

Arab Regions

Current State of Food Security in Arab Regions

In 2007 and the first half of 2008, a sharp rise in agricultural commodity and food prices triggered grave **concerns about food security**, malnutrition and increased poverty throughout the world.

Arab countries **import at least 50 percent of the food calories** they consume. As the largest net importers of cereal, Arab countries are more **exposed** than other countries to severe swings in agricultural commodity prices, and their **vulnerability** will probably be exacerbated in coming years by strong **population** growth, **low agricultural productivity**, and their **dependence** on global commodities markets.

Arab countries need to act urgently to improve food security. Projections of the region's food balance indicate **that dependence on imports will increase by almost 64 percent over the next twenty years**.

Despite all the above, the Arab Food security situation has **improved** in the past few years as a result of the increased interest of States in issues related to food security by adopting strategies, plans and programs for sustainable Arab agricultural development.

Vulnerable to food insecurity from conflicts and crisis: Yemen, Syria, Palestine

Policy- Level Legend

- [Arab Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy \(2005-2025\) SSAAD](#) 

This is a policy formulated by the AOAD for the next two decades based on the context of Tunis (2004) Arab Summit Declaration and on Algiers (2005) Summit's resolution. It is guided by resolutions and Directives of its legislative bodies as represented by its General Assembly, Executive Board and Economic and Social Council. The five key long term objectives of the strategy proceed out of such vision as follows (1) adoption of an integrated approach to the utilization of Arab agricultural resources, (2) achieving a joint Arab agricultural policy, (3) enhancing the capacity for providing safe food, (4) achieving the sustainability of Arab agricultural resources, and (5) achieving stability in rural communities.

SSAAD includes 7 main programmes: 1. The improvement of agricultural technologies, 2. The encouragement of Agro-investments and industry in favorable agricultural environment, 3. The enhancement of the competitiveness of agricultural products, 4. The coordination and improvement of agricultural legislations and policies, 5. Capacity building, 6. Rural development, 7. The development of environmental & agricultural resource management systems

A large part of the implementation responsibility will fall on the shoulders of Arab countries through their inclusion in programmes and projects. Other implementation partners can be pan-Arab, joint Arab, regional and international institutions.

- [Arab Mechanism for Financing Agricultural Development and Arab Food Security](#) 

The main purpose of the establishment of the Arab fund is to assist financially the Arab countries in the implementation of the agricultural programs, projects and activities, to increase the ability of governments to meet their commitments with National or Arab development programs, and to attract the Arab investor to invest in agriculture and food specially the private sector. This will help in achieving food security and solving unemployment problem and poverty alleviation in Arab countries.

- [Arab Strategy For Disaster Risk Reduction 2020](#) 

The main purpose of this strategy is to promote a comprehensive and integrated approach to reduce the disaster risk in various sectors. This strategy involves all the Arab countries which make it very hard to be applicable in all the political and economic problems that most the Arab countries are facing nowadays. It is a long term strategy targeting both national and local scales.

Policy- Level Legend (Continued)

- [Arab Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region \(2010-2030\)](#) 

The Arab Strategy for Water Security encapsulates the joint Arab approach to achieving sustainable development. It is a long-term program and practical mechanism for overcoming known future challenges in water resources development and management in the Arab Region. It aims at achieving sustainable development. The implementation and financing of the Strategy and all its programs fall under the remit of the Arab Ministerial Water Council and its technical secretariat, i.e. the General Directorate for Economic Affairs of the Arab League, ACSAD, national institutions and regional/international civil society organizations involved in water sector,....This strategy is based on a number of Key references: 1. Joint Arab Economic Action Charter and Strategy, 2. Millennium Development Goals, 3. Adopted Water Management Strategies for Arab States, 4. Regional and International Water Strategies and Programs Adopted in the Arab Region, 5. Arab Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy

- [Riyadh Declaration to Enhance Arab Cooperation to Face World Food Crises](#)

The ministers of Agriculture, and those responsible for Arab Agricultural affairs, members of the general assembly of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), agrees to issue this declaration to Consolidate Arab Cooperation to enhance Arab cooperation through the adoption of a couple of actions and mechanisms, we can mention some of them: 1. Launching an initiative for the Emergency Arab food security programme, 2. Encouraging the public and private sectors and Arab business to invest in joint agricultural projects in eligible Arab countries within the context of the emergency programme, 3. Urging the governments to expedite the preparation of legislations and laws supporting Arab agricultural integration and reinforcing the Greater Arab Free Trade Area to enhance inter-Arab agricultural trade,

