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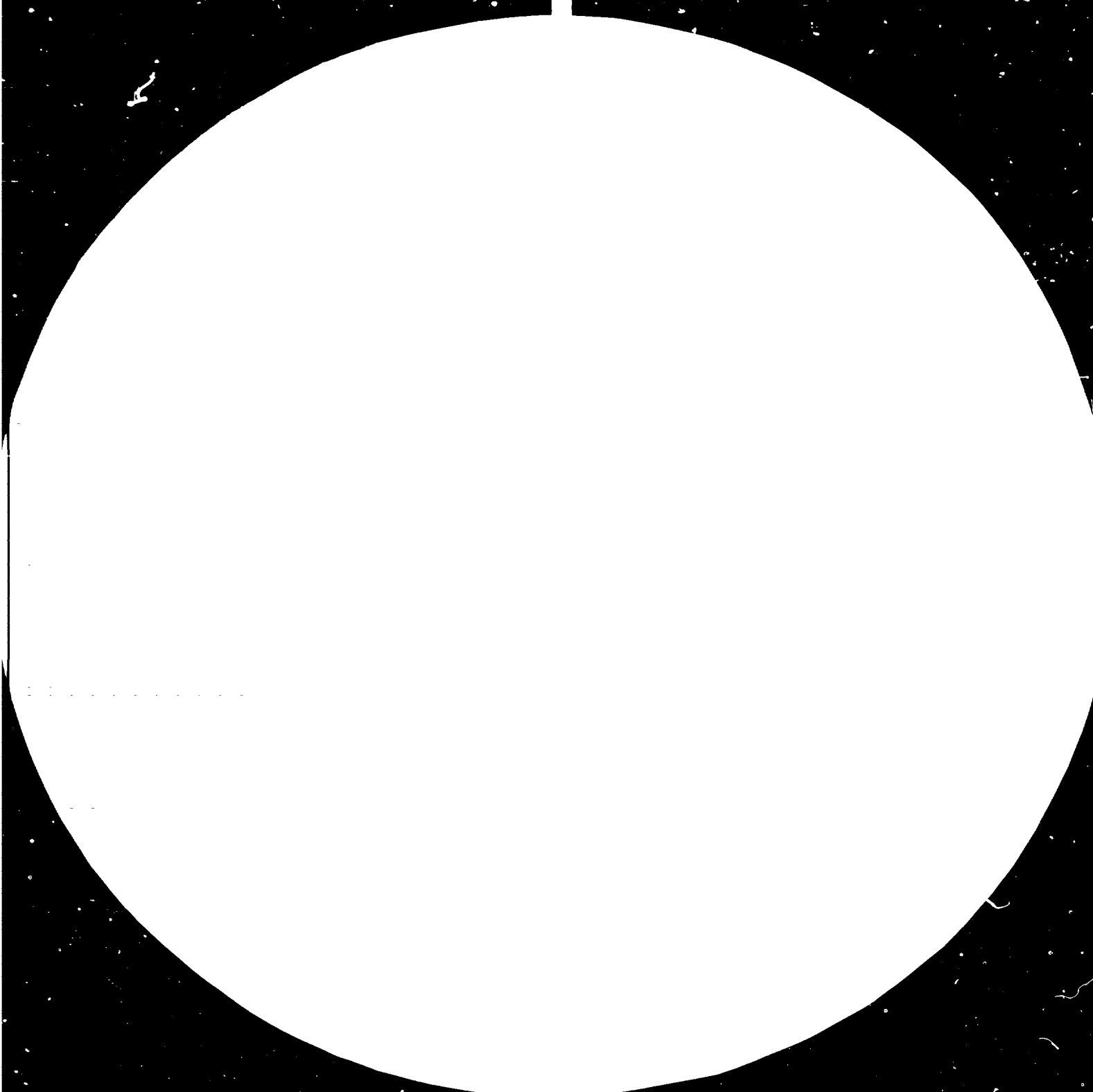
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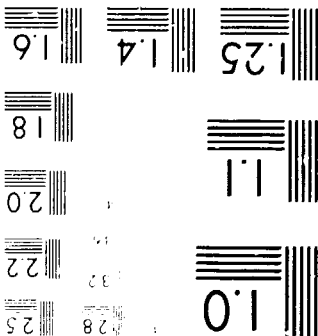
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Round-Table Ministerial Meeting on  
Agro-Industry Development

