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REPORT OF THE NEAR EAST PRE-CONFERENCE

REGIONAL MEETING

Beirut, Lebanon, 12 - 17 September 1949

Introduction

The first Near East Pre-Conference Regional Meeting convened "for purposes of developing a regional appraisal and coordination of national plans and programs prior to the next annual session of the Conference" met in Beirut on 12th September for six days under the chairmanship of H. E. Emir Mejid Arslan, Minister of National Defense and Agriculture of the Government of Lebanon.

The delegates attending the Meeting welcomed the opportunity of discussing the activities and common problems of their countries and recognised both the benefit of examining the food supply situation of their countries in terms of production, consumption and trade, and the relationship of prospective regional trade to the outlook for commodities and world trade.

The comprehensive nature of this approach indicated the need for assistance from FAO not only in expanding agricultural production but also in the fields of marketing, internal distribution and trade. On the last point, the Meeting expressed the gravest concern regarding supplies of certain foods which are entering a phase of burdensome surplus. It was recalled that the last Annual Session of the Conference had instructed the World Food Council to examine this situation, and that in consequence a committee of experts was meeting in Washington to prepare a report on the subject for this year's Session. Delegates were anxious that their Governments should receive the report as soon as it becomes available so that their Governments could be acquainted with its contents and the delegates attending the Annual Session would consequently be prepared to take a full part in the discussions.

To implement the nutrition activities in their countries in 1950, the Meeting recommended Governments to send trainees to the Nutrition Training Course to be held in Cairo starting in December 1949. The Meeting noted that WHO and FAO are prepared to act conjointly in the training project in order to include medical trainees, and delegates resolved to inform their Governments of this fact so that their delegations may attend the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Meeting with full instructions as to their desires in this respect.

Similarly, to implement the analyses of the food situation, there is need for improvement of the collection and recording of basic statistics as regards both consumption and production in the Near East countries. Accordingly, it was suggested that member countries take advantage of the training course on censuses and statistics, which opens in Cairo October 10. This course, which continues for approximately 14 weeks, under the sponsorship of the Royal Egyptian Government, the United Nations and FAO, follows the first training course which was held in Bagdad at the invitation and with the cooperation of the Government of Iraq.

The Meeting stressed the importance of delegates attending the Near East Regional Meeting bringing to the attention of their Governments the implications of the "Technical Assistance for Economic Development" Program, so that the delegates of those Governments attending the next Annual Conference of FAO may (1) be fully aware of the type of assistance which it is within the power of FAO and its technical staff to offer, (2) in the light of this knowledge be prepared to state specifically the nature of the programs of economic development their Governments desire to undertake and the type of assistance they wish FAO to give, and (3) may accordingly be in a position to present informed recommendations and requests to the Conference.

After reviewing the current food and agriculture situation in relation to the world situation and outlook, the Meeting formed itself into: a Working Party on targets for 1950 and measures being employed to accomplish them, and a Committee on the FAO Program of Work for 1950 and Technical Assistance for Economic Development which divided into two sub-committees to consider each separately.

In considering problems and issues of special concern to two or more countries the Meeting decided not to discuss the question of resettlement of refugees.

I. TARGETS AND MEASURES FOR 1950/51

Individual consultations were held with the delegations of Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Kingdom on the national targets and the estimates of production, trade and consumption of the main agricultural commodities. At the same time the overall aims of the several national programs were considered, the measures being employed to help bring about the desired improvements, and some of the important questions and issues associated therewith.

Most Governments in the Near East have, as a matter of national policy, undertaken to develop a rational program for the improvement and extension of their agriculture. While some of these plans do not encompass aspects of the agricultural economy, they do encompass the more important lines of development as dictated by the special conditions and problems of the individual countries. While the countries in the Near East have many common features and common objectives, they, at the same time, differ widely both with respect to the stage of agricultural development and the obstacles that must be overcome.

The Meeting believes that, for the purpose of coordinating activities in the fields of production, trade, distribution, and consumption, Governments should establish a Central Development Board fully competent to exercise such functions.

The overriding objective of the food and agricultural plans and programs of all the countries of the Near East is to stimulate and help achieve an expanding agricultural economy - an economy in which the needs of the rapidly growing population for food, clothing and shelter are given first consideration. While it is recognised that the pursuance of such a policy will at times result in localised surpluses of particular commodities, and that Governments individually and collectively will need to take positive measures to assure that such supplies are distributed effectively and made available to the masses of consumers, the Meeting is undivided in the belief that this, in the long run, is sound policy.

