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**REPORT OF THE  
FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST**

Tokyo, Japan - 6-16 October 1958



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report  
of the  
Fourth FAO Regional Conference  
for  
Asia and the Far East

Tokyo - JAPAN

6 - 16 October 1958

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## Chapter I

### INTRODUCTION

The Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East was held at Tokyo, Japan, 6 - 16 October 1959. Member Governments represented were:

Australia	Iran	Pakistan
Burma	Japan	Philippines
Cambodia	Korea	Thailand
Ceylon	Laos	United Kingdom
France	Federation of Malaya	United States
India	Netherlands	Viet-Nam
New Zealand		

Observers were present from the International Office for Epizootics (OIE), the Holy See, the United Nations and the World Veterans Federation. A full list of participants is given in Annex I to this report.

The Conference was called to order by Dr. B.R. Sen, Director-General of FAO, after which His Excellency Mr. Kunio Miura, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Government of Japan, gave an opening address. In welcoming delegates from other countries in the region to the Conference, he expressed Japan's willingness to cooperate fully with member nations of FAO in promoting agricultural development. Although Japan had made significant progress in the technique of rice production, many problems remained to be solved, and a frank exchange of ideas and experiences in the Conference would greatly contribute to this end.

The Director-General of FAO then welcomed the delegations on behalf of the Organization. In expressing his appreciation for the facilities which the Government of Japan had made available to the Conference, he mentioned that Tokyo was a particularly appropriate site for the Regional Conference because Japan had made such great progress in agriculture. Dr. Sen referred to the rapid population growth in many countries of the region which made mutual cooperation among nations increasingly important in order to help secure greater efficiency in production and distribution and raise levels of living. The Regional Conference was an important instrument for achieving the cooperation between nations for which FAO was established.

His Excellency Mr. D.P.R. Gunawardena, Minister of Agriculture and Food of the Government of Ceylon and leader of the Ceylon delegation, thanked the Japanese Government for its hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the Conference and for the delegations.

The Conference then unanimously elected Dr. Seiichi Tobata, leader of the Japanese delegation, as Chairman of the Conference. His Excellency Mr. Gunawardena, Minister of Agriculture and Food for Ceylon, was elected first Vice-Chairman. Mr. Jose M. Trinidad, Under-Secretary of Agriculture for the Philippines, and Mr. Truong Van Hieu, National Director of Agriculture, Viet-Nam, were also elected as Vice-Chairmen.

The Conference as its first order of business adopted the following agenda:

Introductory Items

1. Opening of the Conference
2. The Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Work of FAO in Relation to the Food and Agricultural Situation

4. Trends and Objectives in the Work of FAO in Asia and the Far East. Statement by the Director-General and Discussion.
5. Policy Questions Arising out of Technical Meetings

Major Questions of Food and Agricultural Development in the Region

6. Expansion and Orientation of Agricultural Production and Supplies in Relation to Demand
  - (i) Short term commodity outlook in world trade
  - (ii) Longer term prospects and agricultural development planning
7. Agricultural Stabilization and Support Policies
8. Nutrition in Relation to Food and Agricultural Policy
9. Problems of Determining Priorities in Fishery Development Planning
10. Evaluation of Agrarian Reform
11. Organization of Agricultural Education and Extension Services Adapted to Local Conditions

Specific Activities Requiring Conference Guidance or Government Action

12. (a) International Rice Commission
  - (b) Improving Farm Management in Rice Producing Areas
  - (c) World Seed Campaign
  - (d) World Census of Agriculture
  - (e) Marketing of Food Grains
  - (f) Development of Pulp and Paper Industries
  - (g) Fishery Statistics
  - (h) Improvement in Fish Marketing
  - (i) Livestock Production with particular reference to the Control of Animal Diseases

### Concluding Items

13. The Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region

14. Adoption of Report

A list of working papers, both those prepared and distributed in advance by the Secretariat and those presented by delegations and the secretariat during the Conference is given in Annex 2 of this report.

The Conference set up a Drafting Committee comprising delegates from Burma, Ceylon, India, Japan, the Federation of Malaya, the Philippines and Viet-Nam to prepare the draft of a report for the consideration of the Conference. The delegate of India was elected Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

The Conference placed on record its sorrow at learning, on 10 October, of the passing away of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, and recognized the leadership he had given for the cause of under-privileged peoples all over the world. The Director-General informed the Conference of the close contact that had developed between FAO and His Holiness, especially since the Organization's headquarters was transferred to Rome in 1951, and of his personal interest in its work. Dr. Archibald W. Bryson, Observer at the Conference on behalf of the Holy See, responded.

During the course of the Conference participants took part in various study tours arranged by the courtesy of the host government. The tours included the Kanto-Tozan Agricultural Experiment Station at Konosu, Saitama Prefecture, and a nearby farm village. Other research institutes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, including Tokai District Fishery Research Institute, the Livestock Department of the National Agriculture Research Institute, the Central Forestry Experiment Station in Tokyo and the Raw Silk Experiment Station also in Tokyo. Visits were also paid to a private research institute for vitamin-enriched food and the Agricultural Implements and Machinery Fair which was being held in Tokyo.

The Conference held its closing session on the afternoon of 16 October 1958, at which the draft report was considered and adopted with some amendments. The delegate of France observed that although a French translation of Chapter VI, "Summary of Principal Recommendations and Suggestions" was made available before the report was adopted, the remainder of the draft report was circulated in English only.

After the adoption of the report, all delegations joined in expressing their appreciation of the outstanding services and facilities that had been made available by the Government of Japan, which had contributed greatly to the success of the Conference.

Chapter II

THE WORK OF FAO IN RELATION TO  
THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

A. Trends and Objectives in the Work of FAO in Asia and the Far East

The Conference took note of the trends and objectives in the work of FAO in Asia and the Far East, as reported in a background paper prepared by the FAO secretariat and submitted to the Conference. The text of the FAO paper is presented below. A list of technical meetings sponsored by FAO in the region since the Third Regional Conference, held at Bandung, Indonesia in October 1956, is given in Annex 3 to this report.

Conference discussions of the work of FAO in the region are recorded in other chapters of this report, and particularly in Chapter V, The Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region.

Recent work of FAO in the countries of Asia and the Far East is briefly summarized in the succeeding sections, dealing in turn with each of the Organization's main fields of activity.

Soil Fertility

It is recognized that raising fertility of soils through the use of fertilizers, manures and rotations is one of the readiest means of improving yields in most of the countries in the region where per hectare yield is very low. To achieve this, a regional fertility program has been initiated through the Working Party on Fertilizers of the International Rice Commission. Under this program a soil fertility expert visited all but one of the countries of the region and worked with officials of Member Governments to assist in the establishment of soil fertility programs, including field fertilizer experimentation, soil-plant analyses and interpretation of the results of such investigations for practical use. The program is giving particular emphasis to conducting simple fertilizer tests on cultivators' fields, which are essential for:

- a) obtaining realistic information regarding fertilizer responses under existing conditions;
- b) making recommendations to cultivators for the most effective use of fertilizers;
- c) providing demonstrations to cultivators for encouraging fertilizer use; and
- d) deriving quantitative information on potential increase in crop production required for the formulation of agricultural development plans.

As a result of this program most countries of the region have initiated or strengthened their work in this field.

#### Farm and Watershed Management

The principal activities carried out in the field of farm and watershed management consisted of sponsoring development centres and publishing newsletters and monographs.

A centre on Watershed Management was conducted in India, in February 1957, with participants from ten Far Eastern countries. Attention was given to the technical and economic aspects of watershed improvement and management through a series of lectures, discussions and field problems. As a result of this Centre a publication is planned which will cover the essentials of watershed management.

A Development Centre on Farm Management was conducted in New Delhi in October-November 1957 with participants from 11 countries. The program was devoted to the application of farm planning and budgeting techniques in farm management research and extension. Recommendations made at the Centre will be presented to the conference for its discussion on the subject of Improving Farm Management in Rice Producing Areas.

A farm management newsletter has been instituted, and the first of these was sent to interested persons in the region. A series of monographs on the economics of rice farm management has been outlined, and the first of these is now being prepared. These monographs, when complete, will represent the first complete coverage of all economic aspects of rice farm operations, such as use of labour and machinery, credit, choice of supplementary enterprise, intensity of farm practices, etc.

Plans have been completed for a training centre on farm development for settlement areas, to be held in Saigon in October 1958, for the three countries which use French as their second language, i.e. Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

An FAO team cooperated with the Government of India in the development of adequate methods for evaluation of the effects of land reform in that country.

#### Water Development and Utilization

A number of countries in the region requested technical assistance in the field of water development and utilization: in India, the investigation on water requirements of crops has been continued; in Nepal, the FAO irrigation team has been enlarged and includes at present 4 members; several irrigation projects ranging from 2,000 to 30,000 acres have been prepared and submitted to the government; in Japan, FAO advisory activity on irrigation on sloping land with two experts continued; in East Pakistan, design work for the Ganges-Kobadak project continued with 8 experts; in West Pakistan, groundwater exploration and development work and assistance

in organization of hydrological services continued; at the same time, river basin development and dam design work is being taken up in continuation of previous activities on the right bank tributaries of the Indus; in Laos, assistance in designing local irrigation projects continued in close cooperation with the French and USA bilateral teams; survey of present irrigation works and assessment of future possibilities on the lower Mekong are being taken up within the framework of an FAO resource survey program; in Afghanistan, work has been started on land and water resource appraisal on a river basin scale, and a four-man team is advising on improvement of existing irrigation projects in Northern Afghanistan (Kunduz River) in implementation of recommendations made by previous FAO experts.

### Agricultural Engineering

Study on the mechanization of rice production has been continued by the ad hoc Working Group of the International Rice Commission. The technical secretary of the Group is provided from members of the FAO agricultural engineering staff.

The agricultural engineers also have continued to give advice, guidance and training on farm power and machinery, agricultural workshops and equipment for plant protection in Burma, Pakistan and India. In Ceylon they rendered technical assistance to the Gal Oya Development Board.

### Improvement of Plant Production

Apart from the work on rice improvement organized by the Working Party of the International Rice Commission, an important activity of the regional expert is the holding of national training centres annually or biannually, e.g. Burma and Viet-Nam in 1958. Diversification of rice cropping systems has been studied in Thailand, and the reduction of losses through improvement of storage in Burma. Grain and fodder legumes are important in providing diversification of cropping, as well as food for humans and fodder for animals; good results have been obtained from preliminary work in Indonesia.

After an initial cotton survey in Indonesia, assistance is being provided in selection and breeding and in extension. Appraisal and collection of coconut varieties as a basis for improvement are being planned under a new regional project. Tobacco production in the Philippines has been investigated.

In the field of pasture and fodder development, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has published its scientific monograph No. 22: "The Grassland and Fodder Resources of India", the outcome of an ETAP assignment. FAO has also become closely associated with the long-term plans in Japan, where some millions of hectares of sown pastures must be established quickly to feed a planned dairy-cow population of four millions. Similar developments are under way in Taiwan and Cambodia.

The Plant Protection Agreement for Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region, established in 1956, has been signed or adhered to by 13 governments. The regional expert assists in its maintenance and maintenance of liaison. Work is continuing on a long-term project of investigation and control of kadang kadang disease of coconut.

Further particulars of the work in the field of seed improvements are given when the Conference discusses the World Seed Campaign.

#### Animal Production and Veterinary Science

The development of dairying is of considerable importance in the region in view of the existence of a significant deficit in proteins in the diet of the people. FAO's activities in this field have included the provision of experts on specific aspects, such as the improvement of cheese-making in mountainous regions in Nepal, the organization of production and collection of milk in Ceylon, the management of the plant at the Aarey Milk Colony, Bombay, etc. Joint surveys have been carried out in India with UNICEF in connection with the development of milk conservation programs.

The greatest emphasis on dairy developments in the region has been placed on the training of personnel. A training course was held at the Aarey Milk Colony in India in 1954. Since then two training courses have been held in Denmark (1956 and 1958) where participants from Asia and the Far East have studied the latest developments in dairy techniques, as well as taking part in practical work in farms and in dairy plants.

In the field of veterinary work, FAO assisted in the control of diseases through the assignment of special veterinarians stationed in several countries in the region. Through the medium of Group Country Assignments, work in rinderpest control has been coordinated and considerable successes have been attained. Although this disease is gradually becoming controlled and foot-and-mouth disease increasing in relative importance, continued vigilance for rinderpest is necessary in view of the recent outbreaks in India, Pakistan and Thailand.

New foot-and-mouth disease institutions in Thailand and Indonesia have received much technical assistance from FAO and are approaching the operational stage.

The activities for the establishment of the proposed Working Party on Livestock Production have been proceeding. Nine countries have nominated their principal representatives on the Working Party. It is envisaged that by 1959 the stage will be reached for the invitation of definite long-term coordinated research programs in the various fields of animal health and production. The specialist to be appointed to the new post of Regional Livestock Specialist for Asia and the Far East, which was approved by the last FAO Conference, will be able to serve as technical secretary to the Working Party and will assist in the coordination and development of the various action programs. It is also envisaged that a meeting of the principle Working Party will be convened and that, subject to the availability of funds, livestock study tours or inter-regional exchange visits by research workers will be arranged.

## Agricultural Institutions and Services

The principal activities carried out in the field of agricultural institutions and services in the region, concerned agricultural extension, administration and research. The majority of this work was effected through FAO agricultural advisors under the ETAP program in Ceylon, Indonesia and Viet-Nam. In addition, an Agricultural Extension Study Tour was a highlight of 1957 activities in the region.

The Study Tour was organized at the invitation of the governments of Japan, the Philippines and India. The Study Tour group visited these three countries for a total of six weeks in November-December 1957. Seventeen representatives of twelve countries and territories in the Far East, an ICA observer and three FAO staff members participated. The group had opportunities of observing farm and home improvement work in all its aspects from the national to the farm level in each of the countries. Not only did the participants learn a great deal from the visits, but the host governments were also benefited by the Group's observations and discussions.

The Agricultural Extension Training Centre for Asia and the Far East was conducted in the U.P. College of Agriculture in May 1958, at the invitation of the Government of the Philippines, and with financial assistance from the Council on Economic and Cultural Affairs Inc., New York, U.S.A., and the United Nations Technical Assistance Board. It was attended by 18 representatives of 12 countries and territories in the region. The purpose of the Training Centre was to train extension teachers so that they could conduct, upon returning to their home countries, national training programs for field level workers under their local conditions.

The first issue of Extension in Asia was published in July 1957 and the second issue in April 1958. The main purpose of the publication is to provide a source of useful information on extension and to serve as a medium for the exchange of extension teaching materials, produced in the various countries.

## Rural Welfare

In the general field of rural industries assistance was given in the processing of rice, dates and rubber. In view of the fact that the leather produced in the countries of the region is often of poor quality, due mostly to the primitive methods of processing, FAO for some years has been advising one State in India on improving methods of flaying, curing and tanning, and excellent results have been achieved. The expert is now organizing a similar program in several parts of the country. The Netherlands Government has associated itself with these ideas and has proposed the establishment of a well-equipped centre for the training of personnel who will carry out the training of others in their home State.

The Rural Life Study in Japan has been completed and, in view of the important role of self-help organization of farmers in community development, a further study on Farmers' Organizations in Relation to Community Development in Japan has been started in collaboration with the Tokyo University.



Work in the field of credit and cooperatives has been continued. An expert in agricultural credit is now serving in Indonesia, and with his help a national training centre will be held in 1959. A Third Technical Meeting on Cooperatives is planned for 1960, and fellowships in cooperatives are being regularly awarded.

#### Agricultural Economics and Marketing

Special attention was given to the systematic collection and analysis of information on the progress of food and agricultural development and on the techniques and methods of agricultural programming followed in individual countries of the region. Work in this field was featured by the ECAFE/FAO Working Party on Economic Development and Planning: the Agricultural Sector, held in September 1957, the conclusions of which were presented to the Conference as part of the discussion of Item 6 of the Agenda. The Expansion and Orientation of Agricultural Production and Supplies in Relation to Demand. Technical assistance in agricultural programming was scheduled to be provided to three countries in the region in 1958. In accordance with a recommendation of the Working Party, a study was to be made of the methods of economic appraisal of agricultural development projects now in use in the region.

In view of the special problems of food and agricultural price policies in underdeveloped countries, the continuing studies under way in this field were brought to a focus in the FAO/ECAFE Centre on Policies to Support and Stabilize Agricultural Prices and Incomes, held in New Delhi in March/April 1958. The Report of this Centre was presented to the Conference.

Problems of financing and credit for agricultural development were covered by such activities as special case studies of agricultural financing in the region, and also by the provision of technical assistance in setting up an agricultural bank in Pakistan (three experts scheduled for 1958). The FAO/ECAFE Centre on Agricultural Financing and Credit, held in Lahore in October 1956, dealt with many of these problems and recommended that a regional training centre be held for personnel of intermediate responsibility in the operation of rural credit programs. In addition to publication by FAO of the report of this Centre, which contained a study on the organization and supply of agricultural credit in the region, the ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division issued a special publication: "Credit Problems of Small Farmers in Asia and the Far East". Technical assistance was also provided to Ceylon in putting into operation a pilot crop insurance scheme.

Foreign trade in agricultural products was the major source of foreign exchange for most countries in the region. Studies were continuing to evaluate more closely the major forces influencing such trade. Certain special aspects of these studies were presented to the Conference for the discussion of agricultural expansion in relation to demand.

The importance of improving marketing systems was recognized as essential to agricultural development. Work in this field includes the preparation of a series of marketing handbooks viz. a "Guide to Marketing Problems and Improvement Programs", and a practical guide to the marketing

of fruits and vegetables, are now available. An annotated bibliography is being compiled of publications on different aspects of marketing in order to facilitate international exchange of experience. Technical assistance is also provided to countries in the region; in 1958 this program includes experts in crop grading of rice and beans, domestic rice marketing, and export marketing of rice. In addition, FAO and the ECAFFE/FAO Agriculture Division collaborated in advising the University of Indonesia in the preparation of a study of rice marketing in that country. A proposal to hold a technical meeting in the region on the marketing of food grains was being considered.

The joint ECAFFE/FAO Agriculture Division, located in Bangkok, collaborated fully with FAO headquarters in joint meetings on various agro-economic problems, as indicated above, and published reports of special studies in these fields. The Division was also making special case studies of the use of surplus agricultural commodities for financing economic development, of the relationships between agricultural and industrial growth in the economy, and of the impact of community development programs on agricultural development. A survey was also being made of the status and scope of agricultural economics research in the region.

#### Commodities

Recent years have seen an intensification of FAO's work in the basic intelligence and research work on commodities. Current reports and commodity notes are regularly issued, but this work is now directed more towards facilitating the intergovernmental consultations centred in the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems. This Committee keeps the general commodity situation under review, reviews intergovernmental actions concerning commodities and considers any specific problems that arise, such as surplus disposal, food reserves, agricultural support measures. It has set up a number of subsidiary bodies, the oldest established of which is the CCP Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal. As well as developing constructive uses for surpluses, the Washington Sub-Committee tries to ensure that, as far as possible, surplus disposals do not have harmful effects on the interests of other countries, and are in conformity with the established FAO Principles on Surplus Disposal.

Four specialized commodity groups have been set up under CCP auspices. Since the last regional conference, two standing groups were set up for coconut and grains in 1957, in addition to those existing for rice and cocoa. Governments felt that the problems of these commodities call for a fuller exchange of knowledge and experience, and a forum was needed for getting to know each other's policies and thus pave the way for improved coordination of national policies. Such groups also help improve statistics, outlook work, etc., and provide a firmer basis for planning by governments, farmers and traders. Membership of these standing groups is open to all interested governments.

The rice group, known as the Consultative Sub-Committee on the Economic Aspects of Rice, reviewed, at its second session held in the United States in February 1958, the current situation and discussed the

short-term and long-term, outlook for rice as well as means to facilitate the flow of international trade. A study of consumer preferences was initiated as well as research into the utilization of rice. The structure of the international market for rice is being studied as a preparation for possible discussion of methods to reduce instability in international trade. A Reciprocal Exchange of Information is being conducted through the Sub-Committee's secretariat.

