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THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

**ARAB ORGANIZATION
FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
(AOAD)**

**A REPORT ON
POTENTIALS OF STRENGTHENING
AOAD RELATIONSHIP WITH
UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES**

KHARTOUM, JULY 1993

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FOREWORD

Since its inception in the early 1970s, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) has undertaken the tremendous task of enhancement of Arab agriculture. Needless to emphasize that all accomplishments achieved, are a product of the collective effort of all participants in Arab agricultural process, at different levels of responsibilities. Arab Ministers of Agriculture in their capacities as members of the governing council of AOAD play a crucial role in providing all necessary moral, technical and financial support.

This report prepared by AOAD aims at highlighting AOAD technical relationship with United Nations specialized agencies and providing some suggestions to strengthen mechanisms of cooperation.

The report identifies some of the issues of major interest to AOAD, taking into consideration international and regional recent changes. Those issues, include the question of Arab food security and possibilities to initiate combined Arab effort to avoid the increasing food gap, in addition to the need for a comprehensive and sustainable agricultural development. This will take into account environmental natural limitations, economic policies, human resources and organizational and institutional structures.

To achieve those objectives, AOAD strives hard in employing all its capacities to upgrade its activities and reactivate the course of collective Arab developmental endeavours. This entails more active participation in facing prevailing challenges in collaboration with sister regional and international institutions.

AOAD has the honour to present this report to the General Secretary of the League of Arab States, in order to be examined in conjunction with reports from other Arab Organizations. This will help to elaborate a common formula which will be adopted by the Arab League in its interaction with UN agencies.

May Allah helps us to realise our supreme objectives.

Dr. Yahia Bakour
Director General

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Taking into consideration the significant role of agriculture in the process of the Arab economic development and having realized that agricultural sector represents a basic component to fulfill equitable economic development, AOAD has been established in reference to the first clause of Article 2 of the Arab League convention that invokes close cooperation with all Arab States on agricultural issues.

According to the treaty of its establishment, AOAD has shown keen interest to promote collective Arab effort and initiate cooperation with Arab, regional and international specialized organizations.

1.2 In order to develop cooperation with other Arab and international specialised agencies, a special formula of cooperation has been elaborated. It identifies areas of potential cooperation in the fields of studies, conferences, training, project implementation and agricultural information exchange in the Arab World.

1.3 In the frame of AOAD efforts to vitalize inter-Arab institutions and improve relationships with international and regional agencies, this report is prepared. It includes a summary of AOAD objectives and achievements, a brief review on the present status of cooperation with international organizations and a review of major issues confronting AOAD. It is concluded by proposals to improve its competence in respect of regional and international relations, in addition to proposed projects for collaboration with U.N. agencies.

2. OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF AOAD :

2-1 Since its inception in 1972, AOAD as a specialized institution of the League of Arab States, has been striving to fulfill its objectives as stated in the treaty of its establishment. Those objectives include :

- Development of natural and human resources in the agricultural sector ;
- Improving efficiency of agricultural productivity and ensure integration between Arab States ;
- Promotion of intra Arab agricultural trade ;
- Increasing agricultural production and promoting food self-sufficiency ;
- Assisting in the execution of agricultural and agro-industrial projects;

- Ameliorating living standards of rural communities.

2.2 To realize such objectives, the organization's major activities cover the following areas :

- Carrying out national and regional studies ;
- Organizing conferences, seminars and training courses ;
- Provision of technical assistance to member states, and
- Implementation of prototype development projects ;

Since its establishment AOAD has conducted hundreds of studies that assisted in expanding information database of agricultural sectors statistics and natural resources. In addition, those studies have provided the technical and economic basis for the introduction of Arab strategy for food security as well as the establishment of inter-Arab institutions and the implementation of agricultural projects in some Arab countries in collaboration with Arab, regional and international development institutions and funds.

