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Notice to Life Members

All Life Members of B.K.S. are requested to fill the form attached on page 11th and send it back for record to the central office as early as possible. The attached form printed in Hindi & English may be filled in either language. Then detach it from Krishak Samachar and despatch to the undersigned without fail.

Secretary.

It has been the experience of the Indian farmer that higher his production are the lower the prices. Even if the prices are controlled, the farm producer receives lower than the control price because of the middle-men. This time the more production and less return of sugarcane gave the farmers a heavy loss. The farmer, in raising a crop, invests in fertilizers and manures, seeds, labour, including his own irrigation etc. In addition, there is also the investment in land, implements, bullocks, etc. Many farmers have to borrow to invest in farming. Loss of that investment may often mean inability to pay the loan back and losing credit worthiness. This together with the loss of the anticipated profit in the crop is a financial blow that many farmers are unable to recover. In these circumstances, if he does not get the remunerative prices, his standard of living which is already so low is further lowered.

In view of the same problem Bharat Krishak Samaj has been repeatedly clamouring for the fixation of floor prices for some important agricultural commodities well-in-advance of the season. In addition to other activities, the Annual Convention of the Samaj constitutes commodity councils for a number of commodities. For instance four commodity councils viz. Jute, cotton, sugarcane, tobacco, were constituted in its last convention held at Madras in March, 1962. These councils being specialised bodies of Bharat Krishak Samaj will have to be vigilant and powerful as to anticipate a fruitful response from the Government and other interestes concerned. These councils with the co-operation of producers, processors, mill-owners etc. will move the Government for the interest of farmers.

To encourage higher yields and improved production of agricultural commodities the All India Council of Farmers passed the following resolutions: (1) Marketing of agricultural produces (2) Processing of Agricultural produces (3) Agricultural credit and (4) Crop and Cattle insurance. Under the head "marketing", the main problem of fixing the floor prices for some important commodities like Jute, cotton, wheat, cane and tobacco etc. arises, so that a farmer can get better returns out of his efforts.

It is heartening that this month in the debate of Lok Sabha, Food & Agriculture Minister Shri S.K. Patil, told that Government was considering the question of fixing floor prices (minimum prices) for all agricultural commodities to safeguard the interest of farmers. It is also worth mentioning that without calling it a floor price Government had fixed a price of Rs. 30 per maund for Jute and Rs. 13 per maund for wheat. Government has given an assurance that if the prices of jute went below this price the Government would review the position.

Such steps taken by the Union Government will act as real incentives to the farmers for more production.



Agricultural Progress in G. D. R.

Herr. Gottfried Sperling and Herr. Winter, two farmer delegates from the German Democratic Republic, were the guests of Bharat Krishak Samaj. During their stay at Delhi from 29th April to 6th May, 1962, a visit to the office of the Samaj was arranged, when they were interviewed by the Public Relations Officer of the Samaj to elucidate information regarding the agricultural development in the Republic.

Q. : What is the total Area of cultured land in GDR in relation to the total available land for cultivation?

Ans. : The total area of cultured land amounts to 6,439,828 hectares (not including woods and forests) which is fully utilised for cultivation. The arable land covers an area of 4,853,395 hectares. The difference is filled up by rotation land, garden areas, orchards, tree nurseries, meadows etc.

Q. : Is G.D.R. self-sufficient in food grains ?

Ans. : The production of food crops does not yet meet the requirements. The result is that a certain quantity of food grains has to be imported. The quantities imported in 1960 are as follows :

Wheat 1,520,000 tons, rye 234,000 tons, Barly 11,630 tons and oats 58,000 tons.

Q. : What is the total population engaged in Agriculture ?

Ans. : The GDR has 17.3 million inhabitants (census on December 31, 1959) out of which approximately 68% of employed persons are working in industry, commerce and transport whereas 18% are

employed in agriculture and forestry.

Q. : What types of crops are grown ?

Ans. : The main crops which are grown in the GDR are rye, potatoes, green and silo maize, wheat, barley, and oats among which rye ranks first with 19.6% utilization of all arable land available. Cereals cultivated land covers an area of 2,322,407 hectares i.e. 48.1% of the whole arable land available.

Q. : What are the sources of irrigation ?

Ans. : Irrigation is not a serious problem in GDR, because of the climatic conditions and the soil. We have sufficient rainfall all the year round which does not necessitate us in resorting to artificial irrigation. Sprinkling system of irrigation is adopted for vegetable cultivation only.

