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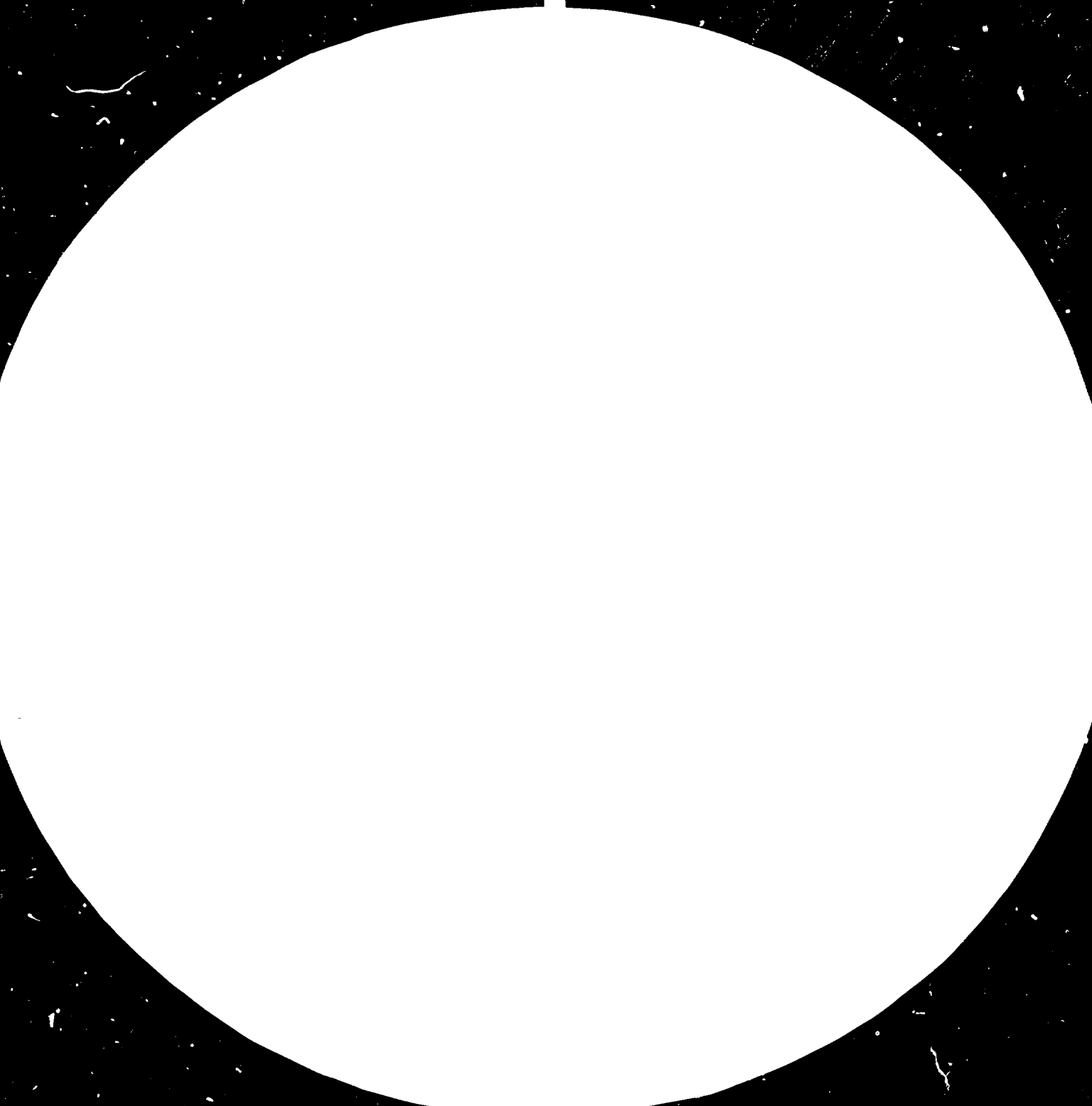
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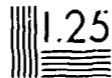
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Resolution Test Chart

10871

Distr.
LIMITED
UNIDO/PC.20
16 October 1981
ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Fifth Session of the Leather and
Leather Products Industry Panel
Vienna, Austria, 25 - 27 November 1981

[SUMMARY REPORT ON
HIDES AND SKINS IMPROVEMENTS *]

prepared for the
Fifth Session of the
Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel

by

FAO - Agricultural Services Division

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1. The Second Consultation on the Leather and Leather Products Industry held in Cologne in June 1981 recommended that an International Hides and Skins Development Scheme be established under the aegis of the United Nations Agencies concerned. Since the subject matter of the scheme in general, and more specifically the follow-up technical assistance activities (as envisaged under Stages I and II of the scheme) fall within the purview of FAO's technical competence and allotted operational responsibility, FAO, as the Lead Agency, was asked to consider the recommendations and explore the ways and means of implementing the same in practical terms.

2. The operational ramifications of the proposed International Scheme were considered in depth and with particular reference to their financial implications. In the context of sustained campaign for development of hides and skins resources on an international scale, it is considered essential that a scheme of this nature in order to be patently effective, will have to be put on a sound long term footing with its own funds, specifically earmarked to ensure continuity of operation. It is not considered feasible to launch the scheme in a technically meaningful and viable manner on the basis of any ad hoc arrangement without the guarantee of adequate finance necessary to implement the programme. Extra-budgetary funds are therefore required to establish the scheme and initiate its technical activities and efforts should be made to identify and locate such of those possible donors who might be willing to sponsor a scheme of this nature. Although FAO's efforts in this direction through normal established channels have so far met with little success, none the less, the exercise is being continued to explore other possibilities farther afield. The services of a senior consultant have been retained to examine among others this aspect of sponsoring a hides and skins development programme. In this connection it is considered likely that a joint approach to selected multi-lateral donor organizations by FAO, UNIDO and other interested UN specialized agencies for sponsoring the scheme may prove more rewarding. A preliminary approach to a potential donor agency may perhaps be first made on the basis of the essential outlines given in the scheme for ascertaining its possible interest 'in principle' following which specific details may be worked out and presented in the format required for final consideration. This needs to be considered in perspective and comments and suggestions in this regard would be most welcome.

3. Notwithstanding the above, FAO, within the constraints of its own resources has been carrying out its mandated work in this field which since the recent past has followed more or less the same pattern of development as has been envisaged in the International Scheme.

4. Since the last Consultation, for example, and following exploratory missions, project activities on hides, skins improvement and animal byproducts utilization have been initiated in Mongolia, Tanzania, Zambia, Swaziland and Kenya under FAO's

Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). A similar project is now operational in Niger under the FAO-Norway Cooperative Programme. Another project has been undertaken in Ethiopia under UNIDO/FAO activity, and a new project proposal has also been formulated, based on a resource survey in Lesotho under the UNDP/FAO programme. Several hides and skins resource surveys were undertaken for the Caribbean area under one of FAO's ongoing projects in the region. A possible project proposal for Oman is under consideration following the recommendation of an earlier UNIDO mission. Large scale follow-up projects in the pipeline include those for Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia, India, Philippines, Thailand and Mongolia. Special consultancy missions under FAO's regular fund have also been approved for Uruguay, Malawi, Botswana and Zimbabwe and are expected to be fielded shortly. In recent months FAO has also closely collaborated with ITC in similar exploratory missions to Somalia, Sudan, N. Yemen and Bangladesh covering hides, skins and the related animal byproducts.



