

The Agricultural Initiative and its Impact on the Local Product in Iraq for the Period (2008-2020)

Musa Khalaf Awad ¹, Ali Abbas Abboud Al-Sulaikhi ²

^{1,2} College of Administration and Economics, University of Al-Qadisiyah.

Email: moosa0782mo@gmail.com¹, admin.ecco21@gmail.com ²

ABSTRACT

The main objective of the research is to see the application of the agricultural initiative and its repercussions in achieving an increase in agricultural production in both its parts (plant and animal) through agricultural programs that work on creating important bases that contribute to developing the capabilities of farmers and peasants and then reflecting on agricultural production in quantity and quality, by making maximum use of Agricultural initiative loans through the Cooperative Agricultural Bank. To achieve the study's goal, the research started from the premise that (the agricultural initiative contributes to raising the rates of local agricultural production). It was relied on quantitative data to complete the research process, and after analyzing the hypotheses, it was possible to prove the validity of the hypotheses from which the study was launched.

The research sought to determine the role played by the agricultural initiative loans and their impact on increasing the local product through loans granted to specialized lending funds. These funds are (Small Farmers and Farmers Fund, Livestock Lending Fund, Agricultural Mechanization Fund and Modern Irrigation Means, Mega Projects Development Fund, Palm Development Fund, Rural Women Development Fund, Sons of Iraq Development Fund).

The research came out with conclusions, the most important of which were: The agricultural initiative loans showed the orientations of farmers and peasants to request these loans. In the end, this led to an increase in the local product in Iraq, and the concessional lending (without interest) to the agricultural initiative through agricultural banks reversed the orientation of farmers, farmers and agricultural investors on these loans in all Iraqi governorates than it was before the initiative.

Keywords:- Agricultural Initiative, Local Product.

INTRODUCTION

The importance of the study:

The importance of the research stems from the importance of its main topic, which is the agricultural initiative for concessional lending to the agricultural sector to encourage the local product. The country's openness to world markets has affected the productive sectors, especially the industrial and agricultural sectors, which has resulted in their deterioration. This requires diagnosing everything that opposes the local product (plant and animal) and

setting up the necessary encouragement mechanism to provide what the community needs of agricultural products and provide food security through specialized lending funds for the agricultural initiative to restore life to the reality of the agricultural sector and return local production to the market in a competitive manner and revive the market to reach sufficiency and reduce its dependence on imports from abroad.

The problem of the study:

The main problem of the study lies in the existence of a major failure in the production of agricultural products that failed to meet the needs of the country, especially the strategic agricultural products. This failure, in turn, has reflected negatively on the economic development in the country. The other thing is that the poor financing of agricultural activities and the lack of financial resources available to them constitute an obstacle to the development of the agricultural sector, and according to the foregoing, the research problem can be framed by asking the following questions:

1. Did the money allocated to farmers and peasants from the agricultural initiative affect the development and growth of the local product throughout the country and fulfill the purpose?
2. Did the funds allocated for mechanization and modern irrigation methods from the agricultural initiative affect the development and growth of the local product throughout the country and fulfill the purpose for which it was found?

Hypothesis of the study:

The agricultural initiative contributes to increasing agricultural production rates.

Method of the study:

This study was based on the deductive approach in the theoretical aspect, and the descriptive analytical approach in the scientific aspect.

Aims of the study:

The inability to provide financial resources to the agricultural sector will lead to the deterioration of this sector, so the research is trying to reach an answer to the question: Does the agricultural initiative contribute to achieving agricultural development and developing the capabilities of farmers and peasants, and then have a positive impact on agricultural productivity in Iraq, both quantitatively and qualitatively?

Spatial and temporal limits of the study:

- 1- Spatial limits: The research includes a case study of the agricultural initiative in Iraq and its impact on the quantity of local product.
- 2- Temporal limits: The research period extends from (2008-2020), which starts from the launch of the agricultural initiative to advance the reality of the agricultural sector, which has suffered from neglect as a result of previous policies.

