

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 1997

Company number: 1952298

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Company registration number:	1952298
Registered office:	Northcroft House West Street Newbury Berks RG14 1HD
Directors:	H W Biggs G J Brookes A E Buckwell C Caspari D J Corbett (Chairman) M Hobbs H B Lowe N A Young
Secretary:	H A Williams
Bankers:	Midland Bank plc 1 Mansion House Street Newbury RG14 5ET
Solicitors:	Lamb Brooks Victoria House 39 Winchester Street Basingstoke Hants RO21 7EQ
Auditors:	Grant Thornton Registered auditors Chartered accountants 1 Westminster Way Oxford OX2 0PZ

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

The directors present their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 1997.

Principal activities

The group are consultants and advisers in the field of economic research for the food and agricultural industries.

Business review

There was a profit for the year after taxation amounting to £35,663. The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend.

Directors

The present membership of the Board is set out below. All directors served throughout the year.

The interests of the directors in the shares of the company at 31 March 1997 and 1 April 1996 were as follows:

	Ordinary shares	
	31 March	1 April
	1997	1996
H W Biggs	•	_
G J Brookes	-	-
A E Buckwell	-	-
C Caspari	•	-
D J Corbett	-	-
M Hobbs	-	-
H B Lowe	•	-
N A Young	•	1,000

The interests of the directors who held shares in other group undertakings at 31 March 1997 and 1 April 1996 were as follows:

		Produce Studies Group Limited Ordinary shares		Group (1996) ed shares
	31 March 1997	1 April 1996	31 March 1997	1 April 1996
H W Biggs	148,000	_	•	40,000
D J Corbett	148,000	-	•	40,000
N A Young	43,326	-	-	833
C Caspari	10,000	-	-	-
G J Brookes	2,500	-	•	-

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

Directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, for safeguarding the assets of the group and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

Grant Thornton offer themselves for reappointment as auditors in accordance with section 385 of the Companies Act 1985.

Small company exemption

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

H A Williams

Secretary

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF

CEAS CONSULTANTS (WYE) LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 4 to 18 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on pages 4 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 2 the directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the group at 31 March 1997 and of the profit of the group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

GRANT THORNTON
REGISTERED AUDITORS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
OXFORD

22 December 199)

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICES

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies of the company have remained unchanged from the previous period and are set out below.

BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

The consolidated accounts incorporate the financial statements of CEAS Consultants (Wye) Limited and its subsidiary undertaking for the year ended 31 March 1997. The group uses the acquisition method of accounting to consolidate the results of the subsidiary undertaking from the date of acquisition.

GOODWILL

Goodwill arising on the acquisition of subsidiary undertakings is the difference between the fair value of the consideration paid and the fair value of the assets and liabilities acquired. It is amortised through the profit and loss account over the directors' estimate of its useful economic life, being 10 years.

TURNOVER

Turnover represents sales to external customers at invoiced amounts less value added tax.

DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of all tangible fixed assets, evenly over their expected useful lives. It is calculated at the following rates:

Motor vehicles

- 25% per annum

Fixtures fittings and equipment

- 20-33% per annum

INVESTMENTS

Investments held as fixed assets are stated at cost less any provision for a permanent diminution in value.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Work in progress is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is based on the direct cost of labour and other contract costs. The value of incomplete contracts is assessed and the attributable profit is recognised in the profit and loss account.

Net realisable value is based on the selling price less additional costs to completion and disposal.

DEFERRED TAXATION

Deferred tax is provided using the tax rates estimated to arise when the timing differences reverse and is accounted for to the extent that it is probable that a liability or asset will crystallise. Unprovided deferred tax is disclosed as a contingent liability.

Debit balances arising in respect of advanced corporation tax on dividends payable or proposed are carried forward to the extent that they are expected to be recovered.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICES

FOREIGN CURRENCY

Foreign currency transactions of individual companies are translated at the rates ruling when they occurred. Foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities are translated at the rates ruling at the balance sheet dates. Any differences are taken to the profit and loss.

Profit and loss accounts and assets and liabilities of foreign subsidiary undertakings are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling on the balance sheet date. Exchange differences which arise from translation of the opening net investment in foreign subsidiary undertakings are taken to reserves.

LEASED ASSETS

Where assets are financed by leasing agreements that give rights approximating to ownership (finance leases), the assets are treated as if they had been purchased outright. The amount capitalised is the present value of the minimum lease payments payable over the term of the lease. The corresponding leasing commitments are shown as amounts payable to the lessor. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged to the profit and loss account.

