

(e) a comparative international survey of food description, grading and advertising in its scientific, technical, commercial and legal aspects.

(f) an authoritative review of the application of science to the preservation, storage, transport and manufacture of food.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The committee in its report emphasizes that many of its recommendations are long term projects which will take years or even decades to show results, as for example breeding of stock and developing varieties of crops suited to certain difficult climates or areas. It therefore recommends that the initial work of FAO be directed to improvement of farm production methods and increased food output, particularly in the less developed countries, and to aiding the countries engaged in commercial agriculture to integrate and harmonize their agricultural programs.

Immediate action

The committee recommends:

1. Missions of qualified experts who will go on request to less advanced countries, concentrating at first on those which will (a) help expand extension work (defined as the process of carrying the result of scientific work to the farmers and getting them to put the improved practices into use); (b) help expand the production of protective foods.
2. Immediate technical improvements: Particularly in the under-developed countries very rapid improvements in agricultural production can be brought about by the adoption of simple technical improvements already available. Examples cited include (a) poultry improvement. Even the poorest farmers in the poorest regions are likely to keep a few hens. Bulgaria and Iraq are two countries where a program of poultry improvement has been highly successful. In Bulgaria it started in a village co-operative society which acquired an incubator and distributed high quality chicks to farmers with advice on feeding and disease control; (b) improved insect control with newly developed insecticides and new techniques such as airplane dispersal; (c) better control of animal and plant disease; (d) development of native sources of feedstuffs; (e) improved dairy practices which may result in rapid improvement in quality and quantity of milk; (f) greater production of fruits and vegetables and application of new methods of preservation; (g) introduction of well-known farm machinery or even improved hand tools is the first need in some areas, in others fertilizers are badly needed; (h) improved acclimatized seed, the practice of summer fallowing semi-arid lands between crops could greatly improve production in some areas.
3. Work on commodity situations and production programs: The committee recommends that in the first year FAO make an appraisal of prospective production, exports, imports, and consumption of all major commodities in all countries; begin work on collecting and improving statistics and initiate a system of regular reports by governments to FAO.
4. Collaboration with UNRRA: The work of UNRRA in rehabilitation of agriculture is necessarily temporary and quite limited in scope but its influence may last for years. The committee recommends continuation and extension of working relationships between UNRRA and FAO in this field.