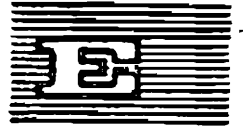


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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK  
OF THE ECA/FAO JOINT AGRICULTURE DIVISION  
SINCE THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

M69-2519

Introduction of the progress report on the work of the  
ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division since the ninth session of the Commission

Much of the activities of the Division which are reported in document E/CN.14/ECO/2 are a continuation of activities initiated during the last biennium, and work undertaken since last February has been, and will continue to be, for most of this year, extension of work on projects which were started during the latter part of 1968.

The work programme of the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division covers three categories of projects :-

- A. Regular programme projects and continuing tasks;
  - B. Ad-hoc projects;
  - C. Mini - or semi-operational projects
- A. The first category comprises the following regular projects :-
1. Project No. 39: Intra-regional co-operation and trade in the field of agriculture;
  2. Project No. 40: Marketing of agricultural products;
  3. Project No. 41: Collection, exchange and distribution of information
- and the following continuing tasks of :
- a. Provision of advisory services and undertaking advisory missions in member countries, on request, in the fields of :
    - (i) Organization and administration of agricultural services particularly research and extension services;
    - (ii) Land tenure, settlements, and measures of land reform.
  - b. Continuation of studies on manpower requirements of various agricultural services.
  - c. Preparation of studies, documents and papers not linked with special projects or sub-projects.
- B. The second category covers a number of ad-hoc undertakings some of which are still in hand and will be completed in the course of the **year**. Resources permitting, other such ad-hoc tasks as may arise or appear to be necessary will be undertaken.

- C. The third category of mini-projects includes a number of semi-operational projects of which some have been started and some are proposed and will be developed during the Second Development Decade.

Progress of work on projects under each of the above-mentioned categories:

Project No. 39. Intra-regional co-operation and trade in the field of agriculture.

This is the main and most important project in the work programme and is in fact, the first attempt of its kind towards a realistic approach to exploring the possibilities of intra-regional co-operation and trade in the field of agriculture and to improvement of the food and agricultural situation at the national level. The project is being undertaken in three phases for each of the four sub-regions of the continent, as outlined on pages 278 and 279 of volume II of document E/CN.14/453.

The first phase is presently in hand for all the four sub-regions, and the status of progress on this phase is as follows:

a. North African sub-region

1. A preliminary study of the agriculture sector was carried out in 1968 in connexion with an Industry Division's study of industrial possibilities in the sub-region.
2. FAO IWP studies covered only Sudan and the UAR, as part of the IWP Near East Studies, and used 1962/63 as a base year. The IWP Division recently started its study of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.
3. In collaboration with FAO, the Division is now working on updating the IWP studies for the Sudan and the UAR, and making demand and supply projections for important agricultural commodities and establishing trade matrices for the whole sub-region.
4. This work is being carried out by a staff member of the Division assisted by a consultant whose services were secured for two months initially commencing the end of July 1969, and who will resume work again in early January 1970 when, in collaboration with various FAO

divisions in Rome, analysis of intra-regional and general trade and of demand projections and supply targets will be made to explore areas and commodities of concern and for further follow-up to explore possibilities of intra-regional co-operation in trade and agriculture.

It is hoped that this first phase of the North African sub-regional study will be completed by the end of April 1970.

b. The Central African sub-region

Work on phase I of this sub-regional study proceeded according to the schedule outlined in document E/CN.14/ECO/2. Three out of four chapters meant to cover this phase have been completed with the assistance of a consultant whose service was obtained, on the advice of the Economic Analysis Division of FAO, for the period 4 June to 4 September 1969.

- A first chapter dealing with the "General characteristics of the region's economy and agriculture".
- A second chapter dealing with the sub-region's "Present trade in agricultural commodities", and "Forecast production, demand and exchange of selected commodities with respect to sub-regional co-operation", including analysis of demand projections and supply targets and of intra-regional trade in selected agricultural products in 1970 and 1980. Investigation and analysis of barriers to expansion of sub-regional trade in the field of agriculture will be made in phase II of the study.
- A fourth and concluding chapter covering overall analysis of intra-regional trade prospects, a critical review of available information, recommendations and on what further inquiries and more thorough investigations need to be carried out under phase II in the countries themselves for realistic diagnosis of the handicap to, and measures to be taken to promote, agricultural development and intra-regional trade in the sub-region. This chapter includes thorough treatment of a country of the sub-region, demonstrating the kind of problems and queries to be treated in phase II, and suggests the kind of

task-force to undertake the necessary field studies, and its work programme.

A third chapter is to be prepared by an appropriate Rural Institutions Officer of the Division in collaboration with FAO headquarters and regional staff on agricultural research and training in the sub-region. It will cover analysis of the current situation and organization of research, training and educational institutions, their orientation to the needs of the sub-region, priorities of research of regional character, co-operation in agricultural training and education, and co-ordinating machinery at national and regional levels.

When this chapter is completed, the indications of phase I of the studies will be checked up, in collaboration with FAO, with the countries of the sub-region for final definition of the scope and outline of the field studies to be undertaken in phase II. This will hopefully be achieved by the end of this year.

c. The East African sub-region

Attempts are being pursued to secure the services of two consultants through bilateral support to assist in finalization of phase I of this sub-regional study. Two candidates, apparently of appropriate qualifications and experience have been nominated and will hopefully be available late December this year. All going well, the study will be completed by the end of May 1970.

d. The West African sub-region

The suggestion in document E/CN.14/ECO/2 that finalization of phase I study for this sub-region would be entrusted to a consultant has since been abandoned, and its completion is presently being undertaken by two staff members, one from the Joint Division, and one from the FAO regional office, Accra. This work which was started at the end of the first week of September is being carried out in collaboration with various FAO divisions in Rome, and will hopefully be completed by the end of October,

with the exception of the inter-sectoral relationship of agriculture with other sectors which will be treated commencing early January when the two staff members concerned will have returned from leave.