The first topic: the theoretical framework of the research:

The first requirement: the agricultural initiative:

The agricultural initiative is to take proactive steps by the state to advance the reality of the Iraqi agricultural sector with its various activities, whether related to (plant wealth or livestock). This is by providing all the financial and technical allocations needed by this sector, and providing cash liquidity that enables agricultural producers to establish and rehabilitate agricultural projects, both plant and animal, and for all agricultural purposes by allocating amounts and depositing them in funds specialized for agricultural purposes for which loans are granted by providing cash liquidity to agricultural producers in a way Soft loans without interest. It also aims to advance the agricultural situation, according to which it is possible to provide the greatest amount of prosperity to agricultural workers by increasing their production, improving its quality and ensuring its continuity (1).

The Iraqi government began the agricultural initiative after mid-2008, as the agricultural initiative as one of the agricultural financing policies in an effort to advance the agricultural sector in order to achieve self-sufficiency for strategic crops. It formed a higher committee for agricultural initiative linked to the Prime Minister at the time, the Prime Minister (Mr. Nouri Kamel Al-Maliki). The work of this committee is focused in three directions, working to support the projects of the Ministry of Water Resources first, and secondly to support the projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as allocating funds to the seven specialized lending funds, thirdly, through which loans is granted to agricultural investors through the Cooperative Agricultural Bank. The initiative also provides support for some services supporting the agricultural sector, such as agricultural education and vocational education (2).

The importance of the agricultural initiative is represented in the role it plays in promoting the agricultural sector by granting loans to facilitate the work of farmers through the following:

- 1- Providing food security, as well as staying away from the effects of the global crisis, in times of scarcity of field crops and high prices from time to time, since food is one of the basic needs in human life.
- 2- Addressing the problem of unemployment, providing job opportunities in large numbers, and improving the living conditions of workers and farmers, and as a result, creating incomes that contribute to increasing aggregate demand.
- 3- Building a strong and sustainable economy and providing additional resources to the state, instead of relying heavily on the export of crude oil, this is subject to many crises and fluctuations in prices.
- 4- Preserving the environment, reducing pollution resulting from burning large quantities of oil and gas and polluting emissions, and reducing the amounts of dust and dust generated as a result of the lack of vegetation cover resulting from agricultural activity (3).
- 5- Strengthening the feeling of belonging to the land, this contributes to limiting the migration (4) of laborers outside the country.

The following table shows expenses from the amounts of the initiative and according to the parties responsible for its implementation.

Table (1): Expenses Amounts to agricultural initiative entities in Iraq for the research period/billion dinars

Expenses for specialized lending funds	Expenses for the initiative's higher committee	Expenses for the Ministry of Agriculture	Expenditures to the Ministry of Water Resources	Year
80.809	2.40	84.00	225.60	2008
142.253	2.00	7.00	225.60	2009
215.586	0.322	----	173.35	2010
506.800	0.452	7.40	172.98	2011
469.013	2.466	198.12	224.28	2012
256.823	0.532	130.71	218.00	2013
169.956	1.210	14.87	77.33	2014
145.323	0.800	2.78	17.92	2015
57.233	0.500	2.78	15.46	2016
----	----	----	----	2017
14.872	----	----	----	2018
10.192	----	----	----	2019
2.145	----	----	----	2020
2070.1	10.68	447.66	1350.52	Total
3878.96				Total summation

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the General Agricultural Bank.

The second requirement: agricultural development:

Agricultural development is one aspect of economic development, as its concept does not differ in its objectives and means from economic development and its objectives. It was defined as all measures that would increase the agricultural productivity available in the

process of economic development (5).

The phenomenon of development is one of the complex phenomena, as its main objectives in general are to raise the standard of living and increase the formation of capital, whose scarcity is the main characteristic of low-income countries. Here, the circumstances of each country must be taken into consideration when developing a development plan and to ensure that it deserves the increase in productivity and is compatible with the vertical increase in demand for goods and the horizontal increase in population (6).

Table (2) shows the total exports and imports in Iraq and their trade balance for the period from 2008-2020, showing the increases and decreases in the Iraqi trade balance:

Table (2): Total exports and imports of agricultural products in Iraq and their trade balance for the period from 2008-2020 - million dinars