Lease payments are analysed between capital and interest components so that the interest element of the payment is charged to the profit and loss account over the period of the lease and represents a constant proportion of the balance of capital repayments outstanding. The capital part reduces the amounts payable to the lessor. All other leases are treated as operating leases. Their annual rentals are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

PENSION COSTS

Contributions to individual employees personal pension schemes are charged to the profit and loss account in the year in which they become payable.

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	Note		14 month period ended
		1997 £	31 March 1996 £
Turnover	1	1,733,914	1,890,187
Cost of sales		(1,053,029)	(1,011,572)
Gross profit		680,885	878,615
Administrative expenses		(632,394)	(726,019)
		48,491	152,596
Other operating income		3,159	12,900
Operating profit		51,650	165,496
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		6,704	2,429
Interest receivable Interest payable	3	1,382 (13,655)	5,454 (15,361)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		46,081	158,018
Tax on profits on ordinary activities	4	(10,418)	(57,653)
Profit for the financial year		35,663	100,365
Dividends	5		(75,000)
Profit transferred to reserves	15	35,663	25,365

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 MARCH 1997

	Note	1997	1997	1996	1996
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	7		12,191		15,372
Tangible assets	8		22,351		67,343
			34,542		82,715
Current assets					
Work in progress	10	164,476		66,833	
Debtors	11	460,798		385,280	
Cash at bank and in hand		103,409		32,586	
		500 600		404 600	
		728,683		484,699	
Creditors: amounts falling due	10	((40.20()		(156 120)	
within one year	12	(649,386)		(456,428)	
N. d			79,297		28,271
Net current assets			17,271		20,271
Total assets less current liabilities					
Total assets less current natinities			113,839		110,986
			110,001		
Creditors: amounts falling due					
after more than one	13		-		(26,229)
			113,839		84,757
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	14		11,000		11,000
Share premium account	15		30,318		30,318
Profit and loss account	15		72,521		43,439
I TOTAL MINE TODG MODULA					
Equity shareholders' funds	16		113,839		84,757
Equity statestorious radio					

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special exemptions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 10 December 1997

Director

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

COMPANY BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 MARCH 1997

	Note	1997	1997	1996	1996
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	9		41,118		41,118
Tangible assets	8		14,936		58,703
_			56,054		99,821
Current assets					
Work in progress	10	146,019		12,817	
Debtors	11	457,192		348,585	
Cash at bank and in hand		66,251		23,907	
		669,462		296 200	
Creditors: amounts falling due		009,402		385,309	
within one year	12	(613,825)		(384,546)	
	*~	(013,023)		(304,340)	
Net current assets			55,637		763
Total assets less current liabilities					
			111,691		100,584
6. 11					
Creditors: amounts falling due	10				
after more than one year	13				(26,229)
			111 601		74 255
G-24-11			111,691		74,355
Capital and reserves	• •				
Called up share capital	14		11,000		11,000
Share premium account	15		30,318		30,318
Profit and loss account	15		70,373		33,037
Equity shareholders' funds			111 601		74.255
Equity shareholders lunds			111,691		74,355

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Director

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STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

	1997 £	14 month period ended 31 March 1996 £
Profit for the financial year	35,663	100,365
Currency translation differences on foreign currency net investments	(6,581)	-
Total recognised gains and losses for the year	29,082	100,365

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

1 TURNOVER AND PROFITS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION

The turnover and profit before taxation is wholly attributable to one activity, that of consultants and advisers in the field of economic research for the food and agricultural industries.

No disclosure of geographical markets supplied is given in these financial statements as the directors consider that it would be seriously prejudicial to the interests of the group.

The profit on ordinary activities is stated after:

	1997 £	14 month period ended 31 March 1996 £
Auditor's remuneration Depreciation and amortisation	3,000	3,000
Tangible fixed assets, owned Tangible fixed assets, held under finance leases Goodwill	14,169	22,642 17,722
Hire of plant and machinery	3,181 4,226	3,711 5,905
Other operating lease rentals	12,895	6,800
Foreign exchange loss/(gain)	89,290	(9,581)
2 DIRECTORS		14 month period ended 31 March 1996
Directors' emoluments of:	1997 £	£
Salaries and other emoluments	136,254	71,488

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

3	INTEREST PAYABLE		
		1997 £	14 month period ended 31 March 1996 £
	On bank overdrafts	12,875	6,638
	Finance changes in respect of finance leases	780	1,390
	Interest on loans from group companies	-	7,333
		13,655	15,361
4	TAX ON PROFITS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
		1997	14 month period ended 31 March 1996
	UK corporation tax at 33% (1996: 33%)	£ 1,745	£ 46,603
	Overseas tax payable	8,673	11,050
		10,418	57,653
5	DIVIDENDS		
			14 month period ended 31 March
		1997	1996
	Ondinon, divided annual of Civil and a concession	£	£
	Ordinary dividend proposed of £Nil per share (1996: £6.82)	<u>-</u>	75,000