Another objective of the plans of most countries in the Near East is to reduce imports of food and fibres. Too frequently there seems to be a tendency to strive for national self-sufficiency without due regard to production costs or to the mutual benefits that may be derived from increased trade. Unless special conditions of the country require otherwise, all Governments should consider carefully the matter of comparative advantage and efficiency in production, before embarking on programs for the introduction or rapid expansion of those products which are ill-adapted to the conditions of their respective countries.

Little attention has been given by Governments in their food policies to nutrition objectives in planning production and trade programs. Measures to bring nutritionally adequate diets to their peoples need to be included by Governments in their food policies if they are to be fully comprehensive. There is need for the development of nutrition education and dissemination of knowledge of nutrition both among the people and the Government officials concerned with food.

AMENDED TARGETS

The individual consultations revealed information on which it has been possible to make certain amendments. Still further information however is desirable as may be seen from the more detailed tables in Annex A.

The targets and estimates for area and production of the major crops for the Region as now amended show the following characteristics of change in volume and orientation of production:

Near East: Area and Production Targets for Commodity Groups 1/

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Area Targets as % of 1948/49</u>	<u>Production Target as % of 1948/49</u>
Breadgrains	103	108
Coarse grains	101	104
Rice	101	97 2/
Potatoes	100	104
Pulses	100	107
Sugar	113	119
Vegetable oils		125
Citrus fruits		115

1/ - Index numbers are derived from regional totals (before rounding). See Table 1 - Annex A.

2/ - Rice yields in 1948/49 are reported to have been far above average.

The general conclusions that would appear to emerge from these figures and from the discussions with individual delegations are:

1. If area and production targets and estimates for the Region as a whole are realised, a little less than half of the increase in the production of these crops would be accounted for by an increase in the area planted and a little more than half would be realised from increases in yield, and from reduction of field and harvesting losses.
2. Of the increases in production from newly planted areas, it is estimated that only 3 or 4 percent might be forthcoming from new lands being brought under irrigation or controlled water management during the next year.
3. Comparatively little land can be brought into cultivation in 1950/51 from completion of drainage projects now under way.

On the basis of the revised production estimates, the total volume of gross food availabilities is estimated to reach some 123 percent of prewar for the region as a whole.

With regard to the prospective volume of trade in 1950/51, the considerable uncertainties attaching to any targets or estimates given for one or two years ahead must be emphasized. Already certain countries are reporting difficulties in finding markets for some commodities such as potatoes, fruits, and vegetables, of which they have been traditional exporters. The difficulty appears to be due largely to balance of trade problems of countries both outside and within the region. It was evident also that while Governments are planning to increase their exports, they generally have not undertaken measures to help implement these trade goals. Under the circumstances, Governments desiring to strengthen their competitive position in international trade need to undertake more systematic analyses of market conditions and outlook and also to take measures to improve and standardize the quality of their export commodities. The Meeting believes that if Governments in the Near East will give more attention to advising producers of market prospects and prices, seasonal and localized surpluses of the type that has recently been reported by some countries, can be greatly minimized if not avoided.

Furthermore, the Meeting believed that these are temporary maladjustments in supply which should but cause the Near East to lose sight of the aims of maintaining an expanding food and agricultural economy.

It would appear from the targets and estimates as amended that the volume of trade programmed from 1950/51 would be considerably larger than in any postwar year and for a number of countries would approach or slightly exceed the prewar levels. The main increases are scheduled for exports of coarse grains, oils, vegetables and fruits and for imports of breadgrains.

MEANS OF ACHIEVING TARGETS

Irrigation - Irrigation and the control of water supplies are essential elements of any program for extension of agriculture in the Near East. All countries have a number of projects planned or under way, but only a very limited additional area can be brought under irrigation in time to influence the 1950/51 production. The most promising from a short term viewpoint are the wells and pumping units being installed rather rapidly in most countries. Saudi Arabia, for example, will have available for the 1950 crop, the water from at least 1000 units. Egypt, Syria and Iraq likewise are installing more pumping units in 1949/50.

The supply situation in respect of pumps, well-casings, pipes and motors needed for relatively small irrigation projects is much improved. In the main exporting countries steel and other raw materials are available to manufacturers in larger quantities. Production of electric motors and internal combustion engines has caught up with orders placed; various types of pumps are also available for export at short notice. Pipes can also be supplied for well-casings and other purposes.

