

recent FAI-FAO seminar on the strategy for stimulation of fertiliser consumption, gains added significance. Fertiliser producers have decided to intensify their effort in 40 of the 58 districts chosen by the Centre for special effort. The States too have chosen areas for special attention. In approximately 30 per cent of the districts in India, the growth rate of agriculture has been higher than three per cent compound per annum. If the current efforts at special development meaningfully embrace these districts, it is conceivable that their growth rate would be taken up to around 5 per cent. With the spread of irrigation, improved seed supply and multiple cropping practices, it should not be beyond our capacity to stabilise food grains output. Currently, the floor level of output is placed around 105 million tonnes. This would have to be taken up to around 125 million tonnes by the end of the present decade. The compulsions are clear enough. The Fifth Plan has targeted a minimum food grains output of 125 million tonnes for 1978-79 and a maximum of 133 million tonnes. The minimum is the level at which output needs to be stabilised if the estimated demand for food grains at 127 million tonnes in 1978-79 is to be met comfortably out of domestic supplies.

Gurgaon Krishak Samaj Resolution

Gurgaon Krishak Samaj held its executive meeting on 28th November, 1976. It resolved to implement 25-point programme of P.M. & Mr. Sanjaya Gandhi. D.C. Gurgaon was requested to pay bonus to the farmers who sold wheat to Govt. In other resolution they demanded more time from A.I.R. Rural programme. This complained regarding the exaggerated figures of farm production by the All India Radio. This adversely affect their assessment of income.

A.P. Cyclone Damage—224 Crores

Hyderabad : A provisional assessment of loss was estimated at Rs. 224 crore. The cyclone toll has been placed at 159 dead. Chief Minister Vengal Rao said about 1,600 animals had loss their lives costing a loss of Rs. 52 lakh. Over 1.9 lakh dwellings had either collapsed or were severely damaged and the loss on that account was estimated at Rs. 10

crore. Over 1,400 irrigation sources had been damaged and their repair would cost Rs. 5 crore. Repairs to roads, buildings and other public property will cost Rs. 8 crore.

Many Crops Best for Small Farms

Ottawa : Adoption of multiple-cropping is the right answer for small farmers in the developing nations, according to a report by American agronomist Richard Harwood. Despite the low productivity of the multiple cropping, it is better answer involving as it does a low initial investment and hence low financial risk, according to the report carried by the International Development Research Centre.

Besides, "the farmer can be sure that of the dozen species he has sown, some will survive—the economic return is very high". It said : "Agricultural researchers have re-invented multiple cropping, an ancient system that involves sowing different crops at random and harvesting whatever manages to grow."

New Technique for Bumper Fish Yield

Calcutta : Very high yields of fish, ranging from 3,000 to 9,000 kg. per hectare per year in contrast to the inland average of 500 kg per hectare have been achieved experimentally through a technique of intensive pisciculture, according to Dr. V.G. Jhingran, Director of the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore near here. Meanwhile, the institute is making strenuous efforts to demonstrate the effectiveness of a high fish yielding technology to help boost the pisciculture in West Bengal and other areas, Dr. Jhingran said. The technique is what is called a composite fish culture, applied in small ponds ranging in area from 0.1 to 0.4 hectares.

FCI Centre for Paddy Purchases

Lucknow : In only two districts of Uttar Pradesh are the paddy prices below the support prices fixed by the Government. These districts are Jalaun and Lakhimpur, where the Food Corporation of India has opened four centres each for