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Statement: Agricultural development in Algeria

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date April 23, 1976
Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALGERIA.

South Australia is to be involved in a major agricultural development in Algeria, which will provide new markets for the State's agricultural industries.

South Australian machinery and expertise will be used to build a 10,000 hectare demonstration farm and range regeneration research station and irrigation research station at Ksar Chellala.

A team of experts from private companies and the South Australian Government will visit Algeria soon to start a feasibility study on the project. The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said in Belgrade today that agreement had been reached between the Algerian and South Australian Governments last week.

The Director-General of Trade and Development, Mr. W.L.C. Davies, negotiated the project with Mr. Nadir Doumandji, the Director of Animal Production in the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of Algeria.

Under the agreement South Australia will immediately start work on the 10,000 hectare project which involves pasture improvement and farming techniques in terrain similar to the Burra-Morgan area of South Australia.

The Algerian Government is planning the 10,000 hectare project as part of a flow-on scheme to restore almost 850,000 hectares of low rainfall steppe lands to production.

"This agreement will open the way for many South Australian companies to do business in Algeria which they would not have been able to achieve by themselves", Mr. Dunstan said.

"If South Australia rises to the occasion the opportunities for local companies are very considerable. We must immediately prepare a programme for the development of the 10,000 hectares of dry land farming which will open the way to access in the very much larger developments planned by the Algerian Government.

"These projects will be of enormous value to the South Australian agricultural machinery industry, seed co-operatives, industrial housing firms, and construction engineers.

"The South Australian Government will ask Professional Consultants Asia Pty Ltd., a consulting group in which the South Australian Government has an interest, to send a team of experts to Algeria to start the feasibility study. P.C.A. will make use of the Department of Agriculture's expertise in dry land farming."

Mr. Dunstan said South Australia was already involved in a large scale dry land farming project in Libya. The South Australian Government's participation in the Libyan scheme has boosted the State's agricultural machinery industry and other rural service industries .

"South Australia's successful marketing of the State's unique dry land farming expertise will greatly benefit a wider range of industries involved in the rural sector", Mr. Dunstan said.