

The Implications of Agricultural Investment in the South for Achieving Food Security

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Abstract:

This article examines how agricultural investment in southern Algeria contributes to national food security, with a focus on land reclamation policies, investment incentives and the expansion of irrigated agriculture. Using a descriptive-analytical approach that combines a review of the legal framework with recent evidence on agricultural development in the southern wilayas, the paper discusses the main channels through which investment affects the pillars of food security (availability, access, utilization and stability). It argues that, while investment can strengthen domestic supply and reduce import dependency for strategic crops, durable food security requires complementary measures, including groundwater governance, value-chain infrastructure and stronger monitoring and evaluation. The article concludes with policy recommendations to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of agricultural investment as a lever for food security.

Keywords: Food Security; Agricultural Investment; Reclamation of Desert Lands; Self-Sufficiency.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the last few years, Algeria's southern regions have made a lot of progress in producing a wider range of agricultural goods and food industries. This change shows that the country is working to make sure everyone has enough food, raise the standard of living for its citizens, and encourage growth and development that lasts. Algeria has taken a number of steps and policies to reach this goal, with more and more public money going into the agricultural sector across the Sahara and the whole country (Hamamouche & Amichi, 2018, p. 107).

The state has started to put strategic plans into action and pass laws that will help them achieve food security. This is a goal that most countries around the world share, especially now that the economy is changing. Reclaiming desert land and turning southern areas into productive farmland have been key parts of these efforts.

The government has also come up with a number of ways to get people to invest in farming in the south and to restore desert land. Both of these things have helped improve the country's food security.

This study is important because it looks at the main laws, strategies, and policies that the Algerian government has put in place to encourage agricultural investment in the Sahara and how they affect food security.

This study seeks to delineate the concept of food security and evaluate its present condition in Algeria, while also identifying the key laws and strategies employed by the government to promote investment in the southern regions, along with the primary outcomes attained in this context. Accordingly, the following research question is raised:

What are the main policies adopted by Algeria to promote agricultural investment in the south in order to achieve national food security?

To address this inquiry, the study utilizes a descriptive-analytical methodology, collecting data and information to delineate the variables under examination, succeeded by a comprehensive analysis and interpretation of the results.

The discussion of the research question will be structured around two main parts:

- The conceptual framework of food security and agricultural investment in the south.
- The laws and strategies adopted by Algeria to support agricultural investment in the south for achieving food security.

1. The Conceptual Framework of Food Security and Investment in the South

This section addresses, first, the conceptual framework of food security, and second, the notion of investment in southern Algeria.

1.1 The Concept of Food Security

Food security means making sure that everyone in a community has enough food of good quality on a regular basis, based on what is grown in the area. This should be done in a way that is affordable for everyone and that they can access and benefit from it.

1.1.1 Definition of Food Security

Food security is commonly defined as a situation in which all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 2001).

In this sense, food security concerns not only the availability of food, but also people's ability to access and utilize it effectively, and the stability of these conditions over time.

1.1.2 Dimensions of Food Security

Food security encompasses several interrelated dimensions, including the following:

A. Food Availability and Utilization:

This means that all citizens and residents have access to enough food all the time and that they use it properly in a healthy diet (Mohammedi & Hafsaoui, 2023, pp. 173-175). How much food is available and how well it is used depends on how well local production can provide food through human, natural, financial, technological, investment, and agricultural resources. It also depends on how well the market systems and infrastructure work, such as transportation, processing, retailing, and storage (Bekdi & Bacha, 2016, pp. 39-40).

B. Stability:

Stability means that there will always be enough food, and that there won't be any problems that could cause food shortages (Mohammedi & Hafsaoui, 2023, p. 176), like economic downturns. It means that food is always available and never runs out. This aspect is also related to keeping a strategic food reserve that can meet the needs of citizens for at least three to six months (Bekdi & Bacha, 2016, p. 40) in case of emergencies like wars or droughts.

