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We Need Good Kisans Not 'Babus'

— Shri Nehru

India's First Agricultural University Opened

"It is not the Brahmin or Kshatriya but the Kisan who should have the place of honour nowadays", said the Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, opening the first Agricultural University of the country at Rudrapur, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Nehru expressed his apprehension lest students passing out from the University turned into "babus". Therefore, he said, it should be written somewhere in bold letters and also enshrined in the hearts of the teachers and the students that it was the "home of the tillers of the soil—the kisans" and "your aim is to produce good kisans equipped with modern scientific knowledge."

Shri Nehru said: "we should try to learn all the techniques but bear in mind always that we have to work among kisans in Indian villages and under the conditions prevailing there."

The 16,000 acre Tarai State Farm, 40 miles away from Naini Tal is being handed over to this University, established on the pattern of Land Grant Colleges of the USA.

Shri Nehru remarked that the students were privileged to have a ready-made State Farm to work and experiment on; he wished that some more land, if it was available, should be attached to the farm so that students learnt the rough way, what it meant to reclaim a jungle

and thus gain practical experience.

Prime Minister also suggested that University should make arrangements to give advice and assistance to the farmers about tools, implements, fertilizers and pests.

Cooperation should be a way of life : says Prime Minister

"JOINT Farming is necessary and desirable" and "I am sure we shall ultimately perfect the system through trial and error," said the Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, speaking at the opening session of the 14-day International Seminar on Cooperative Leadership sponsored by the International Cooperative Alliance and the All India Cooperative Union at New Delhi on November 14, 1960.

"There is nothing Communist about it," he asserted, because it is based completely on the voluntary principle." A partner was allowed to withdraw after two, three or four years if he felt like it.

"My outlook at present," Mr Nehru said, "is not just of spreading this cooperative movement gradually and progressively. I want India to convulse with this movement. Broadly speaking, it should be the basic activity in every village. We should make the cooperative approach the common thinking of India. "To us", he added, "it is not merely a way of creating credit and marketing facilities, but a way of life".



Secretary of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, Shri K. D. Sharma distributing prizes to young farmers at a farmers' conference in New Delhi on November 15, 1960

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Japan's Successive Bumper Crops of Rice

By: Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture

In a Special Supplement of the "Asahi Evening News" for September, 1960, on Agriculture in Japan are contained some observations which I feel inclined to bring to the notice of the readers of *Krishak Samachar*. It says :

"Japan's agriculture is managed on a small-scale and the average cultivated area per farm household is less than one hectare (2.5 acres) ; however, the record-making crop was realized due to qualitative improvements in cultivated land, use of improved fertilisers and newly developed agriculture chemicals, the widespread use of farming implements etc."

It also gives account of how Japan has reaped the sixth successive bumper rice crop due to development of techniques. So far as the use of chemicals is concerned the article says :

"Since BHC is a compound of organic chlorine, the soda industry immediately started the production of this chemical. 24-D, the weed killer synthesized in the U.S. during World War II, acts only on broad-leaved weeds. Farmers were freed from the back-breaking work of weeding their paddy fields in the hot sun by using this weed killer.

Other effective weed eradicators such as MCP and PCP were compounded and placed on the market. Parathion preparations proved to be very effective in combating rice blight. Mercury compounds also paved the way to increased rice crops.

Parathion is stronger than BHC and effectively kills rice borers which have entered the rice stalks. When this preparation was first introduced there were many accidents resulting from carelessness in handling the poisonous insecticides. Today, farmers know how to use it correctly, and rice fields are free from damage from rice borers.

"Mercury compounds were used from before the war to disinfect rice seeds ; however, its effectiveness against rice blight was discovered only a short ten years ago.

Today, mercury compounds have replaced bordeaux mixtures in fighting rice blight. The two preparations have aided farmers in greatly increasing their yield."

"One of the greatest advantages of these preparations is that they come in powder form and are easy to use."

"The chemical industry, too, was emphasised because "of the urgent need to increase the production of food. Besides ammonium sulphate, such non-sulphuric fertilisers as urea, ammonium chloride and fused phosphate were manufactured. These new fertilisers came to be used in combination with standard fertilisers such as calcium cyanamide and Thomas slag."

"Many of the former munition-plants started production of farm machinery and farm implements, and national inspection of farm machinery was started from 1948. This resulted in a remarkable improvement in farm machinery, and promoted the mechanisation of farming."