2-3 To achieve its objectives AOAD undertakes many activities that aim at:

- Supporting and coordinating national and regional efforts in economic, social and technical research and studies that help develop rural communities, promote agricultural institutions and services, rehabilitate natural resources and improve means of production, marketing and agro-industries;
- Collecting, processing, and disseminating data and information related to food and agriculture;
- Exchanging expertise on agricultural activities;
- Providing technical assistance upon request of member states;
- Monitoring recent developments and innovations of international agriculture with a view to transfer and adapt modern technologies to Arab environment;
- Preparing, evaluating and supervising implementation of developmental projects and programmes;
- Contributing in the promotion of developmental projects and programmes so as to secure their financial requirements;
- Ensuring coordination of agricultural legislation, laws, systems and standardization of agricultural specifications, measurements and terminologies;
- Collaborating with different national, regional and international

Organizations concerned with agricultural development issues.

2-4 AOAD gives special consideration to train the Arab agricultural technical cadres in and outside the Arab region, in addition to the supervision of the Arab Institute for Forestry and Range at Lattakia, Syria, since the end of the 1970s.

3. COOPERATION WITH UN AGENCIES :

3.1 In order to develop relations between the Arab League and the United Nations and its specialised organizations, the resolution No. 4 of the High committee for Inter Arab Coordination (in its 22nd meeting in Cairo April 1992) approved a resolution to the effect that specialized Arab Organizations are to be considered as references of expertise and executing agencies in the Arab region. The resolution also approved coordination between these organizations and UN specialized agencies.

In addition, it recommended to make use of Arab technical staff working in international institutions to extend their expertise to address regional problems and issues.

In a meeting held in July 1990 in Geneva, attended by representatives of UN Organizations and the Arab League and its specialised organizations, all issues of common interest in fields of food and agriculture were presented and the following activities were selected to be promoted by AOAD in collaboration with other counterparts of UN agencies :

- Development of land and water resources including land reclamation, water management and promotion of Arab water security.
- Environmental issues including desertification and preparation for UN Environment summit in Brazil 1992.
- Improvement of feasibility studies, information and marketing services, and agricultural systems.
- Cooperation in the fields of training, conferences, scientific seminars and workshops.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO) :

3.2 Cooperation with FAO includes such activities as :

- Information and documentation exchange,
- Participation in conferences, training courses and realization of studies of common interest.

3-3 FAO has technically assisted AOAD in the establishment and development of the Arab Centre for Agricultural Documentation and Information (ACADI) which has become an active AGRIS system member in coordination with FAO.

In this respect, FAO provides AOAD with its computer media related to statistics in such areas as annual production of commodities, and inputs as well as trade.

Also, FAO participates in a number of activities supervised by AOAD such as the project of preparatory stage for the implementation of agricultural census in Sudan.

3.4 A meeting was held in September 1984 at FAO Headquarters in Rome to discuss issues of cooperation between the Arab League (and some of its specialised organizations and agencies), and a number of UN organizations and agencies concerned with the matter.

In that meeting, AOAD, expressed its interest to upgrade its technical cooperation with FAO, from level of letter of understanding exchanged in 1974 to a full cooperation agreement based on consultations in the major and procedural issues of food security and agricultural development in the Arab countries. AOAD proposed the following two points in order to achieve this cooperation :

(a) To organize on periodical basis an Arab regional conference to discuss proposals of international and regional organizations and specialised Arab Centres in an effort to prepare detailed comprehensive programme for food production in the Arab States.

(b) To form a permanent technical committee which will meet periodically to review achievements and future plans and decide on fields of cooperation and coordination.

3.5 As mentioned earlier AOAD has collaborated with FAO in the establishment of the Arab Centre for Agricultural Documentation and Information (ACADI), which allowed for participation in the International Information System of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS) and is designated as an input providing centre for this system since 1987.

The regional role of AOAD has been realised during its participation with FAO in technical seminars and workshops. During the last

meeting of the AGRIS participating centres held at Rabat (October, 1991), Arab Centres participating in the system approved AOAD initiative to prepare for the implementation of the Arab Agricultural information network within ARIS-NET, the Arab Information Systems Network which is supervised by the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC).

