The future of Egyptian agriculture in international trade

Al Santarisi M.

in

Abdel Hakim T. (ed.).
Egyptian Agriculture Profile

Montpellier : CIHEAM
Options Méditerranéennes : Série B. Etudes et Recherches; n. 9

1995
pages 109-118

The Future of Egyptian Agriculture in International Trade

Mohammed Al-Santarisi
Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, Cairo

Abstract. Egyptian international trade has been developing since the seventies following the establishment of trade liberalization policies and the gradual integration of the Egyptian economy to the world economy: its share of the GDP was 43.2% in 1981 and 36.1% in 1990.
Egypt's foreign agricultural trade represented for these years an average of 48% of the AGP. However, from 1970 to 1990, the Egyptian balance of trade has undergone a permanently increasing deficit. As for the agricultural foreign trade, after having shown a surplus, it showed an important deficit as from 1973.
The main agricultural exports during the sixties and seventies were: cotton, rice, citrus fruits, potatoes and onion.
Egyptian foreign agricultural trade has been and will always be under the influence of the international context and the creation of economic blocks and Egypt, like all other developing countries, has to acquire a better position within international trade.

Keywords. International trade – Agricultural import/Export – Comparative advantage – Economic Unions

Résumé. *Le commerce extérieur de l'Egypte s'est développé à partir des années 70, avec la mise en place des politiques de libéralisation économique et l'intégration croissante de l'économie égyptienne dans l'économie mondiale : il représentait 43.2% en 1981 et 36.1% en 1990, du PNB.*
Le commerce extérieur agricole représentait en moyenne, au cours de la même période, 47% du PBA.
Toutefois, au cours de la période 1970/1990, la balance commerciale égyptienne a été en déficit permanent et croissant. Quand à la balance commerciale agricole, après avoir été excédentaire, elle a connu un déficit important à partir de 1973.
Les principales importations agricoles en Egypte, ces 20 dernières années, ont été le blé, la farine de blé, le maïs, les huiles et le sucre, qui représentaient environ 90% de la valeur totale des importations agricoles.
Les principales exportations agricoles de l'Egypte, au cours des années 1970 et 1980, ont été le coton, le riz, les agrumes, les pommes de terre et les oignons.
Le commerce extérieur agricole égyptien a été et sera influencé par le contexte international et la création de blocs économiques, et l'Egypte, comme tous les autres pays en voie de développement, doit améliorer sa place dans les échanges mondiaux.

I – Introduction

The agricultural sector is of great importance in most countries of the world, especially in developing countries. That is not only because agriculture provides food and clothing resources, but also because it contributes in supplying the industrial sector with its needs of primary materials. In addition, agriculture is an essential source for employment. Moreover, the revenue from agricultural exports plays an important role in supporting the country's economy as it is a resource of foreign currency, which alleviates the burden on the balance of payment and enables the country to import the needed food and industrial commodities. Meanwhile, agriculture increases the capability of the society to implement economic development plans and programmes.

Although the Egyptian agricultural sector has been for long involved in the world markets as an exporter of various products to many countries and as an importer of some necessary inputs such as tractors and pesticides, the relative importance of the Egyptian agricultural foreign trade in the world agricultural trade has been still low during the past thirty years—except for cotton exports and wheat imports.

The conflict between the East and the West and the competition between them to control the raw material producing areas and the world markets, especially those of the third world countries, has lead most developing countries under a heavy burden of foreign debts which threatens the interests of the debtors

themselves. As a result, lending countries and international agencies have tended to lay down the terms of their aids to developing countries, some of which dictate the necessity of directing a part of the loan investments towards agricultural activities.

On the other hand, the radical changes which the economic systems of many countries underwent during the last few years created new economic blocks. This will lead to competition between many of the countries concerned in their search for foreign assistance. Geographical linkages and political and economic affiliations will be used in such a competition. These changes will also result in heating the world competition in the field of foreign trade which will not be favourable for developing countries as on account of the absence of export industries they cannot compete in the world markets.

As for Egypt, the impact of the competition in the world trade will not be limited to its exports to the foreign markets; rather, it will be extended to Egypt's ability to satisfy its needs of essential food commodities from the world markets.