C. Accessibility:

Accessibility means making sure that everyone in society, even those who are marginalized or have special needs, can get food. The problem isn't just that there is food available; it's also that everyone should be able to get it and eat it fairly (Bekdi & Bacha, 2016, p. 40).

D. Food Safety:

Food safety is a very important part of food security and is one of the most important things that both domestic and international markets need. States are putting more and more emphasis on this area, especially because of growing worries about diseases that can be spread through food, like foot-and-mouth disease and mad cow disease. This has led to efforts to stop these diseases from spreading through a variety of preventive measures.

E. Food Utilization Practices:

This dimension talks about how to use food resources properly, such as how to store food safely, how to keep people aware of their eating habits, and how to keep food quality high.

F. Cultural Acceptance and Diversity:

This part stresses the importance of making sure that food distribution fits with cultural preferences, dietary needs, and social eating habits. It also assumes that people can afford these foods, which makes sure that diets don't lack important vitamins and minerals. So, each country needs to be able to import, store, distribute, and keep providing the foods that its people need.

1.1.3. Food Security Indicators

There are several key indicators of food security, the most prominent of which include (Pinstrup-Andersen, 2009, pp. 5-7; Barrett, 2010, pp. 825-828):

A. Self-Sufficiency Index:

This index shows how well a country can meet its people's food needs by making food goods at home and using its own resources (Bekdi & Bacha, 2016, p. 54). This means that it shows how well a society can become completely self-sufficient by using its own resources and skills to grow all the food it needs (Omrani, 2014, p. 56).

B. Food Affordability Index:

This indicator looks at how well people can buy food based on their income levels and the percentage of people living below the global poverty line. In short, it shows how well food prices match up with people's and families' incomes (Mekid & Ayad, 2018, p. 9).

1.2 The Concept of Investment in Southern Algeria

The government of Algeria wants to improve living standards and make sure people have enough food, so development in the southern regions has become one of its top priorities. Algeria has put in place a number of new policies and strategies to encourage agricultural investment in the southern provinces.

1.2.1 Definition of Agricultural Investment in the South:

Agricultural investment is when investors use available agricultural production factors, like reclaimed arable land, water resources, and capital, to grow a variety of crops and goods to meet consumer needs and market demand.

In a broader sense, agricultural investment is when an investor takes on risks and replaces money with productive assets. This means turning money into goods, machines, tools, and workers to farm land and make a variety of agricultural products for sale.

In southern Algeria, agricultural investment also includes growing different grains, raising animals, and using animal products like milk, wool, and meat. These things are very important for the growth of the national

economy and for making sure everyone has enough food (Ben Djoudou & Ben Amer, 2020, p. 99).

1.2.2 Requirements for Agricultural Investment

There are many requirements for agricultural investment, and figuring out what they are and how to use them well is what makes a country's economy grow and helps it reach food security. You can list these requirements like this:

A. Defining the Type of Agricultural Production

Finding out what kind of agricultural production is necessary for agricultural investment. Each country has its own plans and strategies for development that are meant to boost food production and make it a bigger part of national food security.

In this situation, Algeria has worked hard to reclaim large areas of desert land and has focused on finding certain types of crops that can be grown in the local environment. This was done by reclaiming land and making the environment better for farming.

Algeria has named a number of crops, including wheat, barley, grains, tomatoes, potatoes, sugar beets, and grapes, as important products for investment. These projects have been very successful. The country has decided to make sure that desert land reclamation projects are compatible with the needs of each crop. This has helped investment projects be much more successful.

B. Selection of Appropriate Agricultural Technologies

The use of the right technologies in farming is another important part of making a good investment. These technologies make sure that the crops grown in a certain area are in line with the area's climate and economy. Some examples are using better seeds, center-pivot irrigation systems, plastic greenhouses, and pest control chemicals. These technologies aim to create the best possible conditions for each crop, boost productivity, and lower risks (Ould Rebai et al., 2017, p. 3505; Aidat et al., 2023, p. 1439).

