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## Development Of Strategic Agriculture in Algeria: Efforts and Challenges (Analytical study)

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### Abstract:

The study aimed to highlight the various efforts made by Algeria to develop strategic agriculture on the one hand , and to highlight the obstacles and challenges it faced on the other. To achieve this, we addressed the following questions: What efforts have been made to develop strategic agriculture in Algeria? What are the challenges facing them? To achieve this, we used the descriptive and analytical approach as it is appropriate to the subject under study. The study concluded that the interest in strategic agriculture has prompted Algeria to implement several agricultural and rural development plans; in addition to opening partnerships with the local and foreign private sector. However, despite these efforts, many challenges remain, especially those related to the qualified and technical human resources.

**Key words:** Strategic Agriculture, Algeria.

### Introduction:

Agriculture is one of the main economic sectors, it contributes to meeting food needs of all kinds on the one hand and is a source of income and a generator of employment opportunities on the other. In view of the increasing number of the world's population, it is necessary to increase agricultural production in order to achieve food security. In order to develop the agricultural sector, Algeria has directed its attention to the development of the strategic agriculture division because of its positive impact on the food and economic security of the country, hence we ask the following question:

**What efforts are being made to develop strategic agriculture in Algeria What are the challenges you are facing?**

### ✓ Sub-questions:

- Which crops are classified as strategic crops in Algeria?
- What are the agricultural components in Algeria?
- What are the obstacles that limit the development of strategic agriculture?

✓ **The importance of research** : the importance of research is highlighted by the importance of the treated topic, which is represented in strategic agriculture, as it is considered the Haven that Algeria has resorted to in order to achieve food security, increase exports and reduce imports.

✓ **Research objectives**: through this study, we aim to identify various natural and human components, including those that are the base and the main support for the establishment of an agricultural sector in Algeria, and we also aim to highlight the various programs, concessions and contracts allocated by Algeria for the development of strategic agriculture.

✓ **Research methodology**: to achieve the study, we used the descriptive-analytical approach, by describing the phenomenon under study and studying and analyzing various aspects associated with it.

## **1. Definition of strategic agriculture and its types:**

### **1.1 Definition and types of Agriculture:**

The term "agriculture" refers to agricultural activities such as crop cultivation, animal husbandry, forestry, fisheries management, land and Water Resources Development. Broadly, agriculture means activities related to the manufacture of agricultural inputs and machinery, regional and River Development, Rural Development, as well as agro-industry (<https://www.unescwa.org>, 2024).

The term agriculture or farming also means the process of producing food, feed, fiber and other goods by means of systematic breeding of plants and animals (Ministry of Environment, 1441H, P.2).

The definition of agriculture as a science is considered a relatively recent definition, since agriculture was considered in the old days as just a process of sowing seeds in the soil and then leaving them to grow under natural conditions until it is time to harvest them. (Belkhir, Shanin, 2025, P. 59).

The types of Agriculture include: field agriculture( rice, wheat, barley), pastoral agriculture (such as sheep, cows, chickens, in order to benefit from them and their meat), mixed agriculture( includes field and pastoral agriculture together). Other divisions of agriculture are organic farming and sustainable agriculture.

Among the agricultural products there are what are known as crops or strategic crops, and therefore what is meant by them? And what are their types?

### **1.2 Strategic plantings: definition, types and importance:**

Strategic agriculture is defined as crops that are considered one of the basic and irreplaceable food pillars, to which the state pays great attention, and seeks to provide them at affordable prices and accessible to everyone, through research efforts and the development of new varieties, resistant to unfavorable conditions for agriculture. (Fethi, 2024).

Types of strategic agriculture in Algeria: the list of strategic agriculture in Algeria includes: grain cultivation, feed cultivation, oil plant cultivation, sugar beet cultivation, milk production, meat production, cotton and seed intensification.

As for the importance of strategic agriculture, it is manifested in:

- Providing food and easy access to it for all members of the community.

- It is considered an essential element in the production of many food products .
- The production of strategic agriculture reduces the import bill.
- It works to provide jobs and employment opportunities in the agriculture sector and in related sectors.
- Sustainable and adequate domestic production strategic crops minimizes the risks of food crises caused by fluctuations in world markets.