An important part of the Sub-Committee's task is conducted by a Group of Experts on Rice Grading and Standardization, which has held three sessions, drafted a model scheme for grading suitable for adoption by governments and agreed on a number of basic definitions. It is hoped to hold the next session of the Sub-Committee and of the Group of Experts in the Far East in February 1959.

The FAO Group on Grains has set up a program of work including regular appraisals of the world grain situation, an examination of the trends in production, consumption, stocks, prices and trade, and the consideration of national grain policies and their international effects. It has undertaken a comprehensive study of the factors which have led to the present disequilibrium and accumulation of surpluses as a first step towards considering practical measures for overcoming some of the current grain problems.

The FAO Group on Coconut and Coconut Products was set up in 1957 and will hold its second session in the Far East in the autumn of 1958. It is engaged on a program of work covering economic analysis and outlook, the improvement of statistics, the improvement of copra quality and standards and the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge.

The FAO Cocoa Study Group has now held three sessions and is developing a program of work which provides for regular publication of cocoa statistics, the improvement of the accuracy and coverage of statistics and a range of economic and social studies, including questions of cocoa substitutes. It is also promoting technical work and research in the cocoa producing countries.

#### Agricultural Statistics

Work on agricultural statistics was concentrated on two topics: censuses and sample surveys, and statistical techniques in agricultural experimentation. The activities in the first topic changed emphasis from work on the publication of the report on the 1950 World Census of Agriculture to work in preparation of the program for the 1960 World Census of Agriculture, which will be discussed by the Conference.

On the use of statistical techniques in agricultural research, by far the outstanding work accomplished during the two years was the preparation of the Review of the Status of Agricultural Experimentation in the region. This review has shown that while the principles of agricultural experimentation are fairly well adapted in practice, the amount of useful information resulting from experiments for direct application by farmers

is not commensurate with the efforts and funds spent by the countries on agricultural research, stressing thereby the need for measures for further promoting the uses of experimental designs in agricultural research.

### Fisheries

FAO is continuously associated with fishery policies and programs in the region, through the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council. The FAO Regional Fisheries Officer is the Secretary of the Council and, as in previous years, he and his staff have performed the various secretariat functions of the Council. In the past two years the servicing of the Council has been strengthened by the designation of specialist officers in FAO Headquarters to service the various technical committees, sub-committees and panels of the Council in their respective subject-matter fields. This is improving the flow of technical information to Member Governments and facilitates access to expert advice on particular technical problems. The Seventh Session of the Council was held in Bandung in May 1957, and the Eighth Session will meet in Colombo in December this year. Apart from the general activities of the Council and the routine consultative and advisory work of the Regional Office, FAO's main activities in the region were as follows, and may be conveniently mentioned under the three main branches of its work, viz.:

### Fisheries Biology

As part of FAO's work in fishery resources, it is assisting in organizing a symposium on Fish Behaviour to take place at the Council's Eighth Session. FAO also participated, in the second part of 1956, in a meeting of the Rastrelliger Sub-Committee of the IPFC and collaborated in the preparation of plans for coordinated research on this group involving, among other things, the conduct of a Training Centre under the Technical Assistance Program, which will commence in October this year.

Technical Assistance projects have been carried out in the investigation of marine resources in Indonesia and the Philippines, the promotion of inland fisheries in Ceylon and the Hilsa fishery in Pakistan.

FAO will participate in a training course in marine biology organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the Science Institute at Bombay.

### Fisheries Technology

In the Fisheries Technology field, a training centre for junior fisheries officials was held in Noumea, New Caledonia, in collaboration with the South Pacific Commission and, at the request of the Government of India, national training centres for fishermen and for fishing boat designers have been organized by FAO Technical Assistance experts. Other experts were engaged in India, Ceylon, Thailand and the Philippines in introducing new fishing methods, designing new boats and mechanizing local fishing boats, assisting in the planning of fish harbours and in the organization of fish processing and gear research laboratories.

Headquarters' experts travelled in the region, consulting and advising governments and industry on fisheries development, on the design of fishing boats and research vessels, on fishing methods and on the handling and processing of fish.

Some 24 delegates from the region participated at the FAO Fishing Gear Congress in Hamburg, 1957.

#### Fisheries Economics and Statistics (including institutions and services)

In response to the recommendations of the Third Regional Conference, particular emphasis has been placed during the past two years on certain institutional problems associated with middlemen activities, fish-marketing, and fishermen's cooperatives in the region. Pilot studies of the functions of middlemen and cooperatives in fisheries have been promoted under the auspices of the Universities of Bombay, Hongkong and Malaya, and a substantial part of the report on these studies is now being prepared for publication.

The FAO Indo-Pacific Training Centre in Fishery Cooperatives and Administration was conducted in Sydney, Australia, from December 1957 to January 1958 and, in this connection, a comprehensive review of fishermen's cooperatives in the region has been prepared and will be embodied in the report of the Centre, to be published very shortly.

Under the Expanded Technical Assistance Program, experts on cooperative fish-marketing have completed assignments in India and Pakistan during 1957 and 1958.

A draft Handbook on Preliminary Fisheries Surveys was prepared and circulated to members of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council for use in connection with the IPFC Indo-Pacific Fisheries Year.

#### Forestry

The Fourth Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission was held at Bandung, Indonesia, in June 1957, preceded by a second session of the regional Teak Sub-Commission. The meeting reviewed the progress made in forestry in Member Countries since the previous session. Practically all countries reported an expansion of forest industries but the need was clear for rationalization and modernization of the sawmilling industry in the region. Some progress was reported in the utilization of lesser-known hardwoods or secondary species, which has largely resulted from research in impregnation and seasoning. Great interest was shown in the testing of secondary hardwoods both for pulping and for the manufacture of plywood and furniture, as well as for construction purposes. Impregnation of secondary timbers for railway sleepers was reported as being carried out on a commercial or experimental scale in several countries.

In the course of this session, recommended standard grading rules were agreed for teak squares, hardwood logs and sawn hardwoods. Further work is proceeding in regard to teak logs and conversions.

The delegates of the Commission reviewed current FAO activities in the region and advised the Director-General as to the desirable future orientation of FAO's forestry work as it affected the Asia-Pacific area. The next session of the regional forestry commission is due to be held late in 1959, when the secretariat will report progress made with the study on regional wood resources and requirements being jointly handled by ECAFE and FAO. This study aims at making basic data available on the potentialities of existing forest resources and on prospective wood requirements, in order to enable governments to formulate sound policies in the fields of forest conservation and utilization, within the framework of a far-reaching regional policy based on factual information of the region's forestry situation, and its likely trends. The study will be completed in 1959 and its findings submitted to the next FAO regional conference.

Earlier in the year a meeting of the APFC Working Party on Watershed Management has been held in India, in the course of a regional development centre on watershed management organized under the Technical Assistance Program and designed to serve both foresters and agriculturists. This project stemmed directly from recommendations of the last FAO regional conference. The ensuing debate on watershed management and shifting cultivation led the Commission to urge that a training centre on research methods and techniques in watershed management should be established by FAO in one of the tropical countries of the region.

Preparations have been started for a 1959 regional training centre on forest inventory and land-use classification techniques in Indonesia and for a regional consultation on the development of pulp and paper industries to be organized with ECAFE and UNTAA, probably in early 1960. It is hoped that this meeting will not only help to spread useful economic and technical information among the governments and specialists of the region, but will also stimulate considerably the rate at which new pulp and paper capacity will be established or planned through domestic as well as foreign capital investments.

Technical assistance has been rendered by FAO specialists to several governments in the various branches of forestry. Notable projects have been concerned with the inventory of the teak-bearing forests of northern Thailand, the expansion of Burma's teak markets, the development of the forest products research institute in the Philippines, potential pulp and board industries in Viet-Nam, control of marine borers of timber in India. Through joint arrangements with UNTAA, an FAO specialist has also been advising the Planning Board in Indonesia.

#### Nutrition

The Fourth Session of the Nutrition Committee for South and East Asia was held in Tokyo in September 1956, sponsored jointly by FAO and WHO. The Committee examined the nutrition situation in the region. Particular attention was given to beri-beri and protein malnutrition and to suitable methods of preventing these diseases. In the FAO/ECAFE meeting on agricultural planning, held in Bangkok in 1957, contributions to the discussions on "Nutritional aspects of food planning" were made. The

problem of nutrition in relation to food and agriculture policy will be discussed by the Conference.

A survey was carried out in Ceylon in 1957, in collaboration with WHO, in order to assess the food supply situation and the nutritional status of the population, as a basis for sound food policies and plans as well as nutrition programs. In Burma, a nutrition expert assisted the Government in the organization of nutrition services, with special attention to programs of nutrition education.

Assistance in various aspects of food technology was continued in India (fruit preservation) and Indonesia (processing of local protein-rich foods). Food preservation surveys have been made in Thailand and Burma.

In the field of home economics, experts assigned to Burma, India, Indonesia, Malaya and Thailand have continued to assist in the development of training programs and extension services in the respective countries in close cooperation with the regional officer who filled the new post of Home Economics in the regional office.

A Regional Technical Meeting on Home Economics was held in Tokyo in October 1956 and the meeting considered especially the situation in relation to the Home Economics training and extension services in the region.

A Seminar on school-feeding and related activities for Southeast Asia will be held at the end of 1958 in Tokyo.

#### B. Statement to the Conference by the Director-General

The Director-General expressed his pleasure that the first FAO regional conference he was attending should be in his own region. He placed high importance on the Regional Conferences and particularly on the present one because, as delegates would remember, he had proposed at last year's FAO Conference that the work of the Organization in the regions be strengthened, and this policy had been approved. He had therefore given more authority to his Regional Representatives, who were required to develop closer associations through visits, with member countries, and to prepare forward regional programs for headquarters consideration. The strengthening of regional offices was proceeding. He was happy to see that Member Governments had realized the importance of the Conference and sent delegates of such high level.

He had heard criticisms that FAO's work was sometimes not always a reflection of the needs and desires of member countries. If this were correct, it could possibly have resulted from the organizational structure of FAO, and partly from the way regional conferences had been conducted in the past. In reorganizing FAO headquarters, he was trying to bring about greater coordination among various subject-matter specialists, so that the FAO program of work could be formulated from the point of view of regional needs. He asked for advice for the future and criticism on the past, which he might take into consideration in preparing the program and budget for 1960 and 1961.

He would not touch on technical details which had been fully covered in working papers for the meeting. Instead he would confine his remarks to a few points which he felt should be called to the special attention of delegates.

First, he wished to call their attention to the paper which dealt with the impact on national programming of the long term forces affecting demand and consumption. The importance was well known of foreign trade in agricultural produce as a supplier of foreign exchange. The need was also clear for expansion of agricultural production to supply domestic requirements, although programs for government expenditure did not always reflect this need. It was necessary for expansion of agriculture to keep pace with this demand, for if production expanded too slowly, food prices rose sharply, and larger food imports might need to be given precedence over capital goods to the detriment of general development, or food exporting countries might find increasing domestic needs cutting into export availabilities. On the other hand, if production rose more quickly than demand, prices to farmers might fall to an unprofitable level, and problems of surplus arise.

The Director-General therefore stressed the need for national planning authorities to keep constantly under review the major forces influencing demand in domestic and world markets, so that their countries' resources might be used to the maximum benefit. The FAO/ECAFE Working Party on Economic Development and planning had noted that "even imperfect indications of future trends are of value in the formulation of economic development plans and policies for agriculture". The Working Party had expressed the hope that "FAO can expand its analyses of the production and marketing structure for the main agricultural products, including their export prospects, and of the underlying causes of price fluctuations". He hoped that delegates would help the Organization with ideas as to the direction these FAO studies should take.

The Director-General also asked the Conference to consider whether some special study should not be undertaken as was being done for the Latin-American Region of the possible effects of the European Common Market on future demand for agricultural products of the region.

The Director-General made special reference to FAO's work in the social field. Since assuming office he had given a great deal of thought to ways in which the Organization could make its many and heterogeneous activities meaningful in terms of human well-being. FAO had been primarily concerned with technical aspects of agriculture, fisheries, and forestry. But the conservation and exploitation of the resources of soil and water or of plant and animal life did not constitute ends in themselves, but were the means of promoting better living for people. Moreover, FAO's technical work could not be successful without the consideration of social and economic problems of farmers. FAO's programs in such fields as agricultural and home economics extension, land settlement and reform, the



provision of credit, cooperative organization and the promotion of rural industries, aimed directly at improving the conditions of living of the rural populations. In planning and implementing programs in these fields he felt it would be very important to keep the closest collaboration among the projects or - more desirably - to integrate them into an overall plan wherever possible. Such collaboration was essential, not only for FAO, but for the work of individual governments.

He reported that he had engaged a consultant to appraise the situation, and to assess and give expert advice on the welfare aspects of FAO's program. The consultant's report, shortly to be available, would provide a basis for determining the most appropriate pattern of assistance to countries in promoting the welfare of their rural populations. These recommendations would be taken, as far as possible, into account in the program of work for 1960-61.

In this connection, he wished to remind delegates of the importance of extension work, particularly in this region. Whatever improved varieties or improved methods were developed by scientists, they would be valueless unless adopted or practised by farmers. FAO field experts advised governments on various technical improvements, but without proper extension services their recommendations could not be implemented. It was needless to say that in order to perform a successful extension service in a country, there must be an efficient organizational set-up in the government. The pattern would, of course, vary from country to country, but it was essential to establish efficient overall coordination between the agricultural and social activities of the government, since extension related to both of these fields.

The Director-General then drew attention to the growing awareness of governments in the region of the possibilities of integrated river basin development. While water was essential to agriculture anywhere in the world, it was even more so in this region, where rice was by far the most important crop. He had heard that in Japan farmers were enjoying four successive years of bumper crops of rice. The very high and stabilized yield of rice in Japan, he understood, owed much to the control of waters both for irrigation and drainage, almost throughout the country. Japanese farmers, too, were noted for their abundant use of fertilizers, and he noted that farmers with an assured water supply, with low risk of flooding, invested more labor and fertilizer than did farmers who were uncertain of the outcome of their efforts.

In planning and implementing projects of water resources, it was often more expedient and economic to make the project serve a number of separate but closely related purposes. In recent years, multi-purpose integrated projects of considerable scale had been carried out in several parts of the world. In this region the planning of a similar project had been initiated for the Mekong basin, which formed part of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet-Nam.

The Mekong project had originated back in 1951, from a technical study by ECAFE of flood control on this international river, and had developed into a study and investigation for the full development of the water and related resources of the Mekong basin. With the cooperation of the United States International Cooperation Administration and the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, FAO carried responsibility for the agriculture, forestry and fisheries aspects. Very recently a FAO mission of eight specialists had started the investigation for the assessment of potential resources in these fields.

The Director-General welcomed the Mekong project, not only because of its intrinsic possibilities, but also because it agreed with his concept of the responsibility of an international organization like FAO. FAO, he felt, should be dynamic in its approach, and not be content to be only an organization for technical service. The Mediterranean Development Project was an other instance of this new approach.

He wished to invite the Conference to discuss what problems of common interest in the region might well be handled by international cooperation.

He pointed out that although there was considerable variation in natural conditions and in the stage of economic development reached there were still many similarities among the countries of the region as a whole, and more so among several neighbouring countries. Due to these similarities, there were a number of things which were of common interest. In the technical field, for instance, improvement in the variety of rice, the main crop of the region, would benefit many countries. The International Rice Commission had made a great contribution in this field. There might be other opportunities for successful collaboration on a regional basis.

The Director-General concluded by stressing the point that there was no intention of confining the topics of the conference to the prepared items of the agenda. After all, he said, the secretariat was a service body, and it was for delegates to decide what was important and worthwhile to discuss at such a policy level Conference.

### C. Recent Developments in the Food and Agricultural Situation in the Region

#### Recent trends in agricultural production

The previous Regional Conference had noted that countries had devoted great efforts to increasing agricultural production and that substantial progress had been made since the war, but had stressed that a more accelerated pace was essential to bring about real improvements in consumption levels. Since that Conference, a new record in agricultural production had been attained in the region in 1956/57. However, adverse weather conditions in parts of south and south-east Asia had caused a reduction in 1957/58 from the previous year's peak, but output had still been some 18% above the average level of the 1948-52 period.

The Conference observed that although the rate of expansion in production from 1953 to 1956 had kept slightly ahead of the increase in population, and production per head of total population rose gradually, the trend was reversed in 1957/58 when per caput production fell to the 1954/55 level. Furthermore, per caput production was still lower than before the war; and while there had been a limited improvement in total available food supplies in recent years, this had come from changes in the pattern of trade in foodstuffs. Food imports into the region had increased substantially to meet the growing demand resulting from increases in population and per caput incomes, while exports had been much smaller compared to the prewar period. The unusually large food imports which some countries had found necessary from time to time had imposed heavy drains on the foreign exchange resources of these countries and seriously hampered their general economic development programs. In some cases these effects had been mitigated by imports obtained as grants or on special terms of payment.

This underlined the continuing importance of maintaining and increasing efforts directed towards a balance development of agriculture in step with the rest of the economy, as had been stressed also at the previous Regional Conference. Production must increase at a much faster pace than the population if the generally meagre levels of consumption and nutrition were to be raised, and the increased demand resulting from growing expenditure on general development was not to result in excessive price increases for foodstuffs. If the rapid growth of population continued, far more vigorous efforts would be needed to increase food production if even the low levels of output per caput prevailing before the war were to be reattained.

#### Recent Trends in Trade in Agricultural Products

It was noted that growing trade deficits and declining foreign exchange reserves had characterized developments these past two years in the region. Both volume and value of imports of agricultural products had increased. On the other hand, export earnings from agricultural products, the main sources of foreign exchange for most countries, had been reduced by falling prices and/or a levelling-off or decline in volume. Furthermore, increasing domestic use of some export products had in some cases reduced the proportion of output available for export. These developments pointed out the vital importance of achieving a more rapid rate of increase in output, and the need for greater efficiency in production of export crops as well as of food crops.

The demand for cereals had risen steadily these past few years as a result of growing populations and advancing per caput incomes. While production of cereals had also expanded, net cereal imports into the region had had to be stepped up to meet the new demand.

In the last two years imports of cereals had risen sharply, facilitated in many cases by the availability of cereals on special terms (notably from the US) to relieve unsatisfactory food supply conditions.

Such conditions had been brought about in many areas by reduced harvests, and in others partly also by an insufficiency of marketed supplies due to a tendency for increased consumption and stockholding at the farm level. However, those countries of the region producing grain above their own requirements had increased their exports of rice and other cereals since 1953 following a gradual expansion in production.

Exports of oilseed crops and vegetable oils had on the whole declined steadily in the last three years, due largely to increased domestic demand rather than to any fall in production.

Tea exports had varied over the years in relation to overseas demand and, while there had been a drop in exports in 1957, the general level had not fallen back to the low point of 1955. With regard to jute, the unsteady market of the last few years had led to some restrictions on production and reduced supplies of raw jute available for export. The volume of rubber exports, destined primarily for countries outside the region, had fluctuated from year to year but had remained at a relatively high level, although prices had fallen.

#### Gross Supplies of Principal Agricultural Commodities

The Conference noted that the increase in production and the changes in trade over the last few years had increased the level of per caput disposable supplies of food and agricultural raw materials in the region. The increased demand within the region for nearly all the principal agricultural products had been met both from increased production and in the last two years from increases in net imports also (or a reduction in export availabilities).

In most countries the level of gross per caput cereal supplies had been well above the average for the 1948-52 period. Even so, reports from several countries indicated that marketed quantities of cereals had fallen short of demand, which had led to price increases. Part of these increases may have been due to increased consumption on farms, and an apparent tendency for some farmers to hold on to their stocks after harvest for a longer period pending more favorable prices. Increases in the per caput supplies of most other agricultural commodities - and particularly the significant increase in sugar supplies - appeared to reflect greater consumption demands made possible by increasing incomes resulting from economic development.

