

THE AFRICA AND WEST ASIA AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

MIDYEAR REVIEW

TRI-AGENCY READING

JUN 13 1972

500 12th St., SW, Room 300
Washington, D. C.



RECORD HIGH PRODUCTION PROBABLE IN 1966

An area as huge as Africa and West Asia has spots every year where adverse weather seriously hampers agricultural production. In 1965, there were large areas in Eastern and Southern Africa where crops were poor. Despite this, 1965 agricultural production in Africa and West Asia was record-high. This year may be even better. In 1966, the larger weather-troubled spots are the western portion of North Africa, and the southwestern portion of West Asia.

The 1966 grain crops have largely been harvested in Africa and West Asia. Both Turkey and Iran have just completed harvesting excellent--perhaps record--crops of wheat and barley. According to early estimates, Turkey's wheat crop has exceeded the record 8 million tons harvested in 1953.

In Africa, 1966 corn production shows promise of considerable recovery from the drought-depressed level of 1965. In South Africa, the big producer, the 1966 harvest is estimated at 5 million tons, up importantly from the 4.3 million tons in 1964 and 4.5 million tons in 1965, but short of the level of about 6 million tons in 1962 and 1963. South Africa will offer very little, if any, of its 1966 corn crop for overseas export.

Because of drought, disappointingly small grain crops have been evidenced for 1966 in the Maghreb, which embraces Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya, and also in the area comprised of Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Israel. In these areas wheat and barley crops aggregated less than half as large as the average for the previous 5 years. In Syria, for example, the combined 1961-65 average for wheat and barley was approximately 1.5 million tons; the 1966 wheat and barley crop is no more than 650,000 tons.

Africa's 1966 cotton production, largely in the United Arab Republic and in the Sudan, is expected to approximate the good crop of 1965. West Asia's largest producer, Turkey, expects an excellent crop of cotton in 1966. Africa's important coffee crop promises to turn out at about last year's high level of a little over 1 million tons; cocoa output is expected to exceed that of 1965.

WEST ASIA

Production: In 1956-65, a period that included several years of drought in much of the area, about 11.4 million tons of wheat and 5.7 million tons of barley were produced annually in West Asia.^{1/} Early indications for 1966 point to a regional wheat harvest in excess of 12 million tons, with excellent crops in Turkey and Iran combining to outweigh poor returns in most other West Asian nations. An average barley crop--5½ to 6 million tons--is expected for the region.

The area sown to grains in Turkey for the 1966 harvest increased moderately; growing conditions were generally favorable. The 1966 wheat crop is estimated at a record-breaking 8.2 million tons and barley output at 3.5 million tons, considerable gains over 1965's returns of 7.5 million tons of wheat and 3.1 million tons of barley. Sizable increases in all other cereals except spelts and millet also are predicted.

Iran anticipates a wheat harvest equal to or better than the record 3-million-ton crop of 1963. The outlook for Iranian barley is good. Rice production has been predicted at about the 1965 level of 570,000 tons, milled equivalent.

But the grain situation in most other countries of the region is less optimistic. Due to drought, Iraq expects that wheat production may total only about 500,000 tons, against an annual average of about 750,000 tons for the 1961-65 period. Domestic wheat requirements are about 800,000 tons a year. The Iraqi barley harvest is forecast at approximately 700,000 tons, about 25 percent below the 1961-65 average.

Well-informed Syrian farmers, traders, and government officials predict grain crops far below average this year; drought occurred in many producing areas. Wheat is currently estimated at only about 500,000 tons (300,000 tons below average requirements), compared to production of over 1 million tons in 1965 and a 1961-65 average of more than 900,000 tons--this latter period including one exceptionally poor year for cereals. Barley output in the Syrian Arab Republic is expected to total, at most, 150,000 tons; close to 760,000 tons of barley were harvested in 1965 and an average of about 600,000 tons were harvested annually during the 1961-65 period.

With drought again this year, early summer estimates of Jordan's 1966 wheat crop were for 90,000 tons, reversing the pattern of the two previous seasons when ample rains brought harvests of 290,000 tons each year. Cyprus reports low barley yields this year due to drought and disease.

^{1/} As defined in this report: Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Cyprus, and Israel.

Note: In this publication, "tons" means metric tons unless otherwise stated.

