

development plans suited to their own circumstances and conditions, having as an objective a balanced increase in world production of basic food and other essential agricultural products of at least one to two per cent per year in excess of the rate of population growth for the next five years.

It was agreed that the accomplishment of this objective would be facilitated by:

- (a) the establishment of adequate extension and educational programmes to ensure that technical knowledge necessary to achieve increased production is conveyed to the individual farmer;
- (b) the provision of adequate capital for agricultural development through national and international efforts;
- (c) the adoption by member countries of reforms in agrarian structure, including conditions of land tenure and size and distribution of agricultural holdings.

A working party on the programme of work and associated long-term problems, which was set up by the Conference in 1950, established a set of principles to serve as a guide in the planning of future programmes of work and recommended the creation of a co-ordinating committee of seven members, to be selected on the basis of personal qualifications, to give advice on the co-ordination of the undertakings of FAO. When the programme of work for the technical divisions of FAO for 1952-53 was being framed, special consideration was given to points (a), (b) and (c) above. Progress reports on these undertakings were considered by the FAO Council, which acts as the executive body of the Organization, at its fifteenth session in June 1952.

The sixth session of the Conference considered the problem of food shortages and famine in many regions, which had been referred to FAO by the thirteenth session of the Economic and Social Council, and recommended a procedure to be followed by the Director-General for detecting impending food shortages or famine in member countries. The Conference also decided that the FAO Council should study and explore suitable means whereby an emergency food reserve could be established and made available promptly to member states threatened or affected by serious food shortages or by famine.

An International Plant Protection Convention, designed to strengthen and co-ordinate international efforts to prevent the spread and to facilitate the control of plant diseases and pests, was approved by the Conference. Thirty-seven member nations, including Canada, have already signed this Convention.

A progress report to the fifteenth session of the FAO Council, on the activities of FAO under the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme, gave evidence of FAO's important contribution to the development of the under-developed areas. By the end of May 1952, more than 300 agreements for the provision of technical assistance had been entered into or were under negotiation with member governments. These agreements involved 774 technical experts and, when fully implemented, would represent financial commitments