

countries to continue to support yearly increases in the budgets of the Specialized Agencies. A strong conviction has been encountered in recent meetings — and the view is shared by the Canadian Government — that the Specialized Agencies should concentrate on those undertakings which will have the most significant and far-reaching results, and that it is only through such concentration of effort that the Specialized Agencies can do the most good.

Food and Agriculture Organization

As a member of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and of its Committee on Commodity Problems, Canada has shared fully in the work of the Organization. A number of Canadian technicians continued to take a part in its activities, both as members of the regular staff and through temporary assignments under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

A recent review of the state of agricultural production shows that aggregate world production of food and other agricultural commodities, including timber, has been almost restored to the pre-war level per head of population. But while in some regions, notably North America, parts of Latin America, Western Europe and the Near East, the per capita production of food is now substantially higher than pre-war, in the Far East and Southeast Asia, with a population of 1,223 millions, it is still only 85% of its pre-war level. The gap between the best and the worst nourished of the world's peoples therefore is actually widening. Though the stocks of some commodities in North America are accumulating, the requirements of the deficit areas are too large to be met to more than a limited extent by imports and more rapid gains in production in these areas must be obtained before the nutritional situation can be improved.

Consideration has also been given by FAO to the problems of emergency food reserves. Acting on a directive from the Conference, the Council has assigned two working parties of experts to study means whereby emergency food reserves might be established and made available to member states when necessary. Their report will be considered by the Conference meeting in November, 1953.

While the regular routine activities such as the collection and compilation of statistics and other information continue to be an important function of the Organization, by far the greater part of the resources at the disposal of the Director-General are devoted to technical assistance projects. Many of these form part of the Organization's regular and continued activities. They are supplemented by special short-term projects based on agreements with recipient countries. In order to train local personnel in the under-developed countries to continue work begun by visiting experts, emphasis has been placed on training centres and seminars and fellowships for study abroad.

The Technical Assistance Programme is chiefly devoted to long term projects, but some results are already apparent in the form of increased production. One of the most outstanding achievements is the hybrid seed-corn programme. The introduction of hybrid seed-