of protein-rich raw materials such as livestock and fish products, grain legumes, oilseed presscakes and probably at a later stage protein derived from petroleum products, was noted. Improvement in animal feed was thus made possible. Child-nutrition would also thereby be enhanced.

91. The Conference requested FAO's assistance in carrying out pre-investment surveys, feasibility studies and overall planning of forest production and utilization for pulp and paper, wood and wood-based panel industries. In this respect it endorsed the recommendations of the Kuwait Conference on Industrial Development in Arab Countries held in March 1966.



The Management and Rational Utilization  
of Fisheries Resources with Special Reference  
to Problems of Common Exploitation

92. The Conference reviewed the existing situation of fisheries in the region and the measures being taken and the problems encountered in their further development. It recognized the importance of fisheries in compensating for the lack of arable land. It emphasized the great contribution that fisheries could make in providing a readily accessible source of high quality protein and in promoting the economic and social development of Near East countries through providing a basis for developing fishery and related industries, reducing imports, increasing exports and enhancing intra-regional trade. Particularly in respect to the latter the Conference emphasized the importance of improving marketing and distribution arrangements due prior account being taken of all factors affecting resource exploitation. It stressed also the need for providing the essential infra-structural and administrative service for planning and implementing fisheries development. It recognized the fact that effective fisheries development was inhibited by lack of funds, inadequate personnel, marketing facilities and communications. It was pointed out that new investment in fisheries must be guided by adequate knowledge of the fishery resources to be exploited, the types and amount of equipment and facilities required to assure proper preservation and processing and a realistic appraisal of market capacity and stability.

93. The Conference recognized the common property aspect of both marine and inland fisheries in the region and the responsibility of all countries bound by a common interest to contribute to investigations directed to stock assessment and the effects of fishery on it. The importance of participating in international agreements for conservation on a scientific basis was emphasized. A prime need in this regard was for the improvement and collation of statistics on catch and fishing effort, and corresponding biological statistics based on definitions and standards to be suggested by FAO. The initiatives being taken by the FAO Department of Fisheries, the Committee on Fisheries and its subsidiary bodies, and by the Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research in these matters, and particularly in relation to the rational utilization of the fishery resources of the Indian Ocean, were examples of the kind of vigorous action that might be further promoted through strengthening of FAO's fisheries activities in the region. At the same time necessary attention should be given to assisting countries to increase their catches from resources which are still relatively unexploited.

94. The Conference placed particular emphasis on the opportunities for expanding fisheries in inland waters such as the river systems, lakes and reservoirs of the region. In this connection reference was made to the need to study the relative benefits of the use of water for fisheries and on the land, and the economics of fish cultural operations.

95. The Conference stressed the need for much greater efforts in the training of fishermen. The assistance FAO was giving to formation of fishery instructors; as well as scientists and technicians through training centres and seminars needed to be supplemented by the creation, with FAO assistance, of regional schools equipped with suitable training vessels. Through such means FAO could directly assist countries in the training of fishing skippers, marine engineers, deck crew and other skilled personnel required to carry out fishing development plans involving the use of powered craft, modern gears and equipment and corresponding shore facilities. To accomplish such a program the Conference placed particular urgency on the training of instructors.

96. The Conference stressed the need for intensifying research activities in the fields of marine and inland fisheries, called attention to the economics of cooperative effort between countries and requested the assistance of FAO in

accomplishing these objectives. Emphasis was given to the assessment of important fish stocks, and particularly to the tunas and tuna-like fishes of the Indian Ocean, to the study of the dynamics of such fish populations and their geographical range. A parallel between such research on fish and on wildlife resources was drawn. Reference also was made to the adverse effect of the High Aswan Dam on the catch of certain species of fish in the Mediterranean Sea adjacent to the mouth of the River Nile, and to the need for study of the effects of such man-made changes on natural environment. It was hoped that information obtained by the Lake Nasser UNDP/SF project would give guidance with respect to fishery developments in other similar man-made lakes in the region. The changes in salinity in some lakes, and their adverse effects on fish stocks, was considered a further subject for research.

97. FAO was urged to help member countries in obtaining, through the UNDP, the FAO/IBRD and other sources, the necessary assistance to carry forward these essential activities, to facilitate the development of their research programs and pilot projects, and to provide capital input for the further development of their fishery operations and for the proper preservation and utilization of the fish catch.

98. The Conference noted that both FAO and UNESCO have complementary responsibilities in the field of ocean and inland-water studies and expressed the hope that their respective activities were being coordinated and would not lead to duplication of efforts.

99. Attention was also directed to the problem of control of water hyacinth and its adverse effect on fisheries in certain inland waters of the region.

100. The Conference noted the recommendations made at the FAO Technical Conference of Fishery Representatives of the Near East Countries, held in Kuwait in October 1966, and agreed to endorse them.

#### Dry Farming in Areas of Low Rainfall

101. The Conference was unanimous in expressing the high priority to be given to improvements in dry farming in rainfed areas in the Near East.

102. It noted the wide gaps that still existed in reaching solutions to the many problems relating to dry farming in the region and stressed that this served to underline the urgent need for coordinated fundamental and applied research to provide lasting and valid solutions to local situations and problems. Conscious of the fact that shortage of water constituted a major limiting factor to agricultural development in much of the region, the Conference stressed priority for programs and policies on land and water use, particularly in respect of domestic water, irrigation and drainage, soil salinity, water desalinization and ground water surveys. It requested FAO to give priority to these problems and supported the recommendation of the Joint Session of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning and Agricultural Statistics that FAO should hold a seminar or meeting of a working party on these problems.

103. In this connection, therefore, the Conference approved the following recommendation:

The Conference

Realizing the great importance to the region of finding a solution to the problems of farming under dry conditions;

Recognizing the need for the application of modern technology for successful dry-farming development;

Admitting the importance of research and experimentation for better utilization of the land and water resources within the region;

Stressing the importance of Regional and FAO cooperation in launching a concerted action on the problem of agriculture under dry farming, so as to ensure an integrated approach making use of existing institutions;

Requests the Director-General to take the necessary steps as soon as possible to:

- i) Call a meeting before the end of 1967 of the Near East Regional Commission for Land and Water Use whose functions should be divided into:
  - a) dryland agriculture
  - b) irrigated agriculture;
- ii) Give assistance to the countries of the region through the United Nations Development Program and other Programs, in preparing land-use maps in order to delineate areas for pasture crop, dry farming and irrigated farming, provided that standards of classification based on physical and climatological factors are established;
- iii) Assist in initiating a Regional (UNDP/SF) Project for the establishment of a Dryland and Irrigated Farming Institute, based on strengthening existing National Institutes, creating new ones where needed, and providing a central coordinating unit;
- iv) Assist in setting up under the United Nations Development Program, or other Programs, pilot schemes for experimenting and testing all aspects of both dry and irrigated farming;
- v) Support special programs directed towards breeding salt-tolerant and drought-resistant field crops, fruit trees and pasture plants.

