

The Canadian position in respect to the over-all programme of work of the FAO was given by Mr. Harkness in his address. He said:

"I am particularly interested in the theme underlying the Director-General's introduction to the programme for 1960-61. I welcome its conclusions; although there are many problems awaiting solution, the ensuing biennium should be one primarily of consolidation of FAO. The opportunities and need for accelerated international action in many fields are manifold. But I am confident that we are all in agreement that amongst these activities those within the mandate of FAO present an important claim on our resources. At the same time it is of fundamental importance that our response to these claims should be objective, balanced and well-conceived . . .

"We support wholeheartedly the work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Divisions, which have shown producers how to raise better crops and improve livestock, how to manage forests and wood lots, how to improve the returns from fisheries. We also support the work of the Economics Department that is devoting more of its resources to improving marketing and distribution of agricultural products. Increased output and better marketing should result in more and better food being made available.

"During the past fifteen years countries have become to a considerable degree nutrition-conscious. Canada is favoured with an abundance of food, but this does not lessen our interest in nutrition problems, which exist at home as well as in other countries. Active programmes of research and education are being carried on in this field. The FAO Nutrition Division has also played an important role in this area. Since Canada's participation in the Hot Springs Conference in 1943, Canada has insisted on the fundamental place of nutrition in the programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization." . . .

#### **The Production Situation**

World agricultural production in 1959 increased slightly over that of 1958 and was nearly 30 per cent above the 1948-52 average. However, the recent increase in world food-production has not been as great as the increase in population numbers. This average general increase has been only about 0.5 per cent above the average population growth of 1.6 per cent, in contrast to the margin of some 1.5 per cent that had been reached in the earlier part of the post-war period. The rate, both of population growth and of production increase, had naturally varied sharply from country to country. Examples brought to the attention of the Conference included India, where population was increasing by 1.9 per cent a year and the expansion of production had been stepped up from an annual average of 2.8 per cent under the First Five-Year Plan to 3.9 per cent during the first three years of the Second Plan; Chile, where the rates were estimated as 2.5 per cent for population and 1.7 per cent for production; and Pakistan, whose food production had recently shown little increase in the face of an annual population-growth of 1.6 per cent. In several Far Eastern countries and in parts