



KRISHAK SAMACHAR

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Agriculture is the first priority *in the Third Five-year Plan*

NEW DELHI: The Third Five-Year Plan was presented to the Lok Sabha on August 7, 1961, by Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, Minister for Planning.

The plan calls for national unity, discipline and sacrifice and the dedicated effort of every citizen in order to ensure its speedy and efficient implementation.

The Third Plan will be directed in particular towards strengthening the agricultural economy, developing industry, power and transport and hastening the process of industrial and technological change, achieving marked progress towards equality of opportunity and the socialist pattern of society, and providing employment for the entire addition to the labour force.

In the scheme of development during the Third Plan, agriculture has the first priority. One of the main aims of the Third Plan is to harness the manpower resources available in rural areas. This is to be achieved through programmes of development for which the Plan provides, supplemented by extensive rural works, programmes for utilising manpower resources, specially for increasing agricultural production. Responsibility and initiative in development of rural areas will rest increasingly with village panchayats, panchayat samitis and zila parishads. Service co-operatives are to be organised on the basis of the village community as the primary unit. Co-operative farming, which is vital for rural progress, is essentially a logical growth of co-operation and the approach of

community development at the village level.

In the scheme of development, co-operation is expected to become progressively the principal basis of organisation in several branches of economic life, notably, in agriculture, small industry, distribution, construction and provision of essential amenities for local communities. Village and small industries have a crucial role in the development of the national economy, for, besides providing consumer and other goods and large-scale employment, they offer a method of ensuring a more equitable distribution of the national income and the means for the

utilisation of available resources in skill and manpower.

An important aspect of the problem of income disparities concerns the gap between rural and non-rural incomes, which tends to widen under the impact of industrial and economic development. This aim has to be attained through increase in agricultural productivity, development of social services, reduction in the dependence on land and diversification of the economic structure of rural areas through the extension of industry, and an agricultural price policy which fully safeguards the farmers' interest and is fair to the urban consumer.



Sri N. Rachiah, President, Mysore Pradesh Krishak Samaj and Sri M.V. Rajasekharan, General Secretary of the Samaj, visiting the Agricultural Exhibition at Chikodi, organised by Belgaun District Farmers' Forum on 12.7.61

"Rashtra Kalash" for Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

Awards for Kharif and Rabi Food Production Campaigns of 1959-60

HIMACHAL Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have won the "Rashtra Kalash" for the 1959-60 Kharif and Rabi food production campaigns respectively. Himachal Pradesh registered the highest increase of 30 per cent in food production among the States and Union territories which competed in the Kharif campaign. Madhya Pradesh attained an increase of 25 per cent in the Rabi campaign. These two have also won community awards of the value of Rs. 50,000 each.

The Scheme of Community Awards was introduced in 1958-59 as an incentive for increased production over large areas. Under this Scheme, those States which raise food production by 15 per cent or more during the Kharif and Rabi seasons over the average period of the corresponding crop seasons of the preceding three years are entitled to an award of Rs. 50,000 each. The State securing the highest percentage increase in production is awarded a rotating silver trophy known as "Rashtra Kalash". Correspondingly, districts with an increase of 15 per cent or more production are awarded Rs. 10,000 each. In each State, the district with the highest production is awarded "Rajya Kalash".

For the 1959-60 Kharif season besides Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, the Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which recorded increases of over 15 per cent, are eligible to the awards of Rs. 50,000 each. The increases in these States and Union territories were: Andaman and Nicobar Islands 25%, Bihar 22%, the Punjab 21%, Rajasthan 20% and Delhi 17%.

One hundred and ten out of 316 districts which took part in the Kharif campaign were able to increase food production by more than 15 per cent and have qualified for awards of Rs. 10,000 each. Of these 16 districts have won the "Rajya Kalash."

Rabi Production Campaign

Out of 10 States which took part in the Rabi campaign in 1959-60, only five, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore and U. P. registered increases varying from 4 to 25%. Madhya Pradesh which has won the "Rashtra Kalash" and the community award of Rs. 50,000 was the only State whose increase exceeded 15% and was of the order of 25%.

At the district level, 99 out of 265 districts were able to step up their food production by more than 15 per cent and win awards of Rs. 10,000 each. Eleven out of these have been awarded "Rajya Kalash."