104. Realizing the necessity of increasing production of food grains to meet increasing demands, the Conference recommended that priority be given to implementing the recommendation of the Seventh Near East Regional Conference to strengthen the Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement Project.

105. In connection with arid-zone research in which FAO was urged to participate more actively in cooperation with UNESCO, it was requested also to send a mission to Kuwait to advise on the establishment of their proposed arid-zone centre and to assist the Sudan in developing wheat production under summer rainland conditions.

106. The Conference stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination at the national, intra-regional and international levels and stressed the need for exchange of experience and information. In this respect, governments were urged to take measures to arouse awareness and understanding for improved methods of dry farming, to strengthen extension services and to pay attention to land reform in order to remove this obstacle to agricultural progress in the semi-arid and arid zones. The Conference also expressed its opinion that collective farming was not always feasible and urged that greater encouragement be given to cooperative farming. The Conference was aware of the beneficial effect of the application of fertilizers but recognized the reluctance of farmers to their use because of high cost. The fragmentation of holdings was also considered to be an obstacle.

107. FAO's assistance was requested in promoting cooperation in setting up pilot projects for experimentation, training and demonstration. The need for comparative studies of soil conservation was also expressed, as were other technical aspects

such as soil surveys and the introduction of mechanization although the costs involved were high and immediate application therefore restricted. It was noted that mechanization should be achieved by developing equipment suitable for local conditions and which could be manufactured locally.

108. The need for artificial measures in the field of water conservation, such as the application of mono-molecular films and petroleum products, was recognized and it was stressed that their possibilities should be fully investigated.

109. The Conference therefore welcomed the suggestion to hold a seminar on farming under semi-arid and arid conditions. It noted the possibility of holding it in Australia and noted also the willingness expressed by Jordan to host such a seminar in the Near East.

110. It was stressed that pressure of population was resulting in pasture encroachment and in placing other unsuitable land under cultivation, with consequent detrimental effects on soil conservation and productivity.

111. Realizing the semi-arid conditions of the region and the importance of natural and planted forests for soil and water conservation, especially on watersheds, as shelter-belts, for poles and firewood production, and for providing fodder for livestock in summer, the Conference urged member countries to give more attention to the role of forestry and forest plantations in land-use planning under the semi-arid conditions of the region, and to the use of quick-growing species, using dry-farming techniques, to improve the farm economy. It further urged them to plan and implement conservation and watershed management schemes, possibly with the help of FAO, where these were beyond the scope of individual farmers.

#### Planning, Organization and Financing of Area Development through Land Settlement Projects

112. The Conference recognized the importance of the area development approach through land settlement projects and of concentrating available resources in a given area, with unrealized production potential. In following this approach, it was stressed that land settlement projects should be planned and integrated within overall national development plans, particularly if they covered large areas.

113. The Conference underlined the importance of comprehensive planning of area development through settlement projects, based on inter-disciplinary coordination of physical, economic, social, institutional, administrative and financial aspects. It was emphasized that the success of implementing well-planned projects would depend on the availability of competent administrators, and the coordination of the services provided by the various Government Department Ministries and Agencies concerned. The essentially dynamic concept of settlement, requiring flexibility and adaptation of acquired experience, was stressed.

114. Some delegations urged that before embarking on land settlement on a large scale, adequate pre-investment studies followed by pilot schemes should be undertaken, thus providing useful experimentation and indications for eventual larger-scale application, an early opportunity for training and an incentive for wider acceptance and implementation of such projects.

115. Detailed descriptions of the various types of projects in area development through land settlement carried out in the region were given, as were indications of some of the major problems faced in their implementation.

116. It was generally agreed that institutional services such as agricultural extension, credit, cooperative organization and marketing services should be provided to the settlers right from the start of the project in a coordinated manner, as an

essential pre-requisite for any successful land settlement project. Other considerations included adequate orientation, due attention to cultural background and attitudes of the settlers, and enlisting their active participation in local project administration. Emphasis was especially given to the training elements involved at all levels in both the technical and the managerial aspects of such settlement projects.

117. The Conference agreed that the problems of nomadism and the need for the gradual settlement of nomadic populations constitute an important feature of the agrarian structure in many countries of the region. A number of delegations reported on projects carried out or under preparation in their countries for the settlement of nomads. Reference was made to the food aid received from the World Food Program in the early phases of such settlement projects.

118. The Conference referred to the FAO Development Centre on Land Policy and Settlements for the Near East Region, held in Tripoli, Libya, in October 1965, and agreed that there was a need for such periodic intra-regional exchange of experience and systematic examination of the complicated factors involved in settlement. It recommended that FAO should organize further regional technical meetings or seminars on the subject, to be held preferably at three-yearly intervals.

119. The Conference agreed that fact finding, record keeping and basic studies should be made concurrently with any settlement program to ensure an objective and accurate appraisal of the performance and effects of such programs, particularly in relation to comparable areas outside the settlement project. It was stressed that national universities and research institutes could play an active part in these studies.

120. The Conference recognized the need for Governments to initiate systematic studies on:

- a) various factors which determine patterns of settlement layout, such as dispersed farmsteads, groups of farmsteads, and village-type, for determining subsequent application in future settlement projects;
- b) the effects of oil discovery in certain countries of the region on employment, migration, incomes, social attitudes in the oases and in settlement areas adjacent to oil fields in the desert.

In line with the above, the Conference stressed the need to establish a Regional Institute for Research and Training in Land Settlement in the Near East Region.

121. The need for outside financial assistance in implementing land settlement projects was stressed, particularly where they involved large areas. It was indicated that aid for the pre-investment phase of multipurpose projects might be secured from the UNDP Special Fund; while in specific construction and settlement phases, apart from bilateral aid, assistance might be sought from the IBRD or from its affiliated agency, the International Development Association. The WFP food and feed aid was cited as another important source of assistance in implementing the initial phases of land settlement projects.

