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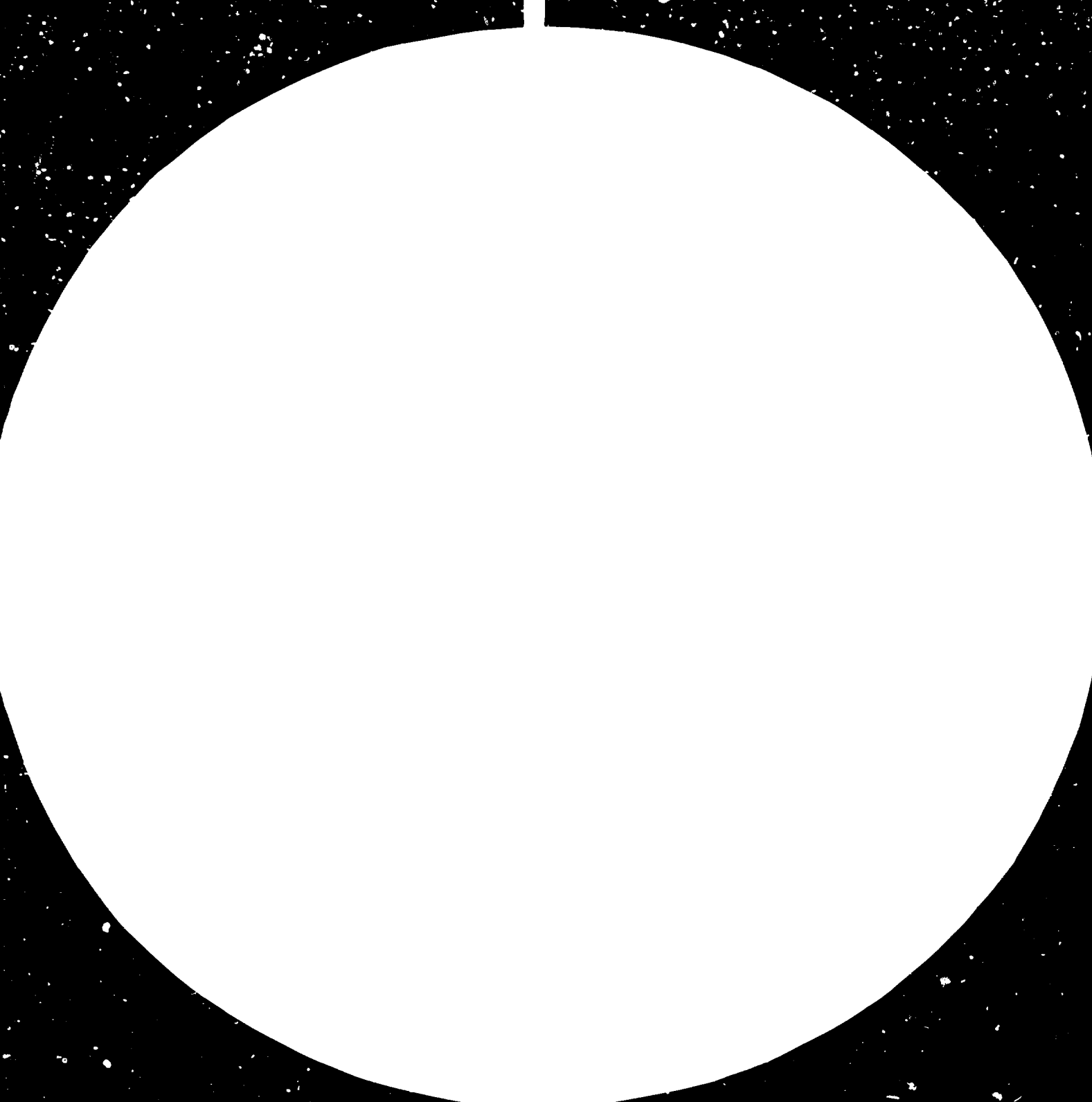
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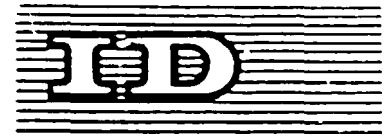
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Round-Table Ministerial Meeting on
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Baghdad, Iraq, 19 - 24 January 1981

