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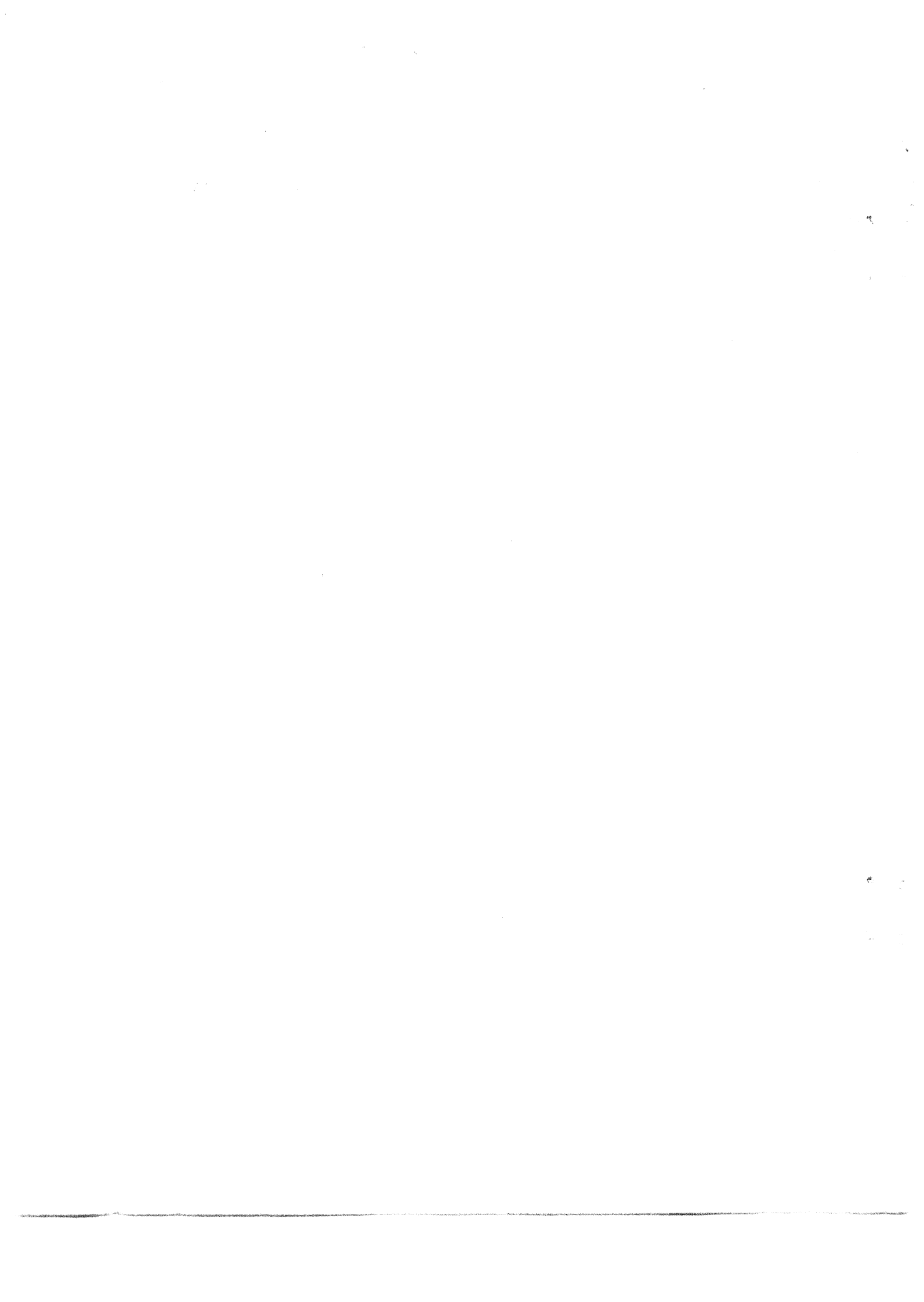
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Tenth session
7-11 May 1983
Baghdad, Iraq

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES
FOR 1984-1985

83-0219





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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Standing Committee for the Programme

First session

7-9 May 1983

Baghdad, Iraq

Agenda item 6

REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME BUDGET 1984-1985
ON A SECTOR BY SECTOR BASIS

Programme: Food and Agriculture



PROGRAMME STAFFING TABLE
(PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL SERVICE POST REQUIREMENTS)

Organizational unit: ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Programme : FOOD AND AGRICULTURE - 210

