

and transporting foods. The science of nutrition has taught what foods the human body needs for maximum health and efficiency.

All this is only the beginning of what promises to be a new era of scientific discovery. The possibilities are immense. All that is needed to make this a world of peace and plenty is the will to do it and the determination to work out a way. Proof that the will is there is seen in the establishment of FAO. Its task is to help find the way.

FAO's functions include the promotion of research; the dissemination of knowledge; the exchange of services; and the making of recommendations for international and national action with regard to the improvement of nutrition, the production, distribution and consumption of food, fibres and other agricultural products, and the development and conservation of agricultural, forestry and marine resources. This is a wide program and it will probably be a considerable time before the Organization can cover the entire field.

One of its chief jobs will be to promote research. New knowledge must be sought and the knowledge already existing must be adapted to local conditions and re-examined as conditions change. The Organization will suggest projects to co-ordinate those already being carried on by several nations, and will keep research workers informed of one another's progress. It will facilitate the exchange of important biological materials (breeding stocks, for example) and in some cases lend the services of members of its own technical staff to an institution or a country. In a word, it will stimulate, promote and, where appropriate, conduct research focussed on world needs in food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

One of the principal sources from which the Organization will gather information will be the periodic reports made by member nations. The Organization will determine the lines along which these reports will be made. Statistics will be obtained regularly from member nations and from international authorities and will be made generally available, and means of obtaining more accurate statistical information will be devised.

The need to make useful facts about nutrition and the consumption and production of foods more widely known is so great that promoting the dissemination of knowledge will be given equal emphasis with research. The encouragement of education in the fields of nutrition and production will be another important activity.

As an effective means of disseminating information the Interim Commission recommends that FAO issue a variety of publications, some for professional use, some designed to meet the needs of particular groups of producers and consumers and the general public. It suggests, for instance, a periodic survey of world nutrition, consumption and production; a periodic summary of the reports of member nations; a periodic review of legislation relating to food and production; reviews of scientific literature; regular bulletins dealing with crops, production, stocks, prices and other data; a journal of articles for the general reader on the problems and progress of FAO; and a yearbook of international statistics.

The commission further suggests that the Organization should promote more specific educational activities. These might include assisting government and other agencies in planning the improvement of educational institutions in work relating to food and agriculture. In both urban and rural schools there are great and often unrealized opportunities for teaching elementary facts regarding food and nutrition, for the production of more food will not improve health unless people know how to choose a sensible diet. The organization will further assist governments in advancing adult education. In addition it will inform the public about its own activities.