The result of all this is claimed to be as follows

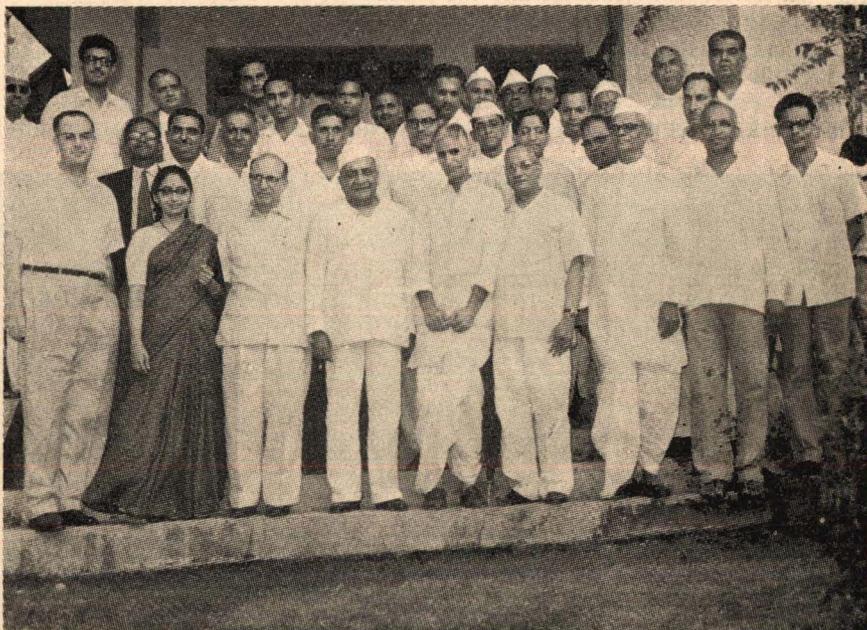
"Last year's rice crop recorded as all-time high of 12,500,000 tons, obtained from 3.28 million hectares or 8.2 million acres."

This is more or less the maximum area Japanese can get under rice. It is, however, exactly one-tenth of our area under rice at present. But our production is just about two and a half times, although our area is ten times of Japan. I have given above these quotations only to draw the attention of not only the farmers but the Governments, both at the Centre and States, research workers as well as industrialists.

Apart from increased mechanisation by small implements the high yields are attributed to the adequate incentive given by Government to the rice growers by the Government Price Policy. One of the articles in the Supplement says :

"Japan's agricultural industry owes much of its development to Government protective policies. The industrial structure of Japan's agriculture, characterized by excess

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A Group photograph taken on the recent visit of Annapurna Farm, in Bombay State by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh

Agriculture is the pivot of country's finance

Shri B. R. Bhagat

New Delhi, November 15: At a largely attended meeting of farmers today at Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Shri B.R. Bhagat, Union Deputy Minister for Finance reiterated that Agriculture was the pivot round which the country's finance revolved. The progress of our country, he added, was entirely dependent on Agricultural growth. This progress could only be gauged from the very standard of the peasants in regard to their living conditions.

The meeting was organised by Delhi Krishak Samaj on the eve of 40th anniversary celebrations of Jamia Millia Islamia. Ch. Brahm Perkash, M.P. Presided.

Earlier, Shri Gopi Nath Aman, Chairman, Public Relations Committee, Delhi and Col. Dhillon, Jt. Secretary of the Bharat Krishak Samaj urged upon farmers to make joint efforts for their welfare.

Difficulties of the farmers were discussed and a few resolutions were passed urging upon the Government to create more facilities for farmers in getting loans, better

seeds, improved implements, fertilizers and marketing their produce. Need of educating the farmers in new scientific farming techniques and training the young farmers in allied trades was also stressed upon.

Shri K.D. Sharma, Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj, presided over the later part of the function and distributed prizes to the young farmers. In his closing remarks, referring to the Government officials who "knew little about farmers' difficulties and did little towards their betterment", Shri Sharma stressing upon the need of unity among farmers said: "Get together, strengthen your voice and make them feel your difficulties."



Chief guest, Shri B.R. Bhagat with Shri K. D. Sharma on the left, Shri Gopi Nath Aman and Ch. Brahm Perkash, M.P. on the right

BKS Members Enrolment Campaign

BKS Life Members enrolment campaign was started on April 3, this year and December 31, 1960 was fixed as the closing date.

Now, on request from different units of Bharat Krishak Samaj in various states, the period has been extended till January 31, 1961.

The State Secretaries and others may please note.

Farmers listen to their leaders at Jamia Nagar meeting



Col. Dhillon addressing the farmers



Freedom From Hunger Campaign

National F.A.O. Liaison Committee

Reviews Progress

The fifteenth meeting of the National F.A.O. Liaison Committee was held at New Delhi on November 7, 1960, under the chairmanship of Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, Union Agriculture Minister.

The Committee reviewed the progress made in carrying out the Freedom From Hunger Campaign and considered the F.A.O. report on appraisal of agricultural, fishery and forestry resources in relation to needs in the lower Ganges-Brahmaputrabasi.

Dr. Deshmukh stated that India had decided to participate in the Freedom From Hunger Campaign and a National Campaign Committee had been set up. The President of India is the Patron-in-Chief, Vice-President and Prime Minister are patrons and the Minister of Food and Agriculture is the President of the Committee. The Action Programme Committee for the campaign had decided that such schemes should be taken up as were designed to supplement those included in the Third Five-Year Plan in areas where non-official effort would be more useful. The schemes recommended by the Committee are: arranging demonstration of rice growing by a team of Japanese farmers and training of selected young farmers at the demonstration centres; expansion of poultry; popularising subsidiary food encouragement of kitchen gardening and intensified vegetable growing and popularising improved agricultural implements.

