

growth of agricultural export earnings. Simultaneously, the share of the developing countries in the total volume and value of this trade contracted, and shipments from developed countries on 'special' or concessional terms, mainly to developing regions, assumed growing importance. Short term fluctuations continued, presenting an additional problem to developing economies."²

TABLE 1.—AGRICULTURAL PRIMARY PRODUCTS IN EXPORTS OF DEVELOPING REGIONS, AVERAGE 1959-61

Regions	Exports of agricultural products (millions) ^a	Exports of agricultural products as percentage of—		
		Total exports	Exports other than fuel	Exports of primary products other than fuel
Latin America.....	\$4, 877	57	79	91
Middle East.....	1, 105	22	78	81
Asia and Far East ^b	4, 783	64	70	94
Africa and developing countries n.e.s.....	3, 429	58	72	96
All developing regions.....	14, 194	53	74	92
Other regions ^c	24, 908	25	27	91
World total.....	39, 102	31	35	91

^a SITC secs. 0 (food and live animals), 1 (beverages and tobacco), 2 (crude materials, inedible, except fuels), and 4 (animal and vegetable oils and fats), excluding division 28 (metalliferous ores and metal scrap). This classification thus includes among agricultural products a number of raw materials of nonagricultural origin, among them synthetic rubber and fibers, crude fertilizers and crude minerals.

^b Excluding Japan, and Asian centrally planned economies.

^c Developed and centrally planned regions.

Source: FAO, Trade in Agricultural Commodities in the United Nations Development Decade, vol. I, pts. I, II, and III, 1964, p. I-4.

The conclusion that agricultural trade expands less rapidly than total trade has been noted in a number of studies made during the past third of a century. One of the latest comparisons, that of the FAO for 1959-61 compared with 1952-53 indicates that the volume of agricultural exports rose 36 percent while manufactured products rose 65 percent. Because agricultural prices dropped during this period the value of exports rose only 14 percent for agriculture, compared with 71 percent for manufactured goods.³ Since 1961 the unit value of agricultural commodities has risen almost at the same rate as manufactured products, but growth in agricultural exports continue to lag behind total exports, albeit by only a few percentage points. The reasons for such lags will be discussed in chapter III. Table 2 provides annual data to 1965.

On a comparative basis, the change between 1952-53 and 1959-61 was adverse to the developing nations. A 1964 FAO report⁴ comments:

"The growth of developing countries' export earnings was even slower than that of the volume of exports because of the widespread decline in the average export prices of agricultural products. For all products combined, the price fall amounted to 16 percent between 1952-53 and 1959-61. With a simultaneous increase of 4 percent in the average export prices of manufactured goods the purchasing power

² *Idem.*, p. I-10.

³ *Idem.*, p. I-10.

⁴ *Idem.*, p. I-14.