#### Agricultural Development Programs: Recent Developments

Since the previous Regional Conference, some revision in plans for economic development had taken place and some new or revised plans were adopted. The decline in foreign exchange earnings and heavier expenditures on food imports had intensified both currency and budgetary difficulties. Inadequacy of investment funds and foreign exchange had necessitated a reduction in the tempo of economic development. While this

had affected all sectors of the economies, necessitating scaling down in many cases of original targets, agricultural programs had on the whole been given priority for funds. Even in those countries where prepared plans were shelved or were under revision, a good deal of development work was proceeding.

The Conference noted that Japan had abandoned her original 1956-60 program, because basic circumstances had changed after the end of 1956, and was now implementing a new five-year program which began in April 1958. The objective for agriculture was to achieve an annual growth rate of 3.3 percent in gross national income produced in agriculture. The Japanese delegate pointed out that imports of rice into Japan were decreasing as a result of the high level of domestic production. However, in spite of increased farm production, the disparity in incomes per person between agriculture and other industries still required attention. Under the new program, particularly for 1959, the new development program for agriculture, forestry and fisheries stressed three points: (1) basic works such as land development and improvement, reforestation and development of fishing ports; (2) the improvement of farm management and farm practices to reduce unit production costs; and (3) expansion and improvement of the marketing structure to keep abreast of the increasing commercialization of agriculture.

The delegate of India reported on the progress of agricultural development in his country since the last Regional Conference. In March 1956, India's First Five Year Plan was completed and was notable for a 15 percent increase in agricultural production over the base year. An important feature of the agricultural part of the Second Five Year Plan, which was initiated in April 1956, was the integrated approach known as the community development program. The program placed great importance upon the human factor. Extension services and cooperatives constituted integral parts. In some cases, the program set production targets for regions, blocks, villages and even down to some individual farms. Furthermore, the Second Plan covered a wider field than the First Plan, as it dealt with more crops, as well as with animal husbandry, fisheries, warehousing, marketing.

#### Land Development and Improvement

The Conference noted that there was still a considerable area of land in the region which could be brought under cultivation. The delegate of the United Kingdom emphasized the importance of soil survey and land planning before embarking on expansion programs and warned that hasty land development could run into serious difficulties. The delegate from New Zealand referred to the efforts that were being made by Japan to develop areas unsuitable for production of rice or other grains as pasture land.

The utilization and development of land for forest was also important, especially in the mountainous countries. In Korea, where 70 percent of the total land area is forest, an extensive afforestation program was now underway. One of the first steps taken was to prevent the cutting of young trees, and then followed a nationwide tree planting campaign.

In addition to the development of new land, projects of land improvement were being carried out in all countries of the region. It was recognized that in many cases such improvement was less costly and brought quicker results. In most cases, the essential part of this development consisted of irrigation and drainage. The delegate of Japan ascribed the successive bumper crops of rice in his country mainly to the postwar development of water-use and to soil improvement, and the delegate of Burma drew attention to the lack of water control as a disincentive to farmers considering the application of fertilizers.

The delegate of Ceylon stated that the main problem of his country was one of adequate water supply and drainage. It was to be thoroughly investigated by experts, and a proposal to establish a Water Resources Board was being examined. Connected problems were those of land use, soil management and soil conservation. A comprehensive survey of soils was a great need in Ceylon and it was considered that this work might take five to ten years.

### Raising Productivity

Several delegates stressed the importance which was attached in their countries to measures designed to raise productivity in agriculture, both per acre and per man. Their aim was to produce more food for their increasing populations from the area now under cultivation as well as to reduce production costs per unit.

The delegate of Ceylon reported that a policy of intensive rather than extensive agriculture had already been initiated in his country, the aim being to employ the available resources as far as possible on the existing cultivated area. Although progress had been made during the last 25 years in clearing and developing new jungle land these efforts had been motivated more by social than by economic considerations.

The present yield from paddy land in Ceylon was about 9.4 cwt. of milled rice per acre as compared with about 25.9 cwt. in Japan. Ceylon envisaged the possibility of increasing yields by 50% through the adoption of more intensive methods of farming, including double cropping.

In Korea where both soil and climatic conditions appeared to be distinctly favorable for rice, the prospect for further increases in rice production per acre was reported to be bright. Although the present output of rice was about 33 percent above what it was shortly after World War II, and the yield was already higher than in most other countries of the region, the delegate of Korea considered that when more farmers had been taught how to apply scientific methods to rice farming, it would be possible to raise yields by more than 50 percent.

The Conference noted the intensive development of agriculture in Japan, especially the exceptionally high yield of rice per unit area, and interest was expressed in Japanese farming practices. The delegate of India stated that the essentials of the "Japanese method" of paddy cultivation as understood and applied in his country were (1) raised seed bed, (2) planting fewer seedlings per acre (3) transplanting in rows or squares,

and (4) top dressing with fertilizers, at least twice. The adoption of these practices in India had increased the yield of paddy by about half of a ton per acre over the usual methods. In 1957 some 4 million acres had been planted in India by the "Japanese method", and the target for 1958 was 7 million acres.

The use of improved tools and machines suited to conditions in the region was recognized as an important means of raising agricultural productivity per man as well as relieving farmers from back-breaking farm work. Delegates had been impressed by the Farm Machinery Exhibition which they visited as a part of the program of study tours, and some felt that many of the small machines exhibited would be useful in their countries.

The delegate from Thailand pointed out that mechanized farm operations had their limits in the region because of the small size of holdings and because of tradition. The delegate was of the opinion that further studies on the mechanization of farm operation - especially of wet paddy farming - should be undertaken. He proposed the establishment of a regional centre sponsored by FAO with the cooperation of governments, for this purpose.

#### Agricultural Credit

The magnitude of the problem of agricultural indebtedness was evident in almost every country of the region. Agricultural development was held up by lack of adequate funds for agricultural credit and systems of administering them. As the Director-General pointed out in his address, advice on fertilizers, chemicals and farm machinery was valueless to farmers who had no funds to purchase them.

The Conference took note of the fact that the abolition of landlordism in the process of land reform automatically brought responsibility on the part of the government to take over the credit providing functions of the landlords. For instance, Ceylon which had recently enacted land reform measures, reported the establishment of banking institutions for farmers.

The delegate of Ceylon reported that a survey of rural indebtedness conducted in 1957 revealed that 54 percent of the rural families were indebted. Only 4.1 percent of the total amount borrowed was from co-operative institutions, despite the existence of a co-operative credit movement in Ceylon for the past 47 years. The country had now decided to replace the Federal Bank with a Co-operative Development Bank which had government backing. The Ceylon delegate suggested that countries in this region which had the same problem in regard to credit facilities should examine the whole situation carefully and consider whether it would not be possible to establish some sort of regional agricultural bank. Delegates learned that, as the result of land reform in Korea, there were no landlords in that country who did not practice farming for themselves, and that credit for farmers was provided by an Agricultural Bank with branch offices throughout the country.

### Development of Cooperatives

Reports by delegates showed that, in most of the countries of the region, special emphasis was being laid on encouraging and fostering farmers' cooperatives. It was noted that multi-purpose cooperatives at village level, rather than specialized large-scale organizations were generally considered most suitable.

The delegate of India reported that in his country cooperative organizations were being vigorously promoted as an important part of an integrated scheme under the five-year plan, which included marketing, credit, rural industry and various other fields of activity. For credit services of cooperatives, the State assumed partnership. It was envisaged that membership of the cooperatives would amount to 15 million during the second Five-Year Plan period. The scheme also provided for the building of cooperative warehouses, processing plants and sugar factories.

In Ceylon action was now under way to replace the varied types of cooperatives by a single multi-purpose cooperative in each village. The delegate of Ceylon pointed out as a noteworthy feature that the original cooperative edifice had been built up and even sustained under certain artificial conditions. It was sheltered by monopolistic privileges, released from tax obligations, given lavish financial assistance and extensive patronage by the government. He expressed doubt as to whether the structure could withstand the competition of private enterprise under open market conditions. In his view, therefore, the entire structure of cooperatives should be reorganized, on a pattern which would bring about the conscious and active participation of the people, and make it a vehicle of popular mass movement.

### Crop Insurance

It was recalled that the previous Regional Conference, held in Bandung in 1956, adopted the report of the Working Party on Crop and Live-stock Insurance, and advised governments to seek technical assistance from FAO to put the recommendations into effect.

The Government of Ceylon reported that it had accepted the recommendation and had devised, with the technical assistance of FAO, a Crop Insurance Scheme for paddy. According to the report of the delegate of Ceylon, the scheme would be operated as a pilot project in a selected typical area of the island, commencing in November 1958. Because of the vagaries of the weather in Ceylon, cultivators had not been sowing large tracts of arable land every year, and the delegate expressed the hope that the insurance scheme would help to bring in a good part of the acreage which was at present not being double-cropped.



### Shortage of Technicians

Shortage of technicians was felt by many countries to be one of the great obstacles to the carrying out of development programs in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Because of this, delegates stressed the particular importance of the work of FAO technicians. The delegate of Cambodia mentioned that if Cambodia had not been able to request more assistance from FAO technical experts, it was because she had very few staff whom these experts could train and help.

Almost all the delegates expressed their gratitude to FAO for sending experts to their countries. The Philippine delegate referred to technical help in hide processing; Viet-Nam thanked FAO for expert help in rice production and agricultural statistics; Japan which was noted for its high standard of agricultural technique, acknowledged the assistance given by FAO experts in the field of land improvement, and in particular, peat land improvement.

The delegate from Viet-Nam also pointed out that because FAO could only send few experts, there were cases in which the expected results had not been obtained. He therefore requested that technical assistance by FAO should be given on a larger scale.

The Malayan delegate expressed his thanks to FAO for the provision of technical experts and also frankly expressed the opinion that as a country with newly gained independence, Malaya needed experts more sympathetic towards national aspirations.

The holding of FAO sponsored training centres and the provision of fellowships were recommended as among the most important means of alleviating the shortage of technicians. The training centres for fish culture, farm management, and agricultural statistics were specifically mentioned by the delegates from Viet-Nam and Burma. The provision of more fellowships was also requested by several countries, and Korea hoped in particular to send more research workers to other rice-producing countries in order to learn improved methods of rice culture.

### International and Regional Cooperation

Delegates welcomed the statement of the Director-General of FAO stressing the need for regional cooperation, and pointed out a number of factors common to most countries of the region, such as low incomes, lack of credit sources and shortage of foreign exchange.

It was noted that in addition to the international cooperation sponsored by FAO and other international organizations, bilateral cooperation also contributed to the agricultural development of the region. The Ceylon delegate expressed his gratitude to Japan for the sending of specialists to his country, and the delegate of Japan assured the Conference that his country was always ready to extend technical assistance. The delegate of the United States also declared that his country would continue to give whatever aid possible to help countries in the region attain the objectives of more efficient utilization of their human and natural resources and the raising of standards of living.

Delegates of countries outside the region, such as New Zealand and France, expressed the desire to learn from the experiences and findings of countries of the region. They also stated that they would be happy if there were anything that their countries could contribute to the agricultural development of the region.

The delegate of India informed the Conference that the farmers organization of India called Farmers Forum India had decided to hold a World Agriculture Fair from December 1959 to February 1960, and that India would like to invite all countries to take part.

D. Policy Questions Arising out of Technical Meetings

The Conference noted that discussion of the policy implications of the work of regional technical bodies and meetings organized or sponsored by FAO since the previous Regional Conference had been provided for under specific items of the provisional agenda, with the exception of the Informal Meeting on Rinderpest Control in India and Pakistan, held in New Delhi in April 1957.

When adopting its agenda the Conference decided on the addition of an item entitled Livestock Production with particular reference to the Control of Animal Diseases.

In view of this, the Conference decided to take up any policy questions arising out of the Informal Meeting on Rinderpest Control in India and Pakistan when discussing the general question of livestock production and disease control under the new item.

No additional matters were brought up for discussion under the above heading.

Chapter III

MAJOR QUESTIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL

DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

A. Expansion and Orientation of Agricultural Production and Supplies in  
Relation to Demand

The Conference gave general consideration to agricultural development and planning in the region, especially to the impact on national programming of both the short and longer term forces affecting demand and consumption, international as well as domestic.

The importance of foreign trade in agricultural products to most countries in this region as a major source of their foreign exchange supplies was well known. The need for expansion in agricultural production to supply domestic requirements of food for growing populations, and raw materials for growing domestic industries was also clear, though programs for government expenditure in all countries of this region had not always reflected this need.

The Conference stressed that it was necessary for the expansion of agricultural production to keep pace with the growing demands of consumers. For if production expanded too slowly food prices might rise sharply, and larger food imports might need to be given precedence over capital goods to the detriment of general development; or food exporting countries might find increasing domestic needs reducing the quantity of products available for export. On the other hand, if production expanded more quickly than demand, prices to farmers might fall to an unprofitable level and problems of surplus might arise, with possible discouraging effects on further efforts to increase production. Furthermore, future foreign exchange earnings would suffer if agricultural resources were concentrated unduly on producing commodities for which declining demand (or excessive supply) on international markets resulted in falling prices. Consequently national planning authorities should keep constantly under review the major forces influencing demand in domestic and world markets, so that the country's resources would be used to the maximum benefit.

The Conference then dealt separately with the short-term outlook for commodities in international trade, and with the longer term prospects in relation to agricultural development planning.

Short Term Outlook for Commodities

in

International Trade

The Conference agreed that short-term outlook forecasts could hardly serve as a basis for altering the pattern of agricultural production but that they could be of great help in the shaping of government policies on the

disposal or acquisition of agricultural products, i.e. in adjusting export and import policies in the short term. Furthermore, such forecasts could aid a country to gauge better its short-term foreign exchange position, to the extent that it relied on world markets for agricultural products, and could consequently provide valuable information on the speed with which development projects with appreciable foreign exchange components could be implemented in the near future.

It was observed that the Regional Conference gave an opportunity for all FAO member countries in the region to exchange information regarding the immediate supply and requirement prospects for commodities of importance to them. Such discussions could be a valuable supplement to the work of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and of its different commodity groups.

The Conference noted the information given in a secretariat background paper regarding the short term outlook for rice and other grains, rubber, tea, sugar, fats, oils and oilseeds, copra and coconut oil, cotton, jute, and hard fibres, as well as the more recent changes affecting these commodities as reported by the secretariat at the meeting. In the discussion a number of delegations outlined later developments in their respective countries.

With regard to rice, the basic food of the region, the Conference noted with concern the unfavourable production prospects in important export countries. A wide area stretching from north-east Thailand to the shores of Viet-Nam had suffered from late or insufficient rains. Cambodia and Viet-Nam, therefore, feared that they would not have much rice for export in 1958/59. Thailand estimated that her exportable surplus for 1959 would amount to only 1,300,000 tons. On the other hand, Burma was anticipating a much better rice crop than the exceptionally poor one of 1957/58, while Korea hoped to have some rice for export in 1958/59 in view of the excellent crop of 1958 and of the substantial stocks of food grains carried over from the previous year. Korea expected, however, to have to import a quantity of other cereals since her deficiency of these products would be about 300,000 tons.

The Delegate from France drew the attention of rice exporting countries in the Far East to the steady and possible growing import demand for rice in tropical Africa. Production there was increasing but consumption was expanding at least as rapidly. Total imports were about 150,000 tons a year. A special factor of this import demand was that it was mainly for broken rice.

The Conference learned also that Burma was trying to replace her short-staple cotton by long-staple growths and to reduce her present great expenditure on imported vegetable oils by encouraging the production of home grown oil seeds.

Cambodia reported that the production of kapok had been greatly expanded in recent years but that prices had recently collapsed to the extent that farmers had stopped collecting the produce.

In view of the overseas fluctuations in agricultural production and prices, India considered herself fortunate in having well-diversified exports

and in not having to rely heavily on the export of agricultural products to finance her development. Imports of food were marginal, but they remained important since the higher national income had led to a rising demand for foodstuffs which was particularly sharp for rice and wheat. Imports of cereals in 1958 might be lower than those of 1957 but this was due not so much to a lowering of requirements as to the scarcity of rice in exporting countries. The authorities hoped to be able to do with smaller cereal imports in 1959 but some imports would certainly be needed.

As regards tea, of which 60 per cent of her production was exported at present, internal demand was rising and would continue to increase whilst foreign demand, although expanding, tended to fluctuate heavily. The Indian Government would, therefore, welcome the renewal of the International Tea Agreement. The internal prices of oil seeds and vegetable oils were tending to rise owing to the expansion in internal consumption, and the Government was trying to meet this increased demand by measures to stimulate the production of ground nuts and castor seeds. At the same time, the authorities wished also to encourage the export of oil seeds and vegetable oils and had, therefore, abolished export duties on these products.

In cotton, the Indian outlook was greatly dependent on foreign demand, but the authorities were trying to raise the quality of Indian cotton in particular by favouring the production of long staple growths.

The Indian Delegation stressed the importance of pepper as an export crop for the Far Eastern region, and regretted that FAO had so far been unable, owing to its limited financial resources, to provide commodity studies for pepper as it had done for other agricultural commodities so usefully.

Recent appraisals had shown that Pakistan's food production was increasing at a rate slower than that planned, due to a large variety of factors, particularly climatic ones. The implication was that in the short run Pakistan would need to continue imports of cereals. She hoped to be growing more sunflower seeds shortly in order to expand the production of vegetable oils.

Viet-Nam's second export crop next to rice was rubber. The Government was stimulating production by various measures such as long-term loans, but policy would be greatly affected by authoritative views concerning the outlook for rubber and, in particular the competition from synthetic rubber, a problem which also affected Cambodia. With reference to this problem, the Conference noted that in the opinion of commodity experts of FAO, the world consumption of rubber would continue to show a strong response to the growth of world economic activity, but that there would unquestionably be price competition between natural and synthetic rubber. Although each of these is more suitable for some uses than the other, there were many uses for which price would be the major factor determining the type employed. The course of prices of natural rubber would also have an important effect in stimulating or retarding the growth of the synthetic rubber industry. The Conference was informed that a recent Committee of Experts appointed by the Rubber Producers Council had stated that maintenance of future foreign trade earnings from natural rubber depended on increasing the output,

improving the quality, and lowering the production costs to increase the competitive strength of natural rubber as against the synthetic rubber.

Long-term Prospects  
and  
Agricultural Planning

In considering this question, the Conference observed that the ideal of agricultural and of general economic planning was to achieve the maximum economic growth consistent with reasonable economic stability. The adoption by most countries of the region of planning for economic development to achieve this goal had brought out the need to foresee, and to make provision for the increased demand for foodstuffs and industrial raw materials of agricultural origin that accompany development.

One aspect of balanced development would be the avoidance of the inflationary strain that would occur when demand tended to **grow** faster than supplies of agricultural products, as had happened recently in India and Pakistan. On the other hand, expansion of production at a rate faster than the growth of demand would result in falling prices, as had happened in India for foodgrains in 1953/54; or even of surpluses as, for example, of certain types of tobacco in the Philippines and of potato starch and silk cocoons in Japan. Furthermore, foreign exchange earnings from agricultural products, which are vital to many countries of the region, would suffer if a country's agricultural resources were concentrated unduly on producing commodities for which declining demand (or excessive supply) on international markets resulted in falling prices.

The Delegates of Australia, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, France, India, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United States spoke on this subject. The Conference noted that the orientation of agricultural production to demand was one aspect of selective expansion, which had been discussed at the previous Regional Conference. The delegate of France stressed the technical, economic and social need for agricultural diversification.

Need for forecasts of domestic demand

In connection with discussion of this subject, the Conference reviewed the report of the ECAFE/FAO Working Party on Economic Development and Planning: The Agricultural Sector, and commended the Report of the Working Party generally as a valuable contribution toward the improvement of agricultural development planning in the region. The Conference endorsed the conclusion of the Working Party that appraisals of future demand for agricultural products were indispensable if systematic and realistic agricultural planning was to be undertaken.

