

Report of the

ELEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

Kuwait, 9-19 September 1972



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THE NEAR EAST REGION

Member Countries

Afghanistan	Jordan	Saudi Arabia
Bahrain	Kuwait	Somalia
Cyprus	Lebanon	Sudan, The ¹
Egypt	Libyan Arab Republic	Syrian Arab Republic
France	Oman	Yemen, Arab Republic of
Iran	Pakistan	Yemen, Democratic Republic of
Iraq	Qatar	

Other Member Nations Normally Invited as Observers

Ethiopia	Turkey	United States of America ²
Malta	United Kingdom	

¹ The Sudan belongs to both the Near East Region and the Africa Region.

² Invited in an observer capacity in view of US AID programmes in various fields.

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Rome, 1972

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

KUWAIT 9 - 19 SEPTEMBER 1972

I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

i) Organization of the Conference

1. The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for the Near East was held in Kuwait from 9 to 19 September 1972 at the kind invitation of the Government of Kuwait. The inaugural ceremony was held in the Telecommunication Training Institute, and the regular sessions of the Conference took place in the Hilton Hotel.

2. The Conference Agenda and the list of delegates, observers and the Conference Secretariat are attached as Appendices A and B, respectively. A list of the documents is given in Appendix C.

ii) Inauguration of the Conference

3. His Highness the Deputy Amir of Kuwait and Crown Prince Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah inaugurated the Conference which was attended by His Excellency Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah, Acting Prime Minister, His Excellency Hmoud Yousef Al Nisf, Minister of Public Works, Kuwait, and other Ministers of the Cabinet, members of the National Assembly, members of the diplomatic corps, delegates, senior officers of the Government, observers from UN Agencies and staff members of FAO.

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4. In calling to order the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, the Director-General, Dr. A.H. Boerma expressed his deep appreciation and warm thanks to the Government of Kuwait for their kind invitation to hold the Conference in Kuwait and for the excellent arrangements which had been made for it. Dr. Boerma expressed his pleasure to visit Kuwait for the second time. He was very much impressed by Kuwait's many outstanding achievements especially the tremendous economic growth which has been so wisely channelled towards the social betterment of her own peoples and beyond her frontiers. This could be seen not only in her own fine social services, but also in the very substantial assistance to other less prosperous countries of the Region.

5. The Director-General then invited His Highness the Deputy Amir of Kuwait to address the Conference.

6. His Highness the Deputy Amir extended a warm welcome to the delegates and wished the Conference all success. He earnestly hoped that its deliberations would result in recommendations of vital importance to the Region. He praised the role of FAO in the service of humanity and said that agriculture was the cornerstone in the structure of civilization. He pledged the fullest and continuing support of the Government of Kuwait to the FAO efforts. He further stated that technological and scientific progress should be dedicated to the happiness of man and provision of decent living for all. If some nations have lagged behind in the march of progress for reasons beyond their control, it was the duty of developed nations to extend

to them physical, human and technical help. The developing countries should strive for further cooperation among themselves in an effort to develop their own societies and raise the level of living of their people.

7. The Minister of Public Works and Head of the Kuwaiti delegation, His Excellency Hmoud Yousef Al Nisf, welcomed all the delegates. He stressed that the Conference has provided a good occasion for Kuwait to express her appreciation for them and their Governments in participating towards the success of this exercise, and for FAO's great efforts in the preparations and technical back-stopping. He hoped that the Organization would help the countries of the Gulf through scientific and judicious exploitation of fisheries resources which constitute a vast potential resource second only to mineral oil.

8. In his statement Dr. Mohamed Abdulla Nour, Assistant Director-General, warmly thanked His Highness the Deputy Amir for the inspiring message to the Conference, and the Government and people of Kuwait for their generosity in hosting the Conference and for their enthusiastic cooperation, interest and support.

iii) Election of Conference Officers

9. The Conference unanimously elected the following Conference Officers:

Chairman
of the Conference:

His Excellency
Hmoud Yousef Al Nisf
Minister of Public Works

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Vice-Chairmen of the Conference:	Heads of all delegations
Drafting Committee:	Arab Republic of Egypt Iran Jordan Kuwait Lebanon Pakistan Somali Democratic Republic

10. The Chairman, in thanking the delegates for his election urged full cooperation amongst the countries of the Region to achieve rapid progress in agriculture in the Region through self-reliance and regional cooperation and with FAO assistance.

iv) Conference Messages

11. The Conference sent a message of thanks to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, for sponsoring the Conference and to His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince, thanking him for the honour he had bestowed in inaugurating the Conference.

12. The Conference conveyed messages of condolences on the tragic death of His Excellency Nafedth Jalal, the ex-Minister of Agriculture, Iraq, to both the Government of Iraq and to his bereaved family.

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II. SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE NEAR EAST REGION

1. Introduction

13. Under this item of the Agenda, the delegates studied and discussed the statement of the Director-General (NERC/72/CONF/1), the statement of the Regional Representative made to the Conference (NERC/72/CONF/2), and his Review of the FAO activities during the current biennium in the Near East Region, (NERC/72/2). The Director-General's statement referred to selected broad policy issues of concern to the Organization, the Governments of the Region as well as to international aid agencies for the development of agriculture in the Region. The policy issues included those concerned with (i) state of food and agriculture, especially its falling growth rate in the developing countries, (ii) medium-term planning with sharpened priorities, (iii) country perspective studies for laying the basis for problem-oriented approach, (iv) agricultural research, (v) international agricultural adjustments and agricultural trade policies for reducing the present disparities and distortions of world agriculture, and (vi) regional development through the effective use of limited water resources, preventing land degradation, development of a viable livestock industry and building rural institutions with the help of intra-regional development funds and technical expertise of the FAO.

14. The Regional Representative's statement dealt with (i) the state of food and agriculture in the Region, (ii) major problems of agriculture production in the Region especially evolution of crop varieties resistant to drought, drastic improvement in the use of semi-arid

rangeland and development of animal production through synchronized programmes and incentives to farmers, (iii) integrated rural development geared towards rural welfare, (iv) establishment of strong national and regional research centres and greater use of scientific approach with all its modern tools such as satellites and computers, (v) various Regional Banks, and their potential impact on future development, and (vi) Regional economic integration as an essential objective, and the need to initiate regional models of FAO cooperative programmes along lines adopted by the Scandinavian Group.

15. The Regional Representative's Review of FAO activities in the Region reported on the actions taken by FAO on the recommendations of the Tenth FAO Regional Conference and the new activities undertaken by FAO since then. It also referred briefly, and where relevant, to the conclusions of the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference in 1971.

2. Discussions on the Statements of the
Director-General and the Regional Representative
and the Review of FAO Activities in the Region

16. A number of delegates spoke about the progress made in agricultural development in their respective countries, and commented on a number of important subjects dealt with in the Statements and Review of the Director-General and the Regional Representative.

17. In regard to the agricultural production in the Region during the biennium, the Director-General pointed out in his statement that the growth rate had fallen to less than two percent against the target of four percent set out in the International Strategy for the Second

Development Decade. Concerted efforts would need to be made during the coming years to accelerate the growth rate.

18. The Director-General strongly stressed the need for adopting agricultural trade policies for reducing the present disparities and distortions of world agriculture. The Conference looked forward to the results of the discussions on International Agricultural Adjustments which will be presented as the main theme of the 1973 FAO General Conference. It also stressed the importance of removing all restrictions on trade within the Region and to facilitate exchange of agricultural commodities. The countries should go in for more specialization than for competition in production of similar crops. They should endeavour to reduce cost of production to compete in world markets.

19. The Conference was informed of the country perspective studies for laying the basis for problem-oriented approach that had been undertaken by FAO and hoped it would be possible to institute similar studies in the Near East Region, but also stressed the need to keep under continuous review the regional integration components and the essence of complementarity.

20. The Director-General in his statement highlighted the importance of agricultural research and referred to the ongoing activities of the Consortium (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research sponsored by several donor countries, private foundations, the World Bank, UNDP and FAO) in assisting research through international institutions located in different regions of the world and dealing with subjects of global or regional importance. A technical Advisory Committee in the FAO

serves as the technical secretariat. He pointed out further that an evaluation mission would visit the Near East in the near future for assessment of the requirements of the Region and for consultation with member countries. The Regional Representative in his statement outlined the activities of the Regional Office in surveying research work in the Region and also stressed the need for closer coordination in agricultural research within the region and suggested the holding of a Regional Conference for this purpose. He emphasized the importance of Science and Technology as a potent tool for development. The Conference gave general support to the efforts being made.

It was also suggested that arrangements might be made to examine the work of the national institutes with a view to strengthening them and it would be desirable to avoid duplication and overlapping of the work already underway under the aegis of the United Nations Agencies and other regional bodies such as the Arab League. It was pointed out that there was a wide gap between technical information available and its actual application in the field and sound extension work needs to be developed for attaining the accelerated growth rate in agricultural production.

21. The Director-General emphasized the importance of medium-term planning with sharpened priorities. Delegates stressed the following areas of emphasis for maximizing farm income and employment:

(i) optimum use of land and water resources including dryland farming and range management, (ii) animal production and health, poultry and fisheries to increase animal protein supplies, (iii) integrated rural development, particularly agricultural marketing, and (iv) high yielding varieties of cereals including fodder and horticultural crops. ./..

