

fisheries, and with disseminating information on these subjects. Its activities include the promotion of food production, encouragement of agricultural education, improved administration, conservation, marketing and nutrition. FAO, whose headquarters are in Rome, functions through a Conference, the policy-making body which meets every two years; a Council of representatives of 31 member governments elected by the Conference, which supervises the work of the Organization between sessions of the Conference; and a Secretariat, at present headed by Benai Ranjan Sen of India as Director-General. The Secretariat is arranged into five departments: Technical (with divisions of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and nutrition); Economics; Public Relations and Legal Affairs; Administration and Finance; and a recently-established Fisheries Department.

FAO marked its twentieth anniversary at the thirteenth session of its Conference, held in Rome in November and December 1965 under the chairmanship of the Honourable Maurice Sauvé, Minister of Forestry for Canada. After admitting a number of new countries, which brought FAO membership to 110 and four associate member states, and increasing the number of seats in the Council from 27 to 31, the Conference reviewed the first 20 years of FAO's existence. It expressed concern with the slow progress of world agriculture towards achieving the objectives of the Organization. Some 10 to 15 per cent of the world's population was still undernourished, and up to half suffered from undernourishment or malnutrition or both. Gains in food production in developing countries were not keeping pace with the population increase and the rising volume of agricultural exports was offset by falling prices.

Although the Conference approved the continuation of the World Food Programme (WFP)¹, it was generally agreed that food aid, although invaluable in emergencies and essential for years to come, could not provide a permanent solution to the problems of hunger and malnutrition. The only final solution would be increased production in the developing countries themselves, for which technical assistance must be supplemented by the provision of investment funds and credit and by the establishment of an agrarian structure which would give farmers the will and the incentives as well as the financial means and the knowledge to embark on more productive forms of agriculture. To this end, the Conference approved further intensive work on the drafting of a world plan for agricultural development which, based on economic realities, could serve as a realistic guide to the Organization's future policies and actions. The plan is to be ready in 1968.

¹See Page 24.