C. Agricultural Financing

One of the most important things that small-scale farmers need for agricultural investment is money for farming. The agricultural sector

always needs money to help with all parts of the process, from preparing the soil to harvesting, moving, and selling the crops. If farmers don't have enough money, the growing season could fail, so they need enough money to keep making things (Aidat et al., 2023, pp. 100-101).

D. Agricultural Marketing

Marketing is very important because prices change a lot in both local and international markets, and farmers don't have enough space to store their goods to meet demand. When prices are set only by the market, it can be hard for farmers to get a fair price for their goods. So, it's important to set up good marketing institutions, both at home and abroad, to make sure that farmers get fair and stable prices.

E. Agro-Industrial Development

The growth of agro-industries is a key need for agricultural investment. This process encourages both investment and production, which means that farmers are more likely to grow more crops and try new ones to meet the needs of industry. Changing fruits, vegetables, and dairy products into foods that people eat a lot helps agriculture grow and strengthens the connection between agriculture and industry (Ben Djoudou & Ben Amer, 2020, pp. 101-102).

1.1.3 Factors Facilitating Investment in Southern Algeria for Achieving Food Security

The southern provinces of Algeria have a lot of unique traits that make them different from the northern provinces. These include natural, political, and economic factors that have all worked together to make the south a good place to invest.

A. Natural Factors

The Algerian Sahara is strategically important because it covers a huge area—about 87% of the country's total land area. There is also a long border belt in the area that is more than 5,000 kilometers long (Hadia & Djamel, 2023, p. 894).

There are also two major overlapping groundwater basins in the area: the Terminal Complex and the Intercalary Continental Basin. Together, these basins make up one of the largest freshwater reserves in the world.

These aquifers can produce 5 billion cubic meters of water each year, but only 1.7 billion cubic meters are used each year.

The Algerian Sahara is thought to be one of the largest solar energy reservoirs in the world. This means it has a lot of potential for long-term growth in agriculture and industry (Hadia & Djamel, 2023, pp. 894-895).

The Algerian government has come up with a number of plans and strategies to make the most of these natural resources in order to encourage and support investment in the vast desert areas.

B. Political Factors

The overall climate of security and internal stability in Algeria, especially in the south, has been very important in getting both local and foreign investors to do business there.

C. Economic Factors

Algeria has passed many laws to encourage and make it easier for people to invest. The most recent of these is Law No. 22-18 on Investment, which gives both national and foreign investors a number of guarantees and incentives. This encourages investment and helps the economy grow.

2. Laws and Strategies Implemented by Algeria to Support Agricultural Investment in the South for Achieving Food Security

This section looks at the laws and institutions that were set up to help and pay for agricultural investment in southern Algeria. It also looks at the strategies and policies that the Algerian government has used to encourage agricultural investment in this area and how they affect food security.

2.1 Laws and Institutions Supporting and Financing Agricultural Investment in Southern Algeria

The Algerian government has passed many laws and rules and set up and strengthened institutions to support and fund agricultural investment in the southern regions. These steps are meant to get back desert land, make sure everyone has enough food, and become self-sufficient. The following are the most important legal and institutional frameworks:

2.1.1 Law on the Acquisition of Agricultural Property through Land Reclamation

Since gaining independence, the Algerian government has tried to organize and control the agricultural sector because it is so important to the economy. This has been done by passing different laws that are meant to encourage the reclamation of desert lands (Allal & Bouchkioua, 2023, p. 83). Land reclamation contracts or agricultural concession contracts can be used for this purpose. These contracts give investors a number of benefits, such as being able to get loans under Law No. 83-18 or Law No. 10-03, which deal with agricultural concessions and reclamation methods.

The ways to reclaim desert land are different in different places and under different weather conditions. Some places use center-pivot irrigation systems, which spray water into the air and let it fall on crops. Others use drip irrigation, which sends water directly to plant roots through small holes, which is more efficient in dry and semi-arid areas. Reclamation can also include electrification of farms, which gives some electricity to remote areas so that farmers can do things like irrigate small farms and set up watering points and other equipment for livestock. After the investor builds basic infrastructure, they start developing the land by planting trees or building agricultural buildings (Allal & Bouchkioua, 2023, p. 96).