22. Regional Cooperation: The Director-General and the Regional Representative emphasized the importance of regional cooperation for promoting self help towards agricultural development of individual countries. There were some obvious examples of activities such as the control of desert locust, the improvement of animal health and the work to develop the semi-arid zones. UNDP funds may not be forthcoming for such projects in the future. FAO is willing to continue to offer its technical competence to assist in identifying, preparing, appraising and executing any regional project. The Conference emphasized the need for greater cooperation in matters concerning agricultural production, marketing of agricultural commodities and animal products and fisheries development. It was proposed that the Kuwait Fisheries and Maritime Institute be developed into a sub-regional Fisheries Training Institute for the Gulf through financial cooperation with the Gulf States and with Technical Assistance from the FAO. In this connection the Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 1/72

The Conference

Noting the importance of regional and semi-regional projects and the necessity to create and support such institutes, and

Appreciating the offer of the State of Kuwait to transform the Fisheries and Maritime Institute into a semi-regional institute

./..

Recommends that FAO takes the necessary steps to prepare a plan for the conversion of the Fisheries and Marine Institute, Kuwait, into a sub-regional institute for the Gulf States, including an FAO technical assistance component for the operation of the project.

23. In token of their deep conviction in self-help in developing regional cooperation, the Kuwait Government announced its decision to contribute a sum of US\$ 100,000 as a first step to help promote agricultural development in the Near East Region in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization along the lines of the aid given by Scandinavian countries under bilateral arrangements through FAO. The Conference recommended the formation of a mission of two delegations, at ministerial level from Lebanon and Sudan as well as any other minister from the region who volunteers, to be joined by a representative of the FAO Regional Office, to visit the richer countries in the Region so as to promote the Cooperative Programme.

24. The Regional Representative in his statement referred to the growing cooperation among Regional U.N. and other bodies. Attention was drawn to the I.L.O. World Employment Programme undertaken with inter-agency collaboration. The programme linked national development planning with measures to solve problems of under-employment as well as with maximum utilization and equitable distribution of incomes. I.L.O. also encouraged inter-cooperative trade among producers and consumers at the national and regional levels. A long-term programme of education and training for rural development including agricultural education has been prepared by UNESCO and professional organizations of agricultural teachers were proposed to be strengthened. UNESCO, FAO and the United

Nations Economic and Social Office, Beirut, are undertaking studies on the status of science and technology and their application in the Near East Region.

25. The Regional Representative stressed the need for greater efforts geared towards arid and marginal land use through the application of Science and Technology within a multi-disciplinary framework. The Conference looked forward to the report of the Regional Office reconnaissance mission and emphasized the need for continued and systematic interest in this vital area of activity.

26. The Regional Representative emphasized the need for adopting an integrated rural development approach to solving rural problems and suggested closer studies by the FAO of different models of this approach. The Conference supported this proposal and requested that a special study including clear definitions of such models suiting countries of the Region should be made for the benefit of member countries.

27. The representative of the World Bank stated that the Group had shifted its emphasis for support from physical infrastructure to education and agriculture sectors and had doubled its lending in the agriculture sector in 1973 to that of 1972 in the Near East Region. Regional cooperative projects for the optimum long-term distribution and use of river waters were under consideration.

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The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 2/72

The Conference

Recognizing the importance of integrated rural development as an essential approach to overall development in the rural areas,

Noting that this concept may have various implications and interpretations under different social and economic conditions in the Region,

Recommends

- that the FAO Regional Office should undertake a comprehensive study of different models of integrated rural development in some countries of the Region having different social, economic and cultural conditions;
- that the results of such a study should be presented to the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning for discussion before distribution to countries of the Region.

28. The Conference recommended the adoption of Arabic as a full fledged working language of FAO similar to English, French and Spanish and approved the following recommendation. The French delegate, though in full agreement with the spirit of the recommendation, pointed out the financial difficulties facing the Organization.

Recommendation No. 3/72

The Conference

While appreciating the steps taken so far for the introduction of the Arabic language as a limited working language among the working languages of the Organizations, and

Realizing that failure to translate all FAO documents and publications into Arabic, prevents the Arab States from active participation in/and full contribution towards the activities of the Organization and deprives these States from deriving the maximum benefits from such documents and publications,

Recommends that the Director-General takes the necessary steps and arrangements towards making the Arabic language a working language for unlimited purposes and on the same footing with the English, French and Spanish languages starting with the Organization's biennium 1974-75.

3- Statement of the Executive Director
of the World Food Programme

29. The Executive Director, World Food Programme, expressed his appreciation of the Government of Kuwait's invitation to hold the Conference in Kuwait and for the excellent arrangements made for it.

30. The delegates studied and discussed the Report of the World Food Programme (NERC/72/3) supplemented by the oral statement made by the Executive Director, who pointed out the constraints of limited resources, uneven composition of the food basket and the ban on the sale and exchange of WFP commodities. He further commended the recommendations

of UNCTAD I for increasing the cash resources of the programme, and made an appeal to those countries who are fortunate to have financial resources to make liberal cash contributions to the Programme. He said that WFP could effectively handle much more food aid than it actually did.

31. All countries expressed their deep appreciation of the WFP activities and gave detailed descriptions of their cooperation with WFP. Some countries outlined their difficulties in meeting the local transportation and storage costs of WFP commodities. The Conference expressed general appreciation of the assistance being provided through the Programme and the tangible results being achieved and supported the appeal of the Executive Director for contributions in cash by the richer nations and encouraged such contributions from within the Region from rich countries, as the Region was the top beneficiary of the World Food Programme. The Conference emphasized the need for facilitating the exchange of commodities under the Programme and adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 4/72

The Conference

Having heard the report of the Executive Director of the UN/FAO World Food Programme on the state of WFP and its activities in the Region,

Noting the constraints under which the Programme is operating, particularly in relation with the size and composition of its resources,

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Considering that recipient countries could effectively absorb much greater amounts of food aid for economic and social development through projects carried out in association with a multilateral programme such as the WFP, and

Considering that the World Food Programme is capable of handling much larger amounts of resources without basic changes in organization

Expresses its deep appreciation of the fruitful results of WFP assistance for economic and social development in the developing countries particularly in the Near East Region,

Calls upon developed food-surplus-producing countries to increase and diversify their contributions to the Programme taking particularly into consideration the need for high protein foods in the recipient countries,

Requests the Executive Director of the WFP to make a special appeal to developing countries to contribute substantially to the WFP in cash or in kind according to their individual possibilities,

Urges the Executive Director to utilize to the maximum possible extent the cash resources of the Programme for the purchase of food commodities in developing countries in order to help stimulate production at the same time that it improves the commodity composition of the Programme,

Requests the Executive Director to promote the exchange of WFP commodities against locally available food items whenever such items will complement the food basket of the WFP-assisted projects, and when

requested, explore the possibilities for meeting local costs such as transportation and storage, and

Requests the Executive Director to promote exchange of surplus commodities between countries of the Region through the channel of the WFP against percentage charges to be added to the resources of the programme.

III. MATTERS OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

4. Marketing and the Integration of Marketing and Related
Institutions with Production

32. The Conference stressed that integrating production with credit and marketing should aim fundamentally at serving the interest of the mass of the producers in agriculture who are in the region either small farmers or nomadic population (NERC/72/4). It recognized that the small producers of agricultural commodities should be given increasing bargaining power and should be protected from all market forces which lead to the exploitation of the vulnerable weak group.

33. The Conference discussed the prevailing systems of integration in the region according to the focal point in linking decision-making related to the successive phases of each system from research, to production, to supply of credit and extension, to marketing of the product. The integrators considered were the government, the farmers' cooperatives, the middlemen and the processors of agricultural products.

34. Delegates gave examples of the integrated systems in their respective countries, indicating the role of government in achieving integration and protecting the producers' interests. Among the government measures followed were ensuring the supply of credit requirements to farmers, promoting marketing through cooperatives, payment of subsidies to farmers to purchase their production requisites, establishment of marketing boards or marketing organizations, the procurement of crops at a guaranteed price and

the construction of storage facilities. It was emphasized that some Governments used cooperatives in agrarian reform areas as the cornerstone in integrating production with extension, credit and marketing.

35. The Conference noted that in many countries of the region an important role in integration was still being played by the middlemen who in several countries still keep the small farmers indebted and tie them with credit supply-cum-marketing. This system led to lowering the farmer's income, capital flight from rural areas and by and large did not improve the grading of produce. It was realized, however, that this role was needed to fill a gap where institutionally organized systems of credit supply, transport, assembly and storage for marketing of the produce did not exist or were ineffective. But the Conference stressed that the disadvantages of the middleman system outweigh the value of services provided. The importance of government's countervailing measures was emphasized. The Conference recommended to FAO to study the role of middlemen and propose to governments the measures to reduce the undesirable influence of middlemen in rural areas.

36. The Conference appreciated the importance of agricultural credit as an institution in the process of integrating production with marketing. The role of middlemen and cooperatives in the process of integration was seen in this context. The inadequate credit institutions which could not meet all the credit needs of farmers, the uneasy terms and rigid procedures required by agricultural credit banks for credit worthiness and security coupled with lack

of suitable roads, transport and storage facilities have forced a considerable proportion of farmers (50-80 per cent) in many countries to deal with money lenders, village merchants and other types of middlemen. The Conference recommended to FAO to make a survey of the agricultural credit system and the structure of the agricultural credit institutions in the Near East Region.

