

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



49021

Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.14/238  
13 December 1963

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
Sixth session  
Addis Ababa, 19 February - 3 March 1964  
Provisional agenda item 5

THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION IN AFRICA  
Prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN AFRICA: A FIVE-YEAR REVIEW.\*  
(Prepared by FAO for the Sixth Session of ECA)

During the five years since the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa the main features of the food and agricultural situation of the continent have been persistently unfavourable. The increase in agricultural production has fallen behind the growth of population, and earnings from agricultural exports, on which almost all African countries depend heavily for essential foreign exchange, have declined.

The recovery in Africa's agricultural production in 1962/63 from the low level of the previous year was sufficient only to take it back to about the same as in 1960/61, and on a per caput basis production was lower in 1962/63 than five years before. Even though imports of food have continued to increase rapidly there may therefore have been a slight deterioration in food supplies per caput. At the same time there are few signs of improvements in the quality of the diet.

The decline in average prices for the continent's agricultural exports continued in 1962, and the increase in the volume of exports was accompanied by a fall in earnings. Over the five-year period, the volume of shipments has risen by almost 20 percent, but there has been a fall of about 3 percent in earnings at current prices and of about 6 percent in "real" earnings if allowance is made for the rise in prices of manufactured goods in world trade. While there has been some recovery in prices of some agricultural products in late 1962 and early 1963, this appears to have been caused largely by factors of a short-term nature, and there is no evidence of a change in the basic factors which for many years now have tended to depress agricultural prices in world markets.

---

\* For fuller details of the food and agricultural situation, reference should be made to FAO's annual report, The State of Food and Agriculture, though it should be noted that data concerning Africa in that publication exclude Libya, Sudan and the United Arab Republic, which are considered under the Near East.

## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

According to FAO's preliminary estimates the agricultural production of Africa rose by about 4 percent in 1962/63, following a drop of approximately the same percentage in 1961/62 (Table 1). In the five years from 1958/59 to 1962/63 production is estimated to have increased by only about 7 percent, compared with population growth of some 10 percent.

TABLE 1

Indices of the Volume of Agricultural Production in Africa

				Average	Average	Average	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962/63
				1948/49-	1953/54-	1958/59-	to	to	to	to	(Preliminary)
				1952/53	1957/58	1962/63	1952	1960	1961	1962	
..... Indices, average 1952/53-1956/57 = 100 .....											
TOTAL PRODUCTION							:				
All agricultural products				88	102	115	:	110	113	118	113 118
Food products				89	102	112	:	108	111	115	111 114
Non-food products <sup>a/</sup>				87	102	132	:	125	131	137	127 141
PER CAPUT PRODUCTION							:				
All agricultural products				97	100	101	:	101	102	104	97 98
Food products				97	100	98	:	99	99	101	95 95
Non-food products <sup>a/</sup>				95	100	116	:	115	117	120	109 118

If food products alone are considered, production appears to have lagged even further behind the growth of population. Food production is estimated to have increased by less than 6 percent over the five-year period, and on a per caput basis to have declined by about 4 percent. Food production per caput may in fact have gone below the prewar level, though the statistics of food products for domestic consumption are even less reliable for the prewar period than for more recent years.

<sup>a/</sup> Coffee, tea, tobacco, inedible oilseeds, animal & vegetable fibres and rubber.

Non-food products, such as coffee, tea, tobacco, cotton, sisal, wool and rubber, probably account for only about 15 percent of the total value of the continent's agricultural output. In strong contrast to food products, they are estimated to have increased by as much as 13 percent between 1958/59 and 1962/63. They are produced very largely for export, while food production is principally (though by no means entirely) for domestic consumption, and their faster increase is therefore likely to reflect a tendency for production for export to expand more rapidly than for domestic consumption. There is no doubt that, in the past at least, many governments have tended to concentrate resources, particularly research and marketing facilities, on production for export. However, the faster growth of production for export is not in line with the trend of demand, which in general is expanding more rapidly domestically than on export markets.

Another important aspect of the structure of agricultural production is the extent to which it is becoming monetized. Statistics of subsistence production, which remains predominant in most of Africa, are extremely limited, and even in the few countries where the national accounts provide data on the value of subsistence and marketed production for a number of years, the situation is obscured by the year-to-year fluctuations in output and by changes in relative prices. About all that can be concluded from the data shown in Table 2 is that, in most of the few countries for which estimates are available, there appears to have been, as might indeed be expected, a gradual decline in the proportion of agricultural production that is not marketed but is retained for the subsistence of the producer and his family.

