

Training In The Middle East

Advocates of the desirability of Arab poultry managers being trained in the Middle East rather than overseas should praise the FAO (Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations) for establishing a centre at Juweidah about 15 km south of Amman in Jordan.

This is the Regional Poultry Training and Development Centre for the Near East funded by the Italian Government with a grant of 3 million US dollars over a four-year period. Training courses began

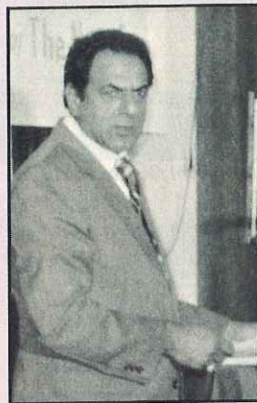
in March 1985.

Iraq born team leader Dr A.K. Al Khazraji, trained in the USA, is specialist in Nutrition.

Dr Talal J. Nassav is a veterinarian and has been seconded from the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture where he was head of Animal Health. The third member of the team is Italian Dr Livio de Nyary Comandini who specialises in poultry production. Each member has a Jordanian Counterpart so as to ensure the long-term continuation of the project.

Successful delegates are awarded Certificates of Merit. Courses are designed for both male and female operators who are already employed at managerial level jobs in their countries, the objective being to bring them up-to-date in developments and techniques necessary in the Middle East. This includes lectures, practical laboratory work and visits to feed mills, hatcheries and other plant. Courses are in Arabic and English.

Three training courses will be completed in 1986;



Dr Al Khazraji—Head of Training—Regional Poultry Training and Development for the Near East, Amman—Jordan.



Project Manager Dr Al Khazraji (right) with veterinarian Dr Nassar (left)—discusses farm management with a Jordanian at the Training Centre—April 1986.



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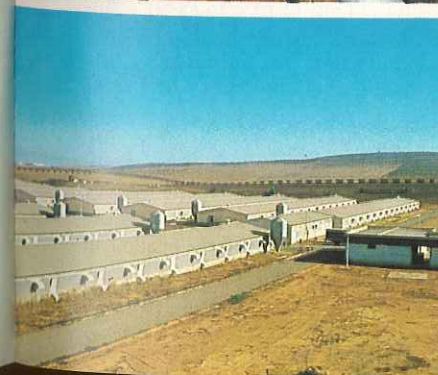
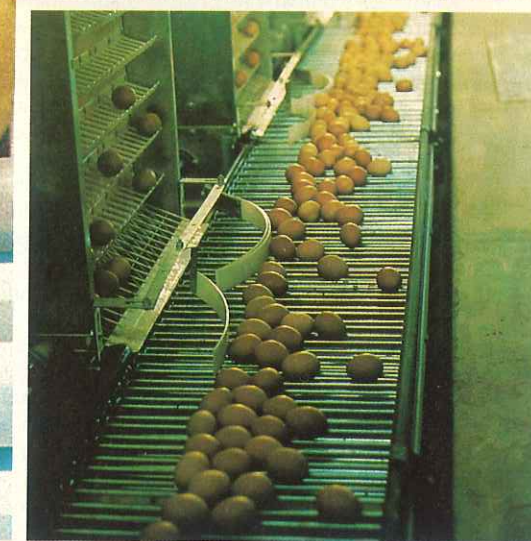
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The initial course in 1985 attracted participants from 13 countries. This was followed by the first Annual Regional Seminar with the emphasis and theme on poultry feeding. This was a workshop aimed at top professional executives. To date, participants at the course have come from: Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, Morocco, Syria, Pakistan, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Mauritania, Libya, Algeria, Bahrain, Yemen PDR and Yemen Arab Republic.

The second Regional Seminar will be in December 1986 and the theme will be "Changes And Challenges in the Poultry Industry in the Near East".

Several training courses are of 3 weeks duration and are directed towards intermediate technology level. In some cases, additional specialist staff are brought in from outside Jordan. For example, the Production and Management course will include lecturers from West Germany and Italy.

Countries sending representatives to Jordan are asked to defray travel and hotel expenses, the courses are provided free.

The centre (RPTDC) can also offer specialist consultancy services, when requested, by any of the associated member countries. Dr Khazraji says such requests have already been received from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and ACOLID (Arab Company for Livestock Development). The centre also offers its specialist services to private poultry companies in surrounding countries as, for example, the Jahlan Poultry Company in Yemen which has sent feed samples for examination and received a specialists' report with detailed back-up information.

Three spacious laboratories are used for training and for routine examinations. They contain the latest equipment for feed analyses and post-mortem examination with all required modern testing apparatus. The Centre co-operates with the Animal Health Institute in Amman and other Ministry Departments.

Aflatoxin has been a major problem in the Middle East. Course members are trained in its detection which is important as contamination as high as 15 ppb (parts per billion) have been recorded. Also, under examination is Ascites which can be caused, in some cases, from impurities associated with imported fishmeals as well as altitude effects.

The main work in the feed laboratories,

emphasises Dr Nassar, will be on feed analysis. Already many cases of incorrect energy to protein ratios have been identified. Justification includes least-cost formulation techniques and all aspects of poultry nutrition.

