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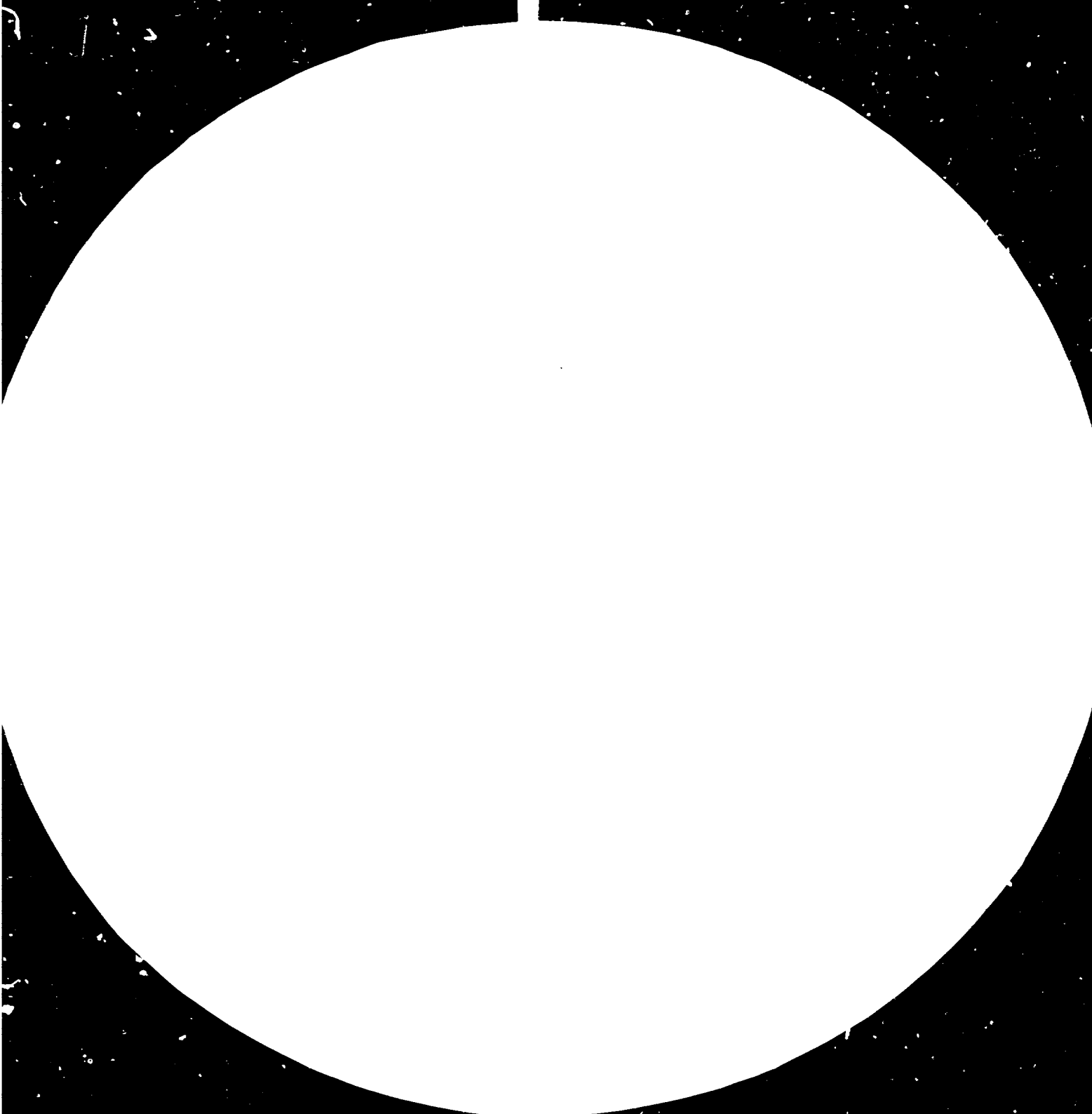
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DEVELOPMENT OF AQUICULTURE PRODUCTION IN IRAQ

presented by the

Government of Iraq

T. 24-3111

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PREFACE

This document, Development of Aquiculture Production 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 those 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

DEVELOPMENT OF AQUICULTURE PRODUCTION

IN IRAQ

Aquiculture production has an important role in providing protein for human food, for it contains high rates of aminic acids, vitamins, mineral salts and other components. Its low production cost compared to other protein sources such as meat, eggs, milk and its products, poultry etc. For this reason increased attention is being given, throughout the world, to fishing industries which have now become an important industrial branch. Laws and regulations are laid down to organise it; its systems and methods have developed as well. Our country has developed aquiculture investment in inland waters and established aquiculture farms; at the same time the country developed its investment in aquiculture at the regional waters and high seas. Development plans are laid down to increase this production by vertical and horizontal investment in fishing industry and by applying studies for this purpose.

Sea fishing has developed in our country from fishing in regional and coastal waters using old traditional methods, to high sea and ocean fishing by using modern fishing and transportation boats, cooling and freezing stores, freezing transport trucks, and by preparing the cadres to enlarge this vital project to increase aquiculture production as well as by establishing joint companies with other Arab and friendly countries.

IRAQ has large surface inland waters, which are estimated to be 1.053.000 hectare, lakes and dams are about 438 thousand hectare, marshes about 580 thousand hectare, rivers 35 thousand hectare, as well as regional waters 92.4 thousand hectare approximately.

We summarise below the growth of aquiculture production in IRAQ, personal consumption and the role of Socialist Sector (The State Organisation for Fishery):

1. Fresh water fish from inland waters had an important role in providing fish during 1965-1972 i.e. before the Socialist Sector started high sea fishing; production rate was 19,925 tons, personal consumption rate was 2.16 kg/annually. As for sea fish, production rate was 3,258 tons, personal consumption rate was 0.33 kg/annually during this period. It is clear that sea fish had a low part in the gross production which was 23,182 tons and represented not more than 14%, as for fresh water fish this represented 86%.
2. The Socialist Sector (The State Organisation for Fishery) has been importing since 1972 increasing quantities of sea fish. Thus playing a vital role in providing this product during the period 1973-1979 at a rate of 16,199 tons, personal consumption rate about 1.35 kg/annually.

Fresh water fish production rate for the same period is about 17980 ton, personal consumption rate is about 1.56 kg/annually. This means that sea fish represents 43.8%, fresh water fish 56.2% of the gross product which is 34089 ton.

3. The role of socialist sector in providing fish and developing its production is quite clear in increasing the availability for consumption of sea fish from 3258 ton in 1965 - 1972, to 16199 ton in 1973 - 1979. At the same time it increased the availability for consumption of fresh water and sea fish from 23182 ton to 34089 ton between these two periods.
4. Average personal consumption of fish which was 2.16 kg/annually during the period 1965 - 1972, has decreased to 1.56 kg/annually during the period 1973 - 1979. This decrease is due to production decline. On the other hand average personal consumption of sea fish has increased during the same period from 0.33 kg/annually to 1.35 kg/annually, taking into consideration the population growth.
5. In the past few years, after the socialist sector has started its production of sea fish, consumption of sea fish increased : in 1974 it was 10672 ton, in 1976 it was 16952 ton, in 1978 it was 21227 ton, and in 1979 it was 29000 ton.

The expected production of both sea and fresh water fish at the end of 1984 will be 83388 ton, and the average personal consumption is expected to be 5.55 kg/annually. The population will be at that year 15 million.



