

agriculture. Then, at Quebec City on October 16, 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was formally created; temporary headquarters were established at Washington, D.C. In 1951, the Organization moved into its present permanent headquarters in Rome.

In 1945, the FAO constitution was signed by 42 governments; in 1960, the FAO had 81 members and, in 1967, its membership rose to 116 member nations and three associate members. By the end of 1973, the membership totalled 131 member nations.

Staff employed by the FAO under both permanent and fixed-term appointments number close to 4,000. Of these, 1,500 were in the professional and higher categories and 2,500 in the general-service category. The FAO annual budget increased from \$5 million in 1946 to \$106.7 million in 1974-5. The FAO's total expenditures increased even more rapidly as it received funds from the UN Development Program, the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign and the various joint activities with other UN agencies.

The FAO is organized into five major departments; Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Economics and Social Policy, and Development. In addition, there are six regional offices, one each for Africa, Asia and the Far East, Latin America, the Near East, Europe, and North America.

From the beginning, the FAO has served as the organizing and co-ordinating agency that brought together representatives of national governments and scientific bodies to review and exchange information, to study problems of common interest and to plan action programs within the whole range of food and agriculture, including nutrition, forestry and fisheries. The central body of activities conducted in response to this assignment of duties and responsibilities is known as the FAO's Regular Program. The program of activities, services and projects for each year is determined by the FAO Conference.

The Regular Program is financed by annual payments from member nations. The amount of these payments is established in accordance with the scale of contributions determined by the Conference. This scale of contributions, as for other organizations in the United Nations family, is derived from the United Nations scale of assessments. It is based on a formula that takes into consideration a number of factors such as gross national product, population, standard of living, etc., and so recognizes the wide differences in the ability of different nations to pay the costs of conducting the FAO's program. The assessment of each member nation is