The Committee also discussed the agenda of the forthcoming session of the International Rice Commission and the Fifth F.A.O. Regional Conference to be held at Saigon during the later half of this month. It was stated that considerable progress had been made in various spheres since 1951 when the country embarked upon a programme of planned development. The output of agricultural graduates has risen from about 800 in 1954 to about 1700 in 1959. During the

same period the number of veterinary graduates has gone up to 800 in 1959 against 250 in 1954. Efforts were also being made to attain self-sufficiency in foodgrains and essential raw materials so as to meet the existing and expanding requirements of our growing population, and industries as also to improve the existing low productivity and standards of living of the agricultural population.

Improvement of Agricultural Statistics

Agricultural Statisticians Meet

"The question of improving agricultural statistics had been engaging the attention of Central and State Governments for some years," said Shri K.R. Damle, Union Agriculture Secretary in his opening remarks at the 2-day Conference of Directors of Land Records and Agricultural Statisticians, sponsored by the Central Agriculture Ministry, in New Delhi on September 24, under his chairmanship. Shri Damle said: "Reliable, comprehensive and timely statistics provided a firm foundation for planning and were important for policy making and administration. The Technical Committee on Co-ordination of Agricultural Statistics in 1949 had focussed attention on the deficiencies in the agricultural statistics and had suggested lines on which the improvements were called for. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has been endeavouring to carry out the necessary improvements. It has evolved uniform concepts and definitions and it is also taking steps to enlarge the reporting area and increase the items of statistical information.

Shri Damle said that the State Governments were no doubt taking advantage of the Five-Year Plans to improve their agricultural statistics but improvement was a continuing process and one step should lead to another.

He urged the State Governments

to take urgent measures to improve land records which were essential for sound agricultural statistics. Areas must be cadastrally surveyed and village maps should be prepared showing boundaries of plots and survey numbers. A reporting agency should be set up to maintain up-to-date village papers, and to present an annual land-use pattern. The procedure it has to follow should be standardised and its work-load should be such as would be physically possible so that agricultural statistics do not become "the first casualty when the reporting agency's time and attention are required elsewhere", he said.

The conference was attended among others by Shri Tarlok Singh, Additional Secretary, Planning Commission, representatives of Central Statistical Organization, and National Sample Survey, and the Directors of Land Records, Survey and Settlement, Revenue Secretaries and Agricultural Statisticians from various States.

Import of Seed Potatoes from Burma

The Government of India have decided to permit the import of a limited quantity of seed potatoes from Burma on rupee payment during the half year October, 1960—March, 1961. The imports will be canalised through the State Trading Corporation, who will work through the Established Importers and Established Cooperative Societies. The share of each individual importer in the business will be determined on the basis of past imports of seed potatoes made by them during any one of the three financial years 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57. Prices and procedure for distribution and retail sales will be finalised by the State Trading Corporation.

Established Importers, who intend to participate in this scheme, may have their quotas established with the licensing authorities at Calcutta and Madras, as the case may be, by October 31, 1960.

Co-operative Societies, which have imported seed potatoes during any one of the three financial years ending 1956-57, will be eligible to participate in this trade, if they produce evidence of past imports to the licensing authorities.

Specific Aspects of Agricultural Development to be Assessed

Seminar on Programme Evaluation Inaugurated by Shri Nanda

New Delhi, October 10, 1960. Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Minister of Planning and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, said here today that the Commission's Programme Evaluation Organization would this year cover a considerably larger area than before. He emphasized that the evaluation had to be adequate and sound so that the conclusions reached could reflect the general conditions in the community development blocks.

Inaugurating a five-day seminar convened by the P.E.O., Shri Nanda said that the programme evaluation work was very essential, particularly because the programme of rural development, being evaluated by the Organization, was of the highest importance to the nation. In spite of the limited resources at our disposal, a sizable portion had been allotted to this programme. The importance of the rural sector would grow in future as activities besides agriculture would be developed there, like village and small scale industries.

New ideas, the Planning Minister said, were being injected into our villages and new revolutionary movements were spreading there and the country wanted to know, apart from physical results, what economic and social changes were taking place. This was the task of the P.E.O. to find out what results were being achieved in the field in relation to our objectives. If the results were uneven, they had to find out the causes of this phenomenon.

Shri Nanda stressed the scientific and objective nature of programme evaluation and said the independent character of this work had to be cherished and maintained by all those connected with it. The machinery had to be perfected as far as possible because the conclusions reached in the course of programme evaluation were important in the context of framing and executing programmes.

The Seminar is being attended by Programme Evaluation Officers working in block and district areas in different parts of the country.

The discussions are in the nature of technical stock-taking of the past year and theoretical preparations for the year to follow.