Increased Use of Chemical Fertilizer - Programs of many countries are giving considerable prominence to possibilities of increasing utilization of chemical fertilizers. The Near East, with the exception of Egypt, consumes relatively little fertilizer although consumption in 1948/49 of all types reached 156,000 metric tons, nearly double the consumption in the immediate prewar period. However, the fact that, so far, the region has been largely dependent on imports from overseas sources of supply has delayed in several instances the implementation of measures for expanding the use of fertilizers.

With regard to the expansion of fertilizer production in the Near East, it was noted that the Suez plant in Egypt is nearing completion and that it will produce about 200,000 tons of calcium nitrate, 15.5% N or about 31,000 tons N per year. Plans are also being considered for a second plant at Aswan Dam. These two plants when completed will, however, only supply about one-half of Egypt's current requirements which are expected to become even larger in succeeding years.

Egypt and Turkey produce the equivalent of 7,800 and 1,100 metric tons (P2O5) of phosphates annually. This however, is only 3/5 of the current requirements of these countries.

The Government of Saudi Arabia, in the interest of utilizing natural gas which is available in large quantities has suggested that it is ready to give favourable consideration to joining with one or more Governments in the Near East in the construction of a nitrogen plant in that country. It is understood that FAO has made a preliminary investigation of the possibilities of an ammonium sulphate plant near Dammam and that it appears to have possibilities for very low cost production. This matter wants the immediate attention of interested Governments.

Extension of Mechanisation - With roughly 6 percent of the world's cultivated land, the Near East had only about 0.3 percent of the world tractors in use in 1948. A similar situation exists with regard to other modern farm equipment.

In recent years, however, rapid progress in mechanisation has already been made and the Meeting was impressed with the number of carefully considered schemes for a further orderly expansion of mechanisation in areas where this is feasible. Imports of tractors into the region amounted to some 4000 units in 1948, or about ten times as much as in prewar years, and it is expected that the demand for farm machinery for the region as a whole during the next two years will remain near the level reached in 1948.

Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria have each made commendable progress in their mechanisation programs, especially in:

- a) providing credit facilities and technical advice to the farmers,
- b) maintaining and repairing farm equipment,
- c) training operators and mechanics.

As illustrative of the importance of mechanisation, Iraq, for instance, estimates that through its ten-year mechanisation scheme, the yield of wheat can be increased by 25 percent as a result of better cultural practices; that 50,000 more hectares of land will be brought under cultivation yielding a production of nearly 100,000 tons of cereals, and that effective erosion control and other soil protection measures can be implemented more rapidly.

While the Meeting recognizes that mechanised farming is not feasible in a number of areas, it firmly believes that extension of mechanisation is essential to enable many of the Near Eastern countries to attain an expanded agriculture efficient enough to compete in world markets.

Government Function in Agriculture - The Meeting reviewed the different programs established to broaden the functions of Government in agriculture. It was noted that:

- a) in many countries in the Near East education facilities in the elementary, secondary and higher schools in agriculture are being considerably expanded,
- b) intensive research is being undertaken in recently founded agricultural experiment stations and laboratories,
- c) slow, but steady progress is being made in introducing modern farming techniques through the provision of advisory services to farmers and demonstrations of new cultivation methods and types of equipment.
- d) Ministries or Departments of Agriculture are being created or reorganized in Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia,
- e) several Governments have taken steps to reorganize and expand their agricultural statistical services.

Duty-free Importation of Production Requisites - As a means of inducing farmers to use more fertilizers, machinery and pesticides in several countries including Ethiopia, Lebanon, Syria and Saudi Arabia, imports of all agricultural machinery and requisites are duty-free.

These and most other countries in the region have also adopted measures to exempt or at least minimize the taxation of agricultural equipment and facilities.

While such measures are highly commendable, it must be remembered that farmers utilizing power equipment may need both protection against exorbitant costs of fuel and lubricants, and also to be assured of adequate supplies of both.

