

Syrian Arab Republic

Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform

National Centre for Agricultural Policy

Number:

Date: / / 2007

National Report
Follow up to the World Food Summit Action Plan

Name of Country: Syrian Arab Republic

Date of Report: 28/2/2008

Institution or Committee in Charge:

The National Centre for Agricultural Policy

Part I
High Priority Food Security Issues and
The Progress Made towards the Achievement of the WFS Goals

1-The state of food security in the country in relation to the availability of food, the stability of supplies, access to food and the progress made towards the achievement of the reduction of hunger goal

The Syrian Arab Republic is working on the implementation of the commitments made at the WFS for halving the number of the hungry in the world by 2015 and the achievement of the new millennium goals adopted in 2000 aiming to find a safer and more equitable world, liberating humanity from severe poverty and need. Therefore the country has continued to give food security utmost priority and included it among priorities in the socio-economic development plans. Necessary operational programs are created in the light of available resources in order to reach the desired progress and specific goals. Follow up takes place through several technical committees responsible for food production or following its distribution, consumption and monitoring the nutrition situation in general. The government continues to adjust the agricultural macro policies in order to achieve good growth rates in all national economy sectors and updating the Syrian economy with developed at the international level to achieve progress in the area of social security on individual, household and national levels.

In light of the above, the general objectives of the food security strategy in the Syrian Arab Republic are the following:

1. Increasing the availability of food needs through
 - The development of production of main food products of competitive ability
 - The development of distribution of the outputs of the agricultural investment process by fostering agricultural marketing services, increasing the ability to reach international markets.
2. Enhancing the ability of the poor and limited income classes to secure their food needs
3. Increasing the rate of price stability in food markets

4. Enhancing the quality standards of food goods.

Despite the high rate of population growth which is 2.45%, the above mentioned policies achieved significant economic growth in the previous decades which exceeded 4% as this rate is considered acceptable compared to many other developing countries.

The GDP per capita increased in fixed prices for 2000 from 42 000 S.L in 1990 to 63 000 i.e. at an annual rate of 2.56% as the rate of growth of GDP increased from 4.1% in 1990 to 9.8% in 1992 then it started to fluctuate. It swung up and down, became negative in certain years, reached 0.1% in 2003 and 6.7 in 2004, 4.4% in 2005, 5.1% in 2006. The total debt service of the GNP dropped from 9.9% in 1990 dropped to 1.07% in 2004 then it went up again to 1.19% in 2005 and dropped to 1.07% in 2006.

It is clear from the components of the fixed price GDP for 2000 that the largest contribution comes from the agriculture, industry and mining, wholesale and part sale trade, shipping, transport and storage where their contributions were 25%, 25%, 19% and 12% respectively in 2006.

In terms of food security, the government emphasizes agriculture and agricultural processing as agriculture contributes a range of 25 - 27% of GDP and 26 – 30% from total employed workers work in agriculture. Agricultural products contribute a range of 16-22 % from total exports in addition to providing the requirements of food and conversion industries which depend on agricultural resources.

Before the mid 1980's, the agricultural sector depended on central planning and starting from the sixth five year plan (1986- 1990) the trend started to be set towards indication planning. A participatory and decentralized planning approach for agricultural production was adopted in order to improve the efficiency of the agricultural sector and meeting the population's increasing food needs simultaneously with conducting agricultural projects, increasing irrigated areas and the rationalization of the use of natural resources particularly water through

switching to the modern irrigation techniques, the production of safe and clean agricultural products depending on biological and integrated pest control in addition to issuing several legislations and laws which generally promotes investment in agriculture. (decree number 10 for 1986 and investment law number 10 for 1991 and its amendments according to decree number 7 for 2000) and decrees 8 and 9 for 2007 for the new investment law and the establishment of the Syrian Authority for Investment). The private sector was also allowed to expand its role in the marketing process to a large extent. Thus, it contributes to the marketing, processing and exporting of several products, securing requirements for agricultural production such as chemical fertilizers and pest control products. The planning process was simplified at the level of crop groups rather than the goods level. Agricultural loans were continued to be given and its utilization was monitored. On the other hand, the government continued to control the processing and marketing of the cotton yields, sugar beet, and tobacco and wheat exports.

In light of the country's strategic approach for developing agricultural production, enhancing food security, efforts continued to be exerted to provide services in rural areas, increase the irrigated and rain-fed investment areas and securing the production requirements at the appropriate time, promoting the cultivation of the crops particularly the strategic crops and livestock. Thus self sufficiency was achieved in wheat, legumes, cotton, various vegetables, and several kinds of fruits, red meat, raw milk and eggs leading to a declining percentage for the dependency factor on import. More efforts ensued in order to increase the percentage of self sufficiency in goods and key products that are still being imported to secure needs according to economic efficiency such as sugar, some liquid vegetarian oil and hydrogenated, milk products and the necessary fodder for livestock. In light of its capability, the government is currently allocating the necessary funds for investment plans to increase services provided for agricultural production, the development of scientific research, training and agricultural extension, fostering infrastructure in addition to adopting development schemes for the reclamation of land, providing job opportunities and focusing through these projects on enabling rural women, enhancing their economic role towards the household income as well as access to easy loans for conducting income generating projects.

Since a significant portion of the poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture, there has been more emphasis on agricultural and rural development in order to make progress where economic and social indicators in order to achieve the new millennium goals. The necessary policies were developed and will be implemented by working on the development of the agricultural production, providing its requirements and boosting the rates of economic development. In light of the agricultural development strategy 2001-2010, and the tenth five year plan 2006 to 2010, the adopted policies will address the following areas:

- Improving the use of natural agricultural resources (land, water, forests, and pasture) and fully utilizing them in a sustainable way and protecting it against deterioration, depletion and pollution.
- Securing the national consumption needs of everyday food products (wheat, legumes, etc), reaching food security through agriculture and developing the productivity of crops with relative advantage capable of competition in the domestic and international markets.
- Developing and modernizing agriculture by developing the agricultural scientific research, extension, education, training of human resources and applying modern technologies according to specific time frames in light of its importance in finding appropriate solutions for all agricultural production problems.
- Promoting and developing the processing and marketing processes of agricultural products to make use of the value added and improving the efficiency of agricultural production.
- Developing the finance and credit structure to contribute to the development of agricultural production and its modernization.
- Securing the requirements for agricultural production by raising awareness, specific schedules and appropriate prices, and improving the techniques for using them and their distribution.
- Adopting the pricing policies as a way to protect the environment, the sustainability of resources, focusing the operational programs on reaching an increase in production, its sufficiency and improving its quality.

- Adopting structural adjustments capable to match the requirements of ongoing multidimensional development.
- Reducing the risk in agricultural production particularly the risk emerging from the fluctuations of agricultural production and the prices of agricultural products
- Expanding the irrigated agriculture as the irrigated area increased as a per cent of the total cultivated area from 24% in 1990 to 29% in 2005.
- Reducing the share of paved roads as a per cent of the total roads as the per cent dropped from 29.4% in 1995 to 24.9% in 2005

In agricultural processing, the total production value of food and beverage industries in addition to tobacco in both the public and private sector was approximately 23.9% of the total value of products in the conversion industries sector in 2000 and dropped to 21.1 in 2005. As for the net local product for this industry, it constituted approximately 46.9% per cent of the net local product for conversion industries in 2000 and dropped to 27.1% in 2005. The agricultural and food industries sector in Syria with its public and private mainly depends on local production of crops such as sugar beet, cotton, wheat, fruit bearing trees such as olives, grapes, apples and citrus fruits in addition to local animal products such as milk.