Iraq's trade balance	Total imports	Total exports	Agricultural Trade Balance	Total agricultural imports	Total agricultural exports	Year
+28264.40	33000.00	61264.40	-5235.34	5305.44	70.10	2008
+4888.00	17279.10	46400	-4342.44	4396.17	53.73	2009
+7849.00	41512	51764	-1899.44	1930.51	31.07	2010
+31878.00	47803	79681	-12206.14	12226.57	20.43	2011
+35203.00	59006	94209.00	-5238.57	5272.68	34.11	2012
+30419.00	59349	89768	-4384.92	4415.32	30.40	2013
+30804.00	53177	83981	-7042.60	7316.60	274.00	2014
-47800.00	94200	46400	-6525.80	6696.00	170.20	2015
-34800.00	86600	59400	4646.40	4781.20	134.80	2016
-27466.00	104500	77400	-4440.00	4467.00	28.00	2017
+40624.00	45736	88200	-5391.00	5397.00	6.00	2018
+37862.00	58138	96000	-6844.00	6860.00	16.00	2019
+53850.00	48150	102100	-5670.00	5682.00	12.00	2020

Source: The years from 2008-2013 prepared by the researcher based on the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Annual Statistics Book, and the website of the international information network www.fao.org/faostat.

* Years from 2014-2020 based on the data of the Central Bank of Iraq - the bank's statistical group on the bank's website.

For the purpose of filling this deficit, the agricultural initiative was developed. Table (3) shows the amounts received from the lending funds from the actual amounts at the level of Iraq, the amounts paid from them, the remaining ones, and the repayment percentage:

Table (3): The amounts of the agricultural initiative in all of Iraq that have been disbursed, paid and remaining, and the percentage of payment for the period from 2008-2020, thousands of dinars

Initiative amounts for the whole of Iraq						
Ratio of repayments to total loans	Remaining amounts	Amounts paid up to December 31, 2020	Amounts disbursed in all governorates of Iraq	Repayments to total loans%	The remaining unpaid amounts	Amounts paid up to 31/1/2022
36.50%	1315025451	755786708	2070812159	26.77	77612609	28370496

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the General Cooperative Agricultural Bank.

The third requirement: the effectiveness of the agricultural initiative in achieving food security:

Approximately (60%) of the total area of Iraq is useless and productive lands, but the equivalent of (9%) of the total percentages can be reclaimed by horizontal expansion of agricultural lands. From this it becomes clear the low percentage of lands used for agriculture from all the total area in Iraq (7).

The size of the food gap is measured as follows (8):

The size of the food gap = production - consumption

The researcher relied on the data of the approved population numbers in Iraq for the period from 2008-2020 and what is a product of the wheat and rice crops, as they are in direct contact with the Iraqi consumer in securing food for him through what he receives from the government through the ration card indicators as an example to determine the food gap where the researcher relied on Quantity (9) kg of flour per month, as well as (3) kg per month of rice. As shown in the following table:

Table (4): The food gap in Iraq for wheat and rye crops for the period from 2008-2020

rice nutrient gap/ton = consumption - production	Producti on of rye (rice) / ton	Rice consumpti on / ton = 3 kg x 12 months = 36 kg	Wheat nutritional gap/ton = consumptio n - production	wheat producti on/ton	Wheat consumption / ton = (9 kg x 12 months) = 108 kg	populati on/ one million populati on	Year
-676001	403999	1080000	-1985015	125498 5	3240000	30.000	2008
-638396	501508	1139904	-1719322	170039 0	3419712	31.664	2009
-32183	1137169	1169352	-759216	274884 0	3508056	32.482	2010
-377424	820152	1197576	-783828	280890 0	3592728	33.266	2011
-399498	831990	1231488	-632152	306231 2	3694464	34.208	2012
-272570	1003198	1275768	+351075	417837 9	3827304	35.438	2013
-18383	1277796	1296180	+1166571	505511 1	3888540	36.005	2014
-999911	329713	1329624	-1343872	264500 0	3988872	36.934	2015
-847574	499222	1346796	-987449	305293 9	4040388	37.411	2016
-1060746	303114	1363860	-1117444	297413 6	4091580	37.885	2017
-1214145	190647	1404792	-2036491	217788 5	4214376	39.022	2018
+100503	1518471	1417968	+89569	434347 3	4253904	39.388	2019
+316200	1756200	1440000	+1918392	623839 2	4320000	40.000	2020

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the Ministry of Planning - Central Bureau of Statistics / Annual Statistical Collections 2008-2020.

* Sign (-) there is a deficit in the food gap, and (+) there is an excess of the food gap.