II – The Current Situation of the Egyptian Foreign Trade and Its Development: Development of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and of the Agricultural Domestic Product (ADP)

An attempt to describe the present situation of the Egyptian Agricultural foreign trade should begin with a presentation of the relative importance of the agricultural sector among all other productive sectors of the national economy. *Table 1* shows that the ADP at fixed prices of 1979 has increased from nearly L.E 1,526 million in 1970 (30.2% of the GDP which was L.E 5,045 million) to about L.E 3,396 million in 1990 (23% of the GDP which was L.E 14,743 million). In spite of this increase of the ADP at fixed prices, its relative importance in the GDP and NDP has decreased from 31% in 1970–1974 to 21% in 1986–1990. This is due to the change in the relative importance of the different production sectors of the national economy although the trend of the ADP was increasing.

Table 1 also shows that the average rate of the GDP annual growth reached 5.5% exceeding the ADP which reached 4.97% in 1970–90. Besides, the GDP annual growth rate has fluctuated during the same period between a maximum of 22% in 1979 and a minimum of 0.05% in 1987. Negative rates have been recorded in certain years, reaching a maximum of 2.1% in 1978.

1. Development of Egyptian Agricultural Foreign Trade

Although Egyptian foreign trade accounted for not more than 26% of the GDP before 1973, the open-door economic policy which intensified the linkages between Egyptian and international economies, and increased the deals with western countries, have resulted in the increase of the foreign trade's share of GDP value with a maximum of 43.2% in 1981. However, a decreasing trend was observed during the following years, with only 36.1% recorded in 1990. In general, the balance of trade has recorded a continuous and increasing deficit during the 1970–1990 period, reaching a maximum of L.E. 13,948 million in 1990.

As for the role of the agricultural sector in the Egyptian foreign trade, data of *Table 2* indicate that 1973 was a turning point in the agricultural balance of trade for which a deficit was recorded for the first time. This deficit has increased from L.E. 68 million in 1974 to L.E. 3,934 million in 1990. This is attributed to the sharp drop in the share of agricultural exports in total exports: from 70% in 1971 to only 17% in 1985. However, this share began to increase again to reach 25% in 1990.

Meanwhile, the ratio of agricultural imports decreased from 39% of the total imports in 1970–75 to 26% in 1986–90.

In general, the average ratio of agricultural foreign trade to the ADP was 47% during 1970–90.

Table 2 shows that the value of agricultural imports was multiplied in 1990 reaching 56 times its value in 1970 as a result of population increase and the greater average of real per capita income and food expenditure. These factors have led to an increase of imported foods, especially under the open-door

economic policy and the freedom given to the private sector to import food goods. However, the value of agricultural exports has been multiplied by eight, during the same period. As a result, the agricultural export value covered only 30% of agricultural imports value in 1990 after having covered twice this percentage in 1970.

2. Development of the Domestic Production of Major Crops

Favourable climatic conditions, together with the suitability of the soil and the availability of inputs have encouraged the cultivation of a variety of field crops, vegetables and fruits. Population increase, reflecting in an increasing demand of these crops, has stimulated the growers to expand their production of food crops. Moreover, the relative advantage that some Egyptian crops enjoy at the international trade level was also a factor strongly stimulating the expansion of production in order to cover Egypt's share in this trade. The obvious variation in the cultivated area and the production size of the different crops reflect, on one hand, the consumption preference and, on the other, the agricultural pricing policy and the world prices for some crops.

Data of major crops production during the seventies and nineties point to a rapid increase in their production due to the increase in both the cultivated area and productivity per unit of land. Two factors, namely prices and scientific progress, have contributed to that.

An increase in wheat production is observed throughout the period 1970–1991, culminating to 195% (i.e., from 1.5 million tons to about 4.5 million tons), although the wheat cultivated area increased by 70% only. Obviously, productivity was a significant factor: in 1991, the total area cultivated with wheat reached 2.2 million feddans representing 18% of the cropping area in the same year.

Maize production also increased from 2.4 million tons to 5.1 million tons during the same period, i.e. by 113%. The maize cultivated area expanded by only 36%.

Cotton production has undergone big fluctuations, reaching a maximum of 9.03 million quintars in 1972 and a minimum of 5.02 million quintars in 1991. The cotton cultivated area decreased from 1.6 million feddans to 0.85 million feddans in the two respective seasons.

Rice production increased from 2.6 million tons in 1970 to 3.5 million tons in 1991 with an increase of 35% with slight fluctuations in the cultivated area.

