

Agricultural Planning in Libya during Transformation Plans

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Abstract

In general, the main objective of economic development plans in Libya is to diversify the local economy and to find other sources of income rather than oil to achieve such growth in non-oil sectors. Therefore, in particular, agricultural development has become a pivotal cornerstone of every development plan in Libya. Development plans adopted a general framework for promoting agriculture, which was aiming to achieve the agricultural development in the country. This paper aims to achieve three specific objectives which are; 1) Provide a detailed background about agricultural planning issue in Libya during transformation plans in terms of strategies, goals and policies. 2) Analysis of the strategies and goals of agricultural planning. 3) Clarifying the main reasons for the failure of the agricultural planning in Libya. The development plans, after three decades, did not achieve, and did not appear any harbingers for development and indeed, the economy is in a critical stage. Also Libya's development strategy has been characterized by the dominance of the public sector as the major agent of growth. In addition to the economic performance is mainly driven by the oil sector, while production in the non-oil sectors has been evolving at a relatively weaker pace.

Key words: Development plans, Transformation plans, Agricultural planning.

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1. Introduction

The Libyan economy has known development and economic planning since the early period dating back to the early sixties, after the discovery and export of oil. In general, the main objective of economic development plans in Libya was to diversify the local economy and to find other sources of income rather than oil to achieve such growth in non-oil sectors. The years of the seventies and eighties have seen developmental planning which crystallized in the three development plans which were: 1) Three-Year Plan (1973-1975), 2) Five-Year Plan (1976-1980), and 3) Five-Year Plan (1980-1985). These plans adopted a general framework for promoting agriculture, which was aiming to achieve the agricultural development in the country. In spite of the economic planning stopped with the end of the five-year plan 80-85, but the annual budgets included spending on a lot of projects that fall within the framework of the strategic development system.

Moreover, in order to the importance of establishing and consolidating sustainable development and raising living standards, Libyan government has paid considerable attention to agricultural sector. Libyan government launched the so-called agricultural revolution, which implicitly means a transformation of the traditional agricultural techniques into new and advanced agricultural mode. Therefore, in particular, agricultural development has become a pivotal cornerstone of every development plan in Libya.

However, the development, after three decades, did not achieve its targets, did not appear any harbingers for development and indeed, the economy is in a critical stage. Moreover, Libya's development strategy has been characterized by the dominance of the public sector as the major agent of growth. The private sector was relegated to a subsidiary role with regard to agriculture and small services. Also, economic performance is mainly driven by the oil sector, while production in the non-oil sectors has been evolving at a relatively weaker pace.

In this context, this paper has four, specific objectives. The first objective is to provide a detailed background about agricultural planning issue in Libya during transformation plans in terms of strategies, goals and policies. The

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second objective is to analysis of the strategies and goals of agricultural planning. The third objective is to clarify the points of agricultural planning failure. And the fourth and final objective is, clarifying the main reasons for the failure of the agricultural planning in Libya.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section one presents the agricultural planning during transformation plans. Section two reviews the agricultural programs and projects in the transformation plans. Section three outlines the analysis of the strategies and goals of agricultural planning during transformation plans and presents the failure of agricultural planning experience in Libya. Finally, conclusions are offered.

2. Methodology:

The paper relied on literature to describe historically strategies, policies and goals of agricultural planning, and programmes/projects in Libya during transformation plans.

3. Agricultural Planning during Transformation Plans;

3.1 Strategies of Agricultural Planning:

In general, the strategies of these plans can be summed up in taking positive steps in an effort to achieve self-sufficiency, and meet the needs of the domestic consumption of agricultural production. At the same time, the main trends of the agricultural planning through transformation plans were in accordance with the following strategies: 1) Protection of natural resources such as: soil and groundwater, and work to be exploited as efficiently as possible. 2) Eliminate the fragmentation of agricultural property by grouping small units in integrated farming units in order to achieve economies of agricultural production and the use of modern agricultural methods. 3) Increasing the level of income for workers in the agricultural sector to be equivalent to the income of workers in other sectors. 4) Establishing links between agriculture and manufacturing industry in terms of developing and expanding the production of agricultural commodities on the one hand, and increase domestic production of capital goods and industrial inputs for agriculture on the other hand. 5) Creation of stable communities in the new agricultural areas, and reduce