122. The Conference, noting FAO's major responsibility in the field of the entire subject matter of land reform as decided by ECOSOC, urged that attention be constantly given to avoidance of unnecessary duplication, and that there be close cooperation and consultation within the UN family, and especially with ILO, on such matters.

### Mobilization of Rural Youth for Development

123. The Conference emphasized the potential represented by the region's youth, most of which was to be found in the rural areas. It noted that relatively little had so far been done to channel its impatient energy and enthusiasm into nationally productive effort. In view of the need to enhance agricultural productivity, it therefore urged governments to give more attention to orienting youth toward this sector of national economy.

124. It was underlined that such massive mobilization of youth could only be effective within the framework of an overall agricultural development. To this end, the Conference urged that youth programs should be developed as an integral part of national development plans, thus encouraging young people to make an active and conscious contribution to economic development. It therefore urged governments to set up national bodies concerned with coordination and promotion of youth programs and with cooption of all national services that had a contribution to make to their successful implementation. The Conference recognized the important roles to be played in this field also by non-governmental and semi-government organizations, and called for closer cooperation and coordination among those engaged in rural youth programs.

125. The matter of incentives was raised, in particular in attempting to check rural exodus. Youth programs should be established on a broad basis of local participation and voluntary leadership, and receive full, public government support; they must be of a continuing nature and should lead to employment or adequate self-sufficiency; and they should have clear integrated objectives as recognized, meaningful targets. Understanding that appeals alone were insufficient, the Conference emphasized also the need for improvement of the status, dignity and prospects of rural society through provision of better social and physical services, comparable to those in urban areas.

126. The Conference emphasized the training value inherent in project-oriented youth groups. This point was recognized to be of particular importance in the light of the still inadequate rural education facilities that obtained in many countries in the region. Such projects would reveal leaders who would be given specialized training, and thus lead to the desirable objective of a self-generating cycle whereby such trained youth become local voluntary youth leaders and fill the ranks at a level where experienced guidance is in most critical need. The Conference also urged that rural youth leaders and teachers be given more of a rural bias in educational background programs as well as in follow-up training. The training of girls in home-making should also be conducted simultaneously with the training of young men for rural settlement and development.

127. The role of literacy education, revision of school curricula adapted to the rural environment and needs, and the development of group activities incorporating practical projects associated with production and conservation of food, were stressed. In view of the enormous number of youth concerned, and the limited resources available, the Conference considered that special attention should be paid to simple inexpensive projects capable of rapid multiplication and of economic return to the individual and the community.

128. The role of International Voluntary Service was also mentioned as a potentially valuable addition to youth mobilization in orienting, assisting and supplying an element of continuity in such programs. The Conference in particular stressed the key role of International Voluntary Services in providing professional staff, training local leaders, and in strengthening and expanding production-oriented youth programs.

129. The assistance of FAO was sought in promoting youth mobilization programs in agricultural development through exchange of relevant information, comparative studies

of achievements, guidance and technical assistance in the establishment of productive projects, and provision of material and financial resources through such programs as the WFP and the FFHC.

130. The Conference endorsed the findings and proposed action projects of the FAO/Massey-Ferguson Near East Regional Seminar of the Young World Food and Development Project held in Beirut, Lebanon, in December 1966. Special mention was made of the FAO assistance to be given in establishing regional rural youth leader training centres.

Coordination of Activities in the Fight  
Against Malnutrition in Children

131. Malnutrition in children was recognized as a serious problem in the region. The Conference underlined that, apart from resulting in heavy mortality and morbidity in early life, the far-reaching effects included subsequent adult apathy and reduced working capacity. The Conference reviewed the problems associated with malnutrition in childhood, its causes, and the action programs necessary to combat malnutrition.

132. It was agreed that, at the national level, a lasting solution could be found only by giving specific attention to the special nutritional needs of the most vulnerable groups of the population; the pre-school and school-child and the expectant and nursing mothers. This implied integration of nutritional needs into national plans for economic and social development. The Conference recognized the great variety of personnel which must cooperate in the planning and implementation of nutrition programs. Well coordinated policies and programs of different Ministries and Departments at national level are essential. The Conference reiterated the importance it attached to the creation of national food and nutrition commissions to achieve the coordination of nutrition activities. Such commissions should include responsible personnel from all Ministries concerned, and from Universities and Research Institutions. They should be given the necessary authorities and means in terms of finance and personnel to carry out actively their duties.

133. Nation-wide surveys of food consumption and nutritional studies were considered essential in providing the information upon which sound national programs could be based.

134. The Conference stressed the importance also of nation-wide food consumption and nutrition surveys in planning agricultural production programs, and in the provision of such foods as were necessary for infants, pre-school children, school children, expecting and nursing mothers, namely: milk products, milk, eggs, fish, grain legumes, vegetables and fruits.

135. It was agreed that the next step consisted of applied nutrition programs of which some were already in operation or were being planned in the region. Their aim was to demonstrate to the community and to the school children the production and utilization of the food needed to improve their diets. However, such programs if they were to have an impact on national food production and nutrition status should soon become part of national agriculture development plans and receive full support from the agriculture departments.

136. As an intermediate measure special feeding programs for mothers and children were recognized as effective when they were accompanied by practical nutrition education. The Conference emphasized the need to reach the pre-school children and the mothers through all possible channels in the village and the home, such as community development social services, agriculture and home economics programs, and health services. The Conference noted that much emphasis had been given to the introduction of nutrition education at different levels of school education programs, particularly for girls, as a means to improve the nutritional status of mothers of the future. However, these programs required planning and direction from

qualified nutritionists at the top. The Conference noted that such programs would be enhanced by assistance from both multilateral and bilateral sources.

137. Where such assistance was supplemented by food aid from outside sources, attention was drawn to the danger of discouraging local production, rather than serving as a stimulant to it.

138. The production and distribution of protein-rich food mixtures based on suitably processed local raw products were considered of great importance in the prevention of malnutrition, particularly in urban areas and where local milk was in short supply.

139. The need for education of mothers and school children, particularly girls, was underlined, as was nutrition teaching, as an integral part of all school programs.

140. In order to plan, organize and implement nutrition programs, it was necessary to train nutrition personnel at all levels. The Conference recognized the dearth of such trained personnel. Pending the establishment of national schools of nutrition, the Conference therefore recommended:

- a) the organization of a regional training centre for post-graduate personnel (medical doctors, agronomists, biochemists, home economists, etc.) based on existing facilities available in one country of the region;
- b) a regional training centre for medium level personnel (public health nurses, health educators, medical assistants, agriculture extension agents, home economics extension workers, community development and social services workers, school teachers, etc.)

