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Report of the Pre-Conference Meeting on Food and Agricultural
Outlooks and Programs in Asia and the Far East.

Singapore, 26th September - 1st October, 1949.

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INTRODUCTION

Delegates from 9 countries and observers from 7 organizations attended the pre-conference regional meeting for Asia and the Far East in Singapore from 26th September to 1st October, 1949. This meeting was recommended to be convened by representatives of countries in Asia and the Far East who attended the informal discussions on plans and programs in Bangkok last March.

The aims of the meeting were:-

a) to assist Member Governments in preparing for effective participation in the work of the annual Conference of FAO, particularly the food and agricultural outlook and programs in the region;

b) to afford an opportunity for consideration of problems and action of a regional character to which the world-wide Annual Conference could not give adequate attention;

c) to permit advance consideration of the important policy questions and issues that are likely to come before the Annual Conference; and

d) to consider how the work of FAO in this region can be made more effective and the measures that could be taken by Governments for this purpose.

The agenda covered a number of important items, including (a) Review of the 1950/51 targets and estimates of production, consumption and trade for countries and territories in the region; (b) Specific programs and measures undertaken or planned by Governments to achieve the above targets and objectives for agricultural improvement; (c) Program of Work of FAO as well as the proposed Supplementary Technical Assistance Program; and (d) a number of special problems which were of concern to the participating countries.

The meeting heard statements from the FAO Secretariat summarizing the general world economic and commodity situation, the prospects, programs and problems of the region, the state of nutrition in the region, the outlook for supplies of agricultural requisites, and measures under consideration for international action in the field of food and agriculture as a general background for the discussions in the regional meeting. The several delegations also exchanged copies of their Annual Reports to FAO and related information on technical and program matters as background for the discussions.

The substantive work of the meeting was done in two Committees and a Working Party:- Committee I on FAO Program of Work and Proposals for Supplementary Technical Assistance; Committee II on the specific Programs and Measures of Governments for agricultural development as well as special problems and issues of concern to the region; and a Secretariat Working Party on National Programs and Estimates.

The Officers elected for this meeting were:-

Chairman of the Meeting: Mr. H.S.M. Ishaque, Pakistan.
Chairman, Committee I : Dr. J.P. Van Aartsen, Netherlands.
Chairman, Committee II : Dr. W.M. Clyde, United Kingdom.

1948/49 FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST

The food and agricultural economy of the region as a whole made only slight progress in 1948/49, despite notable improvements by several countries. Agricultural production increased about 3 percent above 1947/48, bringing production up to 92 percent of prewar. Production of energy foods as a whole was about 5 percent below prewar, while non-food crops totalled 15 percent below prewar. The total area planted to food crops in 1948/49 reached prewar, but average yields in most countries were generally lower than prewar, and show no significant tendency to increase in the past three years.

Relative to their prewar production, Thailand and the Philippines made the greatest progress in food crop production since the war, while Burma, Indo-China and Indonesia were still about 20 percent below prewar. Reports from China indicate lower production in 1948/49 over the previous year.

Progress varied greatly between commodities. Production of paddy was only 93 percent of prewar, while wheat was about 102 percent. Rubber production was nearly 125 percent of prewar, but for other major export crops, fats and oils, sugar, tea and jute, only 75 to 90 percent, and for silk only one-quarter. Production of maize, potatoes and sweet potatoes ran somewhat above prewar, while cassava, manioc and sago did not quite equal prewar.

With the exception of rubber, output of industrial raw materials, fuels and manufactured goods was considerably below the prewar level; in fact, industrial output, according to MCAFE analyses, has shown less recovery than has agriculture.

Food supplies per caput increased approximately 2.0 percent over 1947/48, but, were still only 87 percent of prewar levels. Energy foods available for consumption reached 90 percent of prewar per caput. The decline in rice consumption was partly offset by more wheat, largely by imported from the Western Hemisphere. Coarse grain consumption per caput was about 6 percent below prewar. Consumption of roots and tubers shows an appreciable increase in many countries, and for some an increase of the vegetable supply is reported. There has been little or no recovery in the consumption of animal products, but in a few countries, fish consumption levels are approaching prewar. Consumption of fats and oils is still extremely low in these countries which relied largely on imports.

As a consequence of the low levels of food supplies, some of the highly populated areas of the region have found it necessary to maintain rationing or other types of food controls. In addition it was necessary to import from outside the region more than 5 million tons of cereals in order to maintain ration levels.

Asia and the Far East in prewar times was a net exporter of agricultural produce, it is now a net importer. The region had prewar trade surplus with almost all other regions of the world, particularly great with the United States and Europe.

The postwar trade situation is quite different from prewar. The region shifted from a surplus to a deficit trade position both for agricultural and for non-agricultural products, and the volume and value of trade likewise are far below prewar.

Prewar the region imported about one million tons (net) of flour and breadgrains, but was a substantial exporter of coarse grains. In 1948/49, it imported over 4 million tons of breadgrains; and almost a million tons of coarse grains. For 1949 most of the demand for rice at the current high prices will be met from the regions' production.

Agricultural exports were generally much lower in 1948/49 than prewar, with fats and oils under 1/2 of prewar, and substantial net imports of sugar instead of net exports. Crude rubber production and exports were well above prewar, and exports of tea nearly prewar, but export of fibres, and notably of silk, were materially below prewar.

The over-all deficit in the regions balance of trade, and particularly its dollar deficit, constitutes the most disturbing result of its changed trade position.