Baghdad, Iraq, 15-19 February 1982

REPORT

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## PREFACE

The Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation emphasized the need for strengthening co-operation between developing and developed countries and among the developing countries themselves and stated that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) should be a forum for such co-operation. The Plan of Action recommended that UNIDO assist in agreements in different fields of industry between developing and developed countries and among developing countries at the request of the countries concerned and establish a system of continuing consultations between those countries with the objective of raising the developing countries' share of world industrial output through increased international co-operation.

The Lima Declaration stressed, inter alia, the need to develop agro-based industries and to foster integration between agriculture and industry in the developing countries.

The Third General Conference of UNIDO noted with satisfaction the growing efforts by developing countries to take measures envisaged in chapter II of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action, particularly in sharing experience and know-how in industrialization and technology, the development of human resources, the conclusion of long-term agreements, the introduction of direct trade, and the strengthening of institutions responsible for promoting co-operation.

The Buenos Aires Plan of Action emphasized the need to promote and widen technical co-operation among developing countries and recognized that bilateral and multilateral arrangements constituted one of the fundamental aspects of such co-operation.

The First Consultation on the Food-Processing Industry was held at the Hague, 9-13 November 1981. One of the recommendations of the Consultation was that UNIDO should study and recommend ways and means of expanding technical and economic co-operation among developing countries in the food-processing industry, taking into account the Caracas Programme of Action on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries adopted by the High-Level Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held in Venezuela in May 1981.

The Round-Table Ministerial Meeting on Industrialization of Agriculture held in Varna, Bulgaria, 20-24 May 1976, confirmed the necessity of continuing this type of exercise, recommending that developing countries should act as host countries, offering other developing countries the opportunity of seeing their experience and, through exchange of views and consultations, enabling them to further strengthen co-operation in this field.

In accordance with the above, the Government of the Republic of Iraq organized jointly with UNIDO a Round-Table Ministerial Meeting on Agro-Industry Development. The main objective of the Meeting was to discuss and exchange views on experience of the participating countries on various aspects of agro-based industries development and to identify potential areas and forms for co-operation between interested countries.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Round-Table Ministerial Meeting on Agro-Industry Development was held at Baghdad from 15 to 19 February 1982. The Meeting was attended by 54 participants from 18 countries, 7 observers from 4 countries and 10 observers representing 7 international organizations. For the list of participants, see annex I.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Meeting reached the following conclusions:

1. Agro-based industry, and particularly the food-processing industry, is a key industry for many developing countries; it should therefore receive high priority in development plans. This priority should be reflected in the institutional and organizational structure and decision-making arrangements.
2. Several developing countries have now acquired necessary experience and have built agro-based and related industries and are capable of improving and adopting processing technologies to their own needs and the needs of other developing countries. This experience should be made available to all interested developing countries through international organizations and/or bilateral and multilateral co-operation among countries concerned.
3. Development of agro-based industries in developing countries should be considered within the concept of integration between agriculture and agro-based industry. The integrated approach incorporates economic, technological and organizational aspects and includes all elements of agricultural production, industrial processing, marketing and distribution.
4. Co-operation among developing countries in the field of agro-based industries would promote the co-ordinated development of various stages of production, processing and marketing. Such co-operation would make the developing countries aware of each others' potential in areas of mutual interest and would establish a firm basis for increasing self-reliance.
5. The Meeting agreed with the statement made by the Mexican delegate that this type of forum had proved to be very useful as an exchange of experience between developing countries and should be continued in the future. The Meeting also endorsed the Mexican proposal to include in the agenda for the next meeting an item on the planning mechanism and co-ordinating government policy in the food-processing industry.