The most significant food products produced by the private and public sector are: the dairy products- bread- biscuits- vegetable oil- tomato paste- canned food – marmalade- fruit juice- soft and alcoholic drinks and the sugar industry.

As of the mid 1980s, the country started to gradually liberate the economy and shift towards a market economy through establishing appropriate legislations in the area of investment, external trade, monetary and banking policies. These policies aimed to expand the role of the private sector in the economic development programs. The investment law number 10 of 1991 and its amendments one of the most important policies which encouraged the private sector to invest in various economic sectors including the food and agricultural industries sector. The number of projects included under this law in the area of packing, drying and processing food items 340 projects up to 2005 i.e. 26% of the total industrial projects. Also there are small projects and institutions created under law number 21 for 1958. Thus the number of licensed

projects reached 688 projects in 2005, out of which only 380 projects were executed. The ninth five year plan stated the importance of encouraging anyone in the private sector in establishing agricultural processing, arranging, sorting, packaging, and storage in integrated lines and giving them encouraging privileges and funding facilities. The country has also taken a series of measures to support exports such as the reduction of taxes, the fees which must be paid by olive oil exporting countries with the aim of encouraging the contribution of the private sector in foreign trade and the exporting countries to export olive oil.

Recently adopted policies helped promote agricultural trade. The new approach promotes the freedom of exchanging agricultural products, increasing the percentage of exports which enables the funding of increasing imports, securing food supplies which constitute a stability factor particularly in the drought years which our area has witnessed at the end of the second millennium and the beginning of the new millennium. In general, agricultural trade has developed in the range of 2% in the past five years. Syria is cementing cooperation and trade relations with various economic blocks to establish a global partnership for development and make use of state and donor organizations assistance to foster the development efforts and continue the provision of food products, strengthening the concept of sustainable development to protect both the human being and the environment and taking steady steps to fulfill the commitments of the World Food Summit and achieve the goals of the new millennium. As a result, the following was achieved:

- Simplifying tariffs through adopting a coherent system, lowering these tariffs for industrial raw material according to the degree of its industrialization.
- Simplifying the exchange rate systems to reach a unified exchange rate which prevails now based on the market prices
- Exempting the agricultural products from the export tax, canceling the procedure by which imports are financed from the export revenues.
- Canceling the export licensing for agricultural products
- Allowing the import of forbidden agricultural products from the Free Arab trade countries, lowering tariffs which started in 1998 and ended in 2005 (the year all tariffs were lifted). Syria has also signed a partnership agreement in first initials with the European Union and Turkey.
- Signing a number of agreements to establish free trade zones.

- Filling an application to join the World Trade Organization

As a result of policies targeting the promotion of the agricultural sector, agricultural processing, food production, and the value added of agriculture at fixed prices for 2000 from 904 billion S.Ls in 2000 to 1193 billion S.Ls in 2006 ie with an annual growth rate of 4.7%. Irrigated land developed as per cent of agricultural areas from 2.11% in the period from 2000- 2006. As for forest areas as a per cent of total land area, this per cent reached 3.01% in 2000 and became 3.25% in 2006. Public expenditure allocated for agricultural and rural development reached a peak of 16% of the total public expenditure in 2000 then it dropped to 14% in 2004 and 14.3% in 2005 and then it dropped even more in 2006 to become 12.2%. But this expenditure does not correspond with the size of the contribution of agriculture to the GDP which requires larger support in order to achieve the goals of food security. In this regard, the total foreign assistance for agriculture dropped from \$ 188 million in 1990 to \$ 8 million in 2003. In the context of public investments, the government is reclaiming land, restricting the use of production requirements, protecting the environment, sustaining the agricultural production to reduce the deterioration of agricultural land.

According to the above, the economic growth in the Syrian Arab Republic in the period 1990-2004 was positively reflected on the nutritional level and the income of the Syrian citizen. The nutritional energy supplies increased from 2830 calories per day in 1991 to 3390 calories per day in 2004. On the other hand, the daily number of calories from vegetarian sources in 2635 kilo calories in 2000 increased to 3004 kilo calories in 2004. As for daily calories from animal sources, it dropped from 418 in 2000 to 386 in 2004 which shows that the calories from vegetarian and animal sources are not proportionate. During the same period (2000 to 2004) the daily protein consumption per person increased from 74.8 gms/day to 86.7 gms/day while the daily fat consumption per person dropped from 104.5 gms/day to 96 gms/day. National statistics indicate an improvement in the income level of the Syrian citizens which is positively reflected on the consumption level of food materials particularly in the rural areas. Household statistics show that the percentage of spending on food dropped from 51.5% to 39.1% in urban areas and from 51.9% to 44.1% in rural areas. One of the

indicators of the health and nutrition situation is the dropping percentage of the people inflicted with malnutrition in Syria from 5% to 4 %. Food subsidies to some goods such as bread, sugar and rice contributed to this.

The government gives high priority for improving the health situation of Syrians. The number of doctors in various fields has increased as well as the number of public and private hospitals, general and specialized health care centres. Overall the health services offered have improved in all fields. Also the health services have improved as a result of increasingly replacing imported medicines. The percentage of locally produced medicines reached 90% of needs. According to the health indicators registered in the attached table, we can say that the state of health of Syrians is relatively acceptable in both rural and urban areas. But services provided for urban areas are still much better than the services provided in the rural areas which require an intensive effort to improve the state of health for the Syrian rural population.

The government also gives high priority to education and gender equality. Public expenditure on education as a percentage from the state public budget increased from 9.1% in 1990 to 15% in 2004 and 8.2% in 2005 indicating a significant drop between 2004 and 2005) This can be accounted for by the establishment of private universities, more enrollment in private schools) As a percentage of total GDP from 2.1 t% in 1990 to 5.7 % in 2004, 2.6% in 2005.

According to the 2002 statistics, the percentage of enrollment in primary education was 98%, males 100% and females 96%. The primary results of the general population census in 2004 indicated that the percentage of illiteracy for individuals 15 years old and above has dropped from 27.5% in 1994 to 19% in total. This percentage fluctuates between males and females as the percentage for males reached 12.1 % versus 26.1 for females. The percentage of illiteracy at the governorate level also fluctuated where it was highest in Al Riqqa governorate (38%.6) and the lowest in Damascus governorate (7.2%). The percentage of the women's seats in the House of Representatives increased from 9% to 19% in 2006.