TABLE 2  
Production for Subsistence as Proportion of Total Value of Crop and Livestock Production.

	Average 1954-57	Average 1958-61	:	1958	1959	1960	1961
	percentage						
Kenya <sup>a/</sup>	61	57	:	60	59	54	54
Northern Rhodesia <sup>b/</sup>	72	72	;	77	71	70	..
Nyasaland <sup>b/</sup>	66	64	:	64	66	62	..
Southern Rhodesia <sup>b/</sup>	29	24	;	29	24	19	..
Tanganyika <sup>a/</sup>	52	58	;	60	57	56	59
Uganda <sup>a/</sup>	40	43	;	42	42	43	46

<sup>a/</sup> Production at factor cost. <sup>b/</sup> Gross value of production

<sup>c/</sup> Average 1958-60 <sup>d/</sup> Average 1955-57.

a) Main Commodities

As is indicated in the Annex Table, the increase in the continent's agricultural production in 1962/63 affected almost all of the main commodities for which data are so far available. The principal exceptions were oil palm products and cocoa.

There was a particularly large increase in 1962/63 in grain production, which mainly because of drought in north-west Africa had dropped steeply the year before. Wheat and barley production in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia recovered sharply in 1962/63. In South Africa, although the wheat harvest was reduced by drought, maize production once again set a new record. Even so, the continent's total grain production in 1962/63 is estimated as only about 10 percent greater than five years before. Although barley production increased by more than 80 percent in 1962/63, it was still about 15 percent less than in 1958/59, and production of both wheat and barley averaged a good deal less in 1958/59 - 1962/63 than in the preceding five-year period. Rice production recovered somewhat in 1962/63, but appears to have been less than in 1959/60 and 1960/61.

Data on the production of millets and sorghums are particularly scanty and unreliable, though their combined tonnage is probably greater than any of the other grains in Africa and they are the staple foods of the drier parts of the continent. Similarly, the starchy roots, such as cassava, sweet potatoes, yams and cocoyams, are the staple foods of much of the forest zone, but the available information is quite inadequate to assess the trends in their production.

Africa's sugar production has expanded steadily over the past few years, except in 1960/61, when cyclone damage reduced the crop in Mauritius by considerably more than half. While much of the expansion has been in South Africa, sugar production is also rising rapidly in a number of smaller producing countries.

The production of oil palm products is estimated to have declined in each year since 1958/59. Difficulties in the Congo (Leopoldville) are only part of the explanation. As a result mainly of discouraging

prices for palm kernels, production has also fallen fairly steadily in Nigeria, with a particularly abrupt drop in 1962/63. The production of groundnuts has tended to fluctuate from year to year. In 1962/63 there was a further rise in Nigeria, but because of inadequate rainfall Senegal's harvest is estimated to have fallen by almost 15 percent from the record level of 1961/62. While olive oil production fluctuates sharply according to a two-year cycle, the trough was unusually low in 1961/62 in Tunisia, Africa's biggest producer, and there was only a slight recovery in 1962/63.

Cocoa production has now fallen for two years in succession. In 1962/63 this was mainly because heavy rainfall caused a high incidence of black pod disease in both Ghana and Nigeria. In the earlier postwar years cocoa production in these two countries, which are the world's largest producers, increased very little, but great improvements in pest control led to a period of very rapid expansion in the late 1950s. Even with the recent declines, the continent's production was more than 40 percent larger in 1962/63 than in 1958/59.

The remarkable postwar expansion of Africa's coffee production was interrupted in 1961/62, but in 1962/63 there was a further rise of over 10 percent, taking production to more than 40 percent above the level of five years before. Among the continent's three leading coffee producers, Ivory Coast, Angola and Uganda, the largest increases in the earlier part of the postwar period were in Ivory Coast. More recently, however, production in Angola rose by more than 70 percent in the single year 1960/61, and in Uganda it almost doubled in 1962/63.

Africa's production of cotton recovered by almost a quarter in 1962/63, but was only about 8 percent more than in 1958/59. In the United Arab Republic production has tended to increase slowly in recent years, but in 1961/62 the ravages of the cotton leaf worm brought a drop of some 30 percent in this crop, which normally accounts for about two thirds of the country's export earnings. Production recovered in 1962/63 to approximately the same level as in 1959/60. In Sudan, where the crop is similarly dominant, production rose by more than three

quarters in 1961/62, but fell back somewhat in 1962/63. Uganda's crop, which was halved by drought in 1961/62, recovered to normal levels in 1962/63 in spite of damage from heavy rainfall.