## **2. Agricultural components in Algeria:**

There are a number of factors that control the agriculture sector in Algeria, and by improving them, peasant incomes improve and diversify .These factors vary between natural and human, namely:

**2.1. Natural factors:** these factors are related to the geographical location of the country, which makes the soil, air and water of the country a driving force for the agriculture sector, or destructive for it. The most important of these factors are:

**2.1.1.Climate:** it is one of the most important natural factors that influence and control the success of the agriculture sector, and in determining the different types of crops and their cultivation areas. The most important elements of climate that affect agricultural production are: temperature, amount of precipitation, wind, light, humidity, snowfall, Frost..Algeria, due to its distinctive geographical location, is characterized by climatic diversity, where it prevails:

**Characteristic of the Mediterranean climate:** it stretches along the northern coastal strip of the country overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. This climate is characterized by hot and dry summers, mild and humid winters. And the temperature sin summer it ranges between 25-30 degrees Celsius, and in winter between 10-15 degrees Celsius, it is also characterized by heavy rainfall in winter. In general, the rainfall amounts are moderate throughout the year, ranging from 400-800 mm.

**The climate is Continental:** the Central Highlands and the interior regions prevail. It is characterized by a summer with high temperatures that may reach 40 degrees Celsius, while the winter is cold, the temperature may reach below zero. As for the rainfall, it is less than the coastal areas, ranging from 200-400 mm per year. Rains are concentrated in autumn and spring.

**The reason for the desert climate:** southern Algeria prevails, characterized by very high heat in summer, exceeding 50 degrees Celsius in some areas, and in winter the nights are very cold. It is also characterized by the rarity of rains so that in many regions they do not exceed 50 mm per year.

**2.1.2.Water Resources:** Water is an essential element of life for all organisms and therefore for plants, it is necessary for the continuation of their growth and ripening of their fruits, and as mentioned above, the diversity of the climate in Algeria led to different rainfall between the North, Center and South, which in turn led to a difference in the volume of water resources distributed across the entire national territory. The source of water resources can be divided into:

### **2.1.2.1. Natural sources of water resources:**

**Surface water:** it is the water resources that are located above the surface of the earth, they may be trapped in dams or water quarries and may be in the form of rivers and valleys.

Its level is associated with the amount of rain and snowfall. (Bohson, 2019, P .20). Surface water resources are estimated at about 13 billion m<sup>3</sup>, and they are divided into 17 slope basins, divided into three types: (Bresh, PP. 13-14):

- The basins of the Atlas Mountains with an area of about 130 thousand km<sup>2</sup>, and it extends to about 12 billion m<sup>3</sup>, and the average rainfall varies between 400-1500 mm/year.
- The basins of the Upper Plains have an area of about 100 thousand km<sup>2</sup>, and it extends to about 750 million m<sup>3</sup>, and the average rainfall varies between 300-400 mm/year.
- Desert basins with an area of about 100 thousand km<sup>2</sup>, and it extends to about 700 million m<sup>3</sup> and the average rainfall varies between 100-300 mm/year.

The total volume of **ground water** that can be exploited in Algeria is estimated at 7 billion m<sup>3</sup> per year, and it is distributed unevenly: 28.07% of groundwater is located in northern Algeria, where more than 70% of the population lives. And 71.43% of groundwater is located in the south of Algeria.

Currently, more than 90% of the groundwater located in the North is exploited, equivalent to (1.8 billion m<sup>3</sup> /year)of renewable water annually through falling rains, and 75% of the groundwater resources are concentrated in the major aquifers such as: mitija, brood, Al-sumam, Annaba plain, the upper Al-Setif plateaus.

As for the Sahara, it abounds with an important reserve of groundwater up to a depth of about 2000 meters, except for the Adrar area, the depth ranges from 200 to 300 meters, and the water reservoir in the Sahara extends over an area of more than 1 million km<sup>2</sup> shared by Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, containing an estimated amount of 31,000 billion m<sup>3</sup>.(Yazid, 2022/2023, PP. 14, 15).