37. The Conference gave special consideration to the problems of marketing livestock and meat which are due mainly to lack of integration between the production of feed, extension service, market research, arrangements for the sale of live animals, transport, and meat processing for the consumers. This serious situation is influenced by the neglected nomadic conditions (estimated to be eleven million persons in the region), the disorganized private trade system and the division of responsibilities among several government departments. The Conference noted that FAO had recently established an Inter-Divisional Working Group for Meat Development to study the meat problems in the Near East countries and stressed that the study of marketing problems on national and regional levels should be covered by this study. The Conference noted with appreciation, the FAO study on marketing of livestock and meat in selected countries of the region carried out in 1971/72 which covered Egypt, Iran, Lebanon and Syria and recommended that this study should be completed to cover other countries particularly the livestock exporting countries; Somalia and the Sudan.

38. Several delegates emphasized the lack of suitable shipping and inter-country transport of livestock and meat. Ordinary cargo vessels used, proved inadequate for the purpose as they caused heavy mortality amongst livestock. The importance of developing livestock routes and water points in order that livestock could be moved safely from the breeding and producing areas to the processing and consuming areas and to export points was also referred to.

39. The delegate of Jordan referred to a project which his country was hoping to implement, involving the establishment of slaughter houses at Aqaba port to be used by countries of the region for the slaughter, processing, distribution and marketing of meat. The project was based on receiving livestock shipped from Somalia and the Sudan and it was hoped that strong support and cooperation would be secured for this project.

40. The Conference recognized the urgent need for improving regional cooperation in marketing of agricultural commodities particularly the perishable products as fish, meat, eggs, vegetables and fruits. It emphasized the need for marketing research and exchange of reliable and timely information on production plans, prices, costs of production including transport, assessment of demand and supply of commodities and their projection in the future with special consideration to relative efficiency and profitability as well as the comparative advantage of location of processing plants and the measures to reduce waste of products during the different phases of their marketing.

41. The Conference recommended to FAO to give high priority to the establishment of a Regional Institute for Marketing Research Training and Information which was previously recommended by the 9th FAO Regional Conference. The work of this Institute should be phased in order to start with marketing research, training, information and intelligence service.

42. The Conference stressed the need for studying and establishing standards for grading and packing of agricultural commodities, particularly perishable, for export. The absence of such standardized grading and packing system had hindered the expansion in the export of agricultural goods. The recommended Institute should be useful in meeting this urgent need.

43. The Conference noted the recommendation of the 9th Regional Conference for the establishment of a Regional Agricultural Marketing Commission. In view of the policy of FAO Council to limit the number of regional commissions, the Conference recommended that regional consultation and studies on agricultural marketing and credit should be dealt with by the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning.

The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5/72

The Conference,

- Realizing the importance of improving agricultural marketing systems at the country level for safeguarding the interests

of agricultural producers particularly the small farmers, and the importance of establishing a link between marketing improvement at the country level and promoting marketing among the countries of the Region,

- Realizing that the improvement of agricultural marketing systems should comprise an integral part of the comprehensive rural development programme, together with providing farmers with production inputs, such as credit facilities and their protection from profiteering middlemen,
- Reiterating the recommendations made by the previous Regional Conferences, concerning agricultural marketing,
- Recommends to the Director-General of FAO that:
 - Necessary steps be taken for the establishment of a Regional Institute for Marketing Research, Training and Information to organize marketing studies on agricultural commodities significant in their trade amongst the countries of the Region, and for the supply of countries concerned with information regarding the types, quantities, grades and prices of commodities produced, and the projected demand for future consumption and export.
 - The Organization undertakes a study of the existing models of integration between marketing, credit, production and related rural institutions in the countries of the Region, and that the Organization supplies the governments of the Region with the results of these studies with a view to

utilizing such information for developing marketing systems.

- .. That, in collaboration with the countries concerned, and with other bodies in the Region, the FAO undertakes a study on the role of middlemen in agricultural credit and marketing.
- .. That the question of regional agricultural marketing and means of strengthening cooperation between the countries of the Region with regard to the exchange of agricultural commodities, be included in the Agenda of the next FAO Near East Regional Conference.

5. Land and Water Development

44, The Conference reviewed Land and Water Development (NERC/72/5) and recognized its important role in increasing agricultural production. While recognizing that irrigated agriculture plays a leading role in this respect, the importance of dryland farming was emphasized and it was suggested that this topic be the subject of a separate paper to be presented at the forthcoming Regional Conference.

45. The Conference discussed the many problems limiting efficient use of land and water in the development project areas. Salinity and water logging were mentioned as among the most important problems in the countries of the Region. The scarcity of trained technical staff at all levels and particularly at the medium and field levels constituted a major constraint on effective utilization of land and

water resources. Problems of water rights and of finance were also pointed out.

46. Some delegates referred to the importance of handling seasonal rain water for irrigation purposes and to the need for soil and water conservation and management. FAO was requested to extend assistance to member governments in that regard. Hydrological and agro-climatological studies were considered basic to sound planning for the utilization of irrigated, rainfed and dry lands.

47. Delegates stressed the need for sound planning of land reclamation and consolidation projects and for their evaluation in terms of the benefits accruing to the farmers and the nation as a whole. The importance of legislation for solving problems relating to land and water rights, which form, in many countries a major obstacle to development, was pointed out.

48. The Conference recognized the importance of intensification of agricultural production and expansion of irrigated area. It was generally agreed that the first was less costly and yielded quick returns, while the second was a longer term proposition that provided employment possibilities and the creation of new healthy societies in rural areas. The need for coordination among research and training institutes in the region was mentioned. The role of FAO in this field was stressed.

49. The Conference agreed that the subject of water resources and their agricultural use deserved foremost priority and recommended the establishment of an international centre for research on water resources and their use.

50. It urged the Director-General of FAO to convey this recommendation of the Conference to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

51. Owing to the high priority given to land and water in the region, the Conference considered it essential to strengthen the land and water development staff both at FAO Headquarters and the Regional Office.

52. The Conference recommended to the Member Governments to initiate or intensify studies and investigations at the required detail in the fields of standard soil surveys and mapping, hydrology, hydrogeology and agro-climatology in order to guide sound planning and programming of land and water development projects.

53. Strengthening the training activities particularly at the medium and field workers levels, in the disciplinary fields of land and water use and development was considered important.

54. The establishment of a Regional Training Institute for Land and Water Use was proposed.

55. The Conference unanimously expressed its strong support of the Regional Applied Research Programme for Land and Water Development.

The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6/72

The Conference

- Having given first priority to land and water use and development in view of the urgent need to make maximum use of land and water resources in the Region and to raise the level of its agricultural production,
- Recommends that member countries:
 - Initiate or intensify basic studies and surveys to the required detailed level in standardized survey fields and prepare hydrogeological, hydrological and agro-climate maps to serve as basic for sound planning and programming of land and water development schemes,
 - Support the existing National Committees on Land and Water Use in accordance with the recommendations of the Regional Commission, and to strengthen the field work related to improving and developing land and water resources, particularly saline and water logged soils; and to the economic use of water,
 - Expand training programmes in the various disciplines of land and water use and development, with special emphasis on the intermediate level training and the training of farmers,

- .. Ensure coordination and close cooperation between research workers, education staff, development staff and extension staff.
- .. Further recommends that FAO:
 - .. Convey to the UNDP the top priority given by the Regional Conference to the expanded programme of Regional Applied Research on Land and Water Use.
 - .. Strengthen its Land and Water Development services, both at headquarters and at the Regional Office.
 - .. Collect relevant information available in both developed and developing countries on Applied Research, pilot projects, education and extension in Land and Water Use, for transmission to countries of the Region through publications, meetings, seminars, etc...
 - Take the necessary action for establishing a Regional Institute for Training on Land and Water Use.

6. Impact, Problems and Potential
of the Green Revolution

56. The Conference appreciated the beneficial effects of the extended use of HYV of wheat, maize and rice in the Near East Region for meeting the food demand of ever-rising population. It was

recognized that the use of HYV not only resulted in increased productivity but also produced a great variety of useful impacts (NERC/72/6). The importance of solving such problems as the availability of right type of HYV along with appropriate agrotechniques, supply of inputs-seeds, fertilizers, irrigation water, field machinery for selective mechanization, disease and pest control as well as provision of incentives to the farmers for extending the use of HYV amongst the small farmers who constitute the bulk of farming community were appreciated.

57. A future plan of action to extend such efforts to other crops as well as to less favourable areas (rainfed areas) both at national and regional levels was discussed. At the national level the governments were asked to plan and coordinate accelerated production programmes, develop better extension services, increase trained manpower and strengthen research activities on projects of productive nature. It is imperative to integrate all disciplines so as to maximise the benefits of cooperative research both for irrigated and rainfed areas (which should be developed for integrated cereal and animal husbandries) as well as to establish national plant introduction and conservation centres.

58. It was realized that regional problems of common nature could be solved more economically and effectively if serviced at the Regional

level, as was abundantly clear from the cooperative programmes of cereal improvement and production project. To carry out the cooperative programmes on regional basis it was recommended that the Regional Project on the improvement and production of field food crops should be sanctioned by UNDP to augment the present cooperative programmes and also to initiate similar programmes on rice, some grain legumes and oilseed crops, as well as on legume-based pastures.

59. The Conference while recognizing the great importance of establishing a Regional Research Institute on Field Food Crops (as recommended in 1970 Regional Conference - 14/70) appreciated the steps taken by FAO and welcomed the idea of the proposed visit of the Technical Advisory Committee Mission to some countries of the Near East and North Africa to ascertain the present research activities and also to determine the necessity of establishing internationally supported research institute in the Region along the lines followed in other regions .