Other Measures to Implement Agricultural Targets - The discussions have revealed a number of other measures that cannot be discussed in detail because of limited space. Among those which seem to offer real possibilities of success are:

1. The plans in Iraq and Saudi Arabia for encouraging and helping some of the nomadic tribes to settle on farm lands and learn crop husbandry.
2. Improvement of communications, especially the construction of roads into communities and villages that are virtually isolated from outside markets for their produce. Special attention is being given to this matter in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Ethiopia.
3. Control of locusts. By close inter-governmental cooperation, considerable progress has been made in reducing losses from this pest. It is expected that through further cooperation the average yields of grains especially will be increased materially. Similar inter-governmental cooperation in research may prove effective in combating "Sunn" (*eurygaster integriceps*) and such pests as are common to more than one country.
4. Improved seeds. Throughout the region the plans call for the introduction of improved varieties and good quality seed. Such supplies are to be obtained both through Government seed plots and through the importation of high yielding varieties from other countries.

5. Fumigation plant. Lebanon has recently established a fumigation plant to treat all agricultural consignments. It is believed that the fumigation of international shipments warrants further attention.

In considering the above and other possible measures, the following observations are presented with certain recommendations:

Annual Program Reports to FAO

It is noted that a number of Governments in the Near East region have not submitted their 1949 Annual Reports to FAO as required by Article XI of the Constitution. Since these reports are an important medium for the interchange of information on the forward-looking targets and programs of Governments, it is urged that all member Governments, including those responsible for the non-self governing territories, make a special effort to submit such reports for 1950 in the form and at the time requested by the Director-General. In connection with the statistical part of this report, the Meeting felt that, in order to facilitate analyses of pertinent agricultural statistics, Governments should follow a standard procedure whereby statistical presentations will be uniform. FAO is requested for this purpose to provide a statistical style manual, as soon as possible, to provide an acceptable standard for this work. It is further suggested that Governments desiring assistance from FAO in formulating targets for 1951/52 and in other aspects of their program planning work including Food Balance Sheets advise FAO of their desire for such assistance early in 1950.

Announcement of National Targets

It is believed that Governments can influence production, trade and even the utilization of food supplies by making official announcements to producers, landowners and the general public of the national targets that have been established for the year ahead and of the measures that Governments are undertaking to help achieve them. Such announcements should be accompanied by an explanation of the objectives in view, and should be followed by periodic appeals for public support of the targets and programs. The particular method of approach will, of course, need to vary widely, but the aim should be to create mass interest in order to encourage the widest possible support.

Agricultural Expansion

Whereas the reclamation and development of land and water resources is a primary step toward increased food production, and

Whereas there are vast idle areas in the Near East region that could be added to agricultural land, and

Whereas the Near East Governments are seriously concerned with the increase of their available agricultural areas to meet the needs of a fast growing population and to raise their levels of living, and

Whereas the Near East Governments sometimes need outside assistance in economic and technical planning of schemes for agricultural expansion.

The Meeting therefore recommends:

- 1) That FAO should ascertain from Near East Governments what particular difficulties they are meeting in preparation or realization of projects for increasing their agricultural areas, and
- 2) That, when requested by a Near East Government, FAO should send a team of experts acquainted with Near East conditions to help local experts develop appropriate projects for agricultural expansion and to advise as to the economic feasibility and as to means for financing such schemes.
- 3) That FAO should bring to the attention of international lending agencies the economic and technical feasibility of such projects and collaborate in other ways in facilitating the necessary financial arrangements.

Production of Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides

Noting the importance of extending the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides,

Noting also that fertilizers and pesticides produced in the region are still far from satisfying the requirements of the countries therein,

Noting also that the supply of these materials from distant places will entail expenses that raise the cost of production,

Noting that certain sites in the Near East are adapted for their production such as for example fertilizer production in Saudi Arabia where important quantities of natural gas are now going to waste,

The Meeting therefore recommends:

That surveys, by FAO, of possible sites in the Near East for erecting fertilizer and pesticides plants be made and that practicable steps be taken to provide sufficient capacity for the needs of the region.

Agricultural Machinery and Equipment

Whereas the expansion of agriculture in certain parts of Near East countries needs the wider use of machines, and

Whereas the agricultural machines manufactured outside this zone frequently need to be modified and better adapted to local conditions, with regard to type of fuel used, cooling system, weight, etc., in order to facilitate their use,

The Meeting therefore recommends:

That FAO call this to the attention of some of the main manufacturing firms and urge them to send experts to study the necessary modifications required in the machines manufactured by them with a view to making their use more economical and efficient under Near East conditions and types of farming.

II. FAO PROGRAM OF WORK FOR 1950

The Meeting recognised that FAO's current activities and its proposed program of work for 1950 are the results of efforts, over the past three years to meet, within the limits of FAO finances, the needs of member countries as expressed by them at the Annual Conference of FAO. Whenever possible, the program has been varied to meet the special needs of the individual countries and areas, and to cope with new situations as they arise.