The total value of the prizes won by the States and districts in both the campaigns during 1959-60 is estimated at Rs. 24.40 lakhs. This amount is to be spent by the State Governments on saturating the areas which have contributed most to the increased food production with improved agricultural implements.

FARM FORESTRY SCHEME TO COVER ONE HUNDRED BLOCKS IN MADHYA PRADESH IN THE THIRD PLAN

Bhopal, July 29, 1961: The Farm Forestry Scheme envisaging afforestation of suitable open plots in close proximity of rural habitation was inaugurated in the Sirmour Development Block of the Rewa district on July 27 last when the local Collector together with the villagers planted the first saplings in a two-acre plot adjacent to village Umri about 20 miles from Rewa. The scheme envisages the plantation of fuel-cum-fodder reserves in areas which suffer from chronic scarcity of them.

One hundred Development Blocks have been selected all over the State for implementing the scheme. During the Third Five-Year Plan, nearly 1,20,000 acres of waste land would be afforested under the

scheme all over the State. In the Rewa district three Development Blocks have been selected under the scheme. The Forest and the Block Development authorities would provide technical help, saplings and plants and would bear 50% of the total expenditure which would be about Rs. 100 per acre while the people would be required to share the rest of the expenditure by way of *shramdan* and protecting the trees. Sixty acres of land would be afforested in the Sirmour Block during the first year.

INCREASE IN LIVESTOCK POPULATION

The livestock population in Andhra Pradesh has increased by 10.6 per cent and in Himachal Pradesh it has decreased by 1.4 per cent during the last five years, according to the 9th quinquennial livestock census taken on April 15, 1961.

In Andhra Pradesh, the livestock population is estimated at 326.44 lakhs as against the 1956 census figure of 295.13 lakhs. The number of cattle has gone up by 8.9 per cent from 112.77 lakhs to 122.81 lakhs. Of these, males over three years have increased by 8.6 per cent, youngstock by 10.6 per cent and female cattle by 8.1 per cent. The total number of buffaloes has increased during the quinquennium by 16.7 per cent from 59.68 lakhs to 69.65 lakhs.

The population of sheep has increased from 78.46 lakhs to 83.71 lakhs, i.e. by 6.7 per cent, and goats by 15.5 per cent from 36.93 lakhs to 42.67 lakhs. The total number of horses and ponies which was 0.32 lakhs in 1956 is now 0.74 lakhs.

Poultry has registered an increase of 9.4 per cent from 147.37 lakhs to 161.28 lakhs.

An enumeration of the tractors in Andhra Pradesh show that they have increased from 1,626 to 2,460 during the five years period.

In Himachal Pradesh, the total livestock population has decreased from 27.39 lakhs to 27.01 lakhs. The number of cattle, however, has gone up by 3.6 per cent from 11.71 to 12.13 lakhs. Of these, female cattle over three years increased by 2.7 per cent and males over three

years by 8.4 per cent. But the population of youngstock had gone down by 0.2 per cent. The total number of buffaloes has increased by 2.9 per cent from 2.06 to 2.16 lakhs. There has been a decrease in the number of sheep by 4.6 per cent from 6.97 lakhs to 6.65 lakhs and of goats by 8.4 per cent from 6.52 lakhs to 5.97 lakhs. Poultry has recorded an increase of 55.7 per cent from 0.56 lakhs to 0.87 lakhs.

The census was taken in all the States in April 1961, except in Jammu and Kashmir where it will be held later this year. The census figures of Kerala and Madhya Pradesh have already been published. According to these, the livestock population in Kerala is estimated at 46.07 lakhs as against the 1956 census figure of 41.68 lakhs and the livestock population in Madhya Pradesh is placed at 375.67 lakhs as against 344.50 lakhs in 1956.

A HEALTHY COMPETITION

Taking part in the kharif-campaign, 1961, members of the Gram Sabha, Jingal district, Pithoragarh, U. P. decided to do their best and produce an average of 50 mds of paddy per acre from their fields. They also invited other Gram Subhas to except their challenge and compete them in this grow More Food Campaign.

Farmers of Vinayakpur village in Kanpur district have excepted the challenge of Gram Sabha, Jingal and have resolved in a meeting of their Co operative Society to beat the Jingal farmers by producing an average of 55 mds of paddy per acre from their fields.