To support desert land reclamation, the legislator enacted Law No. 83-18 of August 13, 1983, concerning the acquisition of agricultural property through land reclamation. According to Article 8 of this law, *“Reclamation is the process of making land that is not suitable for farming suitable for farming.”* (Law No. 83-18, 1983, art. 8, p. 34)

The Algerian Sahara is very big, so the government has made these desert areas a priority. They want to both make it easier for people to buy land through reclamation and boost national agricultural production (Law No. 83-18, 1983, art. 8, p. 896). Article 4 of Law 83-18 makes it clear that reclamation can be used to claim ownership of land in desert areas (Law No. 83-18, 1983, art. 8, p. 896).

Articles 6 and 7 go into more detail about how candidates can get ownership of land by following the rules and procedures set by the law for land reclamation programs (Law No. 83-18, 1983, art. 8, p. 896).

The Joint Ministerial Circular No. 402 of June 2, 2011, limited the use of this law to desert areas only. Before that, it had been used in other areas with similar characteristics (Joint Ministerial Circular No. 402, 2011).

Since independence, the Algerian government has focused on the Sahara and passed laws and decrees to encourage investment in the area. These laws and decrees are meant to turn desert land into fertile farmland. According to the rules set out in Law 83-18 and its complementary decrees, anyone or anything that is involved in such reclamation has ownership rights. This framework shows that Algeria is serious about encouraging investment, helping the country's agriculture, and making sure that people have enough food and can grow their own food.

2.1.2 The Land Reclamation Law through the Granting of Concession Rights

The agricultural concession is a contract between the state and a natural person of Algerian nationality, who will be referred to as an agricultural investor. The state gives the agricultural investor the right to use state-owned agricultural land and its surface assets. This right is granted for a maximum of forty (40) years, with the option to renew it by paying an annual fee. It is subject to certain procedures and conditions that are spelled out in a terms-of-reference document (Anonymous, 2024).

Law No. 08-16 of 3 August 2008, which deals with agricultural orientation, created this concession right as part of the government's plan to improve the agricultural sector. This was especially important because the national strategy was to promote agriculture as an alternative to oil. The state used this law to encourage project holders to carry out their plans by making it easier for them to get to agricultural land through concessions as part of land reclamation, following specific administrative, legal, and structural steps, especially in the southern provinces and the High Plateaus (Anonymous, 2024).

As a result, Law No. 10-03 of 15 August 2010 was passed to set the rules and conditions for using agricultural land that belongs to the state's private domain, as stated in Article 1 of the law (Law No. 10-03, 2010, art. 1).

Executive Decree No. 10-326 of 23 October 2010 was issued to put these rules into action. It laid out the steps for applying the concession right to agricultural lands that the state owns as private property (Executive Decree No. 10-326, 2010, art. 1, p. 11).

Joint Ministerial Decree No. 108, which was issued on February 23, 2011, also talked about how to set up businesses that grow crops and raise animals. Ministerial Circular No. 1839 of December 14, 2017, changed and added to this decree. It was about buying agricultural land that belongs to the state's private domain for the purpose of investing in land reclamation through concession (Executive Decree No. 10-326, 2010, art. 1, p. 11).

As part of these efforts to make laws and rules, the legislator passed Executive Decree No. 21-432 on November 4, 2021. This decree lays out the rules and conditions for giving land from the state's private domain to be reclaimed through the concession system. This decree stresses the need to start reclamation work within six (6) months of the issuance of the concession (Law No. 21-423, 2021, art. 11, p. 15).

2.1.3 Law No. 22-18 on Investment

This law, which went into effect on July 24, 2022, is about regulating investments. Its main goals are to help the land reclamation system in desert areas and to encourage more investment in Algeria in general. The law added a number of benefits and incentives to draw in both domestic and foreign investors.

