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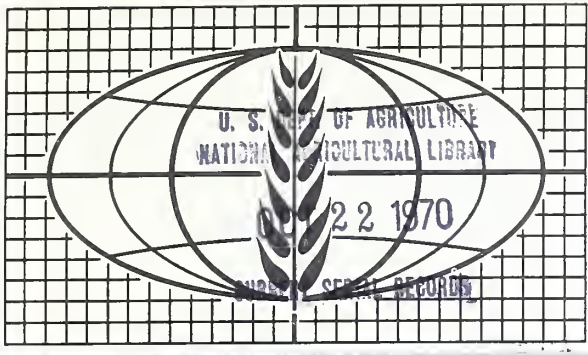
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ALGERIA'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY IN BRIEF

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ABSTRACT

The agricultural sector of the Algerian economy contributes an average of 10-12 percent of gross domestic product. While the most important food crops are wheat and barley, wine is the largest agricultural export. The war for independence and wine-marketing difficulties have caused setbacks in the economy of the country, but increasing petroleum production has offset these problems to some degree.

Key Words: North Africa, Algeria, Agricultural production, Agricultural trade, Agricultural statistics.

SUMMARY*

The Algerian economy is recovering from the difficult period the country went through in the years just before and after independence from France in 1962. A reorientation of the economy away from the French market toward national needs has been necessary. The dualism of the colonial period is still very evident in the structure of the country's agriculture. There is a modern sector of former French farms that has largely been socialized and a traditional sector that is still in private hands. While the modern farms produce mainly commercial crops, production on the traditional farms is still mostly of a subsistence nature.

Agriculture's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) has been declining in recent years as the petroleum sector becomes more important. The portion of GDP from agriculture now averages 10 to 12 percent. Although wine is still Algeria's leading agricultural export, petroleum and natural gas have taken the place of wine as the country's major source of foreign exchange.

THE LAND

Algeria occupies an area of approximately 920,000 square miles, almost one-third the area of the continental United States. Of this, only about 20 percent can be used for agricultural purposes--farming and grazing. By far the most important agricultural section of the country is a rectangular, largely moun-

*This report supersedes ERS-Foreign 131, Algeria's Agricultural Economy in Brief, July 1965.



tainous region stretching about 620 miles along the Mediterranean coast between Morocco and Tunisia and extending inland about 200 miles. Algeria's Saharan region covers more than 800,000 square miles and is bordered by Libya, Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Spanish Sahara, Morocco, and Tunisia.

The geography of northern Algeria features two Atlas Mountain chains, the Tellian and the Saharan, which cross the country laterally, paralleling Algeria's Mediterranean coast. The region between the coast and the Tellian Atlas Mountain chain is called the Tell; and the inland area between the two mountain chains is the High Plateau. The Tell varies in width from 80 miles in the west to 200 miles in the east. This fertile littoral is favored by a moderate climate and rainfall averaging 16 to 40 inches annually. The temperature seldom exceeds 100° F. during the summer or falls below freezing in the winter. In this area are extensive market gardens, orchards, and vineyards.

Bordering the littoral is a zone of plains and valleys that are planted mainly to vineyards, cereals, citrus and other fruits, and industrial and forage crops. Even the mountain elevations of the Tell are intensively farmed. In the western part of this region viticulture predominates, but sizable acreages are also planted to other fruits, wheat, and barley. Livestock are pastured on the mountain plains. To the east, extensive grasslands and cork forests cover the highest elevations, and orchards of figs and olives are found at middle altitudes. At the lowest elevations, crops are similar to those of the littoral.

There are no large, permanent rivers in the Tell, but only intermittent streams (oueds). In winter, these streams are full, and frequently flood following the rains; but in summer, they are merely muddy trickles or dry beds.

Stretching between the Tellian and Saharan Atlas Mountain chains, the High Plateau is a vast, undulating, steppe-like plain. Wedge-shaped, this plateau is 125 miles wide in Oran in the west; as it rolls east, it narrows to a series of small valleys between hills and mountains in the Department of Constantine. Averaging almost 3,000 feet above sea level and partially cut off from the moist Mediterranean winds by

the Tellian Atlas, the High Plateau receives substantially less rainfall than the coastal plain. From east to west a line of landlocked salt ponds (chotts) punctuates the plateau. These depressions are marshy or, in summer, dry and crusted with salt. Agriculture on the High Plateau is confined primarily to the cultivation of cereals (wheat and barley), collection of esparto grass (used for weaving and paper manufacture), and grazing of livestock (primarily sheep), and occasionally to fruit and vegetable crops.

