

**REPORT OF THE  
FOURTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
FOR EUROPE**

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Salzburg, Austria, 26-31 October 1964



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Reports of previous regional conferences for Europe are as follows:

1. Pre-Conference Regional Meeting, Rome, 10-15 October 1949
2. Conference for Europe, Rome, 10-15 October 1960
3. Third Regional Conference for Europe, Rome, 8-13 October 1962

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy



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INTRODUCTION

Organization of the Conference

1. The Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Europe was held in Salzburg at the kind invitation of the Federal Government of Austria, from 26-31 October 1964. The principal purposes of the Conference were to provide a forum for broad policy discussions on European agricultural problems against the background of world agriculture as a whole, to review the participation of countries in the European Region in the worldwide activities of FAO, to discuss the future work of the Organization in the Region, and also to provide guidance to the Director General in the preparation of his program of work for 1966/67.

2. The Conference was attended by delegations from the following 23 countries of the European Region:

Austria	Netherlands
Belgium	Norway
Denmark	Poland
Finland	Portugal
France	Romania
Germany, Federal Republic of	Spain
Greece	Sweden
Ireland	Switzerland
Israel	Turkey
Italy	United Kingdom
Luxembourg	Yugoslavia
Malta	

3. In addition, the following other Member countries of the Organization sent observers to the Conference:

Australia	Tunisia
Cuba	United States
Iran	

4. The Holy See was represented, as well as the UN, and the following organizations and agencies belonging to the UN:

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)  
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)  
World Health Organization (WHO)

5. The following international organizations and institutions sent observers to the Conference:

Council of Europe (CE)  
European Economic Community (EEC)  
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
European Confederation of Agriculture (CEA)  
International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)  
World Veterans' Federation (WVF)

6. Among the permanent European and Mediterranean bodies of FAO, the European Forestry Commission and the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease were represented.

7. A list of participants, including delegates, representatives, observers, the staff of FAO and of the FAO/UN World Food Program in attendance and of the officers of the Conference is annexed to this Report.

#### Opening of the Conference

8. The Director General called the Conference to order and expressed his warm appreciation for the invitation of the Austrian Government and for the excellent arrangements made by the Land and by the Municipality of Salzburg. The delegates were greeted cordially and welcomed by the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Herr Schleinzer, by the Representative of the Landeshauptmann Lechner, Nationalrat and Präsident Mr. I. Griessner and by the Bürgermeister of Salzburg, Herr Bäck.

9. The Federal Minister of Agriculture of Austria, Herr Schleinzer, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Conference. Federal Minister Schleinzer thanked the Conference warmly for the honour bestowed on him.

10. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. General debate on the policy statement by the Director General.
2. Activities of European countries in the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.
3. Participation by European countries in the UN/FAO World Food Program.
4. Europe's role in aid to developing countries.
5. Agricultural perspectives and policies.
6. Adjusting market organizations and techniques for food and agricultural products in Europe to meet changing demand situations and structural influences including greater concentration on retail distribution.
7. Problems of agricultural commodity trade and development
  - (a) Recent developments in agricultural trade in Europe;
  - (b) Competition between agricultural products of developing countries and those of European countries;
  - (c) The significance for European farming of the conclusions of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.
8. Orientation and methods of FAO's activities in the European Region.
9. Mediterranean development.



10. Other business.
11. Adoption of the Report.
12. Closing of the Conference.

#### Closing of the Conference

11. At its closing session, the Conference adopted the text of the report in its present form.
12. Mr. Cépède, Vice-Chairman, who was in the chair at the closing session, briefly summarized the results of the Conference and thanked the delegates and observers for their valuable contribution to it. The discussion during the whole Conference had been on a remarkably high level and, he felt, had clarified many items relevant both to European agriculture and to FAO's activities in Europe. He thanked the Austrian Government and the authorities of the Land and the township of Salzburg for the warm hospitality extended to the delegates, ensuring that the days spent in Salzburg, a city rich in tradition and history, would remain a pleasant souvenir for all. He thanked both the Director General for having convened the Conference and for having shown his interest in it by attending it personally, and the Secretariat for its preparation and organization.
13. In the name of the participants, Mr. Santos, delegate for Spain, and Mr. Romas, delegate for Romania, also expressed their thanks to the host government and the local authorities, as well as to all the Austrian institutions and organizations, which had extended such a warm welcome to all the delegates. The entertainment they had provided had created a framework unique to this Conference. In particular, they wished to thank the Chairman, Mr. Schleinzer, Federal Minister of Agriculture of Austria, and the Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Caruana, Minister of Agriculture of Malta, and Prof. Cépède, France, who had guided with great skill and tact the very difficult discussions. Warm thanks were expressed to Mr. B.R. Sen, Director General, for having revived the European regional conferences. His faith in their utility was now generally shared. They expressed their thanks to the Secretariat for the preparation and the running of the Conference and to all the specialists who had prepared the working papers and presented the items for the consideration of the Conference.
14. Mr. L. Dorfwirth, delegate of Austria, Chairman of the Austrian FAO National Committee, conveyed the regret of Mr. Schleinzer, Minister of Agriculture, in being prevented from attending the closing session by very important governmental business. In his name, and in his own, he thanked the Director General for having convened the 4th Regional Conference for Europe in Salzburg, which the Austrian authorities regarded as an honour for their country. He also expressed the thanks of all those who had contributed to its preparation and physical arrangement, and expressed the hope that FAO would convene other meetings in Austria in the not too distant future. He assured the Director General that the Austrian Government would be very willing to extend hospitality to them.
15. The closing session terminated at 12.45 a.m. on Saturday, 31 October 1964.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

General debate

16. The Director General of FAO opened a general debate with a statement which covered not only the problems of European farming but also the responsibilities of the European Region towards the developing world. He said that the fact that agriculture in Europe was increasingly run on business lines with heavy capital investment and was expanding its output faster than the growth of consumer demand created difficult problems of economic and social adjustment. But these adjustments had to be accomplished in the context of a world in which the agriculture of most developing countries was expanding too slowly and many hundreds of millions of human beings were short of food.

17. To focus the attention of peoples as well as governments on these problems was the primary objective of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign whose extension to the end of the UN Development Decade had just been recommended by the Council of FAO. Of particular importance was the Young World Mobilization Appeal beginning in October 1965 as well as the initiation of practical action programs by people's organizations in as many as possible of the developing countries. The Director General paid tribute to the fine response of the European FFHC Committees and urged them to continue to extend their efforts. The World Food Program also had great future interest for European countries. What could be more humanitarian and make better political sense than to marry the excess agricultural production potential of the European Region to the food needs of the developing countries?

18. European countries were making a real effort in the provision of technical assistance and other forms of bilateral and multilateral aid, yet because the need remained so great ways should be studied of increasing the impact of that effort; for instance, by improving the European education and training facilities through an exchange of experiences among the leaders of the institutions concerned, by the supply of more middle-level technicians and engineers as a larger number of volunteers and associate experts and by closer collaboration between bilateral and multilateral programs.

19. Meanwhile, the Director General recalled that FAO continued to provide important services to Europe through the regional Commissions for Agriculture, for Forestry, for Inland Fisheries and for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease, each with their subsidiary organs, through the twelve Mediterranean projects each demonstrating the integrated approach to agricultural development, through the joint work undertaken with the Economic Commission for Europe and its Agriculture and Timber Committees, and finally through EPTA, UNSF and UNICEF projects in individual countries. It was through regional bodies that the less advanced European countries acquired know-how from the more advanced ones; moreover, much of the technical and economic work undertaken co-operatively among European countries could be applied now or later and with appropriate modifications to the solution of the problems of other regions.