POULTRY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN IRAQ

presented by the

Government of Iraq

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PREFACE

This document, Poultry Industry Development in Iraq, is one of 18 studies presented as supporting material to the Iraq country paper about the development of agro-industries and state of agricultural production and supplementary industries. We thought of presenting them to assist the reader in getting acquainted with the pioneering experiment in Iraq in the development of this field of our economic activities. This documentation reflects the great development achieved within the years that have already elapsed since the uprising of 17th July Revolution under the leadership of Arab Baath Socialist Party that aimed at achieving economic and social welfare for the people by rational use of the natural resources and elevating our country to the rank of advanced countries within a considerable period.

From the point of view of the Revolution leadership in Iraq, what has been achieved so far in the field of irrigation development, drainage, mechanization of agriculture, animal production, other agro-industries, and other infra-structural development in this field, are deliberate and effective steps towards reaching our aspiration.

In these studies we have tried to highlight the main development features, the negative sides as well as the positive results achieved so far with the objective of presenting our experience to brotherly and friendly countries in particular to those whose conditions and potentialities are similar to our country. This exchange of experience is not only a necessity but a duty imposed on us by our principles and the current international circumstance in which food weapon becomes one of the important weapons raised by imperialism in the face of developing countries. If those countries do not support each other and exchange national experience their task in achieving their food security will be, if not impossible, difficult to achieve.

We hope that our contribution together with that of other participating states and organizations will contribute to the success of this ministerial meeting on development of food industries in developing countries.

Preparatory Committee
for the Round-Table Ministerial Meeting
on Agro-Industry Development

POULTRY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN IRAQ

Preface

Poultry is considered one of the most important species of livestock, its products (i.e. eggs and meat) have high nutritional value as a source of protein which is a basic component of human nutrition.

Socio-economic progress in Iraq caused an improvement of the nutritional standard of the population and the increasing demand on poultry products created a shortage which the domestic rural production could not satisfy, so that the government took the responsibility to establish an integrated poultry industry based on modern scientific methods for the production of eggs and chicken meat, as well as to support the private and co-operative sectors in the promotion of this industry to an important position within the agricultural sector of Iraq.

Historical Summary

The poultry market in Iraq depended on the supply provided by the rural sector which was characterized by a small number of chicken (5-20, rarely reaching the point of 50-100) bred by rural families to satisfy their own needs of eggs and chicken meat, and to gain additional income by selling the surplus at the local markets.

This method of production was of low productivity due to insufficient care and elimination. The rural production depended on native breeds with low yield-capacity (slow growth rate, few layings, ... etc.), but carrying hereditary characteristics permitting them to endure the rough environmental conditions (s.a. climatic changes, epidemics and scarce elimination).

In 1905, the first organized attempt in poultry production took place in Iraq, when the first private poultry yard was established with a capacity of 500-600 birds. Seventeen years later, in 1922, another farm was established with artificial incubators of a capacity of 540 eggs of the native breed.

In 1938, another project was established using artificial incubators with a capacity of 350 eggs and in 1948, four poultry farms were built. In 1954, a poultry farm was built with artificial incubators with a capacity of 10,000 eggs, using scientific and technical methods available. In 1955, day-old baby chicken were produced with the use of artificial incubators of a capacity of 4,224 eggs.

The above-mentioned projects represented the starting points for the use of modern methods in poultry industry in Iraq up to 1960.

To reduce poultry products' imports, the Iraqi Government expanded the experimental farm, which had been established by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1935, and its capacity was enlarged to 40,000 birds producing 3 million day-old baby chicken to be sold to farmers.