The Saharan territory is of minor agricultural importance. Oases are scattered throughout this area, in the foothills and steppes just south of the Saharan Atlas as well as in the desert. The people of the oases produce subsistence crops of cereal, fruits, vegetables, and dates.

Climate

Algeria's annual rainfall varies from as much as 40 inches in the northeast to practically none in the south. The summers are generally dry, with most of the rain falling from October to March. Precipitation, however, is often not well distributed. Much of the annual rainfall may be concentrated over a few weeks' time. Rain usually comes in brief, heavy torrents, eroding mountains, stripping slopes, and flooding stream banks.

Land Use

The almost 20 percent of Algeria's land considered to be agricultural (excluding forests) is used for various agricultural purposes. As shown in table 1, this land is divided between the socialized and private sectors.

THE PEOPLE

The mid-1969 population of Algeria was estimated at 13.4 million and is growing at an annual rate of more than 3 percent. Of the indigenous people, about four-fifths are Arabic-speaking mixtures of Arabs and Berbers, and the rest are more or less pure-blooded Berbers who speak various dialects of their own language. There are approximately 200,000 other people (mostly French and Moroccans)

Table 1.--Land use in Algeria, 1964

Use	Socialized sector	Private sector	Public sector	Total
----- 1,000 hectares 1/ -----				
Annual crops:				
Cereals.....	753	2,049	0	2,802
Other crops.....	76	137	0	213
Fallow land.....	655	2,462	0	3,117
Permanent crops:				
Vineyards.....	318	45	0	363
Orchards.....	86	172	0	258
Total cultivated land.....	1,888	4,865	0	6,753
Improved pastures.....	16	21	0	37
Natural pastures.....	327	34,047	0	34,374
Unproductive land.....	72	1,214	0	1,286
Esparto grass zones.....	0	0	3,037	3,037
Total agricultural land..	2,303	40,147	3,037	45,487
Forest.....	107	301	2,016	2,424
Unproductive land and desert...	0	0	189,645	189,645
Total area.....	2,410	40,448	194,698	237,556

1/ One hectare = 2.471 acres.

living in Algeria. The European minority, which totaled about 1 million before independence in 1962, now numbers less than 100,000.

The density of the population is about 15 persons per square mile. However, the figure is misleading since about 90 percent of the people live on 10 percent of the land, mainly in the coastal area along the Mediterranean. Vast areas of the South are largely uninhabited. In 1966, 38 percent of the population lived in urban or semiurban areas.

The Algerian labor force was estimated at 2.6 million in 1966. About 50 percent of the workers were in agriculture, 14 percent in services, 6 percent in manufacturing, and 30 percent in other occupations. Approximately 60 percent of the population relies on agriculture for a living. There are 275,000 Algerians employed in Europe, mainly in France.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

Prior to the country's independence in July 1962, the Algerian economy was basically a dual one, incorporating a well-developed, market-oriented sector integrated with the French economy and a poor, traditional, essentially subsistence sector. In recent years, the country has been feeling its way toward an independent, truly national economy in which all sectors would share in the benefits of development.

The sudden departure of most of the 1 million Europeans residing in Algeria at the end of 1962 dealt a severe setback to the economy of the country. With them went a large percentage of Algeria's skilled labor, civil administrators, engineers, entrepreneurs, and working capital. Practically all industries were closed down, causing the unemployment rate to jump to 70 percent. The Europeans, who owned 2.8 million hec-

tares of the best agricultural land in Algeria, abandoned their farms and in some cases even destroyed equipment. Gross national product, which had increased at an annual rate of 7 percent during the 1950's, fell by 20 percent between 1960 and 1963.

The economy is now showing signs of recovery. Gross domestic product, at constant prices, is estimated to have risen from \$3.2 billion in 1966 to \$3.7 billion in 1968, an increase of about 15 percent. This growth was largely due to expanding petroleum production. Agriculture's contribution to GDP was only 9.4 percent in 1966, a drought year, but rose to 13.0 percent in 1968, when there was a relatively good harvest. The contribution of the petroleum sector increased during the same period from 16.9 percent to 21.6 percent. Production of crude oil amounted to 43 million tons ¹/in 1968, compared with 34 million tons 2 years earlier. Petroleum and natural gas have replaced wine as the country's major source of foreign exchange earnings.