20. In the field of international trade the recommendations of the UN Conference on Trade and Development would have far reaching significance. The implications had been studied at the recent session of FAO's Committee on Commodity Problems and subsequently at the FAO Council where it had been agreed that future work should especially emphasize the development aspects of these problems. The Director General also referred to his preparations of a world indicative plan for food and agriculture following recommendations of the FAO Conference and the World Food Congress. Such a plan would assist governments in formulating their own agricultural development policies particularly those with implications for foreign trade.

21. As a result of a long tradition of relationships with all parts of the world, Europe occupied a unique position for taking initiatives to bring lasting benefit to the under-privileged nations. The Conference would consider policy measures for furthering the prosperity of the Region's farming measures, for strengthening assistance to the backward agriculture of the developing countries, measures for opening Europe's markets more widely to the products of those countries and above all measures which will accelerate the process of banishing privilege and under-privilege between the nations of the world, just as privilege and under-privilege had been banished within the countries of Europe.

22. A greeting was brought to the Conference from the Secretary General of the United Nations by the Executive Secretary of ECE. He described some of the recent activities of ECE's Committee on Agricultural Problems and Timber Committee and thanked FAO warmly for the efficient co-operation maintained through the joint FAO/ECE Secretariat. ECE was also concerned with European trade problems which, as a result of the recommendations of the UN Conference on Trade and Development, would be receiving increasing attention.

23. In the general debate on the Director General's policy statement delegations briefly reviewed the agricultural situations in their respective countries, stating that the main features had been all-round productivity increases, further mechanization, increased use of fertilizers, improved marketing, better facilities for the processing and handling of food, extension of irrigation, the use of improved seeds, the control of plant pests and diseases, the improvement of livestock through selective breeding and disease control, and in some countries an expansion of forestry undertakings. Horticulture and poultry production showed marked increases in most countries and increasing attention was being given to the rearing of young cattle. In some instances the high prices of feed grains inhibited profitable pork production.

24. In spite of higher production and increased productivity in most European countries, agricultural incomes had not increased as rapidly as in other industries. Further studies on income disparities were vitally necessary in all European countries and would result in valuable suggestions for policy adjustments. Delegates repeatedly stressed the increasing scarcity of agricultural labour. It was indicated that peak seasonal labour shortages were tending to be of longer duration and were accelerating mechanization and the adoption of policies for rationalization of farm practices.

25. The Director General's reference to the increasing involvement of FAO in European agricultural problems was welcomed. It was stressed that FAO had special and growing responsibilities in the Mediterranean area and it was hoped that new and improved means of providing effective co-operation would be sought. A particular need here was in the field of marketing, the problems being those not of output but of distribution and export.

26. The Conference approved of the emphasis given by the Director General to the need for improvements in all fields of education and training for rural peoples and many delegates indicated that such improvements, with an expansion of extension work at all levels, were an integral part of their agricultural planning for the future.

27. Representatives of WHO, the Council of Europe and the European Economic Community commended the Director General's statement relating to FAO's collaboration with international organizations and institutions and stressed the importance they attached to this co-operation, which had already produced valuable results.

28. The Secretary General of OECD reviewed briefly the present situation of European agriculture, as seen by recent studies carried out by his organization. He described the income gap between agriculture and other sectors as socially unacceptable but because of market disequilibrium this could not, he felt, be remedied by further price increases. The problem of low incomes could be dealt with only by amalgamation of small farms and diversification of occupations in disadvantaged regions. Since so many farmers were now in the upper age group the time was ripe for vigorous structural reform policies and the resultant farms would adapt themselves more easily to changing market requirements. The continuing expansion of demand would ensure a place for the farm exports of overseas countries.

#### Activities of European Countries in the Freedom from Hunger Campaign

29. Two papers were submitted to the Conference on the Freedom from Hunger Campaign /ERC/64/4(2) and ERC/64/4(2) Supplement No. 17, the second being the report of the Fifth Meeting of European FFHC Committees, which had just concluded in Salzburg, and which laid stress on the strengthening of national FFHC Committees. The report emphasized that all countries should have fully representative committees with sufficient resources and status to mobilize public opinion and carry out a vigorous action program. The Conference noted the momentum which the Campaign had achieved during the past four years and the recommendation of the 43rd Session of the FAO Council that the Campaign be continued until the end of the Development Decade. The Conference also took note of Resolution 1039 (XXXVII) of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations which, in commending the contribution of the Campaign to the Development Decade, had called upon all organizations to intensify their efforts to combat hunger. The Conference was informed that the Meeting of FFHC Committees had taken the view that the World Campaign against Hunger, Disease and Ignorance, called for in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1943 (XVIII) should be postponed as at present there seemed insufficient basis for launching a new Campaign and that, instead, full advantage should be made of the increasing momentum of the FFHC to relate disease and ignorance to man's struggle to improve his economic conditions.

30. The Conference expressed satisfaction with the information programs conducted by national committees. The will to solve the problems of hunger and poverty had greatly increased during the first period of the Campaign and the public was now better prepared not only to support action programs through voluntary contributions but also to accept expanding government contributions to programs of technical and economic assistance, bilateral as well as multilateral. The role of non-governmental organizations in furthering the information and educational aspects of the Campaign was strongly commended.

31. It was noted by the Conference that FFHC projects were being financed both from private funds and from public money and that there were also joint efforts. It was recognized that further emphasis would have to be given to action programs and the need for overall co-ordination of technical assistance programs was stressed. Delegates recognized that information and education activities must be based on action and that FFHC activities should be the medium for providing knowledge and skill and help to co-ordinate public education and involvement activities.

32. The suggestion had been made, in conformity with the request of the Council, that Central Campaign costs might in the next biennium be included in the regular budget of FAO. Meeting that costs was, however, an urgent problem at the present time requiring immediate consideration. Several countries had made voluntary contributions and it was hoped that others would also find this to be possible. National committees had in some cases expressed reluctance to pay the 12 per cent servicing cost charged on projects executed through FAO and it was suggested that more flexible methods be established to facilitate various types of project. For example, governments might consider underwriting the 12 per cent charge on projects adopted for bilateral implementation, as had been done in one country.

33. The proposal for the Inter-Committee Partnership Scheme was welcomed though the need to exercise great care in establishing it was emphasized. The Young World Mobilisation Appeal had been received with interest, particularly by youth, and plans to implement it would be of particular importance to the strong youth movements of Europe. School curricula which would incorporate appropriate material on the objectives of the Campaign should be established by ministries of education.

34. The advantages for European Committees resulting from the first meeting away from Rome were mentioned by delegates and it was felt that there would be great benefits in following this precedent. Committees would thus have the opportunity of seeing the work being done by their partners and of studying other methods at first hand.

35. Certain delegates raised the question of the frequency of the meetings of the World Food Congress and expressed the view that they should not be convened at such short intervals.

36. In his concluding remarks, the Director General stated that measured against the explosive population growth the task ahead was immense. Food production must be quadrupled before the end of the century. In view of rapidly changing world conditions, it was vitally necessary to take stock of the situation at intervals of no more than five years and to assess

the problems. Therefore the Director General felt that the Second World Food Congress should not be delayed beyond 1968. He expressed his deep appreciation for the work which was being done by the National Committees and emphasized the fine record of non-governmental organizations and particularly the churches in providing assistance to overseas countries. To be effective, action had to be of a long term nature and assistance linked closely to the development plans of the recipient countries. Peoples' organizations should take initiatives but their efforts should be co-ordinated by governments. The European countries, with their old traditions and wide experience, were in the very best position to provide an example in accomplishing the solemn declaration of the World Food Congress: "To mobilize every resource at our command to awaken world opinion and to stimulate all appropriate action, public and private, national and international, for this overriding task ..."