The government is also striving to reduce unemployment by promoting investment, improving the economic atmosphere (the economic environment) and going ahead with the economic reform programs on all levels to provide job

opportunities in a way that matches with the large population growth and creating programs, implementing projects for working labor, particularly women. According to the primary results of the general population census in 2004, the unemployment rate ranged between 8 and 12.3% (Male percentage was 8.3% and female percentage was 24.1%). The highest percentage of unemployment focused on al Haska governorate (26.5%) and the lowest being in Damascus (4%)

According to 2003-2004 estimates (UNDP), 11.4% of the population in Syria (2.02 million) can not access their basic food and non food needs (the poor) despite the progress made in the area of food production, its stability and the improvement in the Syrian citizen's income. The distribution of the percentage of the poor between south, north, central, coastal, rural and urban areas has varied. The distribution of the poor in the Syrian rural areas is as follows: 17% in the south areas, 61.7% in the northeast areas, 14% in the central areas, 7.3% in the coastal areas. The distribution of the poor in the urban areas is 25.5% in the south, 52.4% in the Northeastern, 14.1% in the central area- 7.9 in the costal areas. As for the distribution of the poor in governorates, it is as follows: 4.7% Deir al Zour, 4.74 Damascus %, 5.44% Damascus rural area, 6.94 Tartous, 9.02 Homs, 9.81 % Edleb, 10.09 % al Haska, 11.55 % Latakia, 11.57% Hamah, 14.85% al Qunaitra, 15.43% Deraa, 17.59 Al Riqqa, 17.72 % al Suwaidaa, 19.88 % Aleppo.

Table 1 – Food Expenditure Structure, 1985 - 2004 (%)

Statement	2003-2004				1996-1997				1985-1986			
	% of Food Expenditure		% of General Expenditure		% of Food Expenditure		% of General Expenditure		% of Food Expenditure		% of General Expenditure	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Grains and Grain Products	4.9	5.8	2.5	3.0	13.4	18.0	8.0	10.8	12.4	17.8	4.8	7.8
Legumes	2.6	3.7	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.8	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.4	0.4	0.6
Meat, Fish and Eggs	20.0	17.0	10.3	8.8	21.6	16.9	12.9	10.2	20.7	18.6	8.1	8.2
Diary	16.3	14.6	8.4	7.6	9.2	7.3	5.5	4.4	10.4	9.0	4.1	4.0
Oils and Fat	14.5	18.6	7.5	9.7	9.6	13.1	5.7	7.9	10.4	12.1	4.1	5.3
vegetables	12.8	12.6	6.6	6.6	16.0	16.6	9.5	10.0	17.3	17.5	6.8	7.7
Fruits and Nuts	8.9	6.9	4.6	3.6	7.9	5.6	4.7	3.4	8.7	6.6	3.4	2.9
Other food	20.0	20.8	10.2	10.7	20.9	20.7	12.3	12.4	19.1	17.0	7.5	7.5
Gross Expenditure on Food	100.0	100.0	51.5	51.9	100.0	100.0	59.4	60.2	100.0	100.0	39.1	44.1

From the above table, the discrepancy of expenditure between rural and urban people and the falling expenditure allocated for food in both groups. Most expenditure on food is centered on meat, fish, eggs, cereals and its products and vegetables. There is also a change in the consumption patterns for the rural and urban areas.

The availability of food, the stability of food supplies has been achieved in harmony with demand and changing consumption patterns. It is concluded from the data that the availability and access to food have been improved during the period of the study (2000- 2005) through the adopted policies (particularly the price policies related to the producers and consumers)

Finally, Syria is considered one of the average countries in terms of the state of food compared to other countries and needs to secure sufficient and balanced diet for many categories of the population, particularly the inhabitants of the desert (the Bedouins) and for the growing number of the population. Also several groups of rural population suffer some risk of food security particularly during the drought years, particularly in the desert, border, marginal or high mountainous areas or landless or small holder farmers. Food product statistics point to self sufficiency particularly of wheat- legumes- roots- vegetables and fruits with a small surplus from local consumption which can be exported such as citrus fruits, apples, tomatoes, olives and olive oil. It is noteworthy to mention that livestock products are not sufficient whether red meat, white meat and other animal products to fully cover the population needs of these products according to the international standards for recommended nutrition quotas by food and nutrition experts. For this reason, it is necessary to give priority to the various animal production schemes and its requirements (particularly the fodder shortage) to boost its outputs of these products in order to cover the shortage in the percentage of animal and vegetarian protein currently available for consumption as well as meet the needs of increasing numbers of population in the future.

Table 2. Development of GDP Structure as per National Economy Sectors in Fixed Prices of 2000 (%)

Sector	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Agriculture	22	25	25	26	25	23	23	25
Industry and Mining	34	30	29	26	24	27	26	25
Building and Construction	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3
Retail and Wholesale Trade	16	15	16	16	16	18	19	19
Transportation and storage	12	13	13	13	14	11	11	12
Finance, insurance and real estate	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4
Social and personal services	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3
Government services	7	8	8	9	10	11	11	10
Non-profit organizations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Central Statistics Office – Annual Statistical Group 2007.

2- Evaluation Studies

The Syrian government is working on upgrading all sectors of national economy to increase the income and welfare of the Syrian citizens and their nutrition level as the performance of each sector is linked to the performance of all other sectors. This is particularly valid in the case of the performance of the agricultural sector. The progress made in these sectors reflects positively on the GDP and consequently on the per capita GDP. Table 2 indicates the development of GDP distributed by sectors as a percentage where the increase of the agriculture's share in GDP is to be the highest contribution in all sectors in 2006 which gives indication to the increase of the production of food.

The agriculture sector is influenced by two kinds of risk which affects the state of food security in Syria are the fluctuations of production (yield) and prices between good years and the drought years from 2000- 2006 the gross total coefficient differentiate the value of agricultural production (for the average of that period) to the production risk 4.3%) and the price risk (2-3, 30%) which indicates the presence of agricultural production in terms of production but there is no price

stability. Therefore, the government works on reducing risk by stabilizing the prices of some basic goods, increasing total areas irrigated , providing reserves, Promoting the establishment of further reserves and improving the efficiency of the integration of the local markets. But if two medians from different rain frequencies as shown by table 3, we notice large differences in agricultural production which will negatively affect the national and individual food security which accounts for the reasons why irrigated agriculture is replacing rain-fed cultivation (table 3).

Table 3 Development of the area of irrigated, rain-fed yielding crops and fruit bearing trees (Hectare)

Item	Mean	Mean	Rate of Achieved Growth	Rate of Planned Growth
	2001-2003	2004-2006	%	%
Area of irrigated fruit bearing trees	135451.3	149362	3.1	1.5 to 2
Area of rain-fed fruit bearing trees	684.342	722.004	1.4	
Area of Irrigated crops	1.187.269	1.285.436	1.5	3 to 4
Area of rain-fed corps	2.582.050	2.603.542	-0.4	

Source: National Centre for Agricultural Policy, Development Strategy.

Comparing 2006 to 2001, a 1.5% increase in the irrigated crop area is noticeable as well as a 0.4% drop in the rain-fed crop area, a 3.1% increase in the area of irrigated fruit bearing trees and 1.4% for rain-fed trees. The increase in the irrigated areas has led to a 3.6% increase in the value of vegetarian products.

