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ALL INDIA FARMERS COUNCIL MEET AT BHUBANESWAR

The Sixth Meeting of the All India Farmers' Council was held in Bhubaneswar the new capital of Orissa State, on November 22 and 23, 1958. A large number of farmers hailing from all parts of Orissa, agricultural experts and officers and over 200 delegates representing the various States of India were present on the occasion. The meeting was held in the hall of the Utkal Krishi Mahavidyalaya and was inaugurated by Shri Harekrushna Mahtab, Chief Minister, Orissa. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj was in the Chair.

Among the State Ministers present on the occasion were Shri Radhanath Rath, Development Minister, Orissa; Shri M.H. Chaudhry, Minister of Agriculture, Assam; Shri Jagat Narain Lal, Minister of Co-operation, Bihar; Shri Chandrika Ram, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Bihar and Shri S.S.N. Mushran, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh. Officers of the Department of Agriculture, Orissa, were also present at the meeting.

The inaugural session of the Council began at 10 a.m. on November 22 with a reception song.

Shri Radhanath Rath, Development Minister, Orissa and President, Utkal Pradesh Krishak Samaj, welcomed the

members of the Council to the capital of Orissa. He said, "We are meeting here at a crucial moment when the whole country has been called upon to bend all its energies in making agriculture a success. The Prime Minister has already declared, the National Development Council has already directed and the right thinking people of the country have already realized that **unless we make this great country self-sufficient in food and that unless there is greater production of agricultural raw materials for industries, we may be heading towards a disaster in this world of complex politics and of social, economical and ideological conflicts.**

"There had been persistent reminders to the people to step up agricultural

production as an emergency measure by all possible means, but unfortunately the results have not been as required and anticipated. There are various reasons no doubt for the short-falls. The system of land tenure prevalent in different parts of the country, the long talk of Land Reforms and their repercussions on agriculture and its productive activity, the price factor, the marketing facilities, the question of stabilisation of rights and interests and prices, application of improved techniques in agriculture, the amelioration of the condition of the agricultural landless labourers, the formation of co-operatives in the field of farming and agriculture, the co-operative pattern of financing, the agricultural development schemes—these and other allied matters have very important bearings on the programme of food production. Therefore, the present session of the Council of the Krishak Samaj will be a momentous one since we may have to examine in some details these questions and embody our conclusions and

All India Farmers' Council meeting at Bhubaneswar. Left : Shri Mahtab, Chief Minister, Orissa addressing the meeting. Seated on chair are Shri Radhanath Rath, Shri K.D. Sharma and Dr. P.S. Deshmukh. Right : A section of the gathering.



recommendations on the basis of the collective judgement of our Conference under the able guidance of our illustrious president who has proved to be an excellent captain in steering the ship of development of agriculture in the country.

"We take pride in another fact, which has been acknowledged on all hands, that Orissa is the land of universal brotherhood. Just as in India all classes of people of different colours, faiths and denominations have made it their home, so also in Orissa, the land of Lord Jagannath, people of all faiths, classes and communities have lived in perfect harmony and have effectively contributed to an integrated culture. There is nothing like high and low here, all are equal. In this ideal of universal brotherhood, conduct your deliberations in an atmosphere of peace and cordiality and your wise decisions will be of very great importance in stimulating the spirit of comradeship, in executing the programme of greater production in agriculture and making the country self-supporting and thereby ensuring the security of Free India."

Dr. P.S. Deshmukh then requested Shri Harekrushna Mahtab, Chief Minister of Orissa to inaugurate the meeting.

Inaugural Address by Shri Mahtab

Delivering the inaugural address **Shri Harekrushna Mahtab** said, "I am so glad that you have assembled here from all parts of India to discuss the broad problems of agriculture and determine how to increase the agricultural production in the coming few years. You are all experienced farmers and you know all about agriculture, perhaps much more than those who are working as officers or ministers in the Agriculture Departments. Although I do not claim to be an experienced farmer, I think I can claim to have some knowledge of farming, as I was born and brought up in a typical village of Orissa.

"The science of cultivation has been studied in great detail and many improvements have been brought about and more is being done in the field of cultivation. But I wonder whether the farmer's instinct has been correctly understood by those who are in charge of the organisation of agriculture. The village farmer is not much an ignorant person as he looks. The accumulated experience of generations has gone into his veins. He may not be able to argue his point, but he knows what will

give him the best result. He is prepared to accept the improvements which science has produced today, provided his instinct is satisfied that these improvements will give him the best result. From this point of view, model farms are necessary to show the actual result. Heretofore it is only the Government who have undertaken model farms. I cannot say that it has been a great success from the point of view of satisfying the instinct of the farmer.

"Those of you who are assembled here, I am sure, must have your own farms and these farms, I am sure, must be working as models in the surrounding areas. The larger the number of such model farms, the better for the improvement of agriculture and more and more agricultural production. When you meet annually on this Forum, I think you compare notes amongst yourselves and try to analyse the causes and effects in different regions of this great country.

"So far as this State is concerned, our per acre yield is very low. This State grows mainly paddy which is both money and cash crop for the agriculturists. Development of irrigation facilities has been undertaken systematically only after independence. Large tracts still go without water. A part of the State is subject to periodical devastating inundations. All these have combined to make this State rather a poor agricultural State. Nevertheless, it is a potentially rich State from the point of view of agriculture. But everything depends on irrigation and organisation. There may be some other States like Orissa where agriculturists, having been discomfited by Nature from generation to generation, have turned towards their fate. Here the science has to play its own role. Nature has to be brought under control and self-confidence has to be created in the agriculturist so that he may turn towards hard work rather than Fate.

"Considering the agricultural position of India as a whole, we have to admit that uptil now we have not proved ourselves to be equal to the task. The fact of large-scale import of food-stuff from outside should engage the attention of all thinking agriculturists. India is backward in industry. She had once the reputation of being a good agricultural country. But if agriculture does not give enough food to eat, then I do not know on what basis India will stand and make her plan. Nowadays we hear much of agricultural activities of other countries.

But I do not know whether agricultural activities of every region of this country are carefully discussed anywhere except on this Forum. Our agriculturists are hard-working people. There must be some difficulty somewhere which prevents the agriculturists from getting more from his land. It may be the facilities which are required for better agriculture are not there. It may be that the farmer is confused over the various land reform measures which are made and proposed to be made. It may be the general trend of the planning is not in accord with the agricultural life of the country. There may be various other reasons also. But all these have to be very carefully analysed. Over-simplification or over-generalisation will not help. India is such a vast country that conditions differ not only from region to region but also from area to area in some regions. This being the position, no general solution can be suggested for India as a whole. **The agricultural plannings, therefore, should be on the basis of different areas having different climates for agriculture.** Your deliberations here will be helpful not only to the Ministry of Agriculture in Delhi but also to various State Governments who have set their heart on improvement of agriculture.

"It has been decided that India should be industrialised. Without industrialisation, the country cannot have the standard of living she desires. Nor can she compete with other countries today. Industrialisation has to take its root in agriculture. In the past, agriculture was inextricably tied up with various home and village industries. Now when the process of industrialisation has started, it should be seen that industry begins from agriculture. Agriculture itself should be placed on an industrial footing. This can be done if a plan is made to process all agricultural products on the spot or as near the production as possible. Naturally, for processing agricultural products on a large scale, small modern machineries have to be used.

"When every village will begin to use small machineries for processing the agricultural products, there have to be shops for repair and spare parts, for groups of villages. There have to be plans for manufacturing the small machineries for every district. These plans then will be connected with the big steel plants and other big industries. In this scheme, rural electrification naturally has to play a great role. If, in

this way, the agriculture is tied up with small modern industries on a large scale, I am sure India will attain that prosperity which she aspires for. Agriculture, therefore, is not to be considered separately from the processing industries. **It will be useful, I think, if this Forum also takes into consideration the processing of agricultural products as near the production spot as possible, thus providing a helpful companion to the agriculture which has been left alone so long.**

"Another problem which may have occurred to you is the question of prices for agricultural products. The agriculturists in the villages are not so vociferous as the consumers in the cities and towns. Naturally, therefore, the latter's voice is listened to more than the former's. In the interest of agricultural production, economic prices have to be given to the agriculturist for whatever he produces. If the middleman's interest is eliminated, then the consumer also will have his supplies at a reasonable price. It is therefore a very welcome development that it has now been decided that the State should undertake trading in foodgrains. The object of State Trading in foodgrains is two-fold. One is to assure an economic fair price to the producer and the other is to supply the consumer at a reasonable price. I am convinced, State Trading, with this double purpose in view, will put the economy of the State on a sound footing. We will start the work this year and I hope it will be a success. On this Forum you may discuss amongst yourselves the State Trading as well as the economic price for the agricultural products.