Q. : What is the extent of mechanized farming in the republic ?

Ans. : Due to the efforts of the LPG (Agricultural Producers' Co-operatives) GDR agriculture has been efficiently mechanized. Tillage operations are well organised from

spring cultivation to beet harvesting. The degree of mechanisation has gone up to 51% in potato harvesters and 83% in beet harvesters which will be raised to 84% and 100% respectively by 1965. In 1960 cereal harvesting was already 83.2 per cent mechanized.

By 1965 all important mechanical handling and farm-yard transport, which generally accounts for more than half of all the labour input, will be fully mechanized on the co-operative farms. The herring-bone milking-stands, in particular alleviate the hard work of milking the cows and increase labour productivity in animal husbandry. They can be put up as permanent erections or used as mobile units in the pastures.

Q. : What is the average size of land holdings ? Is there any ceiling on land holdings ?

Ans. : The structure of agriculture has changed considerably in recent years. Cooperatively run villages are now dominating the agricultural scene and the share of private holdings in the entire agriculture of the GDR has been reduced largely. If one has to give the average size of land holdings, one has to take into consideration that 84.2% of all land in agriculture is run by LPG. The average size of land holdings of one LPG amounts to approximately 225 hectares.

Q. : What are the measures taken by the Government for promoting agriculture ?

Ans. : The State grants agriculture substantial material and financial support every year. In 1959, its aid was 7.9 thousand million marks and in 1960 it

amounted to 9.1 thousand millions, 19.2 per cent of the state budget.

The agricultural production co-operatives will receive state investment credits worth 14.6 thousand million marks in the course of the Seven-Year Plan, 5.6 thousand million marks thereof to be spent on special development projects. 7.6 thousand millions have been furnished for buildings, ameliorations, and improving animal breeding. The state is financing a gigantic amelioration programme in order to boost hectare yields. It is being implemented throughout the country. The state plans further funds every year to better the social and cultural conditions in the country.

The LPG receives the credits they need to do their work from the Deutsche Bauernbank at a 2 per cent rate of interest. The LPG Executive Committee deliberates whether it is necessary to apply for credits. Their decision is submitted to the meeting for approval. They can receive short-term and long-term credits. Short-term credits are paid back out of the money currently coming into the co-operative farm.

Long-term credits are paid back after a number of years according to the expenses incurred and the length of use scheduled for the project thus financed. Where long-term credits have been granted to purchase machines and tools or to put up new farm buildings, repayments have to be effected within a four-year period. Women co-operatives farmers are equal members of their LPG. They work in the tillage or in the animal-husbandry brigades with the same responsibility for fulfilling certain tasks as their male colleagues. By attending training classes they have learnt the things they were not able to learn before.

Women often hold responsible posts. It is, therefore, a matter of course that they have equal voice in co-operative farm life as equals of their male counterparts. For instance, they have the same right as the men to state their opinion on the cropping or financial plans at the members meeting. They can submit motions and reject what they are not convinced to be correct.

Q. : What is MTS and what are its functions ?

Ans. : The machine and tractor Stations (MTS) is a nationally-owned agricultural business enterprise.

Originally the MTS used to own a fleet of tractors, agricultural implements, harvesters, etc. These machines were put at the disposal of the Cooperatives and individual farmers at a moderate charge and thus help to boost agricultural output. Meanwhile a new stage in agricultural cooperative development was reached resulting in various forms of cooperation between LPG and MTS. The tractor brigades were under the guidance of the LPG chairman himself, so that the machines could be employed without a hitch. The tractor drivers also received part of the money paid out for the sale of produce above the plan, so as to give them an incentive to cultivate the fields well and according to schedule. In 1959, the process of handing over the machines and tools to the most advanced LPG of type III began. 25,000 tractors, 2,300 beet harvesters, 3,000 potato harvesters, and 3,300 mower-threshers were under their management by autumn 1960. At the same time 23,000 qualified and skilled workers from the MTS joined the

co-operative farms. This all helps to guarantee that the machines are used with the greatest economical effects, that labour productivity rises, and that production costs go down.

The MTS had new tasks to carry out after the machines were handed over to the LPG of type III. They developed into repair and technical stations (RTS). In this function, too, they helped the co-operative farms to grow and take firm form. They advise the LPG how to use best various machines in a complex manner on the land and in animal husbandry. Such machines as power winches, flax pullers, and maize mower-choppers remain at the RTS so that they are at the disposal of all the co-operative farms within the RTS area.

The RTS, furthermore, overhauls all the machines, and is responsible for supplying spare parts, fuel and lubricants. Experts from the RTS, go to the co-operative farms and advise them when they buy new tools and machinery and when they want to put up new farm buildings or carry out building reconstructions.

