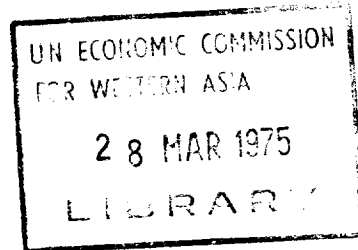


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E/ECWA/17  
21 March 1975



PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES  
for 1976-1977

(Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda)

1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

1.1 Overall management, including the provision of supporting services

Expected completion date: continuing

Description: The need for this activity is self-explanatory if the budget and plan objectives are to be attained. This activity would comprise:

- the daily management of the programme, including the detailed programming of future activities and programme evaluation;
- the preparation of reports to ECOSOC and to FAO regional governing bodies, particularly the Near East Agricultural Planning Commission and the Regional Conference;
- the preparation of documents for, and servicing of, the subsidiary organs of the Commission;
- the finalization of studies for publication;
- participation in various technical meetings and conferences;
- supporting services, which would include participation in FAO, WFP and IBRD field and evaluation missions, at the request of the organization concerned; backstopping of experts in the field, substantive support to technical assistance projects; advisory services and assistance in agricultural planning to Governments, at their request, and the provision of various inputs into inter-disciplinary activities of other ECWA programmes.

| <u>Resources required:</u> | <u>RB</u> | <u>XB</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Professionals m/m          | -         | 24        | 24           |
| General Service m/m        | 12        | 12        | 24           |
| Travel                     |           | \$8,000   | \$8,000      |

1.2 Sector review and appraisal

Expected completion date: Continuing

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Description: This activity would consist of keeping abreast with, and reporting on, developments in agriculture, fisheries and forestry in the various countries of the region. It would involve the compilation, processing and dissemination of statistical data, including the construction of adequate indicators, on developments in agriculture and fisheries and the review of annual developments in agriculture, fisheries and forestry (in April of each year) including in 1977 (second quarter) a contribution to the reporting on review and appraisal of progress in agricultural development and agricultural planning performance in fulfilling the UN Second Development Decade targets. This activity would also feed in the FAO State of Food and Agriculture and the annual ECWA survey on the economic and social situation in the region. (A/RES/2626(XXV) ).

Purpose: Monitoring of agricultural development in the region, with particular stress on performance in relation to plans.

| <u>Resources required:</u> | <u>RB</u> | <u>XB</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Professionals m/m          | 24        | -         | 24           |
| General Service m/m        | 12        |           | 12           |
| Travel                     | \$15,000  |           | \$15,000     |

### 1.3 Agricultural sector studies

Expected completion date: Continuing

Description: This activity would consist of the preparation of sector studies (national, regional) which would identify the most important development policies having an influence on agricultural development. These policies would be analyzed in depth and a critical assessment made of their impact on such objectives as rural welfare, agricultural employment, income distribution, conservation of natural resources, etc. An authoritative analysis would be extremely useful for clarifying concepts, identifying possible conflicts among policies and objectives and providing the

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basis for needed adjustments at national and regional levels. It would also lead to a better formulation of country and regional development programmes and policies and eventually to the identification and formulation of concrete projects.

The agricultural sector studies would also provide a broad long-term outlook and discuss various policy alternatives for agricultural development in the country concerned. In 1976, sector studies would be conducted for Yemen and Democratic Yemen and in 1977, for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar.

Purpose: To provide direct assistance to member Governments in agricultural development planning. These studies also constitute an essential pre-requisite for agricultural perspective planning by delineating the demands put on the agricultural sector by the rest of the economy.

Publication of reports: One in the third quarter of 1976, one in the first and third quarters of 1977 and one in the first quarter of 1978. (Arabic/English).

| <u>Resources required:</u> | <u>RB</u> | <u>XB</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Professionals m/m          | 24        |           | 24           |
| General Service            | 12        |           | 12           |
| Travel                     | \$4,000   |           | \$4,000      |

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#### 1.4 Agricultural Planning Course

Expected completion date: December 1979

Description: This activity would consist of the substantive and administrative preparation of a two-week agricultural planning course to be held in the fourth quarter of 1976 and 1977, specifically addressed to the less developed among the developing countries of the region. The first course would centre on the general and basic techniques of agricultural planning, whereas the second course would be concerned with project preparation and analysis. Preparation of lecture notes and country case studies would be required. After each course, an evaluation report would be prepared, with a view to improving the next course and tailoring it more to the needs and requirements of the countries concerned.