**Rivers:** there are two types of rivers in Algeria, including those that flow into the Mediterranean Sea, and they are characterized by the abundance of water because they are located in the northern region.

Others flow into basins, which are expressed by lines or sabkhas, and they are called internal drainage valleys, in addition, they are sudden rivers that often cause natural disasters. The most important valleys in Algeria are: Oued tafna, Oued Chlef, Oued Kharata, Oued El KASB, Oued el Hammam, Oued Mina, Oued El Ghis, Oued Amzi and Oued El Abid. (Grib, 2021/2022, PP . 78,79)

**Rainwater:** The volume of annual precipitation of rainwater in Algeria is estimated at 12.4 billion m<sup>3</sup> annually, where 90% of this precipitation is concentrated in hilly areas. While the 10% of the precipitation is concentrated in the sloping basins of the upper plateaus. In the desert, precipitation is almost non-existent, but it contains large fossil groundwater resources .Thus, the rainfall rates are characterized by instability from one region to another and from one season to another, the highest percentage of precipitation is found in the Eastern Hill Atlas region and ranges between 1000 and 1600 mm, and the lowest of these percentages is witnessed in the south-west region (desert), which does not exceed 50 mm in the best case (Osmani, 2022, PP. 83-85)

#### **2.1.2.2. Unnatural water sources:**

the failure of natural sources of water resources to provide the necessary quantities of water, prompted the authorities to search for an unconventional water source to obtain drinking water and watering, and it is divided into two parts: Desalination of sea water:

**desalination of sea water:** was not new on the Algerian agenda, Algeria began to invest in various desalination technologies in the sixties of the twentieth century, but most of them were intended for industrial use, especially for the oil and gas industry, while relying on rainwater and other water sources mentioned earlier to provide water for consumption and irrigation. It was the first attempt made by the government to solve the water crisis after the drought that hit the country in 1986 by setting up 21 small desalination plants. But this action met with little success, due to the poor planning of the program and the lack of experience and training of the staff.

In order to activate and successfully implement this technology, the Ministry of Water Resources conducted in 2002 the general desalination survey, a study aimed at determining a strategy for desalination in the short, medium and long term. The study focused on 20 states, and studied the feasibility of large-scale desalination plants with a capacity ranging from 25,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day to 150,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day to cover water shortages, based on domestic, industrial and agricultural needs. AEC and ADE have implemented the new desalination program launched by the Ministry of Water Resources. This program included the construction of sixteen giant stations with a daily capacity ranging from 100,000 M<sup>3</sup> to 500,000 m<sup>3</sup>, and most of these projects were located in the Tal region, where about 80% of the population is concentrated, according to the Algerian National Bureau of Statistics.(Juan Piedra, 2019, PP. 8.9).

As for the current status of desalination, the director general of the National Agency for desalination pointed out that Algeria has 26 exploited seawater desalination plants and 35 groundwater desalination plants, 31 of which are located in the south of the country. He also pointed out that an action plan has been developed from the national strategy with the ultimate goal of securing water resources from seawater desalination systems in the short term (2021-2024) by completing 5 large stations in each of Tarif, Bejaia, boomerdas, Tipaza and Oran. In the medium term (2027-2025), 7 new stations will be completed to reach the target of 5.61 million m<sup>3</sup> per day by 2027. (<https://www.apn.dz/>, 2025)

Another urgent program has also been developed, which provides for the construction of six new desalination plants. The director general of the Algerian energy company explained that this scheme would increase the total number of desalination plants to 25 by 2030. This additional program has been entrusted to Algerian companies, including four subsidiaries of the Sonatrach group and cossidar channels. He also explained that the completion of the urgent and supplementary program will increase the total capacity of drinking water production from 2.11 million to 3.76 million cubic meters per day.( Belmahi · 2024)

**The purpose of wastewater treatment:** this water includes municipal and industrial wastewater, agricultural wastewater, and flood drains after being treated to be suitable for the desired purpose.(Grib, 2021-2022, P.92).