Speaking on this occasion, Shri S.K. Dey, Minister for Community Development and Cooperation said that the Evaluation Officers had to keep themselves in tune with the programme so that their evaluation could be constructive. Evaluation reports, he said, should help the administrators in finding out the causes leading to deficiencies and in applying correctives.

Shri Shriman Narain said the evaluation work would now be of a more intensive character. This year, the programme evaluation would cover specific programmes connected with intensive agriculture. The subjects to be covered were fuller utilization of irrigation potential, multiplication and distribution of seeds and multiple cropping. These programmes were of great importance and therefore it had been decided that the P.E.O. should evaluate their impact.

Emphasizing that the organization had a function without fear or favour, Shri Shriman Narayan said that the P.E.O. had to point out the facts as they were. There should be no attempt at highlighting or under-evaluating any aspect. At the same time, deficiencies had to be brought out. He said the work would now cover more and more new blocks while some of the old blocks would also be evaluated. The work of the organization would be expanded, if necessary, to cover a larger area.

Tariff commission to revise Price-linking Formula

The Government of India have referred to the Tariff Commission the question of revising the price linking formula for sharing the sugar prices between the factories and the cane-growers. The Government consider that a fresh examination of the question has become necessary, in view of the difficulties experienced in working of the present formula and the representations received from the industry and the cane-growers.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING ON VOLUNTARY BASIS HIGH LEVEL BOARD SET UP

The Government of India have constituted a National Co-operative Farming Advisory Board with Shri S. K. Dey, Union Minister of Community Development and Co-operation, as Chairman.

The Board consists of 24 members, viz. Shri B. S. Murthy, Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation; Shri S. D. Misra, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Community Development & Co-operation; four Ministers from the States and four Members of Parliament. Among the Ministers are Shri Rathubhai Adani from Gujerat, and Shri Birchand Patel from Bihar. The other two Ministers will be from Maharashtra and Madras respectively. Among the Members of Parliament are Sarvashri Brahm Perakash, Keshav Rao, Ram Reddy and Mool Chand Jain.

The other members comprise five non-officials connected with co-operative farming, an executive member, an agricultural economist and one representative each of the Reserve Bank of India, Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Department of Agriculture and Department of Co-operation respectively. The Additional Co-operation Commissioner will be the Secretary of the Board. Among non-officials invited to serve on the Board are Shri R. K. Patil, a former Minister in Madhya Pradesh and ex-member of the Planning Commission and Shri Anna Saheb Sahasrabudhe, a member of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

The Board has been entrusted with the task of Planning and promoting the programme of co-operative farming on a voluntary basis. It will review the progress and suggest modifications, if necessary. It will examine the question of obtaining the people's participation in the programme and suggest arrangements for education and training of personnel required for implementing the scheme. The terms of reference include: organisation of studies and schemes of research relating to co-operative farming, technical supervision and guidance and recommendations regarding financial assistance.

Satisfying condition of crops in various States

During the last few weeks as a result of my visit to different places, I have had a great opportunity to see the growing crops in a large number of States. I observed them while on my way to Surana in the district of Saharanpur and on my way back when I came via Roorkee. I then observed them in Eastern U.P. and Western Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Vidarbha area as well as the districts of Poona, Thana and Colaba of Maharashtra. In most places except Vidarbha area, the predominant crop was paddy.

As I have already reported in my last letter, this was a pleasant sight to see and the fact that some at least of the practices are being resorted to by farmers on a large-scale filled my heart with joy and satisfaction. My statement that we may except this year a record paddy crop was based more on ocular observation rather than on any specific data collected by my Ministry. I am, however, happy that my general impression is borne out by the reports received in my Ministry from various States.

The crop diseases and preventive measures

Most of the paddy crop is very nearly home and, therefore, we do not now run much risk of any adverse effect although there has been damage in south India owing to excessive rains. The *jowar* and cotton crops in Vidarbha also were in a very fine condition although they are not altogether free yet from future calamities. Even at the time of my touring, there were complaints that the disease called *Dahya* was affecting the cotton crop and, therefore, the farmers in some places were distressed about it. The outbreak has rather been limited, in many places, however, the farmers cannot blame the Government because the Government had taken precaution of making powdered sulphur available to the Panchayats for the prevention of the disease. But many people in the Panchayats did not use it because they did not think that this disease would occur at such a late stage. They were thus caught napping with the result that some of them have suffered some damage. In this connection I would like to impress upon my farmer friends that we should always try to err on the side of safety rather than be caught in the way the cotton growers have allowed themselves to be caught as described above. Actually, almost everywhere in the world wherever agriculture has made progress no farmer waits for the outbreak of a disease or the appearance of pests before dusting or spraying the crops. The Indian farmers will also have to learn the same lesson and not wait for the disease to occur.