Article 28 of the law makes it clear that only investments made under the special rules for southern regions and the High Plateaus are eligible for these benefits (Law No. 22-18, 2022, art. 28, p. 9).

In this case, Executive Decree No. 22-301, which was issued on September 8, 2022, listed the southern regions that the government wants to invest in first. These are:

Adrar, Illizi, Tamanrasset, Tindouf, Timimoun, In Salah, In Guezzam, Bordj Badji Mokhtar, Biskra, Béchar, El Oued, Ghardaïa, Laghouat, Ouargla, El M'ghair, El Menia, Ouled Djellal, Béni Abbès, and Tougourt (Executive Decree No. 22-301, 2022, p. 38).

2.1.4 Law No. 23-17 on the Conditions and Procedures for Allocating State-Owned Economic Land for Investment Projects

The goal of this law is to set the rules and conditions for giving out economic land that is part of the state's private property for investment projects. It aims to make sure that land resources are used properly, efficiently, and openly in order to encourage long-term investment and growth in the region (Law No. 23-17, 2023, p. 6).

2.1.5 Institutions Supporting and Financing Agricultural Investment in Southern Algeria

The Ministry of Agriculture has set up funding systems and banks to help with agricultural and investment projects as part of the Agricultural and Rural Renewal Program. The state budget gives money to these funds so they can keep up with changes in the agricultural sector, meet its changing needs, and make it easier for new technologies to be used (Rahmani, 2021, p. 164).

Among these mechanisms are:

A. The National Fund for the Development of Agricultural Investment

Ordinance No. 05-05, which includes the Finance Law of 2005, set up this fund as part of policies to help the agricultural sector. It took the place of the National Fund for Agricultural Regulation and Development, which was set up by Executive Decree No. 2000-118 on May 30, 2000. The goal of this earlier fund was to encourage farmers to invest in agriculture and make it more productive by giving them agricultural loans with low interest rates for short, medium, or long terms (Ordinance No. 05-05, 2005).

B. The Fund for Rural Development and Land Reclamation through Concession

Law No. 11-02 of December 24, 2002, made this fund. It took the place of the Special Fund for Land Reclamation. It pays for all costs related to land reclamation and rural development activities, giving money to programs that help rural areas and restore land all over Algeria (Law No. 02-11, 2002).

C. The National Fund for Rural Development

This fund was set up by the Finance Law of 2013 to help rural development and land improvement through concessions, fight desertification, support the pastoral economy, and help livestock breeders and small-scale agricultural investors.

D. The National Fund for Agricultural Development

The purpose of this fund is to pay for the production of plants (Law No. 12-12, 2012), animals, and crops, as well as to protect their health. It also gives money to the groups that are in charge of giving investment support for desert land reclamation projects (Law No. 22-18, 2023, p. 483).

2.1.6 The National Office for Agricultural Lands (Office National des Terres Agricoles)

Executive Decree No. 96-87 of February 24, 1996, set up the Office. It says that the National Office for Agricultural Lands should be created (Executive Decree No. 96-87, 1996).

It is a public organization that is both industrial and commercial, has its own legal identity, and is free to make its own financial decisions. The Office's job is to carry out the state's policy on agricultural land, acquire any agricultural holdings or lands as a government agency, and use the right of pre-emption in legally defined situations. It can also give land for direct agricultural use.

The Office has authority over all of the country's land, except for land that the Office for the Development of Industrial Agriculture in Desert Lands (ODAS) manages, which is not part of its mandate (Law No. 22-18, 2023, p. 484).

2.1.7 The Office for the Development of Industrial Agriculture in Desert Lands (ODAS)

Executive Decree No. 20-265, dated September 22, 2020, set up the Office for the Development of Industrial Agriculture in Desert Lands. The Office is in charge of doing in-depth, specialized, and technical research on big agricultural and agro-industrial investment projects. Its duties include judging projects based on expert reviews, giving qualification certificates to approved project holders for concessions, and helping these investors get the benefits they need until all of their project's operational tasks are

finished. The Office also makes sure that contracts and project implementation plans are followed (Anonymous, 2024).