60. The Conference also expressed concern over the various side-effects created by the HYV technology. These included the development and spread of pests and diseases resulting in epidemics and high cost of inputs and socio-economic problems. The Conference, therefore, highlighted the need for intensifying research and study programmes to (a) develop varieties resistant to pests and diseases, (b) reduce cost of production through the development of proper rotations and selective mechanization (to increase efficiency of labour and of operations at peak periods of labour demand) and (c) establish

simple procedures for credit facilities for the small farmers.

The Conference adopted the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION NO. 7/72

The Conference

Noting the success of cooperative efforts between member countries of the Region in various programmes under the FAO Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production Project and the outstanding success which has been achieved through the extended use of tested high-yielding varieties of wheat in many member countries,

Appreciating the initiation of a cooperative programme by FAO on maize, sorghum and millet through the provision of a TA post at the Regional Office as recommended by the Regional Conference in 1970,

Realizing the necessity of starting similar programmes on other field food crops like grain legumes and oilseed crops, and considering that FAO has already submitted a regional project to UNDP and a review mission of UNDP/FAO visited some of the countries in June/July 1972,

Recommends that:

- The Regional Project on the Improvement and Production of Field Food Crops be sanctioned immediately in order

to keep up the continuity of the present programmes and also to start work on the remaining important crops,

- The training of the young scientists and holding of seminars should form an integral part of this Project,
- FAO should continue to assist member governments in preparing action programmes on the increased production of cereals and in arranging to supply or in helping to procure substantial quantities of seed of identified HYVs.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 8/72

The Conference

Reiterating recommendation No. 14/70 of its tenth Session in relation to the need for the establishment of a Research Institute in the Region for the Improvement and Production of Basic Food Crops in the Near East,

Having noted with satisfaction the various steps taken by FAO to implement this recommendation through the financial support of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and that the Technical Advisory Committee of this Consultative Group was planning to send a mission in October/November 1972 to review the present position of research activities being carried out in the Region and prepare a report on the research needs of the Region for the

consideration of the Consultative Group,

Recommends that:

- The proposed mission of the Technical Advisory Committee during their visit to the Near East Region should ascertain the present research activities and determine the necessity of establishing an internationally-supported research institute in the Region on the same lines as has been done for other regions (CIMMYT in Mexico, IRRI in the Philippines, CIAT in Colombia, IIAT in Nigeria, ICRISAT in India, etc.).
- The proposed research institute should carry out basic research on some important crops of the region with greater stress on rainfed areas, applied research on crops covered by other international research institutes, research on farming systems both for irrigated and rainfed areas, as well as provide training facilities to the young scientists from the region. All these activities should be carried out in cooperation with the national research institutes, which will help in testing material and methods developed at the regional research institute.

- In order to facilitate the establishment of the proposed Regional Research Institute,, the member governments should establish an Agricultural Foundation of the Near East Region through generous financial donations and provide necessary physical facilities (as regards land and water) for the location of the main institute and its sub-stations.

7. Closing the Protein Gap

61. The Conference discussed the nutritional requirements, the quality and quantity of protein available in the Near East Region, the nature of the protein gap and the measures required to bridge this gap (NERC/72/7).

62. The Conference recognized that the protein gap, when it existed, was associated with calorie deficiency especially in the pre-school child and in pregnant and lactating mothers due to their higher physiological requirements which could not be met. The rising population and rising incomes and level of living had greatly increased the demand for food especially foods of animal origin. It was pointed out that the complimentary effects of some vegetable mixtures enhanced the protein values to a level comparable to that of certain animal proteins.

63. The Conference proposed that governments should adopt suitable programmes and policies for overcoming the gap in calories and in total food compatible with the resources and purchasing power of the population. It was considered important for all countries in the Region to conduct comprehensive food consumption and nutrition surveys to provide the basis for the formulation of sound national food and nutrition policies.

64. There was complete agreement as to the need for the production of low cost weaning food mixtures from local raw materials. These foods could be developed in certain countries with the assistance of FAO/WHO and UNICEF. The importance of encouraging the production of pulses and oil seeds was stressed. In some countries this has declined as a result of diversion of areas to wheat production under the impact of the Green Revolution.

65. The Conference emphasized the need for setting up Food and Nutrition Units in the Ministries of Agriculture of all the countries of the Region for purposes of sound planning of national food and nutrition policies.

66. The Conference further stressed the importance of creating Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committees in the field of food and nutrition. The desirability of organizing national and regional training courses and seminars on food and nutrition policies was also stressed.

67. The Conference emphasized the importance of developing animal production. One of the most important fields in which improvement needed to be effected was in the integration of crop and animal husbandry so as to achieve a more intensive and rational system of production. Measures to rehabilitate, conserve and develop the range lands were also urgently required as the productivity of these areas for many reasons is being reduced at an alarming rate. The closer integration of crop and animal husbandry, the improvement of the range lands and the development of fodder crop production on irrigated agricultural areas were the ways by which animal production could be increased.

68. Reference was made to the urgent need for all countries to develop their animal resources in order that the wide gap between production and demand which was likely to arise by 1985 could be met.

69. There was general agreement that there was considerable potential in both marine fishery and inland fishery resources, neither of which had received adequate attention. The delegates stressed the importance of the role of FAO in this field.

The Conference stressed the need for undertaking a fish resources survey in the Gulf area as a basis for planning the proper utilization of these resources and urged the countries concerned to apply to the UNDP for technical assistance.

8. Agricultural Research Priorities for the
Near East Region.

70. The Conference recognized the important role of agricultural research in agricultural and rural development and discussed major research problems and constraints (Document NERC/72/8). In general, there were organizational, administrative, financial and technical problems hindering agricultural research development in the Region. Attention was drawn to the need to have clear and specific national agricultural research policies which should take into consideration socio-economic aspects of rural development. The Conference strongly urged the need for dealing with agricultural research activities in totality and not in a fragmented manner as is often practised. To this end, national research councils for coordinating and organizing all agricultural research programmes and activities are considered useful instruments.

71. It was pointed out that research projects should be problem-oriented and geared to serve the objectives of the national economic development plan. The research needs and priorities of the region, in the light of food and feed demands and economic needs of the countries are breeding for disease resistance and local quality of national level, research on water requirements of crops, methods of irrigation and drainage and reclamation of saline soils, animal production and protection, studies on range management and stocking capacities of range lands. Special emphasis needed to be placed on socio-economic conditions and related institutions such as Extension, Cooperatives, Credit, Land Settlement and Agrarian Reform.

72. Amongst the other problems which required special attention were:

a) Mechanization of agricultural production and the inter-related

question of rural labour force and employment, b) the minimum agricultural productive unit in irrigated and rainfed areas, c) farm buildings and structures, d) causes of deterioration of date palm production in the Gulf States and d) poisoning of fish in the Gulf with fruits of certain plants.

The Conference requested the FAO to carry out a regional study on evaluating and testing of field implements and machinery, advise governments on the proper designs for farm buildings and farm storages suited to the local agricultural and economic conditions, and to organize agricultural engineering training courses.

73. In discussing research problems reference was made to the severe shortage of research workers and technicians. The establishment of a Regional Training Centre for training technicians for work in different disciplines was suggested. This centre could be used for imparting training in the maintenance and repair of different kinds of research instruments and equipment. The lack of this type of training facilities was hampering research work at many institutions.

74. Of the several causes leading to brain drain from the Region, lack of adequate research facilities, lack of congenial research atmosphere, insufficient financial remuneration and lack of other incentives were mentioned. Governments were urged to take appropriate measures for halting the mounting outflow of research workers from the Region to developed countries.

75. The need for strengthening exchange of research information, programmes, methods, techniques and findings was stressed by several delegates. The Near East Regional Office was called upon to assist in facilitating this service. It was suggested that a yearly agricultural

research magazine could be a useful instrument in disseminating new findings and exchange of information and experience among countries of the Region.

76. The Conference emphasized the following agricultural research priorities: (i) Applied Research on Land and Water Development; (ii) Animal Production and Health; (iii) Integration of production with marketing within the framework of an integrated rural development; and (iv) Crop Improvement including HYV of field and horticultural crops under irrigated and dryland farming.

77. The representative of the Near East Region in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research gave a brief account of the composition, functions and activities of this Group and of its Technical Advisory Committee. He urged the need for the Near East Region to be represented by one or more members on that Group through the establishment of a regional fund to be financed by the countries of the Region and which among other things would support agricultural research. He further indicated that the Consultative Group would support specific research projects of international interest. He informed the Conference that the Group would be sending a mission to the Region to **survey** research facilities and identify research needs. The mission would visit Algeria, Arab Republic of Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Pakistan and Syrian Arab Republic.

78. The Conference called for the establishment in the Region of an International Agricultural Research Centre to study the best use of land and water resources. It also endorsed the recommendation to establish a Research Institute in the Region for Field Food Crops. The need for a Regional Research Institute dealing with horticultural crops was also pointed out. Delegates further supported the establishment of a Regional Centre for undertaking studies on integration of production with market-

ing within the framework of an integrated rural development. The need for establishing a centre for social and rural studies was also stressed.

79. The Conference recommended the holding of a Regional Seminar on Agricultural Research in the next biennium (1974/75) to study and discuss common problems and ways and means of solving them. Adequate preparation and studies in selected countries of the Region should be carried out by the Near East Regional Office.