FORWARD TARGETS AND PROGRAMS

Delegates for each country or territory represented submitted corrections and modifications to the 1950/51 targets and estimates of production; trade and consumption of major agricultural commodities, as included in the FAO working paper for the meeting. The various measures and programs already under way or about to be initiated in each country, were also reviewed. Revised tables of production and trade for individual commodities are shown as Appendix A to this report.

Where there are no official targets, projections have been made by the FAO Secretariat on the basis of general information regarding the governments' agricultural policy plus recent trends in production and trade. These targets and projections for the Far East are summarized below.

Planned Progress in Production of Major Crops

Commodity	Pre-War Average		Targets
	1934-38	1948/49	1950/51
	..... million m.t.....		
Paddy	141.2	130.8	138.0
Wheat	34.8	35.9	37.5
Maize	13.7	15.0	16.1
Barley	12.5	12.3	13.5
Milletts and Sorghums	37.5	34.2	36.8
Other Cereals	9.3	7.5	8.1
Total Cereals	249.0	235.7	250.0
Oils and Fats	8.45	7.22	7.93
Sugar	7.24	6.53	7.72
Cotton	1.77	1.12	1.23
Jute	1.86	1.38	1.82
Rubber	1.18	1.46	1.59

If present plans are realized, production in the Far East will have reached prewar levels by 1950/51. Food production will be a little higher than before the war, but fibres will still be below prewar levels.

Production of rice and other cereals is planned to be 15 million tons higher by 1950/51 than in 1948/49, due principally to a planned increase of nearly 8 million tons of rice. Rice production would still be about 2% less than prewar levels. Total production of cereals may be very slightly above prewar on the basis of present plans.

It is, however, misleading to compare absolute production figures since the population of the Far Eastern region will have increased by approximately 12 percent between 1936 (mid-point of the prewar average) and 1950. With 130 million more people to feed, the planned production would provide 190 kilograms of cereals per head of the population in 1950/51, compared with an average of 213 kilograms before the war and 185 kilograms per head in 1948/49. ^{1/} If we express prewar per caput production of these grains as 100, production per head was only 87 in 1948/49 and would, if plans were achieved, still be only 90 in 1950/51. If the same rate of expansion in major food grains as is planned for the next two years (2 1/3 percent per annum) be projected into the future, per caput production of these grains would reach prewar levels about 1962.

^{1/} These figures refer to gross supplies per head, including seed, feed, milling losses, etc. and must not be taken as giving absolute consumption levels.

As already noted, production of fibres will still be well below prewar if targets are reached. (Cotton 30 percent lower, jute 3 percent lower.) Per caput production of cotton and jute together will be approximately 73 percent of prewar.

Trade Targets and Commodity Position

Rice: During the postwar years the Far East as a region has been a net importer of rice, in marked contrast to the situation before the war. In 1948/49 net imports were between 400 and 500 thousand tons. On the basis of present export and import plans, the region will have net export availabilities of nearly 600 thousand tons in 1950/51. A large part of this excess could easily be absorbed in China if her exchange position should be better than anticipated.

Wheat: The region will continue through 1950/51 to rely on imports of wheat or wheat flour to a much higher degree than before the war. However, imports may be slightly lower than in 1948/49. On the basis of official targets plus projections for countries without import targets for wheat, regional imports would be something over 4 million tons in 1950/51.

Coarse Grains: Before the war the region was a net exporter of both maize and barley. Since the war the region has imported around one million tons annually of those grains. The indications are that the Far East will still be a net importer of coarse grains in 1950/51, though to a lesser extent than in 1948/49.

Fats and Oils: The Far East has always been a main supplier of fats and oils moving into international trade, with net exports exceeding 2 1/4 million tons on an oil equivalent basis before the war. Since the war exports have been much lower, but have been increasing slowly. Net exports just exceeded one million tons in 1947/48 and 1948/49. Present indications are that improvement by 1950/51 will be only slight, with net export availabilities of perhaps 1.3 million tons.

Sugar: Intro-regional trade in sugar was very important before the war. Japan was the chief importer, but India, Malaya and Ceylon also imported substantial quantities. Indonesia, the Philippines and Formosa were among the world's major exporters. Exports exceeded imports by about 1.5 million tons. Since the war imports have exceeded exports. If recovery in the Philippines and Indonesia proceeds as planned, the region will again become a net exporter of sugar by 1950/51, to the extent of about 900 thousand tons.

Cotton: Prior to the war imports of cotton totaled 3/4 of a million tons, with Japan the principal importer. Exports amounted to over 1/2 million tons, chiefly from India. Since the war both imports and exports have been much lower, but with imports still in excess of exports. On the basis of present plans this balance is not likely to be reversed in 1950/51. This entirely depends, however, on whether Japanese imports are as low as at present planned. In India and Pakistan production (and therefore export surplus) is likely to be kept well below prewar owing to need to maximize food crops.

Observations on Forward Targets and Programs

The agricultural plans and programs of the region still show certain characteristic inconsistencies or weaknesses.

The rice situation is dealt with in more detail later in the section on commodity problems, especially the possible effects of (a) the aims of food importing countries to achieve self-sufficiency in the near future, (b) the plans of exporting countries to increase production and exports, and (c) the effects on consumption of the present high prices of rice in comparison with wheat and coarse grains. If rice prices remain at the present high levels certain exporting countries may experience considerable difficulty in finding markets for their exportable surplus of rice. On the other hand, if price adjustments take place the prewar rice demand could be revived and production expanded considerably.

Countries of the region are not planning large enough increases in the production of crops which give greater calory outputs per acre than grains, such as potatoes, sweet potatoes, plantains and pulses, etc.