Algeria has a well-developed transportation system that was largely built to satisfy the needs of the colonial economy. Railroads are the most important part of the system. Of 3,900 kilometers of track, 2,600 kilometers are standard gauge. The system consists of a main, east-west line (which continues into Morocco) and several branches linking the urban centers and the rich agricultural regions to the main ports and cities on the coast. Three lines bring mineral products of the Sahara to the coast.

Algeria has around 80,000 kilometers of improved roads. This system is also concentrated in the north, with three main roads running from the coast into the Sahara.

Algeria's eight commercial ports are well equipped. The most important ports are Algiers, which is one of the largest in both Africa and the Mediterranean area, and Bejaia, Oran, Arzew, Annaba, and Skikda. The port of Bejaia has assumed importance in recent years as the exporting terminal of the petroleum pipeline from the north-central Sahara fields. The port of Arzew has gained importance from two pipelines--one for petroleum and one for natural gas--and as a center of gas petroleum processing industries. Annaba is the major port for the export of iron ore and phosphates.

¹/ Tonnages in this report are metric.

Algeria's principal international airport is Dar El Beida, near Algiers. Other smaller but modern airports, all of which can accommodate jet aircraft, are located at Oran, Annaba, and Constantine.

AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURE

The agricultural economy of Algeria is divided into two major sectors--modern and traditional. The traditional sector is still largely in private hands. While the socialized or autogere farms occupy only one-third of the land under cultivation, they produce 50 to 60 percent of the value of agricultural output. The preindependence distinction between French farms and Algerian farms was eliminated by nationalization. The division between modern and traditional farms still exists.

The Modern Sector

Of the 2.8 million hectares in the modern sector of Algeria's agricultural economy, 2.3 million hectares are in socialized farms. Farms on the 2.8 million hectares were formerly owned by the French colonists. These farms are on the best land in the country and on most of the irrigated area. They have most of the farm machinery and produce practically all of Algeria's agricultural exports. The autogere or self-managed, socialized farms that occupy 2.3 million hectares of this modern sector were largely abandoned by their owners shortly after Algeria's independence. Initially, management of most of the vacant properties was taken over by their workers to ensure continued production. Through a series of decrees issued in late 1962 and in 1963, ownership of vacant and worker-occupied properties was vested in the State, with management of the properties entrusted to collective enterprises known as self-managed or autogere units. "Self-management" in this sense is a hybrid of State ownership and worker cooperatives. It differs from the former in that control of the operation of the enterprise theoretically is in the hands of the workers themselves, and from the latter in that ownership of the property lies with the State. About 500,000 hectares in the modern sector are privately owned, mostly by Algerians.

The autogere farms include 90 percent of the area used for growing grapes and citrus but only 27 percent of the land devoted to cereals. They have 14,000 of the estimated 19,000 tractors in the country. Almost all of Algeria's skilled agricultural technicians and about 140,000 permanent workers are employed on these farms. Additional laborers are hired during peak seasons.

During the last few years, the number of self-managed units has been reduced from 2,800 units to 1,800 so that skilled technicians and managers can be used more effectively. The average size of the farms ranges from 100 hectares in areas of intensive cultivation to 2,000 hectares in regions where cereals are grown.

The Traditional Sector

The traditional sector is characterized by a large number of small, family farms in the less fertile mountain areas. The main crops produced in this sector are cereals, olives, figs, and dates. The bulk of the country's livestock is raised by traditional farmers. Productivity of the traditional farmers is adversely affected by the small size of their holdings. In 1967, there were 587,000 landowners in the private sector; of these, 423,000 owned less than 10 hectares, 147,000 between 10 and 50 hectares, and only 17,000 more than 50 hectares. Other factors limiting output are the poor quality of the soil, severe erosion, lack of irrigation and modern equipment, and a shortage of capital and credit.

IRRIGATION

Irrigation has been practiced in Algeria for several thousand years. Vestiges of vast flood control and irrigation systems provide proof that in the past large irrigation projects were carried out even in the areas now regarded as submarginal. Algeria's climate makes irrigation essential if good crops are to be produced every year. Rainfall is often insufficient as well as extremely irregular. The traditional farmers continually face the threat of a crop failure since few of them own any irrigated land.