Food Security Analytical Matrix

Policies

		Time Span		Scope		Partnership		Completion	
		Short	Long	Micro	Macro	Public	Private	Fragmented	Complete
Availability	Domestic Production	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>		
Availability	Imports	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>		<div><div></div></div>				
Availability	Offshore Production								
Access	Price Control	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>					
Access	Entitlement/Livelihoods Marginal communities	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>			
Access	Subsidies		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>		
Utilization	Diets and Nutrition		<div><div></div></div>		<div><div></div></div>				
Utilization	Food Safety	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>		<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>			
Institutional	Capacity Building in Food Security	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>		
Utilization	Water	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>			
Utilization	Sanitation	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>			
Stability	Emergencies and Crises		<div><div></div><div></div></div>		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>			
Stability	Food Security Monitoring Program		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>				
Institutional	Infrastructure	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>			

Policy-level: Analysis

- [Arab Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy \(2005-2025\) SSAAD \(green\)](#)

The SSAAD enhances availability through improving domestic production and imports, access through various entitlements, livelihood policies, price control and subsidies, utilization through nutrition improvement, food safety and policies targeting water, sanitation as well as food security monitoring program and infrastructure development. It targets institutional development through capacity building. It does not address emergencies and crises.

- [Arab Mechanism for Financing Agricultural Development and Arab Food Security \(Yellow\)](#)

The Arab mechanism targets food availability through domestic production and entitlements, utilization through water, stability through infrastructure development and institutional through capacity building. Though it does not explicitly target sanitation or food stability through emergency and crises and food security monitoring programs.

- [Arab Strategy For Disaster Risk Reduction 2020 \(blue\)](#)

The Arab strategy for disaster risk reduction enhances only institutional support through emergencies and crises.

- [Arab Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region \(2010-2030\) \(red\)](#)

This strategy enhances utilization through food safety and policies targeting water and sanitation. It targets also food stability through emergency and crises and institutional development through capacity building.

Program-level: Legend

- [Contribution of Arab, Regional and International Development Funds and Institutions in Arab Agricultural development](#) ■

The Arab, Regional and International Development Funds are considered a funding source for the Arab development projects and programs working in various economic and social sectors including agriculture. The world's countries, including Arab countries, are interested in developing and renewing these financial resources that could be divided into: 1. Arab National Institutions, 2. Arab Regional Institutions, and 3. regional/ International Institutions.

- [Emergency Arab food security programme \(2011-2031\)](#) ■

The program aims at increasing and stabilizing food production in the Arab world, especially the production of cereals, oilseeds and sugar extends over 20 years. The objectives of this program are to 1. Increase the capacities of Arab countries, 2. realize self-reliance of major food commodities, 3. cutback the increasing value of food imports, 4. available feasible investment opportunities for the private sector, 5. create employment opportunities to contribute to poverty alleviation, 6. maintain political and social stability. The total number of projects that were executed and still in progress are around 1989 project, where the cost of 1881 projects is 31.93 billion dollars. The fund needed to implement the other projects is still not available.

Food Security Analytical Matrix

Programs

		Target		Funding		Monitoring		Achievements	
		Local	National	Local Pri/Pub	International	Data Type Qal-Qan	Indicators	Partial Success	Complete
Availability	Agricultural Development		<div></div>	<div></div>				<div></div>	<div></div>
Availability	Overseas Investments								
Availability	International Cooperation and Trade								
Availability	Investment Programs in Food Security		<div></div> <div></div>	<div></div> <div></div>	<div></div>				
Access	Social Safety Nets		<div></div>	<div></div>					
Access	Price Control/Subsidies		<div></div>	<div></div>				<div></div>	<div></div>
Utilization	Diets and Nutrition								
Utilization	Food Safety								
Stability	Capacity Building		<div></div>	<div></div>				<div></div>	<div></div>
Access	Infrastructure and Resources		<div></div>	<div></div>				<div></div>	<div></div>
Stability	Strategic Reserves		<div></div>	<div></div>				<div></div>	<div></div>
Stability	Early Warning System- Markets and Droughts								
Stability	Food Security Monitoring Program								

Program-Level Analysis

- [Contribution of Arab, Regional and International Development Funds and Institutions in Arab Agricultural development \(orange\)](#)

This program only addresses funding source for the Arab development projects and programs working in various economic and social sectors including agricultures.