Access to food involves many factors, some of which are price and income. In fact, the development of price and income does not only affect the quantities of food consumption, but it also affects the consumption structure. Therefore, the available index data for the consumer prices and the per capita share of GDP, private expenditure on the per capita share of GDP have been reviewed to estimate the potential impact for price and income development on accessing food from 2000 to 2005. (Table 4)

Table 4 – Development of the consumer price index and the indices of overall economic indicators, 2000 – 2005 (%)

Statement	2000*	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Annual Growth Rate
General index of retail prices	100	103	104	109	114	123	4.2
General Index of food retail prices	100	105	103	107	113	122	4.1
Index of GDP per capita	100	105	107	110	124	146	7.9
Index of private consumption per Capita	100	101	101	104	127	156	9.3

According to table 4, the prices increased at a rate lower than the increase in the per capita GDP which led to a positive income impact conducive to an increase in expenditure on non food goods. According to the indices listed below in the table, it is possible to conclude that the access to food was not negatively affected by the price and income development between 2000- 2005 as this was possible because of the government’s price policy for supporting the producers’ prices and consumers.

Table 5 - Development of some Key Plant and Animal Products (2000 - 2005) Unit: Ton

Item	Mean 2000-2002	Mean 2003-2005	% of Change	Rate of Achieved Growth %	Rate of Planned Growth %
Wheat	4.026	4.198	4	5	3 to 4
Oat	1.433	1.220	-15	12	1
Lentils	100	78	-22	6	1 to 1.5
Chickpeas	73	52	-29	-3	9 to 12
Red Meat	184	184	0	-2	5
White meat	116	165	43	7	5
Milk	1.667	2.122	27	6	4
Fish	19	29	56	13	6

Source: National Centre for Agricultural Policy, Development Strategy.

Table 5 shows the percentages exceeding the planned rates for the production of wheat, barley, lentil, white meats as for the achieved rates of other products listed in the table, they are below the index and there is a clear deficit in red meats.

Table 6 shows the development of the yield of some agricultural crops where a significant drop in the achieved rates for vertical expansion.

Table 6 – Development of Crop Productivity (1996- 2004)

Unit: Ton\Hectare

Item	Mean 2001-2003	Mean 2004-2006	Rate of Achieved Growth %	Rate of Planned Growth %
Wheat	2.80	2.56	-0.36	3 to 5
Cotton	3.97	3.96	-3.47	3 to 5
Irrigated Lentils	1.51	1.25	-1.54	3 to 5
Rain-fed Lentils	1.19	1.06	-0.94	1
Irrigated Chickpeas	1.58	1.77	-9.95	3 to 5
Rain-fed Chickpeas	0.80	0.72	3.17	1

Source: Database of the National Centre for Agricultural Policy

The government strives to improve the state of nutrition for people and increase their share of various foods and its energy, protein and fat components. Ensuring sufficient, healthy and appropriate food and improving the living standard for people is one of the government's most important goals. As a result of the government's efforts in this area, the agricultural development programs reached self sufficiency with regard to some of the most important and strategic crops in addition to achieving a surplus which needs to be exported particularly the following crops: wheat, legumes, cotton (cotton oil), vegetables and fruits, olives and olive oil as well as livestock products and particularly poultry and eggs. At the same time, the national food shortage is met through import. Table 7 shows the percentage of self-sufficiency and the degree of dependency on some food imports in the period 1999-2005.

Table 7 – % of Self-Sufficiency, Degree of Dependency on Imports of some Selected Commodities during the Period 1996 – 2005 (%)

Statement	% of Self-sufficiency 1996-2004			% of Dependency on Imports 1996-2004			% of Self-sufficiency in 2005	% of Dependency on Imports in 2005
	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Minimum	Maximum		
Wheat	111.1	99.4	141.2	1.2	0.0	5.1	113.8	3.9
Barley*	86.0	26.5	150.7	29.4	0.0	73.5	48.9	51.1
Lentils	273.9	121.0	972.5	0.3	0.0	1.5	194.1	0.2
Chickpeas	127.0	90.9	218.7	4.7	0.0	15.1	137.8	0.3
Lint Cotton*	279.1	105.2	1080.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	177.6	0.0
Tomatoes	130.6	125.5	136.1	0.5	0.0	1.5	135.0	0.0
Potatoes	103.6	96.1	124.6	2.4	0.0	7.0	96.8	6.8
Olives	100.0	100.0	100.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.8	0.0
Citrus Fruits	103.0	101.1	105.5	0.7	0.0	2.2	104.6	2.5

Red Meat	120.7	93.6	207.0	3.7	0.4	10.8	126.2	1.7
Poultry	100.0	100.0	100.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Fish	83.8	55.6	100.0	16.2	0.0	44.8	59.6	40.4
Milk	100.1	100.0	100.8	0.1	0.0	0.6	100.0	0.0
Eggs	101.8	100.3	103.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.7	0.0

Source: National Centre for Agricultural Policy

According to the previous table, it is noteworthy to mention that the olives produced are produced for eating and whose self sufficiency percentage was 100% in 2005 while, in terms of self sufficiency, the production of olive oil reached 208% in 2005. The gross milk production is used for fresh consumption whose self sufficiency reached 100% in 2005 and processing whose self sufficiency reached 85% in 2005.

Table 8 shows the contribution of agricultural trade to the availability of food items, the development of the volume of trade, imports and exports and the share of agriculture in the gross trade. The table points to a significant improvement in the gross trade, imports and exports between 2004 and 2005 versus a slight improvement in the gross agricultural trade, imports and a drop in agricultural exports which caused the drop in the contribution of agriculture in overall trade. In 2000 to 2005, a significant improvement in gross trade and agricultural trade took place but the rate of the achievement of agricultural trade was lower than the overall trade rate which led to a negative growth rate for the contribution of agricultural trade. Some of the most important food products are sugar, bananas, powder milk while the key export products are lamb meat, tomatoes and olive oil. Consequently, the contribution of agricultural trade was positive in terms of improving the availability of food. This contribution has significantly developed in the period individuals which had a positive and significant impact on the availability of food for individuals.

Table 8 – Development of overall Syrian Trade and Agriculture in Current Prices during the Period 2000 – 2005 (Million US\$)

Statement	2000	2004	2005	% of Change 2004-2005	% of Annual Growth Rate 2000-2005
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Overall Trade	8733	12446	18533	48.9	16.2
Agricultural Trade	1621	2518	2559	1.6	9.6
% of agriculture in overall trade	18.6	20.2	13.8	-31.7	-5.7
Total Imports	4033	7033	10047	42.9	20.0
Agricultural imports	835	1391	1444	3.8	11.6
% of Agriculture in overall imports	20.7	19.8	14.4	-27.3	-7.0
Total Exports	4700	5413	8486	56.8	12.5
Agricultural Exports	786	1127	1115	-1.1	7.2
% of Agriculture in overall exports	16.7	20.8	13.1	-37.0	-4.7
Net Agricultural Trade	49	264	329	24.6	46.4
Net Agricultural Trade per Capita (US\$)	3	15	18	20.8	42.4

Source: From the National Centre for Agricultural Policy –Trade Report of 2005 and 2006.

- Net Agricultural Trade = Imports - Exports

Table 9 (FAO statistics) shows the development of the Syrian individual quota of calories, protein and fats. The table indicates the total number of calories consumed and the vegetarian source calories in the period 2000-2004 and a drop in animal source calories. It is also noted that most calories have a vegetarian source and a drop in the animal source of calories. During the same period, there has been a rise in consumed proteins, a drop in the animal source proteins. The total fats and animal source fats have also dropped during the same period under study.