The increase for broad beans and sesame, except for some annual fuctuations, has not been very significant, while there was an obvious decline in lentil production, which reached a maximum of 62,000 tons in 1973 and a minimum of only 5,000 tons in 1981.

Tomato is the most important vegetable crop. Tomato yield increased by 213%, from 1.6 to 5 million tons, during the indicated period. At the same time, the tomato cultivated area increased by only 38%. These figures point out a great improvement in feddan productivity. Potato comes next to tomato in terms of relative importance to the vegetable cultivated area. The potato cultivated lands increased by 142%, from 77,000 feddans in 1970 to 186,000 feddans in 1991. That resulted in a 186% increase in production, from 548,000 tons to 1,565,000 tons in the two respective years. Meanwhile, the production of common beans increased by 266% and onion production by 90% in the same period. Citrus is the most important fruit crop in general. The citrus cultivated area reached 298,000 feddans causing its production to increase by 227%, i.e., from 706,000 tons in 1970 to 2,308,000 tons in 1991. Melon and water melon come next to citrus, with an increase of 59%, from 29,000 feddans in 1970 to 46,000 feddans in 1991. A rise, from 291,000 tons to 396,000 tons in the two respective years, i.e., 36%, was recorded.

The area cultivated with grapes reached 89,000 feddans in 1991, representing a production increase of 427%, i.e., from 100,000 tons to 527,000 tons during the previously mentioned period.

In addition, fruit crops in Egypt include various fruits of lower economic importance such as mangoes, guavas, bananas, peaches, apricots, apples, figs, etc.

3. The Development of Major Agricultural Imports

Statistics on Egypt's agricultural imports generally point to an obvious increase during the period 1970–1990, with a particular increase in wheat and wheat flour, maize, lentils, sugar, and vegetable oils. These products are the main components of the structure of Egyptian agricultural imports, which exceed 95% of the total value of the country's agricultural imports for the 1970–90 period. This resulted from the increase in population and the subsequent needs of these substantial goods. The increase is also attributed to the improvement in the nutritional situation which, in turn, reflects a better level of real incomes during that period.

Hence, total needs have become greater than what was already available in the local market, leading to increasing imports of major food commodities to meet these needs. It is noteworthy that this tendency for more imports has been accompanied by an increase in the production of all major crops with high rates due to steady improvement productivity per unit of land resulting from research and extension efforts, or due to the expansion of the area cultivated with these crops in the newly reclaimed lands.

Wheat and wheat flour are heading the list of agricultural imports in terms of both quantity and value.

Wheat imports developed from 1.2 million tons, in 1970, to 7.7 million tons in 1990. However, the rate of wheat self-sufficiency has increased to 36% in 1990 after having been around 25% in the early 1980s. The rise in the percentage of self-sufficiency is attributed to the increase in local production on one hand, and to the decrease in per capita consumption—due to increasing awareness concerning the improvement of food behaviour that resulted in a reduction of waste—on the other hand. In addition, a part of the wheat consumption was replaced by an increasing consumption of vegetables, fruits, meat and milk products. This was, in turn, motivated by better incomes and an improved standard of living.

Maize follows wheat in terms of its relative importance among Egyp'ts agricultural imports. Maize imports increased from 73,000 tons in 1970 to 1,990,000 tons in 1988. However, they decreased later, in the early 1990s to reach 1,330,000 tons. This was due to the change in the pricing policies which encouraged maize cultivation and resulted in an increase in its production allowing to cover a great part of its self-sufficiency. Moreover, an improved standard of living has led to a decrease in maize consumption for direct food uses. *Table 3* indicates that for lentils and beans too, imports have clearly increased: up to 16,000 and 31,000 tons respectively in 1988. Yet, they decreased to 27,000 and 17,000 tons respectively in 1990. As for imports of refined sugar, they greatly increased from 10,000 tons in 1970 to 725,000 tons in 1989, in spite of the obvious increase in local production for that period which reached 893,000 tons.

However, at the end of the eighties, refined sugar imports decreased to 561,000 tons in spite of the reduction in the national production to 832,000 tons. That might be attributed to the impact of nutrition awareness programmes aiming at lowering sugar consumption.