#### Participation by European Countries in the UN/FAO World Food Program

37. In introducing the paper ERC/64/4(3) presented to the Conference on this subject, the Executive Director of the World Food Program stated that \$30.3 million or one third of the Program's total resources of \$92 million had come from countries in the European Region; all but four of the European countries had contributed. He noted that the United Kingdom and the Netherlands had recently increased their pledges and that a new pledge from Luxembourg had brought the number of contributing countries to seventy. Four countries in the European Region had submitted fifteen requests for assistance from WFP.

38. Until now, ninety projects in different fields of activity in forty-six countries at a total cost of \$51.5 million had been approved, and a further forty-five projects were in the process of examination. Fifty-four projects were now operational. It was expected that by the end of 1964, all the Program's resources would have been committed. The emphasis of the Program's work would in future gradually shift to the evaluation of projects, as a basis on which the UN and FAO would decide on the future of multilateral food aid.

39. The Executive Director then briefly reviewed the three main types of activities, namely, emergencies, special feeding and projects for economic and social development. In regard to emergencies, he reported that of the \$22 million reserved for this purpose, \$10 million had been utilized in fifteen cases of emergency. The Executive Director believed that in cases of emergency, assistance given by WFP contributed most effectively to re-construction and rehabilitation rather than to the immediate alleviation of distress. He considered that provision in any future program should be made on the basis of this experience.

40. In regard to projects for special feeding, WFP had placed some emphasis on supporting training centres, particularly for training teachers. In this context, food fellowships had been offered, using food as an element of the cost of instruction, enabling governments to train a larger number of people than would otherwise have been possible. In these aspects, WFP was giving its support to the UN family's campaign against illiteracy.

41. The major part of WFP's work was in the field of economic and social development, particularly in labour intensive public work projects, afforestation, land settlement and migration, and also promotion of animal husbandry, milk and dairy production. It seemed clear that in these fields, there was very wide scope for food aid.

42. Turning to the future of WFP, the Executive Director mentioned some of the many questions which existed in this respect. At present, WFP food aid was tied to concrete projects, which had made the Program attractive to many countries. Particularly since the present method permitted the use of a wide variety of foodstuffs, he considered that the project approach should be continued as the main feature of the Program. He briefly outlined the problems connected with the Program or bulk supply approach, which should be explored on a limited basis in an extended multi-lateral food aid program.

43. Although recognizing that the interests in a multilateral food aid program of countries having large surpluses and those without excess agricultural production were different, the Executive Director suggested that countries without surpluses could and should be interested in such a program, stressing the necessity of commitments for a longer period in order to provide continuity of supply, and the essential need for at least one third of the total pledge to an extended program to consist of cash.

44. The five WFP studies on food aid currently being prepared and the Executive Director's overall report and comments by the Secretary General of the UN and the Director General of FAO would be considered in the spring of 1965 by the Intergovernmental Committee which would then submit recommendations regarding the future of the Program to FAO's Council and to ECOSOC.

45. In the discussion which ensued, many delegates expressed their satisfaction with the report presented by the Executive Director and with the progress made by the Program. Reference was also made to the desirability of increasing the contributions to WFP during the current period in order to bring them closer to the original goal of \$100 million.

46. The Delegate of Israel suggested a "new approach to food aid", calling for a wider range of foodstuffs. He suggested that food aid should not be based wholly on surpluses, but should draw supplies from low cost farms at present prevented from using their full production potential. He suggested using a tender system to mobilize such supplies. Other delegations doubted the wisdom of producing surpluses for food aid.

47. Several delegations drew attention to fields of activity which they considered insufficiently covered in the experimental Program (e.g. crop diversification, crop protection, milk production and dairy development). The need for a satisfactory geographical distribution of projects was also emphasized. Some delegates expressed the wish that seeds, fertilizers and agricultural equipment be included in a future Program.

48. Divergent opinions were expressed concerning the emphasis to be given to emergency aid in a future Program.

### Europe's Role in Aid to Developing Countries

49. Considering the paper "The role of Europe in FAO's Technical Assistance granted to Developing Countries" [ERC/64/4(4)], the Conference heard a brief resumé of the growth and expansion of the various programs, EPTA, UNSF, UNICEF and others, as well as the recent arrangements made with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which had opened up very wide possibilities for the increased support of investment in agriculture.

50. Notable contributions had been made by the countries of the European Region in the supply of experts and consultants; likewise in the supplementary provision of associate and still more recently volunteers. These additions brought a new dimension to the work of FAO which could not fail to be of advantage to all parties concerned, to the receiving as well as to the donor countries.

51. Reference was made to the great interest displayed by the countries in the Region in the promotion of education in all aspects of agriculture, and particularly through the development of training centres and seminars, both in Europe and in the developing countries. FAO intended to arrange a meeting for the exchange of experiences of those responsible for the arranging and conducting of such educational programs.

52. The Minister of Economic Co-operation in the Federal Republic of Germany opened the debate by emphasizing that one of the principal reasons for hunger was the low productivity of agricultural labour in developing areas and that the excessive emphasis in some of these countries on industrialization had caused social and economic tensions. The necessity of agricultural development for the support of economic growth was being increasingly realized. Much would depend on the improvement of agrarian structures, on the diversification of agricultural production for domestic and export markets and on the use of better seed, more fertilizers, equipment and simple tools. The contributions made by European countries in bilateral and multilateral aid, such as through the FAO FFHC Fertilizer Program, served to increase the effectiveness of international help.

53. Technical assistance and capital aid could help set up marketing organizations and processing plants, to extend communications and to promote exports; here there would be opportunities for private enterprises and development aid companies.

54. The effectiveness of the common effort to overcome hunger and poverty, the Minister stated, could be augmented if it were possible to correlate national measures with the several international programs. In this, co-ordination with the European Economic Community and with OECD would be important.

55. In the discussion it was pointed out that the development of the European economy took place under very different circumstances from those prevailing in the countries now receiving aid. Care should therefore be taken not to provide answers which would have satisfied European problems but which might be wholly inapplicable in the developing country concerned.



56. Many delegations spoke of the desirability of emergent countries having development plans, setting out their targets and indicating the gaps which could be filled by external aid. The preparation of the World Indicative Plan, referred to by the Director General, would make an invaluable contribution to the orderly development of agriculture on a world scale, and was commended by the delegations.

57. The delegate of Israel stated that, in the past five years, his country had moved progressively from receiving to giving technical assistance. The forms which donated assistance was taking included the assignment of experts, the granting of fellowships, the organization of training centres and seminars, some of which were held in foreign countries. In speaking about the different methods, he mentioned that those used in Israel were not necessarily the best for other developing countries. Her experts had therefore continuously shown an elasticity of approach in order to avoid mistakes.

58. Views were unanimous on the desirability of increasing training facilities in the developing countries themselves rather than in European countries, by which means the training could be closely orientated to local conditions, thus reducing the danger of isolating the person involved from his home environment. Training in developing countries should include medium level as well as higher level courses.

59. The co-ordination of assistance and aid programs was discussed from many angles. Some delegates placed principal emphasis on co-ordination by governments in recipient countries, others considered that donors should intensify their co-operation in the Development Assistance Committee of OECD, while yet others suggested various ways of co-ordinating bilateral aid with FAO programs. It was suggested that FAO should periodically circulate a list, classified by recipient countries, of all projects, bilateral and multilateral, in the field of food and agriculture.