"These are some of the points which have occurred to me to place before you. You may have many more points to be discussed. I wish you all success. With this, I inaugurate the Sixth Meeting of the All India Farmers' Council."

Dr. Deshmukh's Address

The meeting was then addressed by the President **Dr. P.S. Deshmukh**. He said, "It is a matter of great pleasure to us that Shri Radhanath Rath, the Chief Minister and the Orissa Government have invited us to hold our Council Meeting here. The decision to hold the meeting in this Krishi Mahavidyalaya is very appropriate, because the whole surrounding is agricultural, befitting the occasion.

"I am told that the paddy crop this year is very good. Orissa has on many an occasion come to the rescue of the whole country. During the war period and after, when the food shortage was critical and when the rice eating population specially had great difficulty, the only State on which we could depend with confidence was Orissa. For this it is our *Kisan* brethren of Orissa who are to be praised. It was they who produced more rice than they needed and fed the whole country at a very low cost. For the past 10 or 12 years Orissa has been selling its rice at a cheaper price than any other State. Of course, this was mainly because the purchasers did not want to give a higher price. For a long time the farmers of Orissa could not get more than Rs. 7/- per maund for their rice. I think that the purchase price, Rs. 15/- now declared by the Government is higher than at which rice in Orissa has been selling. Seeing this it is not surprising that Orissa has remained poor.

"The most important problem facing our farmers is that of price. I was happy to learn yesterday that the Central Government has permitted the State Governments of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh to purchase rice @ Rs. 15/- per maund and we are thankful to Government for this. If there is going to be State Trading, all State Governments should make it a point not to procure rice for less than Rs. 15/-. No farmer should sell his paddy for less than Rs. 10/-. My request to the Government of India, Governments in the States, Co-operatives, etc. is that they should buy rice at Rs. 15/- since they have fixed that price, but if for the same rice they in their turn get a higher price within the same State or in another State or outside the country, then some attempts should be made to give the benefit of that higher price to the farmers.

"I do not know of any other country in the world where, when the harvest arrives, the prices are very low and then they go on rising even to the extent of being twice or thrice of those that prevailed at the harvest time.

"In China and Japan I saw, when I was there recently, that prices of all agricultural commodities were fixed. The condition of farmers in Japan is excellent. For the past four years or so they have been having bumper crops. But it is not merely having bumper crops that benefits farmers, for we have seen in India that a bumper crop actual-

ly means lower prices and greater hardships for our farmers. This does not happen in Japan. The farmers there get the full benefit of growing bumper crops. They have got it in all the last four years or so. Prices there are very steady. We should try to achieve something similar here. Only then can our farmers make any progress.

"There is in our country a lot of talk about agricultural reforms and demand for ceilings on land, etc. We have had very frank discussions in favour and against on this subject and we have placed the recommendations before Government without being prejudiced. We have favoured neither side. I only want to appeal to some powerful speakers here that they should understand and discuss this principle— **that lesser the number of people dependent on agriculture, in any country, the greater is that country's progress and prosperity.** This is a universal truth and nobody can deny it. Now, in our country, if more people are added to those who are already dependent upon agriculture then we are in for trouble and we will not make any progress.

"Why is our agriculture in such a bad state? We should hang our heads in shame at our very low per acre yields as compared to other countries of the world. What is the cause for it? It is very simple. Millions of our farmers are living and farming in conditions in which they do not produce enough even to feed themselves. How can they do better farming? Agriculture requires immense labour, good irrigation, good seeds, manures, fertilizers, etc. Now can a person who cannot even feed himself satisfactorily have all the requisites to put into his fields? How can he increase his production?

"Let the people and the leaders realize this truth and make every effort not to add to the number of people already dependent upon agriculture but try to decrease the number and divert people engaged in farming to other professions.

"You may have ceilings. You may even confiscate land of those who do not farm properly, but see that those to whom you give the land are in a position to raise food production. Otherwies, with millions already living on subsistence farming, who cannot farm satisfactorily, you will only add more and more to people who will not be able to do farming economically and

there will never be any increase in our food production.

“Then there is the problem of prices. If after spending on our production, after spending on our food and clothes, we have some money left over to put back into our fields to improve our agriculture, only then can we raise a better crop next year and only then can we prosper. I am not against landless people. We all sympathise with them and wish them well. Imagine for a moment that you give a small plot of land to a person who has nothing else. What can the poor fellow do? You have to arrange to feed him for at least a year. Then what about bullocks, ropes, or even the peg to which he will tie the bullock in case he gets one? He has to start from scratch. He may never be able to feed even himself like the millions already in our country. So I appeal that if after the imposition of ceiling any land is left over, please give it to those farmers who already have two or three or four acres, so that they can have some scope for improvement, greater production and prosperity.

“Processing is a very important factor. To sell our produce without processing involves heavy losses. We are trying to do something in this regard. There is a big programme for processing in the Co-operative Department. There will be warehousing godowns, co-operative processing, etc. and our farmers can benefit a lot from these programmes. If we are able to expand the processing industry it will mean immense benefit to the farmers. If cotton is first ginned and then sold, it results in a gain of 10 to 15 percent. Accordingly there are many other commodities that could be processed. We do not grade our produce. All our produce is mixed and sold at the same rate. Government has done something in this respect, but it has not been very successful so far.

“Marketing is another very important problem. We suffer much in this respect. Government wants to introduce State Trading in foodgrains. It is a good thing. Only if arrangements can be made properly, if Government fixes the price to be paid to producers and the price at which to sell and is able to enforce it effectively, then there is no objection to State Trading in foodgrains. Help of co-operatives may be taken in this respect.

“We have so far tried to do good work quietly and slowly without slogan-mongering. We have kept our organisation, Krishak Samaj, clean and free from politics. We have not resorted to pressure, or agitation or tall talk. We want to co-operate with national agencies, like the National Extension, the Agriculture Departments, the I.C. A.R., etc. We look forward to their co-operation so that mutually we could implement the plans and see that the farmers get the full benefit of the money which is being spent in their name. All our delegates and members are agreed on this thing and we are happy, our members did good work in the Rabi Campaign and we will again do our best in campaigns which are coming, because this will benefit not only our own members but also those who are not members and also the nation as a whole.”

Secretary's Report

After Dr. Deshmukh has addressed the meeting the Secretary of Bharat Krishak Samaj, **Shri K.D. Sharma**, presented his report: “The last meeting of the Farmers' Council was held in New Delhi on March 19, 1958. It recommended three resolutions to the Governing Body of the Bharat Krishak Samaj for implementation. The first dealt with the setting up of a National Co-operative Marketing Federation. The second, suggested the formation of a National Farmers' Bank in the country and the third accorded the approval of the Council for organising the International Food and Agriculture Exhibition in India during the winter of 1959-60.

National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation

“The Council will be happy to learn that the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation has now been brought into existence and Dr. Deshmukh has agreed to be the first President of the Federation. The objects of the Federation as mentioned in its bye-laws are as follows :

- (i) to co-ordinate and promote the marketing and trading activities of its members in agricultural and other commodities, articles and goods;
- (ii) to undertake or promote either on its own or on behalf of its member institutions or the

Government, inter-state, intra-state and international trade and commerce in agricultural and other commodities, articles and goods

- (iii) to undertake supply of agricultural requisites like seed, manure, agricultural implements, etc. to its members;
- (iv) to act as Ware-houseman under the Warehousing Act;
- (v) to act as agent of any Governmental agency for the purchase, sale, storage and distribution of agricultural produce and agricultural requisites;
- (vi) to do all such things and take such steps as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any or all of these objects.

“The share capital of the Federation is composed of an un-determined number of shares of the value of Rs. 1,000/- each and the membership of the Federation is open to all Apex and Central co-operative institutions engaged or designed to engage primarily in the marketing and processing of agricultural and allied produce.

“The formation of this Federation unfolds a new chapter in the history of agricultural marketing in this country. It is expected that the Federation will play an important part in the internal marketing as well as export and import of all agricultural commodities produced by farmers and will thereby fill an important lacuna which exists in the marketing of agricultural produce in the country.

National Farmers' Bank

“The formation of a National Farmers' Bank is receiving close attention of the Krishak Samaj. The matter has been discussed with several high dignitaries in the field of banking in the country and it is likely that some concrete shape will be given to this suggestion in the near future.