2.2 Strategies and Policies Adopted by Algeria to Support Agricultural Investment in the South and Their Impact on Food Security

In the last few years, the Algerian government has come up with a number of plans, strategies, and policy measures to encourage agricultural investment in southern Algeria. The main goal of these efforts is to make sure that the country has enough food.

2.2.1 Plans and Strategies

Among the most significant investment plans and strategies are the following:

A. The Complementary Development Program for Tindouf

As part of this program, 4.6 billion Algerian dinars were set aside to make water services better in Tindouf Province. The government has approved the project, which includes building a wastewater treatment plant, increasing the capacity of the current water desalination plant, and setting up and connecting four wells in Hassi Abdallah. It also includes doing feasibility studies for a South–South water transfer project to bring clean water to southern areas (APS, 2024).

B. The Project for Transferring Groundwater from the Algerian Sahara

The state said it would start a project to move groundwater from the Saharan aquifers. In the short term, this project will let water from the Albion aquifer in the Qatran field flow to the Béchar region, which will help meet the water needs of farms and homes.

C. Agreement Between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Qatari Company *Baladna* for the Production of Milk Powder in the South

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said that they had signed a deal with Baladna, a Qatari agricultural company, to start an integrated agro-industrial project for raising cattle and making milk powder and other products from it. The project covers 117,000 hectares, which are split into three agricultural hubs in the South, with the most important one being in Adrar Province. It will have a farm for growing forage and grains,

a unit for breeding cattle and making meat, and a plant for processing milk powder. This project is expected to create a lot of jobs, increase the number of cattle in the country, provide red meat to local markets, and meet 50% of Algeria's national demand for milk powder through domestic production (Radio Algérienne, 2024).

D. Agreement Between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Professional Association of Banks and Financial Institutions

An agreement was signed to pay for investment projects and make food security better, especially in the southern regions' agriculture and the High Plateaus. The agreement is for five years but can be renewed. Its goal is to make it easier to get funding for agricultural and agro-industrial projects (Anonymous, 2023).

E. Settlement Procedures for Desert Land Reclamation Files by the End of January 2024

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is doing a lot of work to make sure that agricultural land reclamation files are all up to date by the end of January 2024. This process includes giving eligible beneficiaries ownership titles. The measure is expected to make things a lot easier for farmers and investors in the southern provinces, which will lead to more investment and growth in agriculture (Radio Algérienne, 2024).

F. Establishment of the National Seed Bank

The National Seed Bank opened on August 11, 2022, at the National Center for Seed and Seedling Control's main office (Anonymous, 2022). This bank stores plant seeds to keep their genetic diversity, make sure farmers can get them when they need them, and keep their biological integrity, nutritional value, and taste while protecting them from threats that could lead to extinction or degradation.

G. Utilization of Scientific Methods and Artificial Intelligence

The Algerian government has tried to put strategic plans in place to organize agricultural production. For example, it has set up committees made up of agricultural engineers to study the characteristics of arable land and help boost grain yields. These efforts focus on using new and advanced

technologies, especially those brought in by foreign investors, to increase fruit production. Examples include soilless cultivation and hydroponic farming (Anonymous, 2024, pp. 38-39).

Also, modern technologies and artificial intelligence have been used successfully in farming. The Algerian startup "Farm for Artificial Intelligence" came in second place in an international competition for its groundbreaking idea: a drone-based system for keeping an eye on crops that lets farmers spot and stop damage from fungal diseases before it happens. This new idea should greatly improve the productivity of farming, especially when it comes to growing wheat (Anonymous, 2024, p. 14).

H. Adoption of Investment Policies

The Algerian government has put in place a number of ambitious investment policies to reclaim hundreds of thousands of hectares in the southern provinces and turn them into integrated agricultural hubs that focus on growing widely eaten foods like grains, seeds, and legumes. Also, model farms have been turned into state-owned production units to encourage agro-industrial processing, boost productivity, and broaden the range of crops grown.

