



THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
PERMANENT MISSION TO F.A.O.  
IN THE NAME OF GOD

NO. 292/A-2004

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Ms Margarita Flores  
Chief, Food Security and Agricultural  
Projects Analysis Service  
Agriculture and Economic Development  
Analysis Division  
Economic and Social Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations – Rome

Dear Madam,

Referring to your email of 30 March 2004 regarding ESA-3- Revised Reporting Format for the Follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action, please find herewith enclosed the following documents prepared by the Office for International and Regional Organizations, Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Islamic Republic of Iran:

- 1) Revised Reporting Format for the Follow-up of the Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, in Iran
- 2) Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Food Security

Accept, Madam, the assurance of our highest consideration.



In the Name of God

## **Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Food Security**

The right of food is one of the most basic, yet vital human rights which all the countries and international organizations must unanimously collaborate to realize.

Following the Summit event and according to the seven commitments included in the Plan of Action, the I.R. Iran took effective actions in harmony with WFS goals and in order to accomplish the undertaking for better combating hunger of undernourishment.

According to our constitution, meeting the basic human needs- such as food, shelter, health care, education and family life-for all citizens is committed.

In the constitution, strong emphasis is given to some of the key preconditions for national food security such as agricultural development, science and technology, environmental protection, social security, poverty alleviation, protection of women's rights and human dignity.

The agriculture sector has a prominent place in social and economic development in Iran. It accounts for 1/4 of GDP, 1/3 of employment opportunities, 4/5 food supply and 1/3 of non-oil exports.

Studies show that, despite population increases during 1988- 97, the agricultural production per capita index has increased remarkably to 137 percent.

Bread is a strategic item in our food basket. It provides 40% energy and 45% protein in our diet. Therefore, wheat is our top priority. We have reached to self- sufficiency in particularly wheat.

Rice is the second ranking staple in our diet. During the plan rice production increased at an annual average rate of 4.4 percent.

Production of sugar beets increased at an average annual rate of 4/6 percent. Sugar production has almost increased. During the plan period,

production of meat and dairy products increased. In this period, per capita domestic production of meat and dairy products increased.

In general, qualitative evaluations made on the food consumption pattern in Iran by using indices such as percentage of energy provided, shares of different food groups as well as macro-nutrients, show that shares of proteins, dairies and vegetables in our food consumption pattern have to be increases, while share of cereals and sugars should be decreased in the food consumption pattern.

### Overview of the most important challenges and recommendations in Food Safety in Iran

- Lack of appropriate policy making in food safety sector
- In adequacy of qualified manpower
- Poor awareness of stakeholders involve in food production, marketing, processing, distribution consumption cycle, and export of Agricultural production
- Lack of appropriate technology and practice

#### Recommendations:

- Establishment of a unique policy making centre for food safety to coordinate and link training, planning, research in this field
- Formulating National Plan of Action on food safety to protect consumers health
- Formulating food safety standards compatible with code of conduct foreseen in Codex Alimentarius guidelines
- Encouraging industrial and commercial sectors and all stakeholders involve in production, supply, distribution and processing of food production to adhere food safety standards
- Organizing special legal instrument to tackle with food distribution distortions
- Acquainting the producers, practioness and the beneficiaries with the required skills for meeting standard codes of safe food production and consuption
- Development of processing and complementary industries and making efforts in prevention of post harvest losses of agricultural production

- Improvir g children growth, rate, provision of micronutrients for all age groups of population, enhancing food security at household level and controlling nutriotional and health risks
- calling fc r mass participation in this respect at social level

Revised Reporting Format For

*The Follow-up of the  
Implementatin of the World Food  
Summit*

Plant of Action

Section: Background Information

1. Country: I.R. of Iran
2. Reporting institution or unit: International and Regional Organization
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4. Institutional arrangements established for the follow-up of the WFS Plan of Action (if any):

## Food Security and Related Indicators<sup>1</sup>

Indicators	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Source
<b>1. Food security indicators</b>									
• <b>Availability</b>									
Average per person dietary energy supply (kcal)	3516	3520	3822	3631	3322	3535	3659		Nutrition balance sheet Agricultural Planning and Economic Research Institute
Food production index	100	101.7	113	107.4	104.6	108.1	123.6		Agricultural Planning and Economic Research Institute
Food self-sufficiency ratio	88.4	87.3	91.5	78.6	82.6	79.1	97.4		Agricultural Planning and Economic Research Institute
Cereal supply per person	235.2	230.7	252.2	228.2	194.4	229	230.6		Including wheat & rice
Animal protein supply per person	21.1	20.3	20.6	20.8	20.9	21	21		Nutrition balance sheet Agricultural Planning and Economic Research Institute
Value of food imports/export earnings	0.40	0.76	0.49	0.75	0.84	0.79	0.40		Nutrition balance sheet Agricultural Planning and Economic Research Institute
Debt service ratio									Nutrition balance sheet Agricultural Planning and Economic Research Institute
Value of gross investment in agriculture (in USD)	730.7	691.2	453.3	581.3	536.4	583.7	651.1		Central Bank of Iran
• <b>Stability</b>									
Food price index									
Index of variability of food production									
Ratio of national food reserves to domestic food consumption									
Export earnings instability									
• <b>Access</b>									
Rate of growth in real GDP per person/per year (%)									
Gini index of income distribution	0.43			0.42	0.42	0.42			Performance and prospects of Iranian economy
Percentage of population living below national poverty line (%)	21.3	22.4	17.8	20	15.2	10.9			
Percentage of population living on less than \$ 1 a day (%)									
Percentage of income spent on food (%)	36.9	35.8	37.2	35.3	33.3	31			Statistic Center of Iran
Consumer price index									
Estimated number of undernourished people									
Percentage of population undernourished (%)									

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to explanatory notes of these indicators at the end of this document.



Proportion of total imports by value, excluding arms, from developing countries and from LDCs admitted free of duties <sup>a</sup>									
Average tariffs imposed on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries <sup>a</sup>									
Agricultural support estimate as percentage of GDP <sup>a</sup>									
Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity <sup>a</sup>									
Share of primary exports (value) of total exports earnings <sup>b</sup>	0.54	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.46	0.61	0.50		Central Bank of I.R.I
Share of manufactures exports (value) of total exports earnings <sup>b</sup>									
Terms of trade <sup>b</sup>	1.61	0.51	0.24	0.32	0.47	0.41	0.42		Agricultural Planning and Economic Research Institute
External agricultural income terms of trade									
<b>5. Sustainability of natural resources</b>									
Proportion of land area under forest cover (%)	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5		National Plan against Desertification
Proportion of area protected to maintain biological diversity (%)	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5		Proceedings, determination of existing situation and perspective of natural resources in future time

a/ Application to developed countries

b/ Application to developing countries