Israel's grain output is down also in 1966. Wheat is expected to total no more than 55,000 tons, against 141,000 tons last year. Barley and sorghum may crop out at only about 15,000 tons each; the revised estimate of 1965 production was about 67,000 tons for each.

Lebanon has suffered less this year from drought than have its neighboring countries. Although snow pack in the higher mountains was somewhat less than in the previous winter, this mainly affects the amount of water available for irrigation of late summer crops; production of winter cereals was good--both wheat and barley are judged to equal last year's above-average levels.

Turkish officials are very optimistic about the cotton crop. They speak in terms of a 350,000 ton harvest; some forecast up to a 400,000-ton crop for 1966. More conservative estimates are that this season's crop will equal or surpass those of the last 2 years when crops of 327,000 tons (1964) and 294,000 tons (1965) were realized. Syrian trade circles report a drop in cotton acreage and output in the 1966 season, partly due to low world prices in 1965/66 compared with 1964/65. Although the Syrian Government granted subsidies to encourage cotton production this year, the current crop is not likely to reach the level of the past two seasons--an average of 178,000 tons of lint.

Because of low prices for cotton in the 1965/66 crop year, there are reports that Iran's cotton acreage declined again this season, with indications of some cotton land being shifted to rice.

Despite blue mold damage in the Aegean region, Turkey's production of oriental tobacco is forecast at about 150,000 tons from roughly 615,000 acres planted. In 1965 approximately 547,000 acres yielded 123,000 tons of leaf. Continued dry conditions sharply reduced Jordan's tobacco acreage and production this year. Only 5,000 acres were planted to tobacco, compared to an average of 14,000 acres in 1964 and 1965 when Jordan had good rains. Tobacco output for 1966 is forecast at 500 metric tons of Virginia flue-cured and 200 tons of local semi-oriental. About 1,700 tons of flue-cured were produced in both 1964 and 1965; local types amounted to about 400 tons in each year. Lebanon's production of sun-cured oriental and semi-oriental tobaccos is expected to reach 6,200 tons in 1966; the 1965 crop was 5,900 tons. Production of sun-cured tobac is forecast at 200 tons compared to 50 tons in 1965.

A large edible oil production is expected in Turkey from record or near-record olive, sunflowerseed, and cottonseed harvests in the current season. Syrian sources describe this year's olive crop as the "best in history" (the average for 1961-65 was 85,000 tons, with a high of 120,000 tons in 1964).

The Turkish dried fig crop is reported as satisfactory with possibly 60,000 tons expected; the 1961-65 average was 48,000 tons. But spring frosts hurt several major Turkish fruits--especially grapes, peaches and apricots. July estimates of this year's raisin pack vary between 70,000 and 80,000 tons; the 1961-65 average was roughly 85,000 tons. Almonds and apricots suffered considerable frost damage in Iran. By contrast, preliminary reports indicate that Iraq's date crop in the season that began July 1 will be larger than last year's 250,000 tons.

Turkish filbert production is tentatively estimated at 180,000 tons, in-shell; the pistachio harvest may equal those of 1964 and 1965.

Cyprus reports good growth and development of this year's carob crop. Production is expected to be near the average for 1961-64--49,000 tons.

Wool production in Turkey in 1966 is expected to be above that of 1965 due to increased sheep numbers and more favorable weather conditions. The preliminary forecast for 1966 is about 45,000 tons of wool, grease basis, an increase of about 2,000 tons over 1965 production. In the Syrian Arab Republic, supplies of water and feed were well below previous years. Additionally, because of uncertainty as to whether the Syrian Government would nationalize the wool trade, considerable numbers of sheep were taken across the borders into Iraq and Jordan, thus depriving Syria of a large amount of foreign exchange. Syria's 1966 wool production is estimated to be 14,300 tons, more than 5 percent below last year.

Summer drought hit pastures, as well as some crops, in southern and southeastern provinces of Iran. Government assistance was required to prevent livestock losses.

Agricultural trade: If current crop expectations are realized, Turkey should be virtually self-sufficient in grains this year. Turkey's imports of wheat during the year that began July 1, 1966, should be confined to the 290,000 metric tons remaining in the pipeline from the April 1966 P. L. 480 agreement.