60. Some delegates felt that assistance funds could be more wisely and fruitfully spent if more thorough collection of background statistics and other data were undertaken; for instance, meteorological records, soil surveys, river flow measurements; and also if the experience of middle level rather than of the most highly advanced countries were made available as being often the more appropriate.

61. After discussion, the Conference adopted the following two resolutions:

Resolution No. ERC 64/1

Training of High Level Research Scientists from Developing Countries

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing that research workers constituted one of the basic elements of intellectual investment,

Realizing the need of developing countries, and particularly those at take-off stage, for research work to be carried out in the country itself,

Convinced of the need and value of high calibre scientists to serve primarily as research project leaders and collaborators with research workers of other countries,

Recommended to the Director General that urgent action be taken to encourage an increase in the facilities for training high level research scientists from the developing countries to cover the special needs of those countries.

Resolution No. ERC 64/2

Utilization of Youth Volunteers

THE CONFERENCE

Having discussed the difficulties involved in the recruitment of experts to be employed in developing countries,

Convinced that the ways in which knowledge, practical skills, and ideas are transferred at different levels, was of the utmost importance,

Believing that this transfer therefore needed a flexible approach,

Noting that the success of the Youth Volunteer programs clearly demonstrated that this knowledge could also be conveyed at levels other than the university level alone,

Considering that the experience of the volunteers, obtained in the course of their work in developing countries, should be utilized as much as possible,

Urged the Director General to find ways and means to make use, in technical assistance, of the skills and experience of people trained at levels other than university, and particularly those who have already served as Youth Volunteers.

Agricultural Perspectives and Policies

62. On the topic of the domestic agricultural and forestry policies of Europe, the Conference considered two papers "Whither European Agriculture?" [ERC/64/4(5)] and "Forestry Policies in Europe" [ERC/64/4(12)]. In introducing these papers the Secretariat emphasized how much was owed to other organizations and institutions, both national and international, in developing a diagnosis of the problems of the Region and in adumbrating solutions.

63. Some significant features in the current agricultural situation included:

- (1) A persistent imbalance between the rate of growth of agricultural output and of domestic demand for food.
- (2) The increasingly heavy investment in agriculture, much of which on small farms was under-utilized.
- (3) The phenomenon of low incomes related to unfavourable differentials between the prices of farm products and of farm requisites as well as to the small size of farm business and to disadvantaged regions.
- (4) The rapid increase in the productivity of farm labour associated with the decline in the farm labour force.
- (5) The emergence of standardized production in agriculture associated with vertical or horizontal integration and with specialized and even industrial methods of output.
- (6) The continuation of the gap between farm incomes and incomes in other sectors of the economy.

64. The first document submitted to the Conference concentrated on the problem of assisting those farmers whose income level was below the average income of agriculture. In reviewing possible remedies the document indicated that, while a continuation of price supports might be necessary in the short and medium term, it was hardly possible to raise prices sufficiently to solve the income problem of the poorer farmers.

65. Certainly some small scale farmers could turn to horticulture and other specialized lines and thereby achieve viability on small acreages but this opportunity would not be open to the majority. Certainly some smallholders could improve their position by a further reduction in production costs but, in many cases, labour represented the principal element susceptible to reduction and many farms were already down to one labour unit so that no further economies remained possible.

66. It was therefore suggested in the document that agricultural policy should have two principal objectives: first, the removal of obstacles to the optimum combination of the factors of production and to the creation of viable farms; second, the provision of transitional assistance and training to those who would be seeking new occupations. Assistance would need to be directed toward farms which were too small, districts which were at a disadvantage and regions remaining in a relatively backward state of economic development.

67. The document singled out a number of lines of future policy for particular consideration: 1) policies were required to accelerate the restructurization of farming and, in some cases, the creation of supplementary employment; 2) Agricultural investment should be oriented toward the needs of the future and toward creating holdings which would still be viable some time ahead; 3) The movement towards increasing specialization, appropriate forms of contract production, mutual assistance

and new forms of co-operation among farmers should be recognized and encouraged; 4) A reorientation of agricultural education and extension services should be directed toward the development of managerial ability, 5) Rural services, for example, in education, health and transport should be brought nearer to parity with urban services; and 6) regional development programs should be designed to provide alternative occupations for rural populations in disadvantaged areas.

68. During the discussion there appeared a strong consensus of opinion that in western Europe the family farms should remain the corner-stone of rural life, while in the centrally planned economies of eastern Europe large scale farms and co-operatives were considered the basic factors in developing agriculture. In some eastern countries various ways had been developed for improving the status of the family farm as part of the agrarian structure in the transitional period. It was agreed that the family farm might take many forms extending from the part-time micro-farm in tourist resorts and mountain regions or on the periphery of industrial centres to the large mechanized farms comparable to those prevailing in the USA. It was recognized that, since in industry and commerce incomes would probably continue to grow rapidly, special efforts had to be made to improve the productivity of labour and capital in agriculture in order not only to keep up with industry but to reduce the income gap between the sectors. Reference was made to the article on agriculture in the Treaty of Rome setting as an objective the optimum use of the factors of production in farm enterprises. Likewise, in the centrally planned economies the organization of large farms was being closely scrutinized with a view to improving technical efficiency and direction.

69. Certain delegates referred to the encroachment of industrial techniques in certain branches of food production, notably in eggs and poultry, with some apprehension lest the legitimate interests of farmers might be jeopardized. Several examples of contract production were cited and FAO was asked to study this relatively new phenomenon.

70. Particular emphasis was laid upon the usefulness of co-operation, on the one hand in its traditional forms of co-operatives for sale and purchase and for the provision of farm credit and, on the other, in the newer forms of mutual assistance among farmers for the sharing of equipment and for joint operation in other production processes. In these ways the small farmer could achieve many of the advantages of large scale production.

71. Delegates from Mediterranean countries indicated the rather different nature of their problems where the focus is still upon applied research and the basic technological difficulties of farming in hostile environments. Work was going forward on the consolidation and amalgamation of holdings, on introducing technical improvements, particularly regarding fodder crops and animal production, which would augment output and raise farm incomes.

72. Special mention was made of the role of forestry in the coming years. By afforestation, large areas of marginal land in the Mediterranean countries could be made productive while, in central and northern Europe, an increasing forest production on comparatively small wood lots would provide an important source of income to small scale

farmers. It was also felt that, in view of the large expansion which was expected in the forest products industries and in the demand for forest products in Europe, it was important to increase the forest production of the Region. The Conference noted with satisfaction that important governmental afforestation programs, as well as financial schemes already existing in many countries for assisting private forest owners in their efforts to increase production, corresponded with this serious preoccupation. It was recommended that forestry problems should constitute a main feature of the 5th European Regional Conference.

73. There was some difference of opinion among delegates concerning the pace of evolution of the rural sector in national economies. Some felt that for some time to come the family farm could continue to maintain its traditional form, while seeking more acceptable levels of living for farm families. Others took the view that rapid changes were to be expected in the near future which would transform the organization and the efficiency of the family farm without undermining its social and traditional characteristics. In view of this, more emphasis should be given to the general problems of the rural community. It was generally agreed that more effort was needed on the part of governments and of farm organizations to make available to farmers the full advantages of modern technology so that the agricultural sector might contribute more effectively to the progress of national economies and reference was made to the earlier statement of the Director General that a Europe which was prosperous was a Europe better placed to render aid and assistance to developing countries.

