

## Technical Assistance

The Conference urged member countries to make more effective use of technical assistance in the face of an anticipated reduction in FAO's share of UN technical assistance funds. It is expected that about \$8,000,000 will be available to FAO for technical assistance in 1958. The Technical Assistance Programme, the Director-General said, would be based "on the capacities as well as the needs of each recipient country." FAO would scrutinize even more closely the extent to which each country carried out previous recommendations, supported experts with administrative and technical personnel, and continued projects that had been initiated. The number of projects a country could effectively absorb and the extent to which they related to long-term development plans, he added, would also be examined carefully.

The Conference emphasized the desirability of improving the system of briefing technical assistance experts before appointment. It was a general view that the periods of assignment were too brief and that necessary continuity in field work was thereby disturbed. Concern was expressed over the decline in 1958 technical assistance fellowships programme compared with previous years. It was considered that as a technical assistance programme is basically a training programme, a decline in the number of fellows would reduce its effectiveness.

## New Members

The Conference admitted to membership the new Commonwealth countries, Ghana and Malaya, and readmitted Poland which had let its membership lapse, thereby increasing FAO's membership to 77 countries. Dr. J.F. Booth, of the Department of Agriculture, the Canadian Alternate Delegate, said in welcoming the new members:

I should like to say that we were pleased when, a few months ago, we participated in the ceremonies which marked the attainment of independence of Ghana and Malaya. We are equally pleased now to join with others in extending to them a welcome to FAO. We are also very pleased to see the People's Republic of Poland again in a position to make its contribution to this Organization and to participate in the deliberation of nations in matters pertaining to food and agriculture.

## Elections

Mr. S. A. Hasnie of Pakistan was re-elected as Independent Chairman of the FAO Council. The United Kingdom was elected to the Council after an absence of two years. Canada was re-elected to the Council, to the Committee on Commodity Problems and elected to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. Canada is also a member of the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal and the FAO Group on Grains. Dr. J. F. Booth was elected to the 7-member Programme Committee.

The Moroccan Delegation submitted a proposal for increasing the membership of the FAO Council from 24 to 25 and pointed out that in the present distribution of Council seats only one was available for African countries. Since several countries on the African Continent had been admitted to membership in the Organization during the last two years, he thought that more adequate representation should be accorded the African region. The Conference agreed in principle and decided to place this question on the agenda of its next Session.