It is noted from the above table that there is an increasing trend of consuming wheat and rice in Iraq, according to the increase in population, which leads to a decrease in self-sufficiency rates and a widening of the food gap, and then dependence to fill the shortfall in

consumption for the ration card for these two crops on imports to meet consumption requirements. Import represents a food deficit. It should be noted that Iraq consists of (18) governorates, including (3) provinces of the Kurdistan region outside the total productivity, as well as the exit of (3) other provinces that were controlled by terrorist gangs (Nineveh, Anbar, Salah al-Din, and large parts of Diyala, for the period from 2014 to 2017). That is, (12) governorates are the ones that secure the Iraqi food basket.

The second topic: the financial analysis of the agricultural initiative in Iraq:

The Agricultural Initiative Funds are a group of funds invested and allocated by the Iraqi government in various plant and animal activities in the agricultural sector in the form of soft loans without interest granted to farmers and peasants in order to upgrade and advance the reality of agriculture in Iraq. A unit for specialized agricultural loan funds was created, and it was within the organizational structure of the Cooperative Agricultural Bank that facilitated and provided loans for the development of the agricultural sector, as well as supervising the work of the lending funds for the following agricultural initiative:-

First: Small Farmers Credit Fund:

This fund was established with the aim of providing agricultural loans to farmers and peasants who deserve them for the purpose of supporting the agricultural production process, as it includes financing various purposes such as strategic crops, field crops, vegetables, fruits, dates and others.

The following table (5) shows the amounts disbursed and the number of beneficiaries from the agricultural initiative allocations to the Small Farmers Lending Fund for all governorates of Iraq and according to the years of study

Number of beneficiaries (projects)	Amounts disbursed in thousands of dinars to the Small Farmers Lending Fund	Year
4076	21902068	2008
4018	43091231	2009
6029	68017029	2010
13881	166761523	2011
6090	103221668	2012
2097	35310571	2013
1899	24997170	2014
573	8346249	2015
328	6904075	2016
---	-----	2017
---	-----	2018
---	-----	2019
-----	-----	2020
38991	478551584	Total

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the General Cooperative Agricultural Bank.

Second: Livestock Lending Fund:

This fund was established from the agricultural initiative loan funds with the aim of providing soft loans for the development of livestock and fisheries, cold stores, opening and developing clinics for unassigned veterinarians.

Table (6)

Shows the amounts disbursed to the Livestock Lending Fund in Iraq and the number of beneficiaries within the research period

Number of beneficiaries (projects)	Amounts disbursed to the Livestock Fund / in thousands of dinars in Iraq	Year
2478	33318982	2008
1314	18196635	2009
458	12954097	2010
1097	35317178	2011
1287	34505883	2012
930	33884816	2013
594	23069475	2014
922	24275911	2015
355	8509774	2016
-----	-----	2017
-----	316666	2018
-----	427767	2019
-----	232998	2020
9435	225010182	Total

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the Agricultural Cooperative Bank

From the results presented in Table (6), we find that the total of the private projects implemented for the Agricultural Initiative Lending Fund, which includes the Livestock Lending Fund during the years of study in Iraq, amounted to (9435) nine thousand four hundred and thirty-five beneficiaries and a total amount of (225010182) dinars.

Third: The Agricultural Mechanization, Irrigation and Modern Irrigation Lending Fund:

This fund was established to grant soft agricultural loans for the purchase of harvesters, tractors, seeders, fertilizers, pumps, equipment, agricultural machinery and modern irrigation methods, as well as spending on agricultural land neighborhoods and their reclamation, building drains and streams, and digging wells.

The projects financed by this fund included the projects that need a large use of technology, such as harvesters, sprinklers (fixed and pivotal) and seeders. In ten installments, the loan is not disbursed except by a letter from the entity supplying or executing the activity.

The following is a table of the disbursed amounts and the number of beneficiaries of this fund in Iraq for the agricultural initiative within the study period.

Table (7): The amounts disbursed and the number of beneficiaries of the Fund for Lending Mechanization of Agriculture and Irrigation Means in Iraq from 2008-2020

Number of beneficiaries (projects)	Amounts disbursed to the Agricultural Mechanization Lending Fund in Iraq - in thousands of dinars	Year
1075	14453909	2008
4064	56174947	2009
7875	97716891	2010
14314	229819983	2011
13193	255507850	2012
2152	114079285	2013
2053	82078907	2014
2146	75905626	2015
661	24905535	2016
-----	-----	2017
321	11072900	2018
88	3202333	2019
2	175000	2020
47944	965093166	Total

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the General Cooperative Agricultural Bank.