The actual efforts in the field of completion of filtration and disinfection facilities were launched at the beginning of the Eighties, as some 70 of the purification plants were completed after this date, but these stations are disabled and neglected, due to several reasons, the most important of which is the absence of management competencies and qualifications, and the lack of adequate financial funding in the field of exploitation, according to the report of the European Economic Community on the conditions of water purification plants in Algeria.(Pohson, 2019, P . 25)

In order to optimize the use of wastewater, the National Bureau of disinfection was established on April 21, 2001 under the supervision of the Ministry of irrigation, tasked at the national level with the exploitation, maintenance, renovation, extension and completion of disinfection facilities

and structures. The SAI defined a development in 2002, where it ensured the management of the public service for disinfection for 145 municipalities, reaching the management of 1162 municipalities by the end of 2023, and this through 283 disinfection centers, a drainage network with a length of about 355 66 km, more than 80% of the national network, for more than 30 million people. The National Bureau of disinfection is also operating 565 lifting/pumping stations, with an average estimated volume of 30 million m<sup>3</sup> per month. In addition, the National Bureau of disinfection uses 174 disinfection stations, with a total capacity of approximately 12 colors of residential equivalent(1.82 million m<sup>3</sup> per day.( <https://www.apn.dz>)

**2.1.3 agricultural lands:** the land and what it contains is considered one of the basic and important factors or components, it is divided into:(Ministère de l'agriculture et du Développement Rural, 2019, P.96) ( Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural, JANVIER 2021, P. 6)

**2.1.3.1. Total agricultural area (SAT):** includes arable land that is already exploited in addition to pastoral land, Meadows and unproductive land belonging to farms. The area of these lands was estimated at 43.5 million hectares, which is 18.2% of the area of Algeria in 2016, to increase this percentage to 18.5% in 2018, an area estimated at 44.00 million hectares. They include:

**Pastures and pastures:** lands that have not been cultivated for at least 5 years are used for grazing animals.

**Non-productive land belonging to farms:** these lands include farms, buildings, squares, lesson work areas, paths, canals, ravines, etc...).

**The right Agricultural Land (S.A.U):** it is the land on which crops have been grown for at least 5 years, or it is currently not being used agriculturally.

Or are the areas of land classified as arable land, whether it is actually used in agriculture or not currently used agriculturally(Arab Organization for agricultural development, 2023). These include: (Makresi, bouakaz, 2023, P. 74)

- **The area of agricultural seasonal crops:** represents the area grown per year multiplied by the number of crops that rotate during that year, whether it is related to quarterly, annual or multi-year plantings.

- **The area of permanent crops:** it is the area that is planted with one crop per year permanently, such as fruit trees and natural Meadows.

- **Rest area:** it is the agricultural area that is exploited in one or some seasons, either because of insufficient water or its rest to restore its productive capacity or for other reasons, provided that the rest period does not exceed five years or it is considered a type of pasture land.

**2.3.1.2. Allied lands:** the land on which the Allied plant grows naturally in huge sheets on the high plateaus from the Moroccan border to the Tunisian border. The area of these lands was estimated at 2.47 million hectares in 2019, which is 1.0% of the total area.(Ministère de l'agriculture et du Développement Rural, JUILLET 2021, P. 6)

**2.1.3.3. Forested land:** consisting of forests and arid lands, the area of forested land is about 4.1 million hectares, which is 1.7% of the regional surface area.

**2.1.3.4 Unproductive land not intended for agriculture,** which is unproductive land that is not arable or grazing (sand dunes, rocky lands, covered with built-up areas, roads, rivers, etc.); its area is estimated at about 187.6 million hectares, equivalent to 78.8% of the regional area.