6 PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

The parent company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 230 of the Companies Act 1985 and has not presented its own profit and loss account in these financial statements. The group profit for the year includes a profit after tax and before dividends of £37,336 (14 month period 31 March 1996: £86,115) which is dealt with in the financial statements of the company.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

7 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Group	Goodwill on consolidation £
Cost	~
At 1 April 1996 and 31 March 1997	31,807
Amortisation	
At 1 April 1996	16,435
Provided in the year	3,181
At 31 March 1997	19,616
Net book amount	
At 31 March 1997	12,191
At 31 March 1996	15,372

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

8 TANGIBLE ASSETS

Group	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 1996	60,761	124,009	184,770
Exchange adjustment	•	(8,590)	(8,590)
Additions	-	12,232	12,232
Disposals	(60,761)	(2,924)	(63,685)
At 31 March 1997	<u> </u>	124,727	124,727
Depreciation			
At 1 April 1996	19,884	97,543	117,427
Exchange adjustment	-	(7,019)	(7,019)
Provided in the year	-	14,169	14,169
Disposals	(19,884)	(2,317)	(22,201)
At 31 March 1997		102,376	102,376
Net book amount			
At 31 March 1997	-	22,351	22,351
At 31 March 1996	40,877	26,466	67,343

The net book value of tangible fixed assets includes an amount of £nil (1996: £40,877) in respect of assets held under finance leases.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

8 TANGIBLE ASSETS (CONTINUED)

Company	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 1996	60,761	76,826	137,587
Additions Disposals	· (60 = 64)	7,459	7,459
Disposais	(60,761)	(2,924)	(63,685)
At 31 March 1997		81,361	81,361
Depreciation			
At 1 April 1996	19,884	59,000	78,884
Provided in the year	-	9,742	9,742
Disposals	(19,884)	(2,317)	(22,201)
At 31 March 1997		66,425	66,425
Net book amount			
At 31 March 1997	<u> </u>	14,936	14,936
At 31 March 1996	40,877	17,826	58,703

The net book value of tangible fixed assets includes an amount of £nil (1996: £40,877) in respect of assets held under finance leases.

9 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Shares in
	group
Company	undertaking
Company	£
Cost At 1 April 1996 and 31 March 1997	41,118

The following was a subsidiary undertaking at the end of the year and has been included in the consolidated accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

9 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Name	Country of incorporation or registration	Proportion of voting rights and ordinary share capital held	Nature of business
Bureau Europeen de Recherches SA	Belgium	100%	Business consultancy

For the subsidiary undertaking listed above, the country of operation is the same as its country of incorporation or registration.

The last financial year end of the subsidiary undertaking listed above ended on 31 December 1996. Its accounting reference date is being changed to 31 March so as to be coterminous with CEAS Consultants (Wye) Limited. Interim financial statements have been prepared to 31 March 1997 for the purpose of preparing group financial statements.

10 WORK IN PROGRESS

11

Long term contract balances comprise the following:

	Grou	ıp	Comp	anv
	1997	1996	1997	1996
	£	£	£	£
Net costs less foreseeable losses	1,240,461	653,428	1,222,004	599,392
Payments on account	(1,075,985)	(586,595)	(1,075,985)	(586,575)
	<u>164,476</u> =	66,833	146,019	12,817
DEBTORS				
	Grou	ıp	Compa	any
Due within one year:	1997	1996	1997	1996
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	443,044	291,586	380,960	205,587
Amounts due from group undertakings	6,994	46,914	68,339	137,471
Other debtors	242	4,609	-	2,000
Prepayments	10,518	42,171	7,893	3,527
	460,798	385,280	457.192	348 585

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

12 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group		Company	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
	£	£	£	£
Bank overdraft (secured)	-	30,390	_	30,390
Amounts due to group undertakings	355,500	•	379,686	
Payments on account	32,590	113,274	32,590	113,274
Trade creditors	135,816	90,143	127,049	75,333
Other creditors	260	26,552	260	20,873
Tax and social security	13,502	24,281	10,799	13,685
Corporation tax	1,513	46,603	1,513	46,603
Obligations under finance leases and			•	•
hire purchase contracts	-	17,699	, <u>-</u>	17,699
Proposed dividend	-	-	-	•
Accruals	110,205	107,486	61,928	66,689
	649,386	456,428	613,825	384,546