Dr Nassar completed his research studies on respiratory diseases with Dr Frank Jordan at Liverpool University, UK. He explains that mortality is still too high in the Middle East quoting Jordan's 4 to 5% losses in broilers and about 12% in layers. Coccidiosis is also a problem due to a continuation of below standard management, variability in housing and climatic differences in summer and winter. Training at the centre is designed to combat such problems.

Jordan is a progressive country in other respects. Two drug manufacturers, Vapco and Avico distribute their products around the Middle East. The government now produces vaccines for Newcastle Disease, and is investigating, with German co-operating, the manufacture of additional vaccines for Gumboro, IB, Marek's, ILT and Epidemic Tremor.

The Centre is also involved in research work and is investigating the utilisation of waste products for feeds which are becoming available from domestic industries in the Middle East. The addition of fat to feeds is under consideration.

Trials are starting feeding processed poultry manure to sheep in co-operation with the farm at Jordan University.

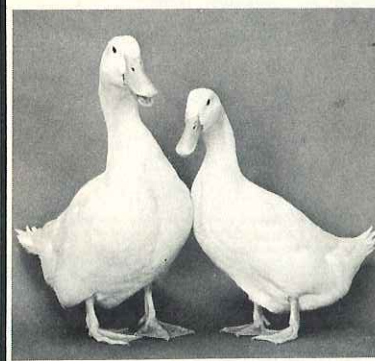
Extension work has started too with a collection of videos and booklets and various management guides. An example was given of 8 local Jordan broiler and layer farmers from the private sector who came to the Centre for a day of intensive training in management. This is already claimed to have beneficial influence.

Staff at the Centre are some of the busiest people in the Middle East for an additional task they perform is to visit supporting countries with the objective of setting-up similar training and development programmes as that in Jordan. Dr Comandini has recently been in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.

There is general acknowledgement of a serious shortage of well-trained poultry technicians with adequate practical experience on farms and in laboratories in most countries in the Middle East. This point is emphasised in the Centre's brochure which states: "The Objective of the Project in the long-term is to assist countries to increase their production of poultrymeat and eggs and, in doing so, the employment and incomes of rural areas."

Let's hope the Centre is successful. Present needs appear to be for more support so that the ambitious programmes set by its dedicated staff can provide the specialist training so urgently needed in the Middle East.—John Cook.

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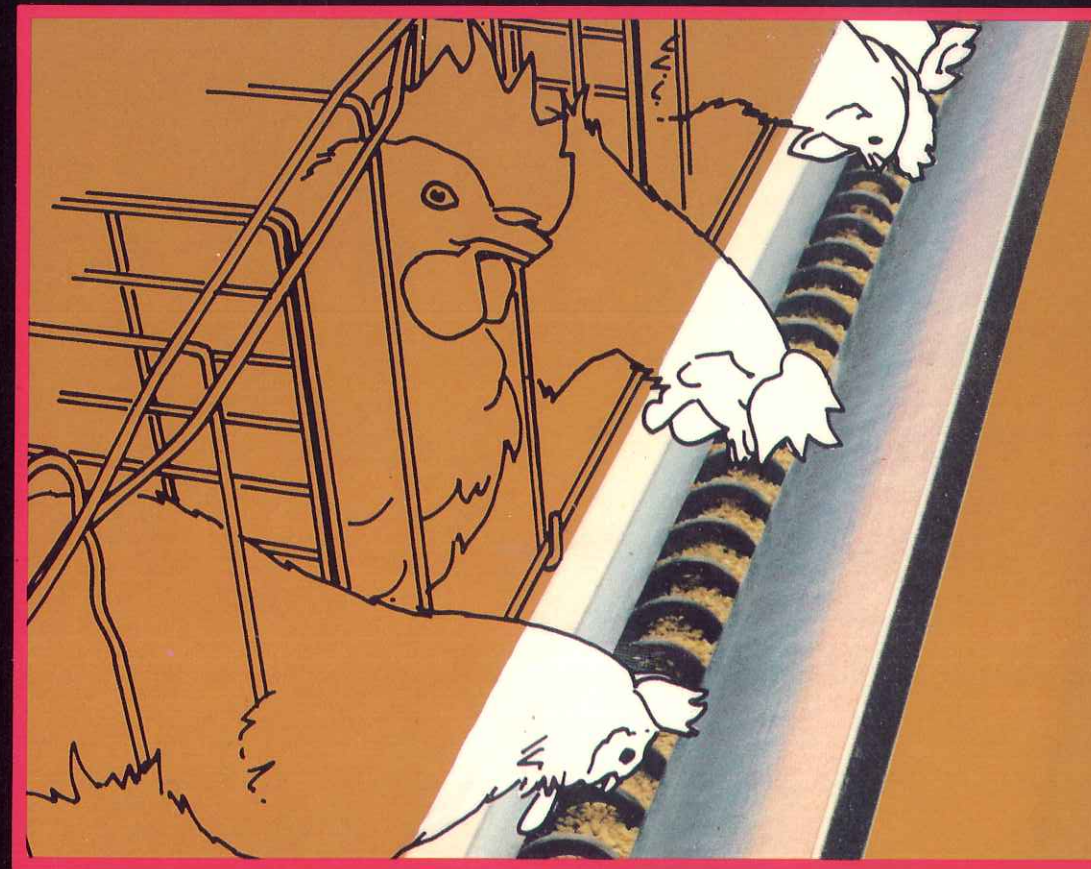
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