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FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION AND PROSPECTS IN EAST AFRICA

AN OUTLINE

Preface

For the meeting of the Working Party on Agriculture, probably at Abidjan, immediately preceding the Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 1966, there is to be a major working paper on Food Supply. The paper will be in four parts, by sub-regions. Attached is a tentative outline of the portion of the paper which is to deal with the East Africa sub-region.

For the West Africa sub-region the FAO has prepared a pilot study of its projected series of sub-regional studies which will ultimately make up its World Indicative Plan for Agriculture. This Plan was called for by the World Food Congress held in Washington, June 1963, to provide a global framework within which separate country and sub-regional planning may be made operationally more nearly consistent with each other in terms of multilateral and bilateral assistance and international programmes such as commodity agreements and the World Food Programme.

The sub-regional studies comprising the World Indicative Plan are to constitute realistic projections of the course of agricultural exports, imports, production and consumption, taking into account the separate national plans. The next sub-region to be studied is East Africa. The parts of this sub-regional study, as well as of the already completed pilot study for West Africa which deal with food supply, will provide the quantitative basis for the ECA Working Party papers on the food supply problems for the African sub-regions.

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As the outline indicates, there are also to be recommendations for action by governments and international bodies as analysis of the quantitative results may demonstrate.

Before the presentation of these papers to the Working Party Meeting we are presenting draft versions or outlines at the sub-regional level.

The outline is presented to the Sub-regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in East Africa with a view to inviting comments and suggestions for modification.

FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION AND PROSPECTS - IN EAST AFRICA

AN OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Presentation of the situation with respect to food supplies and nutrition; foreign trade in foodstuffs.
- B. Scope for sub-regional co-operation.

II. PRESENT SITUATION:

- A. Production of foodstuffs.
 1. Staples.
 2. Animal protein.
 3. Fats, etc.
 4. Fruits and vegetables.
- B. Imports and exports.
- C. Consumption and nutrition.
- D. Intra-sub-regional trade pattern.
- E. Projections for 1975.
 1. Population.
 2. Rural-urban composition.
 3. Food demands, 1975.
 4. Import substitution.

III. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO LOW PRODUCTIVITY:

- A. Foodcrop production.
 1. Traditional cultivation practices.
 2. Uneconomic size of units.
 3. Deficiencies: research, education, extension.
 4. Losses from pests and diseases.
 5. Wastes in storage and processing.
 6. Inadequate economic incentives.
 7. Inadequate marketing and transport facilities.

B. Animal protein supplies.

1. Livestock.

- a) Productivity of breeds.
- b) Overgrazing.
- c) Shortages of water, forage, fodder.
- d) Social features.
 - (1) Nomadism.
 - (2) "Cattle complex".

2. Fish

- a) Production techniques and organization.
- b) Storage, marketing and processing.

3. Vitamins and minerals levels.

- a) Inadequate appreciation.
- b) Losses in processing.

IV. POSSIBILITIES OF CORRECTIVE MEASURES:

A. General.

- 1. Greater emphasis on food crops; shift of some resources from export crops to food production.
- 2. Import substitution and import controls, especially with respect to luxury foods.
- 3. Need for national food supply policies and plans.
 - a) Co-ordination with expected increases in populations, incomes, dietary standards, urban concentration.
 - b) Sub-regional co-ordination of national plans.

B. Food crops.

1. Land problems.

- a) Consolidation where indicated; need for intensive studies.
- b) Tenure questions.
 - (1) Security of tenure.
 - (2) Instrumental character of land policy changes - changes made only where:

(a) In conformity with operational land use and national development schemes.

(b) Clear increase in productivity seems assured.

2. Economic incentives.

a) Price stabilization policies.

b) Transport and marketing improvement.

3. Research advances.

a) Crop breeding and introduction; possibility of hastening

process of selection and introduction by means of international crop analogue procedures.

b) Pest control; possibility of use of atomic radiation for

crop disinfection.

c) Crop rotations and alternatives to shifting cultivation and bush burning.

d) Crop responses to fertilizers and other modern inputs.

4. Education, extension and training.

a) Training of field staff.

b) Adult education and functional literacy campaigns, joined to training programmes and specific development projects.

c) Reorientation and elementary education towards modern farming.

d) Improvement of relation of higher education to the agricultural sector.

C. Animal husbandry.

1. Breed improvement.

2. Destocking.

3. Redistribution from more congested areas.

4. Combating the "cattle complex".

a) Assuring of stable income.

b) Promotion of "status" consumption goods.

5. Promotion of ranching, fencing, forage and fodder crops, water supplies.

6. Meat and dairy products.

a) Extension of sanitary slaughtering facilities.

b) Processing and storage - possibilities of atomic irradiation of meat in developing countries.

D. Fisheries.

1. Sub-regional project on determination of sub-regional potentials and indicated lines of exploitation.

2. Preservation, including irradiation, as in meat and crop protection above.

E. Distribution.

1. Improvement of physical marketing facilities, including roads.

2. Marketing installations and incentives:

a) Policies with respect to producer prices and incomes.

b) Credit and marketing co-operatives

F. Nutrition improvement.

1. General, national campaigns.

2. Special campaigns through school lunch and other special feeding programmes.

V. POSSIBLE LINES OF SUB-REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

A. Intra-sub-regional specialization and trade possibilities.

B. Sub-regional co-ordination of agricultural policies, especially with respect to research and to training.