The Meeting recommended that:

1. The Governments of developing countries should accord high priority to policies and measures necessary to bring about close integration between agricultural production, industrial processing, marketing and distribution.
2. Governments of developing countries, in close collaboration with the concerned United Nations and other international organizations, should initiate, promote and implement programmes to strengthen bilateral and multilateral co-operation among developing countries in the field of agro-based industries. The programmes should include, inter alia, the following components:



- (a) Establishment of multinational processing enterprises between partners from developing countries based on adequate returns for the efforts from participating countries;
- (b) Co-operation in marketing products in developed and developing countries, including the conclusion of long-term agreements between exporting and importing partners;
- (c) Co-operation in the implementation of integrated agro-based projects;
- (d) Creation and/or strengthening of joint research and development facilities for transfer, adoption and generation of technologies within the country, closely linked with raw material resources in developing countries;
- (e) Co-operation in the provision of know-how, consultancy services and exchange of individual experts;
- (f) Joint establishment of new and better use of existing national and regional training centres and facilities for training of technical and managerial personnel;
- (g) Co-operation in the design and manufacture of necessary machinery, equipment and packaging materials and packages required for an efficient agro-based industry;
- (h) Exchange of information and transfer of experience in agro-based and related industries;
- (i) Co-operation in establishing institutional and physical infrastructure in developing countries needed for development and promotion of agro-based industries

3. UNIDO, in collaboration with relevant United Nations and other international organizations, is requested to study the problem of waste materials and industrial utilization of by-products, and to organize appropriate seminars or workshops on the subject.

4. Considering the importance of packaging, especially in the food industry, it is strongly recommended to expand activities aimed at developing and promoting local manufacture and use of adequate packaging materials and packages in developing countries. These activities may include, for example, organization of workshops, seminars, expert group meetings and the expansion of packaging centres.

5. Relevant United Nations and other international organizations should devote more attention to the delivery of technical assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of agro-industries. In this respect it is suggested that a survey on this subject be undertaken by UNIDO in collaboration with appropriate regional organizations.

6. The Meeting appealed to UNIDO and the Government of Iraq, as well as to other participating countries and organizations, to undertake appropriate measures in order to ensure follow-up on agreed conclusions and recommendations.

## I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The Round-Table Ministerial Meeting on Agro-Industry Development was held at Baghdad from 15 to 19 February 1982. Attending were participants representing their Governments and observers representing Governments and international organizations (see annex I).

The Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Statements of heads of delegations on national experience in the field of agro-industrial development
5. Presentation of selected country papers
6. Co-operation among developing countries in the field of agro-industrial development
7. Visit to agro-industrial enterprises of the host country and exchange of views on their experience
8. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

The Meeting elected the following officers:

Chairman: Tahir Tawfik (Iraq)

Vice-Chairmen: B. Jovanovic (Yugoslavia)  
R.V. Swaminathan (India)  
M. Torres Muñiz (Cuba)

Rapporteur: Mama Tapo (Mali)

Documents issued for the Meeting are listed in annex II.

Taha Yassin Ramadhan, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and First Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Iraq, in his inaugural speech on behalf of President Saddam Hussain, said that despite the prevailing conditions of the war imposed on Iraq by the Persian Regime, his country energetically continued to implement its economic and social development plans. The Iraqi leadership was aware of the fact that its oil wealth would be depleted some day and, therefore, it should be utilized to serve the needs of present and future generations by building a solid economic base, mobilizing agricultural and material resources through the application of modern technology. While the Iraqi national plans had given high priority to the development of basic and strategic industries such as petrochemicals, iron and steel, fertilizers etc., the Government had also paid full attention to the development of agro-industries and the integration of agricultural and industrial sectors to attain food security.