The state has also lifted the 2019 ban on bringing in agricultural machinery and spare parts from other countries, which will help farmers modernize their businesses. Also, the Executive Decree of November 4, 2021, was changed to improve food security, cut down on imports, speed up the start of major agricultural projects, and set up integrated agricultural hubs for growing grains, milk, oilseeds, sugar crops, cotton, and seed intensification.

The government also decided to pay all grain farmers who were hurt by droughts and floods in 37 provinces during the 2022–2023 season. They will also give them seeds and fertilizers. Producers didn't have to pay back their loans for three years, and the state paid the interest on the loans during that time. The government also restarted the project to build 16 metal silos that can hold 250,000 tons of grain, as well as 30 new strategic silos that can hold an extra 3 million tons of grain.

2.2.2 The Impact of Strategic Policies on Achieving Food Security

Recent assessments of food security performance, such as the Economist Impact Global Food Security Index, suggest that Algeria's position has improved in recent years, reflecting policy efforts to expand agricultural production and support investment in the southern regions (Impact, 2022).

Statistical data show that national production levels have gone up a lot, especially when it comes to meeting the country's food needs. Agriculture has also been very important for the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In addition, statistics show that the amount of land in the province of Timimoun set aside for growing wheat has doubled, and more investors are likely to enter the sector. As part of Algeria's plan to become more self-sufficient in staple crops, southern farmlands have been set aside for growing cereals. This is in line with the country's agricultural expansion.

Following orders from the executive branch, model farms have been turned into state-owned production units that focus on important crops like cereals, legumes, pistachios, argan trees, seed multiplication, and sunflowers. The goal of this change is to make things more efficient and make sure that agricultural output is sustainable.

The new state-owned public economic enterprise (joint-stock company) will be in charge of running 174 agricultural production units on a total area of about 114,393 hectares (Impact, 2022).

3. CONCLUSION

Algeria has made food security one of its top national priorities in the last few years. This problem is very important for the national economy because it has a direct effect on the safety, security, and stability of Algerian citizens. Algeria, like other developing countries, has done a full review of its plans to improve food security by starting a government program to change the country's political, economic, and social climate. The main goal has been to raise the standard of living and make sure that economic and social development continues in the long term.

Algeria knew it had to face and overcome the food security crisis right away, given the country's weather, economy, and international

situation. As part of this effort, the government came up with a plan that focused on the southern regions at first. The plan included investing in and reclaiming desert land. This included changing land concession contracts so that qualified candidates could use state-owned land for agricultural development.

The Investment Law was also passed to encourage and reward investors by providing guarantees and good conditions for both national and foreign participants. Algeria has also signed a number of international agreements to encourage investment and has put in place a number of plans and strategies to help investors in the south, which have led to some impressive results, such as:

- A big rise in the amount of durum and soft wheat grown in the south, along with more land being farmed, especially in Timimoun Province.
- There have been big changes in the last few years, such as the opening of big markets for selling both seasonal and off-season fruits and vegetables. One of the biggest is the El Oued Province agricultural market, which is one of the country's most important trading hubs.
- The change of model farms into production units that only grow legumes, grains, and seeds.
- A focus on improving livestock, which includes giving them food, vaccines, and ways to control diseases.
- Farmers will still get help with feed and fertilizer.

Algeria has made great strides in agricultural productivity in recent years thanks to this all-encompassing program. Even though these strategies and reforms have helped the country get past some problems, more long-term steps are still needed, such as:

- Adding artificial intelligence to farming and investing, such as using robots in smart farming to make up for a lack of workers, especially in the south.

- Building smart farms with technology and digital tools to help with crop management, irrigation control, and getting rid of wasteful water use.
- Making sure that everyone can see data and information about available agricultural and investment zones through digital platforms. This lets people look at opportunities, take part in tenders, and rate projects with the most potential for development.
- Keeping policies stable so that strategies can be accurately evaluated and their long-term effects can be seen.
- Making it easier for investors to deal with the government so that agricultural projects can be carried out more smoothly and quickly.

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