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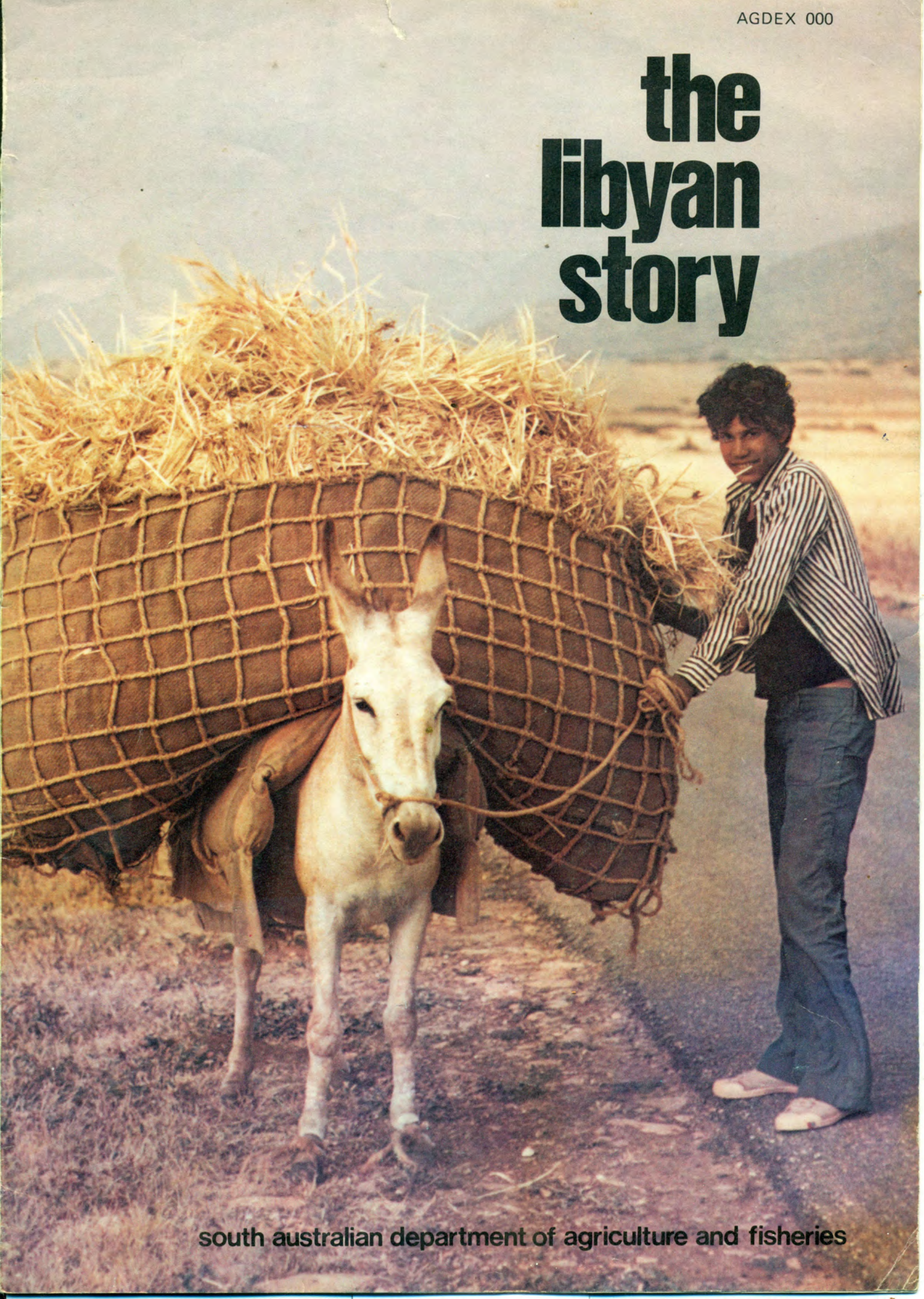