Iraq's wheat import requirements will probably total about 300,000 tons. In Syria, a recent 33 percent increase in government prices for most grades of wheat and a 30 percent increase in the price of barley reflect the seriousness of the grain situation. The Syrian Government increased these prices early in the season, hoping to encourage farmers to sell their grain within the country rather than to hoard it or smuggle it into nearby Arab countries, as has been done in some earlier years. Surplus from the 1963-65 grain crops was exported and present stocks of wheat and barley are negligible. If present grain harvest forecasts prove correct, Syria will need to import over 300,000 tons of wheat and 100,000 tons of barley just to meet minimum domestic requirements for consumption before the 1967 harvest. By early August, arrangements had been made for the purchase of 315,000 tons of wheat--approximately 225,000 tons from the United States, 50,000 tons from Bulgaria, 25,000 tons from Rumania, and 15,000 tons from France.

Despite good crops in 1966, Iran will need to import grain this season to maintain the consumption level of recent years. In the Iranian year ended March 20, 1966, approximately 215,000 tons of wheat and flour were imported to supplement the domestic wheat crop of 2.9 million tons. This year's crop is a little better than 1965's, but not enough better to offset the increase in population.

Jordanian wheat requirements from abroad, including usual supplies for distribution to refugees, are projected at about 236,000 tons. Israeli officials indicate that the decline this year in wheat production in that country will be offset by drawing on stocks (estimated at 220,000 tons on January 1, 1966) and by increasing imports 10 percent from last year, or to 280,000 tons. This

year's imports of feedgrains by Israel are forecast 14 percent above those of 1965, or 660,000 tons in total. They will be comprised of 310,000 tons of sorghums, 240,000 tons of corn, and 110,000 tons of barley.

Although domestic mill consumption is increasing, Turkey normally exports half or more of its cotton lint, and should have about 200,000 tons of lint available for foreign market sales this crop year. Lint cotton exports are Syria's leading source of foreign exchange and tax revenue; about 88 percent of domestic cotton production is for the export market. Until the end of the 1964/65 crop season, Syrian cotton had found a ready market all over the world. The cotton industry was nationalized at the beginning of the 1965/66 crop season. Exports as of mid-February 1966 from the 1965 crop were more than 40 percent below exports as of mid-February 1965. Trade sources estimate that prices paid to farmers for the 1965 cotton crop averaged about 20 percent less than prices in the previous season--a factor that may have helped cut supplies available for export this year.

Reports from Israel project record-high exports of 17 million cases of citrus fruit (predominantly Shamouti oranges) in the 1966/67 season.

If date production in Iraq this year is as high as currently projected, the crop could again present marketing problems. Export offerings of Turkish filberts and raisins are projected at 60,000 tons each; figs, 40,000 tons. Turkey is expected to have an exportable surplus of 90,000 tons of tobacco and about 6,000 to 7,000 tons of tea over usual domestic requirements.

NORTHERN AFRICA

Earlier forecasts for a promising agricultural season in 1966 for Northern Africa^{2/} have failed to materialize; much of the area is in for one of the lowest harvests in a decade. While acreage planted to food crops is estimated at near-normal levels, drought conditions have severely reduced yields in the western portion of the region--in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya. Production in the United Arab Republic and the Sudan, however, is reported at average to slightly above-average levels. Irrigated crops in the western countries, such as citrus and vegetables, have not been seriously damaged; neither have the olive and fig crops.

The area's depressed economic situation is likely to grow more acute. The overall volume of farm products available for export is substantially below that for 1965. The region's food import needs will reach an all-time high this year. If per capita economic gains reported for recent years are to be maintained, increased foreign assistance will be required.

Production: Grain crops have been most affected by drought conditions. Wheat and barley yields in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya will be no more than one-half those of normal years. These countries harvested some 3.2 million tons of wheat and close to 2 million tons of barley in 1965

^{2/} United Arab Republic, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, and Algeria.

No official data have been released on grain acreage and production for 1966 within the Nile Basin countries. However, preliminary estimates suggest that production of wheat, corn, rice, grain sorghum and millet may equal or exceed last year's level. The United Arab Republic's wheat harvest then was only 126,000 tons below the record of 1.73 million tons set in 1954, but far short of domestic requirements. Early forecasts placed the U.A.R.'s 1965 rice crop at 2.3 million tons (rough basis), but this figure was later reduced by some 400,000 tons due to unfavorable weather late in the growing season. With adequate irrigation water available, this year's rice harvest is expected to better last year's and to exceed 2 million tons.