Table 9 – Development of the Share of Calories, Proteins and Fat per Syrian individual (2000 - 2004)

Statement	Unit	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Index 2000-2004 %
Total Calories (Energy)	Kilocalorie	3052	3038	3038	3193	3390	111
Vegetarian Source Calories	Kilocalorie	2635	2670	2625	2851	3004	114
Animal Source Calories	Kilocalorie	417	368	413	342	386	93
% of vegetarian source calories	%	86	88	86	89	89	103
% of animal source calories	%	14	12	14	11	11	83
Total proteins	Gram	74.8	74.7	77.0	86.0	86.7	116
Vegetarian source proteins	Gram	53.4	55.5	55.4	65.0	63.8	119
Animal source proteins	Gram	21.4	19.2	21.6	21.0	22.9	107
% of vegetarian source proteins	%	71.4	74.3	71.9	75.6	73.6	103
% of animal source proteins	%	28.6	25.7	28.1	24.4	26.4	92
Overall fats	Gram	104.5	100.4	105.0	74.0	96.0	92
Vegetarian source fats	Gram	71.8	71.2	72.8	54.0	73	102
Animal source fats	Gram	32.7	29.2	32.2	20.0	23	70

% of Vegetarian source fats	%	68.7	70.9	69.3	73.0	76.0	111
% of Animal source fats	%	31.3	29.1	30.7	27.0	24.0	77

Source: the Central Statistics Office - Annual Statistical Group – Different Issues

- Base Year
Annual Growth Rate.

3- Foreign Assistance programs

The goal of these projects is to improve the efficiency of the agricultural sector by integrating the vegetarian and animal production, protecting and sustaining resources, improving the horizontal and vertical expansion and agricultural income, limiting the impacts of drought, land deterioration, increasing the production of healthy food and monitoring the cases of food insecurity.

3-1 Cooperation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

1- Agricultural Development project in the Southern region

The project was carried out in two phases. The first phase lasted 6 years with a \$ 40 million budget while the second phase lasted 10 years with a \$ 30 million budget.

The project highlights

The project work area is the southern region of Syria (Daraa, al , al Al Qunaitra and Reef Demashk). The work area is estimated to be 2.9 million hectares, serves 3.3 million people and 471 rural households. The project aims to raise the living standard of the rural people in its work area and increasing agricultural production and creating additional income sources and therefore reducing immigration from rural to urban areas.

The Project goals are:

- Land reclamation for planting fruit bearing trees and cultivation of crops
- Organizing training courses for rural women, farmers and technicians.

2-Agricultural Development project in Jebel al Huss (1995-2004)

The project budget is \$ 18.6 million with duration of 9 years.

The project Highlights

The project aims to upgrade the socio-economic level of the people living in the project area, increasing agricultural production and improving its quality. The

project is located to the south of the city of Aleppo and extends on a total area of 134 hectares and comprises 157 villages which are inhabited by 208 thousand people.

The project goals:

The project aims to improve the living conditions for small holder farmers and rural women through:

Increasing the area of rain-fed agricultural land in the areas of first, second and third agricultural areas.

Enhancing the capacities of agricultural extension and undertaking applied research to help transfer the modern technologies and provide farmers with technical services.

Developing livestock through supporting veterinarian services and upgrading the level of nutrition by improving the production of fodder.

- Support establishing a national policy for the management of agricultural pest control, adjusting the pesticides, hormones and poisonous material in animal and vegetarian products
- Developing water resources for humans, animals, fruit bearing trees and enhancing technological programs and ways to benefit from available water and increasing the efficiency of its usage.
- Providing services to rural women in order to reduce illiteracy and teach them income generating skills.

Agricultural Development Project in the Central and Coastal Region (1996-2008) The project budget is \$ 117.2 million with a duration of 9 years.

Project Highlights

The project aims to achieve integrated agricultural development for rural people in all agricultural, economic and social dimensions as well as improving their living conditions in the project work area. The project work area includes the governorates of Homs, Hamah, Tartous and Latakia. The project serves approximately 230 thousand hectares comprising 115 villages inhabited by approximately 580 thousand people.

The Project Goals

- Increasing the arable area through adding new areas in investment through land reclamation and removal of stones.
- Enhancing the development programs for rural women
- Fostering the agricultural extension and agricultural communications programs.
- Contributing to the development of livestock
- Contributing to reaching maximum benefit from available water resources

4- Syrian Desert (al Badeya) Integrated Development Project

1998- 2006

The project budget is \$ 104.9 million with duration of 8 years.

Project Highlights

The project covers 3 million hectares in 8 governorates. It will be rehabilitating approximately 1.2 million hectares of pasture and building 545 kms of quality asphalt roads, digging 70 wells with vertical tanks and rebuilding 820 Roman wells, build underground repositories, giving out loans to breeders and organizing literacy for 29 thousand people of the Badeya population.

The Project Goals

- Cultivating a part of the Badeya land with pastoral seeds to improve the productivity of pasture and sheep.
- Enhancing the water collection systems
- Facilitating the transport of people, goods and services from the Badeya and across through improving or building rural roads
- Establishing the improved al awas sheep network
- Development of local society through training courses and extension

5- The Rural Development Project in Edleb governorate

The project budget is \$ 35.7 million for the duration of 5 years. The project started in 2004.

The Project Goals

Improving living standards for farmers, rural women in the project area through expanding the arable area by adding new areas to investment through land reclamation.

Cultivating fruit bearing trees, crops and improving its productivity

Development of livestock

Capacity building for agricultural extension

Supporting women's contribution to development and supporting small scale income generating projects

Contributing to making the maximum benefit of the available water resources

3-2 Executed Projects in Cooperation with UNDP

1- The Rural Society Development in Jebel al Huss (2003- 2007)

The project budget is \$ 2.3 million

Project Highlights

The project strives to establish a national institutional system for small scale funding as a way to help fight poverty in order to achieve sustainable human development. The project succeeded by the end of 2003 to establish 30 development funds in the villages of Jebel al Huss with a 50 million S.Ls as an aid from UNDP and the Japanese government while the people contributed shares estimated at 13 million S.Ls. The project carried out rehabilitation and training in all fields and introduced various economic activity models in addition to social, economic and environmental studies. It also worked on exemplifying the effective women's participation in all plans and programs.

Project goals

- Gradually transferring rural development funds based on small funds to funding institutions contributing to accessing the poor, achieving sustainability through a legal license for a civil society.
- Developing the loan mechanism based on funds while focusing on the need to maintain the flexibility, ease and speed of the process of evaluating and giving loans.
- Developing the loan portfolio qualitatively and quantitatively and focusing on promoting the loan culture and its economic feasibility.
- Developing the rehabilitation and training for the village society according to what is suitable to the actual community needs.
- Active participation for local community and particularly women in the development process and taking over its management and decision making.
- Developing the information systems (internet- loan registry- archives and documentation) applied in the project and finding institutional linkages with other networks in the country.
- 2- Protecting and maintaining sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in the drylands in Syria.