Such healthy competitions are most welcome and they obviously serve the interests of farmers as well as the larger interests of the country as a whole.

PALOKI Y.F.A. BUILDING INAUGURATED

The second Annual Conference of Srikakulam District Young Farmers Association was inaugurated by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture, on 13-6-61 at Narsannapeta, Sri K. Subbayanaidu, State First prize winner in paddy, presided and Sri N. Basu, General Secretary, All India Young Farmers Association, addressed the meeting.

Mysore Farm Leaders Call For Building a Strong Farmers' Forum

Addressing farmers of Mysore State, Shri M.V. Rajasekharan, General Secretary of Mysore Farmers' Forum called upon them to build a strong Farmers' Forum in the State. He said "in a country like United States of America, the farmers have built very strong farm organisations of their own. They meet every month. They discuss their problems and place their recommendations and suggestions before the Government and get justice from the Government. In our country, unfortunately, the farmers have not united together to get a better deal from the Government. The farming in India has been considered to be a very low kind of profession. The farmers in our country do not have any social position in our Society. The farmers have been looked down very much by our present society". He further said that the farmers should be given a proper place in the society. He said "unless this is done, the farmers will not have any initiative and incentive to grow more food". Though there has been so much of talk by many leaders of the country about the improvement of the living standards of our farmers, so far the farmers have not been benefitted much. Hence he appealed to the farmers to come together and enroll themselves as active and Life Members of the Mysore Pradesh Krishak Samaj so that they can discuss their problems and place them before the Government, in an organised way to get the justice. He appealed to the Government to fix the prices of the farm produce. He said "unless this is done, the farmers

will not be in a position to grow more food". The farmer should atleast get the cost of his cultivation and a marginal profit to make his living out of what he grows.

He also appealed to the farmers to take to improved methods of Agriculture and he cited the examples of both America and Japan. He said "Every American Farmer is growing 23 times more than what he requires and 10% of the farmers have been growing so much that their farm production is becoming very much surplus." They have been able to achieve this because of the improved methods of Agriculture. He also cited the example of Japan and said that the farmers in Japan have also taken to improved and intensive cultivation.

Sri M.V. Rajasekharan explained to the farmers how the State Krishak Samaj has been trying to help the farmers of the State in various fields. He appealed to the farmers and Young Farmers to enroll themselves as Life and Active Members of the organisation. At the end he said, "unless we raise the living standards of our farmers, we cannot hope the country to become prosperous. He appealed to the public in general to create such an atmosphere in the country as to make the farmers feel proud of their provision.

With a view to strengthen the District Krishak Samajs, farmers' meetings were organised in the districts of Raichur, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar and Chitradurga under the auspices of Mysore State Farmers' Forum from July 8 to 13, 1961.

Shri N. Rachiah, Minister for Agriculture and President of Mysore State Farmers' Forum accompanied by the general secretary of the Forum, Shri Rajasekharan toured all these districts and addressed the farmers' meetings.

(Continued on page 7)

Our Excellent Food Crops

From the various estimates which are coming in, regarding production of various food crops, it appears that the over-all production of foodgrains during 1960-61 would be an enviable record. There are definite indications that it would exceed 78 million tons* but in actual fact when we have the final estimates the total production may not be too far from the target of 80.5 million tons of the Second Plan. Similarly the output of sugarcane is also going to reach a high mark of production of 86.9 lakh tons in terms of gur as against 76.7 lakh tons in the previous year. This would mean over 10 per cent increase on the target for the Second 5-Year Plan.

This very large production has undoubtedly created certain difficulties for disposal of the big quantity of sugar produced in the country. But there is no doubt that the difficulties would somehow or the other be resolved and the curious and unfortunate phenomenon of surpluses created insurmountable difficulties for us, we hope, would not be repeated in laying so much for lesser production, but by being prepared to deal with such good luck and excellent effort.

The area under the jute also during 1961-62 is likely to be more than 30% higher than the area of 15.29 lakh sown in 1960-61. The jute growers are already nervous about the jute prices which have already started coming down. Let us hope that here also we will be able to find a solution which would be able to eliminate all avoidable losses to the growers. Sugarcane acreage is showing an increase of about 7.9 per cent over that of the last year, i.e., 5.6 million acres in 1961-62, as compared to 5.2 million acres in 1960-61.