4. The Development of Major Agricultural Exports

Statistics of the Egyptian foreign trade indicate that the structure of agricultural exports during the seventies and eighties included several crops among which cotton, rice, orange, onion, potato, peanuts and garlic were the most important. During that period, these exports were subjected to various changes which have generally resulted in a continuous decrease in the real value of Egyptian agricultural exports, from L.E. 244 million in 1970 to a minimum of L.E. 84 million in 1987. However, an increase in the real value occurred again to reach L.E. 137 million in 1991.

Table 4 shows the increase in Egyptian exports for the most important crops, vegetables and fruits, which constitute the essential components in the agricultural export structure. According to this table, there was a sharp decline in the exports of cotton, rice and peanuts. It could be explained either in the light of the increasing domestic consumption needs at rates higher than production rates, or as a result of the loss of some major markets because of the severe competition there. That was manifested in the deterioration of cotton exports, from 5.7 million metric quintars in 1970 to 0.9 million metric quintars in 1989, and in the decrease of rice exports, from 655,000 tons to 41,000 tons, and peanuts exports, from 17,000 tons to 1,300 tons in the two respective years.

Potato exports reached a peak of 184,000 tons in 1988, but dropped to 48,000 tons in 1975. That was because of the great variability of its quality from one year to another and the changing situation of the

Egyptian potato in the world markets. Tomato and the green common bean (haricot) represent only a limited importance in the agricultural export structure, although this importance varies from one year to other with a recent increasing trend. Similarly, onion and garlic exports have decreased in general, with fluctuations ranged between 105,000 and 14,000 tons for onion, and between 22,000 and 1,200 tons for garlic, in 1977 and 1986 respectively.

Orange exports are heading the list of the fruit exports of Egypt and undergo an increasing trend during the indicated period, with 236,000 and 75,000 tons recorded in 1973 and 1986 respectively. That was due to the previously mentioned reasons, in addition to the fact that orange exports are subjected to bilateral agreements that are annually signed under varying conditions. Finally, wide variations have been recorded for melon and water melon exports, with a maximum of 23,000 tons in 1978 and a minimum of 5,000 tons in 1974.

5. Relative Advantage of Some Egyptian Export Crops

The relative advantage expresses what a specific region enjoys of natural, geographic, demographic and technological conditions favourable for the production of a given commodity with high productivity and quality coupled with a low cost.

The relative advantage is therefore reflected in the increase of capital invested in such a production, the area allocated for this activity and the size of manpower involved. It is also reflected in the contribution of this production to the national income, export revenues, food availability, or in supplying the other sectors with the raw materials needed. In the field of agriculture, the relative advantage is reflected in the land area cultivated with the concerned crop, its contribution to the national agricultural income, its relative importance within the agricultural export structure in addition to its share in providing the necessary food. The average cost per one unit of land cultivated with the crop is taken as a measure of the degree of relative advantage of the product when compared with the cost per unit of the same product in different countries or regions.

Accordingly, several crops cultivated in Egypt enjoy, with various degrees, relative advantage, namely: cotton, wheat, rice, maize, sugarcane as well as some vegetables, such as tomatoes, potatoes, onion, garlic, melons and water melons. Citrus, particularly, are among the fruits enjoying relative advantage. The areas cultivated in 1991 with the aforementioned crops are of relative importance compared to the whole cropping areas, including the new-reclaimed lands, and represent 9%, 18%, 9%, 17%, 2%, 3%, 1,5%, 0,5%, 0,3%, 0,04% and 2,4%, respectively.

However, achieving relative advantage by a specific crop depending on its relative importance in the cropping area does not necessarily mean that this crop enjoys the same degree of relative advantage in the Egyptian agricultural export structure. For example, although the relative importance of areas cultivated with wheat, maize and sugarcane totalled 37%, these three crops have no significance in the export structure; rather, they have a considerable importance in the import structure.

On the other hand, cotton, rice, potato, onion and orange occupy a high relative importance in the Egyptian agricultural export structure although their relative importance in the cultivated area does not exceed 22%.

This could be explained in the light of the severe competition between many crops that are well cultivated in Egypt and all of which enjoy some degree of relative advantage in production. Moreover, the increase in food needs resulted from population growth, and the pressures exerted by several international economic and political factors hamper the prevalence of the principles of production relative advantage with their implications on the export structure.

III – The Expected Impact of the International Economic Change on the Agricultural Sector in Egypt

The recent few years have witnessed many substantial changes in the economic and political systems among several countries of the world in both the eastern and western blocks.