About 200,000 hectares are estimated to be effectively irrigated in Algeria. This area represents less than 5 percent of the total land area under cultivation. The

principal crops irrigated are citrus, truck crops, and date palms.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Less than 20 percent of Algeria's land is agriculturally usable; only 3 percent of this is cultivated and the remaining agricultural land consists of pastures and esparto grass zones. Agricultural output in Algeria varies widely from year to year depending on the amount and distribution of rainfall. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Indices of Agricultural Production show that per capita agricultural production fell from 106 in 1960 to 58 in 1966; it rose to 77 in 1968 but fell again to 65 in 1969 because of a smaller cereal crop (1957-59 = 100). Wheat is the most important crop produced in Algeria, followed by grapes for wine, citrus, fresh vegetables (potatoes and tomatoes), and dates (table 2).

Wine

Grapes for wine are by far the most important commercial crop produced in Algeria, but their importance has declined rapidly in recent years. As late as 1965, vineyards occupied only one-tenth of cultivated land, but grapes in the form of wine contributed nearly one-third of the value of agricultural production. Grapes are grown almost exclusively on the self-managed farms. Vineyards are limited by climatic factors to a strip less than 100 miles wide along the Mediterranean coast and concentrated in zones near Algiers and Oran, and, to a lesser extent, near Annaba.

Wine production was introduced and developed by French settlers as a complement to the French wine industry; the Algerian wines with high alcohol content being mixed with lighter products from French vineyards. Now, however, the Algerian Government, faced with marketing problems, has taken steps to convert the land used for grape production to other uses such as pastures, and fruit, vegetable, and industrial crop production. Before 1962, vineyards covered about 350,000 hectares, with average yields of 40 hectoliters ^{2/} of wine per hectare. Average annual production was 14 to 18 million hectoliters (table 3). The area in grapes for wine declined from 337,500 hectares in 1966 to

^{2/} hectoliter (hl.) = 100 liters or 26.4 U.S. gallons.

Table 2.--Production of major crops, Algeria, averages 1955-64, annual 1966-69

Crop	Average		1966	1967	1968	Prelim. 1969
	1955-59	1960-64				
: - - - - - 1,000 metric tons - - - - -						
Wheat.....	1,287	1,281	630	1,266	1,534	1,250
Barley.....	751	576	130	340	538	300
Oats.....	68	36	7	18	20	15
Rice, paddy.....	7	7	6	6	7	6
Corn.....	9	8	3	6	7	6
Pulses.....	49	36	30	31	35	37
Potatoes.....	236	233	170	204	272	275
Tobacco.....	14	8	14	13	14	14
Tomatoes.....	136	109	82	69	84	100
Citrus fruit.....	356	405	401	400	430	440
Grapes for wine <u>1</u> /.....	2,051	1,646	866	847	1,276	1,016
Figs, dried.....	22	18	16	16	16	15
Dates.....	109	124	115	120	85	50
Olive oil.....	20	17	16	22	18	22

1/ Computed from wine production data at the rate of 1,000 tons of grapes per 787.4 tons of wine.

302,200 hectares in 1968. The drop in production, however, has largely been due to reduced yields. Unfortunately, much of the land now devoted to vineyards is not suitable for other crops. Some experts have suggested that these areas be used for producing table grapes and grapes for processing into juice, raisins, vinegar, and brandy.

The Office National de Commercialisation des Produits Viti-Vinicoles (ONCV), established in August 1968, buys all the wine and arranges for its distribution and sales at home and abroad.

Cereals

Cereals represent 25 to 30 percent of the value of Algeria's agricultural production. Most of the cereals are produced on small farms in the private sector. Durum (hard) wheat and barley are the main subsistence crops, and bread (soft) wheat and oats are produced for the market. These winter cereals are sown from October to December after the first rains begin and harvested from May to July. Summer cereals (rice and corn) are planted in the spring and harvested in late summer and fall;

only small amounts of these are produced (table 2).

Grain yields vary widely from year to year in Algeria. Average yields for 1963-65 are shown in table 4.

Citrus Fruit

Citrus groves in Algeria are situated on the plains around the coastal cities, particularly around Algiers. Almost all were formerly owned by Europeans but are now the property of self-managed farms. Of the 46,000 hectares of citrus trees, approximately 34,000 hectares are planted to oranges, 7,000 to clementines, 3,000 to tangerines, and 2,000 to lemons, grapefruit, and other citrus. During 1964-66, oranges averaged 70 percent of total production; clementines, 17 percent; tangerines, 8 percent; lemons, 4 percent; and grapefruit and other citrus, 1 percent. (See table 2 for total citrus production.)