13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

		Gro	UD	Com	pany
		1997	1996	1997	1996
	Obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts due:	£	£	£	£
	Within one to two years	-	15,537	-	15,537
	Within two to five years		10,692		10,692
			26,229	<u>-</u>	26,229
14	SHARE CAPITAL				
				1997 £	1996 £
	Authorised			~	· •
	Ordinary shares of £1 each			20,000	20,000
	Allotted, called up and fully paid				
	Ordinary shares of £1 each			11,000	11,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

15 RESERVES

	Crown	Share premium account £	Profit and loss account £
	Group At 1 April 1996	30,318	42 420
	Profit for the year	50,516	43,439 35,663
	Currency translation differences on		,
	foreign currency net investments		(6,581)
	At 31 March 1997	30,318	72,521
		Share premium account £	Profit and loss account £
	Company	-	~
	At 1 April 1996	30,318	33,037
	Profit for the year		37,336
	At 31 March 1997	30,318	70,373
16	RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		
		1997 £	1996 £
	Group		
	Profit for the financial year	35,663	100,365
	Dividends		(75,000)
		35,663	25,365
	Other recognised gains and losses	(6,581)	-
	Net increase in shareholders' funds	29,082	25,365
	Shareholders' funds at 1 April 1996	84,757	59,392
	Shareholders' funds at 31 March 1997		
		113,839	84,757

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

17 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The company has guaranteed bank borrowings of the parent company and certain fellow subsidiary companies. At 31 March 1997 the contingent liability amounted to £531,581 (1996: £143,169).

There were no other contingent liabilities at 31 March 1997 or 31 March 1996.

18 PENSIONS

The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to individual employee's personal pension funds.

19 LEASING COMMITMENTS

Operating lease payments amounting to £9,890 (1996: £11,920) are due within one year.

The leases to which these relate expire as follows;

1997		1996		
Land and		Land and	id and	
buildings	Other	buildings	Other	
£	£	£	£	
-	•	-	1,920	
9,890		10,000	<u>-</u>	
9,890		10,000	1,920	
	Land and buildings £ - 9,890	Land and buildings Other £ £	Land and buildings £ £ £ 9,890 - 10,000	

20 ULTIMATE PARENT UNDERTAKING

The company's ultimate parent undertaking is Produce Studies Group Limited, a company registered in England and Wales.

Copies of the consolidated financial statements of Produce Studies Group Limited are available at Companies House.

21 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The motor vehicles disposed of during the year (note 8) were sold to Produce Studies Limited for £45,590. The finance lease liability amounting to £38,251 relating to these vehicles was also taken over by Produce Studies Limited. Produce Studies Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Produce Studies Group Limited.

Turnover includes £35,020 which was invoiced to subsidiary undertakings of Produce Studies Group Limited. This income was in respect of work done for those companies in the normal course of business.

Cost of sales includes £149,479 in respect of amounts invoiced from subsidiary undertakings of Produce Studies Group Limited. These costs were in respect of work done by those companies in the normal course of business.

COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	٤	1997 £	£	14 month period ended 31 March 1996 £
Fees receivable Consultancy		1,078,261		1,251,838 107,894
Opening work in progress Contract fees payable Consultancy fees payable Management charges	12,817 882,638 - -	1,078,261	36,449 704,405 107,894 14,933	1,359,732
Less: Closing work in progress	895,455 (146,019)	(749,436)	863,681 (12,817)	850,864
Gross profit		328,825		508,868
Other income Other operating income Interest received Exchange gain Sundry Income Management fees	1,206 - 181 80,615	82,002	1,839 2,836 9,581 - -	14,256
		410,827		523,124

COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT (CONTINUED)

	٤	1997 £	£	14 month period ended 31 March 1996 £
Administrative expenses				
Staff salaries	216,067		281,883	
Travel costs	11,302		21,913	
Rent, rates and services	10,933		10,850	
Repairs and renewals	2,627		704	
Printing and stationery	3,810		7,858	
Subscriptions and publications	3,459		3,633	
Telephone, telex and postage	7,900		13,902	
Insurance	996		1,668	
Bank interest and charges	13,354		8,085	
Hire purchase interest	780		1,390	
Legal fees	-		3,790	
Audit fees	8,790		4,483	
Promotion	-		3,400	
General expenses	343		138	
Depreciation	7,395		34,319	
Depreciation recharge	-		(5,181)	
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(6,704)		(2,429)	
Taxation penalties	1,404		_	
Exchange loss	89,290		-	
Ç		371,746		390,406
Profit on ordinary activities				
before taxation		39,081		132,718
Taxation		(1,745)		(46,603)
Profit on ordinary activities				
after taxation		37,336		86,115
Dividends		-		(75,000)
Retained profit		37,336		11,115