The Conference noted that the Governments of UAR and the Sudan offered to act as host countries respectively for the first and second regional centres above-mentioned.

141. The Conference recognized the need for the production of text books and manuals in nutrition and home economics in local languages, and noted with pleasure the text book project in Africa which had produced some 20 publications up to now. It suggested that a similar project be undertaken for the Near East Region, and would welcome international assistance for it.

142. The Conference stressed the contribution of women to economic and social development, and emphasized their place in agriculture activities. Recognizing the scarcity of home economics trained personnel, both at University and medium levels, the Conference endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the first FAO Regional Meeting on Home Economics for the Near East. It further recommended:

- a) that the FAO Regional Office in Cairo be reinforced by a home economics extension officer and act as a clearing centre between governments for the exchange of publications and information on activities in home economics and related matters;
- b) that home economics training be established:
  - i) at University level, with a specialization in home economics extension, in Faculties of Agriculture; and
  - ii) at middle level in existing institutions in the region;
- c) that governments establish home economics extension services within Ministries of Agriculture or Social Affairs.



143. Most of the nutrition programs called for the participation of agriculture and home economics staff, who should therefore be trained in human nutrition. Consideration might be given to the creation of nutrition sections within Ministries of Agriculture for the purpose of collecting data on food consumption, advising on food production targets, and participating in the implementation of field programs.

144. The Conference stressed the importance of strengthening nutritional activities and their coordination at the regional level, since much was to be gained from the experience of certain countries through the exchange of information on food and nutrition programs and policies.

145. The Conference therefore recommended the creation of a Regional Food and Nutrition Commission and requested the Director-General of FAO to seek the approval of the next FAO Conference for its creation, and for the appointment of a nutrition officer to the Regional Office, to act also as Secretary to the Commission. He was invited to explore means by which to supply the necessary budgetary and servicing provisions. The Conference further requested the Director-General of FAO to negotiate with the Director-General of WHO the participation of that Organization, and the terms of reference, methods of work and personnel requirements of the Commission.

146. It was considered equally important to ensure similar cooperation at the international level. In this connection the Conference urged greater coordination between FAO, WHO and UNICEF and with other international agencies. The Conference also noted with great interest the USAID program to combat malnutrition in children and arrangements underway or planned for coordination of bilateral and international programs.

147. The Conference urged FAO to give priority to the Near East in the preparation of regional food composition tables carried out in cooperation with the Office of International Cooperation, National Institute of Health, U.S.A., and other bodies.

### III. CONCLUDING ITEMS

#### The Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region

148. The broad trends that emerged from debate on the items of major policy on the Conference Agenda were summarized by the Regional Representative.

149. A request was made for consideration to be given to extending the length of future Regional Conferences, especially in view of the introduction of the use of Arabic; and to their reorganization so as to afford more specific orientation based upon greater depth of technical discussion.

150. As a contribution to greater precision in respect of past and future work of FAO in the region, the Conference urged that, prior to the holding of the next Session, a more comprehensive review of the scope, extent and results of the Organization's action during the past biennium be distributed in the form of the Regional Representative's Review. It suggested that such a review highlight these activities, Division by Division, and that it should not only recall past and present work but should also indicate in broad terms the action proposed for the following biennium. These would then form the basis for Conference discussion, which would thereby be directly concentrated on future orientation of FAO's work in the Region.

151. It was also suggested that the authority and terms of reference of such Regional Conferences be reviewed at an early opportunity.

152. In discussing preparations for the next Regional Conference, some delegations suggested that consideration be given to reverting to the former procedure of having a more complete summary of discussions, and of adopting the full report on the final day of the Conference.

#### Date and Place of the next Regional Conference

153. The Conference noted with appreciation the invitation of the Government of Somalia to hold the next Regional Conference in that country.

154. The delegate of Pakistan, in explaining the reason which has hitherto prevented his Government from hosting Near East Regional Meetings, stressed that it would gladly, in future, invite the Regional Conference to meet in that country, if the political obstacle that has been removed in the case of participation in meetings organized in Arab countries could be removed for other countries of the Near East Region.

#### Closing Session

155. The Conference, in expressing its sincere appreciation for all the hospitality and friendliness with which participants were surrounded during their stay in the Sudan and its historic capital, wished to record its great esteem and profound appreciation to His Excellency El Sayed Ismail El Azhari, President of the Sovereignty Council, for having graciously inaugurated the Eighth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East. It also expressed its thanks and gratitude to the Sudanese Government for all the facilities it had put at the disposal of the Conference, and for all the efforts which it had exerted to ensure its success.

156. Appreciation was also expressed to the Conference Chairman, His Excellency Mohammed Khogali, Minister of Agriculture and Forests, for the time and effort he had spent, and the excellent manner in which he had conducted the Conference.

157. The Chairman, as Head of the Host Government delegation, expressed his Government's thanks, reiterated the honour and pleasure it was for the Sudan to host the Conference in Khartoum, and, after voicing his and the Conference's appreciation to the Director-General, his Representative, and to the FAO Secretariat for the preparation and successful conduct of the meeting, he declared the Eighth Near East Regional Conference closed.

APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX B

LIST OF CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS

NERC 67/	
1	Provisional Agenda
1(a)	Provisional Annotated Agenda
1 Add. 1	Utilization of the Arabic Language in FAO Regional and Technical Conferences in the Near East
2	The Food and Agriculture Situation in the Near East
3	Regional Representative's Report on action taken by FAO in the Near East Region over the past biennium
3 App. A	Action taken on Recommendations of Seventh Regional Conference
3 App. B	United Nations Development Program (Special Fund) Projects in the Countries of the Near East
3 Add.	Report on the Activities of the Near East Regional Commissions and Bodies
4	World Food Program
5	Major Issues in International Commodity Trade
6	Market Organization and Government Services
7	Agriculture and Industrial Development
8	The Management and Rational Utilization of Fisheries Resources With Special Reference to Problems of Common Exploitation
9	Dry Farming in Areas of Low Rainfall
10	Planning, Organization and Financing of Area Development Through Land Settlement Projects
11	Mobilization of Rural Youth for Development
12	Coordination of Activities in the Fight Against Malnutrition in Children
NERC 67/INF/	
1	Information Note
2	Provisional Timetable
3	List of Documents for Conference
4	FAO's Program in Agricultural Information
5	The Sudan
6	List of FAO Staff attending the Conference
7	List of Delegates and Observers attending the Conference
8	Opening Address delivered by the Director-General
	FAO/Massey Ferguson Regional Preparatory Seminar for the Near East of the Young World Food and Development Project
	Indicative World Plan - Near East Study
	Joint Session of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning and the Near East Commission for Agricultural Statistics
	Statement by Dr. Hartmans on The World Food Program
	Activities of FAO Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production Project during 1964-1966
	Introductory address by J.H. Ballard on Dry Farming in Areas of Low Rainfall
	Estimated cost of School Feeding Programs in Developing Countries