The Delegate of India reported that following concern in his country regarding the increasing prices of food grains in 1956/57, the Food Grains Enquiry Committee had made a careful analysis of the factors likely to affect the future demand for food grains to the end of the Second Five Year Plan period. The analysis included consideration of the effects of population growth in rural and urban areas, and of changes in income and income distribution. The latter were based on data on household food and total expenditures as collected by the National Sample Survey. In

formulating the Third Five-Year Plan, consideration would also be given to the differential growth of demand in various parts of the country, since income elasticities of demand varied between different regions.

The Delegate of Japan reported on the methods that were used to project demand in formulating the 1958-1962 economic development plan for his country. The Conference was interested to hear that Japan had also checked nutritional requirements against projections of demand resulting from consideration of economic factors alone.

In view of the need for forecasts of domestic demand to permit more realistic planning, the Conference endorsed the recommendation of the Working Party that governments, where they had not already done so, take steps to obtain data to improve their forward estimates of demand for foodstuffs and other agricultural products, including especially data on population trends, national and consumer incomes, and food supplies. One such step would be to carry out, in both rural and urban areas, sample household surveys of expenditure on, and consumption of foodstuffs (in relation to income and to total family expenditure) in order to provide a basis for demand projections.

Forecasts of industrial activity were also needed to provide a basis for estimating future demand for agricultural raw materials. Demand forecasts for these were particularly difficult and the Conference recommended further study of this problem.

The Delegate of the United States noted that his country was interested in supply and demand projections in all countries as they might affect the export prospects for U.S. agricultural products. He reported that his Government had given financial support to such studies in several countries, and plans were being made for initiating similar studies in India and the Philippines, in cooperation with local research institutes. He stated that there was a possibility that his Government would, under certain conditions, support such studies in other countries of the region.

The Conference observed that despite the valuable contributions made by the ECAFE/FAO Working Party, there were still questions of technique in the making of demand forecasts, and the use of such forecasts in planning, especially for agricultural raw materials required for industrial use. Further work on these questions was needed, and the Conference suggested that discussion of them by an expert working party in the region would make possible a valuable exchange of experience.

#### International trade and demand projections

While orientation of agricultural production to domestic demand might be taken to imply a policy of self-sufficiency in agricultural products, this was not necessarily the case. For example, the Delegate of Japan observed that his Government's policy under the present development plan contemplated some increase in imports of agricultural commodities.

The Conference indicated general agreement with the view of the ECAFE/FAO Working Party on agricultural planning that the principle of comparative advantage should ideally determine agricultural export and import policies and plans. It was recognized, however, that in practice important qualifications must be made to take account not only of market prospects, but also of such factors as the special position of "infant industries" in newly developing countries, as well as employment and balance of payments difficulties. In addition, the Delegate of Pakistan noted that lack of sufficient domestically owned sea transportation could jeopardize a country's essential food supplies in times of emergency and that, therefore, his Government planned to achieve approximate self-sufficiency in basic foodstuffs.

The Delegate of Australia observed that in developing countries, human and social factors may dictate a policy of self-sufficiency in the short run, but considered that their long-term interests would be best served by changing, when it became possible, to a pattern of the most economic use of resources. This would also stimulate international trade.

The Conference recognized that there were many uncertainties in projecting future demand on international markets for agricultural products over a period of years. These difficulties were especially great in the case of agricultural raw materials for industrial use. It was observed, however, that analyses of forces affecting supply and demand on international markets for agricultural products, both in the short and long run, would help in the evaluation of some of the risks now apparent in concentrating production on particular commodities. These analyses could improve a country's chances of orienting the use of its agricultural resources in a direction more likely to result in maximum economic gains, by providing some knowledge of the relative strength of the forces affecting international demand for the different commodities. In this connection, several types of studies and analyses were discussed.

- (i) The Conference endorsed the current studies and reports by FAO on the ~~short~~ term international economic and commodity situations as of value in their short term planning.
- (ii) The Conference also noted that the process of economic development of countries in the region was bringing about changes in the composition of their international trade in agricultural products, and recommended that FAO should undertake a study of the pattern of these changes.
- (iii) It was observed that each country in the region would be affected by the development plans and policies of other countries in the region, and recommended that a continuing assessment of these effects should be undertaken by FAO, possibly in conjunction with ECAFE. These studies may include the agricultural progress of China, which affects the international trade in agricultural commodities produced in this region. a/
- (iv) The Conference also noted that developments in other regions affected the markets for export products of this region. In this connection the Delegate of Japan commended the forecast made by the Economic Commission for Europe of the demand in 1975 for agricultural products in Western Europe and North America. The Conference requested that such long-term outlook surveys be extended by FAO.

a/ The delegate of Korea stated that his Government reserved the right to make their own interpretation of this sentence.



Furthermore, the Conference recommended that FAO, possibly in conjunction with ECAFE, should undertake to evaluate the possible effects of the European Common Market on future trends of demand for the agricultural products of this region. This study should be broadened to include the European Free Trade Area if this scheme should materialize.

- (v) The Conference commended the analyses presented to it of the long-term demand prospects on international markets for the main agricultural commodities of the region as of value in agricultural planning, and recommended that such studies be continued. In particular, the Conference endorsed the recommendation of the ECAFE/FAO Working Party on agricultural planning that FAO expands its analyses of the production and marketing structure of the main agricultural products, including their export prospects, and of the underlying causes of price fluctuations.
- (vi) In view of the efforts being made in many countries of the region to encourage the growth of cooperatives, which could benefit producers and consumers alike by reducing the often excessive trading margins taken by middlemen, the Delegate of India observed that it seemed a natural development for countries to promote international trade on the basis of cooperative-to-cooperative. It was noted, for example, that India had recently insisted that supplies of chillies and onions for export to Ceylon be provided by cooperatives in India rather than by private firms. The Conference recommended that FAO undertake an examination of the possibilities of expanding trade, and the facilities for countries to deal with each other, on a cooperative-to-cooperative basis.

#### Other measures to improve planning for agricultural development

The Conference also examined the broader aspects of realistic planning for agricultural development, and observed that a great deal of work on both the factual basis and the methodology of agricultural planning was needed.

- (i) Appraisal of resources available for development: The Conference stressed that agricultural planning should be based on reliable data regarding the resources of a country including geography, population, climate, land and soils, vegetation, hydrological conditions, etc., in other words all those factors which might influence significantly the potential use of land. While short-term planning must, of course, be based on whatever information was available, medium and long-term planning should include, as an integral part, surveys to improve progressively the information upon which future planning would be based. For this reason, a continuing resources survey should be an integral part of any long-term planning procedure.

It was noted that areas in a country would differ in regard to the basic natural and human resources available. Broadly one could think of undeveloped areas in which a pattern of land use had not yet appeared, and developed or partially developed regions in which a pattern of land use was already evident. The extent to which the pattern had been established or the degree to which it represented the best use of resources would vary from area to area.

The need for resources surveys to provide a basis for agricultural planning was evident in the first case. In the second case, there might

well be an equal need, though this might not be so obvious. But without further assessment of resources and potentials, agricultural planning in partially developed areas would be based on the existing pattern of development which was a heritage from past efforts and had evolved in the absence of full knowledge. Consequently it would rarely represent the best pattern.

In partially developed areas, the assessment of present land use in relation to existing technical information would provide a measure of the gap between present land use and the potentiality which existing technical knowledge would indicate as being possible. It would also provide a basis for determining in what fields further technical information was most urgently required in order that the potentialities might be achieved. It was also important to examine the human resources of an area in relation to its utilization of resources and its scope for achieving the potential land use. It was understood that some relatively inexpensive and rapid techniques for conducting such resource surveys had been developed in Australia.

The Conference agreed that improving knowledge of the basic agricultural and human resources available for development was essential to improve agricultural planning, and recommended to governments in the region that such surveys be undertaken on a continuing basis, as part of programs of agricultural development, with help from FAO under the Expanded Technical Assistance Program if a country so desired.

(ii) Need of long term perspective planning for agricultural development:  
The Conference observed that there were shortcomings in the current general practice of planning for agriculture in periods of 3 to 5 years, since the process of changing established patterns of agricultural production significantly was likely to require periods longer than this. Indeed there were certain crops, such as tea, rubber, coconuts, which took several years between planting and the start of production, and thus could not be considered adequately by such short-term ventures as 3 to 5-year plans.

Consequently, the Conference suggested that planning for agriculture might well be undertaken over several concurrent periods of time:

(a) A long-term agricultural development plan of perhaps 15 to 20 years, giving the very broad perspective to which agricultural production should be oriented in a country.

(b) Within this general long-term framework, successive medium-term plans of perhaps 3 to 5 years might be formulated. Such medium-term plans could define more specifically the principal objectives to be attained during the plan period, and the ways and means to be adopted. The formulation of each of these medium-term plans would be undertaken in the light of the results of the previous plan.

(c) Annual programs for implementation. These might well be tied in with the annual budget of the country concerned, and would subdivide the medium-term plan with respect to time and also with respect to the different implementing levels, such as provinces and administrative services. These short-term plans, while formulated within the framework of the medium-term objectives, would be amended to take into account the results achieved to date as well as developments in the general economic situation, both within the country as well as on international markets.

(iii) Research Needed: The Conference noted that the ECAFE/FAO Working Party on agricultural planning stressed the importance of agricultural research, and observed that much research was needed in land planning and the development of new agricultural crops and cropping patterns suitable to the circumstances of the region.

The Conference also noted that the improvement of agricultural planning required better information on the quantitative effects on output of various agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, improved seeds, improved farming practices, etc. Furthermore, the effects on production of changes in agricultural institutions were of great importance, although very difficult to evaluate. It was suggested that an appraisal of the results of previous development plans and programs would shed some light on these problems. Surveys of capital formation in agriculture would also provide useful information.

The Conference stressed frequently the importance of human factors in agricultural development, since increases in agricultural production could result only from the efforts of the individual farmers. Consequently it was important to have adequate information on their social and economic problems. The delegate of Japan observed that while agricultural planning had generally concerned itself only with production, it was important also to deal with problems of agricultural income and of agricultural employment. The delegate of France observed that the evaluation of income presented special problems in the case of subsistence farms which were widespread in the region. In this connection, the Conference recalled the recommendation made by the previous Regional Conference that studies be made of the different main crops and systems of farming to determine farm expenses and incomes associated with these different crops and cropping patterns, and related information regarding land tenure, farm credit and marketing. It was felt that such studies would provide much valuable information on the economic returns from various types of farming in the region, as well as of the actual economic situation of farmers.

#### Schedule for future work in planning agricultural development.

The Conference considered that the work needed to improve the techniques and make agricultural planning in the region, realistic included collection of the necessary basic data, the analysis of this data, as well as improvements in the methodology of planning. Because this work covered many different but related fields, the Conference recommended that these problems be dealt with on a step-by-step basis.

There was first of all the need for the assembling of basic data required for planning in the different countries, which could be undertaken by the governments themselves, with assistance from FAO technicians if desired. Simultaneously further analyses of certain international aspects of markets for agricultural products should be undertaken by FAO, as outlined above.

The Conference also noted that there were several questions of methodology upon which an exchange of experience among countries would be useful. As a next step, therefore, the Conference recommended that FAO, possibly in conjunction with ECAFE, convene a technical Working Party of experts of the region, perhaps in the latter part of 1959, to examine certain

aspects of target setting in agriculture. These would include (i) methods of forecasting demand for food and industrial raw materials on domestic and international markets, and the application of such forecasts in agricultural planning; (ii) the methods of projecting the course of agricultural production, including the methods of evaluating the response production might show to various changes in agricultural inputs; (iii) the means of considering in the framework of planning the problems of agricultural income and employment, including problems of evaluating the income and consumption levels of subsistence farmers; (iv) methods of analyzing and appraising the results of previous agricultural development plans and programs with regard to such matters as the validity of the assumptions made, the extent to which the objectives were reasonable, the adequacy of the data used, and the methodology employed; and (v) the role and content of long-term plans for agricultural development in relation to short and medium-term plans.

The Conference recommended that, after the completion of the studies and the meeting outlined above, FAO convene in the region a general meeting of economists, agriculturists and nutritionists, to integrate this information into an outline or set of principles for realistic agricultural planning. This meeting should be held preferably before the Fifth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East.

The Conference also noted that a Regional Seminar on Nutrition in Food Policy and Planning, recommended in Chapter III-C of this report, was scheduled to be held before that time and would provide valuable information for the general meeting on agricultural planning. The latter meeting would also be in a position to make recommendations on further activities and studies by governments and by FAO in agricultural planning.

#### B. Stabilization and Support Policies for Agricultural Prices and Incomes

It was recalled that the previous Regional Conference had supported a proposal originally made by the Government of India that a regional meeting be arranged on agricultural prices and costs and price support policies.

The Conference was informed that the proposed meeting had been held, in the form of a Centre on Policies to Support and Stabilize Agricultural Prices and Incomes in Asia and the Far East. The meeting had taken place in New Delhi in March - April 1958, by courtesy of the Government of India, and had been sponsored jointly by FAO and ECAFE. Copies of the report of the centre were made available to members of the Conference. The delegates of Australia, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, France, India, Japan, Korea, Federation of Malaya, New Zealand, Thailand and the United States participated in a discussion of its findings.

Delegates expressed appreciation of the Report, which was considered to be acceptable and useful. The Conference commended its realistic approach which, as the delegate of India pointed out, was evident from several features. In the first place, it recognised the circumstances of the region, particularly the predominance and under-development of agriculture and the general low levels of income. Thus the Report admitted that the objectives of farm price policies had to be rather limited, and the possibility of supporting agriculture

by fixing farm prices at levels that could be maintained only by heavy continuing subsidies from other sectors of the economy was ruled out. The emphasis placed in the Report on price stabilisation rather than price support was considered to be appropriate for this region. The elimination of large fluctuations in agricultural prices, and particularly the post-harvest fall, was regarded by the Conference as an acceptable main objective of policy in the region. Such an objective also had the practical virtue of recognising the need for protecting the interests of the non-farm consumers of the region - in view of their low incomes - as well as the interests of the producers.

The Report was also considered to be realistic in taking account of the importance of non-price measures for promoting agricultural production and raising farm incomes. Many governments in the region allocated funds to undertake land development; subsidize the use by farmers of fertilizers, improved seeds and credit; promote improved marketing, and change the institutional structure by agrarian reforms in order to remove restraints and create incentives to greater efforts by farmers. The Conference recognized that measures of this kind, which raised the output and efficiency of farming and reduced costs of production and marketing, benefited both producers and consumers. Such measures were made all the more necessary for producers by the fact that emphasis had inevitably to be given in the formulation of price policies to protecting the interests of non-farm consumers. However, the Conference agreed that such measures were a supplement to and not a substitute for price stabilization or support policies.

A number of delegates endorsed the view expressed by the Centre that it was not desirable to use a single formula in determining the levels at which prices were to be fixed. A single formula tended to be too rigid in practice, since a large number of factors usually had to be taken into account. The procedures proposed for this purpose in the Report could, in the view of the delegate of Japan, be accepted in general. However, the adoption of such procedures would require the regular collection of much more precise statistical data on demand, prices and marketing than were currently available in most countries of the region.

Commenting on the method referred to in the Report of determining price levels in relation to a moving average of past prices, the delegate of Japan stated that this method was rather backward-looking. In Japan, agricultural price policy was an integral part of agricultural policy as a whole, which was intended to guide future development, so that other economic and social factors also had to be considered. These factors would vary for different commodities, so that an individual commodity approach had necessarily to be adopted in determining price levels. This could result in fixed prices having the character of price supports in the case of some products and price controls in the case of others. In this connection price stability, given in the Report as the main objective to be sought, would have to be interpreted with some flexibility. Some coordination of the individual commodity approaches to price fixing in Japan was now required, to ensure the proper inter-relationship among the various enterprises within the agricultural sector, as products affected by price policies accounted for about two-thirds of the gross agricultural income in Japan.

The Report was also valued by the Conference for giving attention to the practical difficulties of ensuring that a fixed producer price was actually received by the farmers. Many delegates referred to these difficulties, and described measures being taken to overcome them. The delegate of the Federation of Malaya, for instance, stated that the guaranteed minimum price scheme for paddy in his country was not satisfactory as a means of increasing the incomes of paddy farmers because it was not able to remove the exploitation of cultivators by middlemen. The "padi kuncha" system, under which paddy farmers had to repay their debts to moneylender-traders in kind at excessive interest rates had led to chronic indebtedness of cultivators, leaving them little opportunity to sell their paddy at the minimum price. A new marketing scheme based on cooperative societies was therefore being introduced. The cooperatives were being given a monopoly for the purchase of paddy and would also be the channel through which seasonal advances to farmers would be made. When such a scheme had been introduced in the north of Malaya the price of paddy had immediately risen from M\$13.20 to M\$14.80 per picul. Under a similar scheme in central Malaya 27,000 tons of paddy had been sold by cooperatives from the 1957/58 harvest. These schemes were being extended to other parts of the country.

The delegate of Cambodia reported that in his country also the rice trade was in the hands of intermediaries, who advanced credit to the farmers at interest rates exceeding 100 per cent, purchased the farmer's crop and sold imported goods to him. At harvest time in January or February the farmers had to sell their paddy because they needed the money, and prices fell. Then the price rose in July and August to almost double the January level, and gave profits to the traders. To improve this situation the Government was interested in establishing a cooperative credit system for the sale of requisites to farmers and the purchase of their crops. However, many difficulties were being experienced, particularly competition from traders, transport problems, storage of produce, and shortage of funds.

The traditional marketing practices in other countries including Burma, Ceylon, India and Korea were reported to have had similar effects on the efficacy of minimum or fixed price policies for producers, and various remedies were being tried. In Burma the State Agricultural Marketing Board had set up paddy buying stations throughout the countryside to which cultivators had easy access for the sale of their paddy at the official price. In Ceylon an attempt was being made by the Government to ensure that the middleman did not profit from price support schemes, by insisting that all purchases by cooperative societies of crops for which prices were guaranteed were made only from bonafide cultivators. In Korea the prices of paddy and rice had now been freed, but storage and credit facilities were being provided to farmers, with the aid of the new Agricultural Bank, so that they were relieved of the necessity to sell their crops for cash at harvest time. In this way it was hoped to eliminate the previously large seasonal fluctuations in rice prices, and to ensure that the cultivators received a fair price.

The delegate of Ceylon stated that fifteen crops were covered by the guaranteed price scheme in his country, with the main objectives of stimulating production and encouraging the adoption by farmers of improved practices. However, he reported a tendency for the benefit of support prices to be dissipated in the purchase of luxuries by farmers. In an endeavour to ensure that much of the benefit would be applied to the improvement of production, a system of paying part of the support price in cash and the remainder in coupons valid for the purchase of fertilizers and other agricultural requisites had been suggested.

There seemed to be general agreement with the conclusion of the Centre that the food and agricultural price policies of most countries in the region had in the past been strongly influenced by the interests of consumers. While this was largely a reflection of circumstances, it was also true, as the delegate of India pointed out, that the urban consumers were more vocal than producers and any slight rise in price was likely to receive more attention than heavier price falls.

The Conference noted, however, that many countries were becoming more conscious of the difficulties that could arise in the absence of long range price policies integrated with the over-all objectives of agricultural development. More attention was being given to finding suitable methods of safeguarding the interests of consumers while avoiding price or other disincentives to producers.

The Conference commented the Report of the Centre to the attention of Governments in the region, and expressed appreciation for the role of the Government of India in acting as host to the Centre.

The Conference noted the importance attached by the Centre to the availability of reliable data relating to agricultural prices and other relevant indicators for use in determining price levels; and endorsed the suggestion that this problem be referred to the Conference of Asian Statisticians. The participation of economists and administrators in discussion of these matters was considered desirable by some delegates, and it was hoped that the Conference of Asian Statisticians would bear this in mind.

The Conference took note of the continuing studies by FAO of agricultural support measures. The meeting of the Expert Working Group on Price Supports in Rome in December, 1956 had given some attention to the problems of underdeveloped countries, but the Centre in New Delhi had been the first group to concentrate on agricultural price and income support and stabilization policies in such countries. It was noted that similar meetings were to be held by FAO in other underdeveloped regions, and that a world-wide meeting of experts was proposed for April, 1959, to discuss the drawing up of a set of principles for agricultural support policies and the effect of such policies on international trade. The Conference endorsed such further work by FAO in this field.