disparities between regions as much as possible. 6) Increase agricultural production by applying a policy of subsidies, loans, exemption from customs duties and taxes, provide marketing services, support possibilities and means of scientific research in the field of agriculture. 7) Working on increasing the productivity of agricultural land through the use of modern techniques and providing production inputs such as: fertilizer, seed, feed and agricultural machinery. 8) Expand agricultural research facilities, and focus its activities on a selected number of major problems, such as: conservation of water and soil, increase the production of crops under irrigated and rain-fed conditions, and maintain the humidity in the soil (Transformation plans, 1973-1975, 1976-1980, and 1981-1985).

3.2 Goals of Agricultural Planning:

In general, transformation plans are aimed to achieve the optimal and economic exploitation of natural resources through optimal investment of these resources in order to achieve greatest self-sufficiency in agricultural production during the plan period, with increasing the effectiveness of these investments. In order to achieve this main goal, development plans of agricultural sector are aimed to achieve the following specific objectives:

1. Increasing agricultural production in terms of quantity and quality.
2. Increasing the sector's contribution to the Gross National Product (GNP).
3. Providing the consumer goods to individuals within the framework of self-sufficiency.
4. Providing raw materials for agricultural industries. (Transformation plans, 1973-1975, 1976-1980, and 1981-1985).

3.3 Policies of Agricultural Planning:

To achieve the above goals of agricultural planning, agricultural sector has been pursuing flexible economic policies that ensure the balance between the resources and the goals of the agricultural planning, and that have impact on agricultural production, and agricultural productivity. The most prominent of economic policies that have been implemented during the transformation plans were as follows:

1. Credit Policy: This policy was aimed to provide assistance to farmers

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through loans from the agricultural bank.

2. Subsidies Policy: This policy was aimed to raising the level of production, especially in the early stages of development by reducing production costs and then encourages farmers to continue production of food commodities.
3. Price Policy: Maintaining a balance between the prices of agricultural products, as well as the achievement of remunerative prices to farmers that increase their income and encourage them to increase the production.
4. Marketing Policy: Increase the efficiency of marketing devices, in order to maintain prices for farmers and consumers.
5. Supporting Policy of Agricultural Cooperation: That was aimed to support the cooperative associations, and create new associations.
6. Agricultural Mechanization Policy: This policy was aimed to increase the number of agricultural machinery of all kinds.
7. Policy of Increasing the Productivity of Agricultural Land: Through horizontal and vertical expansion.
8. Policy of Development Coastal Strip: Because the area of the coastline is considered one of the most important agricultural areas in Libya, at the same time suffers from many problems such as: Serious depletion of water, fragmentation of most the agricultural holdings, and decreasing the productivity of hectare. As a result of these problems, policy of development coastline was considered one of the most important pillars of the plan that aimed at achieving self-sufficiency.
9. Investment Policy of Water Resources: This policy was included implementation of largest project to transfer water from the southern Sahara to the whole country. (Transformation plans, 1973-1975, 1976-1980, and 1981-1985).

4. Agricultural Programs and Projects during Transformation Plans:

During the transformation plans, working in the agriculture sector was characterized by a focus on specific programs and projects that are aimed to achieving the goals of the agriculture sector in its all fields. The following is a brief overview of the most important programs and projects that covered by sector:

1. Land Reclamation: Aimed to reclaim approximately 179125 hectares during transformation plan (1973-1975), 40,000 hectares during transformation plan (1976-1980), and the development of an area of 69089 hectares of irrigated land and the area of 552 579 hectares of rain-fed land during transformation plan (1981-1985) in all Libya.
2. Groundwater Exploitation: The program was the beginning of a long-term scheme that aimed to exploit all the valleys and the establishment of the dams for water reservation, in order to take advantage of them in the groundwater recharge and expansion of the area of farmland. Also, included a number of projects (See figure 1).
3. Animal Production: aimed to increase animal production to achieve self-sufficiency, and consisted of four major projects (See figure 1).
4. Plant Production: Included several projects that aimed to provide nutrients, agricultural crops, fruit, vegetable, and provide these products at affordable prices. Also, included four projects (See figure 1).
5. Pastures Development: Aimed to achieve two strategic objectives are as follows: 1) Increase the production efficiency of pastures and animals, to achieve a significant contribution toward self-sufficiency of meat. 2) Protection of grassland and farmland from encroachment of the desert, by avoiding overgrazing and increasing the density of vegetation.
6. Forestry Development: Aimed to form a vegetation cover in areas with reasonable rates of rain, re-development of natural forests, reducing the encroachment of the desert, and the establishment of industries rely on wood. To achieve these goals, the program adopted three main projects during the plans (See figure 1).

In addition to, other programs such as: agricultural machinery, agricultural extension, marketing and storage, agricultural subsidies and loans, redevelopment of the coastal strip, and agricultural roads (Transformation plans, 1973-1975, 1976-1980, and 1981-1985).

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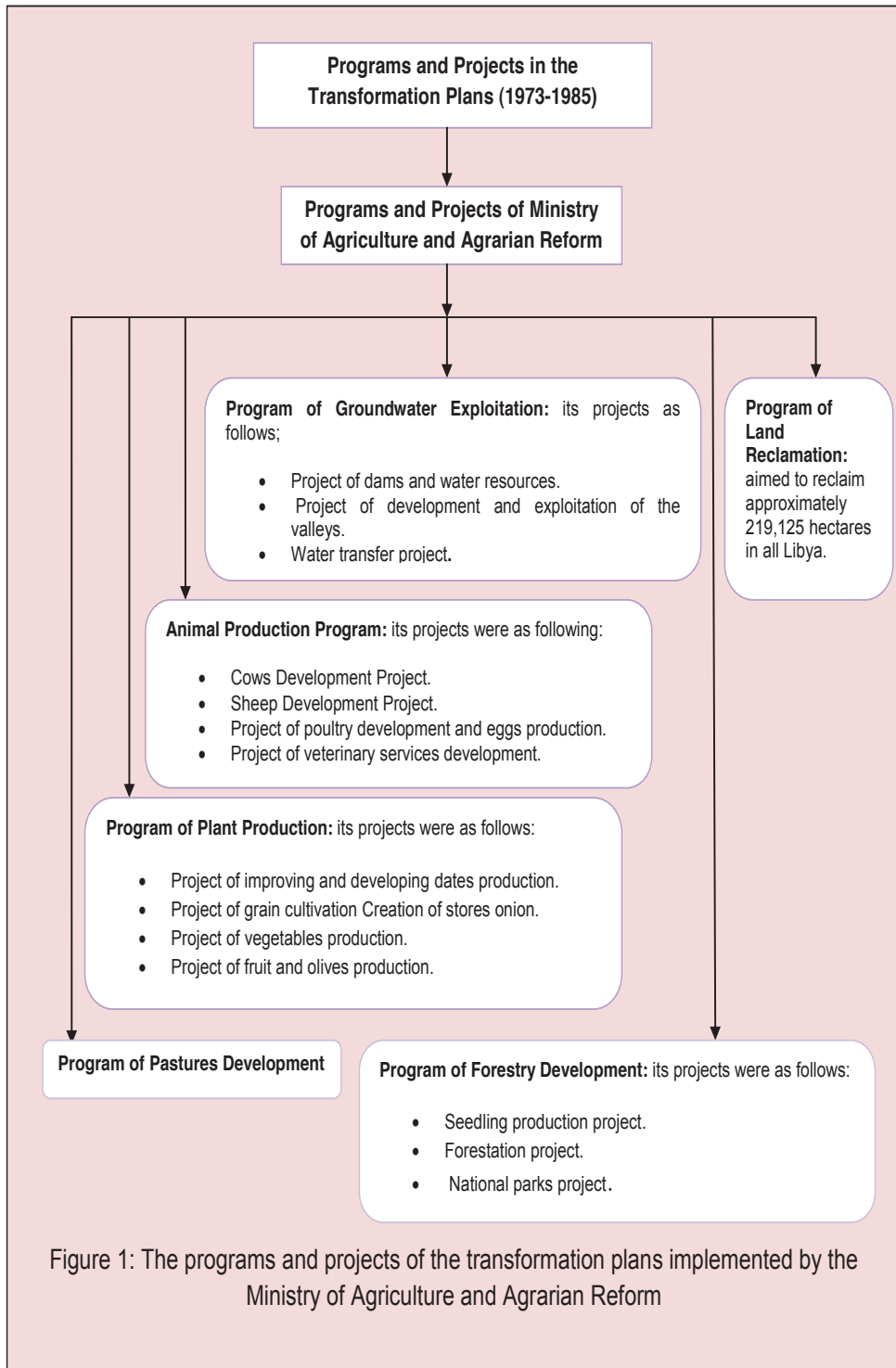