The agricultural and food plans of the region likewise do not give sufficient attention to providing a balanced diet, one with more adequate amounts of protein and a better supply of productive foods such as fruit and vegetables and with more feed for livestock. Progress has already been made in recent years in both directions, but greater emphasis needs to be placed both on producing more of these crops and on educating and stimulating the people of the region to appreciate such foods and to eat more of them, instead of depending so heavily on rice.

Three countries reported that consideration is being given toward more diversification of agricultural production, especially those depending almost entirely upon rice as their major export commodity. Such diversification seems to be moving toward increased production of maize, barley, and in some instances to such cash crops as pepper, tea and jute - commodities which they believe will continue to command favourable export prices. To some extent these plans are designed to improve their exchange position.

Several delegates expressed the views that with more adequate supplies of rice and other cereals, their Governments would be giving much greater attention to standardization and grading of such commodities especially in the interest of recapturing export markets outside the region.

The countries and territories in the region, beside the rice production programs discussed above, are undertaking some programs of expanding agricultural production without full consideration of what is most economical and feasible by co-operation in the region as a whole in its setting in the world economy. With workable readjustments of national programs within the region, through mutual consultation between nations, regional output and standards of living would increase more rapidly than would be possible under the existing programs. It is, therefore, recommended to members

nations and territories in the region that in developing future agricultural programs they consider the desirability of co-ordinating their programs more fully on a regional basis, and that FAO continue to study this matter and assist in these consultations.

The meeting is agreed that, if necessary, strong actions should be taken by governments co-operatively to assure that food and agriculture production trade and consumption does not stagnate at the current levels and without exception it is agreed that the major objective of the food and agricultural plans of this region should be to stimulate and help achieve an expanding agricultural economy - an economy in which the needs of the rapidly increasing populations for food, clothing and shelter are given first consideration. It seems imperative therefore that all Governments consider carefully the comparative advantages and disadvantages of complete self-sufficiency before embarking on such programs which may have adverse repercussions on the general economy of the region.

Obstacles to Achievement of Targets and Programs.

The following factors constitute serious obstacles to the achievement of the agricultural programs of countries and territories in the region:

- 1). Absence of assurance to producers on receiving the "right" prices.
This is largely a matter of individual country or territory action.
- 2). Scarcity of suitable land.
- 3). Need to maintain and improve existing irrigation facilities and to complete new irrigation projects.
- 4). Limited supplies of improved seed. There is a lack of qualified plant breeders and a need for larger-scale multiplication of improved varieties, suitable arrangements for distribution of improved seeds to farmers, and encouragement of farmers to put them to use.
- 5). Inadequate supplies of fertilizers and inadequate measures to maintain organic matter in the soil.
The problem of supplying other fuels to enable cow dung now burned to be used for manure, and of encouraging the use of green manures and composts, is especially important. Recent developments in Viet Nam in the use of azolle as a green manure for rice and in Formosa on green manures and composts, may be of value to other countries. The members concerned have agreed to supply copies of the relevant reports to the Regional Office for distribution to interested countries.

- 6). Shortage of heavy equipment. Difficulties in obtaining adequate supplies of heavy agricultural machinery from hard currency countries is seriously obstructing the rehabilitation of lands, and of irrigation and drainage systems.
- 7). Lack of suitable improved implements especially adapted to small farms. SCAP officials have called attention to the ability of Japan to supply much larger quantities of suitable machinery for small farms, and to provide markets for available supplies of foodstuffs from other countries of the region. They also indicated the possibility that arrangements could be made under which even larger supplies of small equipment, tractors and fertilizers could be exported under agreements by which the recipient countries would pay for these supplies by subsequent exports of foodstuffs.
- 8). Animal diseases, especially of work animals. The rinderpest control program, covered elsewhere in this report, has made notable contributions to controlling this disease.
- 9). Shortage of grasses and other feedstuffs for work animals, meat animals and other livestock.
- 10). Difficulties of new land settlement. Countries having lands suitable for settlement frequently experience difficulties in getting settlers to move to new areas, especially to lands far from existing settlements.
- 11). Inadequate economic incentives and security. Greater economic incentives and security for the individual farmer need to be provided through land reforms, co-operatives, credit institutions and modernized marketing systems.
- 12). Failure to plan for improved health and nutrition. Sickness and poor diets are serious obstacles in many agricultural areas to the improvement of productivity and efficiency. Land and crop planning and development programs should be directed toward meeting the nutritional needs and raising the health status of the farm family as well as other consumers.
- 13). Inadequate advisory services. Better advisory, extension and other educational services would do much to help induce farmers to put improved methods and new scientific discoveries into use. Failure to appreciate the need for more popularization of scientific discoveries frequently contributes to the problem.
- 14). Civil Disorder. In several areas, achievement of targets will depend upon the restoration of law and order.

REGIONAL PROBLEMS AND PROPOSED ACTIONS

The present and prospective situations in the region presents a number of special problems which require careful consideration by governments in developing their future programs. Some of the most acute of these problems, and possible lines of action to deal with them, are discussed below.

Economic Position of Export Products

The meeting noted that the economic prospects for the regions' major export commodities, copra and oilseeds, rubber, tin, sugar and jute, show little indication of any great improvement from the increasingly difficult situation of the last year. These commodities are particularly sensitive to the decline in demand in the dollar area. At the same time, the cost of living of producers of these commodities is dominated by the price situation for rice, cotton and other essential consumer's goods. With the generally unsatisfactory price prospects for these export commodities combined with the prospect for continued ample supplies of wheat and other food grains, the effective demand for rice may weaken. Solution of the rice problem already referred to, together with the development of a more diversified agriculture in the food deficit countries, is thus basic to expansion of the major exports of the region, which in turn must provide the basis for an expanding economy and for higher standards of living for its people.