It is common knowledge that the *Arhar* (*Tur-Red gram*) crop is often affected by a disease which occurs soon after the flowering stage when the

weather becomes cloudy. I am reliably informed that if about that time the preventive measures recommended by the departments are taken, there can be no fear of the occurrence of the disease and thus we could assure ourselves of a good *Arhar* crop regularly. This single precaution is, therefore, capable of conferring great benefits on the farmers as well as the country. I have already referred to the neglect from which our pulse crops suffer and I hope that due attention will be paid to increasing the yield of this highly paying and valuable crop which is so essential for a vegetarian country like ours.

The excellent *jowar* and cotton crops in Maharashtra as I believe elsewhere also have, however, yet to face risks. While the *jowar* crop is liable to suffer from untimely heavy rains the cotton crop may be affected by early evaporation of moisture. I have already heard that the cotton crop in some areas is showing signs of being affected as a result of premature drying.

Higher prices for better quality of Cotton

There have been also complaints about the prices of cotton especially with respect to certain varieties which, according to the farmers, are of a sufficiently long staple deserving higher prices than are permitted. My Ministry is trying to look into this matter.

Popularity of the BKS

After inaugurating a very successful Seminar on Tobacco at Guntur I went to the districts of Damoh and Saugor (Madhya Pradesh). Curiously enough, I went to these districts for the first time although I was Minister in-charge of Education, Agriculture, P.W.D. and Cooperation in the old Province of C.P. & Bihar some thirty years ago. This is a delightful area where there is a large Tribal population, but the abundance of small rivers and rivulets makes it most fascinating. One rather feels sorry that so much good water is not yet being utilised to any large extent.

The farm leaders in Damoh district enrolled as many as 104 life members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj within less than two weeks. This shows how the people are ready to join the Bharat Krishak Samaj provided some one spares the time to approach them, to speak to them and acquaint them with the work which the Bharat Krishak Samaj is doing and has done.

Before going to Guntur I inaugurated in Madras the Madras Agmark, Packers' Association. This is an Association probably the very first of its kind in the whole of India and the promoters, therefore, deserve to be congratulated. The major aim of the Association is to promote grading under 'Agmark', which is the national insignia, statutorily adopted in this country to denote quality and purity of agricultural produce. It encompasses all produce of agriculture, horticulture, livestock and all articles of food and drink, wholly or partly manufactured from any such produce.

Although there might have been some shortcomings in the process of agmarking and popularising the Agmark, it should be a matter of commonsense to every farmer that grading of his produce should be a matter of a sacred religion for him. Grading means sorting out of various products according to different quality and characteristics. This is already known as the basic function in agricultural marketing. It is most unfortunate that the farmers have so far not paid much attention to this matter. Agricultural raw material is raised under varying environmental conditions and agronomic practices, but it is apparent that each particular quality or grade has its own market and has its own price. If these grades and qualities are allowed to be mixed up, it should be quite manifest to every one that the buyer will pay the price of the lowest grade.

I want to draw the attention of my farmer friends to this with the utmost earnestness. Grading may be difficult with respect to certain crops and certain varieties but there are many others where there can be no difficulty whatever in the use of some. A particular variety of seed either of wheat or rice or cotton will produce only that quality of grain or fibre. Now, if we take sufficient pains to keep it separate and unadulterated we are sure to get the price for that particular quality sooner or later, may be the farmers will have to work hard towards achieving this end. But it is imperative that every farmer must make a beginning in this direction.

This applies also to eggs, lemons, oranges, pappaya, in fact, all fruits and vegetables. I quite see that every farmer cannot do it just by himself but a farmers' committee in a village or at the block level should be able to guide the other farmers and then insist upon particular price being paid to them. I would like my friends to bear this in mind constantly. Apart from other things, if we could make our farmers grade-conscious, we would have contributed a great deal in the improvement of their economic condition as well as in minimising adulteration, which is so rampant in our country. Along with making every effort to grade the produce and to bring it under Agmark, we will have also to cultivate the habit of purchasing the Agmark goods. It will be only then that whatever is graded will fetch a proper price and will receive recognition at the hands of the people at large. This is, therefore, a kind of a double responsibility but if we can make a serious effort to discharge it, we will be doing great service to ourselves as well as the consumers.

Constitution of BKS Committees on district level

I think it is now time that we paid more attention to the constitution of Committees of the Bharat Krishak Samaj not only at the district level but also at the Block level. The blocks are not becoming a recognised entity and, therefore, I would like to judge the efficiency of the workers of the Bharat Krishak Samaj by knowing from them the number of blocks in which the Bharat Krishak Samaj Committees are functioning properly. I can assure you that if we are able to do this, we would have not only carried our organization down to at least some

of the villages but also we shall be able to claim recognition and representation in the name of the organization on various committees and other bodies, that are set up by Government. I would, therefore, draw the attention of all workers in the States to make a definite plan of work so that every block will have a minimum of 5 to 11 life members and we will have an active office opened there. There should also be a large number of ordinary members so that there is no village where the Bharat Krishak Samaj has not got some group of active workers of the Samaj.