Figure 1: The programs and projects of the transformation plans implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform

5. Analysis of the Strategies and Goals of Agricultural Planning:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine is responsible for the implementation of agricultural plans, design necessary programs to implement the legislation by force in the areas of agriculture, livestock and marine according to the scientific method, which ensures the achievement of the objectives of the community, and follow-up the implementation of agricultural plans and their strategies, policies, programs and projects to achieve the goals and desired results.

In general, with regard to the agriculture sector, the three national development plans were aimed to achieving a set of basic goals and objectives (See Box 1). By the huge investments that have been employed and implemented through successive development plans, and national experience have made some achievements such as:

1. Achieving a qualitative change in the standard of living of farmers.
2. Satisfying the social and renewable needs such as: education, health and employment for all farmers and their families.

However, in spite of the huge allocations those have been allocated for the agricultural plans, development plans failed to achieve its main goals.

5.1 Failure of Agricultural Planning:

The agricultural development plans failed to achieve its main goals which are as follows:

1. Achieving food self-sufficiency.
2. Increasing the agricultural sector's contribution to the Gross National Product (GNP).
3. Providing raw materials for agricultural industries.
4. Increase the efficiency and productivity of the agricultural production factors.
5. Adopting a policy of development coastal strip.
6. Adopting a policy of imports substitution.
7. Adopting a marketing policy.
8. Adopting the supporting policy of agricultural cooperation.

Also, the agricultural plans stumbled and failed to achieve its main desired goals this was due to several reasons that can be attributed to:

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1. The weakness of economic efficiency in the application of agricultural policies, was due to the following factors:
 - a) Weak management of the agricultural sector.
 - b) Lack of specialists.
 - c) Giving priority to the political and social objectives.
2. Agricultural research and extension policies failed to achieve its objectives due to several factors including the following:
 - a) Poor coordination between agricultural extension organizations and bodies of agricultural research.
 - b) Weakness of investment in agricultural research and low productivity of research activity.
 - c) Lack of studies for agricultural research topics and selected on a scientific basis as well as the lack of employment of its results.
 - d) Instability of agricultural policy was a key factor to instability of agricultural extension.
3. Absence of rationality in land reclamation, due to the following factors:
 - a) Absence of identifying the objectives of land reclamation.
 - b) Lack of integration of the stages of reclamation.
 - c) Poor selection for some reclamation areas.
 - d) Non-compliance with technical conditions for agriculture in the reclaimed projects.
4. Weakness of animal production, this is due to several factors which have prevented the arrival to the desired goals, including:
 - a) Lack of pasture fertility.
 - b) Drought of pastures
 - c) Fragmentation of animal production policies, that requiring an integrated plan for the development of livestock.
5. Inadequacy of pricing policies.
6. Negligence of the agri-food industries.
7. Agricultural marketing institutions failed to achieve its objectives.