The recently organized Office des Fruits et Legumes d'Algerie (OFLA) has been charged primarily with the sale of Algeria's citrus fruit. Formerly, citrus producers concentrated on early and late varieties which

Table 3.--Production and exports of Algerian wine, 1959-67

Year	Production of previous year	Exports, specified year		Value per hl. ^{1/} , specified year	
		Total	To France	France	Other countries
		1,000 hl. ^{1/}		Dollars	
1959.....	13,827	13,200	12,920	13.78	12.97
1960.....	18,601	14,693	14,349	14.51	9.32
1961.....	15,851	13,157	12,791	14.53	8.10
1962.....	13,632	15,012	14,662	14.36	6.89
1963.....	12,279	7,212	6,804	15.05	7.29
1964.....	12,575	9,400	9,048	16.29	7.50
1965.....	10,477	8,640	8,200	15.28	7.09
1966.....	14,026	9,292	8,342	14.10	6.69
1967.....	6,822	4,807	2,975	13.74	8.91

^{1/} 1 hectoliter (hl.) = 100 liters or 26.4 U.S. gallons.

Source: Oliver, R. L'Algerie, Etude economique. Rome, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, 1969. Documents Statistiques sur le Commerce Exterieur de l'Algerie, 1967.

Table 4.--Yields of selected cereals in Algeria, average 1963-65.

Cereal	Socialized sector		Private sector	
	Yield per ha. ^{1/}	Yield per acre	Yield per ha. ^{1/}	Yield per acre
	Quintals ^{2/}	Bushels	Quintals ^{2/}	Bushels
Durum wheat.....	8.1	12.0	5.7	8.5
Bread wheat.....	7.0	10.5	5.6	8.3
Barley.....	8.8	16.4	6.0	11.1

^{1/} 1 hectare (ha.) = 2.471 acres. ^{2/} 1 quintal = 100 kilograms or 220.46 pounds.

brought premium prices, but now most Algerian fruit reaches the European market at the same time (from December through March) as the citrus from competitors. The main duty of OFLA will be to improve the marketing procedures used.

Other Crops

In addition to garden vegetables raised by most small farmers and vegetables that are an important culture of the oases, Algeria has a valuable commercial truck farming industry. Concentrated within a few miles of the coast near the large cities, it supplies onions, melons, potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, peas, artichokes, and carrots,

primarily for the domestic urban population but also for export. Both production and export of fresh vegetables have declined since 1960. In 1960, 890,000 tons of vegetables were harvested from 85,400 hectares; by 1967, only 572,000 tons were harvested from 78,640 hectares. However, production did increase between 1966 and 1967.

Olives grow in rather poor soils on the slopes of the Tellian Mountains between the coast and the High Plateau, particularly in eastern Algeria. Nearly half the production comes from Kabylia, primarily from wild trees, and a large part of the production is consumed locally. There are

some cultivated groves near Algiers and Oran that produce both olives and olive oil for export. (See table 2 for production of olive oil.) Alfa (esparto grass) grows wild in clumps 3 feet high and is used locally for weaving into a variety of household items. Most of the alfa that enters commercial channels is gathered and processed by self-managed enterprises. Annual production averages 100,000 to 150,000 tons, with 40,000 to 50,000 tons exported--mainly to the United Kingdom.

Livestock

Livestock numbers in Algeria were reduced between 1960 and 1964 by epidemics and the war for independence (table 5). In an effort to reconstitute herds, the Government has imported large numbers of cattle and sheep and has expanded its stockbreeding stations and artificial insemination and veterinary centers. About 95 percent of the livestock are owned by the private sector. Livestock accounts for about one-fourth of the value of agricultural output.

AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Under the Government's proclaimed socialist option and the corollary system of self-managed farms, agriculture's most productive sector is the property of the nation. This ownership gives to the Government a far-reaching and direct role in the functioning of the agricultural sector. In early 1967, the Government made some changes in the structure of the self-managed farms to improve their efficiency. The reorgani-

zation had a twofold aim: limitation of State control and wider autonomy to independently managed enterprises.

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for appointing and controlling the directors of autogere farms. Actual management of a farm, however, is assigned to a president and three bodies made up of and acting as representatives of the workers--a general assembly, a workers' council, and a managing committee--so that a farm becomes fully responsible for its own operation. At the same time, the workers have the right to cultivate for themselves a plot of land of 2 hectares, and engage in some animal husbandry on the farm. Under the new provisions, part of the farms' profits are paid back to the workers for their labor, and workers also receive productivity premiums.

Officials have also stated their intention to extend socialization of the rural sector by taking over those private farms belonging to persons who are not dependent on them but have other sources of income. Officials also plan to eliminate the large private estates by reducing the amount of land that can be held by one person. The proprietors of these lands are to be indemnified.