3-6 Furthermore AOAD and FAO Regional office in Cairo, agreed on the following fields of cooperation :

(a) Assist FAO task force groups proposed by FAO Regional office to cover the following fields :-

- 1- Land and water resources.
- 2- Environment and sustainable development.
- 3- Energy, biotechnology applications and technology transfer.
- 4- Food and nutrition.
- 5- Human resources development.
- 6.- Plant production and protection.
- 7 - Animal production and health.
- 8- Marine and coastal resources.

(b) Cooperation in promoting activities of agricultural research and training centres in the Arab region.

(c) Cooperation in exchange of expertise, training and joint studies.

In the frame of this cooperation, AOAD has agreed to become a member in seven of the task forces listed under (a) , in addition to taking the responsibilities of coordination for the plant production and protection task force group.

During the past few months AOAD participated in the meetings of four of those groups as follows :-

- Land and water resources.
- Plant production and protection.
- Animal production and health.
- Human resources development.

3-7 **Land and water resources task group** : A meeting took place on February 22nd 1993, in Alexandria and attended by representatives from World Health Organization, FAO, UNESCO, Arab Centre for

Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and AOAD. After reviewing the activities and issues of common interest, the following main fields of cooperations in respect of land and water resources have been identified :

- Water resources evaluation.
- Water quality.
- Conservation of environmental resources.
- Irrigation networks.
- Desertification.
- prevention and control of soil pollution including pollution by poisonous matters and salinity.
- Evaluation and identification of land use.

Also, the meeting agreed on the necessity to exchange information on all activities concerning land and water resources which were previously implemented or to be implemented in the Arab region by organizations participating in the meeting, in addition to coordination with respect of future projects.

3-8 Plant production and protection task group : The meeting of this group was held at FAO Regional Office - Cairo , on March 8th 1993. It was attended by representatives of AOAD , as the group coordinator), ICARDA, ACSAD and Arab Association for Plant Protection and FAO Regional office. After exhaustive discussions on cooperation mechanisms, it was agreed to :

- prepare for an Arab conference on desertification and range, early in 1995. This conference will likely be attended by Arab Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers in charge of environment.
- Identify one common activity to be executed by the participating organizations in the meeting, and it was agreed to organize a technical consultation on natural range for small ruminant animals in the Near East, to be held in Cairo during November, 1993.

3-9 Animal production and health task group : The meeting was held at FAO Regional Office in Cairo . It was attended by representatives of FAO, AOAD, and ACSAD, and agreed on the following activities :-

- To unify measurements of animal resources and to establish a data bank for animal wealth during 1993/1994 ; an activity which is sponsored by AOAD.

- To prepare for a seminar on epidemic diseases that affect trade of animals and animal products. This seminar lies within AOAD activities during 1993.
- A training course on production and use of poultry vaccines was decided to be held in September 1993 in Amman, Jordan, as one of AOAD activities.
- FAO Regional office is designated to undertake technical consultation on ruminant small animals (goat and sheep) production under natural range.

3.10 Human resources development task group : The meeting of this group was held under the auspices of FAO Regional office on March 9th 1993, and attended by representatives from AOAD , Economic Unity Council, ICARDA, WHO, UNICEF, and UNESCO. Discussions included the following issues :-

- Evaluation of efforts on the execution of identified issues, since previous meeting.
- Exchange of information concerning current activities for 1993 - 1994.
- Agreement on other activities.

After intensive discussions it was decided to undertake two major coordination activities :

Firstly : to publish directory of Agricultural training institutions and their respective programmes in the Near East.

Secondly: to prepare an integrated strategy on the role of women in rural development.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

3.11 AOAD was entrusted by UNDP to undertake the following studies :

- (a) Development of agricultural research systems in Arab countries in collaboration with ISNAR. This programme included Iraq, Yemen , Sudan and Algeria.
- (b) Development of oilseed production in Sudan, Yemen and Somalia: This programme aims to promote research, extension, seed production, economic policies, consultation, and exchange of expertise in those respective countries.

