



A
Bharat Krishak Samaj
(FARMERS' FORUM, INDIA)
Publication

KRISHAK SAMACHAR

Vol 5 No. 7

New Delhi, July 1961

Price: 25 nP.
Annual: 3.00

India's Forest Wealth

Dr Deshmukh pleads for effective development measures

DR PANJABRAO DESHMUKH, Union Minister for Agriculture, has appealed to all citizens and especially to those in-charge of the administration, 'to give anxious thought to our steadily depleting forest resources' and to do everything in their power to put the matter above purely local, parochial and temporary considerations and expediencies. This is a matter, he says, in which national, economic, cultural and historical considerations ought to prevail.

The Minister in his appeal in connection with the 12th Vanamahotsava, celebrated from July 1 to 7, says that maintenance of adequate cover on land, the control of soil erosion which such cover effects, the perennial and regulated stream-flows which it ensures, the agricultural prosperity which it makes possible and the stimulus which raw materials from forests give to industrial development are matters of vital importance to the well-being and prosperity of a nation. The want of them strikes at the very root of national progress and cultural evolution.

NOT A RITUAL

Dr. Deshmukh has stressed that the tree planting ceremony is not a mere ritual to be celebrated with pomp and promptly forgotten thereafter. It ought to be at all costs an activity that deserves utmost and earnest attention. Referring to decisions taken earlier that the total area of the forests in the country should be increased from one fifth of the land surface to one third, the Minister says: "The sorry fact of the matter, I am afraid, is that forests have really and actually dwindled in extent since the declaration of the National Forest Policy in 1951, whatever good work done in the

meanwhile having been more than outbalanced by the areas we lost or spoliation that took place. It is a great pity, that it should be so

when for want of wood the match industry is facing a crisis, the plywood industry is in great difficulty, and the paper industry, which is expanding rapidly, may soon be in trouble."

SHORTAGE OF FUEL WOOD

The shortage of fuel wood in the country Dr. Deshmukh says, is



WASHINGTON, D. C. The Indian farm leaders are seen in conference with the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, who recently invited them into his office. Seated left to right are: Rayanagoud L. Patil; M. S. Anvikar; J. N. Bhardwaj; Bishan Mansingh; B. S. Patil; V. G. Sukumaran; Mrs. K. D. Sharma; Mrs. Rangachari Rajalakshmi; K. D. Sharma; Secretary Freeman; and J. S. Mann. Seated with backs to camera are (left) V. B. Patil and David Ruesink, Project Director for Farmers and World Affairs, Inc.

'appalling' as a result of which nearly 80 million tons of cowdung (equivalent to 60 million tons of fuel wood) is being burnt annually as fuel instead of being utilised as manure. To meet this increasing demand and to relieve pressure on the consumption of cowdung, it is proposed to raise fuel and fodder plantations to the tune of 12.5 lakh acres, during the Third Five Year Plan under the "Farm Forestry" scheme. This scheme envisages raising plantations of quick-growing species on village commons, field boundaries and waste lands, throughout the country. He adds, "I need not remind you that such large scale plantations can only be possible if the fullest cooperation of the people is forthcoming. It is, therefore, hoped that the requisite effort and initiative will not be lacking to make this allied activity a success".

ASSURANCE WANTED

Dr. Deshmukh adds, "On the occasion of this Vanamahotsava, I would like to be assured by the State Governments and all other organisations that take part in this national festival that while they are prepared to organise the Vanamahotsava with enthusiasm and drive, they are also actively engaged in offering protection to existing forests, in preventing further encroachments into their precincts, in managing them on scientific lines, in expanding them wherever possible, and in improving what is one of our most valuable natural resources.

* * *

RECORD FISH PRODUCTION IN 1960

Fish production in India during 1960 has been the highest ever recorded. Seafish landings were about 8.8 lakh metric tons. Marketable surplus of inland catches, including estuarine tracts, was about 2.8 lakh tons. These together with subsistence fishing in inland water and small ponds have placed the total fish yield in India well over 14 lakh tons, which was the target for the final year of the Second Plan period.

The highlights of the 1960 fishery were the excellent yields of sardines and mackerel. Mechanisation of fishing craft and introduction of synthetic fibres like nylon are the chief avenues of increased marine production.

Freedom From Hunger Campaign

Bhopal: The State Government have constituted a State Campaign Committee under the chairmanship of State Chief Minister, Dr. K. N. Katju as part of the "Freedom From Hunger Campaign" launched all over the world in accordance with a decision taken at the 10th session of conference of the Food & Agriculture of the United Nations and endorsed by the Government of India.

The Committee consists of the Minister for Food, Minister for Irrigation, Minister for Co-operation, Deputy Minister for Agriculture; Shri Shivanand, M. L. A., State Convenor of Bharat Sewak Samaj; Shri M. C. Bondriya, Secretary M.P. Krishak Samaj; Shri D. N. Sharma, M.L.A.; Shri K. P. Panda, M. L. A.;

Shri Umrao Singh, M. L. A., Shri Nanak Bhai Agarwal, M. P., Shrimati Jaya Behon, Shri Lalarom Bajpai, Shri Ram Singh Vashista, the Chief Engineer (Irrigation), Registrar Co-operative Societies Secretary Planning and Development Deptt., Secretary Agriculture and Co-operation Deptt., Secretary, Food Deptt. and Secretary, Public Works Deptt. Director of Agriculture will be the member-Secretary of the State Committee.

The field of activities of the State Campaign Committee will cover wide range of informational and Educational work, research programme and formulation of action, programme covering both production, distribution and fund raising.

VAN-MAHOTSAVA

CELEBRATIONS

IN MADHYA PRADESH

The twelfth Van-Mahotsava will be celebrated throughout Madhya Pradesh from July 15, 1961. This year, an all out effort would be made to arouse public consciousness about the usefulness of trees and forests in the growth of national economy. Special efforts would be made for protection, watering and maintenance of all planted stock particularly of those which are planted on public and municipal lands.

The special feature of this year's Van-Mahotsava will be the plantation of fruit, timber, fuel and fodder reserves. Co-operation of all available agencies will be sought for making the celebrations effective. People will be encouraged to recognise the need of farm forestry.

It may be mentioned that the Third Plan of the State includes a scheme for Farm Forestry under which village forestry will be raised on 6,000 acres in 100 Development Blocks of the State. In the selected blocks, the farm forestry scheme will be inaugurated in a suitable manner during the Van-Mahotsava celebrations.

KAIRON'S CALL TO FARMERS

JULLUNDUR July 2.—Addressing the Farmers' Forum, Jullundur Division here yesterday Shri Kairon urged members to devote greater attention to increasing agricultural production.

The Chief Minister asked farmers to store their grain in the warehouses provided by the State and sell the commodity when prices were high instead of taking it to the mandis at harvest time, thus helping the intermediary.

CHAKUNDA PLANTS

Make Good Silage

Chakunda (*Cassia tora*) plants, which in fresh state are avoided by cattle, make good fodder if silaged. Ensiling also helps solve the fodder problem in summer.

At present these plants are going a waste on roadsides, waste lands, river banks, tank bunds and canal borders because of their strong repulsive smell. They come up during the monsoon, start flowering in mid July, fruit in September-October and then dry up.

They have to be ensilaged before flowering. Silage prepared in a pit 20 feet long, 15 feet wide and 5 feet deep will provide enough fodder for a pair of bullocks, one cow and a calf for eight months in a year.