Adjusting Market Organizations and Techniques for Food and Agricultural Products in Europe to meet Changing Demand Situations and Structural Influences including Greater Concentration in Retail Distribution

74. The paper referring to this item of the agenda [ERC/64/4(6)] presented an analysis of the changes in food marketing methods during recent years and the implications these developments have for the marketing of agricultural products. It pointed out that one of the marked features of change in retailing methods is the rapid development of self-service shops and the concentration in retailing. Supermarkets offering a wide range of products in one shop are also increasing rapidly. The adoption of new methods of retailing, e.g. self-service of pre-packaged food, has not only led to larger retail units but also to a concentration in wholesale purchasing. Independent retailers have formed buying groups and voluntary chains which have enabled them to take advantage of discounts on wholesale purchases in quantity.

75. In the general debate on this item the delegates briefly reviewed the situation in their countries. Some delegations stressed the need to centralize assembling of agricultural products, and in this farmers' co-operatives could play a role, in order to meet the requirements of large wholesale groups who are interested in regular supplies of large standardized lots, conveniently and economically packaged. It was pointed out that one way of meeting these requirements was contract farming in which a contract is concluded with the farmer in advance of the planting season or production period, which sets out the quantities and qualities of produce to be delivered at stated periods and quoting

the price to be paid. This approach, which had already been used for many years in the sugar beet and vegetable canning industry might be extended to many more agricultural products. There was great scope for co-operatives and farm organizations to help farmers in the preparation of satisfactory forms of contract.

76. Reference was made by some delegates to government policy issues involved in adjusting marketing systems to changing requirements. It was stated that there was a need to review legislation concerning, for instance, restrictions to support municipal markets and municipal slaughterhouses and restrictions on shop opening hours.

77. During the discussion it was also pointed out that there was wide scope for more advice and assistance on agricultural marketing to farmers, particularly in planning new marketing channels and in assisting in negotiating sales contracts. The question was also raised as to whether present agricultural education programs were placing enough emphasis on marketing, processing and business studies. There were certainly few in Europe at present envisaging economics, marketing management and food technology as an acceptable approach to a degree. Marketing research would be needed to guide agricultural advisory and educational services in meeting their new responsibilities. Some delegates suggested that the application of modern communication systems would reduce transport and handling costs and improve marketing organization. Other topics raised included packaging, presentation and advertizing of products.

78. Sensing the need for more detailed discussions on marketing, the Conference would welcome the organization of a technical seminar on problems involved in adjusting agricultural marketing methods and systems to new requirements. In organizing such a seminar, account should be taken of work done in this field by other international organizations in order to avoid duplication of work.

#### Problems of Agricultural Commodity Trade and Development in relation to Europe

79. Two papers were submitted on trade in Europe, namely, a "Summary Review of Europe's Trade in Agricultural Products" [ERC/64/4(7)] and "Recent Developments in the Trade of Forest Products in Europe" [ERC/64/4(13)].

80. The Conference concentrated its discussion under this item on problems of agricultural trade and noted its unpredictable nature, as illustrated by the most recent developments in the markets for grain, meat, dairy products and eggs. These developments gave rise to the question whether the short-term changes, e.g. in the egg or butter markets, would affect the long-term trends. The Conference noted the importance of forestry for the agricultural economy and for the trade balance of many European countries. The expected increase in Europe's net import demand for forestry products would give this part of the economy even greater significance in the future.

81. The problem of agricultural trade, though changing through time, was basically a long-standing problem of the conflict between the interests of exporting and importing countries and the need to reconcile the protection of agriculture with a reasonable volume of agricultural trade.

There was general agreement that the policies pursued by the different countries made it difficult to rely primarily on the traditional approaches of commercial policy but pointed to the necessity of a commodity by commodity approach, with the solutions adapted to the commodity concerned and with recourse in varying degrees to measures for the liberalization of trade and to medium and long-term structural arrangements. As current thinking ranged from the consolidation of total supports to various types of quotas, to price policies, tariff agreements, taxes on output, etc. they offered a considerable choice of compromise possibilities. Speakers from exporting countries expressed their interest in the liberalization of trade.

82. The delegates of Denmark and the United Kingdom gave some clarification as to the agricultural and trade policies of their countries. For the United Kingdom it was pointed out that recent changes in United Kingdom policy affecting cereals and meat did not constitute a fundamental departure from the traditional method of price support by deficiency payments. No particular system of quantitative restrictions had been introduced. In the case of meat, the arrangements proposed amounted to voluntary sharing of the market between home producers and overseas suppliers. In the case of cereals, the method employed was to determine minimum import prices which would put a floor into the market. In both cases there had been close consultation between the United Kingdom Government and traditional overseas suppliers.

83. Paper ERC/64/4(8) "Competition between Agricultural Products of Developing Countries and those of European Countries" set out certain of the problems involved in the relationship between European agricultural and trade policies and the development of export agriculture in the low-income countries of the world. The paper dealt with three specific types of problems: that of sugar, where a commodity produced in Europe competed directly with an identical product from developing countries; that of oilseeds, which raised the issue of the opportunities open to developing countries to export their produce in processed form; and that of rubber, cotton and other fibres, which were under increasingly heavy competition from industries producing synthetics in Europe and other developed regions.

84. It was recognized that, in none of these cases, were solutions easily available. The Conference emphasized the importance which the continued growth in national incomes in European countries could have on demand for natural agricultural products and felt that, in addition, a diversification of production in developing countries, assisted possibly through forms of commodity agreements or arrangements, aid or other means, could help in providing a long-term solution to the problem. It believed that mutual concessions between all interested parties might represent one of the best ways in which a solution, consonant with the advance of scientific and technical progress, might be worked out. The subject was one for continued analysis and discussion and, in this respect, the Conference welcomed the increased emphasis which FAO was intending to put on the problems of the competition between natural products and synthetics.

85. The Conference also took note of a paper "The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)" [ERC/64/4(9)] and was

informed of the useful preliminary discussions which had recently been held in the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) and in the FAO Council on the implications for FAO and the CCP of the UNCTAD recommendations. It commended the part which FAO had played in the preparations for the Geneva Conference, and concurred with a view of the CCP and of the Council that FAO should continue to play a significant part in the intensified international search for solutions to commodity trade and agricultural development problems. A number of delegations were of the view that FAO's role in this field should be enlarged, particularly with regard to commodity study groups, work on the principles of agricultural commodity agreements and arrangements, and the promotion of such action for a larger number of agricultural commodities.

86. In discussing the trade of the tropical and semi-tropical regions of the world, the Conference was of the opinion that commodity agreements could be of great assistance, though there could be no illusions that such agreements were suitable for all commodities, nor that the political and technical problems involved could be easily solved. Some mention was made of the possibilities of incorporating food aid concepts into commodity agreements. A number of delegations emphasized that the planned production of food surpluses was a wholly unacceptable policy for their countries: others felt that there was need for much further discussion and analysis of this question.

87. A number of delegations strongly maintained that normal competitive conditions on international markets should not be suppressed by artificial national or international policies. Where, for important domestic reasons, it was felt that non-competitive conditions should apply in agriculture, there was a case for specific measures, such as selective non-price supports, development and rationalization funds, and extended advisory services. Regional arrangements should pay due regard to the principles of non-discrimination and competitive advantage.

88. It was also emphasized that the maintenance of a steadily rising demand in European countries was one of the keys to expansion of the exports of developing countries, although the importance of the quality of exports to high-income markets was stressed in this connection. The economic growth of developing countries to be assisted where possible by European countries was mentioned as being a further potential source of rising demand for agricultural products of great long-term significance.