- [Emergency Arab Food Security Programme \(2011-2031\) \(purple\)](#)

The emergency program addresses most parameters of food security including, food availability through agricultural development activities, and investment programs, access through safety net initiatives, price control and infrastructural developments, stability through capacity building and strategic reserves. It does not explicitly address utilization, early warning systems, food security monitoring program or international cooperation and trade.

Institution Abbreviations

- AOAD: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
- CI: Country Institutions¹
- JAAO&I: Joint Action Arab Organizations and Institutions²
- R&IO: Regional and International Organizations concerned with Arab Region³
- AMWC: Arab Ministerial Water Council
- ACSAD: Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands
- CWS&WS: The Center for Water Studies and Water Security
- MoA: Ministry of Agriculture
- MoF: Ministry of Finance
- ANI⁴: Arab National Institutions
- ARI⁵: Arab Regional Institutions
- R&II⁶: Regional & International Institutions

Food Security Analytical Matrix

Institutions

	<i>Acronym of Institution</i>								
<i>Agricultural Development</i>	AOAD	CI	JAAO&I	R&IO	MoA	MoF			
<i>Overseas Investments</i>									
<i>International Cooperation and Trade</i>	AOAD	CI	JAAO&I	R&IO					
<i>Investment Programs in Food Security</i>	AOAD	ANI	ARI	R&II					
<i>Social Safety Nets</i>	AOAD	CI	JAAO&I	R&IO	MoA	MoF			
<i>Price Control/Subsidies</i>	AOAD	CI	JAAO&I	R&IO					
<i>Diets and Nutrition</i>									
<i>Food Safety</i>	AOAD	CI	JAAO&I	R&IO	AMWC	ACSAD	CWS&WS		
<i>Capacity Building</i>	AOAD	CI	JAAO&I	R&IO	MoA	MoF			
<i>Infrastructure and Resources</i>	AOAD	CI	JAAO&I	R&IO	AMWC	ACSAD	CWS&WS		
<i>Strategic Reserves</i>	AOAD								
<i>Early Warning System- Markets and Droughts</i>									
<i>Food Security Monitoring Program</i>									
<i>Infrastructure</i>	AOAD	CI	JAAO&I	R&IO	MoA	MoF			

Footnotes:

1. They are many. We can mention some of them:

- Applied agricultural research institutions, whether those comprising research institutions in Arab agricultural ministries or those belonging to ministries of higher education or universities.
- Agricultural extension and technology development institutions, whether those administratively belong to agricultural ministries or non-profit making civil society organizations.
- Institutions concerned with management and improvement of the use of water resources whether those belonging to ministries of water or agriculture, in addition to institutions, organizations and associations of water users in Arab agricultural sector and the Arab Council on Water.
- Marketing and trade services institutions

2. They include the following:

- Pan-Arab and regional groups represented in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and the Union of Arab Maghreb.
- Arab technical organizations such as the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and the Arab Center for the Study of Arid and Desert Areas.
- Arab and Islamic finance and developments funds, including the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Monetary Fund, the Programme to Finance Arab Trade, etc...
- Arab companies and entities concerned with agricultural investment
- Councils, unions and related Arab institutions such as the Arab Council for Water, the Arab Investors Union, the General Union of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Arab Countries, etc..

3. 1. Technical Institutions and Organizations Concerned with Arab Agricultural Sectors: FAO, ESCWA, ICARDA, IFPRI,

2. Regional and International Funds and Entities: World Bank, OFID, UNDP, IFAD, ABD

4. Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Abu Dhabi Development Fund, Saudi Development Fund

5. Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Arab Monetary Fund, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, Arab Organization for Agricultural Investment and Development

6. World Bank Group, African Development Bank Group, Islamic Development Bank , OPEC Fund for Economic Development, International Fund for Agricultural Development