### C. Nutrition in Relation to Food and Agricultural Policies

The Conference discussed this subject mainly with a view to give consideration, with special reference to Asia and the Far East, to the recommendations of the 9th Session of the FAO Conference on the matter. The Regional Conference agreed that the need for keeping in view the objective of raising levels of nutrition in the development of national food and agricultural policies was of particular importance to the region since most countries were faced with grave nutritional problems which undermined the health and efficiency of their populations. It was also agreed that the increasing efforts of many Governments to plan food and agricultural development, as a part of their plans for economic development, offered enhanced opportunities to link such policies with the aim of better nutrition.

The Conference, therefore, strongly supported the recommendation of the FAO Conference to Member Governments to take due account of the nutritional needs of their population in formulating and implementing their food policies and plans, taking into account not only local production but also foreign trade in foods.

The Conference agreed that, for this purpose, national nutrition organisations provided with adequate authority and means to influence such policies and plans should be established wherever necessary. Moreover, in view of the need for urgent progress in this connection, the Conference urged all Member Governments in the region to inform FAO as soon as possible of the steps taken to raise levels of nutrition and the progress achieved so that the Director-General could report on these matters to the next regular session of the FAO Conference, as requested by the Ninth Session.

Most of the delegations present at the Conference reported in some detail on the nature of the main nutritional problems in their countries and the steps taken so far to raise levels of nutrition through better food policies and specific programs for nutritional improvement. It was clear from these statements that encouraging though slow progress had been achieved already and that greater progress could be expected in the future, notwithstanding the serious extent of the nutritional problems which were even likely to be aggravated by increasing pressure of population.

Although the nutritional problems and the progress achieved in solving them varied to a considerable extent from one country to another, it appeared that the role of nutrition in food policies was receiving greater attention than ever before. For instance, the delegate of Japan reported that the accent was now placed on raising the intake of proteins rather than calories in the new long-range economic plan for his country. The delegate of India reported that the first Five Year Plan of his country had necessarily placed emphasis on food grains in order to alleviate the quantitative deficiency in the national diet but the accent in the second Five Year Plan was on supplementary foods of higher nutritive value.



While some countries in the region had not yet recognized these problems, it was evident that others were beginning to give serious attention to them. For instance, the delegate of Ceylon submitted an interesting paper on the influence of nutritional and economic factors on the future patterns of Asian diets leading up to the thesis that future patterns of diet, especially for countries like Ceylon, should be predominantly lacto-vegetarian. The Conference considered that such studies were valuable.

The Conference then considered the main obstacles and difficulties met by various countries in attaining desirable nutritional objectives. The foremost difficulty in most countries of the region was that the levels of income were generally too low to enable the mass of the population, especially the poorer sections, to afford the right amounts of food of the right quality. Thus, any lasting improvement in levels of nutrition could not be expected until the real income of the people could be raised substantially. Nevertheless, a good deal could be done to improve their nutrition even pending a general raising of their levels of living. For example, much could be done to teach people to make better use of their limited resources through education in nutrition and home economics. This would apply even more to further increase in their incomes since such increases might not necessarily be reflected in better food consumption in the nutritional sense.

The Conference, therefore, emphasized that any plan for improving food consumption levels might prove to be futile in the absence of adequate measures for the education of the consumers in nutrition and home economics.

Another obstacle was the lack of adequate information on available food supplies, their utilization and distribution. Many countries in the region had information on food supplies in general with a reasonable degree of accuracy, but such data did not reveal the wide differences in the consumption by various socio-economic groups of the population. Nor did they provide information in sufficient detail to enable adequate nutritional appraisals. Since dietary surveys on representative samples of the population were necessary in order to obtain such data, the Conference noted with interest that at present Japan was the only country in the region to carry out dietary surveys regularly on a national basis, although a large number of ad hoc surveys had been carried out in many countries over a period of years. Since appropriate nutritional measures for raising levels of nutrition could be suggested only on the basis of an assessment of the food consumption levels of the people in relation to their nutritional requirements, the Conference urged Member Governments to organize as soon as possible adequate dietary surveys in their countries.

A further obstacle in the application of the results of dietary surveys and nutritional research to the development of sound food policies and programs had been the paucity of national nutrition organizations which could operate as a link between technical bodies, such as Nutrition Institutes or Departments, and policy making bodies. In spite of the encouragement given by FAO to establish such nutrition organizations, progress had been very slow in the region. The main reason for this was that often insufficient authority and funds were given to the organizations, even where

they existed, so that they were not in a position to influence national policies and programs. Another reason had been the lack in some countries of trained nutrition workers to provide the necessary leadership. Nevertheless, these difficulties could be and were being resolved in some countries by determined governmental action. For instance, there were now active nutrition services and institutes in several countries, notably in India, Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines, while some other countries were about to establish them, e.g., the proposed food and nutrition institute in Ceylon.

Since the aim of orienting food policies towards better nutrition would be surely facilitated by the establishment of appropriate nutrition organizations, the Conference urged Member Governments to establish such organizations or, where they existed already, to strengthen them with recognized functions and authority as well as adequate funds and facilities.

As to the type of organization required, it should preferably include authorities in health, nutrition, economics and agriculture, together with administrators and consumers' representatives, but the precise arrangements could differ from one country to another in accordance with local conditions. The essential aim was that they should be able to influence the framing of national policies in the agricultural, economic and social fields to take due account of nutritional concepts.

In this connection, the Conference emphasized that nutritional factors alone could not be the determining factors in developing food policies, which had to be adjusted to various agricultural, economic and social factors, but they must not be ignored in reaching final decisions. Another point of importance in this connection was that fully satisfactory nutritional levels could not be attained at once or even in the immediate future in the region, and therefore could be reached only in successive stages.

As these and other related technical issues, such as the relative role of animal and vegetable foods in the diets of the region, needed to be clarified early from the nutritional angle on a regional basis for the guidance of governments, the Conference recommended that the Director-General should convene as soon as possible, preferably not later than early 1960, a regional seminar to consider various aspects of the problem of linking the nutritional needs of the people with national policies and plans related to food and agriculture. For this purpose, the seminar should bring together nutrition workers specially concerned with the application of nutritional knowledge to food policies, and those concerned with the development and execution of national food policies and plans.

The Conference was pleased to note the generous offer of the delegate of Ceylon to provide facilities for convening the Seminar in Ceylon and requested the Director-General to take this offer into account in fixing a suitable place and date. (See also Chapter III-A of this Report).

While necessary action to raise levels of nutrition could be taken only by governments themselves, the Conference drew attention to the help which FAO could give, at their request, in orienting their food policies towards the nutritional needs of their people. Such assistance could cover the collection of necessary data on average diets of the people, as well as their nutritional assessment and application to the development of appropriate policies and plans. The Conference hoped that in giving its assistance FAO would make the fullest use of experts having an intimate knowledge of the region, preferably from within the region itself.

The Conference requested the Director-General to give greater emphasis to the work of the Nutrition Division not only in the region, but generally as well, especially in relation to food and agricultural policies, in his proposals for the Program of Work and Budget for 1960/61.

#### Summary and Conclusions

Having reviewed the encouraging though slow progress achieved in various countries in the region in raising levels of nutrition through sound food policies and plans, the Conference agreed that the relevant recommendations of the 9th Session of the FAO Conference were of particular importance to the region, and therefore, urged the member countries to take prompt action to implement them.

Moreover, the Regional Conference requested the Director-General:

- (a) to organize a Regional Seminar on Nutrition in Food Policy and Planning at a suitable time and place, preferably in early 1960, taking into account the generous offer of the Government of Ceylon to provide host facilities, and
- (b) to give greater emphasis to the work of the Nutrition Division, especially in relation to food and agricultural policies in the region and in general in the program of work for 1960/61.

#### D. Problems of Determining Priorities in Fishery Development Planning

The Conference considered some of the special problems arising in current programs designed to bring about the more extensive and intensive exploitation of fishery resources and endorsed the conclusion reached by earlier conferences that the development of fishery industries in the region could be well justified on sound social and economic grounds. It was felt generally that efforts to this end should be intensified and coordinated and that while some satisfaction could be derived from recent progress in certain areas, there was considerable scope for more effective action. It was pointed out that the planning and execution of developmental action in a consistent manner, so that individual activities mutually support each other to the fullest possible extent, are particularly difficult in the case of fishery development. The main reason for this was found in the fact that in most countries the fisheries form a small part of the national economy with which they are closely bound economically but without correspondingly close organizational ties.

### Dependence of Fisheries on other sectors of the economy

Several delegates referred to the small size of the fishery industries in relation to the overall economy and to the resultant problems of planning. It was recognized that the development of fisheries, far from influencing the general pattern and level of a country's economy, was heavily dependant on the changes occurring in other sectors of the economy, especially, for example changes in consumer incomes, purchasing habits and preferences, in the distribution of food products which is influenced in turn by the growth of transport, storage and marketing facilities, and changes in the availability of technical and professional skills which were generally in short supply. Many cases could be found where a well-concieved and strongly supported fishery scheme had not succeeded for want of some essential contribution from another sector of the economy e.g. cold storage and refrigerated transport. Because of the small size of the fisheries and their remoteness from the planning level, their special organizational and technical characteristics were not generally well known outside the fishery services. In a similar situation, agricultural schemes were more likely to generate, themselves, sufficient pressure on the other economic sectors concerned and to have their needs made known at policy and planning level. In view of this close inter-dependence between fisheries and the rest of the economy it was concluded that the changes taking place or planned in a country's economy as a whole were bound to determine what could or could not be achieved within the field of fishery development.

### Objectives of current fishery plans and programs in the region

Reference was made to special problems arising not only in the execution of programs involving the development of fishery industries but more fundamentally in determining policy objectives. It was often difficult to do more than state rather long-term objectives for fishery programs such as the improvement of nutrition, self sufficiency in food etc. which might justify a very wide range of different activities without affording much guidance as to immediate priorities. At the implementation level, particularly for example in the improvement of fishermen's incomes and welfare, some specific and shorter-run objectives might need to be recognized. The objectives pursued and problems encountered in the planning and implementation of fishery programs covering a wide range of activities in various countries were illustrated by reports made to the Conference by the delegates of Australia, Burma, Ceylon, France, India, Japan, Korea, Laos, Federation of Malaya, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Viet-Nam, the United Kingdom and the United States.

While a number of general objectives were recognized in the majority of the programs described, especially, the increase of animal protein supplies and greater self sufficiency in food production, it was clear that among the different countries there were many different combinations of factors to be considered in the implementation stages. These related both to general economic considerations such as shortage of investment capital and of foreign exchange and to the special characteristics of the fishery industries and of the natural resources on which they are based.

In one group of countries, e.g. in India, Federation of Malaya, Pakistan, Philippines, Viet-Nam and the United Kingdom territories, much emphasis was placed on the mechanization of traditional fishing equipment and methods and on the more intensive exploitation of inland fisheries. Some were concerned also with the introduction of modern larger units for the exploitation of more distant offshore resources, e.g. India, Korea, Pakistan and Philippines. The Conference recognized the fundamental importance of research, and in this connection several delegates referred to current activities intended to discover the volume, composition and behaviour of marine and inland fisheries which were or could be of economic importance. In some cases, this need was considered in relation to the danger of depleting intensively fished coastal resources.

In the case of freshwater fisheries, attention was drawn by various delegations to the danger of disturbing the ecological balance by the introduction of exotic species which may threaten the survival of valuable indigenous species. Many references were made to Tilapia mossambica which had attracted widespread interest in view of its conspicuously high rate of reproduction and growth, but which, while successful in some cases, had proved to be a costly predator in others. In this connection, the Conference was informed that FAO had constantly advocated a most cautious approach to the introduction of exotic species without an adequate understanding of the ecological environment and, in the case of Tilapia, had been mainly concerned with its introduction under controlled conditions as one of the simplest means of creating a new source of animal protein for inexperienced farmers.

Mention was made of the chronic poverty of fishermen as a severe handicap to development and of the emergence of complex marketing problems due to inadequate facilities for storage and transport. Some special cases were mentioned like that of Laos, with no coastline, and Australia whose relatively small-scale fisheries have been developed primarily in response to the demand situation in an economy already highly developed from the standpoint of income and living standards.

Many references were made in the Conference to the outstanding achievements of Japan, now the world's leading producer of fish and, in this connection, certain policy problems were described. These involved the reconciliation of a number of separate objectives. For example, the policy of full employment and higher nutritional standards placed emphasis on the smaller scale coastal and sedentary fisheries which, however, must be guarded against depletion, while the promotion of higher export earnings directed emphasis towards the more highly capitalized sectors of the industry.

With reference to the region as a whole it was concluded that for most countries a primary objective was the speedy increase of fish supplies for domestic consumption. This purpose could be fulfilled by development along three main lines, viz: improving the efficiency of traditional marine fishing operations, mainly small-scale and short-range in character; more extensive and rational exploitation of inland water resources in rivers, and in both natural and artificially impounded waters; the introduction of much larger exotic units and equipment for the exploitation of more distant grounds not previously fished. Each of these had its own requirements making its own different demands on limited resources of personnel

and funds. Similarly, within each pattern of development, requirements for immediate improvement of commercial operations must be reconciled with the need for research to provide a reliable basis of knowledge on which to plan activities.

### Strengthening and Coordination of Government Services

The theme of discussions in earlier Conferences and especially the recommendation of the Third FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East was reflected in references by many Delegations to the weakness of government fisheries services, and to recent efforts to strengthen these by increases in staff and greater training facilities.

Among the examples cited by various delegations which typified the various means by which governments were seeking to repair this deficiency were the 130% increase in the junior cadre of the fisheries services in Malaya, the provision of extra staff and of extended facilities for training them under the Second Five Year Plan in India, and the creation of a new fisheries service in Burma. In this connection, many delegates referred to the increased advantage which was being taken of facilities for training under the international aid programs of Colombo Plan, ICA and FAO. Generally speaking, however, it was considered that the acute shortage of trained personnel was still a major problem, especially in a number of countries in the region where fisheries services were only nuclear as yet and where development programs were in a very early stage of evolution.

With regard to coordination of planning several delegates mentioned provision for fisheries development which had been made as part of the general plan of development, and in some countries e.g. in Japan and India, arrangements for inter-departmental consultation were well in hand. However, it was considered that in general there was a considerable need for closer collaboration between planning authorities and the fisheries services. In this connection, the delegates of Australia and the United States referred to the inexperience of fisheries departments generally in the field of economic investigation and planning, and to the importance of ensuring that the special problems and opportunities in fisheries should be fully understood at the policy and planning level.

### Conclusion

The Conference concluded that in relation to the problems discussed above, one useful and practical step forward might take the form of seminars conducted either at national level or among small groups of countries having common problems. Such seminars should comprise representatives of the various authorities concerned directly or indirectly with fisheries development both in the fisheries services themselves and in the general planning and administrative departments. It was considered that such special arrangements for the joint examination of problems might offer an opportunity to render valuable guidance to the fisheries departments provide for a more informed review of fisheries problems and plans and the problems at the general policy level. The Conference welcomed any assistance which FAO might be able to provide in this connection.

### E. Evaluation of Agrarian Reform

Well before this item came up for discussion, delegates from a number of countries had mentioned land reforms as an important requisite for expanding production, raising rural living standards, and accelerating economic development. The Conference was fully aware of the fact that in order to unleash the latent energies and capacities of the masses of farmers, it was necessary to provide for tenure conditions which would motivate the cultivators to produce more, and enable them to advance economically and socially. Farmers would not be keen on producing more efficiently, on conserving the land, on adopting better techniques, if the rewards of their efforts went to landlords, middlemen, money lenders or state taxes.

It was recognized that agrarian reforms included a great variety of measures, applicable in various degrees in different areas. The most important ones were redistribution of land ownership to cultivators, improvement of tenancy, especially regarding security on the land; control of rents; consolidation of fragmented holdings; well balanced farm settlement programs, and under certain conditions various forms of group or cooperative farming. These improvements in the agrarian structure must be complemented by appropriate provisions for credit, cooperative and extension services, and effective local administration.

The previous Regional Conference in Bandung (1956) had emphasized the need for studies and for more comprehensive programs in agrarian reforms. The reports of the delegates at the present Conference showed that several countries had made progress in scrutinizing their agrarian programs and studying the effectiveness of their implementation. There was a general realization that much remained to be done along these lines.

Delegates of Australia, Burma, Ceylon, France, India, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaya, and the Philippines participated in the discussion and contributed many valuable observations and experiences. The main issues raised during the discussion may be summarized as follows:

#### Activities in Agrarian Reform

All countries represented at the Conference had passed some legislation or instituted some programs designed to improve the agrarian structure. Interest was expressed in developing more systematic programs and in placing particular emphasis upon the implementation of such programs and in providing more effective administration of land tenure improvement measures. Frequent references were made to the forthcoming Regional Development Centre on Land Settlement Policies and Problems to be held in Ceylon in November, under the sponsorship of the Government of Ceylon, FAO, UN and the World Veterans Federation. The delegate of Ceylon extended an invitation to the other delegates to attend this Centre, which was to be preceded by a Regional Study Tour organized by the UN and the World Veterans Federation. Participants in the Study tour would attend the Ceylon Centre and contribute their experiences to the discussion.

### Need for Evaluation of Land Reform Measures

Much interest was expressed in making studies of the efficacy of implementation of land reform measures and of their effect upon production, living standards and capital formation in agriculture. The delegate of India referred to a report prepared by a joint India-FAO team of specialists dealing with various methods of organizing and carrying out such studies. This report was to be issued by the Indian Government in the near future and should be of direct interest to other countries in the Region. Several other countries hoped that FAO would render assistance in such studies.

### Problems of Rent Control

Great stress was laid upon the need for reducing the prevailing level of rents and of shifting from a share rent to a cash rent basis. Many difficulties were pointed out in implementing such rent control measures, but there was general agreement that something must be done along these lines in order to motivate farmers to produce more and to stimulate capital formation and raise incomes on farms. Since the redistribution of land ownership to cultivators was politically or constitutionally not feasible in many areas at this time, the control of the amount and the kind of rent payments was considered of prime importance in such areas as an essential measure of agrarian reform. Security of tenants on the land was also an important issue. Recently Ceylon through its paddy Lands Act just enacted, Malaya, and the Philippines had made special efforts to improve tenancy conditions.

### Programs in Land Settlement

Several countries reported increasing activities in the settlement of new land being opened and developed for agriculture. During the last 10 or 15 years, there had been sporadic settlement without appropriate project planning, surveying and necessary guidance and assistance to the settler families. This had resulted in waste of land, capital and labor and caused disappointment and frustration on the part of many settlers. The need for systematic surveying of the land and water resources, and for the planning of settlement projects was fully recognized. Here, again, interest in FAO assistance was expressed by a number of delegates.

### General Conclusions and Recommendations

The Conference was unanimous in assigning basic importance to the improvement of the agrarian structure by various land reform measures adapted to the different conditions in the various countries and areas. It noted with approval that the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations at its spring session in 1957 had passed a resolution that "Governments undertake specific studies of implementation of land reform measures and their impact on production, living standards and economic and social development". The Conference asked FAO to render assistance in the design and interpretation of such studies and to facilitate the interchange of experiences among the member countries of the region.



Attention was drawn to the special need in many countries for improving the implementation and administration of land reform measures at the local level. Many cases were reported where well intentioned laws had failed to become effective and to bring to farmers the expected practical benefits.

The Conference emphasized the need for four major lines of activities in the field of agrarian reform which seemed to loom large in importance in many countries of the regions:

- (i) the control of share division, the amount and kind of rent and the security of tenants on the land;
- (ii) the competent planning and organization of settlement projects, including modern surveys of soil and water resources, establishment of economic farm sizes and good tenure systems permitting settlers to improve their production methods and living standards;
- (iii) the complementing of land reform measures with such essential institutional services as supervised credit, cooperatives and extension advice and education; and
- (iv) sociological and land use studies in those areas where more orthodox forms of agrarian reform do not yet apply in order to determine what kind of agrarian reform may be practicable and desirable.