#### Orientation and Methods of FAO's Activities in the European Region

89. The Conference had before it the working paper [ERC/64/4(10)] on this subject containing information on FAO's work in the European Region and the present orientation of its activities. In a supplement to this document, proposals of the European Commission on Agriculture for future work in its fields of competence were listed.

90. The Conference, while stressing that FAO's major task was to assist the developing countries, drew attention to the fact that FAO's work in Europe was also useful to Member countries of other regions which, in many cases, profited from the results and experience gained in European countries.



91. The Conference reviewed the work of the four permanent European bodies - the European Commission on Agriculture, the European Forestry Commission, the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission, the European Commission on Foot and Mouth Disease - and agreed that their activities were useful and should, if possible, be strengthened. It urged closer co-operation between these bodies, and particularly between the ECA and the EFC in the fields of agricultural and forestry policies and of land use.

92. The Conference commended FAO's policy to avoid as far as possible the setting up of new permanent bodies but to take more frequent recourse to ad hoc meetings of experts and/or consultants. It felt that the frequency of meetings should be limited. It agreed that, in future, meetings of the permanent European bodies should be at two yearly intervals and that the same rule should apply in principle to their subsidiary organs which, however, should be convened only when actual need arose.

93. The Conference stressed the importance of taking into account the work undertaken by other international organizations in the establishment of the Organization's working program and encouraged the continuation of the yearly Conference of International Organizations working in the field of agriculture in Europe, as well as the arrangements made by the Director General for frequent consultations with intergovernmental organizations working in FAO's fields of interest.

94. As regards the orientation of the future work of FAO, the Conference gave full support to the proposal of the European Commission on Agriculture to concentrate its future work on "the problems encountered by governments in stimulating or assisting the modernization of farming and in accelerating the integration of agriculture into the national economies with a view to achieving a greater degree of similarity between sectors in respect to the productivity of labour and capital and in regard to levels of income". Some delegates stressed the desirability of organizing an exchange of information on the results of recent research work in the fields of agricultural science and technology directly applicable to farming.

95. The Conference agreed on the usefulness of arranging for a systematic exchange of information on experience gained in technical scientific fields and adopted the following resolution:

Resolution No. ERC 64/3

Exchanges of Technical and Scientific Experience

THE CONFERENCE

Taking note of Resolution 1907 adopted by the 18th Session of the UN General Assembly nominating 1965 - the 20th Anniversary of the UN - the Year of International Co-operation,

Considering Article 4, paragraph c, of Resolution 1907 (XVIII) which asked Member governments, the specialized agencies and interested governmental organizations to present "the plans and programs most convenient to them, in order to attain the goals set for the Year of International Co-operation",

Convinced that this decision of the UN General Assembly would contribute to the consolidation of international understanding and co-operation,

Requested the Director General of FAO:

- (i) to formulate a long-term program for the exchange among Member countries of technical and scientific experience in the various fields of agriculture and in the methodology of development through the permanent European organs of FAO,
- (ii) to analyze the possibility of formulating an FAO plan of action, based on Resolution 1907 (XVIII) which could be incorporated within the framework of the Year of International Co-operation organized by the UN on the occasion of its Twentieth Anniversary,

Recommended to Member governments

to continue to support the activities of the permanent European organs of FAO in order to obtain the utmost benefit from their services.

96. In the technical fields particular attention was drawn to work in the field of animal diseases and their prevention, soil erosion, land use, horticulture (hydroponic culture of vegetables), water utilization and conservation, and control of plant diseases and pests. Particular reference was made to the response which had been forthcoming from EEC and many European countries to the appeal of the Director General for the campaign against the serious SAT-1 type foot and mouth disease in Turkey which, with the full co-operation of the Turkish Government, was gradually being brought under control. Thanks were expressed to the Director General for the action taken and he was requested to continue his assistance until total eradication was achieved. Notice was taken of the campaign against African Horse Sickness, the organization and administration of the control measures of which was also carried out by FAO. Several delegations expressed their full support for the establishment of an Emergency Fund for the control of livestock disease as resolved by the 12th Session of the FAO Conference and expressed the wish that this resolution be effectively implemented as soon as possible and the necessary financial means put at the disposal of the Director General.

97. Particular support was given to work in the fields of rural sociology, rural youth, home economics, nutrition, agrarian structures, agricultural credit and co-operatives. In this latter respect the Conference adopted the following resolution:

Resolution No. ERC 64/4

Encouragement of the Co-operative Movement

THE CONFERENCE

Noting the important role which could be played by rural co-operatives in promoting rationalization, competitiveness and improvement of incomes in agriculture and forestry,

Considering the economic importance of ensuring the improvement and processing of agricultural and forestry products, taking into account the needs of the market,

Recommended the Director General

- (i) to take appropriate steps that the FAO direct increasing attention in their future considerations to the further expansion of the co-operative system;
- (ii) to examine the possibility of increasing collaboration among co-operatives, initially among those of European countries, and, at a later stage, between such organizations of European countries and of countries of other regions
- (iii) to enlist in these efforts the co-operation of other international organizations active in this field.

98. The Conference recognized the value of studies made on forestry and on future trends in demand for forest products and felt that particular attention should be given to policy problems arising out of these studies, especially in view of expanding trade possibilities for developing countries, and that more information should be collected on fast growing species suited to European environments.

99. Several delegations requested that studies on markets for agricultural products and work in the field of commodities should be further strengthened.

100. Several delegates considered that the various schemes for the provision of fellowships should be expanded and the Conference noted with satisfaction that the future of the André Mayor fellowships was being currently examined by the Program Committee.

101. The Conference expressed its strong desire that all activities carried out in Europe should be financed from the Regular Budget of FAO rather than by special contributions from governments.

102. The Conference wished to play an effective role in advising the Director General on the building up of that part of FAO's program of work which was directed towards servicing Member countries of the European Region. It requested that, in future regional conferences, the discussion of the program of work should take place early in the conference and, if possible, in the presence of the Director General.

It suggested the advisability of establishing a Committee-of-the-Whole, hoping in this way to assure sufficient time for the consideration of this important item.

103. It was further requested that governments be consulted in the preparation of the provisional agenda. In this connection, some delegations proposed that this, together with the consideration of the timetable and procedures of the next regional conference, might be done at an informal meeting of representatives of European Member countries to be convened either during the next session of the FAO Conference or during a session of the Council.

#### Mediterranean Development

104. The Conference was informed of the status of the Mediterranean Development Project [ERC/64/4(11)] and that 14 projects financed by the UN Special Fund, operated by FAO, had been approved, of which three were almost completed. The results achieved, and in particular the general acceptance of regional integrated planning and the effecting of additional investments, justified the efforts made.

105. The Conference was also informed of the results of the meeting on Regional Development Planning held in Nîmes (France), May 1964. This meeting had proved very useful by making possible a discussion of the achievements of the Bas-Rhône and Languedoc regional development; the exchange of information and experience on the subject of planning, irrigation, plant and animal production, soil conservation and forestry problems; and finally, the preparation of co-operative measures to assist in the implementation of the pre-investment surveys. In concluding its debates on this matter, the Conference adopted the following resolution:

Resolution No. ERC 64/5

#### Mediterranean Development

#### THE CONFERENCE

Expressing its thanks to the Director General and to the Government of France for the preparation and organization of the Meeting on Regional Development held at Nîmes (France) May 1964,

Endorsed the recommendations of this meeting and, in particular,

Invited Member governments, acting individually or in groups, to take whatever action they deemed appropriate -

- (a) to establish institutes, supported by the necessary documentation facilities, for the training of personnel for development agencies for marketing and credit institutions;
- (b) to create improved facilities for the processing and marketing of their agricultural produce and ensure the widest possible co-operation and consultation with regard to these marketing problems;
- (c) to adopt measures designed to create and improve the financing facilities for agricultural investment and for the establishment of national credit co-operatives or similar institutions,

Urged the Director General of FAO and the Managing Director of the UN Special Fund to give favourable consideration to requests from countries, acting separately or in groups, for assistance in connection with the further implementation of Mediterranean-type Projects especially along the lines indicated above.