World Agriculture Fair

“The Bharat Krishak Samaj has announced the holding of the 'World Agriculture Fair' at Exhibition Grounds, Mathura Road, New Delhi from December 11, 1959 to February 14, 1960. Various countries of the world, Minis-



The Governing Body of the Bharat Krishak Samaj met at Bhubneswar. Picture shows the members considering the recommendations of the All India Farmers' Council.

tries of the Union Government, Governments of all the States in the country, Commissions and Boards and private enterprise have been invited to participate in the Fair. In this connection I toured several countries in Europe recently and discussed the proposal with the respective Governments. The response has been very encouraging and we expect participation in the Fair of a number of countries of Europe, America and Asia. It is expected that the Fair will be the most educative display of developments which have been recorded in the field of agriculture and allied sciences and rural industries in any part of the world.

“The Bharat Krishak Samaj is desirous that farmers from all part of India should be able to come to Delhi and see the Fair. It is taking up the matter with the Ministries of Food and Agriculture and Community Development and also Governments in various States so that this may be made possible. It is our proposal that special trains be run at frequent intervals from each State to carry farmers to Delhi and back. The Ministry of Railway is being requested to grant special railway fare concession to farmers to enable them to perform the journey.

I.F.A.P.

“The Bharat Krishak Samaj is affiliated to the International Federation

of Agricultural Producers which has organizations of farmers in 30 countries as its members. Recently the Tenth General Conference of the I.F.A.P. was held in Brussels from October 4 to 13, 1958. The Samaj has deputed Shri S.M. Wahi, Shri Satwant Singh and myself to attend the Conference. During this Conference I extended an invitation to the I.F.A.P. on behalf of the Krishak Samaj to hold its Eleventh Conference in New Delhi during December 1959. You will be glad to know that our invitation has been accepted by this body.

Rabi Campaign

“The Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Government of India launched a campaign to increase agricultural production during the current *rabi* season. The Ministry had invited the Bharat Krishak Samaj also to take part in running this campaign. I have already conveyed to you all details about this campaign in which I had requested you all to lend your fullest support. We had also issued a special number of the Krishak Samachar to post you further with the details about the campaign. I trust that you have been playing your due role in this work, and that you have not spared any effort to make it a success. The Rabi Campaign is actually your own campaign and any effort that you have put in it or you will put in any other agricultural campaign

that is undertaken in future will be for your greatest benefit. You must have, however, felt certain difficulties and must have had certain experiences which you may like to bring to our notice so that, wherever necessary, improvements could be suggested in the proposal made by the Government for running any subsequent campaigns. The Government of India also intends to launch a Kharif Production Campaign, the details about which I shall convey to you shortly. I would request you to convey your suggestions during the deliberations on the resolution.

State Trading

“Most of you must have read the decision of the National Development Council to take up State Trading in important agricultural commodities. In the discussions at this meeting we shall certainly appreciate if any of you could put forward any constructive suggestions on this proposal so that we may include them in any communication which we may decide to address to the Government on this subject.

Inter-State Exchange of Farmers

“The Krishak Samaj is proposing very soon to start an inter-state exchange of farmers from one part of the country to another. The exchange may be taken up at a time when farmers in one part of the country are free to go to another part of the country where agricultural operations may be in progress. Details of the scheme are being worked out and we shall communicate the same to you when a final decision has been arrived at in the matter and we have received the promise of assistance from the Government of India and also the State Governments.

Life Members

“I must mention to you that the enrolment of life members during the period has been a little too slow. I would appeal to you all to take keener interest in this work and enrol at least five life members each after you have returned home. Life members are the foundation members of the Samaj and it is necessary that not one of you should lag behind in putting in your fullest effort to make the foundation of the Samaj stronger.

“Dear friends, under the Constitution of the Samaj this will be the last

meeting of the present Council. I wish, therefore, to convey to you our most grateful thanks for the ample assistance and goodwill which we have all received from you during these initial three years—probably the most crucial period in the history of the Krishak Samaj. Your presence at the meeting of the Council—even at times when farm operations needed your presence nearer home—lent enthusiasm to me and my colleagues in the office to perform our duties with courage and devotion and work with you to further the great and noble cause which we have all taken in hand.”

After the report of the Secretary **Shri Jagat Narain Lal**, Minister of Co-operation, Bihar, addressed the meeting and said: “Our Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, is constantly stressing the need of developing the co-operative movement. Why he is so keen on this we can all realize as we feel the dire need for co-operatives in our experience day after day.

“The Prime Minister is repeatedly appealing for growing more and more food crops to cope with the problem of food scarcity in the country and thereby save foreign exchange, spent on imports, for other work. **In this respect Bharat Krishak Samaj has to play a vital role and has to provide leadership to the farmers.**

“**The economic development of our villages cannot be brought about without co-operatives.** Co-operatives help farmers in getting bullocks, seeds and manures—the essentials for production. Farmers should seek the help of co-operatives and form more and more societies. After harvest, storing, processing and marketing of agricultural produce is also to be done through co-operatives. Warehousing Corporation, State Marketing etc. are being launched for this purpose.

“Co-operatives have also another important function to perform. They should be able to supply easily available short, medium and long term loans. For the advancement of agricultural production land mortgage banks should be established so that farmers may increase the fertility of their fields. For the supply of milk co-operatives should be formed. Farmers can benefit much more now by milk co-operatives. Recently I went to Bombay and saw the Aarey Milk Scheme. I was very much impressed. We have

to increase production of milk in Bihar also—in the whole of India in fact.

“I am confident that Bharat Krishak Samaj through its leaders and members would give full attention to the propagation among the farmers of the ideals of co-operation which is closely linked with agriculture.”

Shri Moinul Haque Chaudhry, Minister of Agriculture, Assam in his speech said: “The National Development Council has decided to enter upon a State Trading venture. But I am really very worried about it, because I feel that we do not have the necessary machinery nor the necessary finance to deal with such a venture. Now that the scheme is probably being finalized, I would like to utter a few words of caution. It is proposed to leave the bulk of the trade in the hands of agents and licensees. We have had the experience of having been at the mercy of Government monopolist agents during the last war. Although the minimum price, to be paid to the cultivator, was fixed they cheated the cultivator where price was concerned or where weight was concerned and they cheated the consumers also.

“Now under the proposed State Trading if the same thing is going to happen again it will be a sad day for our country. It is better to have a free trade rather than such a controlled trade, involving huge Government expenditure, where everybody is cheated. It is my fervent hope that while plans for State trading are being finalized the leaders concerned will give serious consideration to these aspects of the matter. If State wants to do State Trading then it must take charge of the foodgrains. Such a vital matter cannot be left in the hands of a few monopolists. **Therefore if there is to be State Trading, let it not be in such a fashion where something is left in the hands of Government and something in those of monopolists. And that something which is in the hands of Government is so insignificant compared to what is left with the monopolists and traders.** Therefore, I repeat again that this is a matter which should be considered very seriously. I appeal to this meeting of the All India Farmers’ Council to give very careful consideration to this problem and put forward its mature opinions.

“I would like to say something regarding co-operation. There is a lot

of uncertainty in this field. As Minister for Co-operation of my State and as a co-operator myself I find great difficulty in this matter. To me it appears that the mind of the national leaders is not fixed on the subject.

“Some years ago we were told that the policy of leaving everything to the cultivators in the matter of co-operatives was a wrong policy. The Rural Survey Committee Report was described as the Bible of the Co-operative Movement in India. The Report was accepted. The main theme of that Report was State participation. Well, the State started participation. One important deduction was that societies must be big and not small. They must be big enough to show profit. For if a society was small it would not show profit and ultimately the co-operative movement would be discredited. Well, we faithfully followed this, when suddenly, now, comes a change of policy saying that officers themselves must not be very near the co-operative movement itself and that there should be no big societies, because in a small society each one will know the other and thus it will be a closely knit and strong society. That is all very well. But for so long now we have been allowing big societies, consisting of four to five villages. Now under this new decision those societies have got to be limited to a smaller area and lesser members.

“I am myself in great difficulty. I would suggest on behalf of every co-operator—the feeling is the same everywhere—that those who decide these things should call their colleagues everywhere and once for all decide the policy for five years or for ten years.