The available estimates show a very considerable improvement in yields during the *rabi* season under the Intensive Agricultural District Programme, namely, the two districts of Shahabad (Bihar) and Tanjore (Madras). In the former the per acre yield is reported to be 14.9 Mds. as against 9.1 Mds. and that of wheat and gram mixture as 10.7 Mds. as against 6.7 Mds. in the non-programme areas. In Tanjore, the yield of whole crop of paddy is about 32.6 Mds. per acre as against 28.3 Mds. per acre in the area outside the programme.

During the quarter April-June 1961, 4.10 lakh metric tons of nitrogenous fertilizers were supplied to the State Governments and the Plantations from the Central Fertilizers Pool as against 1.6 lakh metric tons in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Superphosphate despatches have totalled 54,204 metric tons as against 51831 metric tons during the quarter ending June 1961. An area of 25.2 lakh acres was covered with soil conservation measures during the Second Plan, thus exceeding the target of 20 lakh acres.

The Central Mechanised Farm, Suratgarh has in 1960-61 produced 1.86 lakh Mds. of foodgrains from 1.94 lakh acres as compared to 1.38 lakh Mds. from 1.95 lakh acres.

The demand for agricultural tractors in the country was estimated at about 8000. Arrangements have been made for the import of about 4,900 tractors including 2500 from Czechoslovakia and 1405 from Russia.

Under the Horticulture Development scheme in the country during the year 1.7 lakh acres were planted with new orchards during the Second Plan period as against the target of 1.33 lakh acres. Another 1.32 lakh acres under old orchards were rejuvenated. An additional area of 2.13 lakh acres was brought under Cashewnut during the Second Plan period as compared to the target of 2.78 lakh acres.

New Central Institutes

The following new Central Institutes are proposed to be established during the III Five Year Plan :

- 1 Forage & Grassland Research Institute.
- 2 All-India Institute of Pedology and Soil Mechanics.
- 3 Central Plant Virus Research Institute.
- 4 Weed Control Laboratory.

All provision has also been made in the Central Plan of the Ministry for the establishment of Research Centres in major River Valley Project Areas to study the various aspects of optimum utilisation of irrigation water.

The number of regulated markets has increased from 414 in 1955 to 725 by February, 1961. The production of fish during 1960 reached a target of 14 lakh metric tons. A variety of quick growing fish called the common carp was introduced in India from the Far East.

The Success of Japanese Method of Paddy cultivation

Mr. Robert Engle, T.C.M. Fertilizer Adviser had very kindly sent to me certain graphs of average per acre yield of rice since 1949-50 to 1959-60. In sending me these graphs he wrote to me as follows :

“Recently I completed a study of yield trends for the major crops for each State. The figures were furnished by the Statistical Wing of the Ministry of Food & Agriculture. Two crops showed an increase in yield trend, Rice and Sugarcane. I could justify and see a reason for increased yield for sugarcane, because the sugar factory fieldmen assisted the cultivator to grow better cane, but I could not see why rice showed an increased yield trend until I remembered that during the First Five Year Plan you inaugurated a Japanese Paddy Campaign which apparently is reflected in the increase yield trend.

I thought it of sufficient interest to send you a set of the charts for your information. The black line is the year to year yield and the broken line is a 3-Year running average trend."

I was very happy indeed to read this letter and I consider it an unsolicited compliment to the results of the Japanese Method achieved during the last 8 years. The Campaign, as many of you know, was started in January 1953 and I consider it highly satisfying that by and large the trend of rice production per acre from State to State bears out the efficiency of this method and the work done by the various State Governments in the propagation of this method. The graphs themselves would indicate that the State of Madras took it up with utmost enthusiasm. It is a result of this earnest endeavour that this State was able to bring under the Japanese Method an area of 16.3 lakh acres in 1959-60 which comes to about 27% of its total land under rice. The per acre yield of rice in this State which stood at about 818 lbs in 1949-50 went up to 890 lbs in 1952-53 and has now reached the enviable figure of 1313 lbs per acre in 1959-60.