In reviewing the proposed 1950 program, the Meeting emphasised the fact that a regional conference was held in Cairo in February 1948, when the principal problems of the region especially regarding agricultural production were reviewed and definite recommendations were made. Action has been taken on some of these, but for various reasons work on others has not been initiated. It was felt that most of the recommendations which have not been acted upon still express the urgent needs of the Near East.

The Meeting recommended that high priority be given by the member countries in cooperation with FAO to implementing the following projects included in the resolutions of the Cairo Conference.

I. IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Irrigation and drainage must continue to receive the highest priority in the field of agriculture in the Near East. In order to have efficient and orderly development of irrigation works with, where necessary, complementary plans for drainage, each country should make surveys, when necessary, to determine the extent and nature of the soil and water resources suitable for irrigation development. Furthermore, it is suggested that one of the chief functions of the Central Development Boards already referred to would be to control the priority and subsequent development of the feasible irrigation projects in relation to the economy of each country.

Since there is a need for adequately trained technicians to plan for the necessary irrigation and drainage works, the Meeting recommends that FAO supply one technician to work in the region on such problems.

2. IMPROVED SEED PRODUCTION

The use of improved seed deserves very high priority because it contributes so much to the production of maximum yields and quality which would result in profitable returns. Improved and adapted seeds should be given greatest and most immediate attention. Some countries now have stations for testing and increasing the production of improved seeds and others should establish similar stations either individually or cooperatively. This is an activity involving considerable research to develop strains best adapted to each country or community with significantly different soils, climate, etc. In many cases, two or more countries could cooperate in such work where they have common problems. FAO should furnish a full time official to help the countries of the region plan and execute such a cooperative program.

3. PLANT PROTECTION

In the field of plant diseases and insect pests, attention should be given by countries to practical methods of control. The program on locust control now being successfully carried on in some neighbouring countries should be extended until full international cooperation of all countries involved in the plague should be attained. Emphasis is needed also on the protection of stored grain from various pests. FAO should obtain and make available more information about existing quarantine laws and their enforcement in all countries having them

and efforts should be made by exporting countries having them to see that products entering into international trade are free from pests and disease. To accomplish this, member countries should examine their quarantine regulations to determine which ones should be strengthened; what new regulations should be made; and what new legislation is needed to coordinate existing quarantine laws and to protect certain countries against pests and diseases existing in other countries.

4. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

In accordance with the resolution of the Cairo Conference of February 1948, action by the Near East countries in cooperation with FAO should be taken on improving animal health and nutrition. Attention should be paid also to animal breeding to determine which local breeds should be improved by selection or by crossing with other breeds, and what new breeds should be introduced and maintained as such to meet a specific need, as for example more intensive agriculture for which no suitable local breed or strain is available. The first step should be a thorough study by FAO of present livestock, their environment and possibilities for improvement in the countries of the Near East. The present funds allotted for such work in member countries are regarded as inadequate, and this aspect should be considered at the 1949 session of the Conference. If possible, FAO should provide for a full time technician to work on the common livestock problems of the region.

5. PROCESSING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

With surpluses of certain agricultural products again becoming problems in the Near East countries, it is very important to have more technical help in this field. Particular attention should be paid to the processing of livestock products and perishable vegetables and fruits. Accordingly, it is urged that FAO give full attention to the study of this important problem and supply a technician for at least three months each year to work on these problems in countries which undertake such work and request the services of such a technician.

6. DEVELOPMENT OF NUTRITION ACTIVITIES

In order to develop activities in the field of nutrition in the region it is suggested that Governments, which have not already done so, should set up National Nutrition Organizations on lines best suited to the conditions of their countries for stimulating interest, for disseminating knowledge to the people and for providing information for the use of the Government on food consumption and state of nutrition of the people.

The Meeting felt that the following matters are also of particular concern to Near East countries:

1. Surplus Food Distribution

Delegates expressed concern about present stocks of some agricultural products which are difficult to market. There appear to be considerable stocks of potatoes in Syria, Lebanon and Cyprus for which there is no market at prices remunerative to growers. Considerable stocks of grains have accumulated in Iraq and Syria. For the most part all agricultural production and food distribution are dependant upon private enterprise and are carried on without efficient planning.