Official sources continue to report the combined 1965 cotton harvest of the United Arab Republic and the Sudan at the high level of 668,000 tons. First unofficial estimates place the area planted to cotton this year in the U.A.R. at about 2 million acres--some 5 percent above the area planted last year. The crop is now approaching the harvesting stage and yields equal to those of the last two seasons are predicted. Thus, production in the U.A.R. is likely to exceed 550,000 tons. With an indicated increase in acreage and no indication of adverse growing conditions, the Sudan's production should be near record levels.

Oilseed and pulse crops have been set back by drought in some Northern African countries. However, sizable portions of the region's oilseeds are produced in the Sudan and indications are that production there continues at normal levels. A large output of cottonseed is expected in the area this year.

Fruit and vegetable crops grown in the more humid coastal areas, or under irrigation, have generally fared well. Citrus production may well surpass that of recent years as new orchards are beginning to come into production. An average grape harvest is expected in most countries.

Animal production has been cut throughout much of the region due to depletion of grazing areas in 1966. There have been no reports of mass starvation, but movement of livestock out of drought areas has been necessary and heavy sales have forced prices down. In other cases, supplemental forage reserves have been depleted--making the outlook for the immediate future depressing.

Agricultural trade: The area will have surplus quantities of cotton, olive oil, rice, wine, citrus fruit, and hides and skins for export. Lately, the U.A.R. annual rice exports have varied between 350,000 and 500,000 tons per year. It is questionable if supplies of this magnitude will be available for export this year unless large quantities of wheat are imported. There is not likely to be any hard wheat from the 1966 crop exported from Northern Africa.

The anticipated breadgrain deficit for the region was reported at 3 million tons earlier in the year. However, with adverse conditions having developed over such a large part of the area, indications now are that 3.6 million tons of wheat must be imported if normal consumption levels are to be maintained. Countries of the region imported 3.2 million tons of wheat and flour in 1965 and 2.6 million tons in 1964.

The bulk of the region's breadgrain deficit lies in the U.A.R. It is estimated that the wheat needs of that country in 1966 are 2.4 million tons, whereas 2.24 million tons were imported in 1965, 1.89 million tons in 1964. Estimated wheat deficits in other countries of the region in 1966 are: Morocco, 350,000 tons; Algeria, 400,000 tons; Tunisia, 200,000 tons; Libya, 125,000 tons; Sudan, 120,000 tons. Growing deficits of vegetable oils and livestock products are also reported in the area.

The answer is not readily available as to just how these food deficits are to be met. Other than for Libya, decreasing foreign reserve holdings are a continuing problem throughout the area. Most of these countries have recently made arrangements with the United States to obtain a portion of their food import needs under various parts of the Public Law 480 program. The most recent P. L. 480 agreement under which the U.A.R. was receiving food from the United States expired on June 30. To meet immediate needs, the Egyptian Government is buying \$70 million worth of wheat, corn, edible oil, and tobacco through private U. S. exporters under the Commodity Credit Corporation's Export Credit Sales Program.

WEST AFRICA

To date, it appears that the amount of rainfall and the timing of the rains are about normal in West Africa.^{3/} On the whole, rather good crops are expected.

Production: Of the area's commercial crops, the Big Three are cocoa, coffee and peanuts. No abnormal condition in development of the 1966 cocoa crop has been reported. However, there has been a dramatic recovery in the price of cocoa. For July 1966 the New York spot Accra price averaged 27.2 cents a pound. This compares with a July 1965 average price of only 11.8 cents a pound. West Africa's cocoa crop approximated 750,000 tons in 1965; 415,000 tons of this were produced in Ghana. The 1966 crop will likely show some increase over the outturn in 1965.

The 1966/67 coffee crop is expected to be somewhat smaller than that for 1965/66. In the Ivory Coast, which produces more coffee than any other African country, the crop will be down an estimated 22 percent. Ivoirien production totaled a record 4.6 million bags (276,000 tons) in 1965/66. In contrast, the preliminary estimate for 1966/67 is 3.6 million bags (216,000 tons). Because of marketing problems, the Government of the Ivory Coast in December 1965 decreed that there can be no new coffee plantations and that the area now devoted to coffee cannot be extended.

While it is too early in the season to estimate the peanut crop for 1966, incentives provided by more favorable bilateral agreements for export peanuts have apparently stimulated production. The 1965 crop for West Africa totaled approximately 3 million tons, unshelled basis.

