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The present and the future of the poultry industry in Egypt

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Egg production and consumption

Egypt was once an egg exporting country : in 1924 it exported more than 200 million eggs. This amount decreased annually until 1950 when there were no export.

Egg production in Egypt peaked at 1,053 million in 1944, but after the end of the Second World War, it began to decrease annually. After our revolution, and due to the efforts of the Land Reform Projects and the Ministry of Agriculture on the one hand and the universities on the other hand, production began to increase reaching 2,302 million in 1985. The number of eggs and the kilograms of poultry meat consumed per person is still low, as shown in **Table 3**.

Broiler production

Broiler production attracted the attention of many persons who tried to obtain high net returns and spend their spare time in a fruitful work.

There are now over thirty large private farms besides five large farms belonging to the General Poultry Company and three other big farms in Tahreer, Aswan and Ismailia. Each Governorate is going to establish a project to satisfy the needs of its inhabitants for eggs and meat.

The amount of white meat consumed by Egyptians was very low (3.3 kg), but it increased to 5.6 kg in 1985.

The future of the poultry industry

The problem of Egypt's increasing population has three interrelated dimensions :

- a) an increase of about 1.2 millions annually;
- b) poor distribution : 97% live in 4% of the total area;
- c) loss of 85km² of cultivated land annually and migration of people from rural areas to urban ones.

For these reasons, modern commercial strains for eggs (parent stock and layers), besides broiler parent stocks and broilers, are imported yearly. The native strains previously mentioned are reared by villagers and in Fayoum province.

The population in Egypt will exceed 65 million in the year 2000, and it is planned to raise the quantity of eggs consumed *per capita* to at least 107 eggs and that of meat to 15.7 kg. Since Egypt imports both grand parents or/and parent stocks to produce both layers and broilers needed to cover its needs, **Table 4** shows the numbers needed in the year 2000.