#### F. Organization of Agricultural Education and Extension Services Adapted to Local Conditions

The Conference noted that agricultural education and extension services which are essential to agricultural development, had been discussed to a varying extent in all of the past three FAO regional conferences. The discussions at these Conferences were summarized as follows:

In the First Conference held in Singapore in 1949, it was recommended that member governments make more adequate budgetary and personnel provision for the further development of their extension services, and that extension teaching materials and methods be interchanged.

In the Second Conference held in India in 1953, it was stressed that the most serious hindrance to agricultural development in the region was the shortage of trained personnel at all levels, particularly the farm level.

In the Third Conference held in Indonesia in 1956, it was recommended that member governments strengthen their agricultural services so that the cause of community development could be better served.

The Conference discussed how these services could be adapted to local conditions and needs, with a view to increasing their efficiency and usefulness.

In his statement to the Conference, the Director-General of FAO had called attention to the importance of extension work and personnel training, particularly in this region. He reminded the Conference that "Whatever improved varieties or improved methods are developed by scientists, they are of no value unless adopted or practised by farmers".

#### Agricultural Extension Services

The Conference noted with appreciation the activities undertaken by FAO to promote the further development of extension services in the region. These included:

- (i) The Agricultural Extension Development Centre for Asia and the Far East, held in Bhopal, India, in 1955. Several recommendations were made and had served as a guide for the work of FAO in the region.
- (ii) Publication of "Extension in Asia", a semi-annual publication for the exchange of extension teaching materials and methods, as recommended by the First FAO Regional Conference in 1949.
- (iii) The Agricultural Extension Study Tour for Asia and the Far East. This study tour visited Japan, the Philippines and India for a total of six weeks in 1957, for the purpose of making a comparative study of extension work in these countries.
- (iv) The Agricultural Extension Training Centre for Asia and the Far East. This training centre was conducted at the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture at Los Banos for six weeks in April and May 1958. The purpose was to train extension teachers so that they could conduct national training programs in their own countries for field level workers under local conditions.

During the discussion, all delegates expressed their agreement with the findings of the Agricultural Extension Study Tour group for Asia and the Far East as set out in the Secretariat background paper (FERC 58/10). These were given as guiding principles for extension development in the region. The delegate of the United States made the following additional suggestions for the success of extension work: (a) There must be continuity and stability in extension services in order to achieve their objectives. The extension service should be so organized as to be free from political interference in the employment of personnel and in the development of programs for rural improvement. (b) There must be provision for the continuous inservice training of extension workers to keep them abreast of social and technological developments. (c) The extension service should stimulate local participation and develop local leadership. (d) Extension workers must develop professional integrity and the spirit of service in order to gain the confidence of the farm population.

The delegate of the United States also suggested giving greater attention to improvement of local marketing and storage facilities, improvement of quality through more efficient harvesting and processing, and to the provision of credit facilities.

The delegate of India stated that in determining the most appropriate extension organization for a country the important considerations to be kept in view were (a) social, cultural and economic conditions of the people; (b) extent of literacy; (c) resources of the country; (d) availability of trained personnel; (e) adequacy of research work to fully back up extension programs. He further emphasized the importance of integrated approach to rural problems, rather than dealing with them individually. He also pointed out that the active participation of the people was important for the success of any extension program.

The Government of India, on the basis of the experience gained from rural reconstruction work done in earlier years and from the grow-more-food campaign, had considered the community development program as the best approach for the solution of rural problems.

The delegate of the United Kingdom mentioned that farmers were not necessarily conservative but very cautious. By following the traditional methods of farming, they knew what harvest they could obtain. They would not adopt a new method unless they were sure that the results would be profitable. He added that extension workers should not advocate new practices unless their value had been clearly proved, by research and practical application.

The delegate of France stressed the importance of recruiting farmers and farmers' sons for training as extension workers. As they were familiar with local conditions and customs, they could easily gain the confidence of the local people. The delegate of Pakistan referred to the comparatively low salaries for extension workers, which often prevented many able persons from joining the service to work at the village level.

From the country reports given by the various delegates, it became apparent that some member governments had lately reorganized and expanded their agricultural extension services, to include work among farmers, farmers' wives and rural youth, while others, like India, had carried out agricultural extension work as a part of an integrated approach in the form of community development. Other countries were just making a start in agricultural extension work.

The Conference concluded that extension, as an out-of-school education for farming people, must begin from where they were and start with what they had. Since conditions varied from country to country, even from area to area in the same country, extension work must be organized to suit local social and economic conditions. There was no single organizational pattern applicable to all countries.

### Agricultural Education

As regards agricultural education, the Second Regional Conference held in India in 1953, had concluded that the shortage of trained personnel at all levels was the greatest hindrance to the agricultural development in the region, as mentioned above. This still held true in the region today.

The Conference noted that agricultural education in the region had been and, in many cases, still was too academic. The Conference noted, however, that there were cases in the region where considerable improvement in agricultural education had been made in recent years. The following examples were given:

The University of the Philippines College of Agriculture at Los Banos had good cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources in agricultural research and extension training. The college professors were now in charge of a combined program of rice and corn improvement for the country and of personnel training for the Bureau of Agricultural Extension, thus linking instruction with research and extension. This kind of collaboration would definitely make the college instruction more effective, because the students as well as the professors would have chances to participate in research and extension activities.

Good cooperation also existed between the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry and of Education in Japan, whereby some twenty agricultural schools had become centres of agricultural extension at the village level. Agricultural extension workers were stationed in these schools, assisting in the training of the students in extension activities, in addition to their regular extension duties. If this cooperation proved successful, it would be expanded on a much larger scale.

Farm youth training in Japan was noted as unique. At present there were 56 farm youth training institutes in the country, admitting both boys and girls after completing compulsory education. The institute was a two year course and the training was very practical.

The Government of India had recently organized a council of Agricultural Education under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, with the responsibility of bringing about a uniform standard among all colleges of agriculture in the country. Several agricultural colleges in India had lately established extension wings for the training of extension workers and taken charge of a few community development blocks for student practice.

The Conference considered that the best way to adapt agricultural education to local conditions and needs was for agricultural training institutions to be associated with agricultural research and extension activities.

Recommendations and suggestions

The Conference recommended that FAO undertake a survey of agricultural education in all countries of the region, including higher and secondary education in agriculture, teaching of agricultural subjects in elementary schools particularly in rural areas, and farmers' courses; and that a report of the survey be made available to the Conference for discussion at its 1960 session. With this factual information available, the countries would be in a better position to decide how to improve their agricultural education, either individually or cooperatively.

The Conference further recommended that a similar survey be made of agricultural extension in the region by FAO as a basis for discussion at the next Regional Conference. It was hoped that information on failures as well as successes could be included in the survey.

The delegate of Viet-Nam suggested that the activities of the farmers' associations of the Republic of China should be included.

The delegate of India suggested that FAO explore the possibilities of continuing and extending the farm youth exchange programs, particularly among countries of the region. This was supported by the delegate of the Philippines.

The Conference, in expressing its appreciation to FAO for the excellent work it had done in the field of extension, recommended that the publication of "Extension in Asia" be continued and that further national and regional extension training centres be held.

The Conference noted with appreciation the financial assistance granted to FAO by the Council on Economic and Cultural Affairs, Inc., New York, which had helped to make possible the 1958 regional extension training centre held at Los Banos.

Chapter IV

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES REQUIRING CONFERENCE  
GUIDANCE OR GOVERNMENT ACTION

A. International Rice Commission

The Conference took note that the Sixth Session of the International Rice Commission had been held in Tokyo, at the kind invitation of the Government of Japan, just before the present Conference convened, so that some members of the delegations at the Conference had participated in the Commission meeting also.

The Conference noted that the Sixth Session of the Commission had reviewed and commended the work already accomplished, particularly since the Fifth Session of the Commission and that the Commission had given special attention to, and reached agreement regarding organizational questions and plans for its future activities and those of its subsidiary bodies.

The Conference agreed with the conclusion of the Commission that its Working Parties should be reconstituted so that the Commission in the future would have the following three technical working parties:

Working Party on Rice Production and Protection.

Working Party on Rice Soils, Water and Fertilizer Practices.

Working Party on Agricultural Engineering Aspects of Rice Production, Storage and Processing.

The Conference noted that when necessary for purposes of more intensive investigation, special study groups could be organized within the Working Parties.

In connection with the activities of the Working Party on Rice Production and Protection the delegate of Ceylon emphasized the need for testing intermediates between japonica and indica varieties for response to fertilizer before using them for crosses with indica varieties in breeding programs. This was necessary because of evidence that some intermediates were less responsive to fertilizer than many indica varieties,

The Conference endorsed the proposals of the Commission regarding arrangements for future meetings as outlined below.

Commission Sessions: As a normal practice, the future sessions of the Commission would be held just prior to the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East and at the same place, but this did not mean that the Commission would lose its identity or would be in any way subordinate

to the Regional Conference. The plans for any single future session could be varied from the above practice should the Director General decide in the light of the prevailing circumstances that this was desirable or necessary.

Working Party Meetings: The frequency of meetings of the Working Parties would depend on the need in each case. Generally, they would meet at two year intervals, either individually or with two combined. At times one or more of the Working Parties might also meet in conjunction with a session of the Commission itself. Alternatively, when the circumstances permitted, all three of the Working Parties might meet at the one time. In the light of the above the detailed arrangements for the combined meetings would have to be worked out in each instance depending on the circumstances.

In organizing meetings and discussions, the Secretariat will bear in mind the Commission's wish that every effort be made to integrate the work of research workers in different scientific fields.

The Conference considered the proposal made by the Commission for creating an International Rice Institute possibly with affiliated regional laboratories and noted with appreciation that the delegate of the Philippines had offered for facilities to be made available for this purpose by the Government of the Philippines.

The Conference recognized that financial as well as constitutional and legal questions would have to be considered before attempting to establish and maintain on a long term basis such an international institute. It was pointed out that it would be essential for a number of governments to take on definite additional financial obligations in order for this proposal to become a reality. Some delegates indicated that they were unable to offer any assurance of financial support from their governments.

Some delegates emphasized the need and technical justification for such an undertaking and expressed the hope that special funds might be obtained for this purpose from one or more of the large foundations or from similar sources. The hope was also expressed that some of the necessary funds could be assured by provision for this in the future FAO regular program of work and budget.

The Conference recommended that this proposal be given additional and active consideration by member nations and by FAO with a view to finding ways and means whereby the Institute might be established and maintained.

The Conference, while discussing not only the International Rice Commission but also other items on the agenda, recognized the importance of the work on rice envisaged by the commission for the future and stressed the need for continuing support both by FAO and by member nations of the commission.

## B. Improving Farm Management in Rice Producing Areas

The Conference noted that the plans for developing agriculture, drawn up by governments and planning boards, had no life until they become implemented and effective at the local level, in villages and on farms. Farm management was the science through which all recommendations for better seeds, use of fertilizer, livestock improvement, better labor and machinery use, were vitalized by finding their concrete local application on farms, by the farmers who till the soil and tend the livestock. It was the farmer who must manage his land, labor and capital resources, must organise and use them in such combinations as would yield him the best income possible.

The Conference recognized the need for greater emphasis on farm management research and extension and noted with appreciation the work done in this field by several of the countries, especially Japan and India, and by the FAO, Delegates of India, Japan, Korea, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States of America participated in the discussion.

### Farm Management Work in the Region

Frequent references were made to the Regional Development Centres on Farm Management organized by FAO in Tokyo in 1956 and New Delhi in 1957 which had proved very valuable and useful. It was noted that similar centres were being prepared in Viet-Nam for October-November 1958, and in Thailand for the early part of 1959. The delegate of Thailand invited the other delegates to attend the Bangkok Centre in 1959.

The Conference noted that the International Rice Commission in 1954 had called for farm management studies to improve labor efficiency and use of better machinery and equipment on rice farms. An Ad Hoc Working Group was appointed and had produced a very valuable report which was submitted to the International Rice Commission in 1956.

It was noted that FAO, with the financial assistance of the Council on Economic and Cultural Affairs, Inc., New York, had engaged a farm management specialist to devote full-time to this problem in the region. He had contacted research and extension workers in most of the member countries, consulted with them on various farm management projects, and taken the main responsibility for organising the Development Centres on Farm Management. He had also started a Farm Management Newsletter going to all participants of the Centres and other interested persons. Preparations were being made by FAO for issuing a series of monographs on farm management problems and practices of farmers in the major rice producing areas of the region.

A number of countries had started to develop work in farm management research and extension. The delegates of Japan and India particularly reported notable progress in this field and expressed their conviction concerning the usefulness of such work. It was recognized that progress would be slow, particularly in areas where most farmers were illiterate and lived in a highly traditional subsistence type of agriculture. It was pointed out that in areas of very primitive agriculture, such as shifting cultivation, the application of farm management studies would be premature. It was considered, however, that in other areas such work should be developed as rapidly as possible in order to accelerate the adoption of more efficient production methods.



The Conference supported the recommendations made by the Farm Management Centres and the Ad Hoc Working Group of the International Rice Commission, which were summarized as follows:

(i) National Farm Management Training Centres or courses should be organized by member governments in the region, with the help of FAO, to train field workers for the farm management aspects of the various national development projects in such fields as agrarian reform, land settlement, irrigation and drainage, afforestation on farms, soil conservation, community development and agricultural extension. It was suggested that, in addition, the regional farm management centres should continue for the next few years, in order that senior officials and professional workers could discuss methods and organization for the development of farm management programs in the different countries.

(ii) A Regional Working Committee on Farm Management should be established to keep continuous contact and exchange information and ideas. This committee would assist in coordinating research projects on farm management problems in the region. It was suggested that each country appoint one or two farm management specialists to participate in the committee.

(iii) Pilot or demonstration projects by member governments should be established in a few strategic areas in the respective countries to demonstrate the techniques and advantages of farm management research, teaching, and extension.

(iv) The services of a farm management specialist to work in the region should be continued, and his headquarters should be located in the region rather than in Rome in order to facilitate closer contact with the member countries in the region.

#### C. World Seed Campaign

The Conference noted the decisions taken by the Ninth Session of the FAO Conference to launch a World Seed Campaign which is to culminate in the designation by the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference of a World Seed Year, probably in 1960 or 1961.

There was full recognition of the most important role which improved and well adapted seed could play in agricultural and forestry development. All countries in the region were operating programs for breeding, multiplication and distribution of seed of improved varieties of various crops. These programs, however, could be intensified in many instances, and new activities might have to be undertaken if the development of agriculture and forestry was to keep up with the growing demand.

The Conference therefore fully supported the concept of a World Seed Campaign. It realised that the scope and intensity of the Campaign would depend largely on the initiative and activity of the countries individually or cooperatively, while FAO's task remained one of general coordination for exchange of ideas, suggestions and experience.

The work done by FAO so far in this connection was commended and the Conference requested that it be intensified as the Campaign gained momentum. During the discussion it became clear that many countries had already started work to support the Campaign or were planning to do so shortly. In this connection the Conference expressed its appreciation for the suggestion of the Director-General of FAO that countries consider the establishment of National Seed Campaign Committees which should be entrusted with the task of coordinating the Campaign or alternatively that this task be assigned to an existing national committee concerned with seed improvement.

Some delegates whilst recognising that the guide for Planning National Activities issued by the Director-General contained suggestions from which the individual countries could choose those of special interest to them, nevertheless felt that the field covered was too comprehensive for most countries in the region, which might result in too many dispersed efforts in individual countries. They considered that the work of the National Committees would have the greatest chance of success if they concentrated their activities on a few projects of major importance such as for instance seed multiplication and distribution.

Doubts were expressed regarding the possibility of starting a project for coconut seed production in connection with the Seed Campaign. There were no improved varieties existing in the region and the selection of high-producing palms for seed-nuts would give no guarantee for good results since such selection would not have an adequate genetic base.

The delegates of India, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States mentioned the important role of plant exploration and introduction for crop improvement work.

They recognized however that plant introduction projects particularly required great caution in implementation. A first requirement for such work would be the establishment of well organized plant introduction centres in various countries. The delegate of the United Kingdom mentioned the existence of such a centre at Fiji, while the delegate of Japan informed the Conference of the establishment, with assistance of the United States, of a plant introduction centre in his country, the services of which could be made available to other countries in the region. The Conference desired that FAO give more attention to plant introduction and exploration work.

The Conference noted with satisfaction the offers made by some delegates including those of Australia and the United States, on behalf of their countries to assist others in crop improvement work by making available to them educational material and/or training facilities for technical staff.

Since rice was of paramount importance in the region the Conference expected that the national rice improvement programs would receive special attention in connection with the World Seed Campaign.

One of the difficulties which many countries encountered in their seed multiplication and distribution programs for rice was that there were too many local varieties in existence. The Conference suggested that the International Rice Commission through its Working Party on Rice Production and Protection might consider as its contribution to the World Seed Campaign, the setting up, of a study group to look into this question with a view to making recommendations regarding the ways and means to reduce the number of local varieties for use in the seed multiplication and distribution programs.

While recognizing that most countries in Asia and the Far East have programs for breeding, multiplication and distribution of improved seed, the Conference considered that seed testing and certification had not received sufficient attention. Most countries in the region lacked the trained staff and facilities for seed testing and certification. The Conference considered that training abroad under fellowships would be a good way to increase their technical competences. It suggested that countries might bear this in mind in planning their 1960 ETAP-Country program requests.

In addition the Conference requested the Director-General to organise a Regional Training Centre for Seed Testing and Certification in 1960 under the Expanded Technical Assistance Program.

#### D. World Census of Agriculture

The Conference emphasized the importance of agricultural censuses for countries in the region in view of the predominantly agricultural nature of their economies and the lack of reliable agricultural statistics. As most of the countries in the region had embarked upon long-term agricultural development plans, the Conference considered that these censuses were essential in order to enable the countries to build up realistic targets of production for homogeneous areas within countries for purposes of effective implementation.

The value of agricultural censuses for regional development planning would be increased if the censuses could be drawn up according to a regional program. The Conference therefore noted with approval the plans for preparing a regional census program at the forthcoming Second Session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians.

The Conference noted with satisfaction that most countries in the region had already taken concrete steps, including budget allocations, preparation of census legislation, and appointment of senior officials, for the taking of their agricultural censuses in or around 1960.

The Conference noted the plans prepared by FAO for promoting the 1960 world agricultural census in the region. A number of delegates, while expressing the willingness of their countries to participate in the census, referred to some of the main difficulties in carrying out the plans. These difficulties were mainly: (a) the large expenditure involved; (b) lack of trained personnel; and (c) lack of specialists and facilities for tabulation.

The Conference noted, however, that the use of sampling methods could bring the census within the reach of many countries in the region. It recognized that, as distinct from European and other countries, the conduct of an agricultural census in this region involved a very large number of small holdings whose identification and enumeration presented considerable difficulties and required an army of enumerators not usually available.

The Conference considered therefore that a judicious combination of sampling methods and complete enumeration, such as separating small subsistence holdings from large ones, and restricting the scope of the census to only the basic items would largely bring costs within manageable proportions. It further stressed the importance of objective methods in enumeration in view of the difficulty of obtaining reliable information on many items by interview with farmers, the majority of whom were unable to read or write, did not understand the census terminology, nor know or appreciate the purpose of the questions put to them.

While noting with appreciation that FAO has already made available to the countries a handbook on the use of sampling methods in censuses the Conference felt that a comprehensive publication on census techniques dealing with methods of enumeration, organization and administration appropriate to different situations and incorporating the experience gained by the different countries in this and other regions in censuses and at training centres, would go a long way in assisting the member governments in preparing efficient plans for the 1960 censuses.

The Conference accordingly recommended that such a publication should be made available as soon as possible.

The Conference noted with satisfaction the efforts made by FAO in training census personnel and expressed its deep appreciation for the U.N., FAO and the Japanese Government for giving the international training centre presently being conducted in Tokyo.

