



ندوة التنمية المستدامة للقطاع الزراعي

(متابعة تنفيذ التوصيات)

١-٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٩م - سيح المسرات / ولاية عبري



سلطنة عُمان

Closing Statement

on the Agricultural Sector Sustainable Development

(Follow-up of the implementation of recommendations)

Praise be to Allah Almighty, prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Mohammed, his companions and followers

Your Excellency Sheikh / Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Zahir Al Hinai -
Minister of Justice

Your excellencies , sheikhs and dignitaries

Distinguished guests

Emphasizing the keen attention accorded by His Majesty the Sultan to the sustainability of development in the agricultural sector,

Guided by the prudent approach of continued follow-up of the execution of development plans and programmes charted by His Majesty since the dawn of the blessed Renaissance,

and in pursuance of implementing His Majesty's Royal Orders this symposium has been convened to identify points of strength that may be revealed in the process of implementation to strengthen them, and highlight hindrances in order to overcome them aiming at achievement of the goal of sustainable development of the agricultural sector in the long term .



ندوة التنمية المستدامة للقطاع الزراعي

(متابعة تنفيذ التوصيات)

١-٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٩م - سيح المسرات / ولاية عبري



سلطنة عُمان

The symposium on (Sustainable Development Of The Agricultural Sector

- Follow-Up Of The Implementation Of Recommendations) has been held at the Royal Camp at Seih Al Masarrat in Wilayat Ibri from 13-15 Dhul-Qaada 1430 ; 1-3 November 2009 under the auspices of H.E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Zahir Al Hinai – Minister of Justice .

The symposium aimed at identifying the ways and means that ensure long term sustainability of agricultural development via activating the implementation of the recommendations of the previous symposium and assessing the activities , mechanisms and programmes taken to implement them to reach the prospective goals. The symposium covered six main dimensions namely : (1) Land Development , Protection and Improvement of the Pattern of use (2) Integrated Water Resources Management in the Agricultural Sector (3) Regulating the Recruitment and Employment of Expatriate Labour Force (4) Marketing, Financing and Encouragement of the Private Sector (5) Agricultural Data , Research and Extension (6) Institutional and Legal Frameworks and Local Systems .

Within these dimensions , eleven working papers were presented by the units entrusted with the task of implementing the recommendations - an arrangement that helped to produce papers reflecting the actual implementation status. The morning sessions were accompanied by evening workshops chaired by their excellencies the Undersecretaries with participation of representatives from Majlis A'ddawla and A'Shawra, concerned authorities from both government and private sectors , farmers and students . During these workshops, the working papers were reviewed to reach recommendations and mechanisms that could be applied by national cadres who are much aware of the issues and needs of this vital sector .



ندوة التنمية المستدامة للقطاع الزراعي

(متابعة تنفيذ التوصيات)

١- ٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٩م - سيح المسرات / ولاية عبرى



سلطنة عُمان

Farmers participation has played a significant role in enriching the symposium by displaying their successful experiences. On the sidelines of the symposium an exhibition where the government units and private sector enterprises displayed their products and outputs of the programmes and projects related to the previous symposium has been organized.

The discussions based on the working papers presented showed that the implementation of the recommendations of the previous symposium has been good. Tangible achievements have been made in the different fields of the agricultural sector which included :

Increase of productivity per feddan to (798) Riyals in 2008, representing a total increase of (21%) compared to 2006

Increase of cropped area under modern irrigation systems to (31) thousand feddan i.e total increase of (15%) compared to 2006 .

Increase of the agricultural area under modern irrigation systems through government support to (4) thousand feddans compared to (413) feddan in 2006 .

This was positively reflected on the overall performance indicators of the sector where :

The value added at current prices increased from R.O (117) million in 2006 to R.O (152) million, a total increase of (29%) .

The export value of Omani origin agricultural products increased to R.O (13) million i.e a total increase of (37%) compared to 2006 .



ندوة التنمية المستدامة للقطاع الزراعي

(متابعة تنفيذ التوصيات)

١-٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٩م - سيح المسرات / ولاية عبري



سلطنة عُمان

Through the deliberations and discussions during the morning sessions and the evening workshops, the symposium came out with the following recommendations that have been blessed and approved by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said:

General Recommendations

1. Stressing the feasibility and effectiveness of the approved recommendations of the symposium on (sustainable development of the agricultural sector and regulating its labour market) as an integrated strategy for the long-term sustainability of agricultural development.
2. The use of the results of the follow-up symposium as a base to develop and formulate objectives, policies, mechanisms and programmes to be included in future plans for the agricultural sector and related sectors starting from the Eighth Five-Year Plan.
3. Implementing the programmes and projects derived from the strategies and studies that are formulated in accordance with the sustainable development symposium recommendations through their inclusion in the future plans of the sectors entrusted with the execution.
4. The executive units should design quantitative and qualitative indicators to be used in the continuous follow-up and assessment of the programmes, projects and mechanisms under their jurisdiction to keep pace with new developments and ensure smooth implementation as planned.



