

The report on this project stressed the fact that there was urgent need to reverse an age-old tradition of deforestation and soil erosion in the region. The analysis brought out several types of projects that might usefully be undertaken jointly by groups of countries.

Although most of the effort was visualised as coming from within the countries, external aid would, it was realized, nevertheless be crucial. Several delegates expressed the readiness of their countries to extend technical or financial assistance for development programmes in Mediterranean countries.

Requests for technical assistance for the coming year have already been affected by the country studies. Turkey has asked assistance from the United Nations Special Fund for the establishment of a pilot project, Spain was already engaged in development in the Badajoz area, and Tunisia and other countries are considering setting up new pilot schemes.

North American Forestry Commission

Delegates from the United States, Canada and Mexico agreed to the formation of an FAO North American Forestry Commission. This is the fifth regional forestry commission established by FAO.

World Seed Campaign

A resolution approving FAO's project for a world campaign for the use of better seeds was approved. The resolution, put forward by Canada, designates 1961 as World Seed Year. Seventy countries had announced their intention of participating in the campaign, and 59 of them had already begun concrete action programmes on the national level. The programmes undertaken and envisaged under the campaign encompass three main sectors: improvement of cultivated plants; production, certification and distribution of high-quality seeds, and educative extension and publicity activities. Canada had, in 1959, through the Colombo Plan, provided training fellowships for eleven seed specialists from Burma, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan (2 from East and 2 from West), the Philippines and Thailand.

Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign

The Director-General of the FAO proposed a campaign to focus public attention on a world-wide scale upon the continuing problem of hunger, and to mobilize national and international effort towards its solution. The campaign will be a continuing activity and is to receive Conference attention at its sessions in 1961, 1963 and 1965. A World Food Congress is contemplated for 1963, in close association with the twelfth session of the Conference.

The campaign would stimulate not only ways of increasing agricultural production and income and of raising buying power for food, but also would recognize the need for industrial development so as to increase purchasing power and ability to buy food, especially in the less-developed countries. The improvement of nutrition, also, would cover not only the problem of providing more and