	<u>Regular budget</u>		<u>Extrabudgetary sources</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	1982-83	1984-85	1982-83	1984-85	1982-83	1984-85
<u>Professional category</u>						
USG						
ASG						
D-2						
D-1			1	1	1	1
P-5	1	1	-	-	1	1
P-4	2	2	2	2	4	4
P-3	2	2	1	1	3	3
P-2/1	1	1	-	-	1	1
Total	6	6	4	4	10	10
<u>General Service category</u>	6	6	-	-	6	6
Grand total	12	12	4	4	16	16



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

A. Programme

This programme is intended to contribute to the emergence of a more efficient and progressive regional agricultural economy. The thrust of the programme is to provide planning and policy support and advisory services to ECWA countries toward solving their immediate and structural problems through the implementation of short-term and long-term strategies designed to enhance the level of agricultural production and income and bring about favourable structural changes through agrarian reform and rural development. (Ref. Medium-term plan 1984-1989, future A/37/6, chapter 13, paras. 13.6-13.11).

Activities under this programme are specifically aimed at analysing emerging trends and critical problems of agricultural production, distribution and consumption; monitoring the implementation of food and agriculture development programmes and policies; dissemination of information pertaining to the food and agriculture sector and provision of support to member Governments for the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

The programme is managed by the Joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division and implemented in close collaboration and co-ordination with concerned substantive divisions of FAO. The programme comprises three subprogrammes during the 1984-1985 biennium. The elements under each subprogramme and their related output planned for the biennium are described below:

Subprogramme 1: Monitoring and management of agricultural development and agricultural resources

(a) Resource requirements:

	<u>Thousands of US dollars</u>	<u>Percentage of programme total</u>
Regular budget	350.1	39.8
Extrabudgetary resources	440.2	52.0

(b) Reference: Medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989
(A/37/6, ch. 13, paras. 13.59-13.64).

(c) Programme elements:

technology packages are appropriate and could be effectively adapted to improve production and farm economics in existing farming systems. It is expected that during the fourth quarter of 1985 an interim report will be presented to the FAO Near East Commission on Economic and Social Policy on the experience gained with farm surveys and farm planning within the framework of the comprehensive integrated approach to development, particularly of environmentally less favourable areas.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1984-1985

	<u>Regular budget</u>	<u>Extrabudgetary resources</u>
Professionals	15 WM	12 WM
General Service	10 WM	-
Consultants	\$ 6,000	\$ 12,000
Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ 13,000
Other - Meetings	-	-

1.4: National and intercountry action to combat desertification

Final output: Report to the Commission on the progress and impact of national and intercountry action programmes to combat desertification in ECWA countries, second quarter of 1984, (XB).

Work under this programme element will be continued and completed in 1984. A comprehensive review and evaluation report on the progress and impact of national and intercountry programmes of action to combat desertification in ECWA countries, in the light of the recommendations formulated by the Meeting on Conservation, Management and Development of Agricultural Resources, (Damascus, May 1981) will be presented to the Commission. Proposals will also be made on the possible approaches and scope of further action at the national and regional levels.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1984-1985

	<u>Regular budget</u>	<u>Extrabudgetary resources</u>
Professionals	3 WM	3 WM
General Service	4 WM	-
Consultants	-	-
Travel	-	-
Other	-	-

Subprogramme 2: Food planning and policy

(a) Resource requirements:

	<u>Thousands of US dollars</u>	<u>Percentage of Programme total</u>
Regular budget	296.4	33.7
Extrabudgetary resources	145.3	17

(b) Reference: Medium-term plan for the period 1984-1985 (A/37/6), ch. 13, paras. 13.65-13.68.

(c) Programme elements:

2.1: Critical factors affecting food production and distribution*

Final output: Report to the FAO Near East Commission on Economic and Social Policy on critical factors affecting food production and distribution in ECWA countries, fourth quarter of 1985 (XB).

Work under this programme element during the biennium will concentrate on an in-depth examination of identified critical factors affecting food production and distribution in ECWA countries, viz. financing of food production improvement and development programmes; incentives for promoting food production,

* Highest priority.

including price, taxation and fiscal policies; and food distribution systems. Each study will identify the critical issues confronting policy-makers and assess their implications, formulate options for policy changes and proposals for action to improve the effectiveness and impact of each factor in the promotion of food production and for distribution. The analysis is also expected to assist in the identification of areas for co-operative arrangements at the subregional and/or regional level.

The activities planned under this programme element are expected to be completed during the fourth quarter of 1985. Their results and conclusions will be presented in a report to the FAO Near East Commission on Economic and Social Policy in 1985.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1984-1985

	<u>Regular budget</u>	<u>Extrabudgetary resources</u>
Professionals	48 WM	18 WM
General Service	46 WM	-
Consultants	\$ 6,000	\$ 24,000
Travel	\$ 5,000	\$ 17,000
Others: Meetings	\$ 18,000	-

Subprogramme 3: Support to rural development

(a) Resource requirements:

	<u>Thousands of US dollars</u>	<u>Percentage of programme total</u>
Regular budget	232.5	26.5
Extrabudgetary resources	263.9	31

(b) Reference: Medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (A/37/6, ch. 13, paras. 13.69-13.73).