## 2.2.The peasant labor force:

the peasant labor force refers to the total number of people working in the agriculture sector, and the following table shows the development of the peasant labor force in Algeria:

**Table no.01: the development of the peasant labor force in Algeria unity: thousand inhabitants**

year	The total workforce	Agricultural workforce
2003	11585	2779.00
2004	12027	2801.00
2017	10858.00	2608.77
2018	12400.00	2648.98
2019	12700.00	2693.66
2020	12102.76	2650.00
2021	12260.83	2650.00
2022	13023.24	2650.00

**Source:** Arab Monetary Fund 2023, P. 57

From Table No. 01, We note that the number of workers in the agriculture sector represents a small percentage of total employment, and a decline was recorded, as the number of workers in the agriculture sector moved from 2779 workers in 2003 to 2650.00 workers in 2022. The decline in the proportion of the agricultural workforce can be explained by the weakening of the attraction factors for working in agriculture, which was a direct result of a combination of factors, including: the increasing degree of dependence on agricultural machinery in various agricultural production processes, as well as a decrease in the income of the agricultural worker in comparison with the income obtained from other areas of work.

## 3. Efforts to develop strategic agriculture in Algeria:

Algeria considers strategic agriculture as a haven that enables it to reduce the import bill and achieve food security, so it has worked on developing plans and partnerships and providing facilities to farmers in order to develop this type of Agriculture, which can be highlighted as follows:

### 3.1. National plans for the reform of the agricultural sector for the period 2000-2024:

**3.1.1.The national plan for agricultural and Rural Development:** is a mechanism aimed at upgrading technical training and financial and systemic support, in order to reach the construction of a modern and efficient agriculture through conservation, protection, rational exploitation of Natural Resources, Land Reclamation and better exploitation of existing capacities.(Sifi, 2014, P.165).

In 2000, the scheme was launched, and in 2002 it was expanded to include rural development, through improving agricultural services in rural areas, and supporting the poorest rural residents to improve their living conditions, especially in the interior, mountains, high plateaus, and the South, whose population suffers from poverty and deprivation as a result of low peasant incomes and the inability of agricultural activity to meet their needs, in addition to the deterioration of agricultural

investments(Bouzyan, Shabaiki 2018, P.121). The purpose of this scheme is to: (hachlaf, 2015/2016, P. 23):

- Protection of Natural Resources and their rational and permanent use.
- Encouraging and promoting agricultural investment with the aim of improving productivity and increasing the volume of agricultural production.
- Improving the conditions and income of peasants, as well as their competitiveness, integrating them into the national and global economy, in addition to liberalizing private initiatives at the level of supply, disposal and production costs.

This plan included a set of programs that singled out, on the one hand, the whole country and, on the other hand, all peasant activities. These programs were represented in: the program of intensification of production and productivity improvement, the program of intensification of production systems, the program of land reclamation by concession, the national program of afforestation in order to protect soils from desertification and erosion.

**3.1.2 agricultural and Rural Renewal Program:** the agricultural and Rural Renewal Program (PRAR) is a new vision of the Algerian government to revive the agriculture sector within the framework of the five-year development plan for the period 2010-2014, its implementation was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in 2009. It is based on the agricultural guidance Law issued in August 2008, which defines its parameters and general framework with the aim of enabling National Agriculture to contribute to improving the country's food security and achieving sustainable development(Nacer, 2016, P.418). This policy is based on three main pillars(Dandan, 2015/2016, PP. 58-60):

Focus on the economic dimension and the return of the sector to ensure the country's food security permanently, and aims to: strengthen production capacities, increase the production of crops and strategic products, strengthen and expand the scope of the new regulatory system for products with wide consumption .The agricultural sector has been allocated a financial envelope estimated at about 600 billion dinars over the five years 2010-2014, worth 120 billion dinars annually for agricultural renewal programs.

This policy aims to ensure the permanent management of Natural Resources and ensures local actors in the field with the following actions: protection of sloping basins, management and protection of forest wealth, combating desertification, protection of natural spaces and protected areas and land reclamation. The government's approval of the plan came in the context of continuing the goals set for the advancement of the Algerian countryside, where local projects for Integrated Rural Development were opened, including: modernization and rehabilitation of villages with the diversification of economic activities in rural areas, protection and promotion of Natural Resources and tangible and intangible rural wealth.

This pillar came as a response to the obstacles faced by actors to integrate into the implementation of the new policy, and this is in relation to the element of knowledge and control of modern production technologies .This program focuses on two main sections:

- Enhancing human capabilities, and this is through their training, training and skills development.
- Providing technical and administrative assistance to agricultural production units in order to improve production performance, and assisting economic strategic units in order to enhance their production capabilities.