Planning Commission Recommendations of the Agricultural Panel

On the 16th and 17th October, Shri Shriman Narayan, Member for Agriculture of the Planning Commission called the second meeting of the Panel of Agriculture. After 2 days of deliberations this Panel which consisted of a large number of practical farmers, many of whom are members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and experts made certain recommendations, the more important of which are summarised below :

They consider the target as reasonable and capable of achievement but thought that the financial outlay was very inadequate. The importance of ensuring adequate price incentive for increased agricultural production was emphasised and it was always suggested that the consumer goods needed by the cultivator should be made available at reasonable prices. They referred to lack of supplies of such things as spare parts, power, credit etc. as hindrances to increased production. They emphasised expansion of minor irrigation, removal of water-logging, provision of larger quantity of fertilisers and manures better dry farming practices, more attention to soil conservation, plant protection, the evolution of high yielding varieties of crops etc.

The Memorandum framed by the Bharat Krishak Samaj was duly submitted to the Planning Commission and its copies made available to all the members of the Panel.

Panjabrao Deshmukh

Field Produce Competition at NAF

Members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj are invited to send any outstanding produce from their fields such as ears of jowar, Bajra, maize, fruits and vegetables that would last long, etc. for exhibiting in the BKS Stall in the National Agriculture Fair to be held in Calcutta from December 24, 1960 to February 20, 1961. The exhibits should be such as to stand All India competition and should be forwarded through the Krishak Samajs of different States.

For further details, Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj, A-1, Nizamuddin West, New Delhi-13 or the Director, National Agriculture Fair Taratala Road, Alipore, Calcutta-27, may be contacted.

Adequate Credit to all Classes of Cultivators

Decisions on V. L. Mehta Committee's Recommendations

All classes of cultivators, including the landless tenants, are to be provided with adequate credit on the basis of their production requirements and repaying capacity. This is in pursuance of a decision taken by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation on the recommendations of the Committee on Cooperative Credit, under the Chairmanship of Shri V.L. Mehta, as approved by the last meeting of the National Development Council. The decision has been communicated to the State Governments.

Other decisions taken by the Government of India relate to the pattern of organisation of village cooperative societies, State partnership in share capital of primary agricultural credit societies, outright grants to primary societies and Central Banks for providing special "bad debt reserves" and grants to primary societies for managerial expenses.

Cooperatives, the State Governments have been requested, are to be organised, as a general rule on the basis of the village community as a primary unit.

Where the villages are too small, a number of villages, with a total population of up to 3,000 and situated at a distance of not more than 3 to 4 miles from the headquarters village, may be grouped together in the interests of viability.

Viability of a cooperative society is to be determined on the basis of its capacity to bring into the cooperative fold all rural families and to effectively implement the village agricultural production plans. Its ability to link credit with production and marketing, as also to supervise the use of credit, undertaking distribution and supply, and to attract local savings to the maximum possible extent, as share capital and as deposits, are also to be taken into consideration.

State Participation in Share Capital

The State may participate in the share capital of a primary agricultural society, provided that 60 per cent of its members agree to such participation and the Central Bank to which the society is affiliated supports the proposal.

While the maximum contribution made by the State to the share capital of a primary society is to be limited, ordinarily, to Rs. 5,000, in the case of large villages, backward areas, and selected areas coming under irrigation or large scale reclamation for the first time, the State's contribution could be up to a maximum of Rs. 10,000. - State's share capital is, however, not to exceed the contribution made by the members of the society and, as a normal rule, is to be indirect, i.e. through the apex and central banks.

Outright grants to primary societies and Central Banks are to be credited to the "special bad debt reserves", which would be in addition to the normal bad debt reserves created with profits, and which are to be drawn, according to rules framed for the purpose.

Managements Grants

Cooperative societies which are revitalised and actually undertake various functions of service cooperatives, namely disbursement of credit, supply of fertilizers, insecticides, seeds, implements, etc., and arrange for the marketing of members' produce, will get a management grant to the maximum of Rs 900 spread over a period of 3 to 5 years.

PROPER TRAINING AND EDUCATION NEEDED

A Study Team on Co-operative Training and Education has been set up by the Government of India.

Shri S. D. Misra, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, has been appointed Leader of the ten-

member Team. The other members are Shri Jagan Nath Prasad Pahadia, Member of the Lok Sabha; Shri P. S. Rajagopal Naidu; Shri J. C. Ryan, Member Secretary, Central Committee for Co-operative Training, Bombay; Professor K. Subrahmanyam Naidu, Prof. of Co-operation, Andhra University; Shri Devinder Nath, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madhya Pradesh; Shri A. P. Dewan, Joint Development Commissioner, Rajasthan; and a representative each of the All India Co-operative Union, New Delhi, and the Union Ministry of Education. A Deputy Secretary of the Department of Co-operation will be the Member-Secretary.

The team has been entrusted with the task of examining the adequacy of the present arrangements for co-operative education and training and make recommendations for evolving a training programme, commensurate with the requirements of co-operative development during the Third Five Year Plan.