Recommendation No. 9/72

The Conference

Recognizing the importance of water resources, on both international and regional levels, particularly due to the diminishing of available water resources and the increasing demand of the growing population.

Recognizing also the potentials of scientific research in the development of water resources,

Recommends

- attaching top priority to the subject of water resources and their use, and
- requests the International Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research to carry out the necessary studies on the possibility of establishing and financing such an international Centre for Research and Training on Water Resources and their use.

IV. REVIEW OF REGIONAL ACTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF AGRICULTURE IN THE REGION

9. Regional Studies

80. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the Regional Studies undertaken in various fields of agriculture over the past two years, as presented in Document NERC/72/9 and NERC/72/9 Sup. 1. It noted that many of these studies were presented to the meetings of the concerned Regional Commissions held during the same period and, therefore, the action called for was included in the reports of these commissions.

81. Some of these studies such as the "Regional Study on Animal Husbandry, Production and Health, Fodder Production and Range-Management in the Near East and FAO's Policies and Plans for promoting Animal Industry", and "The Status of the Design and Analysis of Agricultural Experiments in the Near East", needed to be kept regularly up-to-date in consultations with Member Countries. The desire was also expressed as to the need for surveying the previous studies made in different fields of agriculture and preparing a consolidated annotated list to be distributed to Member Countries.

82. The Conference recommended that the programme of future regional studies should be formulated in the light of priorities identified by the Conference. In this connection, the Conference requested the Near East Regional Office to carry out a comprehensive study of the different models of integrated rural development in certain countries of the region taking into consideration the outstanding differences in social, economic and cultural conditions in these countries. The study should be submitted to the FAO Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning for consideration before forwarding it to Member Countries.

83. It further recommended that the Regional Study on Marginal Lands which covered four countries of the Region should be extended to others. An action programme should be initiated to assist member countries in the training of their technical personnel in this field and particularly range management.

84. The Conference recognized the need for associating short-term consultants with the Regional Office in such specialized fields as seed and citrus production.

10. Conclusions of Regional Commissions and
Committees and Other Meetings of Interest to
the Near East.

85. The Conference reviewed the major conclusions and recommendations made by the Regional Commissions and ad hoc meetings held during the past biennium, as presented in Document NERC/72/10. It endorsed all recommendations made by these bodies and urged member countries and the FAO to implement them. It noted with satisfaction that many of the recommendations made reflected the areas of priority identified by the Conference. The Conference further high-lighted the following recommendations.

86. In relation to land and water use, the Conference requested the Director-General to arrange for a regional seminar on underground water, its exploration, exploitation and conservation; to review such techniques as to their capabilities for expansion of water development in the Region.

87. In the field of horticulture, the Conference requested the Director-General to organize with UNDP assistance a survey mission to tour countries of the Region in preparation for the establishment of an Advisory Service on the production, marketing and export trade of fruits and vegetables in the Near East and North Africa. It also recommended the organization of a technical meeting on date production and processing.

88. In relation to plant protection, the Conference recommended the streamlining of arrangements for collection of information on plant pest and disease incidence in the member countries and its dissemination through the Regional Plant Pest and Disease Situation Reports, organization of mobile plant protection squads for plant pest and disease control in orchards and specialized crops, preparation by FAO of guidelines for plant quarantine regulations and initiation of studies on the construction of bulk containers for transportation taking into consideration the phytosanitary requirements.

89. In the field of forestry, the Conference recommended that member Governments pay more attention to proper land classification as the first phase of forest management based on the principle of multiple use, legislation and regulation of grazing, greater attention to improvements in fire prevention, and collection of information on quick-growing species in the arid and semi-arid lands of the Region. It requested FAO's assistance in this field.

90. In the field of Agricultural Planning, the Conference requested FAO to undertake reviews of agricultural performance and to conduct studies related to agricultural sector analysis and related agricultural policy alternatives. FAO should also help countries in the identification of areas of cooperation in economic integration through the promotion of joint enterprises.

91. In relation to statistics, the Conference recommended the strengthening of the Regional Office by a post of a regional biometrician, the organization of training courses on computer use in the analysis of experiments and making arrangements for programme packages to be ready for use for various designs.

92. The Animal Production and Health Commission had made a large number of recommendations based on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Regional Study on Animal Husbandry, Production and Health, Fodder Production and Range Management in the Near East and FAO's Policies and Plans for promoting Animal Industry.

93. The Conference endorsed in general the Commission's recommendations and in particular drew the attention of the Director-General to the recommendations regarding Nomadic and Transhumant Systems of Animal Production (1/71); Rehabilitation, Conservation and Development of the Arid and Semi-Arid Rangelands (2/71); Marketing of Slaughterstock and Meat and Extension of Intra-Regional Trade; National Institutional and Administrative Arrangements to Promote the Livestock Industry and Strengthening of Animal Production and Health Services in the Near East Region (21/71).

94. The Conference urged the Director-General to take the necessary measures to strengthen the work of the Regional Commissions through augmenting of facilities of its Secretariat and of their liaison with member countries for effective follow-up of their recommendations. It was also considered necessary to take steps for ensuring the continuity of work between sessions.

95. The Conference stressed the importance of strengthening the two-way link between the Regional Conference and the work of these commissions. The Conference would provide guidelines on the problems which should be studied in depth by these bodies. The recommendations made by these bodies would be incorporated within an overall development perspective for presentation to the Regional Conference, to enable it to take appropriate decisions on the policy issues involved in the various technical specialized fields. This required careful timing and planning of the meetings of the commissions.

96. The Conference stressed the importance of coordination between these commissions and urged member countries to participate actively in these meetings.

11. Role and Functions of the Regional Offices
and Country Offices and their Relation to
the Role and Functions of Headquarters.

97. In his statement the Director-General referred to the study requested by the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference concerning the role and functions of the Regional Offices and the country offices and their relation to the role and functions of headquarters. The Conference had before it document NERC/72/11 to which is appended the outline of a report on this subject.

98. The FAO Council would also receive the report of the Consultant and the reports of the Regional Conference and Programme and Finance Committees, and during its deliberations the Director-General would make a statement in which he would formulate his recommendations.

99. The whole regional structure of the United Nations system was also under study at the time by decision of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

100. Over the years, the regional structure of FAO had developed principally as a result of clear expressions of need and wishes by the governments of the various regions. The Director-General's views were:

- i) For an organization like FAO it was essential to have a regional structure, without it its relations with regional organizations, area banks, integration movements, etc. would be seriously hampered. There would also be a danger to its efforts to include the needs and possibilities of the agricultural sector in the general framework of development in the countries and in the Region; these efforts were highly dependent on close links between FAO and the Regional Economic Commissions.
- ii) The experience acquired in the country programming of the United Nations Development Programme since the adoption of the Consensus had shown that the Regional Offices and the Senior Agricultural Advisers/FAO Country Representatives did not duplicate the efforts or impinge on the functions and tasks of one another but that, in fact, the Regional Offices made available to governments the advisory experience of the Regular Programme and in this way, assisted them, in a pre-country programming form, to define sectoral priorities.

- iii) Such studies, would be basic to the dialogue between countries and FAO in the field of agricultural policy and of technical and financial assistance. In this dialogue, the Regional Offices would be important spokesmen on the FAO side.
- iv) The decisions and action plan approved at the recent United Nations Conference on the Human Environment emphasized the necessity of a regional structure for United Nations agencies.
- v) The growing experience of FAO in the formulation of medium-term objective indicated the imperative necessity of beginning that exercise at regional level with a definition of the main problem areas by the Regional Conferences, an exercise to which the Regional Offices were the chief contributors. It was through the establishment of medium-term objectives at regional level and their incorporation in a document of world compass that it was possible to better identify the similarities of interests, the possibilities of policy harmonization and the emphasis on priority which FAO must give in its work to the study of solutions for the chief problems affecting the agricultural sector.

101. The Assistant Director-General, Development Department, further stated that the establishment of multi-disciplinary task forces to assist governments in defining and solving complex problems must be regarded as belonging very largely to the planning rather than the technical assistance functions of Regional Offices. In this case, it would appear that such activities should be continued and strengthened. In regard to the role and function of the Regional Offices in the identification, formulation and possible intervention in the operation of regional projects, it was considered that these represented a highly important bridge between the Regular Programme and the field programme.

102. The Conference strongly recommended the continuation and further strengthening of the Regional Office with specialists in all the various fields of importance to the Region, since planning to be meaningful has to have a multi-disciplinary approach.

103. Strengthening of the planning function of the regional office without a multi-disciplinary approach would not appear to be a satisfactory arrangement and would tend to duplicate efforts since this was being done by the regional economic commissions and UNESOB. All disciplines of importance to the Region should be brought to bear on the problems of the Region in order that projects could be realistically formulated. Furthermore, it was generally accepted that the Regional Office should play a more effective role in pre-project activities. The desirability of limited centralization and greater decentralization was expressed and the example of five regional bodies for Desert Locust Control was referred to.

104. The Conference noted the special agricultural situation of the Gulf States and the wish expressed by their representatives and recommended the designation of a liaison officer in the Near East Regional Office for developing and coordinating FAO activities in these States.

A delegate suggested that strengthening of the FAO Regional Office structure should follow the general pattern of the WHO regional offices. It was also pointed out that the Regional Office should serve as a technical documentation centre and should provide high level scientists in all disciplines.