These basic principles were reflected in the country's Five-Year Development Plan covering basic economic aggregates such as investment, production, income, consumption and foreign trade. With the objective of increasing agricultural production, the Government was applying all necessary

economic measures to stimulate mechanization, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. At the same time, attention was being given to training agricultural cadres and to the establishment of technical research centres. This policy had led to a huge expansion in the agro-based industries such as vegetable oils, sugar refining, canning of poultry, fertilizers, agricultural machinery etc.

The Non-Aligned Summit Conference, which would be held in Baghdad in September 1982 and in which the Government of Iraq intends to push forward co-operation among developing countries, was one of the important elements of international co-operation that should be encouraged by all means.

The Round Table Meeting would offer the opportunity to demonstrate Iraq's achievements in the field of agro-industries under the leadership of President Saddam Hussain.

During the Meeting good opportunities would be available to exchange views on the experiences of participating countries, which could lead to closer co-operation. This co-operation would eventually help to achieve national and collective self-reliance and the establishment of a new international economic order.

The head of the UNIDO delegation conveyed the deep personal regret of the Executive Director of UNIDO, Abd-El Rahman Khane, for his inability to participate at the important Meeting due to compelling reasons beyond his control. The head of UNIDO's delegation further expressed his heartfelt appreciation to the Government and the people of Iraq for the warm and genuine hospitality offered to the delegations and underlined the importance of the initiative taken by the Iraqi Government to convene the Meeting in co-operation with UNIDO. In that connection, he pointed out that the timing of the Meeting was most appropriate because of the pressing problems facing the international community, particularly of food insufficiency. He added that agro-industrial development was widely recognized as a key feature of any strategy aimed at increasing food production. The interdependence of industry and agriculture in socio-economic development could not be over-emphasized.

The purpose of the gathering was to exchange views regarding the experience gained by the Government of Iraq and by other participating countries and international organizations in the field of agro-industries. It was hoped that the Meeting would lead to practical measures of co-operation among the participating countries. UNIDO attached great importance to the techno-economic co-operation among developing countries and considered it a useful tool at the disposal of the developing countries that were seeking collective and national self-reliance.

Since its establishment in 1967 as the central co-ordinating organization of the United Nations system in the field of industrial development, UNIDO had paid particular attention to the agro-based group of industries as an important contribution to social and economic development.

Another important activity of UNIDO that was very much related to the promotion and development of agro-based industries was the System of Consultations with its unique mechanism of co-operation between developing and developed countries, as well as among developing countries themselves. UNIDO had so far held five Consultations with direct bearing on agro-based industries, namely, the fertilizer industry, vegetable oils and fats, agricultural machinery, leather products, and the food-processing industry. With that in mind, and in accordance with the particular circumstance and the need of every country, the exchange of national experience should be appreciated with the hope that practical results would be forthcoming.

## II. EXPERIENCES IN AGRO-INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

### Cuba

The Cuban delegation enumerated the country's economic achievements and growth rates in all sectors including food production. The agro-industrial field showed high production growth rates in such fields as paper, cellulose, textiles and leather. In the food industry, substantial growth rates had been recorded in sugar, pork, beef, yoghurt, tomatoes, fruits and wheat flour. A particularly high growth rate was recorded in tobacco.

In spite of high growth rates, Cuba wished to develop and enlarge collaboration with other, especially developing, countries. Cuba is co-operating at present with 30 countries on a global basis.

### France

The delegate of France noted the efforts of the Government of Iraq to meet the basic needs of the rural population and the measures undertaken to improve living standards and the literacy level. He said that the Government's efforts in tackling agricultural production problems and improving the capacity of the food-processing industry in order to reduce food imports provided a commendable example for other developing countries. He offered the full support of France, particularly in education and research in the field of nutrition, in helping to improve food production in developing countries.

### India

An integrated programme of development of agriculture and agro-based industry, linked with rural development programmes and overall industrial development, has been the sine qua non of India's plans. The Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-1985) sought to strengthen agricultural and industrial infrastructure in order to provide increased employment opportunities and to meet the basic needs of the people.