From the above table, the amounts disbursed from the Agricultural Mechanization Lending Fund and Modern Irrigation Means (965093166) amounted to nine hundred and sixty-five billion ninety-three million and one hundred and sixty-six thousand dinars, and the number of beneficiaries of this fund was (47944) forty-seven thousand nine hundred and forty-four beneficiaries.

Fourth: Palm Development Lending Fund:

This fund was established to support Iraq's production of dates, in which it has a comparative advantage that makes it able to export and external competition, as well as to meet the needs of the local market. Old orchards, establishing and rehabilitating date presses, rehabilitating date stores and establishing fruit orchards.

In all the activities of this fund, the percentage of loans granted to farmers and peasants is (80%) of the cost of work, except for the establishment of date presses and the establishment and rehabilitation of date stores that are at the discretion of the lending committees in the governorates. The following are the amounts disbursed to the Palm Orchards Development Lending Fund and the number of beneficiaries in Iraq from the agricultural initiative loans within the research period.

Table (8)

Table of the disbursed amounts and the numbers of beneficiaries of the Horticultural Development Lending Fund in Iraq for the period 2008-2020

Number of beneficiaries	The amount disbursed to the fund is in thousands of dinars	Year
541	3667627	2008
2858	15286368	2009
1632	11205478	2010
2268	15220631	2011
1665	20404685	2012
1147	18349559	2013
118	4041181	2014
193	5394211	2015
130	3000273	2016
-----	-----	2017
-----	-----	2018
-----	-----	2019
-----	-----	2020
10552	96570013	Total

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the General Cooperative Agricultural Bank.

Fifth: The Fund for the Development of Major Projects and Manufacturing Industries:

This fund facilitates the granting of loans to individuals and agricultural companies who want to obtain loans, whose amounts exceed the amount of (250) million dinars and for all agricultural purposes (vegetable, animal) and manufacturing projects (packing factories, meat factories, paste, molasses, sprinklers, and vegetable oils), dates, cold rooms for storing agricultural products, and warehouses (where all loans to this fund are documented with

sufficient guarantees to cover the amounts allocated to the loan to ensure its repayment. In order to facilitate the delivery of loans to investors, these requests are organized through the directorates of agriculture in the governorates with special forms prepared in advance and reinforced with the joint technical statements between the Agricultural Bank, the Agricultural Division and the Real Estate Registration. Then it is sent to the concerned branches for implementation and is under the supervision of the technical committees of the agricultural bank employees in the governorate and the agricultural employees to take the necessary and seize the real estate guarantees provided to cover these loans, and send the exchange notice and statements of statements for checking and keeping a copy of them, and then the disbursement is done in the form of payments.

The following are the amounts disbursed to the Fund for the Development of Major Projects and Manufacturing Industries in all governorates of Iraq and the number of projects for each year of the study period:

Table (9) amounts disbursed to the Fund for the Development of Mega Projects and Manufacturing Industries for the period from 2008-2020

Number of beneficiaries	Amounts disbursed to all governorates / in thousands of dinars	Year
7	7466956	2008
47	9504266	2009
73	25692763	2010
102	59681255	2011
128	55363112	2012
125	55168835	2013
79	35365703	2014
63	29541427	2015
12	12028000	2016
-----	-----	2017
-----	3482832	2018
-----	6562665	2019
-----	1738500	2020
636	301596314	Total

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the Ministry of Planning - Central Statistics Authority

Sixth: Rural Women Development Fund:

This fund was established in (2012) and was added to the lending funds for the purpose of developing and supporting rural women and their contribution to the process of economic and social development, developing their skills and their ability through extension and development programs, as well as in establishing small rural projects, provided that the value and amount of the loan range from (5-25) million dinars. . It also included the areas of

the marshes and the countryside, and the Fund focused on lending to widows and single women

The following table (10) is the amounts disbursed to the Rural Women's Development Fund in all governorates of Iraq and the preparation of established projects.

Number of beneficiaries	Amounts disbursed in thousands of dinars to all provinces	Year
88	204500	2014
360	1860100	2015
101	1886300	2016
549	3950900	Total

Source: prepared by the researcher based on the data of the General Cooperative Agricultural Bank.