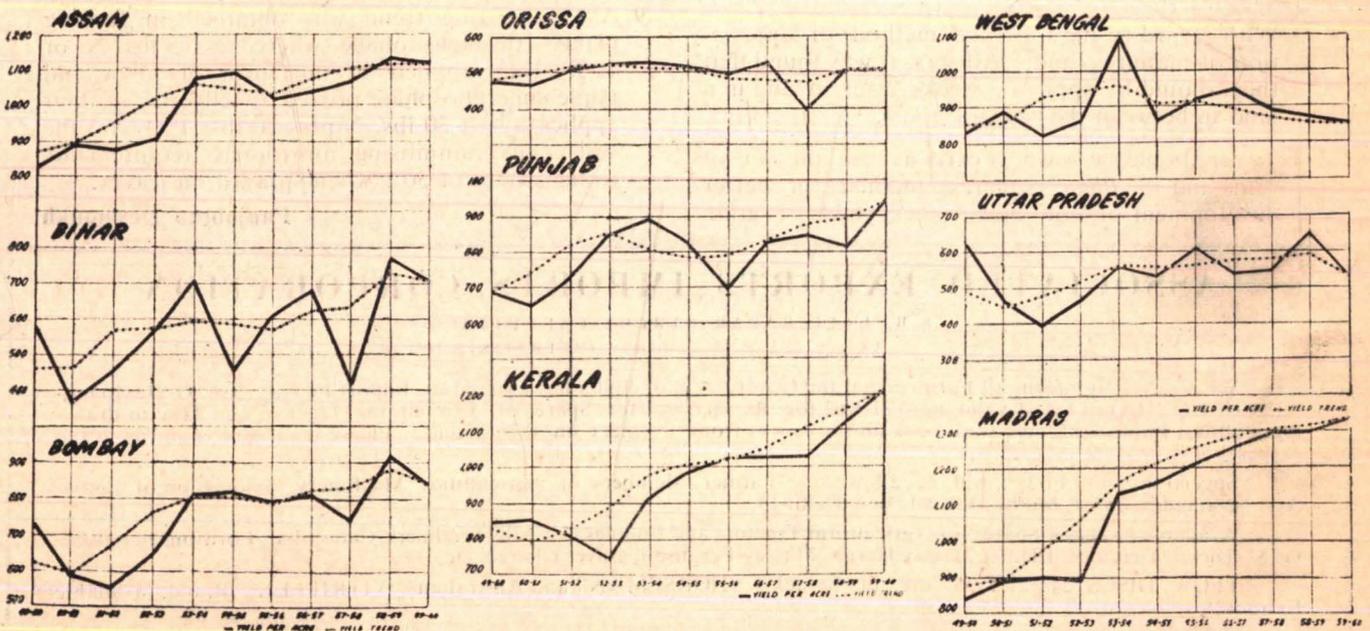
Mysore which includes the old State of Coorg, which always had a very high yield per acre and probably the highest in India, takes the second place. It has put nearly 5 lakh acres under the Japanese Method out of the total of 23 lakhs with the consequence that the per acre yield of 810 lbs. in 1949-50 has gone upto 900 lbs. in 1952 and little over 1200 lbs. in 1959-60.