Sisal production has risen more slowly in the past five years than in the earlier postwar period. For rubber also, the earlier rapid rate of increase appears to have slowed down, especially in Liberia.

Statistics of the output of livestock products are particularly lacking. Such data as are available on meat and milk production generally refer only to inspected or commercial production, and thus do not enable an estimate of the extent to which these important products are increasing. Livestock are very numerous in many parts of Africa, but their productivity in terms of meat and milk is usually very low. The production of wool has been relatively stable in recent years in South Africa, which is the world's fifth largest producer. Hides and skins are important products in many countries, but here too the statistics are too incomplete to indicate the trend of production.

#### b) Sub-regional Production

For an area as vast and diverse as Africa information on a sub-regional basis would enable a more realistic assessment of the food and agricultural situation than global estimates for the continent as a whole. Although it is still not possible to provide a full sub-regional breakdown, FAO country production indices are available for enough countries north of the Sahara to enable a rough division between that part of the continent and that to the south (Table 3).

From these data it is clear that production tends to fluctuate very widely from year to year in the three north-west African countries, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, where rainfall is very irregular. In the rest of the region production trends seem to have been much steadier, though this may partly reflect the large element of guess-work in the production statistics of many crops in the countries south of the Sahara.

Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia probably account for no more than about 12 percent of the continent's total agricultural production, but they influence it very markedly because of the wide fluctuations in their

production. In 1959/60 production in north-west Africa dropped by about 5 percent; it recovered again in the next year but in 1961/62 again fell steeply,

TABLE 3

Indices of the Volume of Agricultural Production in  
Selected Countries of Africa

	Average 1948/49- 1952/53	Average 1953/54- 1957/58	Average 1958/59- 1962/63	1958/59	1959/60	1960/61	1961/62	1962/63 (Preliminary)
.....Indices, average 1952/53-1956/57 = 100 .....								
NORTH-WEST AFRICA								
Algeria	...	101	95 <sup>b/</sup>	93	100	103	83	...
Morocco	...	98 <sup>a/</sup>	101 <sup>b/</sup>	115	101	104	83	...
Tunisia	...	101	114 <sup>b/</sup>	134	112	127	85	...
SUB-TOTAL	...	100	100 <sup>b/</sup>	107	102	107	83	...
NORTH-EAST AFRICA								
United Arab Republic	...	104	118 <sup>b/</sup>	117	121	127	109	...
SUB-TOTAL <sup>c/</sup>	91	104	123	119	125	127	121	124
SOUTH OF SAHARA								
Ethiopia <sup>d/</sup>	...	100	103 <sup>b/</sup>	99	104	104	106	...
South Africa	...	103	117 <sup>b/</sup>	110	113	121	125	...
SUB-TOTAL <sup>c/</sup>	...	102	114 <sup>b/</sup>	109	112	118	117	...
CONTINENTAL TOTAL <sup>c/</sup>	88	102	114	110	113	118	113	118

<sup>a/</sup> Former French zone only.

<sup>c/</sup> Including estimates for countries for which separate production indices are not available.

<sup>b/</sup> Average of 4 years.

<sup>d/</sup> Excluding Eritrea.

**NOTE:** Country indices are calculated by FAO on a uniform basis. They may differ from indices produced by the countries themselves because of differences in concepts of production, coverage, weights, and methods of calculation. They are not yet available for 1962/63.



this time by almost a quarter (as much as a third in Tunisia). The decline in 1961/62 coincided not only with a fall of nearly 15 percent in the United Arab Republic, where the cotton crop was severely affected by leaf worm and Nile water supplies were low, but also with an estimated slight reduction in agricultural production South of the Sahara. In 1962/63 there was a substantial recovery in all three countries of north-west Africa, but full data are not yet available to indicate its magnitude.

c) Production Prospects for 1963/64

At the time of writing (November 1963) there is only limited information available on the level of agricultural production in the current 1963/64 season, but such indications as there are point to a further increase in the continent's production. In north-west Africa, where as noted above the highly variable output has a strong influence on that of Africa as a whole, grain harvests are reported as excellent in Morocco (in spite of flood damage) and Tunisia, though there has been some setback to production in Algeria. Tunisian olive oil production, in what is normally the off-year in the two-year production cycle, is expected to be about twice as large as in 1962/63.