Rice Distribution

The analysis of the world and regional rice situation presented by the Secretariat reveals the disturbing situation that for the first time since the war, a balance between supply and effective demand is being attained, but the balance is of an unnatural kind, with levels of production, international trade, and per capita consumption all much lower than before the war, and with prices much higher than before the war. Much more rice could be consumed now, if people could get it and pay for it - yet in a number of countries cheaper grains are being substituted for rice, and a definite trend in this direction gives promise of becoming established. The economy of South East Asia basically depends upon rice, and an adequate supply of rice at prices people can afford to pay, in view of their incomes from other products, is essential to an expanding Asian economy. Yet if the price of rice stays as relatively high in 1950/51 as it is now, exportable supplies of rice may exceed effective import demands by as much as three-quarters of a million tons, while consumers in some portions of the region continue to shift even more to wheat and other substitutes. In discussing this situation, the countries and territories that previously were major rice importers indicated that they had programs under way to increase rice production and to stimulate consumption of cheaper grains. Some countries indicated their people still preferred rice and that they would import substantially larger quantities if they were made available at attractive prices compared to prices of their intensive export products, such as tin, rubber, copra, etc.; and to prices of alternative food grains. Rice exporting countries on the other hand, indicated that their farmers were finding it difficult to reduce costs because of the present levels of costs of consumer and capital goods, and that with existing conditions they could not visualize any material reductions in rice prices in the near future.

The meeting noted with concern these difficulties of the rice problem, and felt that this was an important matter that should be considered further at the Annual FAC Conference.

More Attention to Oils and Fats

The meeting considered an ECAFE proposal for a study group on oilseeds and vegetable oils ^{1/} and several FAO reports on the oils and fats situation. The meeting agreed that because of the important place these products have in the economy of S.E. Asia, and because of the important changes which have taken place in the international supply-demand position for oils and fats during the recent period, FAO should be urged to give particular attention to the problem in its continuing studies and activities.

National and Regional Food Reserves

The meeting considered the possibility of establishing more adequate reserves of food within the region. It was informed of the proposal of the Director-General of FAO to establish an International Commodity Clearing House, and that this proposal includes measures which would facilitate the establishment of such reserves on a global basis. Looking ahead to a possibility of more ample food supplies in S.E. Asia in the next year or two, and recognizing the long time it takes to construct warehouses and other storage facilities, the nations and territories of the region might well begin to plan facilities for the gradual creation and maintenance of more adequate reserves when conditions are right. The meeting recognized that the building up of food reserves of staple foods was desirable, though it might not yet be practicable.

More Intergovernmental Co-operation in Scientific and Advisory Work

A number of the activities of governments and FAO, described later under the FAO program of work, will contribute to correcting various of the problems. In addition to these activities, there are certain steps which governments of the region might take as follows:

Exchange of Seed: The countries and territories of the region should interchange among themselves, without charge, seeds and stocks of improved varieties of rice and other crops already developed by them.

Exchange of Breeding Stock: Breeding animals, and semen for artificial insemination, should be made available by countries and territories in a position to supply them to any other country of the region which desires them.

Advisory Services: Extension and Advisory Services are not yet generally developed in the region to an extent that is adequate for carrying through the agricultural programs as planned. In most countries it has not yet been possible to devote sufficient attention and resources to these activities, as compared to other branches of agricultural work. It is therefore recommended:

- a) that governments and territories, in developing their future agricultural programs, consider whether sufficient provision is made for this work, and whether more adequate provision, both budgetary and personnel, can be made, and
- b) that member governments and territories explore and use all possible means for the further improvement and development of

^{1/} "Observations on the Interest of the ECAFE Region in the Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils and on the need for an International Study Group for these Commodities."

extension work in the region, including the interchange of extension materials (bulletins, posters, and other visual materials) and of extension personnel; arrange regional and field meetings of extension workers and farmers, and use other means as found suitable. Extension Specialists might well conduct a special intensive survey of extension methods in the several countries and territories of the region, with a view to presenting at a subsequent regional meeting, specific recommendations for improving the present work and utilizing generally in the region the methods found most useful in any of its countries.

FAO DRAFT PROGRAM OF WORK FOR 1950

The Meeting considered that the whole of the program of work, so far as it related to Asia and the Far East, was pointed in the right direction to assist in solving the problems of this region. In addition it made the following observations:

Improvement of Regional Statistics

The Meeting noted that the 1950 program made provision for an increasing amount of statistical services to the countries in the Far East, especially for the improvement of national statistics and for the 1950 census of agriculture. While these efforts were commendable it was recalled that the International Rice Commission had recommended steps to be taken toward the de-centralization of some statistical work of FAO, especially in the assembly and dissemination of primary crop and livestock statistics. This was to include forecasts and estimates of crop outturn prior to the harvest. The Meeting agreed with the proposal and urged FAO to take steps as soon as practicable to establish a small statistics unit in the regional office, so that at least part of the statistics gathered in Asia and the Far East may be transmitted directly there. The Meeting further recommended that, in the interest of reducing the time-lag, FAO undertake as soon as possible the introduction of a monthly telegraphic reporting service covering those items of statistics that are most important to Governments. It was recommended also that, in return for the submission of telegraphic reports by Governments, FAO release certain of its monthly statistics by telegraphic communication to those Governments requesting this service.