In 1965, the Government started to modernize the poultry industry by establishing the General Poultry Company for the production of table eggs, hatched eggs, poultts and broilers; at the same time necessary support was provided to the private and co-operative sectors.

According to the above facts, one can distinguish between three productive agricultural sectors for poultry in Iraq:

- 1 - The public sector which consists of three state establishments as well as small public agricultural projects and the agricultural schools.

- 2 - The private sector.
- 3 - The co-operative sector.

The Development of the General
Poultry Company

The G.P.C. started its activities by establishing the Moradyah project for poultry meat with a designed annual capacity of 2.4 million broilers, 50 million table eggs, and 4 million hatching eggs. Vertical and horizontal expansions continued with the establishment of integrated projects for table eggs and meat chicken in different regions of the country to cover the growing demand on them.

The total number of productive projects rose to 17, with a total designed productive capacity reaching 967 million table eggs per year. As for the meat chicken projects, there were five projects with a productive capacity of 22.8 million meat chicken per year. Meanwhile, five table eggs projects and three meat chicken projects are under preparation with a designed capacity of 500 million table eggs and 36 million meat chicken per year. After completion, their designed productive capacity may rise to 1467 million table eggs and 58.8 million meat chicken per year in 1982.

Designed Productive Capacity of Meat
Chicken and Table Eggs Projects

The result of this fast and wide expansion was the establishment of three state poultry companies according to geographical distribution: The General Company, one for the Northern Area and one for the South. The first one established has the largest production and is thus, considered the Mother Company.

The present designed productive capacities of these three establishments are 477, 280 and 210 million per year table eggs, and 14.8, 2 and 6 million per year meat chicken. The Central State Company also carries out a project for layer parent stock with a designed capacity of 16 million one-day old layer chicken poults to supply the three S.P.E., as well as a project for hatching eggs and one-day old meat chicken poults with a designed capacity of 15.7 million one-day old poults and 9 million hatching eggs per year. This project is for supply to the co-operative sector only.

Data show that production has rapidly increased in the three General Companies during the last twelve years as shown in Table 1.

Table (1)

Table Eggs and Meat Chicken Production of the Three
State Companies During 12 Years

Year	Table Eggs	Meat Chicken
1968	-	201265
1969	-	580495
1970	3028000	1511281
1971	21303000	2162805
1972	45111000	2719818
1973	70338000	2979364
1974	93722000	3188026
1975	196619000	3809246
1976	356929000	4904818
1977	709945000	7056202
1977	709945000	7056202
1978	817326541	10905694
1979	853363211	19247330

Housing System Used in the Company

The farms and equipment used at the Company belong to the most modern in the world. The high summer temperatures have bad effects on dense poultry breeding and cause low quantitative production results for both eggs and meat, as well as high mortality rates. This reason caused the Company to adopt the closed breeding system which permits the monitoring of climatic conditions in the poultry houses, such as heat, humidity, ventilation and light access and light intensity.

The distribution of feed and water, the collection and cleaning of eggs are automatic to save time and labour, since each poultry house contains 25 thousand birds, which shows a high density rate.

Production Stages

Meat and eggs productions require different successive processes, starting from the poultry yards until the final stages as table eggs or frozen chicken meat are reached. The Company applies the system of separate production processes to control epidemics and to lower their effects. Furthermore, it uses the age class distribution system to facilitate feeding and sanitary measures.

Production Stages for Meat Chicken

The production line consists of four stages:

- Yards for meat hens to produce hatcheries' eggs
- Incubator for the one-day old poult
- Yards for meat chicken aged 56 days
- The slaughter and processing factory

The great expansion in the production of meat chicken in Iraq necessitates the imports of high quantities of one-day old broiler parent stock, which means the outflow of foreign exchange for this purpose. A study has been carried out on a project for broiler grand parent stock, which would be a major step to reach vertical integration in the production processes of meat chicken both economically and regularly. This project is now under implementation.

