

Long-term Program

The broad long-term program envisaged by the Technical Committee on Agricultural Production is comprehensive, and many recommendations are made in addition to those cited as most urgent.

They include:

1. Recommendations for Education and Extension Services concerned with (a) collecting and making available to governments all the latest and best educational materials; (b) improvements in extension methods, a quick comparative survey being suggested; (c) adequate training of personnel both for scientific research and extension work, the suggestion being made that several Spanish or Arabic-speaking countries, for example, might co-operate to establish a regional institution for such training; (d) education of youth, both vocational and agricultural. Danish folk high schools, British Young Farmer's Clubs and American 411 Clubs are cited. FAO might provide advisers on request and arrange inter-change of leaders between countries; (e) Education and Rural Welfare. Close contact is recommended between FAO and governments and organizations concerned on matters of general and vocational education such as rural welfare, housing and health services.

2. Recommendations for Technical Improvement of Productivity

(a) Soils: In many parts of the world soil is being blown or washed away at alarming rates. Vast areas of China, important parts of Africa, Australia and several Middle East countries are suffering from extensive soil erosion. In this field forestry and agricultural workers must work together. Measures for flood control, irrigation and drainage could bring into production large areas of land and support increased population. Egypt and the Netherlands have brought land drainage to a high peak of efficiency. Egypt and the U.S. are leaders in flood control methods. FAO should make comparative studies of legal and administrative measures already developed to give assistance to other countries in programs of soil conservation, land drainage, irrigation and flood control.

(b) Fertilizers: A survey of postwar needs for fertilizers, availability of raw materials and processing facilities together with exploration of the wartime expansion in chemical and fixed nitrogen plants, their postwar use and possible adaptation for production of fertilizers is recommended.

(c) Livestock: Efficiency of livestock management has greatly increased in the more advanced countries through progress in scientific breeding, feeding and disease control. In addition to assisting member governments in all phases of livestock production it is suggested that FAO draw up international conventions providing standards covering drugs and biologicals for livestock feedstuffs and related products in which uniformity of standards might benefit international trade.

3. General Program

(a) Reports of Scientific Progress: Concise and authoritative summaries of wartime scientific advances in each major agricultural field are an immediate need; (b) FAO should act as a clearing house for scientific information; (c) co-ordination of research programs should be undertaken by FAO; (d) panels of experts from whom missions can be sent to countries on request should be organized; (e) integration of agricultural programs with consideration of pertinent related programs such as transport,