South of the Sahara the first indications are, as usual, very varied. Record crops of both maize and sugar are expected in South Africa, and sugar production should recover in Réunion. In spite of favourable weather the Nigerian groundnut crop is likely to be below the record level of 1962/63, and in Senegal no recovery is expected. Palm kernels offered for sale in Nigeria are reported to be running about 10 percent higher than in 1962/63. While an appreciable increase in cocoa production is expected in Nigeria, heavy rains in August and September may have damaged the Ghanaian crop. For coffee a further slight increase is likely in Uganda over the very high level of 1962/63, but some decline is expected in Ivory Coast. Cotton prospects are good in the United Arab Republic and Sudan, and the output of sisal in Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda was running about 5 percent more in the first eight months of 1963 than a year earlier.

# AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

The steady increase in the volume of Africa's agricultural exports continued in 1962 with a rise estimated at about 3 percent (Table 4). There was a further decline of about 5 percent in average prices for agricultural exports, and agricultural export earnings therefore fell by about 2 percent, at current prices. In terms of "real" purchasing power the fall in earnings was about the same, as there was only a slight further increase in the prices of manufactured goods in world trade.

In the five-year period from 1958 to 1962, average prices for Africa's agricultural exports have fallen by about 18 percent. The increase of almost 20 percent in the volume of exports over this period has therefore brought about 3 percent less in earnings at current prices. In contrast to agricultural products, the prices of manufactured products in world trade have increased during most of the period, and the "terms of trade" of agricultural exports have consequently worsened.

TABLE 4  
Indices of the Agricultural Exports of Africa

	Average 1948-52	Average 1953-57	Average 1958-62	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962 (Preliminary)
..... Indices, average 1952-56 = 100 .....								
Volume of exports	84	106	128	116	124	128	134	138
Average price (unit value)	104	97	85	96	87	87	82	78
"Terms of trade" <sup>a/</sup>	106	97	81	92	84	82	76	72
Total earnings (at current prices)	87	103	109	111	108	111	110	108
Total "real" earnings <sup>a/88</sup>	103	104	106	105	106	103	100	

<sup>a/</sup> Prices and earnings deflated by United Nations index of average unit value of manufactured goods in world trade.

Thus in terms of "real" purchasing power agricultural export earnings have declined by about 6 percent over the five-year period.

a) Main Commodities

In 1962 export prices declined for each of the three main groups of agricultural commodities (Table 5). For food and feedingstuffs and for beverages and tobacco the increase in the volume of shipments was sufficient to prevent a fall in earnings, but for raw materials of agricultural origin the volume of shipments dropped by about 10 percent and total earnings by about the same amount. This largely reflected the poor 1961/62 cotton harvest in the United Arab Republic. Both the prices and the volume of agricultural raw materials have tended to fluctuate fairly sharply during the five-year period under consideration.

For the food and feedingstuffs group prices have on the whole been more stable, and fluctuations in earnings have come chiefly from some sharp changes in the volume of exports. In 1962 prices for this group fell by 5 percent (the biggest change in the five-year period), but the volume of exports rose sufficiently to bring an increase of 4 percent in earnings, taking them back to the same level as in 1958. The fluctuations in the volume of exports have chiefly concerned grains. They arise not only from the highly fluctuating wheat and barley harvests of north-west Africa but also from variations in the maize surplus of the central and southern parts of the continent. With the rapid expansion of South Africa's production, maize has become, for almost a decade now, by far the biggest grain export from Africa, exports reaching the record level of 2.7 million tons in 1962. These changes in the volume of Africa's exports of course have very little influence on grain prices in world markets. Thus, for example, a recovery of about a third (back finally to the level of 1958) in Africa's grain shipments in 1962 brought an increase in earnings of about the same order.

Of the other main components of the food and feedingstuffs group, earnings from vegetable oils and oilseeds were slightly greater in 1962 than 1958. The principal change for these commodities over the five-year period was a 14-percent decline in the volume of exports in 1960 (affecting chiefly groundnuts, copra and olive oil), which was accompanied by a price rise of about 5 percent. Prices of palm kernels and copra rose sharply in 1959, but have subsequently declined.