- (c) Utilization of cotton residues in animal feed production: A programme executed by AOAD in collaboration with Arab fund for Economic and Social Development and aims to enable concerned countries (Sudan, Egypt and Syria) to get benefit from modern technology in this field.
- (d) Establishment of an agricultural marketing information network, so as to promote intra Arab agricultural trade. The study of this project was financed by UNDP and implemented by AOAD in collaboration with the International Trade Centre, Geneva.

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT :

- 3-12 In December 1982, AOAD and IFAD concluded an agreement of technical cooperation in order to provide training for Arab technicians. The programme included four training courses on agricultural project evaluation and implementation during 1982 - 1983 ; two courses in Jordan, on project evaluation and two courses in Khartoum, on project implementation. This programme was fully financed by IFAD and successfully executed by AOAD in collaboration with Arab Institute for Economic and Social Planning (Kuwait), Economic Development Institute, FAO Investment Centre and several Arab institutions.
- 3.13 As a result of the success of these training courses, AOAD and IFAD organized in Tunisia in December, 1983 the first workshop of directors of IFAD financed projects in the Arab World. The workshop objectives included identification of problems and impediments in implementing agricultural and rural development programmes and exchange of expertise and exchange views on adequate means to overcome administrative, technical and financial obstacles.
- 3-14 During the period 1987 - 1989, AOAD in collaboration with IFAD accomplished a programme of five training courses in the fields of :-
- (a) Project preparation and evaluation.
 - (b) Execution, monitoring and evaluation of projects.
 - (c) Rural credit.

152 trainees representing 16 Arab countries participated in this programme.

3-15 A mission of experts was formulated by IFAD to assess the impact of the programme by visiting countries involved and interviewing officials and participants. The mission commended AOAD in its implementation of the training programme and recognized its technical competence to execute and supervise future programmes in the Arab Region. In this respect, the report identified the following spheres for future training programmes :

- Project implementation and evaluation.
- Agricultural sector policy and readjustment programmes.
- Agricultural projects financing including negotiations with financial institutions.

Also, the report proposed that AOAD has to establish a training department which, in collaboration with other technical departments would carry out planning and implementation of training courses in Arab countries according to priorities and precedence of developmental work.

3.16 AOAD governing council approved, in 1992, the upgrading of the Technidal Cooperation Section to become the Technical Cooperation and Training Department.

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA:

3.17 An on-going technical greement has been signed between AOAD and ESCWA to cover such areas as exchange of information and documents, conducting studies and consultation on all issues of common interest.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRES :

3-18 AOAD has close cooperation with CGIAR Groups concerning exchange of information, documents and studies related to agricultural activities. Also AOAD sends trainees from Arab countries to the following centres :

- CIMMYT
- IRRI
- ICRISAT
- ILCA

- ICARDA

- 3-19 AOAD concluded an agreement with ISNAR in order to exchange information, attend meetings and prepare special studies for a comprehensive survey of agricultural research centres in the Arab World so as to allow improvement of their performance. Four Arab countries have been thus far included namely, Iraq , Algeria, Yemen and Sudan.
- 3.20 AOAD is currently adopting information exchange according to technical agreements so as to supply the library of the Documentation Centre (ACADI) with various conventional and nonconventional literature. In the last few years, 90% of library procurements are composed of donations and exchanged items which emanate mainly from : The World Bank, FAO, CGIAR, international and regional concerned organizations, and documentation and information centres in Arab countries.
- 3-21 Last year AOAD renewed its agreement with IIMI which comprises exchange of documentation, information and expertise in addition to conducting of studies and symposia. . Both sides are currently studying possibilities to implement the national Information Network for Irrigation Management.
- 3.22 Another agreement was signed by AOAD and IDRC with the following objective : (a) to organize a pilot training programme of agricultural documentation in the Arab World, (b) to facilitate agricultural information exchange, and (c) to build linking points of Arab Network for Agricultural Information. The execution of this agreement has started in 1990 for three years.