“In our country, one big problem is that a vast amount of the available land is not in the hands of our agriculturists. The States have been passing laws, one after another, to give increased rights to the cultivators. But I can tell you from personal experience that as more laws are passed more complications are created, because the man for whom the laws are passed is ignorant of the provisions of those laws. When the law was passed to regularize the system of share cropping and give more rights to the peasants the landlords began to snatch away the land and there was no one to fight for the poor farmers. Similarly, as soon as we started talking that we would settle lands only with farming co-operatives, I found mushrooms of

co-operatives springing up all over the country organised by people who have nothing to do with landless people but who are rich enough.

"Similarly, whenever the question of giving protection against increase of rent is discussed you find that there are more evictions. Sometimes I feel that our State Governments and Central Government are not in a position to deal with these things. Because of this we have to sacrifice our desire for quick achievement. We have to go slow with all our plans of agricultural improvement.

"I want to emphasize that for all round improvement in cultivation and production in the country it is necessary to organize the agriculturists. **In this sphere the Krishak Samaj has to play an important role.**

"We are having a great shortage of fertilizers, while at the same time there is a strong prejudice among our farmers against using organic manures, particularly night-soil. Also at the same time huge quantities of valuable cowdung is being burnt as fuel. This is a field where we can organize farmers and make them compost minded, and green manure minded and can add to our own manurial resources.

"In the matter of price fixation I appeal that the price must be declared before cultivating a crop. It should be a fair minimum price. **The policy of announcing the price only after cultivation has no meaning. The price should be fair and steady irrespective of whether the crop is good or bad. Otherwise there is no incentive to the cultivator.** Only if you give him a fair return for his labour and investment, if you keep him happy and contented, will you be able to increase production and save your country."

Shri S.S.N. Mushran, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh, said: "We have two very important subjects for discussion before us. One is how to increase the agricultural production of our country and the other is how to organize millions of our farmers, big and small, into a well knit, strong organization. I feel sure that if we give careful consideration to these problems and reach some definite conclusions and thereafter act upon them then the face of this country would be changed.

"Every year we import billions of rupees worth of foodgrains from abroad and spend millions in transport alone upon it. We have to save this money and invest it in rural construction programmes. The only way to do this is to grow more food grains within the country. For this we have to provide facilities for irrigation, soil conservation, good seeds, fertilizers, manure, etc.

"Eighty percent of our cultivators have holdings of less than 10 acres. So our main aim should be to give the greatest benefit to the small farmers. Uneconomic holdings should be made economic. We should work for this and even enact legislation for it. Another problem is the indebtedness of small farmers. When we think of giving them relief the question arises as to how they are going to repay loans given to them.

"Whenever we talk of giving relief to our small cultivators we are given the example of China and Japan where, it is said, a holding is as small as four acres and where agriculturists are doing very successful farming. The social and political problems of China and Japan are not the same as ours.

"Then there is the problem of prices. Take any business, steel, or textiles for instance. You will find that the ultimate price is fixed by taking every detail of the cost of production into consideration. **It seems that agriculture is the only industry where the effort and money spent in production are not taken into consideration in fixing price of agricultural produce.** State Trading is before us now. Let us make efforts through this Council to draw the attention of our national leaders to these most important problems. An assessment should be made of every pice spent by a farmer, in the various phases of agricultural production, from tilling to harvesting and marketing. Consideration must also be given to the rising cost of living and the expense on goods which the farmer buys for his use.

"Now that we are launching campaigns—Rabi Campaign and Kharif Campaign—I would suggest that we keep two things in mind. The first is soil conservation. Our top soil is being gradually washed away. The day may not be far off when what is left of the soil may be too poor for sowing anything at all. It is my suggestion that we should have a Soil Conservation

Campaign on the same footing as the Rabi Campaign. The second is compost. We do not produce enough fertilizers and we cannot import enough due to foreign exchange shortage. That which is available to us totals upto less than 1/10th of our actual requirement. The only solution is to utilize the refuse in the villages. This should be made into compost. For this also a full-fledged campaign—on the lines of the Rabi Campaign—needs to be launched. Through these things we will be able to help increase our food production.

"I would say here a few things about our Krishak Samaj organization. **I am very happy to see the steady progress of the Samaj. In my own State it has taken very deep roots in a very short time.** The enthusiasm is very great. Farmers want to have Krishak Samaj in every village.

"The question of giving, every year, some practical programme, based upon the particular needs of an area, to the people of that area to implement, is important. This will give a practical shape to our Krishak Samaj and our smallest units will have some programme before them. We are finding it increasingly difficult to satisfy the demand to give a programme to our smaller units in tehsils and villages.

"**Our Krishak Samaj did very good work in the Rabi Campaign. In many places where we were not able to procure seeds for distribution we were able to get them from farmers through the Krishak Samaj and then distributed to small kisans.** The Samaj can be a very useful organisation for the welfare of *kisans* as well as for the increasing of food production in the country."

Shri Chandrika Ram, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Bihar said, "The first important problem with which we are faced is that of Land Reforms. This can be divided into three parts: (i) abolition of Zamindari, Taluqdari etc.; (ii) consolidation of holdings and (iii) land ceilings.

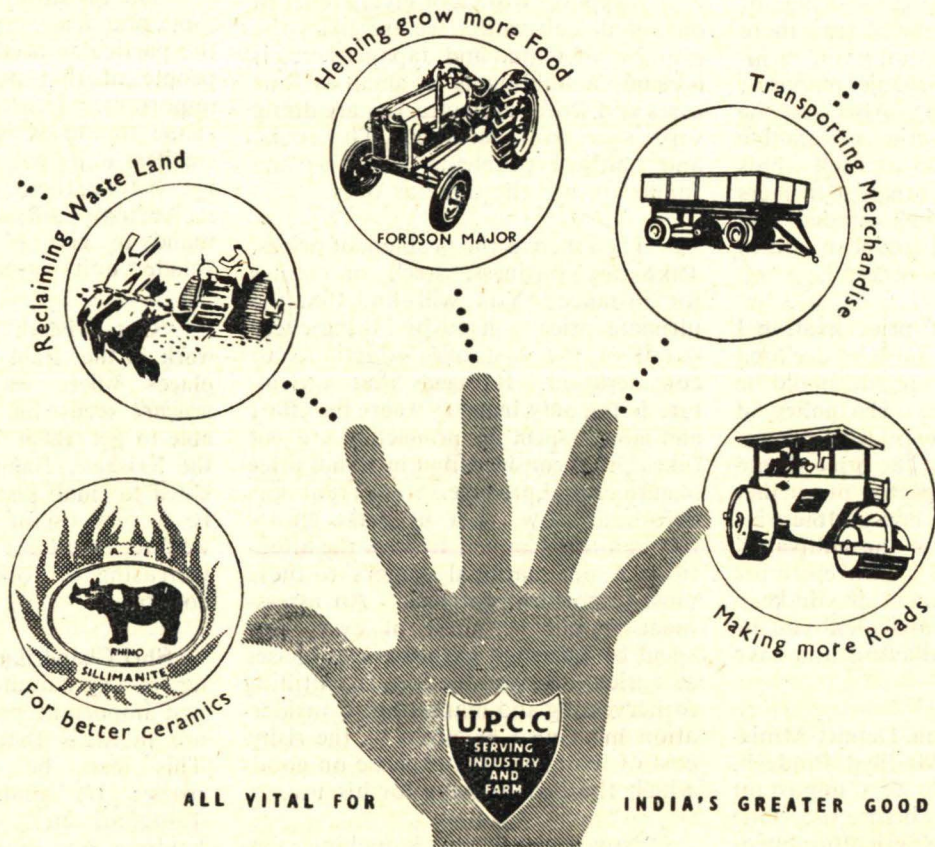
"The abolition of Zamindari, Taluqdari etc. has created a stir throughout the country. I am not going to discuss its merits or demerits. Whatever profit or loss has resulted is known to all.

"As regards the consolidation of holdings you all know that most farm-

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ers in the country own very small holdings. In our own State about 85 per cent farmers possess only 5 to 7 acres of land. And even these holdings are scattered sometimes in as many as a dozen different places, thus creating great difficulties in cultivation. Every operation becomes a difficult problem. Consequently production suffers. State Governments have begun to do something in this respect. In Uttar Pradesh and Punjab the work has been going on for a long time. In our State we have just begun. We are finding it very difficult. There is no co-operation among farmers. They have no unity, no organisation. We get no help from them. Each one wants to have his holding near the village. We should give some thought to the problem and expedite its solution. Our Krishak Samaj should try to help and create the proper atmosphere for this.

"There are two main opinions on the subject of land ceilings. One is that farms should be big and there should be tractors and mechanisation and only then production will increase. This is backed by big and powerful people. They give us the example of America, its big farms, its high mechanization. But all that is useless. Those things cannot be practised in our country.