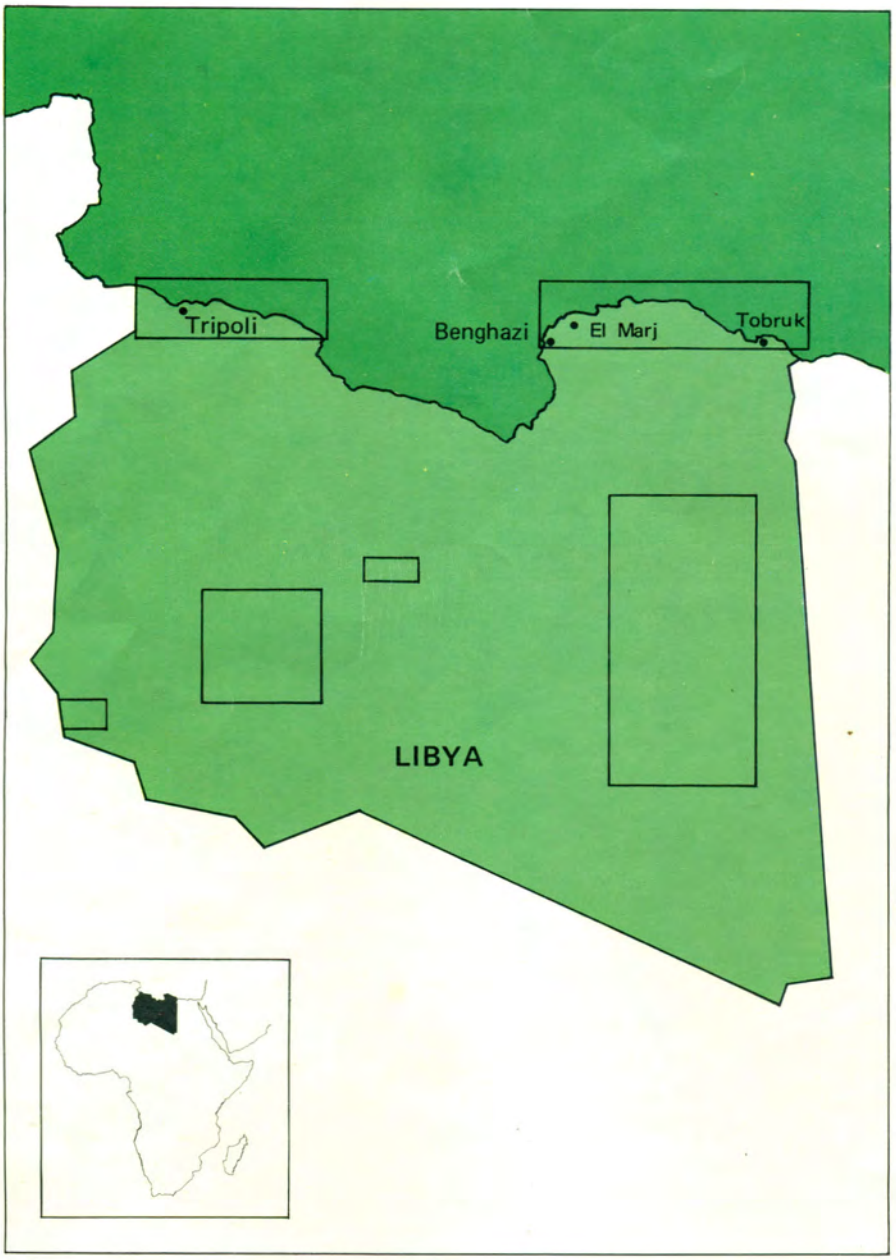
the libyan story