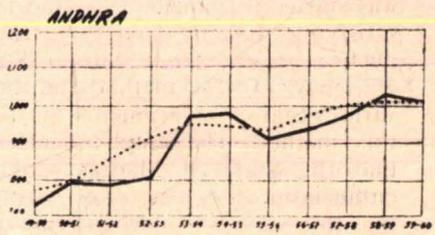
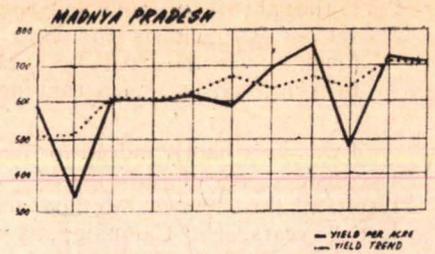
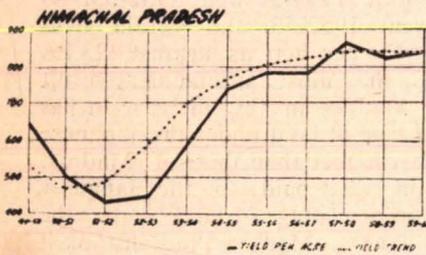
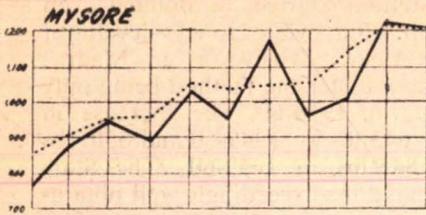
The Japanese Method started in Bombay even before I took it up. But while it was developed intensively, it was not so extensive as in Madras and Mysore, the area under the method being only about 11% of the total in 1959-60. The increase in Bombay was from 645 lbs in 1949-50 and 650 lbs in 1952-53 to about 845 lbs in 1959-60. The State of Kerala, however, has done exceedingly well obtaining 1200 lbs. per acre of rice in 1959-60 as against only 760 lbs in both 1949-50 and 1952-53. As compared with the year 1952-53, the Kerala yield has gone up by 460 lbs per acre as against 423 lbs of Madras. This is the most spectacular result which even beats Madras in the increase it has achieved. The percentage of land under the Japanese Method is also slightly higher than that of Madras. Very little attention was paid to the Japanese Method by Orissa, the percentage of land under the method being only 0.68%. Madhya Pradesh took it up in some limited areas but the tempo was not maintained, the percentage of land covered being only 2.2. Jammu and Kashmir is too proud of their own method and U.P. could not do much.

Total land under the method in 1958-59 was 5.6 million acres but in 1959-60 it rose to 7.1 million acres. The additional rice production resulting from this method alone comes respectively to the minimum of 14 and 17.5 lakh tons valued at 56 and 71 crores of rupees for the two years. The saving in seed alone would be of the order of 2.8 and 3.0 crores of rupees worth per year.

The graphs on which the above conclusions are mainly based are given below :-

RICE YIELD PER ACRE and YIELD TREND BY CROPS





RICE

YIELD PER ACRE AND
YIELD TREND BY CORPS

Agricultural Research by Shri Shivaji Education Society

It was in 1956, that the Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati took up some schemes of agricultural research. One of them related to agronomic aspects of *jowar*. The funds for this were contributed by the I. C. A. R. The research continued for a period of nearly 5 years and the following is the summary submitted by the Officer-in-charge. The main conclusions are as follows :—

- 1 Out of the 3 major nutrient—NPK, the appreciable increase in Cob. weight and yield of grain and KARBI were obtained with the application of 40 lbs and 40 lbs P₂O₅ singly as well as combinations, the increase on an average in grain yield being about 200 lbs. per acre.
- 2 The application of nitrogen in the form of F. Y. M. was as good as its inorganic form for enhancing *jowar* production.
- 3 With regard to the time and method of application of manures and fertilisers, it was found that they should be applied 3 weeks after sowing in a land in between the rows of *jowar*.
- 4 *Jowar* should be sown as early as the on set of rains and in *Phuli* (squares) method for better development of cob and higher yields of grain

and *Karbi* than that of its normal sowing through drilling.

- 5 The spacing of 24" × 12" between rows and plants was found to be the optimum under local conditions.
- 6 The planting of more than one seed per hill did not add substantially towards grain yield as it did for *Karbi* production.
- 7 The application of nitrogen and phosphate in doses used in these investigations although increased the yield of *jowar*, but did not influence the yields in relation to plant number per hill or the space between hills.
- 8 The frequent *bakharing* in seed bed preparation (upto six times) along with twice weeding and four times hoeing gave the highest yield of grain (73% increase) and *Karbi* (49% increase) as compared to usual practice followed by the cultivators.
- 9 An interesting trend was obtained in feeding plants through foliage where in 15 lbs N or 10 lbs P₂O₅ applied in the form of Urea and triple superphosphate proved as effective as their application at 30 lbs N plus 20 lbs P₂O₅ in the soil. Thus minimising nutritional requirements to the extent of 50% when sprayed on leaves.

Panjabrao Deshmukh

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Hunger comes in the way of all the plans. . . . hunger should be removed first and farmers should be encouraged to grow more food. . . .