APPENDIX C

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE

I. Recommendations Requiring Action by Member Governments

(a) Organizational/Infrastructural

	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
1. To ensure high level representation at the forthcoming first meeting of the Near East Animal Production Working Party.	31
2. To consider ways of improving attendance at regional technical meetings.	42
3. To give special attention to the close inter-dependence between agricultural production and industrial development based on food and non-food agricultural raw materials.	84
4. To improve the status, dignity and prospects of rural society through provision of better social and physical services comparable to those in urban areas.	125
5. To create national food and nutrition commissions to coordinate nutrition activities.	132
6. To establish home economics extension services within Ministries of Agriculture or Social Affairs.	142
7. To establish home economics training: a) at university level, with specialization in home economics extension in Faculties of Agriculture; b) at middle level in existing institutions in the region.	142
8. To set up national bodies concerned with coordination and promotion of youth programs.	124

(b) Technical

9. To give high priority to animal (including poultry) husbandry and production, research training and other projects suitable for submission to UNDP/SF for assistance which would, together, form the Near East Animal Production Institute, and to give increased attention to development of livestock resources.	30- 31
10. To give more attention to the role of forestry and forest plantations in land use planning under semi-arid conditions of the region; to the use of quick growing species using dry farming techniques to improve the farm economy; to plan and implement conservation and watershed management schemes, possibly with the help of FAO, where these schemes are beyond the scope of individual farmers.	111

(c) Means of Implementation

	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
11. To give their utmost attention to strengthening and stabilizing their research set-ups with a view to providing for greater flexibility and wider coverage.	32
12. To implement the recommendations of the First Near East meeting in Agricultural Research Organizations held in Lebanon in 1961.	32
13. To coordinate the different aid programs to achieve an integrated plan of work in line with their social and economic development plans.	41
14. To use WFP aid to the greatest possible extent, especially when the projects are a labour-intensive or self-help nature.	60
15. To increase or supplement their pledges to WFP.	61
16. To pay due attention to local dietary habits and nutrition requirements in selecting food commodities for assistance in specific WFP projects.	64
17. To prepare efficient reception, storage, transportation and distribution of WFP food aid at the receiving end and the creation of central national offices to coordinate government services involved in handling food aid.	66
18. To give attention to identifying the investment requirements involved in the construction of marketing facilities for submission to such sources of aid as UNDP-SF or IBRD.	75
19. To give high priority to establishing uniform grades and standards, especially for the major perishable commodities in the region.	79
20. To establish national marketing news services.	80
21. To establish marketing departments, preferably attached to the Ministry of Agriculture.	81
22. To implement the recommendations of the FAO Near East Regional Meeting on Marketing and Refrigeration of Perishable Foods to establish a joint or mixed Near East marketing organization to handle transport and refrigerate perishable goods.	82
23. To implement the recommendations of the Kuwait Meeting on Industrial Development in Arab countries held in March 1966.	85
24. To intensify research activities in marine and inland fisheries, especially for assessment of fish stock, for the study of the dynamics of fish populations and their geographical range, particularly of the tunas and tuna-like fishes of the Indian ocean.	96
25. To train fishermen and instructors.	95

	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
26. To implement the recommendations of the Fisheries Meeting held in Kuwait in October 1966.	100
27. To take measures to arouse awareness and understanding for improved methods of dry farming; to strengthen extension services; to pay attention to land reform in order to remove this obstacle to agricultural progress in the semi-arid and arid zones.	106
28. To initiate systematic studies on: a) factors which determine patterns of settlement layout such as dispersed farmsteads, groups of farmsteads of village type, for determining subsequent applications in future settlement projects; b) the effects of oil discovery in certain countries of the region on employment, migration, incomes, social attitudes in the oases and in settlement areas adjacent to oil fields in the desert.	120
29. To give more attention to orienting youth toward agricultural development.	123
30. To develop youth programs as an integral part of national development plans.	124
31. To give more of a rural bias in educational background programs and follow-up training to rural youth leaders and teachers.	126
32. To implement the recommendations of the FAO/Massey Ferguson Near East Regional Seminar of the Young World Food and Development Project held in Beirut in December 1966.	130
33. To make nation-wide food consumption and nutrition surveys.	132
34. To implement recommendations of the First FAO Meeting on Home Economics for the Near East.	142

II. Recommendations Requiring Action by the Director-General

(a) Organizational/Infrastructural

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Relation to Program of Work</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
1. To appoint highly qualified officers and technicians in the Regional Office rather than generalists.	This recommendation will be covered by the review which is taking place in accordance with Resolution 11/65 of the Thirteenth Session of the Conference.	39
2. To see that such matters as: the role of the FAO Information Service in assisting developing countries to build up agricultural information services; the possibility of offering field staff "refresher courses"; the need for more travel funds and longer country visits; better coordination between field experts and outposted technical staff, be brought to the attention of the Review Team studying the general structure of the Organization.	This recommendation will be covered by the review which is taking place in accordance with Resolution 11/65 of the Thirteenth Session of the Conference.	40
3. To reorganize future Regional Conferences to allow for the holding of regional technical commissions and panel meetings immediately prior to the Conference to define needs and priorities for action in each technical field; and to give consideration to extending the length of future Regional Conferences, especially in view of the introduction of Arabic, and to their reorganization so as to afford more specific orientation based upon greater depth of technical discussion.	The reorganization of Regional Conferences is linked with the reorganization of the FAO field structure which is under review in accordance with Resolution 11/65 of the Thirteenth Session of the Conference.	44, 149