south australian department of agriculture and fisheries



areas of South Australian involvement

Libya was rapidly becoming a dust bowl, using old techniques until South Australian dry land farming techniques were introduced.

Food from an empty bowl

Croweaters. That's what our forefathers were called for going to South Australia to scratch a living.

For some, their hardship was in vain, but others continued to search for ways of making a fairly infertile land productive and profitable — and their success under such circumstances is now capturing world-wide interest.

Our rolling wheatlands were once covered with that same scrub which trims the roadsides. Consider this fact, and the low rainfall, and it is no wonder people ask how it's done.

Now, more than ever before, people from other parts of the world are not just asking how it's

An aerial view of the Jabel El Akhdar workshop area where some 1,500 implements made in South Australia were being assembled.

below right
A group of South Australian agriculturalists, attending a field day in Libya.

Mr. Basshir Jodeh the Chairman of the Development Executive explaining to foreign diplomats the Australian system of farming.

done but wanting to do it. They want to share this unique technology developed by the croweaters.

The key technological advance has been the use of legume pastures in rotations, which results in nitrogen being supplied to cereals.

People overseas want such things as our ploughs, harvesters, fencing materials, pasture seeds, and cereal seeds. More importantly, they need our expertise when undertaking a venture based on the South Australian dryland farming system, and this is being provided through consultancy services.

Leading in the provision of consultancy services is the South Australian Department of

An oat crop being cut by hand (sickle) for hay.

Baling hay on the Australian Demonstration Farm at El Marj Libya.

far left
Local Barbary fat tail sheep at the Australian Demonstration Farm.

Sheep assembled from the desert area for distribution to farmers.

Separating the grain from the chaff by hand.

A Libyan farmer inspecting his oat crop that had been grown using southern Australian techniques.

The cereal agronomist in the South Australian team, Mr. Trevor Dillon, with the team of Libyan tractor drivers on the Australian Demonstration Farm.

Agriculture and Fisheries, supported by practising farmers and private industry.

The benefits of selling our technology are felt at home through the increase in sales of machinery, pasture seeds, or other products developed in this State. Such trade is important not only for the export dollars it earns but also for the local employment opportunities it generates.

Sometimes the best way to grasp new techniques is to see them demonstrated. And an example of this is the El Marj demonstration farm in Libya set up three years ago by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries after an agreement between the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, and the Libyan Minister of Agricultural Development, Mr. Abdul Majeed Al Gaoud.

In signing the agreement Mr. Dunstan officially involved the department as well as local traders in a long term project to be beneficial to all parties concerned.

The realization that South Australia has something to offer did not come suddenly. But positive steps by this State coupled with a need in other countries to improve productivity, has boosted the trade of expertise, machines, equipment and seeds in recent years.

This has relied on a team effort by State Government departments, business consultants, manufacturers, producers and suppliers.

A camel pulling a single furrow plough in a vineyard.

South Australian built cultivators dual hitched in a cultivation operation on the Australian Demonstration Farm.

The farming systems linking South Australian technology

With limited natural resources in a semi-arid Mediterranean type climate, technology has developed which gets the most out of a little.

South Australian technology, much of which has been developed by officers of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, is being applied in many parts of the world. In North African countries, for example, it has been found in many cases to be more profitable and productive than the application of traditional European technology.

The State can be divided into three main zones based on rainfall.

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Libyan horsemen are proud of their Arab horses and horsemanship.

Donkey carts are frequently used for cartage of small loads.

Bringing the harvest in. Barley that has been harvested with a sickle is being carted into the threshing area.

The dry inland area is called the pastoral zone and here a low intensity grazing system is based on a delicate balance of utilization and conservation of the native vegetation of the steppe. The main production enterprise is sheep grazing, supplemented with some cattle raising.

The cereal zone is the intermediate rainfall area where production is based on growing cereal crops in rotation with annual legumes. This is a system that integrates cereal and livestock production. It utilizes the nitrogen fixing properties of legume pastures to increase nitrogen content of the soil for cereal crops while supplying feed for large numbers of livestock. Specially adapted tillage methods, techniques of livestock management and soil conservation practices have been built into this farming system.

The higher rainfall zone in the southern portion of the State has a more reliable growing season. Farming is based on high intensity grazing of sheep and cattle together with some areas of high value crop production. The graziers in this region have developed a higher stocking system through the use of annual and perennial legume pastures.

Experts in South Australian agricultural technology are available for consultancy work in other countries. Arrangements can be made with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, 25 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, South Australia.

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