The impacts of these changes had their manifestations at both national and regional levels. These international changes and the associated formations of different blocks and agreements had also direct effects on the performance of most developing countries' economies in general and on Egypt in particular.

On the other hand, these countries found that the only way out of their economic crises is to undertake reform policies including all the aspects of their national economies. That happened under the instructions of international agencies and organizations which aim at the improvement of the economies of such countries in order to accomplish better levels of their national balances of payments and to maintain the flow of financial and technical assistance given by these international organizations.

The Government has started a general reform policy including all the sectors and activities of the national economy. In doing so, it follows two axes: the first is related to the gradual liberalization of all economic activities, i.e., the gradual lifting of state control and subsidy; the second is the privatization of many public economic establishments. Because of its importance in the national economy, the agricultural sector was one of the first sectors to be subjected to these changes. That was translated into the application of a new pricing policy depending on economic liberty and working according to the market forces either for inputs or for the final products. The changes were associated with a gradual lowering of the state subsidy for these activities and they have been normally applied within a general framework of the structural adjustment programmes covering the national economy.

There is no doubt that the modifications resulted from the implementation of SAP in the agricultural sector, and that the subsequent freedom in decision-making at production and marketing levels will have direct effects on the structure of both agricultural production and agricultural imports and exports.

In the case of a market-dependent pricing policy, resources will be channelled to the production of crops of locally and internationally higher relative prices, and which enjoy relative advantage in their production. That will also include the expansion of producing goods that can be marketed aboard. In order to encourage and promote Egyptian exports, the “Egyptian Company for Exports Guarantee” was established and started its activities in early 1993 with the aim of guaranteeing better competitive opportunities for national commodities in foreign markets. Meanwhile, a study is being carried out for the application of the new international standardization system (known as Iso-9000) on Egyptian exports in order to increase their volume.

IV – The Expected Effects of the International Economic Block Formation

In view of the radical economic and political changes that occurred in the international community, many countries, in their endeavour to maintain the interests coming from their foreign relations, began to join economic blocks or to sign bilateral or multilateral agreements in order to increase their bargaining abilities and achieve better terms in the international trade.

The establishment of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957 had, undoubtedly, negative effects on the foreign trade of developing countries because of tariff barriers and the common agricultural policies which prevented them from establishing any relations with EEC member states up to 1965. Only in that year, Lebanon was the first Arab state to sign an agreement with the EEC, followed by Egypt in 1973. In addition to the legal and regulatory procedures that facilitate trade exchanges among the member states through the abolishment of custom taxes and quantitative constraints that aim at the protection of domestic products and the maintenance of price levels inside EEC countries, the entry of Spain and Portugal into the EEC in 1986 has resulted in Egypt's loss of more markets for its products in the EEC countries.

There is no doubt that the declaration of the Unified Europe in 1993 has its implications on the world economic structure because of what the United Europe possesses of enormous productive, marketing and financial capabilities as the total population of the countries of the European Union amounts to 324 million people. The net national product is estimated at 3,314 milliard ECUs; exports are valued at 1,038 milliard ECUs. The event also has its expected effects on world trade. Therefore, the leading industriali-

zed countries have resorted to undertake measures necessary to cope with this new economic entity. The United States, Canada and Mexico devised to liberate their inter-trade. Meanwhile, an undeclared block has been formed consisting of Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Hence, the establishment of the unified Europe will lead to the appearance of a tri-polar world. At the same time, third world countries had taken no steps to rearrange their forces to face these changes in order to absorb their effects and to make use of the inevitable competition between these regional blocks.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) statistics of 1987–1991 indicate that developing countries come as the second priority for EEC interests and that they receive 18% of the total EEC exports. On the other hand, 16% of the developing countries' exports go to Europe.

During the same period, EEC exports to Egypt represented 40% of Egypt's total imports, consisting mainly in investment goods, production inputs, and some essential consumer goods such as milk products, sugar, meat, edible oil and wheat. Egyptian exports to EEC countries, during this period, accounted for 38% of the total exports of Egypt. However, these exports represented only 0.02% of EEC imports.

In 1991 the Egyptian exports to EEC countries amounted to L.E. 3.5 milliard, resulting in a deficit in its balance of trade with all EEC states, except Greece and Portugal.