Protection of Farmers' Interests

SHRI S.K. Patil, speaking in the Lok Sabha on November 15, assured that the Government would take necessary action and enter the market to protect farmers' interests if the present downward trend in foodgrain prices continued.

Seminar on Cooperative Leadership

(From page 1)

Dr Mauritz Bonow, President of the International Cooperative Alliance, said that the Alliance was the largest non-Governmental cooperative organization in the world. It had a membership exceeding 150 million families engaged in cooperative enterprise in 48 countries.

The seminar, he said, was of paramount importance for the cooperative movement in the newly-developing regions of South-East Asia. It marked a new chapter in the history of the Alliance. In New Delhi it was now establishing a regional office and an educational centre. The Alliance had made plans for large-scale technical assistance for workers in the cooperative movement and had enlisted the support of experts from France, West Germany and Sweden.

Five Fold Increase In Sugarcane Yield

Andhra Farmer's Success Story

Attention to details and tending the soil with love and care—this is the secret of the five-fold increase in sugarcane yield achieved by Yelamanchili Venkatachalam of Andhra Pradesh.

It was in 1938 that Venkatachalam of Boddapadu in Krishna District started growing sugarcane, putting two acres under it. He got less than 25 tons of cane per acre. Never satisfied with what he got out of his land, he conducted trials on his farm and adopted the methods he found best.

With the help of officials of the State Agriculture Department, he tried improved methods of cane cultivation, using better varieties. In 1956-57 he won the first prize in the All-India sugarcane crop competition with a yield of 115 tons.

And this is the story of his success: he ploughed the field deep with a tractor in March 1956 to the one-acre competition plot from which he reaped the record harvest. The clods were broken and the field ploughed cross-wise six times. A basal dose of 15 cartloads of well-rotted farmyard manure was added to the field and trenches were opened four feet apart. An improved variety, Co. 527 cane, was planted.

The first top-dressing was given 45 days after planting with 480 pounds of powdered groundnut cake and 336 pounds of ammonium sulphate. The second top-dressing was done in June with 672 pounds of ammonium sulphate, and 2,464 pounds of powdered groundnut cake were applied in the rows. The crop was later earthed up.

Venkatachalam had found by experience that merely heavy application of fertilizers and manures did not give higher yields. According to him, "good drainage is a must for good sugarcane crop, as it results in a better response to manures. The drainage channels, therefore, should be provided along with irrigation channels." Venkatachalam had dug out one drainage channel for every 20 trenches. This facilitated the drainage of excess water, particularly during the heavy rains from June to September.

As the crop had a very luxuriant growth in August-September, he propped it up with 2,500 tall bamboos, erecting them at regular intervals all over the field along the trenches, and tied the sugarcane leaves to them the "trash twist method".

From November onwards, he irrigated the crop every 18 days till May 1957. When the plot was harvested the same month, the crop had attained a height of 22 feet and yielded 115 tons. He bettered his own record in the next year, with a yield of 116 tons.

Cooperative Farming Some Facts

1. The National Development Council has recently laid down that 3,200 pilot projects for cooperative farming should be undertaken, in addition to the programmes for the development of cooperative farming to be formulated by the States for the Third Plan period.

2. The objective is to lay the foundations for the development of cooperative farming so that, over the next ten years or so, a substantial portion of agricultural land is cultivated on cooperative lines.

3. The Council also re-affirmed that there should be no compulsion in the organisation of farming cooperatives.

4. There are already over 1,400 cooperative joint and collective farming societies in India, of which about 1,100 are actually working.

5. They have a membership of 39,075 of whom nearly 25,000 work on the farms. The area covered by their operations is about three lakh acres.

6. Apart from organised societies, there are several traditional forms of cooperation in farming.

7. In many Adivasi areas like the Dang district of Gujarat and in NEFA joint cultivation and sharing of the harvest are commonly practised.

8. In some areas of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh as well as the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, groups of landless workers undertake agricultural work on a collective basis.

9. In Kolhapur in Maharashtra, joint farming of sugarcane has been practised for a long time. The participants pool their resources of land, labour, equipment and share the harvest.

10. In the Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh, joint cultivation has been practised on traditional lines.

11. Under the Bhoodan Movement joint cultivation has been introduced in a number of Gramdan villages.

12. The desirability of extending cooperation to farming was stressed by the Advisory Board of the former Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in a memorandum on the development of agriculture and animal husbandry in 1944.

13. In the plan of economic development formulated in 1944 by leading industrialists, popularly known as the Bombay Plan, cooperative farming was described as a solution of the problem of the small size of agricultural holdings in India.

14. The Bombay Plan went so far as to say that some measure of compulsion was necessary to introduce cooperative farming.

15. Yet another body which recommended cooperative farming as a means to increase agricultural production was the Cooperative Planning Committee which expressed this view in a report in 1945.

16. In the First and the Second Five Year Plans the importance of cooperative farming was stressed for increasing agricultural production and improving the lot of the small and middle farmers.

