

- (1) Provision of international forums;
- (2) preparing and publishing documents;
- (3) holding technical and economic meetings;
- (4) sending survey missions to study the needs of countries;
- (5) sending individual experts or groups of experts to countries.

Field Programmes

When the FAO was set up at the end of the Second World War, many people thought that international exchange of knowledge alone was the answer to world food and agricultural problems -- with a little technical information, provided from a world centre, any country could solve its own problems.

During the last 12 years, there has been a significant reorientation in the FAO's role in assisting developing countries. From being solely an advisory body, the FAO has also become an operational organization assisting countries in preparing development plans, helping to execute major projects, providing some of the backing for these projects and aiding countries in obtaining finance for the largest projects of national development.

This change in approach became possible at the end of 1950 with the establishment of the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. Since the development of agriculture is the main preoccupation of most developing countries, it was inevitable that a major part should be carried out by the FAO.

The FAO now serves as executing agency for a larger number of projects assisted by the special fund sector (pre-capital investment activities) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) than any other participating organization, namely 39.6 per cent of the total in number and 38.4 per cent in cost. It has been responsible since 1960 for 308 such projects, to which UNDP allocated \$295 million while aided governments contributed about \$360 million. Of the 308 projects, the FAO completed 58, costing \$35,826,417.

Similarly, as indicated above, the FAO is the executing agency for a number of projects under the technical assistance component of UNDP. A total of more than \$135 million was allocated to such projects between 1950 and 1967 and about 5,000 technical-assistance projects had been carried out. Regionally, the 287 projects which had been assigned as of January 1967 were distributed as follows: Africa, 100; the Americas, 83; Asia and Far East, 62; Europe, 19; Near East, 22; interregional, 1.

The FAO's field experts are drawn from all over the world and sent to assisted countries at their invitation. These men and women came from 100 countries, including Canada, and have worked in more than 100 countries and territories. They work side by side with government officials, farmers, foresters and fishermen, demonstrating and guiding them in the task of developing resources and increasing harvests in climatic conditions that range