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Relation to Program of Work</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
4. To draw up the agenda for Regional and main FAO Conferences to emphasize the specific aspects of agricultural production, such as crop production and protection, soil survey and soil fertility, mechanization, availability of agricultural inputs and steps to increase them, animal production and health, etc.	Countries have been, and will continue to be consulted, through the Regional Representative, regarding the development of the Regional Conference agendas and will continue to cover the policy aspects of the items mentioned in the recommendation.	44
5. To prepare, for future Regional Conferences, a more comprehensive review, Division by Division, of the scope, extent and results of the Organization's action during the past biennium which should also include major trends of proposed action for the following biennium.	This recommendation will be taken into consideration in preparing the Review of FAO's Activities in the Region for the next Regional Conference.	150
6. To make a comprehensive study of Near East Statutory and other similar bodies with a view to coordination of activities and reducing their number, to be presented to the next Regional Conference.	A general review of all statutory and other similar bodies is now under way and will include a review of those bodies of particular concern to the Near East.	43
7. To review the authority and terms of reference of Regional Conferences at an early opportunity.	As explained by the Director-General at the Regional Conference, the 8th and 9th FAO Conference Sessions have laid down the necessary guidelines.  This recommendation will be placed before the Conference.	151
8. To present to the 14th Session of the FAO Conference the introduction of the use of the Arabic language for interpretation in the General Conference as well as the Near East Regional Conference and technical meetings as from the 9th FAO Regional Conference and the 14th General Conference, and requests the Director-General subsequently to study the necessary measures for translating into Arabic the most important documents and publications of FAO and gradually to make Arabic a full working language of FAO.	A paper is already being prepared for consideration at the forthcoming session of the Preparatory Committee of ACC. Following consideration at ACC, the revised paper will be prepared for the 48th Session of the Council which will undoubtedly be forwarded to the 14th Session of the Conference.	55

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Relation to Program of Work</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
9. To establish a Near East Commission on Agricultural Marketing whose terms of reference should include: identification of investment requirements involved in the establishment of marketing facilities, examination and evaluation of marketing problems in the region, and the formulation of measures for their solution.	Provision is made in the proposed Program of Work and Budget for 1968/69 to establish such a Commission. Furthermore, within the UNDP/TA for 1967/68, funds have been set aside for a Near East Conference on Government Services in Agricultural Marketing. It is envisaged that the Conference would be the effective starting point for the Commission. It is expected that the Regional Marketing Specialist will be Secretary to the Commission.	83
10. To create a Near East Commission on Food and Nutrition and to appoint a Regional Nutrition Officer to act as Secretary to the Commission, and to negotiate with the Director-General of WHO the participation of that Organization, and the terms of reference, methods of work and personnel requirements of the Commission.	Negotiations are being initiated with WHO for the creation of this Commission which should be a joint one. In view of the urgency and even pending the decision of WHO, it is intended to submit to the Council and the FAO Conference the proposal to be adopted in principle. No provision exists in the 1968/69 Budget for a post of a Regional Nutrition Officer. It is intended to request such a post through the EPTA Regional Program 1969/70.	145
11. To cooperate more actively with UNESCO on Arid Zone Research and to send a mission to Kuwait to advise on the establishment of their arid-zone centre.	Existing working contacts between FAO and UNESCO regarding the conduct of arid zone research will be continued and the possibilities explored for making these closer. Regarding the reference made to Kuwait, provision is made under the 1967 UNDP/TA for FAO to provide a Director and Adviser of the Arid Zone Research Centre and this is being implemented.	105
<u>(b) Technical</u>		
12. To hold an international technical meeting in Kuwait on development of hydroponics and to consider setting up a special hydroponics unit at Headquarters with a section based in the Near East Regional Office.	No funds have been included in the 1968/69 Program of Work and Budget for the meeting nor for establishing units at FAO Headquarters or the Regional Office. However, the Conference might consider including this meeting in the program of work if a request were supported by an adequate number of countries. The Division of Plant Production and Protection has already made a study of hydroponics and is preparing a bulletin which will be distributed to member countries in due course.	29



<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Relation to Program of Work</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
13. To give all possible assistance to member governments in establishing the various units of the Near East Animal Production Institute.	Two units of the Near East Animal Husbandry Research Unit have already been established in Iran and Iraq, both of which are operational. Further units are under review and will be the subject of discussions at the First Ad Hoc Consultation on Animal Production in the Near East, scheduled to be held in Beirut in March 1967. Furthermore, the Regional Animal Production Officer posted in Cairo since September 1963 is always available for consultation.	31
14. To support special programs directed towards breeding salt-tolerant and drought resistant field crops, fruit trees and pasture plants.	Although the problem of breeding salt tolerant and drought resistant crops has not been specifically mentioned in the Program of Work, active work in this field is going on in several field projects (on vegetables in UAR and fodder crops in Iran under UNDP/SF Projects). This aspect will be included whenever possible in our field projects. An André Mayer fellowship has been allocated for the study of salt tolerance and collection of salt resistant forage plants in the Near East (Study of collected plant to be made in Australia).	103
15. To give priority to implementing the recommendation of the 7th Near East Regional Conference to strengthen the Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement Project.	The Near East Wheat and Barley Project and its services will be strengthened through the appointment of a regional seed expert as recommended by the 13th Session of the Conference, provided funds are available under field programs. Will continue the issuance of the quarterly "Information Bulletin on the Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement Project" and preparing related studies. Will continue assistance in the training of plant breeders and seed production officers by regional seminars and long-term training courses, such as those organized in cooperation with the Rockefeller Foundation and the Government of Mexico. Plans are to hold the 9th Session of the Near East Wheat and Barley Project in 1969.	104
16. To give increased emphasis on development of livestock resources.	This is the main object of past, present and future programs of work of the Animal Production and Health Division and is fully expressed in the proposed program for 1968/69. A Regional Near East Conference on Animal Production and Health is scheduled for 1969 at which animal production problems of the Region will be fully discussed.	30

(c) Means of Implementation

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Relation to Program of Work</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
17. To give priority to programs and policies of land and water use, particularly in respect of domestic water, irrigation and drainage, soil salinity, water desalinization and ground water surveys.	The Near East Commission on Land and Water Use, which is scheduled to meet in September 1967 will give priority to these items.	102
18. To implement the recommendation of the Joint Session of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning and Near East Commission on Agricultural Statistics that FAO should hold a seminar or working party on domestic water, irrigation and drainage, soil salinity and desalinization of water.	A seminar is being scheduled to be held in September 1967 on land and water use which will include all the topics related to irrigation and drainage, soil salinity and desalinization of water and others. The Division is studying the situation to determine in which country this seminar will be held.	102
19. To implement the recommendations of the First meeting on Agricultural Research Organization, held in Lebanon in 1961.	No funds have been allocated for establishing a regional centre as called for by this meeting. Efforts are being made to interest governments in improving the organization and administration of agricultural research at the national level so that more positive steps can be taken to promote closer coordination throughout the region. A "Comparative Study of Agricultural Research Organization and Administration in the Near East Region" was circulated to governments in 1964 and this topic was also dealt with at the joint FAO/UN Workshop on Organization and Administration of Agricultural Services in the Arab States, held in Cairo, March 1964. There is also a need for standardization on documentation before the exchange of information can be expedited, and it is hoped that the agricultural research documentation and indexing project currently being carried out in the Sudan under UNDP/TA will lead to similar requests from other governments of the region.	32