The project budget is \$ f2 million with a duration of 5 years (1999-2004)

3- Protection of biodiversity and protected areas management

The project budget is \$ 6.7 million with a duration of 7 years (2004-2011)

3-3 Cooperation with WFP

Cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP) is currently taking place through a single project which is “Supporting small holder farmers and herders in marginalized areas, the Badeya and deteriorating land”. The total cost of the project is \$ 34 million.

3-4 Cooperation with the FAO

a- Existing projects within the TCP

1-Potato seeds, palm nurseries with weaving cultivation technology Project

The project budget is \$ 319 000 with a duration of 9 months

2-Establishing an early warning system to reduce the impact of drought in Syria (2004-2006)

The Project budget is \$ 244 000

3-Establishing a food insecurity mapping system (2005)

The project cost is \$ 330 000

4- Enhancing local capacities in the area of botanical health (2004-2005)

The project cost is \$ 352 000

5- Safe storage and the assembly of unwanted and expired accumulated equipment (12 months)

The project cost is \$ 388 000

6- Training for the management of the combat of al halook in legumes crops (2004-2005)

The project cost is \$ 366 000

B- Projects funded by donor countries and supervised by FAO

1- Institutional enhancement and agricultural policies project

The project cost is \$ 3 million

2-Participatory approach to forest fires management plan project

The project cost is \$ 779 000 with a duration of three years

3- Integrated pest control in the near East

The project cost is \$ 2 million with duration of 2 years

4- Institutional development for organic agriculture in Syria

c- Telefood Projects

1- Establishing a rural group for apiculture in al Qunaitra with a cost of \$ 9300

2- Establishing model units for egg-laying chicken at the household level in Jebel al Huss.

3- Development of the breeding of the agricultural mushroom at the rural household level in Jebel al Huss

4- Two projects for establishing a model for breeding sheep al awas in al Suwaidaa governorate in al Salemeyya and al Shabkey villages with a \$9200 for each.

D-Suggested Projects within TCP

1- Creating a national veterinarian information system to control animal diseases.

2-Creating an early information system for animal diseases.

3- Development of veterinarian vaccinations

4- Vegetable seeds production project

5-Founding a centre for the production of sheep and goat semen, artificial fertilization and genetic improvement

6- Development and modernization of the informatics department at the ministry of agriculture and agrarian reform.

Part Two

Follow Up to the World Food Summit Action Plan

COMMITMENT ONE

We will ensure an enabling political, social, and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the reduction of poverty, and for durable peace, based on full and equal participation of men and women, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all.

To achieve this commitment, the following goals are pursued:

- Providing security and safety and their positive impact on the reduction of hunger and poverty, and stability.
- Enhancing grassroot participation in all fields.
- Improving human rights conditions.
- Avoiding conflict and creating a peaceful environment.
- Enhancing gender equality and enabling women.
- The constitution ensures equality among people regardless of their beliefs or religions.

COMMITMENT TWO

We will implement policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving people's physical and economic access by all, at all times, to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its effective utilization.

These recommendations and commitments are met through the following:

- Specific policies and interventions for generating income and job opportunities for the urban and rural poor.
- Actions taken for ensuring access to basic education and primary health care services.

COMMITMENT THREE

We will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high and low potential areas, which are essential to provide adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels, and to combat pests, drought and desertification, given the multifunctional character of agriculture.

This commitment can be met through the following:

- Policies and measures aimed at increasing and diversifying food production.
- Measures aimed at controlling environmental risks to food security.
- Transferring and utilizing agricultural technologies.

- Developing and implementing comprehensive rural development plans.

COMMITMENT FOUR

We will strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system.

- Enhancing trade and opening to economic blocks.
- Adopting social market economy along while taking producers' interests and food into consideration.
- Allowing more trade freedom in order to secure foods by all sectors.

COMMITMENT FIVE

We will endeavor to prevent and be prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies and to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery, rehabilitation, development and capacity-building to meet future needs.

To achieve this commitment, the following activities are implemented:

- Establishing a national crises committee for providing necessary assistance for inhabitants in case of crises.
- The Ministry of Agriculture will inform farmers of the periods of expected frost waves through weather channels to avoid losses.
- A project is prepared to combat drought and develop an early warning system for predicting drought cases, and following-up in order to secure the required funds.
- The Syrian government provides all requirements needed for combating animal and plant diseases breaks out by forming fact-finding missions and intervening whenever the crisis reaches the economic limit.
- Deploying livestock health care task groups at their locations, equipped with all veterinary needs.
- Developing a system to monitor the plants and animals going in and out of the Syrian borders.
- Continue to building forest roads for fighting forest fires and increasing number of police stations and forest guards, and deploying them through out the forest.
- Making veterinary and agricultural agreements with other countries, monitoring and controlling desert locusts. Wide cooperation with some relevant organization is made.
- Distribution of food assistance from the World Food Programme to the poor and food insecure people.
- Providing emergency assistance for disaster-stricken or areas affected by harsh weather conditions.

COMMITMENT SIX

We will promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development, in high and low potential areas.

This commitment is achieved through the following:

- Increasing the quota of human resources development in the national budget and describing its impact on primary, secondary and college education.
- Increasing the quota of agriculture, fish and food security programmes in the national budget.
- Increasing the size of infrastructure investments in order to increase access to markets and food.
- Initiatives taken and resources allocated for promoting the introduction and transfer of technology to improve production.
- Strategies of sustainable development of water harvest and relevant investments.
- Measures taken for combating deforestation and increasing forest coverage at the national level.

COMMITMENT SEVEN

We will implement, monitor, and follow-up this Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.

The following activities were achieved in this field:

- The Ministry of Agriculture benefited the FAO's assistance by preparing the agricultural development strategy.
- The Syrian government approved the trends of the agricultural development strategy for 2010 aimed at increasing food production and improving the income of agricultural workers, while conserving resources and preventing their depletion, and identified policies and measures required for their implementation. The strategy also incorporated material and time programs for agricultural production areas, securing its requirements and the facilitating services among others.
- Executed several development projects for increasing food production and securing job opportunities for rural people and workers in alternative sectors (trade, transportation, etc.).
- Taking advantage of the projects financed by the FAO such as the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) and Telefood.
- Making use of the food assistance provided by the World Food Programme.
- Making use of the assistance of other countries such as the grant for increasing food production (Japanese grants) for securing advanced technologies that contribute to increasing food production.
- Following up communication with the donors to secure technical and physical assistance in executing food increasing projects and meeting the population needs of food.

- The continuity of the work of the national committee made of a number of ministries after the World Food Summit held in 1992 for following-up the decisions and commitments of World Food Summit.
- Periodically reporting to the FAO on the progress of implementing approved commitments.

Summary list of the main programmes contributing to implementing World Food Summit Action plan.

The government seeks to improve food production through establishing its investment projects and encouraging the private sector to invest in agricultural production and processing through making appropriate legislations in the field of investment (such as the Law of Investment No. 10/1991 and its amendment No.7/2000, decree No. 8/2007 concerning issuing a new investment law and decree number 9/2007 on establishing the Syrian Authority for Investment).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform initiated its projects since 1959. Some of these projects are still going because the agricultural sector needs them. These projects enhance food security because its main goals are:

- In the field of plant production: land reclamation, improving variety of products, executing all combat operations, securing required materials and securing pasture and forest stocks.
- In the field of plant production: securing vaccines and necessary requirements for improved breeds and apiculture breeds.
- In the field of social development: developing rural communities, supporting women in rural areas and providing an access to potable and irrigation water.