THE CONFERENCE further

Noting with satisfaction the general and ever-growing interest shown by all Mediterranean countries, and by other countries not bordering on the Mediterranean sea, in the FAO Mediterranean Development Project,

Requested the Director General in future to address invitations to Mediterranean Regional Development Meetings to all Mediterranean countries and to other FAO Member countries taking a particular interest in the exchange of ideas and experiences which was the main scope of these meetings.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Activities of European Countries in the Freedom from Hunger Campaign

- (i) The Conference expressed satisfaction with the information programs conducted by national committees. The will to solve the problems of hunger and poverty had greatly increased during the first period of the Campaign and the public was now better prepared not only to support action programs through voluntary contributions but also to accept expanding government contributions to programs of technical and economic assistance, bilateral as well as multilateral. The role of non-governmental organizations in furthering the information and educational aspects of the Campaign was strongly concurred (see page 7, para. 30).
- (ii) The Conference recognized that further emphasis would have to be given to action programs and the need for overall co-ordination of technical assistance programs was stressed. Information and education activities should be the medium for providing knowledge and skill and help to co-ordinate public education and involvement activities (see page 7, para. 31).

(b) Participation by European Countries in the UN/FAO World Food Program

- (i) Satisfaction was expressed with the progress made by the World Food Program and reference was made to the desirability of increasing the contributions to it during the current period in order to bring them closer to the original goal of \$100 million (see page 9, para. 45).
- (ii) Attention was drawn to fields of activity not included in the experimental program, such as crop diversification, crop protection, milk production and dairy development, etc. and the need for a satisfactory geographical distribution of projects emphasized. Some delegates expressed the wish that seeds, fertilizers and agricultural equipment be included in a future program. Opinions were divided concerning the emphasis to be given to emergency aid in a future program (see page 9, paras. 47 and 48).

(c) Europe's Role in Aid to Developing Countries

- (i) The desirability of emergent countries having development plans setting out their targets and indicating the gaps which could be filled by external aid was stressed. It was felt that the preparation of the World Indicative Plan of the Director General would make an invaluable contribution to the orderly development of agriculture on a world scale and was needed (see page 11, para. 56).

- (ii) The Conference agreed on the desirability of increasing training facilities in developing countries rather than in European countries and that they should include medium level as well as higher level courses (see page 11, para. 58).
  - (iii) The Conference, recognizing that research workers constituted one of the basic elements of intellectual investment and that developing countries were in need of research work to be carried out in the countries themselves, recommended to the Director General that urgent action be taken to increase facilities for training high level research scientists from developing countries (see pages 11/12, para. 61, Resolution No. ERC 64/1).
  - (iv) The Conference urged that the Director General find ways and means to make use in technical assistance of the skills and experience of people trained at levels other than university and particularly those who have already served as Youth Volunteers (see page 12, para. 61, Resolution No ERC 64/2).
- (d) Agricultural Perspectives and Policies
- (i) There was a strong consensus of opinion in the Conference that in western Europe, the family farm should remain the cornerstone of rural life while, in the centrally planned economics of eastern Europe, large scale farms and co-operatives were considered the basic factors in developing agriculture (see page 14, para. 68).
  - (ii) Since in industry and commerce incomes would probably continue to grow rapidly, special efforts should be made to improve the productivity of labour and capital in agriculture in order not only to keep up with industry but to reduce the income gap between the sectors (see page 14, para. 68).
  - (iii) The Conference laid particular emphasis on the usefulness of co-operation in its traditional forms and in the newer forms of mutual assistance among farmers for the sharing of equipment and for joint operation in other production processes and felt that, in this way, the small farmer could achieve many of the advantages of large scale production (see page 14, para. 70).
  - (iv) The Conference felt that, in view of the large expansion expected in the forest products industry and in the demand for forest products in Europe, it was important to increase the forest production of the Region and noted with satisfaction that the important governmental afforestation programs and financial schemes already existing in many countries for assisting private forest owners corresponded to this serious preoccupation (see page 15, para. 72).

(v) The Conference agreed that, as agriculture could contribute more effectively to the progress of national economies, more effort was needed by governments and by farm organizations to make available to farmers the full advantages of modern technology (see page 15, para. 73).

(e) Adjusting Market Organizations and Techniques for Food and Agricultural Products in Europe to meet Changing Demand Situations and Structural Influences including Greater Concentration in Retail Distribution

(i) The need to centralize the assembling of agricultural products and the role played in this respect by farmers' co-operatives in order to meet the requirements of large wholesale groups was stressed. To meet these requirements contract farming might be extended to many more agricultural products. FAO was asked to study contract production more closely (see pages 14/15, paras. 69 and 75).

(ii) It was stated that legislation concerning restrictions on support to municipal markets and municipal slaughterhouses and on shop opening hours should be reviewed (see page 16, para. 76).

(iii) It was pointed out that there was scope for more advice and assistance to farmers on agricultural marketing, particularly in planning new marketing channels and in negotiating sales contracts. The Conference would welcome the organization of a technical seminar on problems involved in adjusting agricultural marketing methods and systems to new requirements, although account should be taken of work done in this field by other international organizations (see page 16, paras. 77 and 78).

(f) Problems of Agricultural Commodity Trade and Development in relation to Europe

(i) The Conference noted the unpredictable nature of agricultural trade and stressed the importance of forestry in the agricultural economies and in the trade balances of many European countries (see page 16, para. 81).

(ii) The Conference agreed that the policies pursued by different countries made it difficult to rely primarily on the traditional approaches of commercial policy and pointed out the necessity for a commodity by commodity approach (see page 17, para. 81).

(iii) The Conference emphasized the importance which the continued growth in national incomes in European countries could have for the demand for natural agricultural products and felt that, in addition, a diversification of production in developing countries, assisted possibly through forms of commodity agreements or arrangements, aid or other means, could help in providing a long-term solution. Mutual concessions between all interested parties might represent one of the best ways in which a solution consonant with the advance of scientific and technical progress might be worked out (see page 17, para. 84).



- (iv) The Conference welcomed the increased emphasis which FAO intended to put on the problems of the competition between natural products and synthetics (see page 17, para. 84).
  - (v) The Conference commended the part FAO had played in the preparations of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and felt that it should continue to play a significant part in the intensified international search for solutions to commodity trade and agricultural development problems. A number of delegations were of the opinion that FAO's role should be enlarged, particularly with regard to commodity study groups, work on the principles of agricultural commodity agreements, and the promotion of such action for a larger number of agricultural commodities (see page 18, para. 85).
  - (vi) The Conference felt that commodity agreements could be of great assistance in promoting trade of tropical and semi-tropical regions though such agreements were not suitable for all commodities nor could the political and technical problems involved be easily solved (see page 18, para. 86).
- (g) Orientation and Methods of FAO's Activities in the European Region
- (i) The Conference welcomed the Director General's statement concerning the increasing involvement of FAO in European agricultural problems .
  - (ii) The Conference, reviewing the work of the four permanent European bodies of FAO - the European Commission on Agriculture, the European Forestry Commission, the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission and the European Commission on the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease - agreed that their activities were useful and should, if possible, be strengthened. It urged closer co-operation between them, and particularly between the ECA and the EFC in the fields of agriculture and forestry policies and of land use. The Conference recommended to Member governments that they continue to support the activities of the permanent European bodies in order to obtain the utmost benefit from their services (see page 19, paras. 91 and 95 and Resolution No. ERC 64/3).
  - (iii) The Conference commended FAO's policy to avoid as far as possible the setting up of new permanent bodies but to make more frequent recourse to ad hoc meetings of experts and/or consultants.
  - (iv) The Conference stressed the importance of taking into account the work undertaken by other international organizations in the establishment of the Organization's working program and encouraged the continuation of the yearly Conferences of International Organizations working in the field of agriculture in Europe, as well as the arrangements made by the Director General for frequent consultations with intergovernmental organizations working in FAO's fields of interest (see page 19, para. 93).