In the frame of this agreement, a coordination seminar for directors of documentation centres and three specialist training courses were organized. The training courses were designed to acquire specific on-the-job capabilities, for direct adoption by the trainees.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE - WORLD BANK :

- 3.23 Early in the 1980s AOAD agreed with EDI to carry out a number of training activities and studies in addition to provision of institutional and financial support to AOAD programmes.
- 3.24 The following activities were achieved during 1993 in the frame of

cooperation between AOAD and EDI :

- (a) Symposium on economic structural adjustment in Arab agriculture - Damascus , 24 April - 6 May 1993.
- (b) Workshop on Training in agricultural policies and management - Rabat , 28 June - 2 July 1993.
- (c) Technical advice to the Technical Cooperation and Training Department, recently promoted from a section to a department in AOAD.

4. MAJOR TECHNICAL ISSUES ADOPTED BY AOAD :

4.1 As previously mentioned, the achievements fulfilled by the organization in the last two decades are due to its ability in identifying the nature of problems and the considerable support offered to AOAD administration by Arab ministries of Agriculture besides institutional and material aid given by Arab developmental institutions and funds, in addition to the regional and international ones. In this frame , AOAD submitted to the 21st Ministerial council meeting, held in January 1992, in Khartoum , a number of developmental programmes and activities which are approved. This represent AOAD plan for 1993 - 1994, which includes :

- Fourteen basic programmes.
- Country activities.
- Training programmes in and outside the Arab world.
- Technical cooperation programme.

As indicated in Table no. (1), the Organization adopts many programmes and activities comprising all facets of agricultural development in the Arab world to be implemented during 1993 - 1994.

4.2 AOAD programme reflects its emphasis on encouraging investment in the agricultural sector by adopting many studies and organizing seminars and symposia that enhance capital investment in such areas as infrastructures, land rehabilitation, processing of agricultural raw materials and provision of agricultural services, including agricultural extension, credit, storage and marketing. AOAD is also promoting technical and economic feasibility studies in order to enable middle and

low income countries to finance their investments that would upgrade agricultural development by means of increasing the flow of external assistance .

- 4.3 It is noticed that rural population represents around 50% of the total population in the Arab World. Hence, integrated development programme receives special attention. Social, cultural and economic activities are interconnected with such fields as health, education, drinking water, agricultural and animal production, land rehabilitation, marketing etc.

AOAD had made many studies on those mentioned fields and its future two-year plan reflects the same trend.

- 4.4 Land and water development is one of the major issues that receives high attention and support. It includes land reclamation, water management and water security, which can not be isolated from food security. Water resources are considered to be a major limitation confronting future development in the Arab region. This would require more efforts to preserve and rationalize its use on economic basis.
- 4.5 Recently, environmental issues and their close connection with sustainable development have been receiving a considerable attention, as conservation of environment and its resources form the basis to support political stability and socio-economic development. In the Arab World, the environment is exposed to such factors as desertification, erosion, construction creeping, pollution and wide migrations from rural areas to urban. This led to put place the environment and development issues at the top of AOAD list of priorities as a topic that merits more collaboration and support from regional and international institutions.
- 4.6 The issue of training and improvement of Arab human resources receives a considerable attention from AOAD. This has been reflected in the organization of many seminars and training courses in the fields of agricultural and economic development, including agricultural policies, project implementation and transfer of modern technology to cope with scientific progress . In this respect, AOAD intensifies its efforts to activate the role of rural women in the process of agricultural production . This would require paying a considerable rate of attention on such aspects as training, agricultural extension, rural handicrafts, and such rural services as education, health and nutrition.

