

## AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

### Overview

Despite extreme climatic conditions, limited water resources and scarcity of arable land, the agricultural sector in Saudi Arabia has been expanding rapidly in recent years. Its rate of growth accelerated from 6 per cent in 1981-82 to 13 per cent in 1985-86. Concurrent with this expansion, there was a major transformation from mainly subsistence and small family farming to commercial agriculture based on large farms using modern methods of production.

The composition of agricultural output has shifted toward the production of wheat and away from other cereals. As a result, Saudi Arabia has recently produced large surpluses of wheat while its dependence on imports of other cereals, notably