^{3/} Dahomey, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Portuguese Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Upper Volta.

Nigeria is the outstanding agricultural producer of West Africa. There are no midseason indications of major setbacks in Nigeria's 1966 agriculture. It appears that per capita production will remain constant for another year at 4 or 5 percent above the 1957-59 average. Grain production may not equal last year's level, but favorable weather has caused optimism for an increased crop of peanuts. In 1965, Nigeria harvested 1.3 million tons of unshelled peanuts.

Agricultural trade: Of special importance to trade interests is the entrance of Nigeria into the European Common Market as an associate member. The Association Agreement was signed in July 1966. It is the first English-speaking nation to achieve membership in the EEC, and the association is of greatest advantage with regard to trade, since Nigeria will not be eligible for loans and grants from the development fund of the EEC.

One of the most important features of the agreement is that most of Nigeria's exports will be subject to the same customs duties which the 6 European members levy on each other. However, peanut oil, palm oil, cocoa beans, and plywood will be on quotas equal to Nigeria's 1962-64 average exports to the EEC, increased by 6 percent during the first year and by 3 percent a year in subsequent years until expiration of the arrangement on May 31, 1969. Also important is the fact that EEC countries will receive special tariff preferences on 26 products imported by Nigeria. The EEC-Nigeria agreement will not go into formal effect until ratified by the Italian and German Parliaments.

Beginning June 6, 1966, wheat flour imported into Nigeria is subject to specific import licensing. With the opening of a new flour mill at Port Harcourt, imports of wheat are expected to increase substantially; imports of flour, to decrease.

WEST CENTRAL AFRICA

Production: No unusually good or unusually bad agricultural conditions for the 1966 crops are in the midyear outlook for the countries of West Central Africa^{4/} other than the Congo. Formerly Congo (Leopoldville), Congo (Kinshasa) is the outstanding agricultural producer of this area. Agricultural production in the Congo, badly hurt by the political disturbances which closely followed independence in 1960, was hurt even more by the conflict centered on Stanleyville (now Kisangani) which occurred in late 1964 and in 1965. In 1966, production and marketing of domestic food crops continue to be disorganized. Before independence in 1960, coffee, oil palm produce, cotton, and rubber were the Big Four of Congolese commercial crops. All these have suffered in varying degrees.

Coffee trees have not been cared for in many areas of the Congo and they have suffered irreparable damage. The 1966 crop is estimated at no more than 1965's crop of 60,000 tons. On the other hand, improved oil palms can stand a great deal of neglect and still produce good crops. To restore full production is largely a matter of resuming good husbandry. Prospects for increasing

^{4/} Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe, and Spanish Guinea.

production and exports of palm oil and palm kernel oil appear rather favorable since most of the plantings are improved varieties.

Cotton was grown under orders from the Belgian colonial government. When the Congo became independent, most farmers quit growing cotton and had not resumed growing it as of the 1966 season. The areas of rubber production have not been much affected by the civil unrest.

Agricultural trade: Large imports of food are needed again in 1966, particularly for the big Congolese cities. The bulk of these imports in recent years and this year have come from the United States under the Food for Peace program. Rubber exports from the area have continued on a fairly stable level.

EASTERN AFRICA

The long rains in early 1966 were near normal in Eastern Africa.^{5/} Crops and grazing conditions in general were favorable in midseason 1966. This is in contrast to the drought conditions that prevailed over much of the area in 1965, particularly in large parts of Kenya and Tanzania.

Corn, the most important food crop of the area, was rather hard hit in 1965 by the dry weather; the 1966 crop is much better. The 1965 drought did not significantly hurt the important coffee crop of the area; approximately 6.1 million bags (369,000 tons) were harvested. Early estimates of the 1966 crop are for production of 6.2 million bags.

Eastern Africa is a wheat-deficit region. A substantial shortage exists, particularly in Tanzania. Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda have jointly signed an agreement with the United States to purchase 50,000 tons of wheat under Title IV, P. L. 480. The first shipment of 17,000 tons under this Food for Peace agreement was scheduled to arrive in Dar es Salaam in August 1966.