"The other opinion, with which I agree, is that it does not matter if farms are small. What is important is that ownership must be that of the cultivator. I have found that those who are tenants and work on land belonging to others are not interested in that land. Their production is much less than the production of those who own the land they farm. This happens because to the tenants it makes no difference whether production is high or low. How can your production increase under such circumstances? So much depends upon the man behind the plough. If he is happy and interested he will do his best.

"It is my opinion that we must think in terms of small farms only and how to increase production on them. **There should be a ceiling and it should be as low as possible so that production can be high.** Our President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad went to Japan recently. He has circulated a note which says that the average holding in Japan is 2½ acres. But the food production compared to ours is many times more. Even ten

times more in some cases. Therefore I cannot believe that production will be high only if the holding is large. In fact with a small holding, proper irrigation, good seeds, fertilizers and manures production is bound to increase.

"The Krishak Samaj should work in this matter and create the proper climate. In America farmers organizations are able to influence the whole policy of the Congress. Cannot we in our country work and achieve at least this one thing. Our leaders should be prevailed upon to decide once and for all whether they want any ceiling or not. My appeal is that there should be a final decision in the matter very soon. So long as there is no decision agriculture will be in a very confused state and production cannot increase."

On November 23, the Council took up discussion of the following subjects : 1. State Trading ; 2. Price Fixation ; 3. Food Production Campaign ; 4. Land Ceilings ; 5. Co-operatives ; 6. Strengthening the Organisation of the Bharat Krishak Samaj in the States.

The discussion was initiated by **Shri Satwant Singh** (Punjab) who stressed the need of price fixation based on the cost of production of farm produce and of the articles required by the farmers for that purpose. He urged that the Krishak Samaj should be strengthened and should voice the feelings of the farmers. Referring to co-operatives, Shri Singh suggested that the sale price of commodities should be in relation to the cost of purchase and handling of the produce and co-operatives should help to bring down price structure between the consumer and the producer. He was in favour of ceiling on land but stressed on economic holdings.

Shri S. R. Neswi (Mysore) complained that agriculture was losing much of its charm due to unremunerative prices and that illiterate farmers were being exploited by various agencies. He advocated standardization of produce for better prices and suggested that Ministers should contact the farmers when on tour and listen to their grievances.

Shri M. B. Somani (Bombay) praised the Government for the plans but complained about their defective execution. He suggested that State Trad-

ing work should be done through co-operatives and agricultural associations and not through individuals. He also suggested that plant protection work should be intensified and the farmers should be trained in its methods.

Shri Dibyalochan Shekhar Deo (Orissa) stressed the need for developing co-operatives for increasing production and suggested that loans to farmers should be easily made available. He also suggested that granting of loan should be entrusted to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the States should expedite registration of societies. He favoured co-operative farming but said that it should be first experimented upon before bringing into practice.

Shri B.S. Trivedi (Bombay) said that progressive farmers and *Krishi Pandit* should be asked to help the Government in producing and supplying improved seeds. Shri Trivedi emphasised on the need of fair prices as an incentive to the farmers to produce more and appealed to the Government to announce fair prices before harvest. He suggested that the economic condition of the farmers should be assessed and through land ceilings small holders should be provided enough land to make their holdings economic.

Shrimati Devaki Ramanand (Mysore) said that it was necessary to carry women forward along with men if the country were to progress.

Shri Biharlal (Bihar) pointed out that Government was still hesitating to take action on the very important subject of price fixation. Price fixation would eliminate the hoarding habit and artificial deficiency in foodgrains.

Shri Dalip Singh (Delhi) suggested that to improve crop output seeds, fertilizers and water should be made available to farmers in time. He complained that Block Development Officers and Village Level Workers usually knew very little and they were therefore unable to impress the farmers. Referring to prices he suggested that middlemen should be eliminated.

Shri W.D. Salunke (Bombay) complained that due to limited supply of improved seeds the demand during the Rabi Campaign could not be met. He said that the number of seed farms

should be increased and manures and fertilizers should also be supplied in large quantities. If improved seeds of foodgrains crops are not available the farmers change to other crops he added.

Shri P. Hanumantha Rao (Andhra) suggested that improved seed should be produced and supplied through progressive cultivators. He regretted that irrigation water was not being fully utilised and in the district committees farmers were not represented.

Shri Debnath Das (West Bengal) said that the Government was spending huge sums of money on plans but that they were not properly implemented. Regarding fertilizers, he said that they depended on businessmen for the supply and as the latter did not have the interests of farmers the machinery did not work properly. He suggested that seed multiplication and supply should not go to businessmen and added that unless farmers received help and sympathy no tangible results could be achieved.

Shrimati Satwant Jamiat Singh (Punjab) pointed out that the incomes from the small holdings were low and were barely enough to feed a family and they should therefore be made economic. She said that the rising cost of living in the absence of a price parity index of agricultural produce was a very serious matter which should be borne in mind when a demand was made upon farmers to increase production. She suggested that prices of farm produce should be fixed before hand and Government should also come in the market as a purchaser. She also suggested that those who are prepared to mechanise their farms should be given the facilities.

Shri K.P. Nanda (Orissa) said that the proposal for State Trading had created mixed feelings of joy and anxiety. Joy, because the middlemen would be eliminated and anxiety because of the difficulties involved in implementing the scheme. As to food production, he said that the obstacle was uneconomic holdings. He would welcome legislation against land inheritance if it would eliminate uneconomic holdings. The ceiling should be determined on production standards, he added.

Shri Gopi Krishan Kabra (Madhya Pradesh), stressed the need of expand-

ing and strengthening Bharat Krishak Samaj for the advancement of Indian Agriculture. Unless branches of Samaj were established throughout the country problems of all the farmers could not be solved, he said.

Shri Bhagwan Singh (Madhya Pradesh) referred to advantages of co-operatives and said that Government should procure foodgrains to the extent required for feeding non-agriculturists living in towns. As regards ceilings, he said that they may be made applicable in cases of those possessing large areas.

Shri V.V. Patil (Bombay) suggested that steps should be taken to improve bullock-drawn implements. Fixation of price was necessary to increase food production. He stressed the need of more efficient plant protection service.

Shri Kedarnath Brahmachari (Bihar) explained how he increased his potato crop output and urged that production should be increased through better and improved methods of farming.

Shri Jagdish Singh (Rajasthan) urged Government to prevent eviction of tenants in Rajasthan and said that the security of land would make farmers improve their land and increase the production. He pointed out that malaria hampered the farmers' work and urged that steps should be taken to control it.

Shri Anadish Chandra Das (West Bengal) suggested that ceilings of land should not be uniform but should be based on some standard of production.

Shri Ram Kunwar Singh (U.P.) suggested price fixation on the basis of expenditure on a 30 acre Government farm. He favoured State Trading and said that the purchasing centres should be opened in such places convenient to cultivators.

Shri V.G. Sukumaran (Kerala) said that agriculturists should be given every help if production was to be geared up. He pointed out the difficulties resulting through the Minimum Wages Act in his State and how the illiterate farmers were finding it hard to maintain registers for which they have to employ clerks.

Shri G. Subramaniam (Kerala) stressed the need to increase the number

of seed farms and increase fertilizer supplies even if it be necessary to import them.

Shri Amrithnatha Aiyer (Kerala) said that the Krishak Samaj was growing popular in his State due to its non-political nature and also because it offered knowledge and training to farmers. **He suggested that the Bharat Krishak Samaj should be represented on the Planning Commission.**

Shri J.P. Shukla (U.P.) said that the food production has not increased due to lack of finances. He complained about the long and complex procedure to get loans. He suggested setting up of rural banks in every tehsil. Referring to land ceilings he said that there was a sense of insecurity in the country and therefore, an early decision in the matter was necessary. He advised that the Krishak Samaj should be developed and a concrete programme should be initiated by the Central Office for the village and *taluk* units.

Shri Udai Singh Pawar (Bombay) stressed the importance of increasing soil fertility and suggested that Government should give a subsidy for this purpose and launch a campaign. He also suggested that Krishak Samaj should establish branches in the villages so as to serve the farmers better.

Shri V.B. Patil (Bombay) said that Government should make arrangements for plant protection measures all over the country to save crops from pests and diseases. For this Government may levy a small tax which could be collected from the growers alongwith land revenue. He suggested that loans be given to cultivators through co-operatives in the form of seeds, manures, fertilizers etc. Processing should be made compulsory through co-operatives.