105. The Regional Office had given a push to integrated rural development and this work needed to be emphasized. The need for greater coordination of activities of the Regional Office and FAO Country Representatives was also pointed out. The Regional Office should serve as an effective link between the countries of the Region, and should be in a position to

implement the recommendations of the various technical commissions and harmonize programming as the needs of the Region were well known to them. Emphasis was placed on the coordination of the work of various U.N. Agencies at the Regional level.

The Conference adopted the following recommendations:-

Recommendation No. 10/72.

The Conference

Fully appreciating the significant efforts being exercised by the Near East Regional Office in serving member countries of the Region individually and collectively, particularly through the recent expanded use of task force missions and the integrated approach to problems affecting the countries of the Region;

Regretting the present limited resources available to it, and hence its inability to meet adequately the increasing demands of member countries;

Recognizing the essential and vital contribution which the Near East Regional Office can make to the integrated agricultural development of member countries and of the Region as a whole because of the broad experience and intimate knowledge of local social conditions of the Regional Office staff;

Realizing that FAO service to member countries of the Region can greatly improve if the Regional Office is vested with more responsibilities:

(a) achieve effective cooperation with other U.N. regional offices and Area Banks operating in the Region; (b) participate fully in country perspective studies; (c) formulate medium-term objectives with priorities; (d) launch multi-disciplinary task forces for specific country or regional purposes; (e) identify and formulate projects, and (f) follow-up action based on recommendations of FAO regional bodies.

Recommends to the Director-General of FAO

- That the functions and responsibilities of the Regional Office and its relationship with Headquarters and Country Representatives should be re-oriented in the light of the specific role defined above;
- That FAO/SAA/Country Representatives in the Region should have such close link with the Regional Office as to ensure fuller coordination of work programmes and policies and to enable the Regional Office staff to render more effective services to individual countries;
- That it is essential to continue to strengthen the staff of the Regional Office by highly qualified technical personnel, and by the employment of short-term consultants in an increasing magnitude;
- That the Regional Office should be responsible for as many of the activities on regional and inter-country projects as its resources and capabilities permit and should also be fully involved in the new activities concerning the environment in furtherance of the recommendations of the Stockholm Conference;
- That the Regional Office should monitor all the necessary follow-up action on the Regional Conference recommendations;
- That the Regional Office should be directly concerned with the promotion of fuller cooperation between member countries in the utilization of the financial and other resources generated within the Region;
- That the Regional Office should be significantly strengthened so that its current efforts in the dissemination of technical and policy information on matters of specific interest to countries of the Region are adequately expanded.

- That serious consideration be given to the establishment of a Regional body consisting of the heads of regional UN agencies and other organizations in the Region so as to ensure the maximum cooperation and coordination of the activities of these agencies and other organizations throughout the Region towards accelerating integrated rural development and welfare.

12. Progress and Priorities of Regional and
Inter-regional Projects.

106. The Conference reviewed the existing regional projects and new projects as proposed in Document WERC/72/13, as well as other proposals that emerged from its discussions.

107. The Conference was informed that submissions were made by the FAO to the UNDP for the extension of existing regional projects beyond 1972. The UNDP was seeking views of member governments. Support for the extension of some or all of the projects had been received from several governments. The delegates unanimously supported the extension of these projects.

108. It was pointed out that the FAO Regional Dairy Training Centre in Terbol, Lebanon, which was financed by DANIDA was a successful example of an FAO bilateral regional project.

109. The Conference considered new programme proposals in the light of the medium-term objectives and research priorities it had set earlier in the discussions. It noted further that comparatively speaking the

share of the Near East Region in the IPF allocations was inadequate and this had created a difficult situation in the matter of financing the ever-growing needs of the Region. The Conference urged upon the Director-General to bring this situation to the attention of the UNDP.

110. The Conference unanimously agreed to place the projects into three groups as follows:-

A. Inter-regional

1. Inter-regional Training Project in Desert Locust Control and Research.

B. Regional

2. Near East Regional Applied Research Programme for Land and Water Development.
3. Improvement and Production of Field Food Crops in the Near East.
4. Establishment of an Animal Production and Health Development Centre in the Near East.
5. Regional Institute for Research and Training in Statistics for the Near East.

C. Regional

6. Near East Regional Marketing and Research Institute.
7. Improvement and Production of Horticultural Crops.
8. Integrated Rural Development.

111. It was noted that the first project could be partly financed from the UNDP inter-regional fund. The counterpart contributions would be provided from the International Locust Trust Fund 161 to which all the member nations of the Near East were already contributing.

112. Group B of Regional Projects (Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5) were based on previous conferences and commissions recommendations and were in fact envisaged expansions of already existing projects.

113. Group C of Regional Projects (nos. 6, 7 and 8) were new proposals. While Project No. 6 had been formulated by the Regional Office and submitted to member governments for their views, the other two projects (Nos. 7 and 8) were completely new and came out as new ideas during the Conference discussions.

114. Delegates unanimously supported the inter-regional training project in Desert Control and Research. They also unanimously supported the following two regional projects in the order of their priority:

- Near East Regional Applied Research Programme for Land and Water Development,
- Improvement and Production of Field Food Crops in the Near East.

115. The Director-General was requested to communicate to member governments the first six projects (para. 110). Governments were requested to indicate to UNDP their views on the matter. The Director-General would communicate to the governments the decision of UNDP on the above projects as soon as possible. He would indicate in his communication possibilities of implementation and sources of finance. The Near East Regional Office was requested to formulate plans for projects 7 and 8.

V. THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. Implications of the Recommendations made
by the Conference.

116. The Conference noted the importance of the Declaration of the Human Environment which threw light on the low living environmental standards in developing countries and called for minimum criteria to guarantee for present and future generations a life that is suitable to human dignity.

117. The role of FAO is well recognized in the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources, to safeguard the vital potential resources in agriculture, forestry and fisheries and in its positive function in economic development and improvement of ecosystems in developing countries.

118. The priorities among various recommendations of the Stockholm Conference were considered by the Director-General in the light of guidance and advice he received from FAO's Committees and Commissions, Regional Conferences and the Council. Such environmental considerations and the increasing interest in the integrated evaluation of natural resources, their management and use at national, regional and international levels, would naturally affect the current Regular Programme, the Medium-Term Plan and the development programmes. The importance of predicting major environmental problems was pointed out as was the need to their prevention, at the planning stage, i.e. before making decisions on large investments entailing important changes in the use of natural resources. There was also

need for maintaining productivity in addition to increase of total production, war on waste, improvement of the quality of life in rural areas with particular emphasis on less favoured areas such as arid zones to ensure better subsistence.

119. The establishment of special emergency programmes on regional and international basis to save some of the endangered resources such as soil, certain genetic resources, certain species of fish, afforestation and fire control in forests and conservation of wild life, was suggested.

120. The Conference recommended the following priorities for the Region: (a) Establishment of a Regional Centre for Research and Training on Water Management, (b) Survey and Development of Marginal Lands, (c) Evaluation and conservation of natural resources especially forestry, (d) Studies on the increased use of agro-chemicals including plant origin fish toxins in the context of socio-economic conditions and necessary legislation for protection against harmful effects.

121. The need for coordination within FAO and between FAO and other specialized agencies to meet and carry out efficiently the Stockholm recommendations was stressed. Cooperation and coordination between the Regional Office in Cairo and UNESOB in Beirut regarding matters of the Human Environment was emphasized.

VI. ORIENTATION OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION.

14. Review of the Medium-Term Objectives and
Proposals on Agricultural Development
Priorities in the Near East Region.

122. The Conference took note of the opening statement of the Director-General on the Medium-Term Objectives and the Proposals on Agricultural Development Priorities in the Near East Region (Document NERC/72/12) for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget (1974-75) and of the Medium-Term Objectives (1974-1979).

123. The Conference emphasized the following points in order of priority:-

A. Areas of Priority :-

- (a) Land and Water Development.
- (b) Promotion of Animal Production including Fisheries for Closing the Protein Gap.
- (c) Integrated Rural Development with emphasis on Employment and Marketing.
- (d) Crop Improvement, including HYV of field and horticultural crops under irrigated and dry land farming.

B. Tools for Action :

- (a) Planning and Statistics.
- (b) Training
- (c) Research and the application of Science and Technology to Agriculture.

124. In respect to land and water development, the Conference stressed that first priority should be given to the Regional Applied Research Programme for Land and Water Use. The economic use of water was considered as the crucial factor for the intensification and the development of agriculture in the Region. It was recognized that dry land farming should be efficiently utilized so as to maximize income from vast resources of dry land available in the Region. Delegates stressed the importance of marginal and arid land use aiming at the maintenance of the quality of the environment and the proper and economic use of marginal lands which would ensure continuing productivity, check the desert creep and reverse the process through reforestation and improvement of land productivity.

125. The programme on the development of animal production and health as presented by the background paper and by the Near East Animal Production and Health Commission in its last meeting held in Cyprus, June 1971, was endorsed by the Conference; the role of livestock forage production and range management was particularly underlined. In the case of fisheries, attention was drawn to the Regional Marine Fishery Survey Project for the Gulf and to the proposed Sub-regional Training Institute Project to be located in Kuwait, to build up the necessary training manpower for the development of marine fisheries.

126. With regard to Integrated Rural Development, special attention was given to the problems of unemployment and under-employment in the rural areas. It was noted that the greatest challenge facing the Near East

countries in the Seventies would be the creation of employment opportunities in rural areas through establishing relatively small scale, labour-intensive industries for processing agricultural products and inputs, and for manufacturing consumer goods for rural people.