Cooperative farmers in LPG receive special support in their organization of co-operative work, the democratic organization of the farm, and the drawing up of cultivation and crop rotation plans. One of the RTS primary tasks is training young workers for the LPG and attending to the further qualification of co-operative farmers.

Q. : To what extent has the cooperative farming succeeded in the Republic ?

Ans. : Now that all farmers have switched over to large-scale socialist farming, the most important prerequisites have been created in the

GDR villages for the greatest possible increase of market production and labour productivity in all the Agricultural Production Co-operatives (LPG). The successes achieved during the first year of co-operative farming in the LPGs prove that decision to farm jointly was right. In 1960 market produce exceeded that of 1959 by 101,022 tons of fat stock, 246,661 tons of milk and 404,000,000 eggs. Yields per hectare went up as follows : cereals by 3.2 French quintals, oil seeds by 1.9 French quintals, potatoes by 33.4 French quintals, sugar beet by 40.4 French quintals and maize by 20.4 French quintals. The new conditions of production paved the way for the better utilization of science and technology, for increasing production, and raising the living standard. The farmers in the GDR enjoy ensured prospects and can look forward to a happy future. Free from debts, oppression, and fear that they will be unable to earn their living, they can build up a bright life for themselves and their children.

That decision to join the agricultural production co-operative was voluntary and was the supreme principle. The co-operative-farm Statutes stipulate in the article on membership : "Admission to a co-operative farm is only granted, if the applicant has applied voluntarily."

575,000 farmers out of the overall total of 954,000 belong to type 3 co-operative farms and 379,000 to types 1 and 2. After the farmers had resolved to produce jointly, they started stepping up the yields in all agricultural spheres enthusiastically. Some communities in the Eilenburg District had already

surpassed the aims set by the Seven-Year Plan in 1960. Great success in farming was achieved by applying new methods in tillage and animal husbandry and by realizing the principle to boost backward LPGs up to the standard of the advanced LPGs. In 1960, 230,65 French quintals of beef, 237,174 eggs, 826,68 French quintals of pork, 59 French quintals of poultry and 1,672,95 French quintals of milk were produced more than in 1959 by the community of Jesewitz. The good results achieved in production by Altenkirchen District (on the Isle of Ruegen) demonstrate that joining together in co-operatives is the right way.

Q. : In a country like yours, where industrialization is rapid, how is the problem of the agrarian population drifting into industry tackled ?

Ans. : As a matter of fact there was a trend that young people drifted into industry. But this problem has been solved. The young people in the rural districts have received to qualify themselves within their trades. The shy and clumsy village-child has died out and free self-assertive young people who can take up the profession they want to, have taken its place. Moreover wages in agriculture are as high as wages in industry, sometimes they are even higher in agriculture. The application of modern machinery to the farm brings industry and agriculture more and more together so that the gap between the life of an industrial and an agricultural worker is brought down to a minimum. The time will come soon when there are no differences any more.

Q. : What are the aims and objects of the Farmers' Mutual Aid Organization ?

Ans. : The Peasants' Mutual Aid is the political mass organization of the self-employed working farmers and represents the interests of the peasantry as a whole. The VdgB participates actively in the building of Socialism, in close alliance with the working class, and considers its main task the promotion of socialist democracy in the village. It lends its support to the elected assemblies at all levels by cooperating in carrying out their decisions and through the activities of its own parliamentary deputies. To the various parliamentary assemblies throughout the GDR 24,796 deputies were elected on the VdgB ticket. Apart from that thousands of farmers sit on state commissions and committees.

The VdgB explains to the peasant population their rights and duties as citizens and stresses the need for plan fulfilment and plan discipline. In this it is guided by the knowledge that there are natural limits beyond which an independent smallholder cannot raise crop yields, increase the productivity of his herds, take advantage of modern technical methods and improve his living standards. Therefore the VdgB encourages and supports the formation of farming co-operatives on a voluntary basis. It advocates close and friendly co-operation between cooperative and independent working farmers.

Q. : What is an L.P.G. ? What are its set up and functions ?

Ans. An agricultural producers' cooperative is a large farming establishment of a socialist character which has come into existence in the village through the voluntary association of groups of farmers. The farmers work in their fields jointly and this enables the cooperators to

employ modern large-scale machinery to full advantage, dispense with some of the heavier manual work normally done by peasants and to allow their members more leisure time.

There are three different forms of agricultural producers' cooperative, known as types I, II and III.