TABLE 5  
Indices of the Agricultural Exports of Africa, by Main  
Commodity Groups

	Average 1948-52	Average 1953-57	Average 1958-62	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962 (Prelim- inary)
.....Indices, average 1952-56 = 100 .....								
VOLUME OF GROSS EXPORTS								
All agricultural products	84	106	128	116	124	128	134	138
Food and feedingstuffs	81	107	126	130	116	116	128	139
Grains	89	110	120	150	78	108	113	151
Vegetable oils and oilseeds (edible)	80	106	124	126	127	109	124	132
Beverages and tobacco	81	108	140	113	128	143	153	162
Agricultural raw materials	91	102	115	105	128	122	117	106
AVERAGE PRICE (UNIT VALUE)								
All agricultural products	104	97	85	96	87	87	82	78
Food and feedingstuffs	100	98	90	92	93	93	90	86
Grains	102	94	76	78	83	79	70	72
Vegetable oils and oilseeds (edible)	104	98	91	90	91	95	90	87
Beverages and tobacco	90	97	84	108	89	80	74	70
Agricultural raw materials	119	97	85	86	79	90	85	84
TOTAL EARNINGS <sup>a/</sup>								
All agricultural products	87	103	109	111	108	111	110	108
Food and feedingstuffs	81	105	114	119	108	108	115	119
Grains	91	103	91	117	65	85	79	108
Vegetable oils and oilseeds (edible)	83	104	112	113	116	104	112	115
Beverages and tobacco	73	105	115	122	114	115	113	113
Agricultural raw materials	108	98	98	89	101	110	100	89

a/ At current prices.

For beverages and tobacco earnings were about the same in 1962 as the year before, an increase of 5 percent in the volume of exports being approximately offset by lower prices. Africa is a major supplier on world markets for this group of commodities, and the 45-percent increase in the volume of its exports over the five-year period from 1958 had been accompanied by a 35-percent decline in prices and 7 percent less in earnings. Except for a sharp fall in cocoa exports in 1958, the volume of Africa's exports of cocoa and coffee has risen very rapidly throughout the five-year period, while prices have declined continuously.

b) Price Trends in 1962 and 1963

While the index of average export unit values fell by as much as 5 percent in 1962 in comparison with the year before, the annual average would have been even lower in 1962 but for an upturn in the prices of some commodities which occurred during the year. The steepest rise was in the "free market" price of sugar, though this will have had little effect on African sugar exports, since most of them are traded under long-term arrangements, such as the British Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, under which prices are fairly stable. Of more significance to African countries was a steep increase in sisal prices. Less spectacular but still substantial increases took place in the prices of rice, some coarse grains, robusta coffee, and wool.

In general it seems from price quotations that most of the increases that began towards the end of 1962 continued during the first half of 1963, but that by the third quarter many prices had already begun to turn downward again. Wheat and barley prices have tended to decline since the second quarter of 1963, though maize prices continued to rise in the third quarter of the year, with good import demand and somewhat reduced stocks in the United States. Rice prices also have tended to rise. The free market price of sugar fell sharply in the middle of 1963. Olive oil prices turned down on reports of the good 1963/64 production prospects in the Mediterranean, but prices of most fats and oils have continued to increase.

Coffee prices have been fairly stable during 1963. Cocoa prices, however, which climbed steeply in April and May, fell back again on reports of a record middle crop in west Africa. Sisal prices have remained stable at the high level reached early in the year. Cotton and wool prices also have been relatively steady, but rubber prices have continued to fall and in August reached their lowest level for nine years.

c) Long-term Influences

It appears that the improvement in agricultural prices in 1962 and early 1963 was concentrated on a few individual products, and that the factors responsible for the upturn were in almost all cases on the supply side and likely to be of short-term nature. As indicated above, for several commodities the increase in prices has proved short lived and they have already resumed their downward trend.

There is thus no indication of any change in the basic long-term factors tending to depress the prices of most agricultural products in world trade. The rapid expansion of exportable supplies of many commodities continues to run ahead of the growth of import demand. For many foodstuffs, demand in the industrialized countries has risen only very slowly, because incomes and food consumption in these countries have reached levels where further rises in income lead to only small increases in expenditures on all but a few products. Import demand in these countries, which are by far the largest markets for agricultural exports, has been further limited by increased domestic production of those commodities they are able to produce themselves, often under the stimulus of high support prices. The demand for many agricultural raw materials has been reduced by technical innovations in industry, including the partial replacement of natural products by such substitutes as synthetic rubber and manmade fibres.

Thus there is as yet no reason to slacken efforts to compensate for the harmful effects of low and fluctuating world prices on the economies of agricultural exporting countries. During the past five years these efforts have principally been concentrated within a commodity by commodity framework. A notable development in this field was the conclusion in

August 1962 of a five-year International Coffee Agreement, in place of the series of annual agreements under which the major exporters had previously sought to regulate the coffee market by means of export quotas. The agreement brings together exporting and importing countries, responsible for about 95 percent of the world coffee trade, and will also operate through export quotas. However, for cocoa, another commodity of great importance for a number of African countries, the Geneva Cocoa Conference in September-October 1963 failed to negotiate an international agreement.

#### AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS AND THE NET TRADE POSITION

Africa's total imports of agricultural products rose by a further 5 percent in 1962, to reach a level about 37 percent more than in 1958 (Table 6). Grain imports, which now account for more than a third of the total, increased by about 2 percent in 1962 to 4.8 million tons, and their average level in 1958-62 was more than twice as high as in the previous five-year period.

TABLE 6

#### Indices of the Agricultural Imports and Net Agricultural Trade of Africa

	Average 1948-52	Average 1953-57	Average 1958-62	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962 (Preliminary)
.....Indices, average 1952-56 = 100 .....								
VOLUME OF GROSS IMPORTS								
All agricultural products	84	105	145	120	138	147	157	165
Food products	85	105	160	125	154	163	173	184
Grains	100	106	215	142	217	216	239	259
VOLUME OF NET EXPORTS								
All agricultural products	84	106	123	115	120	122	127	129
Food products	77	108	90	135	77	66	80	92

The continent's wheat and flour imports changed little in 1962 from the very high level of 1961, and the main increase was in maize, imports of which more than doubled. The United Arab Republic's maize imports more than quadrupled in 1962, and its imports of wheat and flour also rose by 25 percent; the bulk of these increases appears to have been for the building up of reserves. Imports into Africa of most other agricultural products have been far more stable.

Africa's gross imports of agricultural products in 1962 represented about a third of the total value of its gross exports. Up to 1958 gross and net exports were increasing at about the same rate, but since then the growth of net exports has lagged behind, mainly as a result of the rapid expansion of grain imports. If food products alone are considered, the net export was approximately halved between 1958 and 1960, and fell considerably below the 1948-52 average, though there has since been some recovery. If grains alone are considered, the continent has been a small net importer in many postwar years and continuously since 1959.

A large part of the recent expansion in imports, especially of grains, has been supplied at concessional terms under United States Public Law 480, and has thus involved no drain on the continent's scarce supplies of foreign exchange, which are so urgently needed for the import of capital goods for the execution of development plans.

#### FOOD SUPPLIES AND POPULATION

As has already been indicated, food production per caput in Africa as a whole is estimated to have fallen by about 4 percent between 1958 and 1962. The statistics of food production in Africa are most unreliable, but they probably give a better indication of such broad trends than of the absolute magnitudes involved.

The trend of food production per caput, however, is not the whole story in assessing what has happened to the actual supply and consumption of food, since these are also influenced by changes in imports and exports. The data presented earlier indicate that Africa's net exports of food declined by some 30 percent between 1958 and 1962, which on a per



caput basis would amount to a fall of about 40 percent. Assuming that the net exports represented very roughly 5-10 percent of food production<sup>1/</sup>, it appears therefore that the decline in per caput production has probably, led to some reduction in per caput supplies, in spite of the fall in net exports.

Apart from such very broad indications, it is extremely difficult to assess trends in Africa's food situation. Food balance sheets are available for very few countries, and these are mainly those where there is a sizeable European minority with food consumption levels and pattern very different from that of the mass of the population. While dietary surveys are increasingly becoming available, these are still for single years only and give no evidence of the trend.

The general situation remains, however, that while in most areas calorie intakes appear fairly satisfactory in relation to calculated requirements, the quality of the diet, in terms of essential nutrients such as protein and vitamins, is almost everywhere below what is considered necessary for full health. Even calorie intakes may seasonally drop below requirements. Nearly every year there are reports of local shortages, such as occurred in 1962/63, for example, in parts of Nyasaland and in the central region of Tanganyika.

---

<sup>1/</sup> Based on FAO's price-weighted indices of production and trade.