India hoped to benefit from experiences of countries having similar problems and, at the same time, wished to share its expertise in the design-engineering, erection, operation and maintenance of fertilizer plants, turn-key projects in pesticides and setting-up textile and sugar units.

### Morocco

The National Plan of Morocco placed emphasis on the most effective utilization of human resources and investment in the public and private sectors, including such areas as fertilizers, refrigeration and energy. The main feature of the current plan was decentralization of agricultural activities; emphasis was also being placed on developing agro-related industries such as sugar, fertilizer and phosphates. Morocco was interested in benefitting from the experiences of other countries in these fields and wished to establish relations with other countries, taking into account socio-economic structures and development possibilities.

### Turkey

As a result of concerted efforts in the agro-industry sector, particularly food industries, Turkey was able to reach self-sufficiency in producing foodstuffs. However, expansion in the field of vegetable and fruit processing is still foreseen.

Two food fairs will be held in Turkey in 1982 - in Izmir and Ankara - and Turkey would like to share experiences and provide opportunities for co-operation with other interested developing countries.

Turkey hoped to co-operate with other developing countries in the establishment of industrial complexes, preparing and implementing food industry projects, conducting related feasibility studies, and constructing industrial plants.

#### Viet Nam

The goal of Viet Nam was to unify agriculture and industry, including the food-processing and light industries, in a stable infrastructure and to improve related branches of industry.

Viet Nam is presently undergoing a phase of economic reconstruction and stabilization and improvement of the standard of living. It wishes to improve food crop production, plant breeding and the processing of tea, coffee, tobacco, sugar cane, fruits and vegetable oils.

Viet Nam had already received support from other socialist countries, developed and developing.

#### Yugoslavia

One of Yugoslavia's priorities was agro-industries, particularly the food sector. The country had achieved a relatively high level of development due to its long-term strategy for promoting integration of the social and private sector in agriculture, the food industry and marketing, as well as in related industries.

Yugoslavia had been co-operating for years with developing countries in the field of agro-industries, particularly in setting-up agro-industrial complexes. Studies and projects had been elaborated and food-processing facilities established in developing countries, e.g., in Africa. Examples are grain mills and bakeries, dairies, fruit and vegetable processing plants, oils and fats, sugar, fodder and the production of alcoholic and soft drinks.

Yugoslavia had established co-operation with Iraq and looked further to expanding its areas of co-operation with the host country and other developing countries.

#### Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

The delegate of the Palestine Liberation Organization regretted that he was unable to illustrate progress of the Palestinian people in the agro-industrial field. He believed it would be useful for the international community to undertake a survey of agro-industry requirements in the occupied territories and asked participants to offer concrete suggestions to help the Palestinian people improve living conditions in their homeland.

#### Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)

Problems of agro-industrial development in Western Asia are: uneven distribution of agricultural resources, shortage of indigenous raw materials, heavy reliance on imported intermediate materials, low capacity utilization, shortage of trained manpower, and heavy concentration of agro-processing units in 3 of the 12 ECWA member countries, namely, Iraq, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The region is in need of well-prepared co-operative programmes, such as a regional marketing scheme, to ensure better distribution of materials and increased productivity in the agro-industrial sector. A higher degree of integration of the industrial and agriculture sectors should be called for, as well as a higher degree of co-operation among the member countries of the region. ECWA would be pleased to participate in any co-operative programmes to remedy the problems and conditions of agro-industrial development in the region.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO's policy in assisting developing countries consisted of an integrated approach to production, conservation, processing, distribution and marketing of crops, livestock, fish and forest products. The FAO food and agricultural industries programme emphasized training and improving the use of appropriate technology for conservation and processing. The delegate from FAO stressed the need to increase utilization of agro-industrial residues in conjunction with the production of raw materials and energy; this would be of particular interest to small farmers.

Within the framework of the FAO/UNIDO Working Group on Food Processing, the Joint Agreement, and FAO's own activities in institution building and strengthening through technical co-operation among developing countries arrangements, FAO would be pleased to participate in the implementation of recommendations in agro-industry development that the Meeting might agree upon.