ندوة التنمية المستدامة للقطاع الزراعي

(متابعة تنفيذ التوصيات)

١-٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٩م - سيح المسرات / ولاية عبري



سلطنة عُمان

Specific Recommendations According to Fields

First Dimension: Land Development , Protection and Improvement of the Pattern of Use :

1. Completing the technological modernization programme of the agricultural sector (greenhouse agriculture, agricultural mechanization, livestock breeding technologies) through setting implementation priorities in future sectoral plans.
2. Furthering coordination between visions, approved policies and lending policies to serve the recommendations of the technological modernization programme of the sector .
3. Emphasizing the importance of adopting the integrated management for agricultural pests and use of environment- friendly control methods .
4. Completing the approved programmes and projects of the national strategy to develop natural pastures and sustainable development of livestock in Dhofar Governorate and expediting the laying out of strategies for the other Regions .
5. Setting plans and programmes for the main fruits, vegetables and grain crops within a unified development strategy.
6. Expediting the implementation of the approved related studies and strategies and using the same in setting the final regulations for changing pattern of land use.
7. Stressing the implementation of the national strategy for date palms as per the approved programmes and projects.



ندوة التنمية المستدامة للقطاع الزراعي

(متابعة تنفيذ التوصيات)

١-٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٩م - سيح المسرات / ولاية عبرى



سلطنة عُمان

Second Dimension : Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Agriculture Sector :

1. Working to achieve maximum benefit from the new bylaws and regulations issued by Ministerial resolutions in the context of implementing the previous symposium recommendations aiming to expedite the implementation of water demand management policies particularly in the agricultural sector, as well as encouraging the establishment of effective partnerships among all water users to reduce the deficit in the water balance in the Sultanate .
2. Continuing the support for introducing modern irrigation systems to cover flood irrigated areas according to a time schedule within the future Five-Year Plans.
3. Raising awareness of farmers and water consumers regarding the feasibility of using trio-treated sewerage water in agriculture .
4. Continuing the efforts to enhance water resources through construction of dams, maintenance of aflaj and explorative boring programmes.
5. Working to engender the appropriate mechanisms for applying the necessary conditions of protecting the different water sources against pollution.

Third Dimension : Regulating the Recruitment and Employment of Expatriate Labour force :

1. Reviewing and evaluating the training, qualifying and employment programmes of the national labour force in the agricultural sector and setting plans to introduce the agricultural specialties not covered in the current Plan.



ندوة التنمية المستدامة للقطاع الزراعي

(متابعة تنفيذ التوصيات)

١-٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٩م - سيح المسرات / ولاية عبرى



سلطنة عُمان

2. Completing the linking of the agricultural title deeds numbering system with the labour force database of the Ministry of Manpower in order to further the monitoring and control mechanisms.
3. Evaluating the performance of the agricultural training department established at Saham Vocational Training Centre with a view to generalize the experiment to similar centres as a possible alternative for establishing the agricultural vocational training centre proposed in the process of implementing the recommendation of the previous symposium.
4. Conducting scientific studies, to be completed before the end of 2010, on the characteristics and nature of the expatriate labour force as a basis for formulating objective and effective solutions.
5. Toughening deterring disciplinary measures by intensifying the inspection campaigns and increasing their effectiveness.
6. Continuing coordination efforts with source countries to limit the inflow of illegal labour force.
7. Enhancing the community partnership efforts through increasing physical and moral incentives for collaborators.

Fourth Dimension : Marketing, Financing and Encouragement of the Private Sector :

1. Creating an appropriate environment conducive to the success of the Al Batinah Farmers Society to encourage formation of similar societies in other Regions.
2. Expediting the execution of the three studies related to the food security strategy as well as the study on the internal and external agricultural investment alternatives and the one on the establishment of the agricultural holding company; it is worth mentioning that the



ندوة التنمية المستدامة للقطاع الزراعي

(متابعة تنفيذ التوصيات)

١ - ٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٩م - سيح المسرات / ولاية عبري



سلطنة عُمان

consultancy contracts for conducting these studies have been recently awarded to specialized offices and hopefully will be completed during the first half of 2010.