BOX 1

Analysis of the strategies and goals of the agricultural development during successive transformation plans.

Strategies and Goals of Agricultural Development	Plan (1973-1975)	Plan (1976-1980)	Plan (1981-1985)
Achieving food self-sufficiency	<i>Marginal</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Increasing the agricultural sector's contribution to the Gross National Product (GNP).	<i>Necessary</i>	<i>Necessary</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Providing the consumer goods to individuals within the framework of self-sufficiency.	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Providing raw materials for agricultural industries.	<i>Marginal</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Improving the living standards of farmers.	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Increase the efficiency and productivity of the agricultural production factors.	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
The priority for the public sector.	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Adopting a credit policy.	<i>Marginal</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>
Adopting a subsidies policy.	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Adopting a price policy.	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Adopting a marketing policy.	<i>Marginal</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Adopting the Supporting Policy of Agricultural Cooperation.	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Adopting an agricultural mechanization policy.	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Adopting a policy of development coastal strip.	<i>Marginal</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Adopting an investment policy of water resources.	<i>Marginal</i>	<i>Marginal</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Attention to scientific research	<i>Marginal</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>
Administrative development	<i>Marginal</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Significant</i>
Achieving the spatial development balance	<i>Necessary</i>	<i>Necessary</i>	<i>Necessary</i>
Adopting a policy of imports substitution	<i>Marginal</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>Necessary</i>

6. Conclusion:

This paper briefly explained agricultural planning in Libya during the transition plans in terms of strategies, goals and policies. Also, illustrated the aspects of agricultural planning failure and clarified the main reasons behind the failure of agricultural planning to achieve agricultural development in Libya. It turns out that the main reasons behind the failure of agricultural planning lies in the poor management of the agricultural sector as a result of the control of the public sector and giving the absolute priority to implementing the programs and projects of agricultural development plans. Often, policies, programs and projects of agricultural plans were not well thought out in all its aspects, but were sometimes improvisational. Also, the planning process is an integrated process, in some cases, there are tremendous effort but managed and implemented by the workers do not have the necessary competence. In addition to, structural problems which relating to the inability to absorb modern methods due to the lack of specialists. For that agricultural planning was not able to develop and modernize the agricultural sector and increase its productivity. And therefore, agricultural planning was not able to achieve agricultural development in the country.

References:

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التخطيط الزراعي في ليبيا خلال خطط التحول

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المستخلص:

الهدف الرئيسي من خطط التنمية الاقتصادية هو تنويع الاقتصاد المحلي وإيجاد مصادر أخرى للدخل بدلا من الاعتماد على النفط فقط وتحقيق النمو في القطاعات غير النفطية. لهذا فان التنمية الزراعية اصبحت حجر الاساس لكل خطط التنمية في ليبيا حيث تبنت خطط التنمية مخطط عام للدفع بالزراعة و تحقيق التنمية الزراعية في البلاد. تهدف هذه الدراسة الي تسليط الضوء على ثلاثة محاور محددة والتي تشمل:

(1) تقديم خلفية شاملة حول التخطيط الزراعي في ليبيا خلال خطط التحول من حيث الاستراتيجيات والأهداف والسياسات.

(2) تحليل استراتيجيات وأهداف التخطيط الزراعي.

(3) توضيح الاسباب الرئيسية وراء فشل التخطيط الزراعي في ليبيا. وبعد ثلاثة عقود خطط التنمية لم تحقق ولم تظهر أي بوادر للتنمية والاقتصاد مازال في مرحلة حرجة. كذلك استراتيجية التنمية في ليبيا تميزت بسيطرة القطاع العام والذي كان عنصر رئيسي للنمو اضافة الي ان الاداء الاقتصادي يعتمد اساسا على قطاع النفط بينما الانتاج من القطاعات غير النفطية تتطور بوتيرة ضعيفة نسبيا.

الكلمات الدالة: خطط التنمية، خطط التحول، التخطيط الزراعي.

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