### III. SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION

Basically all speakers emphasized the importance of increase of food production and the development of sustained agro-industry. While certain countries had a surplus of food, the majority of them encountered problems in producing enough.

One delegate pointed out that owing to special emphasis on food production his country had been able to achieve a level of sufficiency. Another delegate mentioned that despite certain economic difficulties, his country had been able to develop and diversify its economy with special emphasis on sugar and tobacco. In referring to the linkage between production, processing and marketing, a delegate said his country had co-ordinated all activities under a centralized government authority.

In order to alleviate the constraints facing the development of agro-based industries, several delegates proposed that bilateral agreements on co-operation could be arranged between developing countries.

It was suggested that countries with financial capabilities could co-operate with those that had human and natural resources. In this case joint ventures could be established for the manufacture of agro-based and related products.

Some delegations suggested that regional centres be established to make technical and economic studies on food-processing industries. Many of the developing countries had the material potential for establishing such centres and other countries had well-trained personnel who would be capable of rendering assistance in this field. Another delegate suggested that the objective of such centres should be research on the cultivation of land, quality of seeds, pesticides and means to increase agricultural production. The creation of a regional centre for non-food agro-industries (jute, tobacco etc.) was also proposed. Some delegates encouraged the exchange of experience in managing agro-industrial enterprises and training personnel.

It was indicated, however, that there were a number of such centres in existence and it would be wise first to consider strengthening and linking them both at the national and regional level. The establishments of new institutes or centres would then be justified in those countries and regions where such institutes or centres either did not exist or where their activities were not in line with actual requirements.

While one delegate believed that the migration of rural populations to urban areas had led to a decline in the quality of agricultural production, another said that the migration in itself may not have such a negative effect, provided that proper policies were adopted to increase productivity and introduce well-trained manpower, especially college graduates, to work in the rural areas.