3. Strengthening the agricultural marketing infrastructure, enhancing the role of agricultural extension & conducting technical and economic research.
4. Stressing the importance and feasibility of seasonal agricultural loans, broadening the base of beneficiaries and encouraging commercial banks to offer the same.
5. Increasing the volume of funding for small and medium crafts projects from the different government financing institutions .
6. Setting an implementation mechanism for providing insurance coverage for greenhouse agriculture and studying the feasibility of establishing a special fund to cover insurance risks related to natural disasters, agricultural and livestock pests and diseases ..etc.
7. Urging commercial banks to contribute more to the financing of the agricultural sector as per their national and social responsibility, stimulating and encouraging private sector and civil society organizations to contribute to micro-finance of the agricultural sector .

Fifth Dimension : Agricultural Data , Research and Extension :

1. Encouraging research and extension programmes with a focus on those that promote the safe-use of fertilizers and pesticides in a way that secure the safety of humans , animals and the environment.
2. Supporting the agricultural extension projects related to transfer of modern technologies to farmers and intensifying media campaigns and programmes as well as agricultural exhibitions that target different



ندوة التنمية المستدامة للقطاع الزراعي

(متابعة تنفيذ التوصيات)

١-٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٩م - سيح المسرات / ولاية عبري



سلطنة عُمان

groups of the society to raise awareness on the importance of the agricultural sector, conservation of natural resources and identifying available investment opportunities.

3. Continuing the execution of research projects in the areas of rationalization of water use, recommending crops with low-water requirements and expanding research efforts on the possible use of sewerage water and medium saline water.
4. Using the results of the 2010-General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments that will be conducted by the Ministry of National Economy to be used as a framework for the next agricultural census.

Sixth Dimension : Institutional and Legal Frameworks and Local Systems :

1. Continuing the development of institutional and legal frameworks conducive to natural resources.
2. Execution of the documentation project of title deeds, traditions, norms and data for the remaining aflaj in the Sultanate according to a time schedule to be completed before the end of the Eighth Five-Year Plan.
3. Preservation and maintenance of plants and trees used as raw material in craft industries and improving their productivity.

We would like to emphasize that the approved recommendations of the symposium on (Sustainable Development of the Agricultural Sector and Regulation of its Labour Market) will remain the mainstay for the sustainability of agricultural development while those of the follow-up symposium are viewed as mechanisms that will assist in continuing efficient and effective implementation of those recommendations.



ندوة التنمية المستدامة للقطاع الزراعي

(متابعة تنفيذ التوصيات)

١ - ٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٩م - سيح المسرات / ولاية عبري



سلطنة عُمان

As per the attention and follow-up of **His Majesty the Sultan to the proceedings of this symposium and the keen concern that His Majesty accords to the importance of the agricultural sector and its sustainability, His Majesty has decreed the following orders :**

First: Planting one million date palm in the Sultanate ; concerned authorities shall establish the suitable mechanisms for implementing the project .

Second : Establishing a Fund worth R.O (7) million to support the rural women projects in the areas of livestock and Omani honey bee breeding and spreading .

Third : Allocation of R.O (20) million to be disbursed as follows:
R.O (10) million for support of the technological modernization of the agricultural sector by introducing modern irrigation systems, greenhouse agriculture, agricultural mechanization and livestock breeding technologies.

R.O (4) million for the support of the agricultural pests control programmes and use of environment- friendly control systems.

R.O (3) for the support of the research programmes aiming at the development of the agricultural sector.

R.O (3) for maintenance of Aflaj.

Fourth : The Oman Development Bank shall provide seasonal soft loans for the farmers till the amendment of Article No (2) of the Royal Decree No (18/2006) .



ندوة التنمية المستدامة للقطاع الزراعي

(متابعة تنفيذ التوصيات)

١-٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٩م - سيح المسرات / ولاية عبري



سلطنة عُمان

It is my pleasure to extend my thanks to HE Sheikh / Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Zahir Al Hinai – Minister of Justice, Their Excellencies, Sheikhs, dignitaries, experts from the regional and international organizations and centres, participants from public and private sectors, farmers and officials in the agricultural sector and to all citizens for their efforts and positive participation to come out with these important recommendations that will hopefully play an effective role in the sustainability of the agricultural sector.

I would like also to extend thanks to government units, private sector enterprises, members of committees, work teams, the students of College of Tourism and to all those who contributed to the success of the activities of this symposium at its different stages, wishing them success and advancement in all their endeavors.

We highly appreciate the broad and valuable participation of the representatives of Majlis A'ddawla and A'Shawra, the government units, private enterprises, regional and international organizations and centres and community groups that contributed to the success of this symposium.

We raise sincere gratitude and loyalty to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, praying to Allah Almighty to perpetuate Him for the support of His loyal people, as the success of this symposium would not have been achieved without his special attention and patronage.