If such surpluses continue there is every indication that present agricultural policies of member Governments will be upset and the Region may again face a shortage of food should poor crop years occur.

The Meeting suggests that informal meetings of representatives of the Near East countries be held periodically to exchange information on agricultural production and distribution. These meetings should facilitate the trade in food supplies among the countries of the Near East.

2. Procurement of Permanent Personnel

In recent years and at present there has been and is a most serious shortage of technicians who stay for a sufficiently long period of time to carry out effectively technical works for which no adequately trained local officers are available. It is strongly recommended that FAO should help in every way possible to locate and arrange for the services of well trained personnel who will work for long periods of time in member countries. Such technicians are needed to conduct research and to train personnel in agricultural extension, statistics and other technical work.

3. Other Fields of Work

The draft programs of work for 1950 in the fields of Fisheries, Forestry, Information and Rural Welfare proposed for consideration at the 5th Session, FAO Conference, though not discussed were considered generally satisfactory in so far as they apply to the Near East. It was agreed however that publications should be distributed more selectively to insure that each member country receives only the publications which apply directly to it, and that pertinent publications in French or English as required be sent directly to the organizations and officials directly concerned, as well as through the official channels of communication.

III. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Meeting had before it for consideration FAO Document CL 6/9 under this heading, together also with the Resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council dated 14 and 15 August 1949 "Expanded Program of Technical Assistance for Economic Development". It endorsed the principle of submitting requests for assistance under the Technical Assistance Program in the form of comprehensive program and projects as distinct from isolated and uncoordinated requests for assistance, often of a short-term nature.

The Meeting further called attention to the importance of insuring by all means available that FAO and member Governments will carry through as energetically as possible the work initiated by specialists under the Technical Assistance Program, so that such work will not be allowed to lapse with the withdrawal of technical assistance.

It was recognised that whereas due allowance must be made for the need of highly specialised experts in solving certain problems, the outstanding need in the Near East is for leadership in the basic aspects of agriculture, as embraced by FAO.

It was strongly recommended that funds from technical assistance grants should be allotted to pay partially the salaries of officials engaged in certain countries, if supplied for, should the budget of FAO not allow this at the present moment.

Attention was drawn to the importance of regarding Document CL 6/9 not as a detailed and rigid program but as a suggested framework within which there is room for considerable variation according to the needs of individual countries because of their wide difference in general economic development, geography, climate, topography, etc., and FAO was urged to encourage freedom of action on the part of individual countries and regions in presenting their programs.

The Meeting asked FAO to give the most careful consideration to requests from member Governments for specified technicians, and to do its utmost to secure the release of such technicians where their services should clearly be the best available for the needs of the requesting country.

Approval was given to the principle of using the services of FAO experts in preparing and submitting projects requesting technical assistance such as those described in Document CL 6/9.

The Meeting further laid emphasis on the importance of arranging advanced training abroad in the basic aspects of agriculture, for specialists from countries in the Near East; and of the principle of specialist exchange; and encourages FAO to devote particular attention to this matter within the framework both of its own and of the Technical Assistance Program.

A vote of thanks to the Lebanese Government was made in the following terms and transmitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

"The delegates to the FAO Near East Pre-Conference Meeting held at the UNESCO Palace, Beirut, September 12 to 17, one and all express their deep appreciation and gratitude to the Lebanese Government for acting as host for the Meeting, for the generous hospitality they bestowed on the delegates throughout their stay and for providing all the facilities which made it possible to carry through the work so expeditiously and satisfactorily".

ANNEXE A. PRODUCTION AND TRADE

1948/49 and 1950/51

1. The following tables showing targets of production and trade by commodities and countries for 1950/51 with comparisons for 1948, were prepared by the Secretariat following its consultations with individual Governments regarding the tentative working targets included in the Working Paper of the Near East Pre-Conference Meeting. (Review of the Programs and Food and Agriculture Prospects for the Near East 1949).
2. Information which called for some revisions was received from the following countries: Cyprus, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. Other countries have expressed their willingness to supply additional information on their production and trade targets, and it is hoped that such information can be made available to the FAO Secretariat in time for inclusion in the documentation now being prepared for the Annual Conference, i.e. not later than October 10. Moreover, there are still considerable gaps in the information concerning 1948 production and trade. It is similarly desirable for Governments at the same time to submit further data in this respect.
3. The symbols used in the tables are indicated below:
 - ... Data not available.
 - None or in negligible quantity.
 - + Secretariat estimates.
4. Totals for the region have been rounded and include estimates for missing data and for countries not listed in the tables.