Purpose: To improve the planning capacities in the less developed among the developing countries of the region.

| <u>Resources required:</u> | <u>RB</u> | <u>XB</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Professional               | -         | 6 mm      | 6            |
| Travel                     | -         | \$5,000   | \$5,000      |
| General Service            | 6         | -         | 6            |

#### 1.5 Regional agricultural adjustment issues and plan harmonization

Expected completion date: December 1977

Description: This activity would involve an in-depth analysis of the medium and long-term agricultural development plans of various countries in the region. An intercountry analysis should pinpoint major areas where adjustment would be needed in the form of plan harmonization. It would also entail in-depth analysis of the future demand requirements for agricultural products and the production potentials (data to be provided by FAO) to identify the scope for regional adjustments and to assess their impact on agricultural

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trade. Findings, views and experiences would be discussed by an ECWA/FAO sponsored intergovernmental meeting on agricultural adjustment and plan harmonization to be held in late 1977.

Purpose: To identify possible areas for agricultural adjustment and promote agricultural plan harmonization.

| <u>Resources required:</u> | <u>RB</u> | <u>XB</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Professional               | 30 m/m    | -         | 30           |
| General service            | 24 m/m    | -         | 24           |
| Travel                     | \$2,000   | -         | \$2,000      |

1.6 Schemes for multinational co-operation and studies for regional integration

Expected completion date: Reserve stocks for foodgrains: December 1976.  
Studies of comparative advantages: " "

Description: a) Schemes for multinational co-operation would involve joint efforts at the sub-regional or regional level to achieve targets of common interest. A first pilot scheme would consist of a food grains reserve stock programme, which is to be a basic and major element in the elaboration of a national and regional food security policy. Various factors are in favour of such a programme, e.g., the sharp fluctuations in annual output, the large-scale imports by many countries in the region, the severe oscillation in world prices, etc. Under this activity certain aspects of the pilot scheme would be studied, namely, the centralization of purchases, the establishment of reserve stocks, the management and organizational problems in operating such stocks, the cost and location of the storage facilities and the investment requirements for establishing the storages. The study findings would be discussed at an ECWA/FAO sponsored inter-governmental meeting to be held in November/December 1976.

b) Regional integration is a long process requiring sustained  
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efforts and research. Product specialization and regional complementarities should be based on sound studies of comparative advantage. A study on selected commodities (livestock products, industrial crops, selected fruits and vegetables) is planned for certain parts of the region. The study will focus on the collection and analysis of cost of production data and selected analysis as a basis for assessing intercountry comparative advantage. A comprehensive pilot study for one or two commodities will be initiated with a view to determining the scope for, and limitations of, product specialization and regional complementarities. Co-operation with the CAEU is necessary.

c) Integrated fruit and vegetable production for urban consumption: rising urban population and incomes have caused sharp increases in urban demand for fruits and vegetables. Very often supplies are shipped from distant production areas, thereby leading to high cost and deterioration in quality. The development of supply sources in urban peripheries represents a potentially important investment area.

d) Fisheries development in the Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Gulf of Aden. The waters bordering the countries of the southern tier of the region are known to be wealthy fishery grounds. However, fishing is generally only little developed and takes place according to traditional methods. Investment in fisheries development should provide excellent returns, particularly that the market for fish in the region is still to be developed. Reports will be made available to interested parties in December 1976, July 1977 and December 1977.

Purpose: Promotion of direct investment in agricultural development.

| <u>Resources required:</u> | <u>RB</u> | <u>XB</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Professionals              | 18 m/m    | 36 m/m    | 54           |
| General Service            | 24 m/m    | 24 m/m    | 48           |
| Consultants                | 3 m/m     | 4 m/m     | 7            |
| Travel                     | \$3,500   | \$5,000   | \$6,500      |

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### 1.7 Implementation of land and water development projects

Expected completion date: December 1979; intermediate target: December 1977

Description: Land and water development projects assume high priority in the agricultural development plans of the Region. However, the rates of implementation are relatively low and little is known about the factors accounting for poor performance. A case study will be undertaken on one or more irrigation projects in the Region to examine in depth the factors hampering the implementation capacity. The application of network planning or systems analysis to the case studies will be demonstrated in a seminar in September 1977. A report on these studies will be ready in the second quarter of 1977.