The sisal industry in Eastern Africa, largely in Tanzania, is faced with a prolonged slump. Production appears down again this year. Tanzania's high was reached in 1964 when 229,000 tons were produced. Local handlers report that the mid-1966 price of sisal for export was about \$224 per ton--down from \$252 in 1965--and that more than a normal amount of sisal acreage is soon to be retired and planted to other crops.

The early summer political shake-up in Uganda has had little effect on the outlook for agricultural production in that agriculturally rich country.

Kenya continues to expand its tea plantings and production. The 1966 crop promises to be about 42 million pounds (23,000 tons), compared with 43.7 million pounds in 1965. Present trends indicate that tea will replace coffee in the next few years as Kenya's most valuable export crop.

^{5/} Principally Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somali Republic, Tanzania, and Uganda.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

The agricultural outlook for 1966 in Southern Africa^{6/} has improved substantially since the first quarter of 1966, mainly because of improved rainfall. Overall production should be considerably higher than in 1965.

Production: The Republic of South Africa is the agricultural giant of the area. While in mid-January South Africa's corn crop was projected as low as 35 million bags (3.2 million tons), later estimates for the 1966 harvest were higher. A recent Government estimate places the crop at 55 million bags (4.99 million tons). The first official estimate for South African sugar production in 1966/67 is a record 1.7 million short tons (excluding Swaziland), compared with 1 million short tons for 1965/66. This would place the 1966/67 crop 300,000 tons above the previous record crop produced in 1964/65. Fruit production continues to expand in South Africa despite the drought of recent years, particularly the production of citrus, peaches, pears, and pineapples. The South African wool clip of 327 million pounds (148,000 tons, greasy basis) for 1965 exceeded all previous clips. The 1966 clip is not expected to be so large. The beef supply in the Republic of South Africa is still tight, despite the improved supply of live animals from South West Africa.

Corn production in both Rhodesia and Malawi will be adequate for domestic requirements in the current season. Earlier in the crop year a corn shortage was forecast for Rhodesia, but late rains rapidly improved the situation. Instead of the earlier forecast of shortage, Zambia is expected to have a record commercial corn crop of 3.5 million bags (317,000 tons), with surplus for reserves and export. Rhodesia has recently announced a flue-cured tobacco production target of 200 million pounds for the 1967 harvest; this crop target is the same as for the 1966 season. Estimates of the 1966 tobacco harvest have not been released by the Rhodesians. However, it is known that the weather conditions were favorable during the growing season.

Angola is one of Africa's major coffee producers. The first estimate of its 1966 coffee crop is for 3.4 million bags (204,000 tons), considerably above 1965. The food situation in both Bechuanaland and Basutoland continues to be difficult because of severe drought, but Swaziland's agricultural production continues to expand, particularly sugar for export.

Malagasy Republic was forced to import rice (its major food crop) in early 1966 because of crop damage by typhoons and vermin. Sugar production in Mauritius may be lower in 1966 because of dry weather in the northern portion of the island.

Agricultural trade: South Africa's wheat imports may exceed 600,000 tons in 1966; in the first half of the year they were about 275,000 tons (10.3 million bushels), of which 200,000 tons were from the United States. Arrangements have been completed for additional wheat imports of 180,000 tons (6.7 million

^{6/} Angola, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Comoro Islands, Malagasy Republic, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Reunion, Rhodesia, Seychelles, Republic of South Africa, South West Africa, Swaziland, and Zambia.

bushels) for delivery through October-November 1966; 90,000 are to come from Canada, but the United States will share importantly in the rest.

Corn imports--a rare event--by South Africa in March, April and May 1966 were 2.1 million bags (190,000 tons), mainly from the United States. These imports were needed to meet a severe corn shortage prior to the beginning of the 1966 harvest in May. The domestic utilization of corn was at a record level of 47 million bags in 1965/66 compared with 41.5 million bags in 1964/65. This was primarily because of increased use of corn for livestock feed.

Imports of cotton by South Africa in 1966 may reach 130,000 bales because of increased demand by the mills.

Of political interest, if not agricultural importance, is that in September 1966 Bechuanaland becomes an independent country assuming the name of Botswana; in October 1966, Basutoland will become independent and have the name of Lesotho.

This report was prepared in the Africa and Middle East Branch.

United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The discussion of agricultural prospects contained in this bulletin represents an updating of certain information presented in: The Africa and West Asia Agricultural Situation -- Review of 1965 and Outlook for 1966, ERS-Foreign 153, April 1966.