The Conference noted that a number of countries experienced considerable difficulties in the tabulation of census data, owing to lack of trained personnel, equipment and funds and learned with satisfaction of the studies made by UN/FAO on data processing methods. It expressed the hope that FAO would organise a training centre in tabulation and showed considerable interest in the proposal to centralize tabulation of census data by using magnetic tapes and electronic computers, which FAO was exploring at present, in view of the consequent economies in time and expenditure that would result.

The Conference expressed the hope that the various measures outlined above and those contemplated under technical assistance, such as the provision of experts to plan and conduct the census in the region, the provision of fellowships and other training facilities and the various forms of assistance to be extended under the Ford Foundation grants, including the setting up of national training centres, would go long way in enabling the countries to participate successfully in the 1960 World Census of Agriculture.

The Conference expressed appreciation to the Ford Foundation for the grant made available to promote the taking of the censuses of agriculture and population in the region.

The Conference urged member governments to avail themselves of the various forms of assistance offered by FAO for the conduct of their censuses including the facilities and knowledge available in the region.

#### E. Marketing of Food Grains

The Conference observed that marketing presented some of the most important problems being faced by countries of the region, and welcomed the serious attention that was being given by FAO to the subject. As the delegate of Burma observed, marketing was next in importance to production, and any weaknesses in the marketing structure had adverse effects on producers and consumers alike. Consequently assistance from FAO in this field would be of great value to countries of the region, and the marketing guides to be published by FAO were awaited with great interest. The delegates of Australia, Burma, France, Japan, India, the United Kingdom, and the United States spoke on this subject.

Several delegates commented on the wide margins that existed frequently between the prices producers received and those that consumers paid for agricultural products. For example, the delegate of India reported that in his country this amounted to 40 per cent or more of the consumer price.

The Conference observed that numerous imperfections could be found in the marketing systems of many countries of the region. Among the more important were inadequate transportation and communications, inadequate marketing facilities; absence of grading, and standardization for agricultural commodities; irregular systems of marketing charges; defects in weights and measures; and inadequacy of available warehousing and storage facilities. These conditions aggravated the seasonal swing characteristic of agricultural prices in free markets. The existence of these conditions, in combination with inadequate credit available to cultivators and their illiteracy and lack of knowledge of marketing conditions, offered great opportunities for unscrupulous traders to reap excessive profits.

The Conference noted that many Governments in the region had instituted programs to improve these conditions. These included, as in India, legislation defining grades, weights, measures, and marketing charges; establishment of regulated markets under government control; training of marketing personnel; and construction of marketing facilities including warehouses. There were also various degrees of direct participation by some governments in the marketing of some agricultural products, as in Burma and Japan.

The Conference was of the opinion, however, that the development of strong marketing cooperatives offered the greatest possibilities of solving the many interrelated marketing problems which existed in many countries of the region. It noted the successful development of agricultural cooperatives in Japan, through which most government purchases of agricultural products were made. This was combined with the provision of credit to cultivators for the purchase of fertilizers, marketing, seeds, etc. An integrated structure of cooperative credit, marketing, warehousing and processing was being developed in India, with financial and technical assistance from the government. Such assistance was, in the opinion of the Conference, of great importance to the development of a healthy cooperative movement.

The Conference welcomed warmly the proposed technical meeting of marketing specialists in the region, which FAO planned to hold in Indonesia early in March 1959. It was felt this meeting would offer a timely and important opportunity for an exchange of information among countries of the region regarding marketing problems and programs. The Conference recommended that governments should nominate to attend this meeting well qualified marketing specialists who would be able to influence the implementation in their own countries of the recommendations of the meeting. The delegate of France noted that his government and the local territorial governments would welcome the opportunity to nominate representatives or observers to this meeting. The delegate of the United States mentioned, that his Government would like to send a delegate or observer to the meeting, and would be willing to supply any available information and material that might be deemed useful.

With regard to the agenda of this meeting, the Conference felt sure that the Secretariat would include the more routine aspects of marketing improvement. The Conference suggested that the meeting should give special attention in the agenda of the meeting to

- (i) the development of cooperative marketing, processing and warehousing, and
- (ii) the training of marketing personnel.

The delegates of India and Malaya recommended that the discussions of cooperative marketing should include the possibilities of developing international as well as domestic trade on a cooperative basis. The delegate of India also suggested that the meeting examine the extent to which the prosperity of Japanese cultivators was due to the steady price that they had received for their produce over the last few years.

#### F. Development of Pulp and Paper Industry

The Conference fully recognized the urgent need and great importance of holding a regional consultation on the development of pulp and paper industry in order to provide a valuable exchange of economic and technical information on the subject.

The Conference welcomed the information provided by the secretariat that the meeting would be co-sponsored by ECAFE, and that preparations were already underway. Discussion with the Government of Japan led to the hope that the meeting could be held in Tokyo, possibly in October or November, 1960.

A number of delegates indicated the interest of their countries in the meeting.

#### G. Fishery Statistics

The Conference considered the problems of fishery statistics with particular reference to current FAO projects in this field, namely, the FAO Indo-Pacific Training Centre in Fishery Statistics to be conducted in India in 1959, and the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Year organized by the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council. The delegates of India, Japan and Korea outlined the system followed in their countries for the collection of fishery statistics. From the experience described by these and other delegates who referred to the particular needs and problems in their respective countries, a number of conclusions were drawn.

#### Need for Fishery Statistics

There was general agreement among all the delegates who participated in the discussion that the widespread lack of adequate statistical information constituted one of the greatest practical difficulties in the planning and execution of fisheries programs. It was emphasized that reliable information concerning not only the size, composition and volume of catches but also concerning the distribution and price behaviour of fish products, the number and types of fishing craft, the social and economic conditions in fishing communities and the characteristics of the fish stocks themselves, all formed an essential basis for realistic planning. In the absence of such data the determination of desirable levels of investment and the selection of economically feasible projects was a matter of considerable speculation and uncertainty, and for similar reasons it was difficult to evaluate the results of particular development activities in fisheries. In this connection, the delegates of Cambodia, Ceylon, India, and Thailand pointed out that in the case of inland fisheries, there was a similar need for reliable statistics as in marine fisheries.

#### Problems of Assembling Fishery Statistics

The Conference discussed a variety of problems arising in the collection of fishery statistics in different sectors of the fishery industries, which could be traced generally to two primary causes. One was that in much of the region the fishing and fish distribution operations were small-scale, numerous, and widely dispersed over thousands of miles of coastline, river systems and inland waters. In many areas, the operations were always of a subsistence character, and there were, for example, no records, even by quantity, of the catches and no apparent means of determining their value.

The delegates of India and Ceylon referring to this particular problem in their respective countries considered that the situation could be met only by the use of well devised sampling systems, and in this connection they referred to the important economics of effort associated with sampling. In the case of the Philippines reference was made to the geographical diffusion of fishing operations among many islands and small fishing centres and to the problems of statistical collection where, for practical purposes, administrative responsibility had to be shared between the central Bureau of Fisheries and the large number of municipal authorities. In the case of Japan where considerable experience had been gained in this field, systems appropriate to more centralized landing and marketing organization were described.

Reference was also made to the limitations of sampling due both to the continual catching of fish in contrast to the short period of harvesting in agriculture, and to the variegated pattern of fishing operations for which it was not always expedient to make short term adjustments in the design of samples, especially where the routines were not delegated to local authorities.

It was concluded therefore that there were serious technical difficulties in dealing with situations where for practical purposes complete enumeration was rarely feasible.

The other main cause of problems in the assembly of fishery statistics was the acute shortage of qualified personnel at all levels, and a number of delegates referred to the need for more extensive training.

#### Efforts to Improve Fishery Statistics in the Region

The above problems had been well recognized for a number of years and the governments had endeavoured by various means to improve their methods of collecting fishery statistics. Reference was made to the FAO training centre in fishery statistics conducted in Bangkok, 1952, and to systems now in use in various countries.

However, it was concluded that with some notable exceptions progress had been slow. FAO's own efforts had been limited by the fact that until quite recently very little experience had been gained in dealing with the characteristic problems of fisheries in this region. The experience of the more highly advanced fishing countries was very difficult to apply because it reflected higher levels of education and training both among field staff and within the fishing industry itself, while commercial organization also permitted much more extensive use of complete enumeration.

In recent years, however, greater attention had been given in Japan and India to the use of sampling methods in fisheries and these had been simplified and adapted to conditions commonly found in the fisheries in many parts of the region.



### FAO Indo-Pacific Training Centre in Fishery Statistics

In the light of experience gained and in response to recommendations by its Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council, FAO had arranged to conduct a regional training centre in fishing statistics to be held in Bombay, 7 February - 24 April 1959. The Conference was informed of the generous invitation of the Government of India which had made this Centre possible and of the considerable assistance being received from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research as well as from the central and state government fishery authorities.

The Conference strongly endorsed the need for such a centre and a number of delegations expressed their wish to participate. It was explained that in view of the need to complete the course of training before the start of the monsoon on the west coast of India, invitations had of necessity been issued at somewhat short notice and the help of the governments was therefore sought in dealing expeditiously with the selection and nomination of suitably qualified candidates.

It was recognized that in some cases the fisheries departments might not have suitably qualified candidates on their staff and that the responsibility for fishery statistics might belong to or be shared with another department. In such cases Governments were invited to consider the desirability of nominating candidates from departments other than fisheries wherever arrangements could be made for them to assist the fishery departments after completion of the training course.

### FAO Indo-Pacific Fisheries Year

Reference was made by several delegates to a recommendation of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council that member governments should undertake during the period 1958-59 the simultaneous collection on a region-wide basis of basic data covering the number of fishermen and craft and the volume and composition of catches.

The Conference urged governments to participate to the fullest extent in this project which it was felt would provide a desirable minimum of essential data on which to plan for fishery programs at both national and regional levels.

### H. Improvement in Fish Marketing

The Conference discussed problems and current programs of fish marketing improvement in the region in the light of a recommendation of the Ninth FAO Conference, Rome, 1957, which had urged governments and FAO to intensify their efforts to improve the marketing of agricultural, forestry and fishery products, and had directed attention to a number of approaches which might be followed to achieve maximum benefits. The purpose of the present discussion was to review the fish marketing situation in the region in this context, and to advise FAO as to the particular projects to which governments attached greatest priority and which might be undertaken most effectively by FAO with its present capacity and resources.

### Current fish marketing situation

The general conclusions reached by the Ninth FAO Conference concerning food marketing were considered to apply with particular force to fish products. These referred to the importance of higher producer incomes through reduction of marketing costs, the need for adjustments to meet changing demand resulting from higher purchasing power and urbanization, the close inter-dependence of different phases of the marketing chain, especially for perishables, the fragmentation of marketing operations and the resulting opportunities for exploitation by intermediaries, the inadequacy of storage, processing and transport facilities and of dissemination of reliable marketing information.

Some special problems in fish marketing were also discussed and these could be traced primarily to the characteristic seasonal and spasmodic fluctuations of supply; the small size, number, diffusion and geographical remoteness of fishing centres; the extreme perishability of fish as a commodity; the special disadvantages of tropical weather and inadequate transport facilities and the fact that, as a rule, fish products while important from the nutritional standpoint occupied a very small share of total food marketing.

In this situation the middlemen had achieved a strong, deeply entrenched position amounting in most cases to the monopolistic exploitation of narrow bottlenecks which militated powerfully against the most efficient utilization of fish products in the public interest, and also against the increases of fish production which most governments in the region were seeking. Attention was drawn also to the changing pattern of fishing operations, the mechanization of which might be expected to lead to more concentration of landings at centres where marketing conditions were most favourable.

### Government measures to improve fish marketing

A number of delegates described recent measures adopted to improve fish marketing in their respective countries. In India, provision had been made in the Second Five Year Plan to intensify efforts to improve fish marketing on a nation-wide basis with full cooperation between central and state government authorities. The success of cooperative marketing arrangements in Bombay and Orissa was cited as an example of the importance of cooperative organization in reducing the number of middlemen. In this connection, the Agricultural and Warehousing Act, 1956, was mentioned as a measure providing for the desirable linking of marketing with credit.

In the Federation of Malaya, too, great importance was attached to cooperatives as a means of improving fish marketing organization for the mutual benefit of consumers and producers. Recent success on the north-east coast was described, in which connection mention was made of the usefulness of contracts with hospitals, other governmental institutions and estates. Facilities were being expanded and it was planned to extend the experience gained to other parts of Malaya. In Ceylon some difficulties had been

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experienced with the use of centralized cooperative marketing facilities, and these were ascribed primarily to lack of commercial and technical experience. In Korea current plans envisaged the modernization of some 200 wholesale markets and a start had been made with Pusan. Emphasis was placed on the provision of more extensive facilities for storage, processing and transport, leading to more complete and profitable utilization of fish products.

Cooperative marketing arrangements were also strongly supported in Viet-Nam, where some success had been achieved during the past three years. Reference was made to the advantages of the type of scheme used in Hongkong for the collection and centralized sale of catches and the possibility thus afforded for disposal through various outlets by auction, negotiation, or contract. Cooperative credit for the relief of indebtedness to middlemen was also available.

The delegates of Australia and the United States referred to various alternative fish marketing systems, and agreed that in this region, in many cases, the initiative would have to come from governments, and the use of cooperative methods would appear very appropriate. The delegate of the United States also recommended the use of pilot scale demonstration projects as a very practical approach to these problems.

#### Future FAO Activities in the field of fish marketing

The Conference was informed of past and present activities in the field of fish marketing. These comprised case studies on the functions of middlemen and on the role of cooperatives, the regular publication of information on technological aspects of fish marketing through the medium of the FAO World Fisheries Abstracts, the organization of particular projects for the improvement of marketing and processing in certain individual countries, and the conduct of two regional training centres, one of fish marketing, Hongkong, 1954, and one on fishery cooperatives, Australia, 1957-8. In this last connection, a report on fish marketing conditions in the region had already been published, and a further report on fishermen's cooperatives in the region would shortly be available.

The Conference considered that there was an outstanding need for a more extensive exchange of experience in this field and for more widespread professional and technical training. Some special aspects were mentioned, for example, the development of standard fish marketing units for urban areas, and the improvement of fish marketing intelligence for the benefit of smaller centres remote from central marketing facilities.

Accordingly, the Conference concluded that FAO should continue to study fish marketing and fishery cooperatives and, in particular, should endeavour to arrange regional technical meetings and regional training centres in this field, and advice on the organization of pilot-scale demonstration projects.

I. Livestock Production with Particular Reference  
to the Control of Animal Diseases

The Conference had at various times referred to the need to improve the nutrition of the people of the region, particularly by diversifying the diet through improving the supplies of protective foods of which milk is one of the most important. It realized, however, that the increased production of milk must depend on the control of disease, the provision of fodder and the improvement in productive capacity of the cattle and buffalo. Greater attention must also be paid to other food-producing animals, notably poultry.

It was appreciated that for much of Asia, mechanisation on farms would not be possible in the immediate future and there would continue to be dependence on the draft animal for cultivation of rice and other crops. A closer integration of livestock into the farming system should be an objective, bearing in mind also the valuable farm asset, manure.

The delegates of Burma, Cambodia, France, India, Japan, Laos, Malaya and Thailand participated in the discussions and made many valuable observations. The observer from OIE explained the objectives of his organization and draw attention to the working agreement of OIE with FAO.

Establishment of the FAO Working Party on Livestock Production.

The Conference approved of the general set-up of this Working Party, and endorsed the existing arrangement whereby the FAO/OIE Asian Committee on Epizootic Diseases should continue to serve as the Animal Health Group of the Working Party. It noted that the general meeting of the Working Party would take place in 1961, but taking into consideration the urgent need to step up the campaigns against rinderpest in the region, it recommended that FAO/OIE should hold a meeting in 1959 of the Asian Committee on Epizootic Diseases. This meeting might, with advantage, be held in conjunction with the technical meeting on Haemorrhagic Septicaemia which was postponed this year. Additional subjects for consideration would be "The Health of the Young Animal" and "Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia".

The Conference noted with approval the impending appointment to the Regional Office of a Livestock Production Specialist who would be able to coordinate and stimulate the activities of the Working Party.

The advantages were emphasized of informal meetings between veterinarians of adjoining countries, to discuss problems of mutual interest, particularly in regard to the control of rinderpest. In this connection the delegate of India recorded the actions taken by his Government to implement recommendations made at the informal FAO meeting on rinderpest held at New Delhi, in April, 1957. This meeting was attended by veterinarians from India and Pakistan.

The Conference was glad to learn that FAO would continue to assist in arranging such meetings.

#### Nutrition of Livestock

The Conference considered that more attention should be paid by FAO to this important subject. Technical assistance was needed to survey and plan the development of the livestock industries in some countries, taking into account not only fodder resources and potentialities but also water supplies. Nutrition should feature prominently in the agenda for the 1961 Working Party on Livestock Production.

#### Problems of Milk Development

The Conference recognized that milk production was a complex subject requiring study from several different angles, and approved of the FAO proposal to hold meetings in 1959 on dairy problems in Asia and the Far East.

Chapter V

THE FUTURE ORIENTATION ON FAO'S WORK IN THE REGION

The Conference heard a review by the Director-General of the major conclusions and recommendations that had resulted from the discussions of the Conference. It noted with appreciation that the majority of its recommendations could either be implemented by FAO in the near future, or would be given serious consideration by the Director-General in drawing up his proposals for the program of work and budget for the biennium 1960/61.

The delegates of Australia, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, France, India, Japan, Korea, Malaya, Pakistan, the Philippines, the United States and Viet-Nam participated in the discussion which followed the Director-General's review. They made the following suggestions and recommendations which are not covered elsewhere in this report.

The delegates of Australia, Ceylon and Japan emphasized that realistic agricultural development plans and programs must be based on a sound knowledge of the natural resources of a country. In view of the lack of sufficient knowledge of the resources of many areas of the region, the Conference recommended that FAO take the initiative in assisting member governments to undertake the necessary surveys. It was noted that FAO was currently engaged in carrying out pilot resource surveys in three areas. The Conference suggested that a meeting of technical experts might be called in the region to discuss the principles and methods for surveys of natural resources which could be applied in countries at various stages of their development.

The delegate of the Philippines called attention to the invitation of the Government of the Philippines that the Seventh Session of the International Rice Commission be held in the Philippines in 1960. He also reported the offer of his Government to serve as host for the proposed International Rice Institute, and expressed the hope that the Institute would become a reality.

The delegates of India, Malaya and Pakistan pointed out the importance of and the need for improvements in the use of agricultural exhibitions in connection with extension work. The Conference suggested that FAO and member governments give more attention to this field, so as to improve the art and technique of food and agricultural exhibitions.

The delegate of India pointed out that the inability to provide adequate supplies of fertilizer was one of the acute problems impeding agricultural development in a number of countries where the fertilizer industry was not sufficiently developed, or where domestic supplies of fertilizer were otherwise inadequate and foreign exchange difficulties interfered with imports. The Conference suggested that FAO and member governments investigate the possibility of developing an international fertilizer pool, which might include provisions for easier purchase of fertilizers.

The delegate of India suggested that the establishment of an international agricultural bank organized on cooperative principles would not only assist the development of national marketing cooperatives, but would also enable the governments of underdeveloped countries in the region to give additional much-needed assistance in providing credit to cultivators. The Conference suggested that FAO investigate the possibilities of establishing such a bank in consultation and cooperation with the International Cooperative Alliance, and hoped that the agricultural cooperative bank of Japan might be interested in the project.

The delegate of Pakistan pointed out the need for a comprehensive scientific monograph on rice to serve as a basic reference for governments. In this connection the Conference suggested that the results of work being carried out in different countries be collated by FAO and published as soon as practicable.

The delegate of Pakistan also pointed out the opportunities for valuable work to be done on hybrid corn in this region, and the Conference suggested that FAO should look into this matter.

Several delegates, including those of Burma and the United States, stressed the importance they attached to further work in farm management. The Conference suggested that this work should not be limited to rice, but should also cover other crops and systems of farming.

Chapter VI

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In the course of its deliberations, the Fourth FAO Regional Conference made certain suggestions and recommendations to Member Governments, and to FAO, which are summarized below. More detail can be found in earlier chapters of this report.