The third topic

The effectiveness of the agricultural initiative according to the branches of the agricultural sector

Agricultural Sector Performance Indicators:

The agricultural sector possesses a number of front and back interconnections that made it a link within a series of sectors that make up the Iraqi national economy, and the Iraqi agricultural sector, facts indicate that it is affected by the economic, political and legislative changes that the country has witnessed for nearly two decades, and then this effect is reflected over the course of The effectiveness of this sector's contribution to important variables in the Iraqi economy can be highlighted as follows:

1- The contribution of the agricultural sector to the gross domestic product (GDP):

Gross domestic product accounts show the extent to which each sector, whether service or production, contributes to the formation of the national economy.

The following table represents the GDP, the contribution of the agricultural sector to the output and the percentage of the contribution from it.

Table (11): A table representing the gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices in Iraq and the value and percentage of the agricultural sector's contribution to the output for the period from 2008-2020

Percentage contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP	Agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing/million dinars	Gross domestic product at current prices / million dinars	Year
3.67%	5716815.1	155982258.0	2008
4.40%	5748300.8	130643200.0	2009

4.90%	7941163.7	162064565.5	2010
4.56%	9918316.8	217327107.4	2011
4.12%	10484949.3	254225490.7	2012
4.77%	13045856.4	273587529.2	2013
%4.93	13128622.6	266420138.5	2014
%4.91	8160769.7	194680971.8	2015
3.98%	7832046.9	196924141.7	2016
2.98%	6598384.8	221665709.5	2017
2.69%	7220904.0	268918874.0	2018
3.60%	10017410.7	277884869.4	2019
4.77%	9481535.3	198774325.4	2020

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the Ministry of Planning - Central Statistics Organization

The Gross Domestic Product is defined as the total output achieved from services and final goods from various sectors, denominated at market prices during a period of time, usually one year.

Agricultural production value:

From the table below, it is clear that the agricultural production began to rise in a relatively limited manner, starting from 2008 until 2014, it began to decline as a result of the criminal gangs' occupation of some governorates of Iraq and their exit from production, until it rose again in 2019 and then decreased due to the Corona pandemic.

Table (12)

The value of the total production of economic activities and the agricultural sector, the rate of productivity and the percentage of the agricultural sector from the value of the total production at current prices

Percentage of the agricultural sector of the total production-	Productivity growth rate or percentage change	Total production value by agricultural sector activity/million dinars	The value of the total gross production of all sectors / million dinars	Year
4.48	----	8508519.8	189889499.5	2008
5.43	-28.50	9083941.7	167275565.2	2009
5.23	18.73	10785316.6	206377137.6	2010
4.83	21.83	13139509.8	272007149.3	2011
4.41	6.76	14028173.2	317853584.5	2012
5.06	24.41	17451809.2	344842020.0	2013
5.26	2.24	17843388.0	339128356.4	2014
4.28	-39.51	10792608.4	251882761.9	2015
4.33	1.87	10994354.1	254040423.7	2016

3.45	-10.74	9813602.8	284593404.9	2017
6.92	-1.36	9680195.3	139799375.5	2018
4.11	50.89	14606202.0	355640857.0	2019
5.89	-19.69	11716003.5	198774325.4	2020

Source: prepared by the researcher based on the data of the Ministry of Planning - National Accounts - the third statistical group.

Table (13) the total amounts assessed in the governorates of Iraq for the agricultural initiative lending funds for the period from 2008-2020

Percentage of total amounts	Amounts Spent (JD)	Amounts of Specialized Loan Funds (JD)
10.866	225010182000	Livestock
23.109	478551584000	Small peasants and farmers
46.605	965093166000	Mechanization and irrigation methods
4.663	96570013000	palm development
14.564	301596314000	Development of major projects
0.191	3950900000	rural women development
0.002	40000000	Sons of Iraq
100%	2070812159000	Total

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the General Cooperative Agricultural Bank / Al-Diwaniyah branch.

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data in the previous table

The following is the statistical data for strategic crops from cultivated areas and production quantities at the level of all governorates of Iraq during the study period.

