

- (b) organize, in co-operation with the governments concerned, such missions as may be needed to assist them in fulfilling the obligations arising from their acceptance of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture and of the FAO constitution.

Implementation
of the Programs

The methods employed by the FAO must be those that are most effective in assisting governments in performing their own functions, and the Organization cannot assume the responsibilities of governments for carrying out those functions. Thus, the FAO's methods are designed to meet these conditions and include the following:

- (1) Provision of international forums;
- (2) preparation and publication of technical bulletins, books and policy papers;
- (3) holding of technical and economic meetings;
- (4) sending of survey missions to study the needs of countries;
- (5) sending of individual experts or groups of experts to countries.

Field Programs

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 past two decades, 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 Program of Technical Assistance. Since the development of agriculture is the main concern of most developing countries, it was inevitable that a major part should be carried out by the FAO.