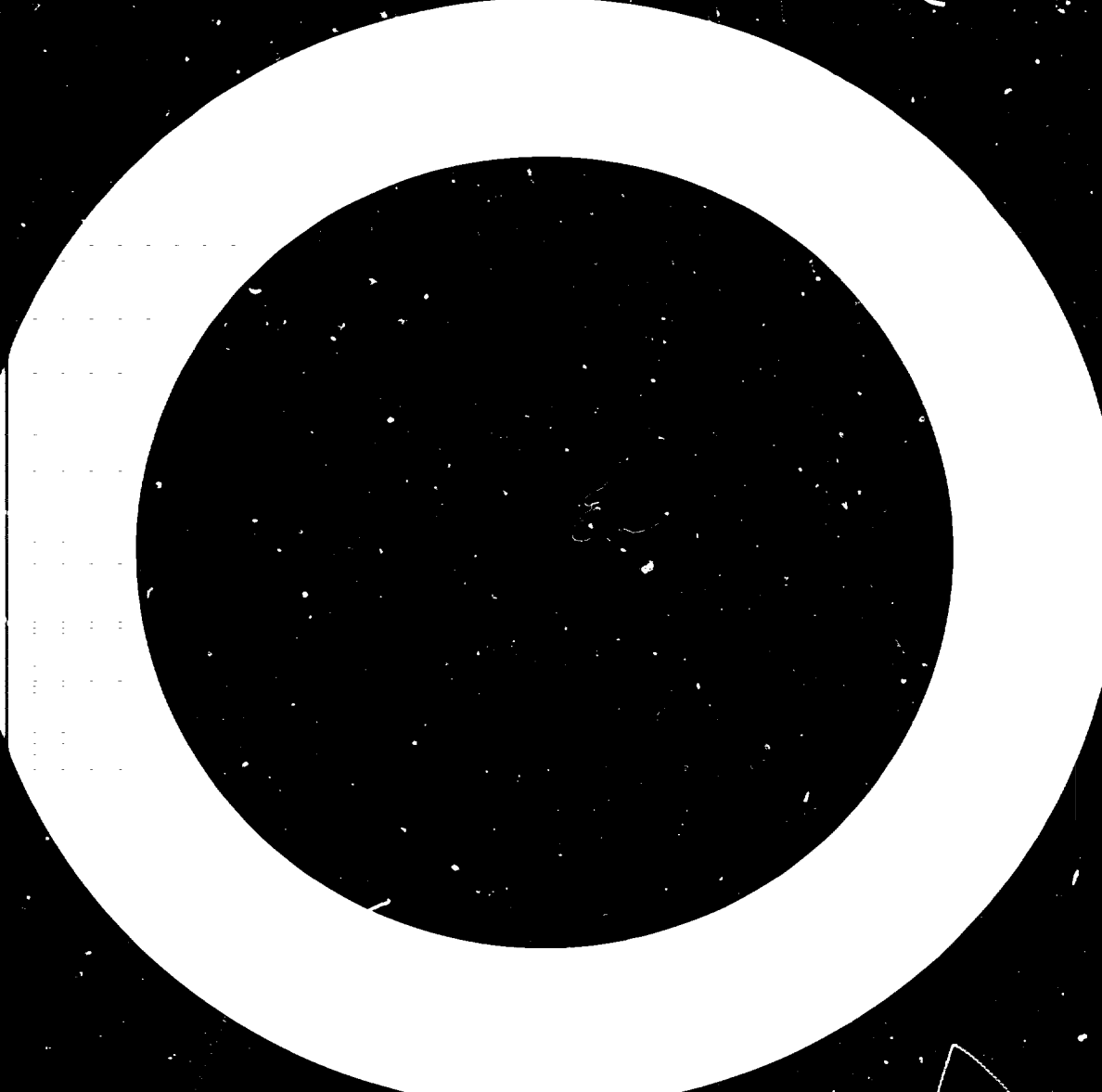
The mechanization of agriculture by local production of equipment and spare parts should be stimulated and several delegates mentioned the need for joint efforts in the production of machinery, equipment, packaging materials and packages.

In one country the specific food requirements of the population were determined and an action programme was then designed to increase production of those products, provide industrial inputs and stimulate the establishment of processing facilities.

It was suggested that the services of established international and regional organizations be sought in mobilizing national resources and capacities. Such organizations could provide expertise in planning the production of food and non-food commodities while emphasizing the integration aspect of agro-industries.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Government of Iraq and UNIDO for holding the Meeting.





Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Participants nominated by Governments

Congo

Gaston Ngoulou-Moutima, Director, Cabinet of Minister of Industry

Peche Timothee Mouamba, Director of Study and Planification, Ministry of Industry

Jean Ibata, Chief, Agro-Industrial Service, Ministry of Industry

Cuba

Manuel Torres Muñiz, Vice-Minister, Comite Estatal para la Cooperacion Economica (CECE)

Manuel Oropesa Ruiz, Director, International Relations, Food Industry

Democratic Yemen

Fadhle Hasson Yehia, Assistant Deputy Minister for Production

Abubaker Ayash, Director of Industrial Planning, Ministry of Planning

Guinea

Ibrahima Kaba, Agronomist, Director, Cabinet of Ministry of Agriculture

Ansoumane Angelo Camara, Director General of Agro-Industries, Ministry of Industry

India

R.V. Swaminathan, Minister of Agriculture

R.C. Gupta, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation

P.L. Sinai, Ambassador of India to Iraq

K.V.S. Murthy, Advisor, Planning Commission

S.S. Pandian, Private Secretary to Minister, Ministry of Agriculture

Prasad Ishwar, Second Secretary, Embassy of India in Baghdad

Iraq

Tahir Tawfiq, Minister of Industry and Minerals

Subhi Yasin, Deputy Minister of Industry and Minerals

Qasim Al Al-Uraibi, Deputy Minister of Industry and Minerals

Ismail Ibrahim, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform

Ferhang Jalal, Technical Adviser to the Minister of Industry and Minerals

Mouafaq Allawi, Acting President, State Organization for Food Industries

Jabir Al-Saadi, Expert, Ministry of Industry and Minerals

Yusif M. Al-Khanaty, Expert, Ministry of Industry and Minerals

Jordan

Salem Al-Lozi, Under Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Salem Elokour, Manager of Jordan Company for Processing of Agricultural Products