Government agencies are responsible for marketing crops produced on autogere farms. Most crops (except cereals and dry legumes) grown in the private sector are not marketed through Government agencies; however, there are price controls for many products at the wholesale and retail levels.

Table 5.--Livestock numbers in Algeria, 1960, 1964, and 1967

Livestock	1960	1964	1967
		<u>1,000 head</u>	
Cattle.....	623	531	800
Sheep.....	5,360	5,000	7,130
Goats.....	2,016	1,642	3,000
Horses.....	160	117	132
Mules.....	188	147	173
Donkeys.....	341	248	326
Camels.....	209	175	175
Swine.....	62	12	<u>1/ 3</u>

1/ 1966.

The Office Algerien Interprofessional des Cereals (OAIC) has a monopoly on marketing and stocking cereals and certain pulses and for assuring consumers adequate supplies of cereals at stable prices. All processing plants for bread and durum wheat have been nationalized. Fixed prices are guaranteed to producers for wheat. In 1968, the price for durum wheat was raised from \$103 to \$109 per ton and for bread wheat from \$89 to \$97 per ton. The consumer price was not altered, and the increase was financed by the OAIC from profits on cereal imports and other operations.

The Union Nationale des Cooperatives Agricoles des Commercialisation is responsible for marketing other crops produced by the socialized sector except for wine and citrus (see sections on wine and citrus).

During the 1967/68 crop season, credit to self-managed agriculture was extended by the Banque Nationale d'Algerie (BNA).

Appropriations for the 1969 investment budget, which represents the third phase of the 3-year development plan, are set at \$1,240 million--twice the amount for 1968. Industry has the largest allotment with \$740 million. Agriculture is to receive the second largest allocation, \$128 million.

Algeria's new 4-year development plan is to go into effect in 1970. Indications are that about \$5 billion will be expended on economic and social programs during the 4-year period 1970-73, with a goal of achieving a growth rate of 6 percent per year. Fifty percent of the expenditures will be directed toward industry. Agriculture will be the third area of emphasis after education. The Government hopes to reach self-sufficiency in foodstuffs by 1980.

AGRICULTURAL TRADE

The story of Algeria's wine exports has been the story of Algeria's total agricultural exports during the last few years. Roughly, total agricultural exports have fallen from a 1956-60 average of \$320 million annually to \$142 million in 1968. This drop was due largely to a more than \$130 million decrease in the value of wine exports during 1956-68. Agricultural commodities as a percentage of total exports have declined from 75 percent to less than 20 percent during this period (table 6).

After independence, Algeria signed a 5-year agreement with France that set guaranteed annual quotas for Algerian wine. These quotas were to decrease from 8.8 million hectoliters in 1964 to 7.0 million in 1968. This agreement was observed for 3 years; but in February 1967, the French Government suspended all foreign wine imports. In August 1967, it forbade the mixture of foreign with domestic wines, the principal use of Algerian wine in France. Later, the ban on wine imports was partially relaxed for Algeria, and a mixture of 10 percent, later raised to 25 percent, with domestic wines was allowed for Algeria's wine. France agreed to import 3.5 million hectoliters of Algerian wine in 1967 and in 1968. The USSR has agreed to import 5 million hectoliters of Algerian wine for 7 years beginning in 1968. Wine exports for 1968 are estimated as follows:

	<u>Hectoliters</u>
Franc zone (500,000 hl. outside of France)	4,000,000
USSR	5,000,000
Others	500,000

This is a considerable improvement over the situation in 1967.

Citrus exports have decreased since independence because capital has not been available for improvements in the groves. Also, while Algeria's exports of cereals have declined rapidly, imports have increased because adverse weather conditions have caused poor crops.

Agricultural imports have been decreasing at approximately the same rate as total imports. For 1956-60, agricultural goods averaged 21 percent of total imports. By 1968, the percentage was only slightly higher at 23 percent. Cereals have replaced sugar as the most valuable agricultural import (table 7).

A major shift in the direction of Algeria's trade has taken place since independence. France provided an average of 80 percent of Algeria's imports and took 81 percent of her exports during 1956-60. By 1967, France was providing only 60 percent of the imports and taking 59 percent of the exports.