Egypt's agricultural exports to EEC countries represented 36% of its total agricultural exports, consisting mainly in potato, flax, peanuts and onion, a part of the cotton and oil products which constitute 50% of Egyptian exports to the region. It is generally clear that the Egyptian export structure to EEC countries is restricted to a limited number of commodities. This results in the weakness of the volume of these exports in spite of the importance of the market. Consequently, the structure of Egyptian exports to EEC has to be improved with a view to increase their volume. Several other factors may help to increase exports, namely: Egypt's proximity to European markets; the traditional relationships that link Egypt with many European countries; and population growth in Egypt which creates increasing demands for various commodities.

Exportation, as a means of avoiding the deficit in the balance of trade, negatively affects Egyptian exports, particularly agricultural exports.

The entry into EEC of Greece, Spain and Portugal, whose productive structures are similar to Egypt's, will increase the difficulties of opening EEC markets to Egyptian agricultural products. The Rome Convention stipulates that the member states should satisfy their needs by importation from other members before resorting to external markets, in addition to the importation quota system, international qualifications and sanitary conditions.

Following the dramatic international changes and the disintegration of the USSR, a new international block appeared in 1991 to replace the Council for Mutual Economic Aid (COMECON) which had been the largest export market for Egyptian oranges: the new Commonwealth. Egyptian orange exports has dropped because Commonwealth importing companies are unable to pay in free currency or request payment facilities that the Egyptian exporters cannot offer. In such cases, the equivalent deals may constitute a good alternative for both sides.

V – North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

While Europe was unifying its economic forces, USA, Canada and Mexico formed a new economic coalition in 1992, NAFTA, enabling them to act in the international economic competition. NAFTA aims at the gradual abolishment of all tariffs between the three member states starting from 1994. Nine thousand commodities and products are concerned. The population of the three countries are 363 million people constituting a huge market with varying consumer tastes. The total NAFTA exports are valued at U.S. $195–576 milliard compared to U.S. $457 milliard for the EEC. NAFTA imports amounted to U.S. $661 milliard in 1991 compared to U.S. $539 milliard for EEC.

In spite of the variation between the three countries in terms of manpower, economic gap and GDP, the NAFTA coalition is a considerable force in the fields of food, oil and motorcars production.

Against this severe confrontation can Arab countries, including Egypt, rehabilitate their exports through these coalitions: or shall the new blocks be an obstacle preventing their take-off? In this respect, it is useful to reconsider the common Arab market and solve the conflicts and competition with which it is faced.

At the national level, laws and regulations that control exports should be revised, and more governmental subsidies should be offered to the private sector to help it to overcome the competition obstacles against these economic blocks which represent a marketing limiting factor for the development of Egyptian exports.

✧

Table 1. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimated according to Production Costs, and Agricultural Domestic Product (ADP) in 1970–1990

(L.E. Million)

Year	Wholesale Index Price	GDP			ADP			Relative Importance of the Agricultural Sector (%)
	1979 = 100	Current Prices	Fixed Prices	Growth Rate(%)	Current Prices	Fixed Prices	Growth Rate(%)	
1970	50.6	2 552.8	5 045.1	—	771.9	1 525.5	—	30.0
1971	50.6	2 700.5	5 337	5.8	774.1	1 529.8	0.3	28.7
1972	51.3	2 956.5	5 763.2	8.0	933.1	1 818.9	18.9	31.6
1973	54.8	3 126.9	5 706	1.0	1 062.4	1 938.7	6.6	33.9
1974	62.7	4 199.6	6 697.9	17.4	1280.0	2 041.5	5.3	30.5
1975	67.4	5 061.3	7 509.4	12.0	1 468.5	2 178.8	6.7	29.0
1976	72.6	6 164.2	8 490.6	13.1	1 744.2	2 402.5	10.3	28.3
1977	79.5	7 399.9	9 308.1	9.6	2 037.6	2 563	6.7	27.5
1978	91.1	9 008.1	9 888.2	6.2	2 285.8	2 509.1	-2.1	25.4
1979	100.0	12 067.7	12 067.7	22.0	2530.0	2 530	0.8	21.0
1980	121.6	16 905.9	13 902.9	15.2	3 541.6	2 912.5	15.1	20.9
1981	131.3	19 571	14 905.6	7.2	3 742.4	2 850.3	2.2	19.1
1982	243.6	22 155.6	15 428.7	3.5	4 375.0	3 046.7	6.9	19.7
1983	166.6	25 557	15 340.3	-0.6	4 815.0	2 890.2	5.2	18.8
1984	183.2	28 956	15 805.7	3.0	5 584.6	3 048.4	5.5	19.3
1985	207.5	34 132.1	16 449.2	4.1	6201.0	2 988.4	-2	18.2
1986	243.4	39 059.5	16 047.5	-2.4	7 416.3	3 047	2.0	19.0
1987	276.6	44 366.6	16 040	-0.5	8 663.3	3 132.1	2.8	19.5
1988	349.2	54 553	15 622.3	-2.6	11 210.7	3 210.4	2.5	20.6
1989	444.4	64 688	14 556.3	-6.8	14 652.3	3 297.3	2.7	22.7
1990	512.6	75 572.3	14 742.9	1.3	17 407.9	3 396	3.0	23.0