Abdul Muni'im Elkurdi, Economic Consultant, Jordan Embassy in Iraq

Mali

Mabayo Sanghanta, National Director of Agriculture

Sy Sada Diane, Assistant Director of CEPI

Mama Tapo, Advisor, Ministry of Industries

Mexico

Alberto Levet Contreras, Sub-director de estudios y proyectos, Coordinacion general de desarrollo agroindustrial, Secretaria de agricultura y

Morocco

Ahmed Alaoui, Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform

Abdelhai Bouzoubaa, Director of Vegetable Production, Ministry of Agriculture

Moulay Abdelhakim Saissi, Director, Economic Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture

El-Azizi Abdelmoula Berrada, Chief, Department of Agro-Industry, Office for Industrial Development

Nepal

Krishna Charan Shrestha, Assistant Minister of Industries

Ravi Dev Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industry

Ganga Prasad Manandhar, Assistant Food Research Officer

Tunisia

Mohammed Ayari, Director, National Centre for Industrial Studies

Turkey

Osman Tekinel, Under Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Fethulleh Koc, General Director of Food Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Unal Sarigedik, Deputy General Director, Ministry of Agriculture

United Republic of Tanzania

R.B. Juma, Minister of Industry

M. Mkakate, Senior Industrial Officer, Food Processing, Ministry of Industry

Venezuela

Julio Cesar Peraza, Vice-Minister of Agriculture

Freddy Alvarez, Ambassador of Venezuela in Iraq

Viet Nam

Luu Thi Phuong Mai, First Vice-Minister of Foodstuff Industry

Duong Hong Dat, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Agriculture

Trinh Khuong, Vice-Director General, Foodstuff Ministry

Ky Long Tran, Ambassador of Viet Nam in Iraq

Ngoc Boi Doan, Government Official

Yugoslavia

Branko Jovanovic, Deputy President, Federal Committee for Agriculture

Stevan Gojsina, Under-Secretary, Federal Committee for Energy and Industry

Bogic Scepanovic, Adviser, Federal Committee for Industry and Energy

Dejan Kisic, Head of Project Team

B. Participants from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

Samir Ayyoub, Professor

Jawad Nagi, Adviser

C. Observers nominated by Governments

Bulgaria

Konstantin Glavanarov, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture

Blagoy Ruskov, Counsellor, Embassy of Bulgaria in Baghdad

Nikolai Borisov Nikolov, Deputy Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Bulgaria in Baghdad

China

Hon Yefeng, Ambassador of China to Iraq

Zhang Guochuan, Second Secretary, Embassy of China in Baghdad

France

Alain Revel, Chief Engineer for Rural Sector, Ministry of Agriculture

D. Observers from non-governmental organizations

Arab Agriculture Organization

Hisham Ayoub Sabry, Director of Regional Office in Baghdad

Arab Federation for Food Industries

Falah Jabr, General Secretary

Nassira Sadoun, First Manager

Arab Industrial Development Organization

Ayad Azzabi, Director General

Attia M. Soliman, Senior Expert

Faraj Rida Haba, Expert

E. Observers from United Nations and specialized agencies

Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)

Tariq Al-Khudayri, Regional Adviser, Joint ECWA/UNIDO Industrial Division

Abdul Sahib Alwan, Chief, Joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division

Christian De Clercq, First Economic Affairs Officer

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Murad R. Grace, Senior Officer Food Industries

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Habeeb Fuad Zoumut, Regional Adviser for Arab States

United Nations Development Programme

Saleem Kassum, Deputy Resident Representative