The government resorts also to external borrowing in order to push economic and social development, secure food requirements, create job opportunities through creating projects in rural areas. These projects are designed to improve the efficiency of agricultural sector through the integration of plant and animal production, sustainability of resources, improving vertical and horizontal expansion, agricultural income, reducing the effects of drought, promoting healthy food and monitoring cases of food insecurity.

Table 10 - Main Programmes Contributing to the Implementation the World Food Summit Plan of Action (Million S.L.)

Name of Project	Total Estimated Cost	Expenditure till 2005	2005 General Budget			2006 General Budget		
			Provision	Including foreign resources	Expenditure	Local Resources	Foreign Resources	Total Provisions
Projects of Ministry of Agriculture and Affiliated Authorities	90381	43904	7929	940	7580	9783	819	10602
Underway Projects	85869	43904	9929	940		7724.5	819	8543.5
New Projects	4512.1					2058.5	0	2058.5
1- Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (Central Department)	74857	36440	7295	940	6479	8225	819	9044

2- General Commission for scientific Agricultural Research	7711	3570	882		824	810	0	810
3- General Directorate of Real Estate Authorities	1818	360	168	0	163	290	0	290
4- General Establishment of State Farms	26	26	9	0	7	0	0	0
5- General Organization for Seed Multiplication	594	60	34	0	34	83	0	83
6- General Establishment for Cattle breeding	201	874	70	0	42	114	0	114
7- General Establishment for Poultry	369	169	35	0	34	40	0	40
8- General Establishment for Fish	52	19	5	0	5	6	0	6
9- General Authority for Forest Management and Development	2458	141	288	0	287	160	0	160
10- General Establishment of Norms	2295	982	100	0	99	55	0	55
1-1- Development of Agricultural Extension	2204	1089	237	0	236	170	0	170
1-2- Support of Public Controls	2679	1375	275	0	245	235	0	235
1-3- Production of fruit full Fruit Layers	2850	2319	449	0	449	450	0	450
1-4- Fruit bearing Plantation	5062	4018	649	0	645	750	0	750
1-5- Forest Development	11766	5688	1210	0	1185	1190	0	1190

Table 10 - The main programmes contributing to implementing World Food Summit Action plan (million SL)

1-6- Development and Streamlining Veterinary Care	2955	1295	217	0	211	350	0	350
1-7- Improving and Grading Local Cattle	845	370	99	0	86	130	0	130
1-8- Renewal and Preparation of the Badeya Wells	1647	1004	190	0	187	220	0	220
1-9- Development of the Syrian Badeya	1277	997	249	0	244	230	0	230
1-10- Development of Agriculture in the Southern Region	1288	1071	106	0	106	116	0	116
1-11- Second Fruit bearing	172	145	33	0	33	29	0	29

Plantation in al-Qunaitra								
1-12- Green Belt around Deir Al Zour	424	243	53	0	53	45	0	45
1-13- Development of Apiculture and Honey Production	397	240	68	0	66	63	0	63
1-14- Completing Agricultural Roads	3642	3642	67	0	66	1	0	1
1-15- Arab Horse Breeding Farm	322	123	28	0	23	28	0	28
1-16- Forest Development and Planting	1035	602	140	0	137	99	0	99
1-17- Al Tulailah Natural Protectorate	31	15	4	0	4	5	0	5
1-18- Induced Rain	1109	160	30	0	30	40	0	40
1-19- Forest Protection and Fire combat	4629	2028	447	0	440	411	0	411
1-20- Developing Fishery Resources	401	183	56	0	55	50	0	50
1-21- Agricultural Development in Jebel al Huss	1088	944	121	49	120	107	10	117
1-22- Agricultural Development in the Middle and Costal Areas	4840	4298	205	113	203	230	106	336
1-23- Integrated Development in the Syrian Badeya	4703	1625	904	731	361	213	676	889
1-24- Building the headquarters of 29 technical High Schools and 6 Intermediate Agricultural Institutes	2306	1227	342	0	335	268	0	268
1-25- Automation of work in the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform	173	70	15	0	15	1	0	1
1-26- Building the Training Complex in Al Sabourah	391	131	1	0	1	60	0	60
1-27- Rural Development in Jebel al Huss	43	32	13	0	12	13	0	13
1-28- Rural Development in Edleb	3146	79	70	46	49	11	27	38
1-29- Development of Training Centres for Agricultural Education	930	265	67	0	65	82	0	82

1-30- Development of Biological Combat	526	285	194	0	164	190	0	190
1-31- Surveying Natural and Agricultural Resources Using Remote Sensing Technologies	109	28	8	0	7	25	0	25
1-32- Developing Agricultural Statistics	161	83	20	0	20	30	0	30

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform

Implemented Policies, Initiatives and Strategies and their results are shown below:

Progress in the Field of Agricultural production

Table 11 Shows the progress made in the field of agricultural production.

Table 11 – Development of Agricultural Production and its components during the period 1992 - 2004 in fixed prices of 2000

Statement	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Billion S.L	US\$ Million	Billion S.L	US\$ Million	Billion S.L	US\$ Million	Billion S.L	US\$ Million	Billion S.L	US\$ Million	Billion S.L	US\$ Million
Overall Agricultural Production	356	337	6481	7269	382	7346	418	8026	398	7728	433	8408
Plant Production	233	215	4135	4865	256	4923	271	5203	288	5592	330	6408
Grains	73	39	750	1250	68	1308	59	1133	66	1282	74	1437
Legumes	6	3	58	115	6	115	7	134	8	155	8	155
Industrial Crops	37	37	712	712	32	615	42	806	46	893	38	738
Vegetables	14	12	231	327	18	346	29	557	31	602	37	718
Fruit bearing Trees	50	67	1288	1346	55	1058	84	1613	75	1456	114	2214
Animal Production*	123	122	2346	2404	126	2423	147	2822	164	3184	177	3437
Milk and by-products	43	42	808	885	46	885	55	1056	64	1243	69	1340
Animal Reproduction**	68	67	1288	1250	65	1250	71	1363	82	1592	87	1689
Fish	1	1	19	19	2	38	2	38	2	39	2	39
Eggs	7	6	115	154	8	154	13	250	9	175	11	214

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, The Current Status of Agricultural Sector during the period (1992 – 2003)

*Does not equal the total of the paragraphs thereunder ** Including red meat and Poultry, ***Estimates of the Central Statistics Office.

Development of the intermediate goals of the agricultural public sector investments.

Table 12 shows the main intermediate goals of the agricultural public sector investments.

Table 12 – Development of the main intermediate goals of the agricultural public sector investments.