127. In following the integrated rural development approach, the Conference stressed the need to link all agricultural development projects with marketing and credit. It was recognized that the integration of these components constituted the basic condition for increasing agricultural productivity and promoting rural welfare.

128. The Conference placed emphasis on crop improvement through the use of HYV in the Region. In view of the success achieved in the FAO Near East Wheat and Barley Improvement and Production Project which also covers maize and sorghum, The Conference felt the need to have a special project on improved horticultural crops. It was pointed out that the use of HYV should not be restricted to irrigated land, but research should be undertaken to find special varieties which would be grown under rainfed conditions.

129. A major constraint to the development of the agricultural sector in the Region was that not enough attention was given to the tools of action needed for the implementation and the attainment of the Medium-Term Objectives. There was a lack of trained personnel in almost all fields, particularly at the intermediate level. Statistical methods were not sufficiently developed to meet adequately the requirements of planning and the available statistics were not satisfactory with respect to scope, coverage, accuracy, timeliness and international comparability.

130. The Conference welcomed the proposal made by FAO to have a special Regional Programme on the Application of Science and Technology in Agriculture within the framework of the Plan of Action of the United Nations. The Conference endorsed also the programme of regional studies (Document NERC/72/12) to be undertaken by FAO in the Region.

131. In the implementation of the FAO Medium-Term Objectives for the Near East Region, a close link between the Regular Programme and Field Programmes was considered essential. The Conference appreciated the problem-solving approach with pragmatic orientation using multi-disciplinary task forces and missions. Furthermore, FAO technical commissions, where governments participated with FAO in shaping policies and strategies for agricultural development, were considered useful in sharpening priorities and improving FAO techniques of planning and policy-making.

15. Orientation of the Future Work in the Region.

132. The Regional Representative expressed his satisfaction at the greater appetite and absorptive capacity for technical assistance in the Region and the desire to benefit from the services rendered by FAO headquarters and Regional Office. The determination for self help and the setting up of the Kuwait/FAO Bilateral Cooperative Project, the first example among the developing countries was appreciated.

133. The countries in the Region faced problems of poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, weak rural structures and brain drain. FAO was rather poor in financial resources and was passing through a reorganizational phase to meet the changing demands of the member countries. There was also the diversity of UN regional zones which created difficulties in the coordination of the activities of the UN agencies working in the Region.

134. The Conference had set forth clear-cut top priorities to:
(a) Land and Water; (b) Animal Production; (c) Integrated Rural Development; and (d) High-yielding Varieties of Crops. It had given support to two regional projects on (i) Land and Water, and (ii) Field Food Crops, and placed Studies on Animal Production including fisheries as a third priority.

135. FAO had been asked to prepare a report on upgrading the Kuwait Fisheries and Shipping Institute into a Sub-regional Institute, to initiate studies on models of integrated rural development, to continue the survey on marginal and arid lands and to further develop its work on Agricultural Research Organization and application of modern tools of Science and Technology to Agricultural Development.

136. The Regional Representative expressed his gratitude at the encouraging words unanimously expressed on the ongoing activities of the Regional Office as also the support for its further strengthening to ensure multi-disciplinary approach towards solving problems of agricultural development.

137. Delegates further requested the Regional Office to undertake studies regarding the evaluation of the existing projects, the current financial position of allocations for projects and possible additional sources of financing projects, priorities for which had been set during the Conference. It was suggested that possibilities for upgrading of other national institutes to the regional level within the context of self-help be investigated. One delegate requested that Governments be kept informed of the developments with regard to reorganization of FAO headquarters and Regional Office. Other delegates stressed greatly the need for closer Regional Coordination especially in marketing policy and trade in agricultural products within the Region.

VII. CONCLUDING ITEMS.

16. Date and Place of the Twelfth Session of the
Near East Regional Conference.

138. The Arab Republic of Egypt, Iran and Lebanon offered to host the Twelfth Session of the Conference. The Conference agreed to leave the final decision on the precise date and location of that Session to the Director-General, taking into consideration such factors as the rotation and the availability of adequate facilities.

17. Adoption of the Report

139. The Conference adopted the Draft Report with only minor amendments. In this connection, the Conference expressed its appreciation of the work done by the Drafting Committee. A summary of the recommendations made by the Conference is given in Appendix D.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

140. The Head of the Syrian Delegation made a statement about the recent military events in the Region and the serious damage caused to civilian rural population and their agriculture and livestock. The Conference expressed its regrets to these developments and expressed the hope that the United Nations would take immediate action towards reducing the tension in the area and avoiding similar developments in the future.

141. The Conference elected Pakistan to represent the Near East Region at the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and the Arab Republic of Egypt as an alternate effective from April 1973. It recommended in this connection that in future the alternate member should become a member and a new alternate elected. The Conference expressed appreciation for the pioneer and dedicated work done by the Representative from Lebanon as the first N.E. representative in the consultative group.

IX. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

142. A most warm tribute was expressed to the Host Country, Kuwait, for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference and the facilities placed at its disposal.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman:	7 His Excellency HMOUL YOUSEF AL NISF Minister of Public Works Kuwait
Vice-Chairmen:	Heads of all Delegations
Drafting Committee:	Arab Republic of Egypt Iran Jordan Kuwait Lebanon Pakistan Somali Democratic Republic

MEMBER NATIONS IN THE REGION

BAHRAIN

Abdulla Bin Khalid Al Khalifa	Minister of Agriculture and Municipality Manama
Abdel Aziz Alhasan	Deputy Director of Agriculture Manama

CYPRUS

Theodosias Christou	Director Agricultural Research Institute Nicosia
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EGYPT

Mostafa Gabaly	Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Cairo
Kamal Ramzi Stino	Supervisor Agricultural Research Centre Cairo
Salah El Abd	Under-Secretary of State Ministry of Agriculture Cairo
Mohamed Kamel Hindi	Director-General Agricultural Economics and Statistics Department Cairo
Abbas M. Kesseba	Adviser to the Minister's Cabinet Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
Mohamed Mahmoud Dessouky	Director United Nations Department Ministry of Agriculture Cairo

FRANCE

Jean de Vaissiere

Inspector-General of Agriculture
Paris

IRAN

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Deputy Minister of Agriculture
and Natural Resources
Teheran

A.F. Mahdavi

Director-General
Soil Institute of Iran
Teheran

Kameleddin Moossavi

Director-General for
Agricultural Extension of Iran
Teheran

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Centre for Agricultural Marketing
Teheran

Mohamed Samii

Head of Seed and
Plant Improvement Centre
Karaj

Kazem Fallah Rastegar

Planning Office
Ministry of Agriculture
Teheran

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Baghdad

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Amman

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Minister of Public Works
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Abdul Rahman Salman	Superintendent of Animal Wealth Department of Agriculture Ministry of Public Works Kuwait
Adel Abaza	Superintendent Chief Veterinary Officer Ministry of Public Works Kuwait
Hussein Qabazard	Foreign Relations Officer Ministry of Public Works Kuwait
Abdul Rahman Al Mazroui	Ministry of Social Affairs Kuwait
Ali Al-Mulla	Director of Social Affairs for Youth Ministry of Social Affairs Kuwait
Mohamed I. Al-Fraih	Standards Engineer Ministry of Commerce and Industry Kuwait
Ali Ahmad Saleh Faras	Assistant Director Food Section, Municipality Kuwait
Mohamed Abdul Mohsen Al Sayegh	Geographical Planner Planning Council Kuwait
Akeel Ahmad Al Jassem	Administrative Assistant Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kuwait
Abdul Wahab A. Hashem	Secretary, Milk Producers Union Ministry of Public Health Kuwait

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Jassem M. Al Musallam	Marketing Superintendent Kuwait Chemical Fertilizer Co. Kuwait
Mohamed Hassan Al Attar	Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Kuwait
Kassem Barda Ahmad	Ministry of Public Works Kuwait
Sabry Sama'an Shamass	Kuwait Oil Co. Kuwait
Heshmat Shaker Romani	Documentalist Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Kuwait
Mohamed Sha'ban Sakr	Representative of Kuwait Flour Mills Kuwait
Abdalla El Nasser	Representative of Ministry of Works Trade Union Kuwait

LEBANON

Sultan Haidar	Director-General Animal Production Office Beirut, Lebanon
Malek Basbous	President of the Green Plan Beirut

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Hassan M. Arafa	Director-General Aquatic Wealth Ministry of Industry Tripoli
Ibrahim M. Al Sharif	Director Planning and Agricultural Economics Department Tripoli

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YEMEN, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
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Mohamed Soliman Nasser

Minister of Agriculture and
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Ministry of Agriculture and
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HOLY SEE

Charbel Kassis

Chief of Delegation

Halim Kazzi

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Giovanni de Maria

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Matar M. Al Murray	Director Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Abu Dhabi

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Chris De Clercq	Associate Expert UNESOB Beirut

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUNDS

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WORD FOOD PROGRAMME

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Fritz Pronk	Chief Near East and North Africa Region FAO, Rome

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Liam E. Pickett	Regional Adviser on Cooperatives Near and Middle East, Beirut
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INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Hafizur Rahman Malik	Staff Member IBRD Washington, D.C.
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KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (K.F.A.E.D.)