Table (14) achieved production and cultivated areas in Iraq, except for the region, for strategic crops (wheat - barley - rye - maize) for the period from 2008-2020

yellow corn crop		rye crop		barley crop		wheat crop		year
cultivated areas / acres	production / ton	harvested areas	production / ton	harvested areas	production / ton	cultivated areas / acres	production / ton	
490290	28795	33904	24815	1718501	403999	574116	1254975	200

	5	3	7			2		8
456500	23811 3	21970 0	17307 4	2817635	501508	504975 3	1700390	200 9
467800	26669 9	19190 0	15582 9	4026674	113716 9	554388 0	2748840	201 0
518400	33571 0	26298 0	23511 8	3650866	820152	654276 8	2808900	201 1
602063	50338 9	31788 4	36133 9	2849531	831990	691449 8	3062312	201 2
787752	83134 5	38433 8	45184 9	3262975	100319 8	737633 2	4178379	201 3
378100	28928 8	31720 0	40302 8	4632262	127779 6	583524 0	5055111	201 4
229000	18234 0	11040 0	10920 9	*4147000	329713	379722 2	2645000	201 5
304000	25954 6	15420 0	18132 0	1061703	499222	341227 9	3052939	201 6
222800	18529 1	22210 0	26585 2	4215906	303114	421590 6	2974136	201 7
55837	63307	21700	18196	**601213	190647	315394 1	2177885	201 8
402375	47306 4	51140 0	57470 5	3721253	151847 1	633111 6	4343473	201 9
362088	41934 5	40627 4	46415 9	***4528487	175620 0	857368 3	6238392	202 0

* Except for the Kurdistan region, Nineveh, Salah al-Din and Anbar.

** Except for the Kurdistan region, Nineveh, Salah al-Din, Anbar, Hawija and some villages of Diyala.

*** Some villages in the governorates of Nineveh, Kirkuk, Diyala, Anbar, and Salah al-Din were not included.

The table was prepared by the researcher based on the data of the Ministry of Planning/Central Statistical Organization and the Ministry of Agriculture, Statistics Department.

Conclusions:

The researcher reached several results through the practical side of the research, and accordingly, he drew a number of conclusions that are presented by my agencies:

1. The phenomenon of development is a complex phenomenon, as its main objectives in general are to raise the standard of living and increase the formation of capital, whose scarcity is the main characteristic of low-income countries.

2. There is an increasing trend in the consumption of wheat and rice in Iraq, according to the increase in the population, which leads to a decrease in self-sufficiency rates and a widening of the food gap, and then dependence to fill the shortfall in consumption for the ration card for these two crops on imports to meet consumption requirements.
3. The total of the special projects implemented for the Agricultural Initiative Lending Fund, which includes the Livestock Loan Fund during the years of study in Iraq, amounted to (9435) beneficiaries and a total amount of (225010182) dinars, an amount that does not meet the requirements of the objectives of the agricultural initiative.
4. Agricultural loans have a significant impact on the development and growth of agricultural production in Iraq in general, because the borrowers lack the self-financial resource, they urgently need to borrow to finance and establish agricultural investment projects and their growth and development.
5. The adoption of the policy of financing the agricultural initiative in general and the allocations of agricultural investment in particular on the general budget and on annual revenues that depend on oil prices and quantities, has greatly contributed to the weak effectiveness of the agricultural initiative policy because it caused a discrepancy in the allocations of the agricultural initiative from year to year.

Recommendations

Among the foregoing conclusions, the research can recommend the following:

1. Establishing a new mechanism for the agricultural initiative, if it is reintroduced again with integrated projects by establishing agricultural and industrial complexes that complement one another, such as establishing major cow-breeding stations and allocating agricultural lands for the feed industry, factories for the manufacture of milk and its derivatives, meat processing and packing, and warehouses to reduce spoilage from production before marketing.
2. Develop plans and programs for the reclamation of agricultural lands, especially those allocated to strategic crops, to increase the area of arable land, and then increase production, reduce the food gap, and increase self-sufficiency rates.
3. Balance between consumer and product protection and not giving preference to one over the other.
4. Activating the role of agricultural extension with the aim of moving towards modern agriculture and transferring the latest research developments to farmers and peasants, as he is in contact with them.
5. Rehabilitation of old dams and the establishment of other dams to preserve the water resource and work with the countries of the sources, to secure an appropriate share, and work to reduce waste by using modern methods such as sprinkler and drip irrigation
6. Encouraging local and foreign private investment in the infrastructure supporting the

agricultural sector and facilitating all obstacles that hinder their participation. Providing the appropriate investment environment is one of the important and influential matters in developing the role of the private sector. Being, it increases the contribution of the agricultural sector to the formation of the gross domestic product and to achieve higher levels of horizontal development.

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