Shri D. S. Narkhede (Bombay) congratulated the Krishak Samaj on steps being taken to organise a National Farmers Bank. Referring to State Trading he said that in foreign countries there were State as well as private agencies dealing in foodgrains trade and there was therefore competition among them. He recommended that such a system should be introduced in India. He also suggested that Samaj should establish demonstration farms and organisation should be parallel with the States' Agricultural Departments.

Shri M. Ramanand (Mysore) asked the Bharat Krishak Samaj to accelerate its progress and spread its activities further and further. He complained about the delay in getting loans and urged the Government to provide timely help to cultivators in all matters of cultivation.

Shri P. D. Moharikar (Bombay) said that increase in prices of fertilizers should be checked and that greater propaganda among farmers was necessary about minor irrigation works because most of them were ignorant about this. Referring to the dung gas plant developed by the IARI he said that it should be popularised in villages by giving subsidy through the development department.

Shri Dayanidhi Sahu (Orissa) said that not only the cost of production but even the cost of those commodities which the farmers purchase for other purposes should be taken into consideration in fixing the prices of agricultural produce.

Shri Anand Swarup (Orissa) pleaded for the immediate stoppage of nuclear tests and said that the whole atmosphere and water resources of the world were being poisoned by the tests.

Recommendations

The following six recommendations were then proposed and unanimously passed by the Council.

State Trading

The First recommendation on State Trading was proposed by Shri J.R. Reddy (Andhra) and was seconded by Shri D.S. Narkhede (Bombay). It said :

“The All India Farmers’ Council has given careful consideration to the broad decision of the National Development Council to undertake State Trading of foodgrains

“As a principle, the Bharat Krishak Samaj whole-heartedly welcomes the decision to nationalise foodgrains trade with the aim of regulating and stabilising prices of food commodities but it is necessary to take various factors and consequences that rise in its wake while introducing it. Firstly, the experience in this sphere during the war and the period of controls when procurement

and rationing was resorted to on a large scale is not only not happy but was, on the one hand, carried on at the sacrifice of the interests of the growers, and, on the other, many people indulged in black-marketing and reaped enormous profits. Due care, therefore, has to be taken firstly to see that the legitimate interests of the growers of these commodities do not suffer and secondly no undue advantage is taken of either the producers or the consumers by the trading and other distribution agencies. It has been announced that a few licenced agents are expected to deal with this whole-sale trade in foodgrains but care has to be taken so that this does not degenerate in a monopoly of these people thus depriving the farmer the advantages now arising out of the free competition. The decision in this direction is a momentous one but the whole scheme is also equally stupendous in magnitude and fraught with innumerable difficulties. This Council, therefore, while supporting the decision of the Government in this respect would strongly urge that every possible care be taken to avoid the pitfalls natural under the circumstances and whatever procedure or rules are framed they should be framed in consultation with the representatives of the farmers of the land.

“The Council, further recommends that in case it is decided immediately to undertake State Trading in foodgrains the highest priority be given to the co-operatives, the agricultural associations or other such producers’ organisations for both the procurement and the distribution of foodgrains in the country.”

Price Fixation

The second recommendation on Price Fixation was proposed by Shri K. P. Amrithanatha Aiyer (Kerala) and was seconded by Shri Hanumantha Rao (Mysore). It said :

“The All India Farmers’ Council reiterates its resolution adopted in September 1956 and expresses satisfaction at the finding of the Ashoka Mehta Committee (Foodgrains Enquiry Committee) that guaranteeing of fair agricultural prices in *sine qua non* of progress in production. Every important group in the country, including economists, is agreed on this proposal and no country in the world which has a surplus has attained that happy state without guarantee of fair price. The Council

also appreciates the support several Chief Ministers gave to this proposal at the meetings of the National Development Council. Out of a compelling sense of duty to the country, the All India Farmers’ Council once again makes a very earnest request to the Government to proceed urgently to determine fair prices for principal farm commodities and to guarantee such prices at primary market level to the producers. Prices to be fair and realistic must provide for normal costs of production, a reserve for bad years, capital formation for land improvement and a rising standard of living in consonance with the ideal of a Welfare State.

“Although the All India Farmers’ Council welcomes the Government of India’s decision authorising the Governments of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh to buy rice at Rs. 15/- per maund as an appropriate step in the direction of price support, it considers this price as low and, therefore, not adequate under the present circumstances and the price trends of other commodities. It is a matter of common knowledge that the prevailing price is at least 50% more. If, however, the Government could entrust the purchase of this rice through the co-operatives or other non-profit organisations so as to be able to return to the growers any profits that may, under the circumstances, arise, the Council would not mind the fixation of the prices at a level somewhat lower than the average market prices ruling. But unless such an arrangement is brought about, the Council fears that the usual experience of the grower being paid an unreasonably low price and the consumer having to pay very much higher prices may be repeated once again.”

Cooperative Policy

The third recommendation on Co-operative Policy was proposed by Shri V.V. Patil (Bombay) and was seconded by Shri Jagjit Singh Mann (Punjab). It said :

“The All India Farmers’ Council has noted the resolution of the National Development Council on the Co-operatives. This Council would very much regret any change of policy at this stage and would urge that any change of policy which is considered necessary be left to be given effect to in the Third Five Year Plan and the present plan of

expansion of co-operation credit with Government participation be not disturbed. The Council would, therefore, respectfully suggest reconsideration of the decision in this respect and to review the same in consultation with the Registrars of the Co-operative Societies in the States as well as the Ministers of Co-operation. The Council also would recommend to the Government that much larger emphasis may be placed

on the cooperative marketing and Government's help from all departments made available to such societies. This Council is fully in favour of experimenting on a larger scale that cooperative farming societies be formed all over the country provided they are established on voluntary basis. This Council resolves to co-operate with Government agencies to the fullest possible extent in this sphere.

National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation

The Sixth recommendation was on National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation which was proposed by Shri Debnath Das (West Bengal) and seconded by Shri Ram Kunwar Singh (U.P.) It said :

"This meeting of the All India Farmers' Council heartily welcomes the formation of the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation, which is the fulfilment of a resolution of the last Convention of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. The Council requests the State Governments and the marketing societies to purchase as many shares as possible at an early date and co-operate with the Federation in every way for the fulfilment of its aims and objects. The Council hopes that the State Governments as well as the Central Government to support the activities of the Federation whole heartedly and to give it every possible financial assistance because the Council believes that the activities of the Federation will help the stabilisation of prices in the country and benefit both the producer and the consumer."

SIDELIGHTS OF COUNCIL MEETING

Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab, Chief Minister, Orissa gave a reception to the farmer delegates of the All India Farmers' Council on November 22, at the State Guest House, Bhubaneswar.

The same evening delegates witnessed "*Sur Nupur*", a variety entertainment programme presented by Bhubaneswar Kala Kendra.

Next day the farmer delegates visited the Research Sections of the College where a special exhibition was arranged.

In the evening a *musical soire* was presented by the staff and students of Utkal Krishi Mahavidyalaya which was greatly appreciated by the visiting delegates.

On November 24, the delegates were taken to visit the Coconut Research Station Farm at Sakhigopal and Research Farm at Puri. The delegates evinced keen interest in coconut and arecanut research which is being conducted in those farms.

The delegates visited the famous temples of Bhubneshwar and Puri also.

Nalagarh Committee

The fourth recommendation on Nalagarh Committee was proposed by Shrimati Satwant Jamiat Singh (Punjab) and was seconded by Shri V.G. Sukumaran (Kerala). It said:

"The All India Farmers' Council heartily welcomes the investigation carried out into the working of the Agriculture Departments in the States by the Agricultural Advisory Committee of the Government of India (Nalagarh Committee). But since the copies of the full text of the report have not come to the members of the Farmers' Council, it is recommended that the President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj may appoint a sub-committee for the examination of the recommendations of this Committee and to take up the recommendations of this Committee with the authorities concerned. The summary of the sub-committee's recommendations be circulated to the members of the All India Farmers' Council."

Consolidation of Holdings and Soil Conservation

The fifth recommendation on Consolidation of Holdings and Soil Conservation was proposed by Shri S.K. Kaul (Kashmir) and was seconded by Shri Baburao Kulkarni (Bombay). It said :

"This meeting of the All India Farmers' Council attaches very great importance to consolidation of holdings and soil conservation. It feels that there is need to popularise the advantages of both these practices and in the view of the council both these matters lend themselves to an intensive campaign to make the people conscious of the need to bring about consolidation of holdings in their areas and to see that correct soil conservation practices are followed by them where necessary with the help of the Government."