Project No. 40 - Marketing of agricultural products.

Resolution 201 (IX) adopted at the ninth session of the Commission invited the Executive Secretary of ECA to extend activities in this field :

- (a) In respect of livestock improvement and the transport and marketing of meat to all meat-producing countries in Africa;
- (b) In respect of the stabilization of grain market prices and the accumulation and conservation of stocks to offset differences in production as between regions of Africa;
- (c) In respect of the conservation of and trade in fresh water fish in the Lake Chad basin, in Central Africa, in West Africa, in the Nile basin and other regions of Africa.

(a) Livestock and meat

Recent developments suggest that work in this field should assume the pattern of regional projects to be developed to operate in the first half of the Second Development Decade in various sub-regions. Such projects as may be developed will have to be based on the outcome of the many studies so far carried out in this field by various bilateral and multilateral agencies and group country organizations. The Division, therefore, advocates review of all studies and investigations made to date as a first step. It is hoped that the Second FAO Regional Conference on Livestock Production and Health to be held in Kinshasa in December this year will give support to this approach.

(b) Studies of price stabilization and commercialization of grain

It is believed that fluctuations of prices of grain, and the poor returns which subsistence producers get for the small surpluses they dispose of constitute a major constraint on productivity and production.

(c) Study of fish trade in West Africa and the inland fish trade in East and Central Africa

A number of surveys of fishing resources and of studies of processing and marketing of fish which are sponsored by FAO with Special Fund and Technical Assistance support are enumerated in paragraphs 33 to 38 of document E/CN.14/ECO/2. Apart from these efforts which are in progress at national levels in various sub-regions, the Division advocates the development of co-ordinated regional projects to develop the fishing capacities of member States and to promote intra-regional and export trade in fish.

Project No. 41 Collection, exchange and distribution of information

- (a) The Agricultural Bulletin: Compilation of issue No. 11 was completed in May 1969, and it is being processed for publication forthwith. It is hoped to publish issue No. 12 by the end of the year.
- (b) Duplication and distribution of reports on locust invasions and control campaigns continues.

Continuing tasks

- a) Providing advisory services and undertaking advisory missions to member countries on request in the fields of agriculture

(i) Research and extension

In the field of research, apart from the activities described in paras. 41-44 of document E/CN.14/ECO/2, the Division has been engaged in collecting information on the organization, staffing and activities of all research stations in the fourteen countries of the Central/Eastern African Group of Member States. This information will be circulated to all the members of the Group, as a first step towards assisting them in the implementation of the recommendation adopted at the meeting of their foreign ministers in Dar-es-Salaam in February 1969, and since endorsed at the meeting of their Heads of States in Lusaka, April 1969, regarding co-ordination of their research activities.

The Rural Institutions Division of FAO has also prepared a paper for the Inter-governmental Sectoral Technical Agricultural Meeting of the Group to be held in Nairobi before the end of the year.

In the field of extension, the analytical second part of the study covering eight East African countries has been completed and circulated to Member States concerned. This part of the study has also been submitted as a working document for the FAO Seminar on Extension, and was presented by the author who participated in the Seminar at FAO headquarters, Rome, September 1969.

(ii) Advisory services in the field of land tenure, settlements and land reform measures continue. In addition to the activities enumerated in paras. 51-56 of document E/CN.14/ECO/2, the staff member concerned has also visited Uganda for advice on a government-sponsored integrated settlement project.

b) Continuation of studies on manpower requirements on various agricultural services

Document M69-1143 "Policy and manpower issues in African agricultural research and the implications for Africa" prepared by the ECA/FAO Regional Adviser has been circulated to countries concerned and to scholars and research scientists for review and comments. All responses so far received have been favourable.

Servicing the Association for the Advancement of Agricultural Sciences in Africa continues.

c) Preparing and issuing studies documents and papers not linked with specific projects or sub-projects

(i) SOFA. The Division reviewed and made objective comments on the various draft parts of the State of Food and Agriculture prepared by FAO.

(ii) Medium-term food outlook review: the second review including the production outlook prepared by the Division on Ethiopia has been published.



- (iii) Annual Economic Survey - the agricultural part: Data and information for completing the Divisions's contribution to this annual publication is being compiled.

B. Ad-hoc undertakings

A senior staff member of the Division has spent a total of four months on two missions to Zambia during which he studied and reported to the Government on the comparative benefits of various agricultural enterprises under various climate/soil combinations.

The ECA/FAO Regional Adviser on research and development visited Upper Volta to advise on integrated rural development.

The Division participated in a preliminary study of feasibility of holding regional grain stocks, for OAU.

A study of main features of trade in food and food products in Africa was prepared by a staff member of the Division.

C. Mini or Semi-operational Projects

Rice in West Africa : A project jointly sponsored by ECA, UNDP and FAO has been approved by a conference of the West African countries, UNDP, ECA, FAO and a number of donor countries and private foundations (Monrovia 1-3 Sept. 1969) to develop rice production in the sub-region. A West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) has been established and a West African rice research centre will be developed.

The Division advocates the need for similar efforts in the fields of livestock, grain and pulses, fisheries and forestry development, and will collaborate with bilateral and multilateral agencies concerned in sponsoring such regional projects for the development of :

1. Livestock and meat
2. Grain and pulses
3. Fisheries
4. Forestry