Source: CAPMAS, Annual Statistics Book, various issues; IMF Publications; Ministry of Planning, Informatio Documentation Center, Department of Statistics.

Table 2. Egyptian Balance of Trade and the Balance of Agriculture 1970–1990

Year	Foreign Trade			Foreign Trade GDP (%)	Agricultural Foreign Trade			Relative Agricultural Foreign Trade		
	Exports	Imports	Balance of Trade		Exports	Imports	Balance of Trade	Agri-Exports Exports (%)	Agri-Imports Imports (%)	Agri-Foreign Trade ADP (%)
1970	331.2	341.0	-9.8	26.3	221.4	100.8	120.6	66.8	29.6	41.7
1971	343.2	399.9	-56.7	27.5	239.7	142.7	97.0	69.8	35.7	49.4
1972	358.8	390.8	32.0	25.4	220.3	142.8	77.5	61.4	36.5	38.9
1973	444.3	361.1	-83.1	25.8	282.9	133.2	149.7	63.7	36.9	39.2
1974	593.3	920.1	-326.8	36.0	382.0	449.6	-67.6	64.5	48.9	56.0
1975	548.6	1 539.3	-990.8	41.3	301.8	619.6	-317.8	55.0	40.3	62.7
1976	595.4	1 489.9	-894.5	33.8	282.4	469.8	-187.4	47.4	31.5	43.1
1977	668.5	1 884.3	1 215.8	34.5	318.9	586.4	-267.5	47.7	31.1	44.4
1978	679.7	2 632.2	1 952.5	36.8	255.0	731.8	-476.8	37.5	28.8	43.2
1979	1 287.8	2 686.2	1 398.4	32.9	413.9	762.8	-348.9	32.1	28.4	46.5
1980	2 132.2	3 402.0	1 269.8	32.7	458.8	1 272.2	-813.4	21.5	37.4	48.9
1981	2 263.0	6 187.5	3 924.5	43.2	497.7	2 312.2	1 814.5	22.0	37.4	75.1
1982	2 184.1	6 354.5	4 170.4	38.5	443.7	2 073.7	1 630.0	20.3	32.6	57.3
1983	2 250.3	7 192.6	4 942.3	36.9	492.6	1 755.5	1 262.9	21.9	24.4	46.7
1984	1 984.0	2 197.9	7 536.1	33.6	512.1	2 233.3	1 721.2	23.3	29.6	49.2
1985	2 599.9	6 973.1	4 373.3	28.1	444.4	1 975.8	1 531.4	17.1	28.3	39.0
1986	2 054.0	8 051.4	5 997.4	25.9	468.1	2 748.6	2 280.5	22.8	34.1	43.4
1987	3 046.0	11 357.8	8 311.8	32.5	627.6	2 605.1	1 977.5	20.6	22.9	37.3
1988	3 994.4	15 308.6	11 304.2	35.4	957.4	2 971.2	2 013.8	24.0	19.4	35.0
1989	5 735.0	16 624.0	10 889.0	34.6	1 130.0	3 707.4	2 577.4	19.7	22.3	33.0
1990	6 675.7	20 623.9	13 498.2	36.1	1 675.6	5 609.7	3 934.1	25.1	27.3	41.8

Sources: CAPMAS, Foreign Trade Monthly Bulletin and Annual Statistics Book, various issues; Ministry of Planning, Central Department for Fore Trade, Balance Trade Section, unpublished data.