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WORLD FARM LEADERS MEET AT BRUSSELS

TENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE IFAP

One hundred and fifty farm leaders of the world representing 23 countries and international organizations met at the IFAP Conference at Brussels, Belgium.

* * *

Brussels Exhibition—EXPO 1958—was the venue of the inaugural session of the Conference which moved thereafter to the Palais d' Egmont in the heart of Brussels.

* * *

The three Committees of the Conference: the Policy Committee, Co-operation Committee and Constitution Committee conducted the main work under the Chairmanship of Mr. B.W. Biesheuvel (Netherlands), Prof. K.P. Svardstron (Sweden) and Dr. P. C. Lecms (S. Africa) respectively.

* * *

The Conference welcomed two new member organisations: the National Farmers' Association of Eire and the United Ghana Farmers' Union—Mr. B.A. Brown had the privilege of moving the motion that these be admitted to full membership of IFAP.

* * *

The new officers of the IFAP for 1958-59 are: President: Mr. James G. Patton (U.S.A.). Vice-Presidents: Mr. S.M. Wahi (India) and Shri B. W. Biesheuvel (Netherlands). Members of Executive Committee: Mr. Andrew (Newzealand), Mr. H. H. Hannam (Canada), Mr. P. Martin (France), Mr. A. Hermes (Germany), Mr. A. Borel (Switzerland), Mr. L.A. Larsen (Denmark), Mr. F. Scott (U.K.) and one member who is to be named by the four member organizations of the U.S.A.

The Tenth General Conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers was held in Brussels (Belgium) from October 4, to 13, 1958 in which delegates of member organisations from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Union of South Africa, U.K., U.S.A., and Yugoslavia were present.

The Bharat Krishak Samaj was represented by Shri S.M. Wahi, Vice-President, Bharat Krishak Samaj; Shri K.D. Sharma, Secretary and Shri Satwant Singh.

The important subjects discussed by the conference included: 1. Review on International action in the field of agriculture; 2. FAO; 3. Surplus disposals; 4. General agreements on tariffs and trades; 5. Proposed world food reserve; 6. National food reserves; 7. Technical assistance; 8. United Nations activity in the commodity field; 9. Use of surpluses in opening up the under-developed regions of the world; 10. National structure of agriculture in selected countries; 11. Fundamental cause of present and future agricultural policies and their effects on production and trade.

The conference also discussed the present situation regarding international agreements designed to help stabilize world prices of farm products as in cases of wheat and sugar and considered how much agreements and arrangements can be broadened and strengthened. The conference determined as to how the present intergovernmental machinery for consultation on surplus disposal can be made more effective in furthering the channelling of existing supplies into consumption and in minimizing international repercussions of surplus disposal operations.

Addressing the opening session of the conference President Andrew reminded the IFAP that agricultural prosperity coupled with the equitable distribution of worlds' food resources was the key to the expansion of international trade and the only sure foundation of lasting peace.

He said, "we must pool our ideas and co-operate for the common good.

In the ultimate, a threat to a farm product anywhere is a threat to farm product everywhere. I am suggesting that our over-all objective can be achieved only gradually and if we do this we can hope to bring to reality the vision of those people who took the lead in setting up this great organisation. But the achievement of our objective will depend also on action on the intergovernmental level—that is action through inter-governmental organisations."

The conference discussed the causes behind the world farm trade which was lagging far behind the advances made by trade in non-farm products in the last 20 years. Agricultural trade has expanded by about 12 percent since pre-war days while trade in non-agricultural products has expanded by 150 percent.

The delegates agreed that it could not be expected that farm trade could keep pace with non-farm trades because of the different support policies and different conditions in production, con-

IFAP MEETS NEXT IN INDIA

The Tenth General Conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers has decided to hold the Eleventh Conference in New Delhi, India, in conjunction with the World Agriculture Fair which would be held by the Bharat Krishak Samaj from December, 1959.

The invitation to hold the next Conference in India was extended in Brussels by the Secretary, Shri K.D. Sharma on behalf of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. The Conference is expected to be held in New Delhi during the first fortnight of December, 1959.

sumption and trade. "No organisation other than the IFAP could be more keenly aware of the need for these national support policies—both from the economic and social points of view," the delegates observed. "But at the same time it must be realistically recognised that many national agricultural support programmes do militate against the fullest expansion of trade in food and fibre."

The conference felt that really marked development in the economies of the less developed countries could contribute to the expansion of international agricultural trade and that existing surpluses of food and fibre could if properly handled contribute to the result.

The three committees appointed by the conference considered the various issues related to policy, agricultural co-operation and subjects related to constitution and membership of the IFAP and submitted their reports to the conference.

Constitution and Membership Committee

The recommendation of the Consti-

tution and Membership Committee to admit to membership in IFAP the National Farmers' Association of Ireland and the United Ghana Farmers Council was unanimously adopted. As recommended the conference approved the amendments to the constitution and a new schedule of contributions and budgets for the financial year 1958/59-1959/60.

Committee on Agricultural Co-operation

The report of the Committee on Agricultural Co-operation was unanimously adopted. The committee had recommended that farm organisations should promote the development of farmers' co-operatives. Regarding international trade between farmer co-operatives the committee observed that consumer co-operatives offer a large market for many of the products sold by agricultural co-operatives and an increase in international trade in this direction was both desirable and natural. It was also suggested to establish an International Centre of Agricultural Co-operation.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee considered the size and future size of farms and the way they were run, and reported that changes in size and management were being brought about at a faster pace than ever before by current economic and technological developments. Delegates stressed that further changes in their national patterns of farming would be consistent both with the economic needs of the times and the urgent need to increase the per family income of farmers. It was generally agreed, however, that such evolution would depend on the speedy development of the industries and services which would offer alternative jobs to rural people. The need for installing light manufacturing industries or processing plants was also emphasized.

CORRECTION

Readers are requested to read *N.P. 718* instead of *N.P. 178* recommended for Delhi and Rajasthan in The Four Crops of Rabi Campaign of the Rabi Number.

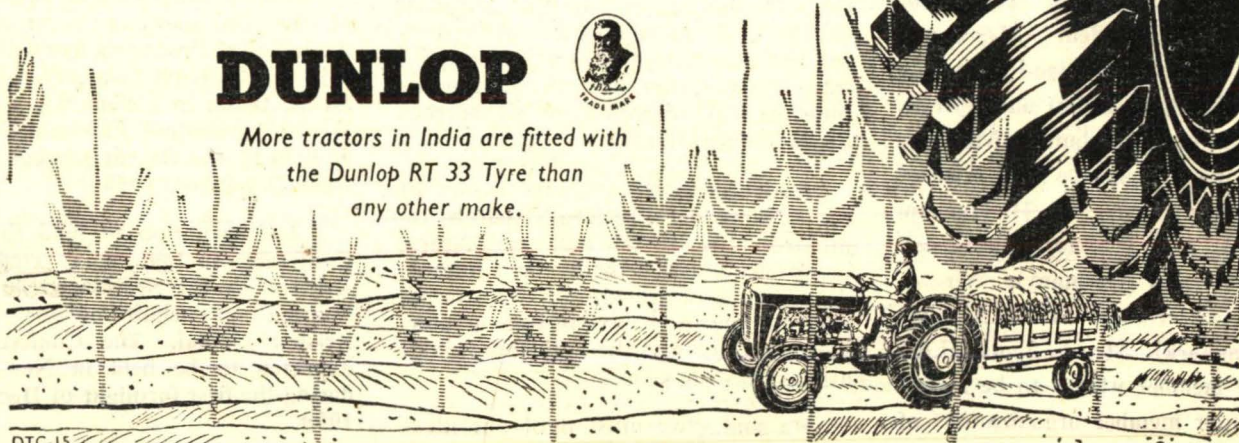
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DTC-15

Resolutions of the IFAP Conference

SURPLUS UTILISATION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Conference resolved that :

- (i) Its members should continue to urge their respective governments that FAO be the principal intergovernmental agency through which consultation and action on agricultural commodity problems takes place.
- (ii) International commodity agreements or less formal arrangements, adapted to the nature of the particular product, remain procedures which IFAP strongly supports for achieving a measure of stability of international trade in primary agricultural products. The Conference regrets that Governments have so far negotiated agreements for only a few products and considers that, against the background of the serious fall in the terms of trade for primary producers, governments should examine afresh the prospects of extending commodity agreements or arrangements to other agricultural products.
- (iii) The Washington Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal should as a minimum measure be made an efficient instrument for international consultation on surplus disposal along the lines recommended by IFAP in 1957. This is all the more important because sales for local currencies will be utilized.
- (iv) An immediate and positive step in multilateral action on surplus disposal should be taken through the United Nations Special Fund for economic development. Considering that under both development and training projects there will be increased needs for food, countries having appropriate surpluses available should, in addition to their financial contributions, pledge quantities of these foods and fibres for direct use in programmes financed by the Fund.
- (v) The disposal of surpluses through bilateral arrangements should be subject to wider consultation through an intergovernmental agency which should lay down principles to act as a guide to governments in the administration of such programmes. Greater emphasis should be made to link such disposal programmes to the building up of national reserves as recommended by IFAP in its Conference at Purdue.
- (vi) Eventually there should be established an international agency through which governments could work together to utilize the world's reserve of food and agricultural raw materials in such a way as to realize their value for human welfare and, at the same time, avoid the undermining of international agricultural trade and the economies of agricultural countries.