TABLE I - AREA AND PRODUCTION BY INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES AND COUNTRIES: 1948/49 AND TARGETS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1950/51

COUNTRIES	WHEAT				BARLEY				MAIZE			
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51
	1000 ha.	1000 M.t.	1000 ha.	1000 M.t.	1000 ha.	1000 M.t.	1000 ha.	1000 M.t.	1000 ha.	1000 M.t.	1000 ha.	1000 M.t.
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	...	12	25	20	1+	2	25+	26	25+	20+	22	22
Cyprus	74	75	36	51	53	50	40	40	...	...	...	...
Egypt	637	592	1080	1163	92	71	166	143	647	11409	1466	1466
Eritrea	10+	11	4+	5	36+	45	26+	26	30	19+	20	20
Ethiopia	400	385	300	250	1000	950	400	380	500	220+	200	200
Iran	1750	1300	1700	2000	690	750	600	980	6	6	15	15
Iraq	...	500	300	500	...	750	570	800	20+	15+	20	20
Lebanon	70	73	50	62	20	20	27	20	4	13	10	10
Saudi Arabia	...	...	11	20	...	...	11	15	...	...	...	...
Somaliand (British)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Somaliand (French)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syria	850	900	750	850	370	400	280	300	25	28	35	35
Transjordan	70	125	...	75	...	60	...	50	...	...	...	...
Turkey	4478	4000	4367	4920	1828	1820	2167	2170	535	696	660	660
Yemen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL REGION	8900	9280	9250	10030	4850	5110	4400	5020	1810	2430	2460	2460

See footnotes at end of table.

Table I (Continued)

COUNTRIES	MILLETS AND/OR SORGHUM				RICE 1/				POTATONS			
	Area		Production		Area		Production		Area		Production	
	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51
	1000 ha.	1000 ha.	1000 M.t.	1000 M.t.	1000 ha.	1000 ha.	1000 M.t.	1000 M.t.	1000 ha.	1000 ha.	1000 M.t.	1000 M.t.
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	...	1300	950+	850	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	28
Egypt	221	150	558	451	-	-	-	-	5	18	15	242
Eritrea	134+	165	60+	70	330	294	1308	1121	-	-	-	196
Ethiopia	3000	3000	1400	1350	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iran	...	800	800	850	180	230	424	450	30	30	35	35
Iraq	...	170	140+	135	...	190	350	350	3	...	5	45
Lebanon	10	8	6	8	-	-	1	1	4	4	5	20
Saudi Arabia	...	...	18	20	1+	1	2	3	-	-	5	50
Somaliland (British)	15	16	6	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somaliland (French)	(	-	-	-	-	-	No data available	-	-	-	-	-
Syria	95	100	59	60	7	8	18	19	2	2	2	24
Transjordan	11	12	4+	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Turkey	67	75	85	90	26	26	60	75	64	75	461	490
Yemen	(	-	-	-	-	-	No data available	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REGION	6070	5880	4120	3940	740	750	2160	2090	130	150	910	950

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE I (Continued)

COUNTRIES	PULSES 2/				SUGAR 3/			
	Area		Production		Area		Production	
	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51
	1000 ha.		1000 M.t.		1000 ha.		1000 M.t.	
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	26+	33	18+	20	-	-	-	-
Cyprus	3	5	2	4	-	-	200+	214
Egypt	198	197	336	336	39+	38	-	-
Eritrea	11	12	2+	4	-	-	-	-
Ethiopia	750	740	250	250	-	-	42+	70
Iran	...	...	180	225	...	45	-	-
Iraq	...	...	10+	20	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	8	9	15	17	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somaliland (British)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somaliland (French)	(- - - - - - - - - - No data available - - - - -)							
Syria	148	150	97	100	-	6	-	7
Transjordan	25+	25	30+	30	-	-	-	-
Turkey	...	...	...	...	49	50	121	140
Yemen	(- - - - - - - - - - No data available - - - - -)							
TOTAL REGION	1710	1730	1160	1240	120	140	360	430

1/- Paddy equivalent

2/- Including beans, peas, lentils, but coverage varies for individual countries.

3/- In terms of refined.