Expansion and Orientation of Agricultural Production and Supplies in relation to Demand (Chapter III-A)

To Governments

The Conference recommends that, to improve the factual basis for agricultural planning, governments undertake surveys and studies of:

1. Their agricultural resources, including land types, climate, soils, hydrological conditions, as well as of the human resources.
2. Quantitative effects on production of improved agricultural methods and materials and of institutional changes insofar as possible, including the results of previous development plans and programs.
3. Household income, expenditure and consumption; population and income projections; and forecasts of industrial activity; to permit estimates of future domestic demand for agricultural products.
4. Capital formation in agriculture.

To FAO

The Conference recommends that to improve the factual basis of national agricultural planning, FAO study and report on:

1. The short term international economic and commodity situations as they affect markets for agricultural products. It was suggested specifically that spices be included in these studies.
2. The changes in the pattern of trade in agricultural products characteristic of a developing country of the region.
3. Evaluation of the effects on countries of the region of economic development policies and development plans in other countries of the region (including China); and of other regions including the European Common Market and the Free Trade Area if it materializes.



4. The long term international market prospects for the main export commodities of the region.
5. Possibilities of developing international trade on a cooperative-to-cooperative basis.

The Conference recommends that, for the purpose of exchanging experience and improving knowledge of agricultural planning, FAO:

1. Convene a technical meeting of experts of the region on target setting in agriculture (possibly in conjunction with ECAFE) to exchange experience on:
  - (a) Methods of forecasting demand for food and industrial raw materials on domestic and international markets, and their application in agricultural planning.
  - (b) Methods of evaluating response of agricultural production to changes in agricultural inputs and institutions.
  - (c) Methods of appraising the results of previous agricultural development plans and programs.
  - (d) Means of considering, in the framework of planning, the problems of agricultural income and employment.
  - (e) The role and content of long term agricultural development plans in relation to short and medium term plans.
2. Convene subsequently in the region a general meeting, preferably before the next Regional Conference, of agriculturists, economists, nutritionists and resource experts to draw up an outline or set of principles for realistic agricultural planning.

Stabilization and Support Policies for Agricultural Prices and Incomes  
(Chapter III-B)

To Governments

The Conference:

- (1) commends the Report of the FAO/ECAFE Centre on policies to Support and Stabilize Agricultural Prices and Incomes in Asia and the Far East as deserving serious attention by governments when formulating their agricultural policies;
- (2) notes the importance attached by the Centre to the availability of reliable data for use in establishing and implementing agricultural price policies, and endorses the proposal made by the Centre that this problem be referred to the Conference of Asian Statisticians, with the suggestion that economists and administrators participate in discussion of this matter.

To FAO

The Conference endorses the continuing studies by FAO of agricultural support measures, and the proposed meeting in Rome of experts to discuss the formulation of principles for such measures.

Nutrition in Relation to Food and Agricultural Policies (Chapter III-C)

To Governments

The Conference strongly supports the recommendations of the 9th session of the FAO Conference that member governments take due account of the nutritional needs of their population in formulating and implementing their food policies and plans.

To FAO

The Conference recommends that FAO:

- (1) organise a Regional Seminar on Nutrition in Food Policy and Planning at a suitable time and place, preferably in early 1960;
- (2) give greater emphasis to the work of the Nutrition Division, especially in relation to food and agricultural policies in the program of work for 1960/61.

Problems of Determining Priorities in Fishery Development (Chapter III-D)

To Governments

The Conference recommends the organization of seminars either at the national level or among several countries having similar problems, at which representatives of fishery services and of the general economic policy and planning agencies of governments would jointly review fishery programs for the purpose of:

- (1) familiarizing fishery personnel with the objectives of the economic development plans of the countries, and with the planning and evaluation procedures used for other sectors of economy, particularly those closely related to fishery development;
- (2) making a review of the special problems of fishery development in relation to conditions and expected developments in the other sectors;
- (3) undertaking a critical examination of criteria and procedures currently used in the selection of fishery projects, developing criteria for setting priorities in fishery programs;
- (4) formulating procedures for regular consultation on current progress in fisheries, and in other related sectors, at central and local levels.

To FAO

The Conference recommends that FAO provide such guidance and assistance for these seminars as may be practicable.

Evaluation of Agrarian Reform (Chapter III-E)

To Governments

The Conference:

- (1) endorses the resolution of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations that governments undertake specific studies of implementation of land reform measures and of their impact on production, living standards, and economic and social development;
- (2) suggests that government activities in the field of agrarian reform should include consideration of:
  - (i) the amount and kind of rent paid by tenants including share division and the security of their tenure;
  - (ii) the competent planning and organization of settlement projects, including modern surveys of soil and water resources, establishment of economic farm sizes and good tenure system permitting settlers to improve their production methods and living standards;
  - (iii) the need for complementing land reform measures with such essential services as supervised credit, cooperatives, and extension services and education; and
  - (iv) sociological and land use studies in those areas to which more orthodox forms of agrarian reform do not yet apply, in order to determine what kind of agrarian reform may be practicable and desirable.

Organization of Agricultural Education and Extension Services Adapted to Local Conditions (Chapter III-F)

To FAO

The Conference:

- (1) commends FAO for the work it has done in the field of extension;
- (2) recommends that FAO undertake a survey of agricultural education in all countries of the region, and report the results to the Fifth Regional Conference;
- (3) recommends that FAO undertake a survey of agricultural extension in the region for discussion at the next Regional Conference.

International Rice Commission (Chapter IV-A)

To Governments and to FAO

The Conference:

- (1) Endorses the recommendations of the Commission that:
  - (a) the Working Parties of the Commission be reconstituted so that in the future, there be three technical working parties as follows:
    - IRC Working Party on Rice Production and Protection;
    - IRC Working Party on Rice Soils, Water and Fertilizer Practices;
    - IRC Working Party on Agricultural Engineering Aspects of Rice production, Storage and Processing.
  - (b) future sessions of the Commission as a general practice be scheduled in conjunction with the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East.
- (2) recommends that further consideration be given to the proposal for an International Rice Institute and efforts should be made by governments and FAO to find ways and means whereby the Institute might be established and maintained.
- (3) recommends that in view of the importance of the work on rice envisaged for the IRC for the future, Governments and FAO give continuing support to this work.

Improving Farm Management in Rice Producing Areas (Chapter IV-B)

To Governments

The Conference endorses the recommendations of the farm management centres, and of the working groups of the IRC, that governments:

- (1) organize national farm management training centres in countries with assistance from FAO;
- (2) support the establishment of a Regional Working Committee on Farm Management to promote continuous exchange of information and ideas in the field;
- (3) establish pilot and demonstration projects on farm management in a few strategic areas.

To FAO

The Conference:

- (1) endorses the resolutions of the Farm Management Centres that the services of an FAO farm management specialist for the region be continued and recommended that he be stationed in the region.
- (2) Suggests that a Regional Working Committee on Farm Management be established.

World Seed Campaign (Chapter IV-C)

To FAO

The Conference supports the concept of a World Seed Campaign and, recognizing that its success will depend largely on the initiative of countries individually or cooperatively:

- (1) Requests that FAO's coordinating activities be sustained and possibly intensified as the Campaign gains momentum;
- (2) Suggests that the International Rice Commission, through its Working Party on Rice Production and Protection, consider the setting up, as its contribution to the World Seed Campaign, a study group to investigate the ways and means to reduce the large number of local rice varieties in many countries, so that the best may be used in seed multiplication and distribution programs;
- (3) Requests FAO to organize a Regional Training Centre for Seed Testing and Certification in 1960 under the Expanded Technical Assistance Programs.
- (4) Desires that FAO give more attention to plant introduction and exploration work.

World Census of Agriculture (Chapter IV-D)

To Governments

The Conference urges governments to avail themselves of the various forms of assistance offered by FAO for the conduct of their censuses.

To FAO

The Conference:

- (1) suggests that FAO prepare and issue, as soon as possible, a comprehensive publication on census techniques including methods of enumeration, organization and administration.
- (2) Expresses the hope that FAO will organize a training centre in tabulation.

Domestic Marketing of Food Grains (Chapter IV-E)

To Governments

The Conference urges governments to send, as representatives to the proposed regional meeting on marketing, well qualified specialists who would be able to influence the implementation in their own countries of recommendations of the meeting.

To FAO

The Conference:

- (1) commends the increasing importance being given to marketing in underdeveloped areas in the work of program of FAO;
- (2) gives warm support to the proposed technical meeting of marketing specialists of the region scheduled to be held in Indonesia in 1959.

Development of Pulp and Paper Industry (Chapter IV-F)

To FAO

The Conference recognizes the urgent need and great importance of holding a regional consultation on the development of pulp and paper industry.

Fishery Statistics (Chapter IV-G)

To Governments

The Conference:

- (1) Recommends that Governments support the forthcoming FAO Indo-Pacific Training Centre in fishery statistics, in India in 1959, by nominating suitably qualified candidates who will be able to apply subsequently in their countries the training received;
- (2) Recommends that Governments cooperate fully with the FAO Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council in arrangements for the collection of fisheries data during the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Year.

Improvement in Fish Marketing (Chapter IV-H)

To FAO

The Conference:

- (1) Recommends the continued study of fish marketing, and especially the role of cooperatives, and the methods of financing fishermen.
- (2) Recommends the organization of a regional technical meeting and regional training centres on fish marketing.
- (3) Recommends the transmission of advice to governments as necessary on the organization of pilot-scale demonstration projects in fish marketing.

Livestock Production (Chapter IV-I)

To Governments

The Conference recommends that greater attention should be paid to the eradication of Rinderpest in those countries where the disease still exists.

To FAO

The Conference recommends that:

- (1) a meeting of the FAO/OIE Asian Committee on Epizootic Diseases should take place in 1959. Consideration should be given to holding this in conjunction with the technical meeting on Haemorrhagic Septicaemia.
- (2) the meeting on "Dairy Problems in Asia and the Far East" should take place in 1959.
- (3) FAO should give further study to the Nutrition of Livestock, and assist countries to plan the development of their livestock industries.
- (4) more attention should be devoted by FAO to the development of the poultry industry.

The Future Orientation of FAO's Work in the Region (Chapter V)

(This heading serves to locate those recommendations made by the Conference in discussion of Item 13 of the Agenda which are not included under other headings in this Chapter. However, it should be noted that these are supplementary to the other recommendations made in this and other chapters of this report, the whole complex of which are set forth to guide FAO's future work).

To FAO

The Conference

- (1) suggests that FAO consider convening a technical meeting in the region to outline the principles and methods that could be followed by countries at different stages of development in making surveys of their natural resources;
- (2) suggests that FAO and member governments give more attention to improving the art and technique of food and agricultural exhibitions as one aspect of extension work;
- (3) suggests that FAO and member governments investigate the possibility of developing an international fertilizer pool, which might include provisions for easier purchase of fertilizers;

- (4) suggests that FAO investigate the possibilities of the establishment of an international agricultural bank organized on cooperative principles, in consultation and cooperation with the International Cooperative Alliance;
- (5) recommends that FAO publish as soon as possible a comprehensive scientific monograph on rice which would collate the work being carried out in different countries;
- (6) suggests that FAO examine the possibilities of the wider introduction in the region of hybrid corn; and
- (7) suggests that FAO's work in farm management should not be limited to rice, but should also cover other crops and systems of farming.



FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

TOKYO, 6-16 OCTOBER 1958

List of Participants

<u>Country</u>	<u>Name and Title</u>	<u>Status</u>
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	Thong Khanh Vizavouth Directeur Adjoint de l'Agriculture Direction de l'Agriculture Vientiane	Associate
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FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Tokyo, 6-16 October 1958

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Secretariat Papers

FERC 58/1	Annotated Provisional Agenda
FERC 58/1(a)	Provisional Agenda
FERC 58/1(a)Rev.1	Provisional Agenda
FERC 58/1(a)Rev.2	Agenda
FERC 58/2	Work of FAO in Asia and the Far East
FERC 58/2 Add.1	Work of FAO in Asia and the Far East
FERC 58/3	Recent Developments in the Food and Agricultural Situation in Asia and the Far East
FERC 58/4	The Short Term Outlook for Commodities in International Trade
FERC 58/5	Impact on National Programming of the Longer Term Forces Affecting Demand and Consumption
FERC 58/6	Agricultural Stabilization and Support Policies
FERC 58/7	Nutrition in Relation to Food and Agricultural Policy
FERC 58/8	Problems of Determining Priorities in Fishery Development Planning
FERC 58/9	Evaluation of Agrarian Reform
FERC 58/10	Organization of Extension Services Adapted to Local Conditions
FERC 58/11	Improving Farm Management in Rice Producing Areas
FERC 58/12	World Seed Campaign
FERC 58/13	The 1960 World Census of Agriculture

Secretariat Papers (Cont'd)

- FERC 58/14           The Domestic Marketing of Foodgrains
- FERC 58/15           Development of Pulp and Paper Industries
- FERC 58/16           Fishery Statistics
- FERC 58/17           Improvement in Fish Marketing
- FERC 58/18           Statement by Director-General, Dr. B.R. Sen
- FERC 58/19           The Work of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council and  
                    Its Relation to National Fisheries Policies
- FERC 58/20           International Rice Commission
- FERC 58/21           List of Technical Meetings and Training Centers  
                    Convened by FAO in the Region since the last  
                    Regional Meeting in 1956
- FERC 58/21(a)        - do -
- FERC 58/22           Fishery Programs in Relation to Agricultural and  
                    Economic Planning
- FERC 58/23           Role of Government in Fisheries Development
- FERC 58/24           Prospectus for the FAO Indo-Pacific Training Centre  
                    in Fishery Statistics, Bombay, India, 7 February -  
                    24 April 1959
- FERC 58/25           The Short-Term Outlook for Commodities in  
                    International Trade - A Supplementary Note



Papers Submitted by Delegations

FERC 58/Sp.1	Guaranteed or Minimum Price Schemes for Farm Products in New Zealand
FERC 58/Sp.2	Extension Services in New Zealand
FERC 58/Sp.3	Government of Ceylon Report to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations for 1955 - 1957
FERC 58/Sp.4	Agrarian Reform in Ceylon
FERC 58/Sp.5	Ceylon's Rice Production Program
FERC 58/Sp.6	Ceylon's Guaranteed Price Scheme
FERC 58/Sp.7	Opening Address by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Japan, His Excellency Kunio Miura
FERC 58/Sp.8	New Long Range Economic Plan of Japan (FY 1958 + FY 1962) - Report of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Committee
FERC 58/Sp.9	Contributing Factors in the 1957 Bumper Rice Crop - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Japan
FERC 58/Sp.10	Pakistan Report to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for 1955 - 1957
FERC 58/Sp.11	The Influence of Nutritional and Economic Factors on the Future Pattern of Asian Diets - Ceylon
FERC 58/Sp.12	Agricultural Credit in Ceylon - Rural Indebtedness
FERC 58/Sp.13	A Report of Progress Achieved by the Ministry of Agriculture during the Period January 1955 to December 1957 - Ministry of Agriculture, Federation of Malaya
FERC 58/Sp.14	U.S. Report to FAO
FERC 58/Sp.15	Annual Report of the Government of Thailand
FERC 58/Sp.16	A Brief Note on the Campaign for Japanese Method of Paddy Cultivation in India
FERC 58/Sp.17	The Home Living Improvement Institute - Japan

Papers Submitted by Delegations (Cont'd)

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|---------------|--|
| FERC 58/Sp.18 | Contribution of the Corn Breeding in Japan   |
| FERC 58/Sp.19 | Nutrition in Relation to Food and Agricultural Policy - Thailand   |
| FERC 58/Sp.20 | National Report to the FAO, 1955-57, India   |
| FERC 58/Sp.21 | Address by Mr. Koshichi Uyeno, Vice Minister of International Trade and Industry at the Agricultural Implement and Machine Exhibition - 6 October 1958 |
| FERC 58/Sp.22 | The Fishing Industry in Ceylon (Mechanization)   |
| FERC 58/Sp.23 | Agricultural Extension Work in Japan   |
| FERC 58/Sp.24 | An Evaluation of Philippine Agrarian Reforms   |
| FERC 58/Sp.25 | Commonwealth of Australia and the Territory of Papua and New Guinea Report to the FAO of the UN - 1955, 56 and 1957                                    |
| FERC 58/Sp.26 | Report of the Agricultural Progress for 1955-1957 Korea  |
| FERC 58/Sp.27 | Organization of Extension Services Adapted to Local Conditions - Philippines   |

List of Technical Meetings and Training Centers  
Convened by FAO in the Region Since the  
Previous Regional Conference in 1956

AGRICULTURE

1. International Rice Commission, Tokyo, October 1958
2. Farm Machinery Training Center, Ceylon, 1956
3. Watershed Management Development Center (jointly with Forestry Division), India, 1957
4. Regional Development Centre on Land Settlement Policies and Problems, Ceylon, late in 1958 (coming)
5. Farm Management Development Center, Tokyo, 1956
6. Farm Management Development Center, New Delhi, India, 1957
7. Farm Management Development Center, National Center with participants invited from Cambodia and Laos, to be held in Viet-Nam, late in 1958 (coming)
8. International Rice Commission Working Party on Soil Fertility and the ad hoc group on Soil, Water, Plant Relationships, held at Vercelli, Italy, 1957
9. International Rice Commission Working Party on Rice Breeding, Vercelli, Italy, 1957
10. National Training Centers on Rice Improvement and Production, with FAO collaboration, held in 1958 in Indonesia, Viet-Nam, Burma, and Pakistan
11. FAO/OIE Meeting on Epizootic Diseases of Livestock, Tokyo, December 1956
12. Informal Meeting on Rinderpest, (India and Pakistan participating) New Delhi, April 1957
13. Meeting on Bovine Pleuropneumonia, (at which 2 countries from Far East attended) Sudan, February 1957
14. Meeting on International Milk Standards, Rome, September 1958

15. Veterinary Training Center, Copenhagen, Denmark, 1957
16. Dairy Production Training Center, Copenhagen, Denmark, 1958
17. Rinderpest Vaccine Production, National Training Center, Lahore, Pakistan, late 1958 (coming)
18. Agricultural Extension, Training Study Tour 1957
19. Agricultural Extension, Training Center, Los Banos, Philippines 1958

#### ECONOMICS

1. Conference of Asian Statisticians held jointly with ECAFE for the preparation of a 1960 world agricultural census program -- April 1957, Bangkok
2. Regional Training Center on Censuses, held jointly with U.N. September 1958, Tokyo
3. FAO/ECAFE Centre on Policies to Support and Stabilize Agricultural Prices and Incomes in Asia and the Far East, March/April 1958, New Delhi
4. ECAFE/FAO Working Party on Economic Development and Planning in Asia and the Far East: The Agricultural Sector, September 1957, Bangkok
5. Preparatory Working Party on Coconut and Coconut Products, January 1957, Colombo
6. Group on Coconut and Coconut Products, Manila, October 1958 (coming)

#### FISHERIES

1. Seventh Session of Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council, Bandung, 1957
2. FAO Indo-Pacific Training Centre in Fishery Cooperatives and Administration, Australia, December 1957 - January 1958 (following from recommendation of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council and of the Third FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East, Bandung, 1956)

3. FAO Training Centre on Rastrelliger Research Methodology, Bangkok, October-November 1958 (following recommendation of Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council) (coming)
4. Eighth Session of FAO Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council, Colombo, December 1958 (coming)

FORESTRY

1. Fourth Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, Bandung, June 1957
2. Second Session of Teak Sub-Commission, Bandung, June 1957
3. Development Centre on Watershed Management, Hazaribagh, India, February 1957
4. Training of Forest Workers and Forest Working Techniques, Kashmir, India, Cold Season, 1958 (coming)

NUTRITION

1. Fourth Meeting of the FAO/WHO Nutrition Committee for South and East Asia, Tokyo, Japan, October 1956
2. First Technical Meeting in Home Economics for South and East Asia, Tokyo, Japan, October 1956
3. FAO/UNICEF School Feeding Seminar for South and East Asia, Tokyo, Japan, November 1958 (coming)