The French Delegation presented a statement in which it was explained that they had arranged for a sample census in Cambodia to precede the general agricultural census which probably will be postponed to 1951. This sample census is taken in three stages of crop development, namely, June and October, 1949 and Jan. - Feb. period 1950.

Statistics Training Centres

The Meeting commended the Government of India and FAO for undertaking a statistics Training Centre in this region and urged all Governments to take advantage of this training course. As future programs are developed FAO is urged to help arrange a series of national training centres and sub-centres in the languages required, which would be designed to help Governments give the necessary statistics training to district officials, local crop reporters and others who are not qualified to take advantage of the more advanced training of the regional centres.

Nutrition

The Meeting suggested that member governments that have not done so should establish, as soon as possible, National Nutrition Organizations in territories where they do not exist and that those already established should be made as effective as possible. The progress made by these Organizations should be included regularly in the Annual Reports to FAO.

Meetings

The following list of proposed FAO meetings of interest to this region was considered, (the dates within brackets are in some cases only tentative).

1. International Meeting on Rinderpest.
2. International Meeting on Classifying Soils to be held in the Netherlands (July 1950).
3. International Meeting on Classifying Rural Land for Recommended Use.
4. International Meeting on Land Survey and Registration of Rights (FAO Headquarters).
5. International Tropical and Sub-Tropical Land Use Meeting (to be held in this region).
6. World Conference on Wood Chemistry (Sweden).
7. Meeting of International Rice Commission (Feb. 7 - 14 at Rangoon).
8. Plant Breeders Meeting Prior to International Rice Commission Meeting (Feb. 2 - 5 Rangoon).
9. Committee of Nutrition Workers Asia and FE (Feb. 1950 at Rangoon).
10. Regional Meeting on Extension
11. Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council Meeting (April 1950).
12. Meeting of Asia and Pacific Forestry and Forest Products Commission.
13. Standardization of Lumber Grading for Asia and Pacific (Feb. 1950).
14. Pre-Conference Regional Meeting on Outlook and Agricultural Programs.

It is noted that meetings Number 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13 have already been decided upon and the holding of these meetings would not depend on confirmation from the Conference to be held in Washington.

It was unanimously decided that the number of meetings should be cut to a minimum because the Governments find a great deal of difficulty in sending technical personnel to a large number of meetings. It was realized, however, that more opportunities should be provided for technical personnel to meet together and exchange knowledge of new scientific development in other fields.

Besides the meetings already decided in the above list, meeting No. 5 is considered of importance and should be held. It was felt that meeting No. 10 on extension might be postponed despite the importance of this field of work. At the present stage of development, however, it is felt that a great deal of preliminary work should be done first and in particular adjacent countries with similar conditions should meet to discuss their problems and exchange experiences.

This should be augmented by the services of an Extension Specialist at the earliest practicable date in this region. Following such activity the time may then be appropriate for a general meeting.

Delegates, after hearing the opinion of the FAO Secretariat, considered that meeting No. 1 is not required. The present system evolved for the rapid exchange of information on research on this disease no longer makes it necessary to hold a meeting next year. It was suggested that an international meeting might be held to consider some other disease such as pleuro-pneumonia in cattle and goats, but in view of the absence of technical specialists at this pre-conference meeting to consider this problem, it was suggested that final consideration be deferred until the Washington Conference.

It was considered that meetings 3 and 4 should be deleted in so far as the interest of this region is concerned, it being felt that the development along these particular lines has not been sufficient for any great value to be obtained from such meetings.

It was recommended that the meetings as far as possible should be grouped with a view to facilitating the administrative difficulties of governments in preparing delegations to attend meetings, as is followed in the case of the Rice Commission Meeting, Meetings 7, 8, and 9 being held together.

Suggestions regarding future pre-conference meetings are outlined in subsequent sections of this report.

Points to be Emphasized in Future Programs.

Training Courses:- Organization of training courses to help improve the number of skilled or trained technicians in plant breeding and other subjects should be emphasized to expand the possibilities of such schools and the methods of organizing and conducting them. FAO is requested to prepare and circulate a brief paper describing Regional Training Schools already conducted, similar to those for statistics and maize breeding and summarizing the results recorded. The FAO Regional Office and the International Rice Commission are urged to extend their present activities in the interchange of improved varieties of Rice and other crops.

Agricultural Implements:- A field survey of agricultural implements suitable for use primarily by small farmers including water lifts and other simple irrigation equipment, which is already under way is considered of major importance in the area. It is noted that SCAP authorities indicate they might be in a position to contribute to such a study by offering experts familiar with such equipment.

Fertilizers and Machinery:- The work being carried out by FAO in the fields of fertilizers and machinery is noted and should be supplemented by making available more detailed and timely information to the countries of the region, the world position on the production and export availability of fertilizers and farm machines showing separately the supplies available in countries with hard currencies and in those with soft currencies.

Animal Breeding:- It is noted that in the program of work, problems concerned with artificial insemination and exchange of livestock are included. However, it is hoped that stress be laid on encouraging countries to exchange breeding animals and semen for artificial insemination to improve livestock.

Pest and Disease Control:- Examination of the program of work indicates that very little is planned to be done in this region on plant pest control in 1950. Importance of this work is stressed especially with regard to inter-governmental co-operation in the control and eradication of Animal and Plant pests and diseases.