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### 3.1.3 agricultural and Rural Development Roadmap (2020-2024) (<https://gloriousalgeria.dz>)

in order to consolidate the principle of making agriculture an essential engine of growth, a roadmap for agricultural and Rural Development for the period 2020-2024 has been prepared based on a number of axes, as follows:

- Development of agricultural production through the expansion of irrigated area and rationalization of the use of agricultural land.
- Increase production and productivity.
- Agricultural and Rural Development in mountainous, steppe and agro-pastoral regions.
- Development and promotion in desert areas.
- Integration of knowledge and digitization in development programs.
- Preservation, Development and promotion of Forest Heritage.

To implement the development plan, two programs have been developed: a short-term program dedicated to the development of desert agriculture, through the expansion of areas with capacities and the development of industrial crops (such as corn, soybeans, sugar beet). The establishment of the National Bureau for the development of industrial agriculture in the desert lands. Another program is of an ongoing nature. The road sheet is based on a number of foundations:

- Sending structured investment and strategic development of people, especially grain, rationalizing public expenditures, reducing the import bill and valuing agricultural products .
- The inclusion of capital in agriculture, digitization, support for innovation and the promotion of small enterprises, improve incomes in the rural world and provide social and professional framing features for peasants.
- The development of industrial agriculture through integrated valuation, especially the production of food oils (peanuts and soy..), Sugar (sugar beet), corn and others, as they are considered strategic divisions that have implications for the national economy in terms of import.

**3.2 strategic Agriculture Development Corporation "DCAS"** (<https://dcas.dz/>) it is a public Joint Stock Company subject to the provisions of the Commercial Code. It is the result of the restructuring of the former agricultural products valuation group "GVAPRO" by Resolution No. 01/183 issued by the state Shareholders Council on March 6, 2024. The restructuring comes within the framework of the implementation of the decisions of the Council of Ministers dated February 18, 2024 , and the implementation of the decisions of the president of the Republic, which concern:

- Change the name and purpose of the former experimental farms
- Transformation of former experimental farms into state production units specializing in the development of strategic crops.

### 3.3. Agreements for the development of strategic agricultural divisions in Algeria:

Algeria, in its pursuit of the development of strategic agriculture, has concluded many agreements, the most important:

- **An agreement with the National Bureau of disinfection ONA and an agreement with the National Bureau of irrigation and water drainage ONID:** the two agreements aim to provide the necessary water for irrigation of agricultural units allocated for Strategic agriculture across the

country. The two agreements ensure that the use of water-saving methods in watering operations is valued. According to the minister of irrigation, the treatment of dirty water will make it possible to irrigate 66 thousand hectares out of 114 thousand hectares, which represents the total area of the 174 agricultural units of the strategic agricultural development corporation.(Arabe.capdz.dz, 2024).

- **Framework and partnership agreement between EPE-DCAS strategic Agriculture Development Corporation and PMAT agricultural equipment marketing company:** on September 05, 2024, Mr. Youssef Sharfa (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development) and Mr. Ali Aoun (Minister of industry and pharmaceutical production) supervised the signing ceremony of a framework and partnership agreement between strategic Agriculture Development Corporation, agricultural equipment marketing company, Badr agriculture and Rural Development Bank, as well as the CNMA National Fund for agricultural cooperation to finance and modernize agricultural production units (formerly model farms).

This agreement falls within the framework of enhancing and modernizing agricultural equipment to meet the requirements of agricultural schemes approved by the agricultural production units, which entered into force starting from the 2024-2025 agricultural season.

This partnership contributes to the promotion of national production through the modernization and development of dedicated agricultural equipment and enhancing its effectiveness in line with the technical standards required by the crops included in the national plan for the development of strategic agriculture, which the sector is working to embody in the field. This agreement comes after the one that was signed at the end of August of the year 2024 between the EPE-DCAS strategic Agriculture Development Corporation and the agro logistics AGROLOGO fund complex CNMA National Agricultural Cooperation for the production of white meat and red meat directed to the formation of strategic stocks to control the national market. (<https://www.industrie.gov.dz>, 2024).