Table No. (1)
AOAD's Main Programmes for 1993/1994

Programme	Main Components
1- Statistical & agricultural information systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arab agricultural statistics information systems - Present status and future prospect studies
2- Natural resources (land, water and environment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economics of Arab agricultural resources management - Economics of conservation and development of agricultural environment.
3- Development of plant resources, range and forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant resources development - Range development - Forestry development
4- Development of animal and fisheries resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animal resources development - Fisheries resources development
5- Production economics & technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economics of agricultural production systems - Economics of development, rehabilitation and Transfer of agricultural technology
6- Production & improvement of animal products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production development & adoption of new technologies - Staff training
7- Animal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey and control of animal diseases, production of vaccines and veterinary medicines - Evaluation of institutional and service infrastructures
8- Agricultural production inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff training - Plant production inputs - Animal production inputs
9- Loss in food and agricultural production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss during production stage - Loss during marketing stage - Loss during consumption stage
10- Arab and international agricultural relations .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and analyzing of Arab agricultural interrelations - Arab agricultural integration policy analysis and its substitutes
11- Analysis and development of agricultural policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of agricultural policy effects - Economic structural adjustments

Table No. (1)
AOAD's Main Programmes for 1993/1994

cont.

Programme	Main Components
12- Agricultural institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Systems of agricultural production inputs - Evaluation and development of agricultural institutions performance
13- Investment and project studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening the country's potentials to study and evaluate agricultural projects - Agricultural project promotion
14- Food security policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes in Arab food security situations - Arab food security policies
15- Member Arab States' activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upon members' request
16- Technical cooperation and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical aid & training

4.7 As it is being recognized that the sector of traditional farmers play the basic role in the process of agricultural production, and given the fact that their role is more significant in less developing economies. AOAD programmes have stressed available capabilities of small farmers in the Arab World with a view to promote their standard of living by upgrading productivity rates and realizing income increase.

5. PROPOSALS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AOAD EFFICIENCY IN ITS REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS :

5.1 To comply with UN resolutions in its 45th session dated, December 7th 1990, and in conformity with the recommendations of the Higher coordinating committee of inter Arab Work held in Cairo (16th to 19th of April 1992), the report has referred to many of the developmental issues that acquires the interest of the organization in the coming period. Such issues have been covered in AOAD work plan up to 1994.

In view of the nature of these problems and their inter-relatedness, there could be a cooperation with other specialised Arab Organizations and UN Organizations so that they may undertake programmes and projects of common interest.

5.2 In that frame, there is a need to adopt the highest possible rate of coordination between AOAD, sister Arab Organizations and counterpart UN Organizations and Programmes. These coordinating efforts aim to achieve the following objectives :

- To get the maximum use of existing capabilities in the inception and implementation of joint agricultural projects serving agricultural development in the Arab World.
- To get benefit of the trained manpower and the available capabilities and institutional expertise in AOAD and other relevant Arab institutions. They would help in conducting of studies and supervise the implementation of Arab development projects that are funded by UN agencies and other Arab regional organizations.
- The possible contribution of UN specialized agencies in financing

some of AOAD scheduled programmes and projects. It is also possible to allocate more funds available under technical cooperation to support specialized Arab agencies.

- 5.3 To achieve the above mentioned objectives, and in conformity with UN General Assembly resolutions in its 45th session in December 1990, it is necessary to set up coordination mechanisms, that would help identifying priorities in the frame of regional and country needs. Pre-planning and strengthening of means of cooperation between AOAD and counterpart UN agencies and programmes should also be emphasized

In this context AOAD extends its support to UN resolutions and in particular, the following coordination mechanisms are to be considered :

1. The necessity to establish a permanent committee to coordinate between Arab League organizations working in agriculture and UN counterpart agencies and programmes. The committee could meet every six months to coordinate implementing and monitoring the assigned programmes and extending adequate solutions of developmental problems. This committee represents an extension to existing efforts of task force groups. The committee could then coordinate for the programmes over the stages of planning, execution and joint funding.
2. FAO adopts the mechanism of technical permanent committees i.e. for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, agricultural commodities problems. Each committee, has a technical secretary, assigned to collect data, analyse information, and submit recommendations that are compiled into reports to be then submitted to the FAO council and the general conference. With a view to strengthen cooperation and ensure effective coordination, we suggest the representation of AOAD in those committees.
3. To ensure the role of Arab specialized agricultural organizations as executing agencies of UN activities, in particular those related to UNDP projects in the Arab region.
4. In conformity to AOAD 1993/1994 programme, indicated in Table (1), prospects of proposed joint cooperation, could include the following issues :

- Arab Food security.
- Land and Water.
- Livestock development
- Pasture resources development.
- The role of rural women in development.
- The child and nutrition.
- The environment and sustainable development.
- Agricultural policies.