JOINT ECAFE/FAO CONFERENCE OF OFFICIALS
ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION

After consideration of a proposal by ECAFE for a joint FAO/ECAFE Conference which was recommended before the FAO Regional Office was established, the Meeting considered that such a meeting would not accomplish anything further than is now being done by the meetings as arranged by FAO, current activities of the FAO Regional Office, the current activities of ECAFE and continuing efforts for co-ordination by the respective secretariats.

It was further considered that the present methods of participation of other agencies in FAO meetings are satisfactory and there is no need for any alteration.

STATUS OF WORK ON PROJECTS SPONSORED
BY THE INTERNATIONAL RICE COMMISSION

The FAO Regional Representative, made a statement outlining the present status of the projects sponsored by the Rice Commission, in which he explained that considerable progress had been made and that he had reason to believe that before the next meeting of the International Rice Commission all the information requested would have been collected and collated by FAO.

REGIONAL CENTRES FOR ADVANCED TECHNICAL TRAINING IN IRRIGATION

The Meeting considered that water management in relation to agricultural production is of utmost importance in this region but drew attention to the work being done by the Flood Control Bureau of ECAFE. It suggested close co-ordination of work in this matter as at present arranged between the staff of the Regional Office of FAO and the said Flood Control Bureau.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR RINDERPEST CONTROL

It was felt by the delegates present that an efficient system for the control of rinderpest in Asia and the Far East is of paramount importance. As all the interested parties in the control of rinderpest were not present it was felt a decision on the formation of such a committee or organization should be left for consideration in the near future.

CONSIDERATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A great deal of interest in the proposed technical program was expressed. It was felt by delegates that they were not in a position to offer any concrete suggestions at this stage as to exactly what line of work the Governments should develop or offer any suggestions to FAO on this program.

It was hoped that FAO will, in the near future, issue a simple and direct outline of procedure to be adopted in putting this program into effect.

The representative of the United Kingdom and the Secretariat outlined the development of the program and the basic requirements. It was pointed out that technical assistance would be provided by the agencies, but the actual work of development of the program and the bulk of the financing of the program in the country will be the responsibility of the Governments.

The technical assistance would include among other things, provision of technical experts to be sent to a country to assist in the programs and to make their knowledge available to the technicians in the country, as well as the provision of scholarships and facilities for technicians to obtain information from sources outside their own country. Supplies would be limited to specialized technical equipment required in carrying out the work and would not apply to equipment which could be manufactured locally or obtained by the Government.

INVESTMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Since the war foreign capital investments for Asian economic development in general have been negligible. The short-term agricultural plans as reported by governments envision the import of only limited quantities of farm machinery, fertilizers and pesticides. A rough estimate of total planned expenditure on the implementation of agricultural plans in Asia and the Far East during the next 3 years may be placed in the neighbourhood of three-quarters to one billion dollars, as compared to planned investments of possibly 30 to 40 billion over the same period in other underdeveloped regions. The value of equipment and materials required from outside is not expected to exceed one quarter billion dollars at the most. The annual value of these imports represents less than 3 per cent of the value of total import trade of the region at 1948 levels.

International public funds received by the region since the war period (largely UNRRA and other relief payments to China, and U.S. civilian supply and other payments to the Philippine Islands, Japan, and Korea) total under 4 billion dollars, and only a portion of this went for capital formation or rehabilitation. Yet the opportunities for the productive use of capital in South East Asia, in agricultural development projects for water control, food processing, storage and marketing, and in related developments, are very great in almost every country or territory, and could contribute greatly to raising the standard of living of the large proportion of the world's people who live in this region. Technical assistance to strengthen the know-how, and the investment to provide the means, are key ingredients essential for starting the region toward an expanding economy.

In many cases agriculture has been given insufficient attention in national investment programs. While ability to prepare and carry through suitable projects is restricted by the limited number of technical men available, and can be increased as technical assistance becomes available, it is urgent that steps be taken to plan and prepare development projects as rapidly as technicians can be secured or trained, and that financial arrangements be developed to carry these projects forward promptly. To this end it is urged that as already recommended by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, nations and territories in the region seek to develop measures necessary to insure that their own savings will be used as fully as possible for productive investment, that appropriate security and other conditions are established to attract investments from abroad, and that necessary arrangements are made for the foreign investment, private or public, needed for the development programs.

Training for Agricultural Economists.

The meeting noted with interest the suggestion that FAO conduct an agricultural economics training school in the region, in co-operation with a host government and other international institutions, which would help train agricultural economists in making more effective appraisals of the prospective economic possibility of specific developmental projects. In response to a request of the members, the FAO staff prepared and distributed a memorandum outlining this possibility more fully, so that it could be considered by governments in the region prior to the coming FAO annual Conference.

FUTURE PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS

The meeting felt that pre-Conference meetings of the kind of the present one are of importance for understanding the general development of the region and for general preparation of the work of the FAO general Conferences. It was suggested that such meetings should be held at least some three to four months prior to the International Conference, so as to give Governments the possibility of studying in more detail the matters on the Agenda of the Conference which will be of primary importance for the region. As far as the present meeting is concerned it is felt that the procedure of FAO staff experts giving an oral resume of important world developments and proposals of interest to the members, and of the major issues before the meeting as a background for its work, constitutes a novel and valuable contribution to its deliberations. It recommended to the Director General that this procedure might well be followed at subsequent FAO meetings.

The meeting also believes that the procedure of having a Secretariat Working Party to consult with individual governments in the careful review and revision of nations, targets and projections is a valuable part of the meeting and should be continued.

