

FARMERS' WEEK

The Central Office of the Farmers' Forum, India has proposed to all the State and District Farmers' Forum to prepare for the Farmers' Week Celebrations in their respective areas.

The decision to hold the Farmers' Week in all States was approved by the last meeting of the Governing Body of Farmers' Forum which met at New Delhi during September last. It was decided to organize these weeks at a time when farmers are comparatively free from field operations and when they can attend meetings and take part in functions which may be arranged during this week.

The Farmers' Forum, India, has conceived of this idea, whereby it would be possible for the farmers and officials concerned with the betterment and prosperity of rural India, to come in close contact with each other. It is expected that fullest use of this opportunity would be made by the officers of the Agricultural and other Rural Development Departments to convey to the farmers the activities which will be undertaken by these Departments during the course of the Second Five Year Plan and the benefits which they are expected to confer on them. It is proposed that cattle shows, small exhibitions sports etc., may also be included in the programme alongwith meetings of farmers where the Farmers, Forum workers will explain to the farmers the objective for which the Forum has been established and the activities it desires to pursue in advancing the welfare of farmers. During this week the sale of "Two Anna Farmers Seals" would also be inaugurated.

MR. WILSON'S REPORT

(Continued from page 2)

should be recognized departments and integral parts of the Farmers' Forum, with staff supervised and paid by the Forum and operated on a budget approved by the Forum.

Mr. Wilson has also suggested that Commodity Committees should be departments of the Farmers' Forum. They may be financed by the Forum or it may raise extra money to meet the needs of the department.

World News

WORLD RICE SITUATION

According to the International Federation of Agricultural Producers a record crop of rice was harvested in 1955-56. The production totalled about 422,400 million pounds of rough rice, slightly above the previous record set in 1953-54.

World rice acreage increased by 4,300,000 acres or 1.7 per cent compared with the past year. The gains in acreage were largely in the heavy rice growing countries of Asia, mainly Thailand, India, China and Japan. About 93 per cent of world's rice crop has been harvested in Asia.

In the first half of 1956 exports of rice from Thailand were 605 million pounds compared with 710 million pounds in the same period, the previous year.

United States rice exports expanded in the past crop year reaching 15 per cent more than in 1955. Nearly 12.5 million 100 pound bags

Talking of the relationship of the Farmers' Forum and NES, Community Development and Agricultural Department etc., Mr. Wilson says that the relationship should be very close, each giving aid to the other in order to make the good work of each most effective for the benefit of Indian Agriculture and India. It may later be desirable to enter into a written agreement of understanding as to just what the field of each is and how the Forum and each of the above can work most efficiently together. It might be that the NES would see fit to provide in the future that new blocks would be given preference in areas where Farmers' Forum was established with at least a membership of 3 or 5 % of the farmers in the block and the Forum had pledged cooperation with the NES work in the Block. "I believe this would add greatly to the speed, efficiency and effectiveness of the work in the 2/3 of the blocks still to be served by the National Extension Service," he says.

Mr. Wilson has suggested, to the Technical Cooperation Mission, in his report that a team of three to five specialists be sent to India for a two year term to help the officers of the Forum on organisational matters and analyses of agricultural and allied problems.

of rice were exported in the marketing year.

BIGGEST WHEAT CROP

The world is growing more wheat this year than ever before in history. But wheat production in Asia will be about the same as in 1955. The Dutch farmers are growing more wheat to the acre than farmers anywhere else in the world. They are getting about 54.6 bushels to the acre.

Preliminary estimates made by the U. S. Foreign Agricultural Service put total world wheat production at 7,510 million bushels. The increase is due to bigger acreage.

MILK PIPELINES

In some mountainous parts of Austria milk is being piped to towns. A farm lying 3,000 feet above and a mile away was connected by plastic pipeline with Mittersill. Milk was sent through the pipeline. The pipeline is washed between milking. Similar systems are being adopted at several places in Austria.

TRENDS IN COTTON

The last few months have recorded interesting fluctuations in the import and export of cotton in the world market. While Egypt had increased its cotton exports, Turkish cotton exports had dropped. India had reduced its cotton imports and it has become a net exporter of cotton for the first time since partition in 1947. India exported 5,04,000 bales of cotton in the past marketing year. The biggest exports went to Japan which took about half the total.

In Egypt exports had been running about 44 per cent ahead of last year and most of the increase went to Czechoslovakia, China, Rumania, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Russia.

Cotton exports by Pakistan have increased by 13 per cent in the past marketing season but prices have dropped in recent months. Japan continues to be Pakistan's best foreign customer, taking about one third of the country's export.

Cotton exports from Turkey in the 1955-56 season were 29 per cent below the previous season. During the year Turkey exported 1,14,000 bales.