

Future prospects are bright for nuclear powered agro-industrial complexes, which we refer to as "Nuplexes," which might produce up to one billion gallons per day of fresh water from the sea along with 2,000 megawatts of electricity. These complexes, which could upgrade the economics of arid coastal regions around the world, could produce food for millions of persons from a scientifically managed farm, or "food factory," and the industrial segments might produce fertilizers, aluminum, phosphorus, caustic soda, chlorine, and ammonia for export as well as domestic use. Where the climate permits, the system might have a highly intensive irrigated agriculture program of crops on a year-round basis.

The coordinated food-producing enterprise could include shrimp and fish cultures, poultry, beef and milk production, beans, peanuts, rice, millet, wheat, etc., plus production of the fertilizers needed for these crops. On-the-spot food processing is also envisioned to produce flour, frozen vegetables, shrimp, fruit, and various processed foods to avoid costly storage, transportation, and waste.

Poultry production is seen as an efficient means of converting grain grown at the complex into high-value protein food. If wheat from 22,400 acres were used for chicken feed, about 59 million pounds of live broilers and 15 million dozen eggs could be produced per year.

Irrigated desert agriculture opens up new priorities for agricultural research and stresses the need for crop varieties and production techniques that combine high yield potential, short growing seasons, and low water requirements.