The meeting noted that several governments did not submit their 1949 Annual Reports to FAO as required under Article XI of the Constitution, and that others sent their reports too late for use in preparation of the working papers. Since these reports are essential to the effective analysis of forward targets and programs all delegates are agreed that they will bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate departments of their governments. It is urged also that arrangements will be made whereby the several governments will exchange their annual reports prior to the next pre-conference meeting so that all delegates may acquire a better understanding of the targets and programs of other countries.

FIGURE : AREA, PRODUCTION AND TRADE TARGETS AND ESTIMATES

	A R E A		P R O D U C T I O N		T R A D E				
	1948/ 49	1950/ 51	Prewar Ave (1000 m.t. Paddy)	1948/ 49 1950/ 51	NET IMPORTS Prewar Ave (1000 m.t. milled rice)	NET EXPORTS Prewar Ave (1000 M.T. Milled)			
Burma	4931	3880	6971	5287	5600	3070	1230	1800*	
British Borneo and Sarawak	276	175*	170	116*	125*	52	29	50	
Ceylon	344	390	340	251*	310*	530	401	525*	
China									
22 Provinces	19771	17000	50064	44500*	4600*	797	394	240	
Manchuria	229	217*	411	460*	465*	58	-	-	
Taiwan	666	590	1642*	1250*	1300*				
India - Total	23827	26408	30994	30200	33200	1961	943	700*	
Indo - China	5590	4400	6500	5000	5500	263	188	200*	
Indonesia - Total	6323	6219	9996	9302	10288	1732	76	200.	
Japan	3169	3125	11650	11900	11600				
Korea									
North	(1648	360*	(4212	635*	635*				
South		1112		3052	3886				
Malaya	298	345	513	500*	580	548	72	500	
Pakistan	7562	8369	11168	10260	10340		430	300	
Philippines	1990	2178	2179	2795	2700	44	110	100*	
Thailand	3040	4150	4337	5250	5360				
Others	39	43	54	75	92	290	163	185*	
Total	79703	79761	141221	130833	137981	6275	2846	3000	
							7778	2460	3590

1948/49 figures are preliminary for some countries
 * Estimates and Projections.

WHEAT: AREA, PRODUCTION AND TRADE TARGETS AND ESTIMATES

	AREA (1000 ha.)		PRODUCTION (1000 m.t.)		1950/ 51		1948/ 49		1950/ 51		NET IMPORTS (1000 m.t.)		NET EXPORTS (1000 m.t.)		
	Pre-War Average	1948/ 49	1948/ 49	1948/ 49	1948/ 49	1948/ 49	1948/ 49	1948/ 49	1948/ 49	1948/ 49	1948/ 49	Pre-War Average	1948/ 49	1948/ 49	1950/ 51
Burma	13	13	7	4	5*	43	24	25*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Br. Borneo and Sarawak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ceylon	-	-	-	-	-	25	220	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
China	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22 Provinces	20,154	21,375	21,743	24,500*	25,000	816	175	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manchuria	1,083	950*	897	840*	850*	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taiwan	-	..	-	15	20	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India Total	10,863	8,745	7,420	6,083	6,450	-	1,554	1,200	-	-	226	-	-	-	-
Indo-China	-	-	-	-	-	14	10	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia Total	-	-	-	-	-	105	96	100*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Korea	663	644	1,287	938	1,360	-	1,336	1,670	-	-	97	-	-	-	-
North	197	150*	139	100	125	53	67*	65*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South	155	108	100	76	113	-	114	115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaya	-	-	-	-	-	77	193	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pakistan	3,766	4,197	3,183	3,390	3,530	..	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-
Philippines	-	-	-	-	-	107	114	200*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	18	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	24	44	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	56,694	36,182	34,776	35,946	37,458	1,282	4,101	4,025	323	-	323	-	-	200	-

1948/49 figures are preliminary for some countries.
* Estimates and Projections.

49/1210

BARLEY: AREA, PRODUCTION AND TRADE TARGETS AND ESTIMATES

AREA	PRODUCTION		NET IMPORTS		NET EXPORTS	
	Pre-Mar Ave. /49	1950 /51 (1,000 ha.)	Pre-Mar 1948 Ave. /49	1950 /51 (1,000 m.t.)	Pre-Mar 1948 Ave. /49	1950 /51 (1,000 m.t.)
Burma	-	-	-	-	-	-
British	-	-	-	-	-	-
Borneo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ceylon	-	-	-	-	-	-
China	6275	6400*	7428	7500*	-	-
India Total	2344	2880	2528	2800	13	-
Indo-China	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia-Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	763	858	1418	1516	20	234
Korea	-	-	-	-	300	300
North	147	150*	135*	160	-	-
South	867	900	664	1329	-	75
Malaya	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pakistan	197	195	136	170	25	25
Philippines	-	-	-	-	15	30*
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	20*	28*
Total	11057	10979	11408	12452	27	402
					583	309
					33	375

1948/49 Figures are preliminary
 * Estimates and Projections

OATS: PRODUCTION TARGETS AND ESTIMATES.

COUNTRY.	PRE-WAR 1934/38	1948/49	1950/51.
China. (22 Provinces).	881	795	1000*
Manchuria.	45	40*	40*
Japan.	176	90	125
Korea:			
North.	44	45*	45*
South.	2	2	2
TOTAL:	1,148	972	1,212

* Estimates and Projections.

MILLETS AND SORGHUMS: PRODUCTION TARGETS AND ESTIMATES.