- (vii) IFAP's Secretariat and member organizations should undertake study and discussion of the effects on agriculture of national and international monetary fiscal policies.
- (viii) IFAP's Secretariat and member organizations should carefully explore the possibilities of an expanded exchange of the industrial and agricultural products of under-developed countries with some of the products of other countries.
- (ix) Efforts should be continued by all parties concerned to expand mutually advantageous international trade.

WHEAT

The General Conference resolved :

- (i) That an International Wheat Agreement, to replace the one expiring on 31st July 1959, is urgently required in order to assure a substantial international trade in wheat at reasonably stable prices at a reasonable level for the benefit of both exporting and importing countries. It is important in this connection, that all major wheat importing as well as exporting countries participate in the new Agreement.
- (ii) That such a new Agreement should set forth, as the present Agreement does, a precise range for such "reasonable" prices on the regular commercial market.
- (iii) In order to facilitate utilization in under-developed countries of the large existing surplus, and since substantial quantities of wheat should continue to be disposed of in such countries on a non-commercial basis, the new Agreement should provide for procedures and price conditions (including concessional sales and sales for local currencies) relating to such transactions, and consultations by governments concerned with the International Wheat Council so as to guard against undue disturbance to the normal channels of trade.
- (iv) That, in order further to stimulate the utilization of wheat in under-developed countries, the governments concerned should provide for the establishment of an appropriate international agency, under the general supervision of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, through which funds could be channelled to under-developed countries to permit them to purchase additional amounts of wheat at regular commercial prices and also to facilitate the commercial exchange of supplies of agricultural products which arise in the under-developed countries themselves.
- (v) That the new International Wheat Agreement should provide that all

developments affecting the production and trade of wheat in the international sphere should come within the purview of the International Wheat Council. The Wheat Council should in particular keep under active review the availability of funds provided by Governments under (vi) above and when necessary encourage Governments to make the required additional resources available.

- (vi) In view of the close links between problems of wheat and those of other grains, wheat problems should frequently be considered in relation to cereals as a whole, notably through the Group on Grains of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems.

BUTTER

A. The General Conference resolved that :

- (1) Every effort should be made to increase butterfat consumption in all producing countries by such means as are most appropriate to the country concerned, e.g., by
 - (i) effectively narrowing the gap between price of butter and margarine;
 - (ii) facilitating the use of butter by special purchasing groups or institutions (hospitals, prisons, military forces, children's homes, etc.);
 - (iii) raising the fat content of milk sold for liquid consumption in countries where standardization, especially at low level, is practised;
 - (iv) improving the quality of dairy products and ensuring that the same high standard quality is available in all parts of the country at all times of the year;
 - (v) strengthening measures to eradicate T.B. and Brucellosis in order to improve the quality and increase consumption of liquid milk;
 - (vi) publicity campaigns to encourage consumption of dairy products by every sector of the community;
 - (vii) promoting the use of milk in school feeding programmes, which would have nutritional benefits and a permanent influence on food habits;
 - (viii) extending facilities for consumption of milk by factory workers;
 - (ix) reducing the water content of butter where it is above 16%.

(2) Member organizations should urgently review policies regarding price or other support systems in their countries in the light of the present situation on the butter market. In this review they should, in particular, consider :

- (i) whether existing price and other support arrangements are tending to increase the gap between production and outlets;
- (ii) if systems in their countries are adversely affecting international trade either by unduly stimulating exports or by unduly reducing imports; and
- (iii) whether the Governments of the countries concerned should be asked to take steps which, while maintaining returns to producers, would make butter available to consumers within their own countries at lower prices.

(3) Member organizations should consider ways and means of reducing unit costs without increasing butter production (e.g., by lowering feedings costs, and the extension of labour-saving methods in production, processing and distribution).

(4) The possibilities of building-up future consumer demand for butterfat, in the under-nourished countries through concessional supplies arranged in conformity with the internationally agreed principles of surplus disposal should be further explored.

B. The Conference, noting that there are to be the regular annual discussions on agricultural trade matters between the U.K. and New Zealand Governments in November, suggests that the IFAP delegations from those countries, after consulting with their respective parent bodies, should convey to their governments the view of IFAP that a decision be taken to hold a meeting of substantially interested butter importing countries and their suppliers to discuss the question of improved butter marketing, bearing in mind the domestic policies of the interested countries.

SUGAR

The Conference :

NOTING that negotiations looking toward the completion of a new International Sugar Agreement were being currently conducted in Geneva;

RESOLVED:

- (i) That an extension of the present International Sugar Agreement is urgently required, and
- (ii) That it is important that such an Agreement be adhered to by additional sugar importing and exporting countries.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS

The Conference :

CONSIDERING the plan for the European Economic Community to be outstanding in breadth of vision and boldness of purpose and an example of high international statesmanship;

NOTING : (1) that discussions for the creation of a European Free Trade Area have taken longer than was anticipated;

(2) that under the Treaty of Rome, membership of the Community is open to other European countries on certain conditions;

WELCOMES the objective of establishing these European agreements in the interests of a stronger, healthier and more dynamic economy;

ENDORSED the view, expressed in the April 1958 statement of the European Regional Committee, that agriculture should not be regarded as the main obstacle towards the accomplishment of a European Free Trade Area—or Treaty of European Economic Association as it is now being termed;

RECOMMENDED THAT :

(i) All O.E.E.C. countries should find ways by which they can constitute an economic association to complement the work of the Community, believing that their task will be helped if all the Governments give full and immediate recognition to the principles embodied in the April 1958 statement of IFAP and in particular to (a) the need for arrangements dealing specifically with the treatment of agricultural products and (b) acceptance of other multilateral and reciprocal ways, besides the removal of tariffs and quantitative restrictions, of ensuring that the interests of agricultural exporting countries are safeguarded;

(ii) In view of the long period of transition necessary to change agricultural structures, there must be a genuine understanding by European governments of the need to ensure a reasonable level of living conditions for the agricultural populations of both exporting and importing countries.

(iii) Both the Community and the proposed European Free Trade Area should seek to expand trade both between themselves and third countries;

(iv) On the matter of preferences to tropical products originating in the Overseas Territories of the Six, the Community and the countries directly concerned should further explore the prospects for specific commodity arrangements to safeguard the existing flow of trade between countries of the EEC and other traditional suppliers of these products.

AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION

The General Conference resolved as follows :

(i) IFAP recognizes that farmers have a duty to assist in the alleviation of poverty. It is convinced in this respect that co-operative methods, rightly used in conjunction with measures to increase productivity, can make a vital contribution to improving economic and social conditions in the developing countries. It pays tribute to the work in this field of the international governmental organizations, in particular FAO and ILO, and welcomes every opportunity of consulting with them, as also with interested non-governmental organizations such as ICA, in order to contribute as effectively as possible to the development of sound and independent co-operative enterprises as an important instrument for the betterment of rural living.

(ii) In a world which seems to be more and more dominated by large-scale, highly integrated enterprises, co-operatives are an indispensable element of economic safeguard and social betterment for the farmers who own and control them, providing competition when this is needed in the private enterprise systems and defending farmers' interests in other ways in economies subject to greater government control.

(iii) IFAP as the farmers' world organization urges therefore that closest attention be given to the various ways in which co-operative methods can serve farmers in helping them to improve the economic and technical conditions of production and marketing. Farm organizations belonging to IFAP can and should contribute to the development of co-operatives that work for and are controlled by farmers.

Please remember to send us the address slip pasted on the envelope of the last issue of Krishak Samachar while writing to us for any change of address and all such correspondence may be addressed to:

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