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THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL AND
SUBREGIONAL FOOD SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

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SUBREGIONAL FOOD SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

Agenda Item 6(c)

1. The paper discusses the available information on food security policies and programmes in the subregion, the need for complete information on existing food security arrangements, making a prefeasibility study and examining financial implications. Governments will be asked to take decision on these issues.

National and subregional food security policies recommended in the AFPLAN/LPA:

2. In approving the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA), the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government strongly recommended, as a first step, that the African Governments set up national strategic food reserves of the order of 10 per cent of the total food production. In addition, both AFPLAN and LPA urge the adoption of coherent national food security policies and their translation into the early construction of storage facilities, creation of grain reserves, improvement of stock management, and better forecasting and early warning systems. These are to be further strengthened and supplemented with programmes for collective self-reliance through a system of subregional food security arrangements, similar to the one initiated in the Sahelian zone.

Food security policies and programmes in the PTA:

3. To date, no less than eleven PTA countries (see Annex I) have already pledged themselves to implement national stock policies in order to ensure a minimum safe level of basic food stocks. In so doing, they recognize the importance of strengthening food production, stock programmes and effective food information and early warning systems. These eleven countries namely Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia have already established basic food stock targets either for all cereals or for specific cereals, such as rice, wheat, and maize. The actual stock targets are not related to production (AFPLAN/LPA suggested strategic food reserves of the order of 10 per cent of production). Each country takes into consideration a number of factors relevant to its own circumstances. The targets vary from a minimum of the equivalent of supply for five days (Ethiopia) to a maximum of the equivalent of supply for 180 days (Uganda and Zambia). Of the eleven countries which have actually adopted basic food stock policies, not all provide information on their stock position. For those countries for which information is available, stocks carried are below target level. Of the eleven countries which have established basic stock policies, six have projects under the Food Security Assistance Scheme (FSAC). They are Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania and Zambia.

4. Thus some of the countries of the subregion have taken steps in respect of national food security policies and arrangements. Others, however, need to do so. Besides, unlike the Sudano-Sahelian zone and the countries of the Great Lakes, the Eastern and Southern African subregion has not so far taken any steps for collective self-reliance through subregional food security arrangements. In respect of early warning system, no doubt the nine countries of SADCC^{1/} are planning to institute a joint early warning system and have asked for assistance from the FAO.

Action required:

5. In view of the fact that the information concerning national food security policies, programmes and arrangements in the subregion needs to be made more complete and the establishment of a comprehensive national and subregional food security arrangements appear to be important, consideration should be given to making a prefeasibility study and examining financial arrangements.

1/ South African Development Co-ordinating Conference

RECIPIENT COUNTRY	DIRECTOR GENERAL APPROVAL	DUR (yrs)	TITLE	TOTAL VALUE US 000	DONOR COUNTRY
ETHIOPIA	4/81	2	Technical assistance for the operation of the foodgrain reserve	447	Netherlands
KENYA 1/ (a)	-	5	On-farm grain storage	11 600	USAID
(b)	-	2	Supplying 15,000 tonnes of wheat for food aid	2 800	Australia
(c)	-	1/2	Supply of 2 500 metric tonnes of maize	460	EEC
MOZAMBIQUE (a)	5/79	3	Establishment of 10 mobile stock quality control and stock maintenance teams	414	Switzerland
(b)	8/79	2	Food security programming assistance	321	Multi: Netherlands- Norway
(c)	10/79	3	Construction of storage facilities for food security grain reserve at Beira (15 000 tonnes capacity)	2 387	Switzerland
(d)	7/80	2	Strengthening food security by improving marketing practices	272	Belgium
SOMALIA (a)	3/81	2	Assistance in strengthening pest control	1 028	Netherlands
(b)	3/81	2	Construction of warehouses at Hargeisa and Galcaio for the storage of emergency reserve stocks	1 882	Italy or Netherlands
(c)	3/81	2	Technical assistance in foodgrain marketing	310	Italy or Netherlands

1/ Kenya has also other food security projects on construction of warehouses, stock management and national grain institutions, grain transport, distribution and collection; production improvement; early warning system, training in related fields, and feasibility studies.

RECIPIENT COUNTRY	DIRECTOR GENERAL APPROVAL	DUR (yrs)	TITLE	TOTAL VALUE US\$ 000	DONOR COUNTRY
ZAMBIA (a)	6/80	2	Strengthening food security through assistance to the Marketing Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development	287	Netherlands
(b)	7/81	1	Strengthening of the crop forecasting and early warning system	168	Netherlands
(c)	11/81	1 1/2	Development of village mills phase I - pilot scheme	85	Australia
(d)	11/81	15	Bag-to-bulk transfer facility for maize at NAMBOARD Depot, Lusaka	816	Australia
TANZANIA	11/81	3	Early warning system and crop monitoring, Phase II.	1 232	Netherlands