



جامعة الدول العربية  
المنظمة العربية للتنمية الزراعية  
League of Arab States  
Arab Organization For Agricultural Development



**TUNIS DECLARATION**  
**On**  
**ARAB FOOD SECURITY**

Tunis

January 1996

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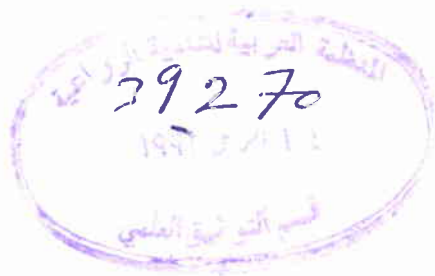


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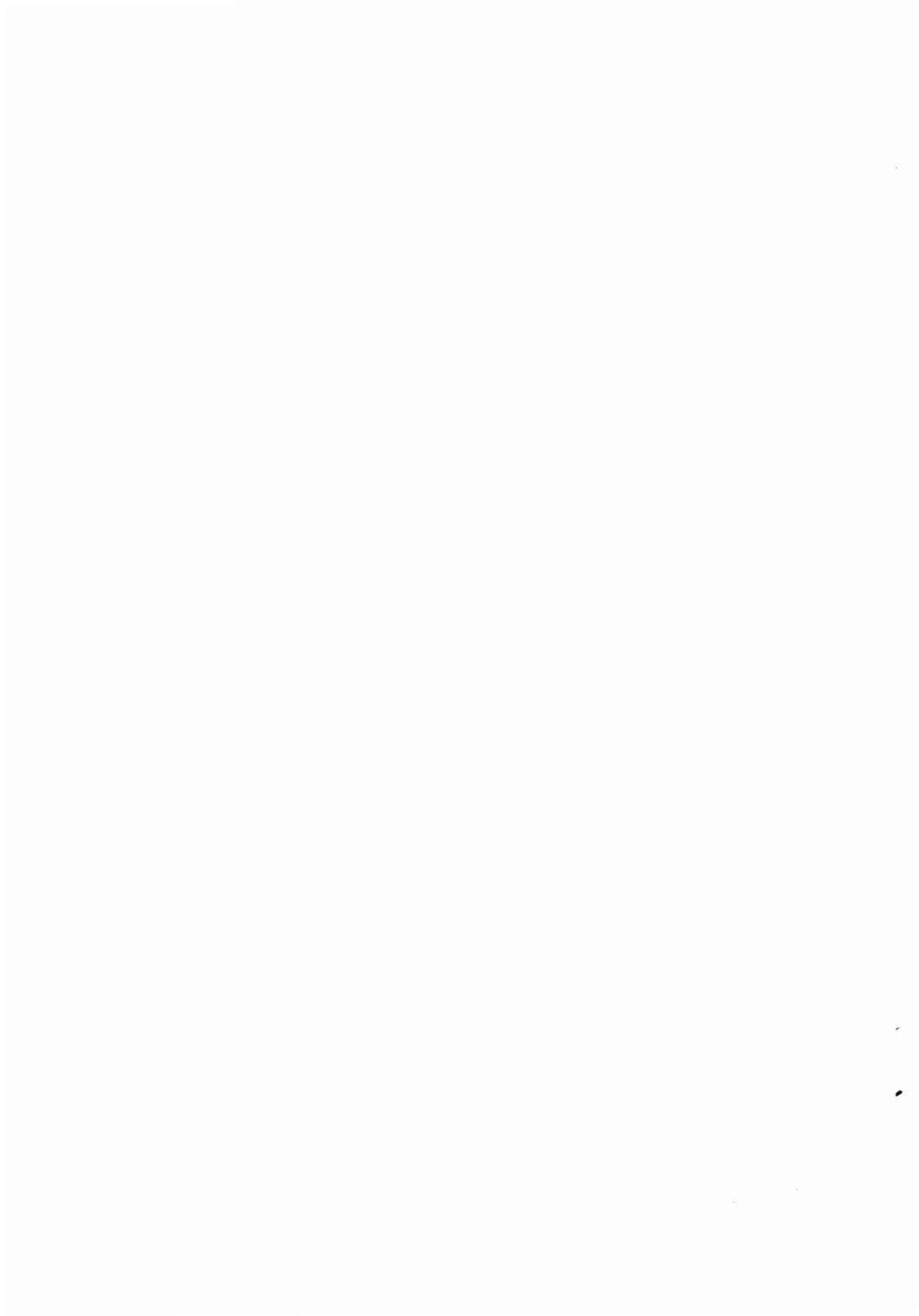
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- 1- To undertake necessary measures and policies that would allow for more self reliance in food production as strategic goal to avert risks and adverse consequences of using food as a tool to exert political and/or economic pressures and to face escalating costs of the imported foreign supplies of commodities which cause imbalance in foreign exchange earnings and trade.
  - 2- Despite that food security agenda is basically a country concern, it should be viewed from a regional perspective to accommodate for more realistic solutions in an integrated manner and based on the comparative advantage of producing food assessed at the country levels.
  - 3- The model of joint venture and projects that emphasize food production and provision of related services is considered the most suitable pattern to achieve optimum utilization of Arab agricultural, human and financial resources.
  - 4- To cope with the recent changes and new trends at the international and regional levels, management of Arab agricultural sectors has to incorporate the participation of rural people organizations in the decision making process that determines their food security.
  - 5- To emphasize the importance of Arab food security, it is paramount to reactivate the role of all parties involved in the development process. Coordination linkages, between and among those developmental agencies and financing institutions should be strengthened to serve the Arab countries interests and accommodate for more room and future role for the Arab private sector.
  - 6- Arab economic integration is considered as a prime goal accentuated by the recent changes at both the regional and international. Such a structure of potential relationship among Arab countries allows for making use of the concessions and exemptions included in the international agreements and provides a leverage in bargaining with the international partners.
- \* In accordance with those principals, the achievement of Arab food security is basically associated with the following policies and mechanisms:
- 1- To emphasize the formulation of technology based programmes and projects that aim at improving the productivity of a unit of land and animal.