- **A framework agreement between the strategic Agriculture Development Corporation and the National Bureau of sanitation (ONID)** was signed on Thursday 09/01/2025 and aims to set the practical conditions for commercial cooperation between the two parties, this is for the services to be implemented by the National Bureau of sanitation for the benefit of agricultural production units (UAP) of the strategic Agriculture Development Corporation.( <https://dcas.dz> ,2025)

- **Signing of two Cooperation and technical assistance agreements between ITGC and DCAS subsidiaries as well as INPV:** within the framework of the development of strategic agricultural crops at the level of agricultural production units of the strategic Agriculture Development Corporation, the aforementioned two agreements were signed, which aim to monitor the yield of oilseeds "rapeseed" and legume crops at the headquarters of the strategic agricultural crops development company "DCAS".(<https://dcas.dz>, 2024)

**3.4 agricultural projects related to strategic Agriculture:** many projects have been completed, including: (<https://algerie-eco.com>, 2024)

- **The project "our country"** for the production of powdered milk in Adrar (117 thousand hectares and 3.5 billion dollars).

- **The project of the Italian group "Best Food" (BF)** for the production of cereals and legumes in timimon (36 thousand hectares and 420 million euros).

And there are many other structural projects that are currently at the launch stage, including:

- **A project of the Cevital Group in the states of MENA, Ouargla and Ghardaia**, which extends over a total area of more than 285 thousand hectares, for the production of sugar beet and a conversion unit with a capacity of 505 thousand tons per year, as well as the production of other strategic crops.

- **A project of the "tavdis" company affiliated to Madar holding, in the states of warqala and taqert**, on an area of more than 20 thousand hectares, for the production of sugar beet and a conversion unit with a capacity of 60 thousand tons per day, with a production target of 720 thousand tons per year, in addition to the production of other strategic crops within the framework of the agricultural recycling program.

- **An Algerian Saoud investment project in the municipality of Hassi Qara in the state of MENA**, on an area of 20 thousand hectares (12 billion dinars or 90 million dollars), for agricultural production and livestock breeding.

There are also talks about investments within the framework of an Algerian-Chinese partnership in the poultry farming sector and strategic crops in the state of Adrar.

### **3.5 Fully subsidized loans and partially subsidized loans:**

within the framework of the development of strategic agriculture, the state has provided various loans, including fully subsidized and partially subsidized, and this is as follows:

#### **3.5.1 fully subsidized loans:** they are of two types:

- **Seasonal loan (comrade):** it is offered by the Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (BADR) and is aimed at farmers, breeders and investors who work within the framework of the development of national sectors and productions that contribute to the intensification, transformation, strengthening, export and storage of agricultural products. (<https://aapi.dz>).

-**The comrade challenge loan:** is an exploitation loan fully supported by the state, aimed at financing economic enterprises, so that the enterprise must be organized in the form of Economic companies or cooperatives active in the field of transformation, storage and valuation of agricultural products. (elchadli, 2022, P. 34)

#### **3.5.2 partially subsidized loans:** (elchadli, 2022, P. 34, 35)

- **Challenge loan:** it is an investment loan partially subsidized by the state, granted to natural or legal persons in the framework of the creation of new agricultural and livestock investments, or investments based on unused agricultural land, belonging to private ownership or to state property. The term of this loan extends from 3 years to 15 years, and a personal contribution of 10% to 20% of the project cost is required.

- **Federal challenge loan:** it is an investment loan partially supported by the state, granted to customers in the field of conversion, packaging and storage of agricultural products, the repayment period ranges between 3 and 15 years, and the state bears the interest for the first five years.

- **Financial lease:** it is a lease-sale loan aimed at renting locally manufactured agricultural machinery and watering equipment that are directly involved in investment projects, and it is partially subsidized by the state, where countries bear an interest of 4% of the full interest estimated at 9.7%, and the financing can cover 100% of the cost of the equipment to be acquired, and the lease term is up to 10 years, depending on the type of equipment.