TABLE I (Continued) - PRODUCTION BY INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES AND COUNTRIES

COUNTRIES	CITRUS FRUITS 4/		SESAME 5/ (Oil equivalent)		COTTONSEED 5/ (Oil equivalent)		GROUNDNUTS 5/ (Oil equivalent)		OLIVES 5/ (Oil equivalent)	
	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51	1948/49	1950/51
	1000 Metric Tons									
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	-	-	19+	20	15	17	24	6	-	-
Cyprus	25+	30	0.1	0.4	-	-	-	-	1	1.5
Egypt	235+	250	3	5	104	120	5	5	...	1
Eritrea	-	-	0.9	1.5	...	1.1	...	2.5	-	-
Ethiopia	-	-	83	90	0.9	1	1	2	-	-
Iran	51+	62	1.8	4	3.3	9.3	0.3	2.2	2.4	13
Iraq	-	-	4.5	3.2	0.2	0.3	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	45	60	0.8	0.8	-	-	-	-	8	9
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somaliland (British)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somaliland (French)	-	-	-	-	No data available	-	-	-	-	-
Syria	-	-	0.3	0.4	2.5	5	-	-	7.5	10
Trans Jordan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Turkey	...	...	-	-	20	25	-	-	60+	80
Yemen	(	(	-	-	No data available	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REGION	720	840	120	130	150	180	10	20	80	120

4/ Including oranges, lemons, tangerines, grapefruits

5/ For greater comparability data are given in terms of oil:

Factors used for calculating oil equivalent are:

45% for sesame

28% for groundnuts

15% for cottonseed and olives

It should be noted that in a number of countries in the Near East, only part of the oilseeds produced is processed into oil.

Page 11/5

TABLE II - NET TRADE BY INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES AND COUNTRIES:
1948 and Targets and Projections for 1950/51
(A minus sign (-) designates net exports)

COUNTRIES	BREADGRAINS 1/		COARSE GRAINS 2/		RICE	
	1948	1950/51	1948	1950/51	1948	1950/51
	1000 Metric Tons					
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	10	16	- 16+	- 30	4	8
Cyprus	44	40	15	-	32/	3
Egypt	453	490	345	429	- 509	- 566
Eritrea	- 1	15	...	-	...	2
Ethiopia	- 90	- 45	- 34	- 45	-	-
Iran	- 41	- 90	-	- 280	- 15	- 76
Iraq	...	- 100	- 160+	- 350	...	-
Lebanon	127	90	27+	5	...	12
Saudi Arabia	50	45	...	-	48	50
Somaliland (British)	1	1	...	-	1	1
Somaliland (French)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syria	392/	- 300	282/	- 50	152/	13
Transjordan	25	-	52/	-	-	-
Turkey	-	- 560	- 122/	- 135	-	-
Yemen	(- - - - - No data available - - - - -)					
TOTAL REGION	730	- 270	220	- 410	- 450	- 540

1/ - Breadgrains include wheat and rye.

2/ - Coarse grains include barley, oats, maize, millets and sorghums.

3/ - January - June

For rice, sugar, oils, citrus fruits, see also footnotes Table I.

TABLE II (Continued)

COUNTRIES	POTATOES		PULSES		SUGAR (refined)		VEGETABLE OILS (oil eq.)		CITRUS FRUITS	
	1948	1950/51	1948	1950/51	1948	1950/51	1948	1950/51	1948	1950/51
					1000 Metric tons					
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	-	3	- 12+	- 10	20+	20	- 9	- 20	...	...
Cyprus	- 17	- 10	1	-	2	4	2	2	- 14	- 14
Egypt	2	-	...	-	...	-	9	- 23	-	- 10
Eritrea	...	2	- 2	1	4	4	- 8	3	-	2
Ethiopia	...	- 4	- 31	- 100	5	6	- 7	- 9	-	-
Iran	-	-	-	- 25	-	15	-	5	-	15
Iraq	...	-	...	-	30+	50	...	5	...	-
Lebanon	...	- 20	...	- 3	...	16	...	- 5	...	- 40
Saudi Arabia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Somaland (British)	...	...	...	...	22/	3	...	...	...	...
Somaland (French)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syria	32/	2	13/	- 65	312/	26	- 1+	-	...	2
Transjordan	-	- 1	- 15/	- 15	122/	5	...	...	...	...
Turkey	-	-	- 212/	- 30	43+	33	- 32/	- 25	...	...
Yemen	(	-	-	-	No data available	-	-	-	-	-)
TOTAL REGION	- 10	- 30	- 60	- 250	170	210	- 20	- 70	- 210	- 290