In addition to the above mentioned issues we have to stress the development of the agricultural information network, which allows more than one Arab and international specialized agency to contribute in the effective flows of information exchange , and making the maximum possible use of available capabilities and resources.

**PROPOSED PROJECTS
FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION WITH
UN AGENCIES**

TITLE OF PROJECT :

Natural Resources Inventory through Standardized Geo-referenced Database for Sustainable Agricultural Development, Planning and Environment Conservation

OBJECTIVES :

- DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE :

To improve the food security situation and preserve the environment in the Arab World Region by efficient utilization of the natural resources through transfer of technology with the aid of standardized geographically referenced computerized databases on natural resources.

IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES :

- To have improved by 1997 the regional physical planning base for agricultural development through the availability of a standardized GIS based on soil inventory at a related scale of 1:1 million.
- To have established by 1997 an efficient technology transfer system based on geographic information systems (GIS) and standardized natural resources databases.
- To create by 1997 a well trained personnel in each participating country for the operation of GIS and databases on natural resources.

DURATION :

4 years.

EXECUTING AGENCIES :

Arab Organization for Agricultural development (AOAD) in cooperation with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

COMPONENTS :

- Staff
- Equipment
- Vehicles
- Training

BUDGET :

14,784,000 US Dollars

TITLE OF PROJECT :

GREEN BELTS PROJECT FOR DESERTIFICATION CONTROL IN ARAB COUNTRIES

OBJECTIVES :

Major project objectives are summarized as follows :

- 1- To analyze data collected from previously conducted relevant studies.
- 2- To prepare agro-ecological atlases and natural resources and sand dunes maps in order to identify potential desertification hazard areas.
- 3- To conduct detailed studies aiming at identifying desertification hazards and suggesting plans, programmes and strategies to control it taking into consideration prevailing social, economical and environmental factors. Coordination should be emphasized in the programmes.
- 4- To suggest integrated pilot project and to establish nurseries and seed propagation centres.
- 5- To secure funds to support research programmes and personnel training.

DURATION :

4 years.

EXECUTING AGENCIES :

AOAD

COMPONENTS :

- The support of the existing North African Arab Countries Green Belt Project and establishment of the following three proposed projects constitutes the first portion of the National project ; Badyat Al Sham Perimeter Green Belt, the Arab peninsula and the African Horn countries green belts.

- Securing needed infrastructures for such nurseries and seed propagation centres, training of staff and offering financial support to seed bank of the Arab Centre for the study of Arid zones and Dry lands, constitutes the second portion of the national project.

BUDGET :

First Year	1000 ,000 US Dollars
Second Year	2000,000
Third Year	3000,000
Fourth Year	<u>5000,000</u>
Total	<u><u>11000,000</u></u>

1. TITLE OF PROJECT :

Policies for Exploiting the Potential of Barley Production, Utilization and Trade in the Middle East and North Africa.

2- OBJECTIVES

- 2-1 Removal of production and price policy constraints.
- 2-2 Transfer of new Barley Technology
- 2-3 Improvement of Trade
- 2-4 Strengthening National Research and Extension Services.

3- DURATION

Five years.

4- PROJECT BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The project will be concerned with :

- 4-1 Barley Policy Analysis
- 4-2 Removal of production constraints, mainly through improved varieties and cultural practices.
- 4-3 Better utilization of barley and its by-products as animal feed.
- 4-4 Introduction of new barley technologies in (4-1) and (4-2).
- 4-5 Research and Extension.

5- PROJECT COMPONENTS :

- 5-1 Staff (Experts, Consultants, Local Staff)
- 5-2 Equipment and other lab. inputs.
- 5-3 Extension inputs
- 5-4 Vehicles

5-5 Office equipment.