(c) Programme elements:

3.1: Agrarian systems and the alleviation of rural poverty (promotion of rural development)⁶

Final output: Report to the Commission/FAO Near East Commission on Economic and Social Policy on agrarian systems and the alleviation of rural poverty, fourth quarter 1985 (XB).

Work under this programme element involves the implementation of a number of interdisciplinary activities and will be undertaken jointly with FAO (Regional Office for the Near East; and Human Resources and Rural Institutions Division) and other relevant ECWA programmes. The impact of agrarian systems on the alleviation of rural poverty will be investigated in depth and the conclusions and recommendations for action submitted to a review meeting. It is expected that the meeting will adopt a set of policy recommendations and a technical assistance and development programme aimed at improving the socio-economic environment and development conditions towards maximization of the contribution of agrarian systems to the alleviation of rural poverty. Initially, the studies will be carried out on a pilot basis in two countries, representative of different socio-economic conditions and systems (one least developed and one non-oil exporting or oil-exporting country). The specific activities to be implemented under this programme element include (a) the general policy framework within which agrarian systems operate; (b) an analysis of the dynamics of rural poverty; and (c) an analysis of the relationships between agrarian systems, on the one hand, and increased production with equity and resource flows and farm investment, on the other.

⁶ Highest priority.

Estimated work-months and resources required for 1984-1985

	<u>Regular budget</u>	<u>Extrabudgetary resources</u>
Professionals	36 WM	30 WM
General Service	48 WM	-
Consultants	-	\$ 50,000
Travel	\$ 4,000	\$ 20,000
Others: Meetings	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000
Publications	-	-

B. Resource requirements

Established posts

Staff resources required to implement the above-outlined programme are estimated at 144 work-months at the general service level under the regular budget and 96 work-months at the professional level under extrabudgetary resources contributed by FAO. These are the minimum amounts required for the programme to make a significant impact in this priority area. Under the regular budget, provision of the required professional and general service work-months would be made from the existing six professional posts, one P-5, two P-3 and one P-1/2, (144 work-months) and the existing six general service posts (144 work-months).

Travel of staff

Travel of staff required for the delivery of the proposed output is estimated at \$ 20,000 from the regular budget and \$ 68,000 from extrabudgetary resources (FAO). This is intended to provide staff travel to a number of selected countries under each of the programme elements of the three subprogrammes outlined above. The objectives of the travel are to determine the orientation and contents of the different programme elements, to collect data and carry out the required field work, to hold consultations and discussions on policy issues, to prepare for and assess the impact of the output, etc. Travel is necessary in connection with all programme elements; the reported amounts are the minimum budgets which are

essential to implement the planned activities and to achieve the planned output. Because of the very nature of the work, certain activities require substantial field work and intensive contacts with the Governments of the different ECWA member States.

Consultants

Short-term consultants are required in a number of programme elements to fill gaps in the available expertise among staff of the secretariat. A sum of \$ 20,600 is requested under the regular budget for consultants, distributed as follows:

Programme element 1.2: Assessment of staff functions and staffing needs in agricultural planning, in connection with the preparation of training programmes (\$ 8,600);

Programme element 1.3: Implementation of farm surveys in a selected country (\$ 6,000);

Programme element 2.1: Evaluation of food distribution systems in selected countries (US \$ 6,000).

It is expected that \$ 33,000 of consultants' services will become available from extrabudgetary resources (FAO); \$ 50,000 is planned to be spent on activities in connection with the follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), programme element 3.1.

Ad Hoc meetings

The total of the estimated requirements from the regular budget for the organization of meetings amounts to \$ 28,000 distributed as follows:

Programme element 2.1: Regional seminar on critical factors in food production and distribution, five working days, to be held at ECWA headquarters (\$ 18,000);

Programme element 3.1: Subregional meeting on the contribution of agrarian systems to the alleviation of rural poverty (in least developed countries), five working days, to be held in a least developed country (\$ 10,000).

The following meetings are planned to be organized with financing from extrabudgetary resources (FAO and others, \$ 40,000):

Programme element 1.1: Regional seminar on current methods of collection of basic agricultural statistics in ECWA countries, five working days, to be held at ECWA headquarters, (\$ 20,000);

Programme element 3.1: Subregional meeting on the contribution of agrarian systems to the alleviation of rural poverty (in an oil-exporting country or a country with a planned economy), five working days, to be held in a selected ECWA country (\$ 20,000).