## ANNEX TABLE

Production of Major Crops, African Continent  
and Principal Producing Countries

	Average 1948/49- 1952/53	Average 1953/54- 1957/58	Average 1958/59- 1962/63	1958/59	1959/60	1960/61	1961/62	1962, '63 (Preliminary)
..... thousand metric tons .....								
<u>Wheat</u>	<u>4,290</u>	<u>5,560</u>	<u>5,220</u>	<u>5,330</u>	<u>5,160</u>	<u>5,590</u>	<u>4,180</u>	<u>5,820</u>
United Arab Republic	1,113	1,548	1,479	1,412	1,443	1,499	1,436	1,605*
Algeria	996	1,339	1,106 <sup>a/</sup>	1,129	1,105	1,509	682	...
Morocco	786	1,083	1,011	1,281	953	974	601	1,247
South Africa	555	683	742	616	740	771	884	698
Tunisia	452	515	424	539	524	439	213	405
<u>Barley</u>	<u>3,400</u>	<u>3,480</u>	<u>2,780</u>	<u>3,430</u>	<u>2,790</u>	<u>3,210</u>	<u>1,580</u>	<u>2,890</u>
Morocco	1,481	1,677	1,139	1,590	1,114	1,362	476	1,155
Algeria	808	738	626 <sup>a/</sup>	780	643	847	232	...
Tunisia	218	154	162	282	236	136	50	106
<u>Maize</u>	<u>8,560</u>	<u>10,540</u>	<u>12,370</u>	<u>11,150</u>	<u>10,930</u>	<u>12,730</u>	<u>13,045</u>	<u>14,000</u>
South Africa	2,471	3,519	4,750	3,660	3,801	4,834	5,596	5,857
United Arab Republic	1,378	1,656	1,742	1,758	1,500	1,691	1,617	2,144
<u>Rice (paddy)</u>	<u>3,360</u>	<u>3,980</u>	<u>4,270<sup>a/</sup></u>	<u>3,990</u>	<u>4,390</u>	<u>4,590</u>	<u>4,090</u>	...
United Arab Republic	971	1,272	1,299	1,082	1,535	1,486	1,142	1,250*
Madagascar	829	1,023	1,172	1,100	1,078	1,212	1,221	1,250
Sierra Leone	274 <sup>a/</sup>	249	274	264	264	264	264	315
Congo (Leopoldville)	152	184	129	173	165	164	71	74*
<u>TOTAL GRAINS<sup>b/</sup></u>	<u>31,040</u>	<u>35,740</u>	<u>38,460</u>	<u>36,930</u>	<u>37,440</u>	<u>40,140</u>	<u>37,290</u>	<u>40,110</u>
<u>Sugar (raw value)</u>	<u>1,560</u>	<u>2,140</u>	<u>2,692</u>	<u>2,560</u>	<u>2,680</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,850</u>	<u>2,980</u>
South Africa	555	742	990	1,023	946	902	997	1,083
Mauritius	443	536	486	526	580	236	553	533*
Réunion	116	185	207	165	200	218	162	188*
United Arab Republic	196	303	341	329*	337*	364*	324*	350*
Mozambique	86	121	167	153	174	157	165	184
<u>Wine</u>	<u>1,720</u>	<u>2,300</u>	<u>2,280<sup>a/</sup></u>	<u>2,040</u>	<u>2,620</u>	<u>2,260</u>	<u>2,210</u>	...
Algeria	1,350	1,717	1,598 <sup>a/</sup>	1,383	1,860	1,585	1,563	...
South Africa	228	287	311	286*	318	287	324	340
Morocco	64	181	237 <sup>c/</sup>	210	270	231	...	...
Tunisia	74	115	156 <sup>a/</sup>	156	165	156	145	...

ANNEX TABLE (continued)