Mohamed El Sharech	Deputy Director-General KFAED Kuwait
Fawsi M. Sultan	Economist KFAED Kuwait

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Conference Affairs Officer:	J. ANDERSEN
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APPENDIX B

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

- I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS
 1. Inauguration of the Conference
 2. Election of Officers of the Conference
 3. Election of the Drafting Committee
 4. Adoption of the Agenda
- II. SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE REGION
 5. Statement by the Director-General
 6. Statement by the Regional Representative (achievements, outlook and projections)
 7. Statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme
- III. MATTERS OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION
 8. Marketing and the Integration of Marketing and Related Institutions with Production
 9. Land and Water Development
 10. Impact, Problems and Potential of the Green Revolution
 11. Closing the Protein Gap
 - (a) Food and Nutrition in National Policy
 - (b) Livestock and Poultry
 - (c) Fisheries
 - (d) Cereals and Pulses
 12. Agricultural Research Priorities for the Near East Region

IV. REVIEW OF REGIONAL ACTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE REGION

13. Regional Studies
14. Conclusions of Regional Commissions and Committees and Other Meetings of Interest to the Near East
15. Role of Regional Office, etc.
 - (a) Outline of Consultants Study on the Role and Functions of Regional Offices, Country Offices, Headquarters and their Interrelationships
 - (b) Progress of and Priorities for Regional Projects
 - (c) Inter-Regional Projects

V. IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

VI. ORIENTATION OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

16. Review of Medium-Term Plan C 71/15 in Accordance with Resolution 6/71 of the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference
17. Orientation of Future Work in the Region

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. CONCLUDING ITEMS

18. Adoption of the Report
19. Place and Date of the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East
20. Closure of the Conference

August 1972

APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Document No.</u>		<u>Agenda Item No.</u>
NERC/72/INF/1	Information Note	
NERC/72/INF/2	Provisional Timetable	
NERC/72/INF/3- Rev.1	List of Documents	
NERC/72/INF/4	Extracts from Reports of COFI, COAG, COFO, PC	16
NERC/72/INF/5- Rev.2	Delegates, Observers and FAO Staff attending the Conference	

Background Documents

NERC/72/1	Provisional Agenda and Notes	4
NERC/27/2	Regional Representative's Review of FAO Activities in the Region and Report on Action taken on the recommendations of the Tenth Regional Conference	6
NERC/72/3	World Food Programme Activities in the Near East Region	7
NERC/72/4	Marketing and Its Integration with Production and Related Rural Institutions in the Near East Region	8
NERC/72/5	Land and Water Development	9
NERC/72/6	Impact, Problems and Potential of the Green Revolution	10
NERC/72/6-Corr.1	Impact, Problems and Potential of the Green Revolution	
NERC/72/6-Sup.1	Impact, Problems and Potential of the Green Revolution	
NERC/72/7	Closing the Protein Gap	11
NERC/72/8	Agricultural Research Priorities for the Near East Region	12
NERC/72/9	Review of Important Regional Studies in different fields of Agriculture in the Near East	13
NERC/72/9-Sup.1	Preliminary Report on Marginal Land Study Tour	

LIST OF DOCUMENTS (cont.)

<u>Document No.</u>		<u>Agenda Item No.</u>
NERC/72/10	Conclusions of Regional Commissions and Special Technical Meetings	14
NERC/72/11	Outline of the Report on the Role and Functions of the Regional Offices and Country Offices and their Relation to the Role and Functions of Headquarters	15 (a)
NERC/72/12	Medium-Term Plan	16
NERC/72/13	Regional and Inter-Regional Projects	15(b)

Conference Documents

NERC/72/CONF/1	Statement of the Director-General	5
NERC/72/CONF/2	Statement of the Regional Representative	6
NERC/27/CONF/3	Statement of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme	

APPENDIX D

List of the Recommendations, including Formal Recommendations (1/72 - 10/72) and Recommendations in the Narrative Text (11 - 48), contained in the Report

<u>Para- graph</u>	<u>Recommend- ation No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
		<u>SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE REGION</u>	
19	11	Country Perspectives Studies in the N.E.	FAO
20	12	Evaluation Mission of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture	FAO, Governments
18,20, 22.	13	Regional Cooperation in Agricultural Production, Marketing and Research	FAO, Governments
22	<u>1/72</u>	<u>The Establishment of a Sub-Regional Fisheries Institute for the Gulf States</u>	FAO
23	14	The Promotion of FAO/Government Coopera- tive Programme in the Region starting with the initial Contribution Pledged by Kuwait.	FAO, Governments
27,82	<u>2/72</u>	<u>Undertaking Studies of Different Models of Integrated Rural Development</u>	FAO
28	<u>3/72</u>	<u>The Use of Arabic as a Full Working Language</u>	FAO
31	<u>4/72</u>	<u>Increasing Contributions to the World Food Programme in Cash and in Kind and Diversifying Contributions in Kind. Promoting Exchange of WFP Commodities with Locally Available Food Items and of Surplus Commodities between Countries</u>	Governments WFP

<u>Para-graph</u>	<u>Recommend-ation No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>MARKETING AND RELATED INSTITUTIONS</u>			
36	15	Survey of Agricultural Credit Systems and Institutions	FAO
37	16	Extending the Study of Livestock and Meat	FAO
40	17	Establishing Marketing Intelligence Services	FAO, Governments
42	18	Establishing Standards for Grading and Packing of Agricultural Commodities	FAO
43	19	Arranging for Regional Consultations on the Subject through the N.E. Commissions on Agricultural Planning	FAO
41,43	<u>5/72</u>	<u>Establishment of a Regional Institute for Marketing Research, Training and Information</u>	FAO
<u>LAND AND WATER USE</u>			
44	20	Preparation of a paper on Dryland Farming	FAO
49,50, 78,79	<u>9/72</u> 21	<u>Establishing an International Centre in the Region for Research on Water Resources and their Use</u>	FAO
54,55	<u>6/72</u>	<u>Intensifying Basic Studies and Strengthening National Programmes and Organizations in Relation to Land and Water Use</u> <u>Strengthening FAO Land Water Services at the Regional Office and Taking Action for Establishing a Regional Institute for Training on the subject.</u>	Governments

<u>Para-graph</u>	<u>Recommend-ation No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>IMPROVEMENT AND PRODUCTION OF FIELD FOOD CROPS</u>			
58,59	<u>7/72</u>	<u>Financing the Regional Project on the Improve-ment and Production of Field Food Crops.</u>	FAO
59,78	<u>8/72</u>	<u>Taking Action towards establishing an internationally Supported Regional Research Institute on Improvement of Important Crops in the Region.</u>	FAO
		<u>Donation of Funds and Facilities to Facilitate the Establishment of the Proposed Regional Institute and its Sub-Stations.</u>	Governments
<u>CLOSING THE PROTEIN GAP</u>			
63	22	Undertaking comprehensive Food Consumption and Nutrition Surveys	Governments
65, 66	23	Setting up Food and Nutrition Units in the Ministry of Agriculture and Coordinating Committees.	Governments
66	24	Training on Food and Nutrition Policies	FAO, Governments
67	25	Developing Animal Resources	Governments
69	26	Undertaking a Fish Resources Survey in the Gulf Area	FAO, Gulf States
<u>AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH</u>			
70	27	Establishing National Coordinating Council on Agricultural Research	Governments
72	28	Carry out regional study on evaluating and testing of field implements and machinery	FAO
73	29	Establishing a Regional Training Centre for technicians	FAO

<u>Para-</u> <u>graph</u>	<u>Recommend-</u> <u>ation No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
74	30	Taking Measures for Halting the outflow of Research Workers	Governments
75	31	Issuing a Yearly Agricultural Research Magazine	FAO
76	32	Agricultural Research Priorities	FAO, Governments
79	33	Organizing a Regional Seminar on Agricul- tural Research	FAO
<u>REGIONAL STUDIES</u>			
81,83, 85	34	Updating and preparing a consolidated annotated list of Regional Studies and extending the study on marginal lands to other countries.	FAO
<u>REGIONAL COMMISSIONS AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS</u>			
84,86,87, 88,89,90, 91,93	35	Implementation of Recommendations made by these Bodies	FAO, Governments
94	36	Strengthening the Secretariat of the Regional Commissions and its Liaison with Countries	FAO
95	37	Strengthening the Two-way Link between the Regional Conference and the Work of the Commissions	FAO
96	38	Participating Actively in the Work of Regional Commissions	Governments
<u>ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE REGIONAL OFFICE</u>			
104	39	The appointment of a Liaison Officer for the Gulf States	FAO

<u>Para-graph</u>	<u>Recommend-ation No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
105	10/72	Reorientation of the Functions and Strengthening of the Regional Office	FAO
<u>REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL PROJECTS</u>			
107	40	Continuation of Existing Projects beyond 1972	FAO
109	41	Approaching UNDP for Increasing IPF Allocations for the Region	FAO
110,115	42	Securing of Governments' Reaction to the Priorities among the various Projects	FAO
115	43	Formulating two projects on Improvement and Production of Horticultural Crops, and Integrated Rural Development	FAO
<u>STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</u>			
120,121	44	Implementation of the Recommendations through coordination between FAO and Other Specialized Agencies	FAO
<u>MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES</u>			
21,123	45	a) Areas of Priorities b) Tools for Action	FAO
<u>ORIENTATION OF FUTURE WORK IN THE REGION</u>			
132,133, 134,135, 136	46	Priorities for Future Work	FAO, Governments
137	47	Evaluation of Existing Projects	FAO
137	48	Exploring other sources of financing projects	FAO