—N. Rachiah

(from page 3)

Presiding over all the District Farmers' meetings, Sri N. Rachiah, State Minister for Agriculture and President Mysore Pradesh Krishak Samaj spoke about the importance of farm organisations in the country. He appealed to the farmers to do intensive cultivation and develop Mixed Farming. He said that the country is lagging behind just because the farmers also are lagging behind. We have not given encouragement and protection to our farmers. He said, "In our country we have got very good natural resources. The people who are in power in the Government, some of them have not understood the problems of our farmers. Even if there are few persons who have understood the problems of the farmers, they have not understood well. He said "Hunger comes in the way of all the plans. Hence hunger should be removed first and the farmers should be given encouragement to grow more food". He said, "after independence we should have started more fertilizer factories which would have supplied more Fertilisers to our farmers. He said that he knew that the farmers are not getting enough fertilizers due to the shortage of production and availability of fertilizers. The farmers are not getting better prices for their produces. The farmers are not having better marketing facilities. Hence, he appealed to the farmers to become more vigilant and organise themselves. Unless we eradicate hunger, poverty and ignorance, Sri Rachiah said, the country cannot progress. He further said that if the responsibility was given to farmers, they can not only grow more food, but also they will reach a stage when they will be exporting food to other countries. He cited the example of Sugar. He appealed to the farmers to develop Fisheries, Poultry, Piggery, Animal Husbandry and Agriculture. He said that If we want to save democracy, the farmers should get a better deal. Sri Rachiah cited the examples of Europe, Russia and other countries

and appealed that the conditions of our farmers should be made equal to the conditions of those countries. Lastly, he appealed to the farmers to strengthen their own farmers' organisation by enrolling themselves as the Life and Active Members of the Mysore Pradesh Krishak Samaj.

He said, "It is only through the farmers' organisations like the Mysore Pradesh Krishak Samaj and Mysore State Young Farmers' Association, that we have to increase our food production and solve our food problem". At the end he assured the farmers that he would take whatever suggestions and problems that he has so far discussed with the members of the Forum in the districts and place them before the Executive Committee of the Mysore Pradesh Krishak Samaj and after getting their approval, he would place them before the Government and try to get some of the problems solved.

Belgaum district Farmers' Forum had also arranged an Agricultural Exhibition to coincide with the farmers' meeting at Chikodi on July 12, 1961.

Winners of prize competitions in the district of Gulbarga received their prizes in the farmers' meeting held on July 10, 1961, at the Law College premises under the Chairmanship of Shri N. Rachiah.

CONSTRUCTION OF WAREHOUSES

The Central Warehousing Corporation opened 10 new warehouses during the first four months of the current financial year. The Corporation now has 50 warehouses spread all over the Country.

The Corporation has also accelerated its construction programme so that the hired accommodation in which warehouses are now functioning may be replaced by new buildings constructed on modern and scientific lines.

Research News

NEW COTTON STRAIN Fight Back Weevil Attack

MCU-3, the new winter Combodia cotton which is being popularised among Madras farmers, is found to stand the attack of the cotton stem weevil very well.

The stem weevil is the worst insect pest of cotton in the State, and sometimes causes heavy loss of crop, especially to the irrigated Combodia cotton.

MCU-3, the new cotton, was recently introduced in the State, as it was found to be very good for growing in the winter irrigated Combodia zone of the State. It was found superior to *MCU-1*, already being grown by farmers in the zone.

While conducting trials with the new cotton on farmers' fields, it was found that it withstood weevil attack much better than *MCU-1* could.

In spite of heavy attack from the weevil, the *MCU-3* crop produced high yields when compared to those of *MCU-1*.

LEAF-CURL

Serious Disease of Chilli

Once leaf-curl disease has a chance to attack the chilli crop, it tries to stay there.

Margins of leaves of the plants curl up, and when the disease is serious, the leaves fall off. Such plants show no more growth, and the fruits formed get out of shape.

To check the spread of the disease, which chilli-growers consider as the most serious one of chilli pests such as trips, aphids and mites have to be controlled. It is these pests which spread the disease.

These can be controlled with nicotine sulphate solution (1 : 1000 parts of water), and soap solution (1 : 40 parts of water).

For controlling mites, the crop has to be dusted with sulphur-lime in the protection of 1 : 3.

It is important to select from only healthy plants for the next year's sowing.

Fertilizers help plants grow strong and resist the disease to good extent.