	Average 1948/49- 1952/53	Average 1953/54- 1957/58	Average 1958/59- 1962/63	1958/59	1959/60	1960/61	1961/62	1962/63 (Preliminary)
..... thousand metric tons .....								
<u>Oranges</u>	<u>990</u>	<u>1,440</u>	<u>1,590</u>	<u>1,510</u>	<u>1,480</u>	<u>1,630</u>	<u>1,620</u>	<u>1,710</u>
Morocco	170	251	435	405	398	444	454	476*
South Africa	199	280	344	299	289	373	386	374
Algeria	239	340	355	340	376	347	375	335
United Arab Republic	263	299	276	303	248	266	202	358
<u>Olive Oil</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>100</u>
Tunisia	53	66	81	135	59	132	35	45*
Algeria	18	21	16	17	18	14	17*	15*
Morocco	13 <sup>d/</sup>	20	22	27	12	30	15*	28*
<u>Palm Kernels</u>	<u>740</u>	<u>810</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>860</u>	<u>830</u>	<u>810</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>720</u>
Nigeria <sup>e/</sup>	376	345	426	466	435	468	431	360
Congo (Leopoldville)	127	129	146 <sup>a/</sup>	144	162	148*	171*	150
Sierra Leone <sup>e/</sup>	74	62	59 <sup>a/</sup>	56	59	55	59	65
<u>Palm Oil</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>890</u>	<u>930</u>	<u>920</u>	<u>890</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>840</u>
Nigeria <sup>5/</sup>	351	432	417	457	433	423	403	370*
Congo (Leopold.) <sup>f/</sup>	172	206	229	225	245	234*	224*	218*
<u>Groundnuts (in shell)</u>	<u>2,240</u>	<u>3,280</u>	<u>3,930</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,550</u>	<u>4,100</u>	<u>4,100</u>	<u>4,200</u>
Nigeria	590*	949*	1,134	1,025*	900*	1,150*	1,245*	1,350*
Senegal	558	673	865	764	832	892	995	850*
South Africa	103	189	225	195	214	261	193	260
<u>Copra</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>100<sup>a/</sup></u>	<u>110</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>110</u>	...
Mozambique <sup>b/</sup>	46	49	51 <sup>a/</sup>	54	42	44	65	...
<u>Cocoa (beans)</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>510</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>570</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>830</u>	<u>810</u>
Ghana <sup>e/</sup>	253	236	367	260	322	439	415	398
Nigeria <sup>e/</sup>	109	105	177 <sup>a/</sup>	145	157	197	202	184
Cameroun	49	58	68 <sup>a/</sup>	60	67	74	70	...
Ivory Coast <sup>1/</sup>	53	61	78	56	62	94	81	95
<u>Coffee</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>460</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>610</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>810</u>	<u>770</u>	<u>870</u>
Ivory Coast	49 <sup>1/</sup>	87	169	159	140	186	159*	191*
Angola	56 <sup>1/</sup>	74	141	88	97*	166*	168*	186*
Uganda	35	57	116	84	107	119	93	176
Congo (Leopold.)	21	32	56	54	61	54*	54*	57*
Madagascar	31	51	49	53*	48	51	40	51*
Ethiopia	34 <sup>1/</sup> *	50*	67	57	64*	66*	73*	74*
Cameroun	9 <sup>k/</sup>	15	39	27	29	38	50*	53*
Kenya	10 <sup>k/</sup>	18	30	24	24	34	28	37
Tanganyika	14	20	26	23	23	27	27	27

iii  
ANNEX TABLE (continued)

E/CN.14/238  
Annex  
Page 3

	Average 1948/49- 1952/53	Average 1953/54- 1957/58	Average 1958/59- 1962/63	:	1958/59	1959/60	1960/61	1961/62	1962/63 (Pre- liminary)
	..... thousand				metric tons .....				
<u>Tea</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>49</u>	:	<u>40</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>56</u>
Nyasaland	7	8	12	:	11	11	12	14	13
Kenya	6*	8	14	:	11	13	13	16	16*
Mozambique	3*	5	9	:	8	8	9	11	9
<u>Tobacco</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>200</u>	:	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>190</u>
Southern Rhodesia	44	63	90	:	82	82	100	98	90*
<u>Cotton (lint)</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>710</u>	<u>890</u>	:	<u>890</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>920</u>	<u>780</u>	<u>960</u>
United Arab Republic	396	346	435	:	446	457	478	336	457
Sudan	74	90	153	:	127	129	114	209	184
Uganda	66	66	60	:	73	65	67	33	63*
Congo (Leopoldville)	46	48	38	:	49	60	46	20	16
Mozambique	29*	29	41	:	43*	46	38*	40*	38*
Nigeria <sup>l/</sup>	14	31	40	:	30	30	51	28	62*
Tanganyika	10	21	34	:	31	37	34	30	38
Chad	17	23	24	:	24	14	34	16	33
<u>Sisal</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>370</u>	:	<u>350</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>380</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>380</u>
Tanganyika	137	179*	207 <sup>a/</sup>	:	200	209	208	201	217
Angola	21	37*	56 <sup>a/</sup>	:	51*	54*	58*	59*	...
Kenya	38	39	58	:	47	56	63	63*	59*
Mozambique	19	27*	29	:	33*	26	30	29	27
<u>Rubber (natural)</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>138</u>	:	<u>120</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>150</u>
Nigeria <sup>e/</sup>	14	31	53	:	42	54	59	56	60
Liberia	31	38	43 <sup>a/</sup>	:	43	43	42	43	44
Congo (Leopold.)	10	27	37 <sup>a/</sup>	:	35	40	36	38	...

a/ Four-year average.

b/ Including also millets and sorghums, and oats. Rice is included milled equivalent at 65 percent of paddy.

c/ Three-year average.

d/ Former French Zone only.

e/ Purchases for export.

f/ Plantation production and production from fruits delivered by African growers.

g/ FAO estimates.

h/ Exports of copra and coconut oil in copra equivalent.

i/ Marketed output.

j/ Two-year average.

k/ Estate production.

l/ Purchases by Marketing Board.

... Data unavailable. \* Unofficial data

NOTE: Continental totals (except for tea) are rounded to nearest 10,000 tons.