Statement	1992	1995	2003
Agricultural Scientific Research			

Total Number of Researches and Experiments	627		1104
Number of Irrigation Researches	35	59	106
Development of Agricultural Extension			
Number of Extension Units	760	816	1043
Support of Public Controls			
Controlled Areas (thousand hectares)	973	1613	1547
Development of veterinary care			
Produced Vaccines (Million)	94.7	20.2	120
Improving and Grading Local Cattle			
Artificial Vaccines (thousand)	400	430	787
Agricultural Roads			
Length of Roads(Km)	347	614	1578
Serviced Area (Thousand hectares)	34	46	167
Reclamation Projects			
Area of cultivated trees (Hectare)		25682	16009
Area of cultivated crops (Hectare)		2707	7589

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform – Directorate of Statistics and Planning.

Development of the investments in the private sector as per the law of investment No. 10

Table 13 shows the development of the investments in the private sector as per the law of investment No. 10, including the projects of food production and job opportunities generated by such projects.

Table 13 – Development of Private Sector Investments as per Investment Law No. 10

Years	Number of Projects included according to the economic activity					Investment Costs (Million S.L.)		Number of Job opportunities
	Industry	Agriculture	Transportation	Real Estate	Other	Local Investment Costs	Foreign Investment	
1991-2002	699	34	1327	0	11	247273	178752	86811
2003	115	20	154	0	3	68742	54299	14312
2004	289	26	426	0	3	203553	154924	40313
2005	237	28	287	4	2	376990	282481	54346
Total	1340	108	2194	4	19	896558	670456	195782

Source: Investment Office

Food security indicators

There is a set of internationally agreed indicators for surveiling and monitoring food security situation. These indicators are 34 (Table 14 shows the Development of food security indicators during the period 1990 – 2004) that addresses the following fields:

- Deprivation of Food and Child Malnutrition
- Food Consumption and Diet Diversification
- Economic Growth, Poverty and Employment
- Education and Gender Equality
- Health and Sanitation
- Agricultural Development
- Water, Natural Resources and Infrastructure
- Trade and National Debt
- Development Assistance

Based on the abovementioned, attention will be focused on some indicators such as the annual changes in GDP, annual changes in agricultural domestic production, share of general agricultural investments, share of irrigated lands as of the overall arable land area, share of forests as of the overall area, share of the paved roads as of the overall roads. Table 14 shows the development of these indicators during the period 2000 – 2005.

Table 14 – Development of some Food Security Indicators During the period 2000 - 2005 (%)

Statement	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Annual Change in GDP	-1.9	0.9	0.8	0.1	3.5	3.6
Annual Change in the Agricultural Domestic Production	3.0	5.0	2.7	0.4	1.2	7.2
% of Irrigated Land form overall arable area	8.8	9.2	9.7	9.6	10.1	10.0
% of Forests from the Overall area of the Country	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2
% of paved roads from overall roads	21	20	14	20	20	20
% of Agricultural investments from overall investments	16	15	13	10	11	19.9

Source: From the Annual Agricultural Statistical Group of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and the Annual Agricultural Statistical Group of the Central Statistics Office - Different issues.

Based on the previous table, it is concluded that the following advantages are there and subject to study.

- There is a few fluctuations in the GDP, which enhances the food security situation.
- There are huge fluctuations in the agricultural domestic production which negatively affects the food security situation in the Syrian rural areas. However, this situation has stabilized since 2000, which positively affected the food procurement situation. Fluctuations in the agricultural domestic production are a result of changes in the production and prices affected by changes in the weather which result in production and price risks. The government tries to mitigate these risks through keeping the stability of basic commodities, increasing the area of irrigated lands, securing storage place, promoting the establishment of new storage capacities for agricultural products, and improving local market integration.

- Increase of paved roads ratio during the period 1991 - 1993, then it decreased largely in 1994, then an acceptable share of these roads was reserved till the end of the period which positively affects food production.
- The increase of the percentage irrigated land which improves food production to a great extent.
- Increase of the share of agricultural investment which improves the agricultural production performance.
- Stability of the share of forest which conserves the environment and combat land degradation.

Table 15 – Syrian Arab Republic– Syrian Arab Republic - Relevant Food Security Indicators – Indicators extracted from international databases

Code	Indicator	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Source:
	Deprivation of Food and Child Malnutrition																
1	Number of undernourished persons (millions)		0.7					0.6					0.6	0.6			FAO
2	Prevalence of undernourishment in total population (%)		5					4					4	4			FAO
3	Prevalence of underweight children (%)											7A					UNICEF
3m	Prevalence of underweight children, male (%)											7A					UNICEF
3F	Prevalence of underweight children, female (%)											6A					UNICEF
4	Prevalence of stunting (%)											18A					UNICEF
5	Prevalence of Wasting (%)											4A					UNICEF
	Food Consumption and Diet Diversification																
6	Dietary Energy Supplies (kcal/person/day)		2830					2980			3038	3052	3040	3038			FAO
7	Share of non-starchy foods in		49					52					53				FAO

	Health and Sanitation																
20	Population with access to improved sanitation, total (%)	76												77			UNICEF
20R	Population with access to improved sanitation, rural (%)	56												56			UNICEF
20U	Population with access to improved sanitation, urban (%)	97												97			UNICEF
21	Population using improved drinking water sources, total (%)	79												79			UNICEF
21R	Population using improved drinking water sources, rural (%)	64												64			UNICEF
21U	Population using improved drinking water sources, urban (%)	94												94			UNICEF
22	Estimated prevalence proportion of adults living with HIV (%)													0.1	←		UNADIS
	Agricultural Development																
23	Agricultural value added (annual % growth)	20.9	6.8	17.9	-0.2	6.1	4.1	14.6	-2.9	22.3	-17.2	3	5	2.7	0.4	1.2	WB/OECD(WB)/CBS
24	Food production index number (PIN), net per-person		95					101					109				FAO
25	Government expenditure allocated to	11	8	9	10	8	10	10	10	9	14	16	15	13	10	11	IMF(FAO)/CBS

	agriculture and rural development (% of total)																
	Water, Natural Resources and Infrastructure																
26	Irrigated land as % of agricultural area	5.1	5.8	6.7	7.4	7.8	7.9	8.2	8.5D	8.8	8.6	8.8	9.2	9.7	9.6	10.1	FAO/MAAR
27	Rock area as % of total land area	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.2	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	3	3	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	FAO/MAAR
28	Severely degraded land as % of total area											42					FAO
29	Roads, paved (% of total roads)		72	71	72	24	25	23	23	23	21	21	20	14	20	20	IRF(WB)/CBS
	Trade and National Debt												1878	1553	918		OECD
31	Official commitments received (by recipient countries) for trade-related technical assistance and capacity building (US\$ thousand)																
	Development assistance																
34	Official donor commitments provided (by donor countries) or received (by recipient countries) (US\$ millions)	188	61	199	25	18	49	69	11	87	9	7	15	52	58		FAO

1- The value will be calculated through the mean of three years. The mentioned year indicates the middle year of the duration.

2- Refers to the first year of an academic year.

A/ 0-50

B Estimate of World Federation of Trade Unions of food, tobacco and hotels.

C/FAO Estimate.

D/ Temporary Data

Abbreviations:

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

ILO: International Labour Organization.

IMF: International Monetary Fund.

IPU: Inter-Parliamentary Union.

IRF: International Road Federation.

OECD: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

UNADIS: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund.

UNSD: Millennium Indicators Database, United Nations Statistics Division.

WB: World Bank.