Tackling problem of Soil Conservation in India

Speedy and Efficient Measures Urged

THE Union Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh said in New Delhi on July 21, that the nature and extent of the problem of soil conservation in India was colossal and had to be tackled with utmost speed and efficiency.

Dr. Deshmukh, who was presiding over the Sixth meeting of the Central Soil Conservation Board on July 21, said that it had been estimated that ultimately soil conservation measures would have to be taken in a total area of 500 to 600 million acres in the various States. Of this about 200 million acres needed early attention. To tackle this problem he suggested the setting up of well-knit organisations both at the Centre and in the States.

Dr. Deshmukh said that during the Second Plan period the area treated with soil conservation measures was less than 3 million acres. In the third Plan a five-fold increase in the target was contemplated in addition to a large scale programme in the catchment areas of the river valley projects estimated to cost Rs. 11 crores.

The Minister pointed out that at present in the majority of the States, there was no separate department or agency which was responsible for soil conservation as a whole. He said that the opinion of the States had been sought on the necessity to entrust the responsibility for the execution of soil conservation programmes to a single authority.

Dr. Deshmukh said there was great shortage of people trained in soil conservation. A large number of trained personnel was required to achieve the target and in this connection he urged the need to strengthen the existing training centres adequately and to organise efficient training programmes.

50,000 TON SILO TO BE BUILT

New Delhi, July 21, 1961 : An agreement was signed here today between the Government of India and the Polish organisation CEKOP, under which the latter will prepare a project report for the construction of a 50,000 ton port silo either in

Bombay or Madras. The report will be submitted to the Government of India within three months.

Shri H. Lal, Director-General of Food, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, signed the agreement on behalf of India, and Mr. S. Komorowski on behalf of CEKOP.

In May 1960, a credit agreement was concluded with Poland, one of the items being the construction of a silo for the bulk storage of foodgrains. Subsequently, a technical team from Poland visited this country to collect data for the preparation of a project report.

India already has two silos, or grain elevators—one at Hapur in Uttar Pradesh and the other, recently completed, in Calcutta. Each of these is of 10,000 ton capacity, but it is intended to augment the capacity of the Calcutta silo to about 20,000 tons. Both silos were constructed with aid received from the U. S. Technical Cooperation Mission.

Silos are modern devices for the scientific and prolonged storage of foodgrains and form an important element in the building up of India's 4 million ton food reserve.

ALL-INDIA FINAL ESTIMATE OF BARLEY, 1960-61

The All-India Final Estimate of Barley for 1960-61 shows that in spite of a decrease in acreage the current year's production of the crop has increased as compared to last year's, thus showing a higher yield per acre.

According to Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the current year's area and production are placed at 7,916,000 acres and 2,734,000 tons respectively. As compared with the partially revised estimates of 8,345,000 acres and 2,674,000 tons,

the estimates for 1960-61 show a decrease of 429,000 acres or 5.1 per cent in area but an increase of 60,000 tons or 2.2 per cent in production.

The decrease in area during the current year has occurred mainly in the States of Rajasthan, Bihar, the Punjab and West Bengal and is attributed generally to unfavourable weather conditions at the sowing time.

The increase in the current year's production is accounted for mainly by Uttar Pradesh State and is attributed to favourable climatic conditions during the growing period of the crop. This increase in production has, however, been offset to a considerable extent by the decrease reported by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

WHEAT PRODUCTION SUBSTANTIAL RISE IN YIELD PER ACRE

An all-time record in production and an increase of 8.2 per cent in yield per acre over last year's figure are features of the 1960-61 all-India Final Estimate of wheat.

According to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the area covered by wheat and the production of this cereal in 1960-61 were 31,751,000 acres and 10,648,000 tons, respectively compared with the Partially Revised estimated for 1959-60 of 32,542,000 acres and 10,089,000 tons, the estimates for 1960-61 show a decrease of 791,000 acres in area, or 2.4 per cent, but an increase of 559,000 tons, or 5.5 per cent, in production. The yield per acre works out at 751 lbs. as against 694 lbs. last year.

Decreases in area in 1960-61 were reported mainly from the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, while increases occurred in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Mysore.

Production rose mainly in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab due to increase in area and to favourable weather conditions during the growing period of the crop. It fell in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.