

million from ETAP to help it carry out its agricultural technical assistance programme. Under this programme, FAO arranges for the sending of experts to under-developed areas of the world who advise governments on their agricultural policies and introduce advanced techniques; FAO also arranges for students and fellows from under-developed regions to obtain training in more advanced countries.

FAO has reported that world production of food and agricultural products increased in 1955-56 at the rate of three per cent. During the past five years the increase has been about two and one-half per cent annually compared with an annual increase in the world's population of about one and one-half per cent. According to FAO reports the greater part of this increase in food production has taken place in North America and Oceania. In many of the under-developed areas of the world, food production has not passed pre-war levels although it is considerably higher than in the years immediately following the Second World War. According to FAO, the main world commodity problem remains that of surpluses. Two major aspects of this problem can be distinguished: (1) the uneven distribution of world production in relation to effective demand, resulting in burdensome surpluses in some countries coinciding with low consumption of food and clothing in others; and (2) the continuing threat to the stability of world markets inherent in the presence of excessive stocks in certain areas.

A special session of the FAO Conference was convened in September 1956 at FAO headquarters in Rome as a result of the resignation, because of ill health, of the Director-General, Dr. P. V. Cardon, and the decision of the FAO Council that a Conference should be held to elect a new Director-General. The special Conference was held in conjunction with the twenty-fifth session of the FAO Council. The agenda of the special session consisted of three items: applications for membership in the organization; consideration of reports of the Council on the current world food and agricultural situation and on certain organizational matters; and appointment of a new Director-General.

The Canadian Delegation to the special session of the Conference was led by Dr. J. F. Booth of the Department of Agriculture, and included representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries, Trade and Commerce and External Affairs. A Canadian was elected third vice-chairman of the Conference and as such served as a member of the Conference's General Committee.

The special session admitted Morocco and Sudan to membership in the FAO and then proceeded to elect Mr. B. R. Sen, of India, as the new Director-General. At the invitation of the Rt. Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, the new Director-General paid an official visit to Ottawa from January 24-29, 1957 and while in Ottawa Mr. Sen called on the Prime Minister as well as the Ministers of Agriculture, Fisheries, National Health and Welfare, Northern Affairs and National Resources, and Trade and Commerce. Mr. Sen also attended meetings of the Interdepartmental FAO Committee and the Interdepartmental Group on Technical Assistance; in addition he addressed a public meeting and held press, radio and television