5-6 Training

6. EXECUTING AGENCIES :

6-1 Arab Organization for Agric. Development (AOAD)

6-2 Participating governments

6-3 Other Organizations

7. BUDGET :

7-1 Annual US \$ 1,045,000

7-2 five years 5,225,000

A) TITLE OF PROJECT :

Strengthening of small Farmer in Arab Region

B) OBJECTIVES :

- 1- To improve the methods and practices of traditional farming.
- 2 - To enhance small farmers to adoption of new technologies.
- 3 - To contribute in the promotion of appropriate technologies and in the formulation of the pricing, marketing and credit policies favourable to small farmers patterns of production.
- 4 - To activate the participation of rural women in process of development.
- 5 - To diversify sources of income of traditional rural family.

C) PLANNED DURATION : 4 years.

D) BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES :

Morocco, Algiers, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Syria, and Yemen..

E) BENEFICIARY SECTORS :

Small farmers, Technical Government Institutions involved in Agricultural Development.

F) GOVERNMENTS' CONTRIBUTION :

In kind.

G) EXECUTING AGENCY:

Arab Organization for Agricultural development (AOAD).

H) HEADQUARTERS OF PROJECT ADMINISTRATION :

Khartoum , Republic of Sudan.

I) PROPOSED COMMENCEMENT DATE:

January 1994.

J) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT :

The project intends to strengthen the technical know-how, and physical capabilities of traditional small farmers in the participating countries. This will be attained through programmes designed for promoting extension, training, research, physical and technical facilities, directed towards enhancing farmers' capabilities to efficiently perform traditional agricultural practices and to accelerate adoption of new techniques.

The project is also expected to produce policy recommendations to be used in the formulation of agricultural policies to serve the interests of small farmers.

K) PROJECT COMPONENTS :

The project is comprised of five major components as follows :

1 - SURVEYING :

To conduct special surveys to obtain information on size of small farmers community, nature and magnitude of problems encountered, local institutions involved.

2 - RESEARCH AND STUDIES :

To review and study the present pricing and marketing systems and means of improvement, and to identify the role of the various research institutions in the process of executing small farmers new technology programme.

3 - EXTENSION AND TRAINING:

This comprises the establishment of demonstration farms, conducting training seminars to extensionists, farmers' trainers ; arranging visits

among farmer groups with the intention of exchanging ideas and experiences and finally to promote system of feedback.

4) RURAL WOMEN :

To activate the role and contribution of rural women in the development process through popularization of home and traditional industries and through introduction of incentive systems.

5) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL:

To introduce systems of incentives tied with levels of production to farmers adopting the new technological farming practices.

L) BUDGET :

10 Million US Dollars.

TITLE: REGIONAL MARKET NEWS SERVICE FOR ARAB STATES :

OBJECTIVES:

- To contribute to the strengthening of economic ties between Arab states;
- to develop and foster the intra-Arab trade, particularly for agricultural products; and
- To enable participating countries to develop more efficiently their export oriented production of these products in the light of market requirements.

DURATION : Four Years

COMPONENTS :

The expected outputs of the project is an established Regional Market News Service located in an Arab country fully equipped with all its physical and institutional requirements, maintaining at the same time a close link with the ITC/MNS at Geneva. This comprises the following major components:

- (a) an established network of correspondents in the major importing markets in the Arab region;
- (b) an established system of collecting information on export possibilities and opportunities from producing exporting Arab countries;
- (c) an established dissemination system for the immediate channelling of the Arab MNS information to interested intra-regional and worldwide parties, such as exporters, government agencies, producer organizations and other relevant associations;
- (d) an established mechanism for the flow of feedback information on aspects pertaining to production, supply of products, and any matters affecting the exports of agricultural products covered by the proposed project.
- (e) an operational system of subscriber contributions through which receivers of the information will contribute towards the operational costs of the project, effective as of its successful implementation in the Arab region.

EXECUTING AGENCIES :

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
(AOAD) and International Trade Centre UNCTAD/
GATT (ITC)

BUDGET :

US\$ 2.014.200