17. The cooperative farming societies functioning in India so far are organised as better farming societies, which are more or less multi-purpose societies or service cooperatives, tenant farming societies, in which members cultivate individual plots according to a plan, joint farming societies where the ownership is with the individual but land is pooled and jointly cultivated, and collective farming societies which hold the land and other means of production and undertake joint cultivation.

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GRAM VARIETY MATURING IN 120 DAYS

Any one who grows horse-gram would like to have a variety that yields high. One such variety is now being distributed to the farmers in Madras State.

Going by the name of *Co. 1*, the new variety gives 700 to 800 pounds of grain per acre, which means that farmer gets 200 pounds gram extra or Rs. 40 per acre as additional income.

Co. 1 is a fast growing, semi-erect plant with spreading branches. The gram is of buff colour.

The crop, sown with the onset of the North-east Monsoon, is ready for harvest in 120 days.

THE EGG-EATING HEN SPOT HER OUT

Don't accuse all the birds in your flock if you find an egg broken and the birds have their faces smeared with the yellow of the yolk.

Experience shows that it is only one bird in the flock that actually breaks the egg open. Once the egg is broken open, many other hens will join eating it, and get their combs and faces smeared with the yolk in the process.

To save the eggs, you have to spot the bird that actually does it. For this, you need to keep a close watch. Remove any bird you suspect having tasted a broken egg, and put her in a separate coop. If you keep a normal egg in the coop, and if the bird was the real offender, she will attack the egg.

It is best you dispose of the offending bird. If you don't want to do so, then give her a porcelain egg in the coop. She will make futile attempts to break open this egg and it is likely that this will make her give up the vice thereafter.

TRANSPLANTING WHEAT A SUCCESSFUL TECHNIQUE

The new technique of raising wheat seedlings first in nurseries and transplanting the same in the fields should be adopted by farmers in areas where wheat cannot be sown in time, farm experts point out.

In many wheat-growing areas, farmers are unable to sow wheat in time. This may be due to the flooding of the fields by rivers in spate or the late arrival of the monsoon. Sometimes, when wheat follows paddy or maize, the wheat sowings get delayed.

Wheat sown late yields poor. Many farmers prefer not to sow the crop at all to sowing late.

The new technique consists of raising wheat seedlings in well-prepared nurseries, using 70 pounds of seed for sowing every 1/20 of an acre of the nursery. The seedlings from this area will be sufficient for transplanting an acre of land. If the seed is sown in the first week of November, seedlings can be planted in mid-December.

In the main field, seedlings are planted in rows, and spaced ten inches each way.

The field is irrigated soon after transplanting and a second irrigation, if necessary, is given six weeks later. The crop is fertilized at 30 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

SAVING IN WHEAT SEED REDUCED SEED-RATE GIVES BETTER YIELD

The seed-rate commonly used by farmers for wheat can be reduced to a little more than half with good results.

Research has now proved that with increase in seed-rate the crop does not give similar increase in yield.

In fact, when different seed-rates of 24, 32 and 40 seers were used for irrigated wheat in experiments, the difference in yields was not very much.

It was seen that the seed-rate for irrigated wheat can be safely reduced to 24 seers per acre, thus effecting a considerable saving in wheat seed. Farmers normally use a maund of seed per acre.

NITROGEN SHOWS RESULTS

Fertilizer that Barley Needs

What fertilizer and how much of it should you apply to get a good barley yield? The answer is 25 pounds of nitrogen per acre, reports the Government Barley Research Farm, Gurgaon in the Punjab.

This is based on research results.

The crop was given various doses of nitrogen and phosphorus, singly as well as in combination. Of the various fertilizers and doses given, 25 pounds of nitrogen gave the best results.

GETTING THE BEST FROM POTATO

Research Findings

Research conducted for many years on the potato crop is helping farmers raise a better crop in the country, it was recently pointed out.

Research, for example, has shown that all commercial potato varieties benefit very well when given nitrogen, and that among the nitrogenous fertilizers, ammonium sulphate is the most suited.

The potato also needs phosphate to help it make better use of the nitrogen, research has shown. Phosphates give good results, especially in the lighter soils. The crop will also benefit by being given potash. Foreign varieties and hybrids need sufficient quantities of this plant food.

For best yields, the crop has to be given a combination of organic manures with chemical fertilizers.

Regarding cultural practices for the best results, the crop should be given a spacing of 18 inches between rows and 9 inches between tubers in soils of average fertility, using 1½ ounce seed-pieces for seed.

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population and limited arable land, called for agricultural policies more in the nature of social than industrial policies."

"The protection of the farm household income through farm produce price policies was given priority over the improvement of the agricultural productivity and the reform of the management structure."

"The movement of the farmers' unions after the farmland reform was also mainly struggles centering around the price of farm products."

"The method of deciding the price of rice has undergone many changes. The parity income formula replaced the original parity price formula, and this was again revised to the present cost and income compensation formula."

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