

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

ARTICLE 105

Scope of Co-operation

1. The overall objectives of co-operation in the agricultural sector are the achievement of food security and rational agricultural production within the Community. To this end, the Partner States undertake to adopt a scheme for the rationalisation of agricultural production with a view to promoting complementarity and specialisation in and the sustainability of national agricultural programmes in order to ensure:
 - (a) a common agricultural policy;
 - (b) food sufficiency within the Community;
 - (c) an increase in the production of crops, livestock, fisheries and forest products for domestic consumption, exports within and outside the Community and as inputs to agro-based industries within the Community; and
 - (d) post harvest preservation and conservation and improved food processing.
2. For purposes of paragraph 1 of this Article, the Partner States undertake to co-operate in specific fields of agriculture, including:
 - (a) the harmonisation of agricultural policies of the Partner States;
 - (b) the development of food security within the Partner States and the Community as a whole, through the production and supply of foodstuffs;
 - (c) agro-meteorology and climatology to promote the development of early climatological warning systems within the Community;
 - (d) the development and application of agricultural training and research and extension services;
 - (e) the adoption of internationally accepted quality standards for food processing;

- (f) the establishment of joint programmes for the control of animal and plant diseases and pests;
- (g) the marketing of food and the co-ordination of the export and import of agricultural commodities;
- (h) joint actions in combating drought and desertification ; and
- (i) in such other fields of agriculture as the Council may determine.

ARTICLE 106

Seed Multiplication and Distribution

The Partner States shall:

- (a) strengthen co-operation in quality seed development and production through research and plant breeding;
- (b) support co-operation in the establishment of gene banks;
- (c) enhance capacity in seed technology;
- (d) initiate and maintain strategic seed reserves;
- (e) harmonise quarantine policies, legislation and regulations to ease trade in seeds; and
- (f) create an enabling environment for private sector seed multiplication and distribution.

ARTICLE 107

Livestock Multiplication and Distribution

The Partner States shall:

- (a) develop mechanism for co-operation in livestock breeding, including artificial insemination institutions and livestock breeding centres;
- (b) encourage and facilitate exchange of genetic material to widen the base of livestock development;

- (c) encourage private sector participation in livestock multiplication and distribution;
- (d) develop common regulatory framework in livestock multiplication, trade in semen, embryos, breeding stock, drugs and vaccines; and
- (e) harmonise quarantine regulations in artificial insemination and livestock breeding centres.

ARTICLE 108

Plant and Animal Diseases Control

The Partner States shall:

- (a) harmonise policies, legislation and regulations for enforcement of pests and disease control;
- (b) harmonise and strengthen regulatory institutions;
- (c) harmonise and strengthen zoo-sanitary and phyto-sanitary services inspection and certification;
- (d) establish regional zoo-sanitary and phyto-sanitary laboratories to deal with diagnosis and identification of pests and diseases;
- (e) adopt common mechanism to ensure safety, efficacy and potency of agricultural inputs including chemicals, drugs and vaccines; and
- (f) co-operate in surveillance, diagnosis and control strategies of trans-boundary pests and animal diseases.

ARTICLE 109

Irrigation and Water Catchment Management

The Partner States agree to take concerted effort to expand agricultural land through irrigation and water catchment strategies and for this purpose, shall:

- (a) co-operate in formulating and implementing national and Community irrigation programmes;
- (b) co-operate in developing and preserving traditional irrigation systems;

- (c) improve water catchment management, including rainwater harvesting; and
- (d) adopt and promote the use of environmentally safe methods of land use.

ARTICLE 110

Food Security

The Partner States shall:

- (a) establish a mechanism for exchange of information on demand and supply surpluses and deficits, trade, forecasting and state of food nutrition;
- (b) harmonise quality and standards of inputs and products including food additives;
- (c) develop modalities to have timely information on market prices;
- (d) harmonise food supply, nutrition and food security policies and strategies;
- (e) initiate and maintain strategic food reserves; and
- (f) develop marine and inland aquaculture and fish farming.