COUNTRY.	PRE-WAR 1934/38.	1948/49	1950/51
Burma	76	75*	75*
Ceylon.	11	10*	10*
China. (22 Provinces) <u>a/</u>	16,348 <u>g/</u>	14,200*	15,600*
Manchuria. <u>b/</u>	6,300*	6,000*	6,300*
India. <u>c/</u>	13,000	12,500	13,200
Japan. <u>d/</u>	237	158	225
Korea: <u>e/</u>			
North.	592 <u>h/</u>	600*	625*
South.	151 <u>h/</u>	120	240
Pakistan. <u>f/</u>	800	519	550
	37,515	34,182	36,825

* Estimates.

a/ China-includes koaliang, buckwheat, foxtail and porso millets.

b/ Manchuria-includes millets and koaliang.

c/ India - includes jowar, bajra, raji and "small millets".

d/ Japan - includes foxtail, porso, and glutinous millets and buckwheat.

e/ Korea - includes foxtail, porso and glutinous millets, buckwheat, and sorghum for prewar; for postwar years includes rye in addition.

f/ Pakistan - includes jowar, bajra and other millets.

g/ 1931-37 average.

h/ 1930-34-36 average.

FATS AND OILS : PRODUCTION AND TRADE TARGETS AND ESTIMATES
(in oil equivalent)

	P R O D U C T I O N		T R A D E		N E T E X P O R T S	
	Pre-Mar	1948/49	1950/51	Pre-Mar	1948/49	1950/51
	ave	(1000 Metric Tons)	(1000 Metric Tons)	ave	(1000 Metric Tons)	(1000 Metric Tons)
Burma	a/	a/	a/	28	15	22
British Borneo and Sarawak	a/	a/	a/			
Ceylon	135	130	150*			60
China Total	3600	2950	3100*			112
India Total	2110	1990	2050*			117
Indo-China	a/	a/	a/			90*
Indonesia - Total	1045	500	850*			15
Japan	245	90	125*	80	53	250
Malaya	160	145	175*			148
Pakistan	205	160	175			a/
Philippines	455	590	600*			45
Thailand	a/	a/	a/	12*	7*	443
Others	590	660	700*			29
Total	8545	7215	7925	120	75	1230
						2633
						101
						20*

a/ Included in "Others"
1948/49 figures are Preliminary
* Estimated

COTTON: AREA, PRODUCTION AND TRADE TARGETS AND ESTIMATES

	Area		Production		Net Imports		Net Exports	
	Pre-War Average 1948/49 (1,000 ha.)	1950/51	Pre-War Average 1948/49 (1,000 Metric tons)	1950/51	Pre-War Average 1948/49 (1,000 Metric tons)	1950/51	Pre-War Average 1948/49 (1,000 Metric tons)	1950/51
BURMA	198	76	80*	10	-	-	18	5
China - Total	2,986	2,468	470*	460*	109	87	-	-
India - Total	8,487	3,750	736	475	-	154	506 a/	-
Indo - China	10	12	1	2	11	11	-	-
Japan	1	3	Neg.	3	598	80	-	-
EUREA -								
North	)216		)37		)14	)13		
South	)	114	)	35))		
Pakistan	1,495	1,236	289	236	-	-	a/	210
Thailand	6	32	2	6	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	-
Total	13,399	7,299	1,766	1,227	732	351	528	215

* Projections or Estimates
a/ India and Pakistan combined
1948/49 Figures are preliminary

RUBBER: AREA, PRODUCTION AND TRADE TARGETS AND ESTIMATES

	AREA		PRODUCTION				NET EXPORTS		NET EXPORTS		
	1948/ 1949	1950/ 1951	PRE-WAR AVERAGE (1,000 m.t.)	1948/ 1949	1950/ 1951	PRE-WAR AVERAGE (1,000-m.t.)	1948/ 1949	1950/ 1951	PRE-WAR AVERAGE (1,000 m.t.)	1948/ 1949	1950/ 1951
Burma	45	-	8	10	12*	-	-	-	10	8	10
British Borneo and Sarawak	151	148	35	61	62	-	-	-	52	62	60
Ceylon	245	-	62	97	85*	-	-	-	59	92	80
China-Total	-	-	-	-	-	3	21	20*	-	-	-
India-Total	50	52*	13	15	16	-	10	20	12	-	-
Indo-China	127	102	56	44	65	-	-	-	54*	42	60
Indonesia-Total	1,292	1,300*	353	433	600	-	-	-	346	452	600
Japan	-	-	-	-	-	56	37	45	-	-	-
Malaya	1,316	1,320	600	698	650	-	-	-	421	679	650
Philippines	4	-	1	2	5*	-	-	-	1	1*	1*
Thailand	125	250*	49	95	100	-	-	-	29	96	95
Others	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	-
Total	3,353	3,172	1,177	1,460	1,593	66	78	87	964	1,411	1,556

1948/49 are preliminary
 * Estimates and projections

LIST OF DELEGATES, OBSERVERS AND
SECRETARIAT.

DELEGATES

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M. Khuan Chhup
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International Labour Organization:-	Dr. Kuang Kai-loo
Supreme Command Allied Powers:-	Mr. Mark B. Williamson Mr. Floyd L. Whittington
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization:-	Dr. Alexander Wolsky Mr. William J. Ellis
World Health Organization:-	Dr. W.W. Yung.

Secretariat:

Representative of the Director-General of FAO in the Far East Region:-	W.H. Cummings
Secretary-General of the Meeting:-	Harold A. Vogel
Deputy Secretary-General:-	B.M. Piplani
Organizing Secretary:-	J.A.H. Gauntlett
U.K. Foreign Office Advisor to the Singapore Government:-	R.H. Morton
Technical Secretary on Economics:-	M. Ezekiel
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