Production Stages for Table Eggs

The production line for table eggs in the Company consists of the following stages:

- 1 - Layer parent stock two stages:
 - A - Rearing period from the age of one day to 18 weeks.
 - B - Production period from the age of 22 weeks to 69 weeks to lay hatching eggs.
- 2 - Incubator to produce day-old laying chicken.
- 3 - Table egg production farms with two stages:
 - A - Rearing period for one-day old laying hens till they reach 18 weeks.
 - B - Production period from the age of 18 weeks till 74 weeks to produce table eggs.

To insure regular and continuing production, the Company applies the method of regular and successive life cycles covering the whole year. This method is used in all the company's projects either to produce eggs or meat with the aim to attain the maximal use of the production factors.

The Scientific Aspects of the Poultry Industry

Due to the importance of applied scientific research which is considered the basis of development and growth, the General Company of Poultry is establishing a research station.

There is a great need for applied research to solve the problems faced by the poultry industry in the country, as well as the development of this industry for further adaptation to local conditions in Iraq. The training of technicians is carried out both in the country and abroad in order to follow the technological progress in poultry industry in the world.

The Private Sector

In the private sector there are two categories of producers: the first is represented by the rural families, who keep small numbers of native breed chicken with bad productive characteristics but high resistance to epidemics and well bearing to the severe environmental conditions. This house breeding is generally primitive with scarce elimination and little veterinary care.

Table eggs production of this sector during the period 1.10.1977 - 30.9.78 was about 130.9 million representing 13% of the total production of table eggs in the country^{1/}.

The government encourages this sector by providing production materials such as small poultry runs for laying hens to contain 50 hens as well as small house incubators, feeding alleys, mangers, etc. The General Companies, the Directorate General of Animal

^{1/} General Statistical Organization. Results of the annual survey of live-stock for the year 1978, Report No. (3).

Wealth and the Agriculture Schools, help these rural families by providing them with cross-breed chicken of high yield capacity, along with concentrate fodder and veterinarian care.

The second category of the private sector producers concerns owners of small commercial farms producing meat chickens or broilers. Generally, these owners are retired officials and wealthy people with capital, but generally are not full-time breeders. Their farms are characterized by simple buildings and equipment, though some of them have started to establish modern farms with high productive capabilities, but their production depends essentially on the supply of broiler baby chickens.

The governmental support to this sector for developing its production has encouraged the owners to apply scientific and technical methods of modern processes, with the result that this sector has reached a certain position in the country's production, i.e., 36.9 million poult in 1978.

Co-operative Sector

The government provides the necessary support to develop the co-operative sector and enable it to participate in the increasing growth of the local production of eggs and meat chicken. Support is allocated in different ways, such as providing this sector with one-day old chicken, concentrate fodder, etc. at low prices. At the same time, modern farms are established to produce one-day old chicken and hatching eggs with a productive capacity of 15.7 million one-day old chicken and 9 million hatching eggs per year. The production of this project is to supply the co-operative sector only. A modern slaughter house is under construction in Baghdad with a capacity of 6000 birds per hour to slaughter and process the production of the co-operative sector.

The actual production of this sector during 1978 has reached 10.8 million chicken.

We have summarized the development of poultry industry in Iraq and can state that the real development has started ten years ago as part of the governmental plan to satisfy the consumption need of eggs and chicken meat. We must also keep in mind that the government is hoping to increase the population's consumption of eggs and chicken meat to the rate of the developed countries.

It has been recommended to increase each person's allowance of table eggs from 118 to 150 eggs per year. The National Development Plan has projected an increase of the personal allowance of chicken meat from 5.3 to 10 kg. per year.

Before us lies a lot of work to implement these goals, since we know that so far the production of eggs covers only 54% and the production of chicken meat not more than 60% of the above projections. The country still has to import high quantities to fill the gap caused by the increasing demand on these two goods.

The accomplishments and qualitative changes during the last ten years in the production of eggs and chicken meat can be considered a big step forward which could not have been achieved without the continuing support of the government to this sector.