Table 3. Major Agricultural Imports,1970–1990

Year	Wheat & flour*	Maize	Lentils	Sesame	Refined Sugar	Vegetable Oils
1970	1 232	73.3	18.3	31.0	9.9	
1971	2 409.2	38.5	6.4	8.9		
1972	1 685.8	87.7	10.6	12.8		
1973	1 804.9	67.0	7.9	10.6		
1974	2 608.8	388	10.2	21.11	70.4	
1975	3 404.7	417.5	38.9	9.3	133.2	
1976	2 918.7	458.8	61.0	23.3	164.6	
1977	3 273.4	590.8	50.6	16.6	157.6	
1978	4 334.4	730.1	51.3	8.4	362.1	
1979	4 897.9	493.8	26.4	13.4	187.9	
1980	3 096.2	569.1	57.3	6.9	232.9	
1981	4 331.6	1 289.4	73.5	15.7	352.0	85.9
1982	3 603.8	1 296.6	76.1	0.8	452.3	199.5
1983	3 668.6	1 397.2	56.0	8.5	299.2	189.2
1984	5 134.2	1 210.9	47.6	31.2	307.7	207.6
1985	4 023.4	1 364.2	3.1	12.3	298.1	236.9
1986	8 529.6	1 562.3	65.0	15.8	599.6	219.5
1987	5 710.4	1 550.8	59.4	26.6	528.2	239.2
1988	6 890.2	1 910.4	61.1	31.4	554.8	98.5
1989	7 526.6	1 433.2	74.1	14.7	724.5	236.5
1990	7 727.8	1 329.6	26.6	17.0	561.4	141.6

* Wheat flour imports were converted in wheat equivalents using a coefficient of 72%.
Sources: CAPMAS, Foreign Trade Monthly Bulletin, various issues; Ministry of the Economy and Foreign Trade.

Table 4. Exported Quantities of Major Export Crops to the World Markets, 1970–1990*

Year	Cotton	Rice	Peanut	Potato	Tomato	Haricot	Onion	Garlic	Orange	Water Melon
1970	5.7	654.5	16.8	90.3	0.9	0.9	90.8	15.4	102.2	5.1
1971	6.7	514.6	17.6	61.4	1.9	1.7	87.9	10.5	138.5	4.9
1972	5.9	456.4	10.9	76.7	6.0	1.5	105.1	13.5	82.2	5.5
1973	5.7	297.8	9.1	107.9	5.1	2.0	89.4	20.4	246.2	12.0
1974	4.6	136.1	9.5	99.8	2.0	2.8	103.9	20.8	161.7	4.9
1975	3.7	104.3	10.0	47.6	2.2	7.8	70.0	15.1	209.2	13.2
1976	3.3	211.0	8.9	157.7	2.5	3.6	66.1	11.6	168.7	12.1
1977	2.9	223.0	14.3	166.1	4.9	4.6	80.9	22.4	169.7	26.3
1978	2.7	145.2	13.2	97.8	8.3	4.3	57.4	19.0	132.8	22.5
1979	2.9	94.9	6.5	113.1	4.2	3.7	23.9	4.7	74.6	10.5
1980	3.3	98.1	13.4	143.9	2.1	0.1	42.0	9.7	109.4	7.6
1981	3.6	93.0	4.5	99.3	3.3	6.5	19.7	5.8	113.7	10.9
1982	4.0	22.9	4.6	151.5	8.6	13.3	13.8	3.9	102.3	7.1
1983	4.2	9.0	6.1	139.8	16.5	11	35.3	8.2	147.8	21.4
1984	3.5	70.8	4.0	132.5	9.1	11.4	17.5	5.1	161.4	22.6
1985	2.9	16.6	2.4	127.9	14.0	9.3	22.0	1.5	161.1	17.7
1986	2.9	40.0	3.5	107.7	17.3	16.0	20.8	1.2	75.1	20.7
1987	1.2	93.2	0.7	123.3	23.4	10.9	31.6	2.2	110.9	11.9
1988	0.09	105.0	1.0	184.3	15.3	7.2	51.4	4.2	148	12.6
1989	0.09	40.8	1.3	253.5	19.3	9.0	62.2	2.7	129.3	10.3
1990	__	41.8	5.1	140.2	14.7	6.8	44.9	4.9	185.1	7.5

* Quantities are in 1000 metric tons; cotton is in 1000 metric quintars.
Source: CAPMAS, Ministry of the Econonomy & Foreign Trade.