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Relation to Program of Work</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
20. To see that the FAO/IBRD Cooperative Program gives more attention to the needs of the Near East and more publicity be given to the program among developing countries; that progress reports on its activities be presented to member countries; that member countries be supplied with the pro-forma for drawing up projects.	The FAO/IBRD Cooperative Program will give to the extent that this is in line with Bank/IDA policy in specific countries, more attention to the needs of the Near East Region. This will be possible only to the extent that there are projects which might qualify for Bank/IDA consideration and also to the extent that governments call on the assistance of the Program in project identification and preparation. The brochure on the activities of the FAO/IBRD Cooperative Program is being prepared and will be circulated to all member countries of FAO if possible at the 14th Session of the FAO Conference. Progress reports on the Program's activities will be circulated to member countries of FAO at the 14th Session of the Conference and at Regional Conferences. A pro-forma general outline for project formulation was distributed in duplicate at the Near East Regional Conference in English. French-speaking delegates have already been sent French versions from Headquarters. The general and specific outlines for project preparation will be collated in a publication to be distributed if possible at the 14th Session of the FAO Conference and at FAO Regional Conferences.	38
21. To have more country visits by experts for the preparation of the sub-regional studies under the IWP and to have consultation with countries on the draft plan.	Arrangements are being made through the Regional Office for discussions with countries on the provisional Indicative Plan for the Near East. These country visits will deal both with getting the views of the countries on the provisional study in order to improve the document and also with possible follow-up by member countries on the conclusions of the provisional Indicative Plan.	47
22. To include all countries of the region in the Near East Sub-Regional Study of the IWP at the implementation stage, and to amend the final issues of this study accordingly.	When the provisional Indicative Plan for the Near East is revised, the country coverage will be expanded to include Libya, Somalia, and Pakistan. This is specifically mentioned in Chapter II.E of the Program of Work and Budget which deals with the IWP.	49

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Relation to Program of Work</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
23. To circulate the recent Near East study on fishery resources to member countries for their comments.	The study on the fishery situation in the Near East will be circulated to member countries of the region for their comments as soon as it has been edited and translated into French.	48
24. To consider establishing a special forum to study ways and means of achieving closer regional cooperation in matters of agriculture commodity trade and to help member countries to increase trade both within the region and with other developing countries.	Commodities Division is at present expanding its program of work in areas related to this recommendation particularly through the recent appointment of a Regional Commodity Economist whose scope includes the study of regional integration and cooperation schemes and through the compilation and analysis of basic trade data in the form of trade matrices. Considerable attention is also given to trade in agricultural products in the region through work being undertaken by the IWP. When these projects are further advanced, the Secretariat will examine the question of a special forum as envisaged in the recommendation, and will report its findings to the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems.	73
25. To follow up the marketing surveys and studies with concrete investment proposals.	Marketing field staff will continue to endeavour to prepare bankable projects and advise on contacts with multi-lateral, bilateral or commercial investment sources. The FAO/IBRD Program will collaborate with the Economic Analysis Division in identification and formulation of investment proposals as a follow-up on marketing surveys and studies.	75
26. To give high priority to establishing uniform grades and standards especially for the major perishables in the region and to continue to promote the establishment of marketing news service.	Apart from efforts on national levels by marketing field staff the proposed Near East Conference on Agricultural Marketing and the planned Marketing Commission will assist in promoting regional grades and standards for agricultural commodities. The introduction of such grades and standards will be a pre-requisite for the introduction of a market news service which will also be subject to discussion and project formulation at the aforementioned Conference. Contacts will be made with agencies in the region to explore possibilities of collaboration. In its program of assisting countries to introduce modern techniques in their agricultural information services, FAO continues to urge the inclusion of daily market reports as an integral part of their regular broadcasts to farmers.	79- 80

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Relation to Program of Work</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
27. To implement the recommendations of the FAO Near East Regional Meeting on Marketing and Refrigeration of Perishable Foods, especially to establish a joint or mixed Near East marketing organization to handle transport and refrigerate perishable foods.	Advice and assistance for the establishment of a Near East marketing organization will be the task of the FAO marketing staff in the region. It is envisaged that concrete proposals for the setting up of the Organization will be worked out prior to the Regional Marketing Conference for consideration at the Conference. In implementing the recommendations of the FAO Near East Regional Meeting on Marketing and Refrigeration of Perishable Foods, the Economic Analysis Division will consult with the FAO/IBRD Program if opportunities for investment are likely to emerge.	82
28. To give guidance in the establishment of industries producing fertilizers, pesticides, farm machinery and other inputs needed in agriculture.	FAO is in a position to provide countries on request, with guidance and assistance in the following ways: a) technical and economic feasibility of establishing input industries on a national or regional basis. b) preparation of projects suitable for technical and financial assistance. The FAO/Industry Cooperative Program was established in order to assist in the implementation of FAO's pre-investment work eventually leading to the establishment of agricultural inputs in the developing countries as well as processing industries based on renewable natural resources from farms, pastures, forests and fisheries. FAO has in the past issued, and will continue to issue in the future, development papers and working bulletins concerning establishment of industries producing farm machinery. One of the main functions of the UNDP/SF assisted Central Pesticides Laboratory in UAR is to carry out research in connection with the local manufacturing and formulation of pesticides. Similar assistance can be given to other governments through UNDP assisted projects or TA experts. General information can be provided by the Headquarters officers.	87