Purpose: This activity should lead to faster co-operation in, and integration of, agriculture in the region.

| <u>Resources required:</u> | <u>RB</u> | <u>XB</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Professionals              | 30 m/m    | 18 m/m    | 48           |
| General Service            | 18 m/m    | 12 m/m    | 30           |
| Consultants                | 2 m/m     | 3 m/m     | 5            |
| Travel                     | \$3,000   | \$3,000   | \$6,000      |
| Computer time              | \$ 500    | -         | \$ 500       |

### 1.8 Promotion of national and multinational investment in agriculture

Expected completion date: December 1979, interim target: December 1977

Description: This activity is intended to explore key areas, given a high potential rating, for attracting national and, more particularly, multinational investment in agriculture. The exploration would be in the form of general situation analysis, demonstrating investment possibilities and presumably leading to pre-investment feasibility studies by prospective multinational investors. Three of the following key areas would be covered in the biennium: /...



a) Integrated dry-farming: the medium rainfall areas of the region are generally earmarked for crops production activities, e.g. winter cereals and tobacco. They are rarely combined with livestock production activities through a rotation comprising fodder crops. With the rising demand for (and short supply of) livestock products, this shift in strategy offers significant opportunities in agricultural investment.

b) Sheep fattening: Mutton production in the region is mainly based on sheep grazing in low rainfall areas. Present practices result in great losses due to overslaughtering in dry seasons. The significance of these losses is accentuated by the expected surge in mutton prices. Indeed, the preliminary estimates of the World Food Conference give a deficit of mutton of 1.5 million tons in 1985. Investment in sheep fattening operations should yield high returns.

Purpose: More efficient implementation of projects will lead to better conservation and rational development of land and water resources.

| <u>Resources required:</u> | <u>RB</u> | <u>XD</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Professional               | 12 m/m    | 18 m/m    | 30           |
| Consultants                | 3 m/m     | 3 m/m     | 6            |
| Travel                     | \$2,000   | \$2,000   | \$4,000      |
| General Service            | 18 m/m    | -         | 18           |

### 1.9 Rural exodus and rural development

Expected completion date: December 1979; intermediate target: December 1977

Description: a) Short-term missions to advise on the application of the integrated development strategy and the promotion of workshops to be organized by the national authorities with the assistance of ECWA in clarifying concepts and methodology and in encouraging

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co-ordination between the central level and the field level in the application of the approach.

b) Long-term programmes on rural development and the need to tackle aggressively the problems of rural poverty have been advocated by leading planners and policy-makers. A pilot study is intended for the 1976-1977 biennium which would have a survey component to be repeated every two years (in some countries assistance in surveying may suffice). This study would assess the magnitude of urban migration in selected countries and the nature and scope of selected "push" and "pull" factors accounting for it. It would also explore ways and means of integrating the rural sector with the urban sector. In this connexion, particular attention would be paid to agro-industrialization problems. Interim reports will be prepared at the end of 1976 and 1977.

Purpose: To accelerate the rate of rural development and reduce rural-urban inequalities.

| <u>Resources required:</u> | <u>RB</u> | <u>XB</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Professional               | 30 m/m    | 18 m/m    | 48           |
| General Service            | 18 m/m    | -         | 18           |
| Consultants                | -         | 6 m/m     | 6            |
| Travel                     | \$4,000   | \$2,000   | \$6,000      |
| Computer time              | \$ 750    | -         | \$ 750       |

1.10 Type of meeting(s): Ad hoc meeting.  
Year : 1976.  
Title : ECWA/FAO Intergovernmental meeting on regional co-operation in the constitution of reserve stocks for foodgrains.  
Place : Beirut.  
Duration : 5 working days.  
Type and number of participants: Senior government officials of the Ministries of Economy and Agriculture; experts from regional and international organizations; 30, of which 24 from member countries.

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