

FAO should encourage governments to grant credits to study technical advances that would help remove some of the risks that have hitherto discouraged capital investment in the fisheries. International credits may be required to develop the fisheries of countries like China and India, where lack of protein is an outstanding dietary deficiency.

7. Commodity Arrangements

Commodity arrangements can be successfully applied only to non-perishable material. Nevertheless, FAO should study the possibilities with respect to processed fish, particularly with respect to the effect of commodity arrangements on production and in providing opportunities for applying consumer markets from the most efficient sources of production. As an integral part of this program FAO should study the effects of tariffs and other international barriers on world trade as well as the effect of abnormal fluctuations in exchange rates which restrict production, distribution and consumption of fishery products. Such information should be furnished to the governments of producing and consuming countries and to other interested authorities.

FORESTRY AND PRIMARY FOREST PRODUCTS

The report of the Technical Committee on Forestry and Primary Forest Products indicates that the number of ill-housed and ill-dressed persons approximates the number of ill-fed; that human beings whose diets are improved usually realize corresponding advances in housing and clothing.

"This close link between food, shelter and clothing exists in production as well as in demand," it states. "Agriculture not only supplies food, but also most of the materials needed for clothing and housing." Consequently the consumption program of FAO must go beyond freedom from want of food. It will be among FAO's functions to ensure that resources stimulating the consumption of the right foods and directing them into proper channels are supplemented by and co-ordinated with similar national and international action for all other products and resources that come within FAO's scope.

Forests are one of these resources. They cover some 25% of the earth's land surface (compared with 11% for land under cultivation).

It has been estimated that a rise of world wood consumption from its present average of approximately 55 cubic feet to 60 cubic feet per person would be required to provide people on all continents with adequate amounts of lumber, pulp and other forest products. The consumption goal would probably be even higher if allowance were made for the new products of wood chemistry.

The committee suggests that the basic objectives of a world forest policy should be:

- (1) The adequate consumption of forest products to improve housing, clothing and general living standards in all parts of the world.
- (2) The rational use of the world's forests and forest soils for the continuous production of raw materials.
- (3) The conservation of all forests performing important social or protective functions.