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Relation to Program of Work</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
29. To implement the recommendations of the Kuwait meeting on industrial development in Arab countries held in March 1966, and to assist in carrying out pre-investment surveys, feasibility studies and overall planning of forest production and utilization for pulp and paper, wood and wood-based panel industries.	FAO is prepared to give the requested assistance through projects or missions which interested governments should submit to or request from the UNDP (SF and TA respectively).	91
30. To assist in intensifying research activities in marine and inland fisheries, especially for assessment of fish stocks, for the study of the dynamics of fish populations and their geographical range, particularly of the tunas and tuna-like fishes of the Indian Ocean.	The Committee on Fisheries has focused international attention on the resources particularly of tunas, of the Indian Ocean. The Department of Fisheries has accepted as a continuing obligation the assembly and appraisal of data of these and other fish stocks of special international interest. This program is being developed in consultation with interested international bodies, especially IPFC, and is greatly assisted by UNDP/SF projects.	96
31. To help member countries in obtaining through UNDP, the FAO/IBRD and other sources, assistance to development research programs and pilot projects, to provide capital input for development of fishery operations and preservation and utilization of the fish catch.	The FAO/IBRD Cooperative Program will actively collaborate with the Fisheries Department in helping member countries to obtain assistance in setting up pilot projects and to obtain capital for development of fisheries operations and preservation and utilization of the fish catch. FAO is prepared to assist, upon request, with preparation of project submissions covering pre-investment surveys.	97
32. To implement the recommendations of the Technical Conference on Fishery Representatives of the Near East Countries held in Kuwait in October 1966.	These recommendations are under scrutiny and will be implemented by the Department of Fisheries to the extent that resources permit under the Regular, the UNDP and other Programs.	100
33. To call a meeting during 1967 of the Near East Commission on Land and Water Use, whose functions should be divided into: a) dryland agriculture; b) irrigated agriculture.	FAO is planning a meeting for the Near East Commission on Land and Water Use, which will be held in September 1967. The situation is being studied to determine where this meeting should be held.	103

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Relation to Program of Work</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
34. To help member countries through UNDP and other programs to prepare land use maps delineating areas suitable for pasture, dry farming and irrigated farming based on physical and climatological factors.	The "Study of Agroclimatology in Semi-Arid and Arid Zones of the Near East" as carried out jointly by FAO/UNESCO/WMO a few years ago provides considerable information needed for such land use maps. Several projects now being carried on in countries of the region under UNDP are also contributing needed information. The Regional Officers of the LA and PL Divisions have been instructed to examine and discuss this matter with member governments. The World Soil Resources Office will continue to prepare the Soil Map of the Near East, which is expected to be completed during the 1968-69 biennium. This matter will also be pursued by the newly established Land and Water Use Commission.	103
35. To assist in initiating a Regional UNDP/SF project for the establishment of a dryland and irrigated farming institute based on strengthening national institutes, creating new ones where needed and providing a central coordinating unit; and in setting up, through UNDP and other programs, pilot schemes for experimenting and testing all aspects of both dry and irrigated farming.	FAO is prepared to assist in these matters. They will be placed on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the Near East Land and Water Commission which is to be held in September 1967. The Regional Officers of interested Divisions will be instructed to pursue these matters on their regular country visits. The activities of these institutes, when they are established should be closely coordinated with the Near East Animal Production Institute.	103
36. To organize further regional technical meetings or seminars on land policy and settlement to be held preferably at three-yearly intervals.	FAO plans to hold the next Seminar in 1968 or 1969 depending on availability of funds, either under the Regular Program or EPTA.	118
37. To establish a Near East Regional Institute for Research and Training in Land Settlement.	The Government of the UAR has expressed its interest in establishing a National Institute on Research and Training in Land Settlement and FAO has already assisted the Government in the preparation of the request which is to be submitted to the UN Special Fund. The regional scope of the work in this Institute could be developed gradually and its services could be made available to other countries in the region. In the meantime FAO Headquarters and Regional Office staff will explore with member countries the possibilities of establishing a regional institute with the assistance of UNDP/SF.	120

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Relation to Program of Work</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
38. To implement the findings and proposed action projects of the FAO/Massey Ferguson Near East Regional Seminar of the Young World Food and Development Project held in Beirut in December 1966, and to assist in establishing regional rural youth leader training centres.	FAO will continue to promote action projects in the field of rural youth in countries of the Region and in accordance with the findings and proposals of the FAO/Massey Ferguson Near East Regional Seminar of the Young World Food and Development Project held in Beirut in December 1966. Specific action project proposals will be submitted to the YWFD World Conference in Toronto, September 1967. FAO will expand its efforts through Headquarters and field staff to establish or strengthen national committees for the purpose of increasing the interest of the official and private sectors in the development of stronger rural youth programs, including particularly the organization of leaders' training centres and reinforcement of the rural youth aspects of national extension services. Assistance to countries for these purposes will be provided through experts assigned under the technical assistance programs and by the use of associate experts and well-qualified volunteers. Proposals for reinforcement of FAO's action in the field of rural youth have been included in the 1968/69 Program of Work and it is expected that countries, in compliance of the Regional Conference recommendations, will include rural youth experts in their requests for technical assistance to the UNDP and other programs.	130
39. To organize a regional nutrition training centre for post-graduate personnel, medical doctors, agronomists, biochemists, home economists, etc., based on existing facilities available in a country of the region.	Discussions have already been started with the Government of Iran, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Nutrition Institute regarding the organization of the field training for personnel from the Near East region attending the London Diploma and Certificate Course. Preparations are made for an Applied Nutrition Program necessary pre-requisite for the field training.	140



<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Relation to Program of Work</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
40. To organize a regional training centre for medium level personnel (public health nurses, health educators, medical assistants, agricultural extension and home economics agents, community development and social service workers, school teachers, etc.)	A Regional Nutrition Training Centre for medium level personnel will be considered in Khartoum as soon as the Food and Nutrition Program initiated in the Ministry of Health, which permits field training, is carried out. The Ministry of Agriculture will also be associated and it will incorporate an Applied Nutrition Program supported by FAO/WHO/UNICEF. Specific actions cannot be undertaken until the second half of 1968 when the Applied Nutrition Program will be in operation and when the School of Home Economics of the Faculty of Agriculture will be created.	140
41. To implement the recommendations of the first FAO Regional Meeting on Home Economics in the Near East.	Regional and Headquarters Home Economics Officers, as well as experts in the field, will assist governments in the Near East region in their endeavours to develop national plans to establish and/or strengthen home economics extension services within the appropriate ministerial infra-structure. FAO proposes that the first of the series of periodic meetings for home extension workers in the region be held during the 1969/70 biennium.	142
42. To reinforce the FAO Regional Office with a Home Economics Extension Officer who could help the Regional Office act as a clearing centre between governments for the exchange of publications and information on activities in home economics and related matters.	There are no provisions for this post in the 1968/69 Budget. An approach might be made to some donor for funds in trust to create this post and the Home Economics Information Centre in the Regional Office, Cairo.	142