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#### 4. The challenges of developing strategic agriculture

Despite the efforts exerted to develop strategic agriculture and achieve food security, it still faces many challenges that hinder reaching the desired goals, and the challenges can be listed as follows:

**4.1. Natural challenges:** The first concerns the decrease in the agricultural area allocated for use, both in absolute terms and in terms of per capita. The second point is the lack of water for agriculture. Studies have shown that the effects of climate change in Algeria have become more pronounced. As Algeria has experienced a decrease in precipitation, and a rise in temperatures, therefore, all research confirms that Algeria will experience a sharp increase in drought, making it more vulnerable to water stress and desertification.(Moussaoui, 2025, PP. 60-61)

In addition to the above, we find a widening gap between arable land and actually cultivated land, which is due to insufficient water and the absence of modern irrigation methods from most cultivated areas, and that the land reclamation system followed greatly reduces this area, in addition to the exposure of agricultural lands to some negative phenomena such as the spread of salinity, erosion and desertification.( Ben Omar, 2006-2007, P. 61)

**4.2. Technical challenges:** Technological development and innovation have remained modest despite attempts to revive the traditional "linear distribution" extension system among farmers. Technical, Research and development institutes, which at the beginning of the new millennium witnessed an intensification in the volume of programs and a lack of sufficient human and material resources, quickly became overcrowded. Technological lag has led farmers to rely on external resources for technical progress (such as international exhibitions, suppliers, etc.).(Philip, 2022, P. 429).

**4.3. Lack of agricultural labor:** Despite the abundance of human resources that Algeria enjoys as a result of its increasing population growth, the number of rural residents has experienced a steady decline, after it was 12,036 thousand people in 2010, it fell to 11,189 thousand people in 2023, with an estimated growth rate of -0.6% between 2010-2023, and similarly, the number of agricultural residents decreased from 7,404 thousand people to 6,784 thousand people between 2010-2023, the growth rate during the same period by -0.7 %. (Al Arabi, IMF, 2025, P. 363)

Human labor working in the field of agriculture suffers from a lack of experience and skill required by investment projects, especially those that require the use of modern technology. In addition to the lack of experience, the agricultural lands suffer from the displacement of labor in other sectors.

#### Conclusion:

Through the study, we touched upon the most important strategic crops in Algeria, in addition to highlighting the various natural elements that Algeria enjoys that make its land suitable for various types of Agriculture, and finally, we addressed the various efforts made by the Algerian government to develop the people of strategic agriculture, and the difficulties faced by these types of Agriculture in implementation and development. The following results were obtained:

- Algeria has identified the following strategic crop groups: cereals, feed, oil plants, sugar beet, milk production, meat production, cotton and seed intensification.
- Algeria is the second largest country in Africa, but it is characterized by an unbalanced distribution both in terms of the distribution of agricultural land and in terms of the distribution of Water Resources. Where we find it is concentrated in the northern regions.

- Algeria suffers from a shortage of water, despite its strategic location and the efforts exerted to purify wastewater or treat sea water, and this has affected the proportions of irrigated land .
- Algeria has developed a set of development plans aimed at improving conditions in the countryside, encouraging farmers not to migrate to cities on the one hand, and improving their productivity on the other.
- In order to promote the strategic agriculture division, the strategic agricultural crops Development Corporation was established, which signed many agreements with national and foreign institutions, aimed in general to provide the necessary watering water, seeds and trees for agricultural units dedicated to strategic crops.

The ultimate goal is to improve the technical process of Agriculture and increase the productivity of agricultural land. - Despite the efforts made, the peasant sector and the people of strategic crops in Algeria suffer from challenges, both in terms of the availability of arable land and the water needed for irrigation, not to mention the biggest challenge, which is the weakness of the technology used and the lack of skill of the peasant labor.

From the above we can list the following recommendations:

- The need to train peasants and train them in modern agricultural techniques.
- The need to reconsider the distribution of agricultural real estate and agricultural loans, and track and monitor those who receive them, which ensures that they are used diligently to serve the sector .

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