That situation necessitates providing more support for agricultural research, application of integrated agricultural pests and diseases management programmes, and the development and adoption of technologies that suit the Arab agricultural environment.

- 2- Optimum utilization of water resources to maximize benefits from available water, and the production of improved varieties of crops tolerant to water scarcity, associated with development of improved irrigation technologies that help in rationalization of water use.
- 3- To direct and put more emphasis of public investment to develop the agricultural sectors', infrastructure, agricultural research and human development in rural areas to enable them to apply improved new technologies.
- 4- To encourage countries rich with agricultural and natural resources to provide investment opportunities particularly in food production projects that would attract the private sector investment.
- 5- To put more emphasis on conservation of the agricultural resources and environment protection for a sustainable agricultural development to ensure a steady increase in food production.
- 6- To focus attention on the importance of agricultural education particularly in rural areas, with the purpose of abolishing illiteracy, enhancing food security awareness and increasing food production.
- 7- To stress the importance of programmes of human and integrated rural development especially those that stress the importance of the role of women in food production and marketing.
- 8- To establish a suitable formula that would allow the maintenance of strategic stocks of primary food commodities especially grains.
- 9- To develop means and ways to activate the peoples' participation and other non-governmental organizations involved in agriculture.
- 10- To put more emphasis in availing a sound and conducive enabling environment to encourage investment directed to expand capacities of pro-



duction, that would speed up the flow of intra Arab agricultural trade, and alleviate the trade and financial constraints that would encourage the investment of the private sector in light of the economic policies reform and structural adjustments programmes embraced in all Arab countries.

- 11- As a part of its mandate and responsibilities to achieve goals of food security in the Arab region, it is important to emphasize the role of AOAD in providing format and venues for meeting of business and Arab investors, presenting investment projects, promoting potentialities for development and taking necessary measures to allow for coordination and removal of investments constraints especially in countries rich with natural resources.
- \* While fully supporting AOAD in its capacity as the leading regional institution entrusted with achievement of Arab food security goals through such mechanisms as preparation of work plans and projects, identification of investment opportunities and promotion of projects, we would like to address Arab financial Institutions to strengthen their cooperation links with AOAD in a joint effort to promote financing of projects that would enhance food production in the Arab region.
  - \* We, also support the call of the Food and Agriculture Organization of U.N. in organizing an International Food Summit scheduled during Nov. 1996. The International Summit Conference will be a good opportunity for developed countries to provide their assistance to lesser developed countries by allocating more investment funds targetted for food production. We stress the importance of our collective participation in the deliberations of this Conference.

We, Arab Ministers of Agriculture on issuing this declaration, encourage all parties concerned to act accordingly.