Even though detailed information on Algeria's trade for 1968 is not yet available, data for some categories have been

published. The most valuable agricultural commodities in Algeria's foreign trade in 1968 were:

	<u>Million dollars</u>
<u>Imports:</u>	
Grains.....	43.7
Dairy products.....	22.1
Cotton.....	16.6
Sugar.....	14.5
Coffee, tea, and spices.....	13.3
<u>Exports:</u>	
Beverages (mostly wine).....	76.8
Fruit and nuts.....	27.4
Vegetable and fruit preparations.	8.1
Vegetables.....	6.9

U.S. - Algerian Trade

According to U.S. trade statistics, U.S. exports of farm products to Algeria fell sharply between 1966 and 1967, but increased in 1968 and 1969 (table 8). Wheat and wheat flour are by far the most important U.S. agricultural commodities shipped to Algeria. In 1966, 1967, and 1969, some wheat, wheat flour, bulgur wheat, and soybean oil were provided to the Algerians under Public Law 480. Sales of cotton to Algeria were up sharply in 1968.

U.S. imports of Algerian agricultural goods have been very limited, averaging about \$200,000 annually over 1966-68 (table 9). Essential oils, used primarily in making perfumes, and spices accounted for most of this trade.

Table 6.--Quantity and value of Algeria's principal agricultural exports, by leading country of destination, average 1956-60, annual 1966-67

Commodity and country	Quantity			Value		
	Average	1966	1967	Average	1966	1967
	1956-60			1956-60		
	1,000 metric tons			1,000 dollars		
Wine.....	1,389.2	933.0	485.1	209,298	121,491	56,425
France.....	1,364.7	828.6	297.5	204,401	112,242	40,366
USSR.....	<u>1/</u>	.5	34.3	<u>1/</u>	67	4,608
West Germany.....	<u>1/</u>	51.2	53.7	<u>1/</u>	3,427	3,585
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	<u>1/</u>	14.1	21.4	<u>1/</u>	1,067	1,509
Oranges and other citrus.....	233	246.6	182.7	30,066	36,220	22,616
France.....	227	213.1	130.1	29,480	33,196	17,006
USSR.....	<u>1/</u>	19.0	21.1	<u>1/</u>	1,530	1,838
West Germany.....	<u>1/</u>	7.3	12.3	<u>1/</u>	808	1,230
Vegetables, fresh and dried.....	<u>2/175</u>	47.1	70.2	<u>2/22,140</u>	6,656	10,307
Potatoes.....	69	17.9	42.4	6,766	2,056	4,778
France.....	64	17.9	39.5	6,376	2,056	4,470
Tomatoes.....	<u>3/52</u>	11.8	10.2	<u>3/6,086</u>	2,332	2,251
France.....	51	11.8	10.2	6,058	2,323	2,242
Hides and skins.....	10	7.9	5.7	7,707	7,487	6,219
France.....	6	6.4	5.1	4,909	6,402	5,525
Bran.....	<u>4/</u>	71.8	101.9	<u>4/</u>	3,375	5,128
France.....		43.2	64.5		2,079	3,302
Ireland.....		4.9	21.1		229	1,017
Esparto grass.....	<u>4/</u>	47.5	37.0	<u>4/</u>	1,315	1,042
Olive oil.....	5	5.5	.6	3,389	3,506	419
Wheat flour and semolina.....	66	1.9	2.9	11,694	267	411
France.....	66	1.9	2.9	11,682	266	410
Tobacco.....	7	.2	1.4	4,903	134	784
Barley.....	67	0	0	3,815	0	0
Other agricultural exports.....				27,532	19,625	17,007
Total agricultural exports.....				320,544	200,076	120,358
Nonagricultural exports.....				106,756	413,825	594,003
Total exports.....				427,301	613,901	714,361
France.....				345,301	414,108	423,619
West Germany.....				8,527	50,535	89,502
United Kingdom.....				21,747	36,410	39,769
Italy.....				7,701	21,212	24,926
Switzerland.....				1,204	7,337	24,581

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

1/ Data for these countries are not shown separately, but are included in totals.

2/ Fresh vegetables only.

3/ Average of 1959-60 only.

4/ If any, commodity is included in other agricultural exports and quantity is reflected in totals.

Source: Documents Statistiques sur le Commerce Exterieur de l'Algerie.