- (v) The Conference agreed on the utility of a systematic exchange of information on experience gained in technical scientific fields and requested the Director General to formulate a long-term program for this purpose, including experience gained in the methodology of development, and to analyze the possibility of formulating an FAO plan of action, based on Resolution 1907 (XVIII) adopted by the 18th Session of the UN General Assembly nominating 1965 the Year for International Co-operation (see page 19, para. 95 and Resolution No. ERC 64/3).
- (vi) The Conference expressed thanks to the Director General for the action he had taken for the eradication of the SAP-1 type foot and mouth disease and requested that he continue his assistance until total eradication had been achieved. Notice was also taken of the Campaign against African Horse Sickness, the organization and administration of the control measures of which were also carried out by FAO. Several delegations expressed their full support for the establishment of an emergency fund for the control of livestock diseases, as resolved by the 12th Session of the FAO Conference, and expressed the wish that this resolution be effectively implemented as soon as possible and the necessary financial means put at the disposal of the Director General (see page 20, para. 96).
- (vii) The Conference gave particular support to work in the fields of rural sociology, rural youth, home economics, nutrition, agrarian structure, agricultural credit and co-operatives, and recommended in particular that the Director General examine the possibility of increasing collaboration among co-operatives in Europe, and at a later stage between co-operatives in Europe and co-operatives in other regions and that, for this purpose, he enlist the help of other international organizations active in this field (see page 21, para. 97, and Resolution No. ERC 64/4).
- (viii) The Conference recognized the value of forestry studies and felt that particular attention should be given to policy problems arising out of these studies, especially in view of expanding trade possibilities for developing countries, and that more information should be collected on fast-growing species suited to European environments. It recommended that forestry problems should constitute a main feature of the 5th Regional Conference for Europe (see pages 15 and 21, paras. 72 and 98).
- (ix) The Conference expressed its strong desire that all FAO activities carried out in Europe be financed from the Regular Budget rather than by special contributions from governments (see page 21, para. 101).

- (x) The Conference expressed its wish to play an effective role in advising the Director General on FAO's activities in Europe and requested that in future regional conferences discussions on this item take place early in the conference, if possible in the presence of the Director General. The Conference suggested further that the advisability of establishing a Committee-of-the-Whole to deal with this matter be investigated (see pages 21/22, para. 102).
  - (xi) The Conference requested that governments be consulted on the preparation of the provisional agenda of the next regional conference, as well as on its timetable and procedures. This consultation might take place at an informal meeting, either during the next session of the FAO Conference or during a session of the Council (see page 22, para. 103).
- (h) Mediterranean Development
- (i) The Conference invited Member governments to establish institutes for the training of personnel for development agencies and for marketing and credit institutions; to create improved facilities for the processing and marketing of their agricultural produce, while ensuring co-operation and consultation on marketing problems; and to adopt measures designed to create and improve the financing facilities for agricultural investment and for the establishment of national credit co-operatives or similar institutions. It urged the Director General of FAO and the Managing Director of the UN Special Fund to give favourable consideration to requests for the assistance in connection with the further implementation of Mediterranean types project especially along the lines indicated above (see pages 22 and 23, para. 108, Resolution ERC 64/5).
  - (ii) The Conference requested the Director General to address future invitations to Mediterranean regional meetings, to all Mediterranean countries and to other Member countries interested in the exchange of ideas and experience on this matter (see page 23, para. 105 and Resolution No. ERC 64/5).

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS  
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

Delegations of Member Governments - Délégations des Gouvernements Membres  
Delegaciones de los Gobiernos Miembros

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Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Karl SCHLEINZER  
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Federal Minister Dr. K. Schleinzer (Austria) was elected Chairman of the Conference. He was replaced by Minister of Agriculture Mr. C. Caruana (Malta) and by Prof. M. Cépède (France) during some sessions.

Messrs. Ph. d'Otreppe (Belgium), H.J. Kristensen (Denmark), K.U. Pihkala (Finland), M. Cépède (France), F. Pirkmayr (Federal Republic of Germany), L. Eutaxias (Greece), P. Dennehy (Ireland), G. Elron (Israel), U. Papi (Italy), M. Gillen (Luxembourg), C. Caruana (Malta), F. Pronk (Netherlands), J. Ringen (Norway), J. Okuniewski (Poland), F. Santos e Castro (Portugal), B. Schiopu (Romania), M. Echegaray (Spain), U. Hänninger (Sweden), A. Kauter (Switzerland), T. Sahin (Turkey), C.F. Pennison (United Kingdom), J. Ingoliš (Yugoslavia), were Vice-Chairmen of the Conference.

Dr. I. Moskovits, Deputy Regional Representative for Europe, was Secretary General of the Conference. Mr. J. Anderson, Technical Officer, Office of the Assistant Director General, Technical Department, and Dr. W. Ross Cockrill, Assistant to Director, Animal Production and Health Division, acted as secretaries. In their work they were assisted by: Mr. K.B. Juul, Liaison Officer for Europe, FFEC, Dr. O. Matzke, Director, UN/FAO World Food Program, Mr. H.J. Mittendorf, Marketing Branch, Economic Analysis Division, Mr. D.A. Music, Economist, Commodity Policy Branch, Commodities Division, Mr. P. Meihsl, Deputy Director, FAO/ECE Agriculture Division, Mr. R.G. Fontaine, Chief, Forest Policy Branch, Forestry and Forest Products Division, Mr. E. Kalkkinen, Director, FAO/ECE Timber Division.

DOCUMENTATION

- ERC/64/4(1) Provisional Agenda
- ERC/64/4(2) Activities of Countries of the European Region in the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign
- ERC/64/4(3) and Supplement No. 1 Participation by Countries of the European Region in the UN/FAO World Food Program
- ERC/64/4(4) and Supplement No. 1 The Role of Europe in FAO's Technical Assistance granted to Developing Countries
- ERC/64/4(5) and Corrigendum Whither European Agriculture?
- ERC/64/4(6) Adjusting Marketing Organization and Techniques for Food and Agricultural Products in Europe to meet Changing Demand Situations and Structural Influences including Greater Concentration in Retail Distribution
- ERC/64/4(7) Summary Review of Europe's Trade in Agricultural Products
- ERC/64/4(8) Competition between Agricultural Products of Developing Countries and those of European Countries
- ERC/64/4(9) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- ERC/64/4(10) and Supplement No. 1 Orientation and Methods of FAO's Work in the European Region
- ERC/64/4(11) Mediterranean Development
- ERC/64/4(12) Forestry Policies in Europe
- ERC/64/4(13) Recent Developments in the Trade of Forest Products
- ERC/64/4(14) Provisional List of Documents
- ERC/64/4(15) Policy Statement of the Director General
- ERC/64/4(16) List of Participants