Table 7.--Algeria's principal agricultural imports, by leading country of origin, and by quantity and value, average 1956-60, annual 1966-67

Commodity and country	Quantity			Value		
	Average : 1956-60 :	1966 :	1967 :	Average : 1956-60 :	1966 :	1967 :
	<u>1,000 metric tons</u>			<u>1,000 dollars</u>		
Wheat, hard and soft.....	261	495.2	693.9	24,293	37,725	52,494
United States.....	25	387.7	304.0	1,835	30,266	24,078
USSR.....	9	0	172.6	810	0	12,933
Greece.....	<u>1/</u>	30.3	61.7	<u>1/</u>	2,120	4,572
France.....	113	68.1	65.2	8,706	4,709	4,163
Barley.....	<u>2/</u>	40.3	35.8	<u>2/</u>	2,732	2,365
Dairy products.....	45	75.9	85.1	32,628	25,291	25,815
Milk and cream.....	<u>3/21</u>	65.8	74.4	<u>3/8,981</u>	17,533	18,955
France.....	15	64.4	65.8	6,464	17,012	15,876
Cheese.....	17	5.6	4.8	16,438	4,800	3,953
Sugar.....	203	204.5	297.1	38,231	27,114	25,484
France.....	180	117.9	94.8	35,354	24,477	11,620
USSR.....	<u>1/</u>	11.2	47.9	<u>1/</u>	821	3,598
Coffee.....	28	13.2	47.2	21,205	8,429	24,853
Brazil.....	1	3.0	22.2	948	1,552	11,526
Ivory Coast.....	<u>1/</u>	5.1	20.7	<u>1/</u>	3,074	11,105
Vegetable oils and fats.....	38	34.4	38.7	15,667	8,937	9,677
USSR.....	<u>1/</u>	9.0	22.9	<u>1/</u>	2,373	5,706
Oilseeds.....	54	57.2	61.2	10,339	8,102	8,540
Rapeseed.....	33	48.9	55.7	5,160	6,495	7,353
France.....	13	48.9	51.7	2,197	6,495	6,816
Cattle.....	45	<u>1,000 head</u> 10.4	9.9	4,493	4,673	4,828
France.....	43	9.4	7.2	4,412	4,265	3,747
Meat and meat preparations.....	20	<u>1,000 metric tons</u> 3.5	2.0	20,059	4,684	2,557
Tobacco.....	7	4.0	3.6	4,078	2,244	2,030
Other agricultural imports.....				52,358	31,043	26,153
Total agricultural imports.....				221,190	160,974	184,796
Nonagricultural imports.....				849,266	469,732	446,022
Total imports.....				1,070,456	630,706	630,818
France.....				858,168	433,347	375,521
United States.....				37,229	60,495	50,315
USSR.....				<u>4/3,350</u>	7,870	28,390
Italy.....				6,640	18,271	20,508
West Germany.....				7,521	14,028	19,326

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

1/ Data for these countries are not shown separately, but are included in totals.

2/ If any, commodity is included in other agricultural imports, and quantity is reflected in totals. 3/ Excluding fresh milk. 4/ Average of 1958-59 only.

Source: Documents Statistiques sur le Commerce Extérieur de l'Algérie.

Table 8.--U.S. exports to Algeria, 1966-69

Commodity	1966	1967	1968	1969
- - - - - <u>1,000 dollars</u> - - - - -				
Dairy products (nonfat dry milk, PL 480)...	0	830	0	923
Grains and preparations.....	44,977	16,234	17,344	20,891
Wheat.....	43,113	14,930	17,344	20,206
Wheat (PL 480).....	4,517	2,298	0	294
Wheat flour.....	1,034	902	0	644
Wheat flour (PL 480).....	1,034	902	0	644
Fruits and vegetables.....	879	797	985	4
Tobacco.....	75	50	237	178
Cotton.....	188	0	2,519	2,558
Tallow, inedible.....	1,941	1,287	1,563	1,953
Soybean oil.....	1,658	1,782	0	439
Soybean oil (PL 480).....	1,658	1,777	0	439
Other agricultural exports.....	189	49	55	47
Total agricultural exports.....	<u>49,907</u>	<u>21,029</u>	<u>22,703</u>	<u>26,993</u>
Nonagricultural exports.....	16,742	11,637	30,136	36,788
Total exports.....	<u>66,649</u>	<u>32,666</u>	<u>52,839</u>	<u>63,781</u>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 9.--U.S. imports from Algeria, 1966-69

Commodity	1966	1967	1968	1969
- - - - - <u>1,000 dollars</u> - - - - -				
Spices.....	3	13	5	0
Essential oils.....	86	173	197	293
Other agricultural imports.....	112	10	6	10
Total agricultural imports.....	201	196	208	303
Nonagricultural imports.....	2,754	2,884	5,054	<u>1/1,997</u>
Total imports.....	2,955	3,080	5,262	<u>1/2,300</u>

1/ Preliminary.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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