Type I is the simplest form. The members contribute only their arable fields for collective cropping.

In Type II the members contribute their arable fields and also their draught animals, horses, tractors and other machines and implements for collective use in the cooperative.

Type III is the highest form of farming cooperative. The members contribute their land together with meadows and woods, grazing fields, their draught animals and a part of their breeding and domestic animals together with their agricultural machines and implements. In this type the cooperative economy extends to all branches of agricultural production.

On joining a type III cooperative the new member has to pay in a certain sum of money as a contribution to the stock fund, the amount to be fixed by the members' meeting. As a rule the contribution is in the neighbourhood of 500 marks per hectare of cultivable land.

Eligible for membership in an LPG, according to the Statutes, are 'working farmers and agricultural labourers as well as all other village inhabitants of both sexes on reaching the age of 16'.

Farmers with large holdings, who adopt a loyal attitude to the state, may also be accepted. As a rule, however, they are not credited with the total of their land brought into the LPG, but only with a portion

equivalent to the average share contributed by the other members.

As to whether or not an applicant should be admitted depends entirely on the decision of the members' meeting. No persons may be forced to join. The Statutes are very distinct on this: "Membership in an agricultural producers' cooperative is strictly on a voluntary basis."

Q. : Is the standard of living of a farmer in par with that of an industrial worker?

Ans. : Generally speaking, the standard of living of a peasant as compared with that of an industrial worker is in par. In many cases, however, peasants enjoy a better standard of living than industrial workers. Only to plug one example; There are more car and television set owners to be found among members of Agricultural Production Cooperatives than among workers.

Q. : Are Individuals encouraged to own lands?

Ans. : According to our policy of co-operative farming, we do everything possible to convince individual peasants of the advantages to join a L.P.G. It goes without saying that there is no reason why individuals should be encouraged to own private holding of course peasants once having joined an L.P.G. are not detained from having their small individual holdings.

Q. : Can an individual farmer employ agricultural labour?

Ans. : There does not exist any regulation which curtail individual peasants for employing agricultural workers. But since agriculture in the GDR is run on a co-operative basis, there is no necessity any more to have agricultural workers.

Q. : How does a farmer obtain his agricultural supplies?

Ans. : The nationally-owned procurement and purchasing enterprises (VEAB) deal with farm produce. They are legally independent organisations directed by the Association of Nationally-Owned Procurement and Purchasing Enterprises and centrally subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture, Procurement and Forestry. They take over produce from the socialist farms and transport it to its destination, potatoes to the starch factories, animals for slaughter houses. Each procurement enterprise works on the "greatest economy" principle, in order to keep down the trade margin. A contract system guarantees that the socialist farms deliver their produce on fixed days so that the populations' needs are satisfied all the year round.

A further important task is trading with domestic and breeding animals and supplying socialist farms with seeds, fodder and fertilizers. Dressing and processing agricultural produce is also part of their range of work. They cleanse, dry, sort seeds and seedlings. They have large store-rooms, silos and fertilizer sheds so that they can carry out their jobs efficiently.

Q. : Are there general farm organizations like the Bharat Krishak Samaj, other than what we have covered today?

Ans. : As to peasants' organizations, there are: DBD—Demokratische Bauernpartei Deutschlands (Democratic Peasants' Party of Germany), VDGB—Vereinigung der gegenseitigen Bauernhilfe (Peasants' Mutual Aid Association), VVEAB—Vereinigung Volkseigener Erfassungs- und Aufkaufbetriebe (Association of Nationally-owned Procurement and Purchasing Enterprises), BHG—Bauerliche Handelsgenossenschaft (Agricultural Trade Co-operative).

INDIAN FARMERS OFF TO AMERICA

Bharat Krishak Samaj—a national organization of the farmers of India has undertaken a project of exchange of farmers and farm leaders. It is jointly sponsored by BKS and Farmers and World Affairs, Inc., U.S.A. Under this project three groups of American farmers and farm leaders have already visited India in 1959-60, 1961 and 1962 respectively. In return a group of 12 Indian farm leaders visited U.S.A. last summer. The second group of Indian farm leaders left India for U.S.A. under this project on May 31, 1962.

The Aims and Objects of the programme are to acquaint participants with American farming procedures, rural family and community life, and the institutions serving American farmers (farm organizations, cooperative, credit unions, agricultural colleges, Extension Service, etc.), in the furtherance of mutual understanding and goodwill between farmers of India and the U.S. and improvement of Indian farming techniques and farming organizations and services.

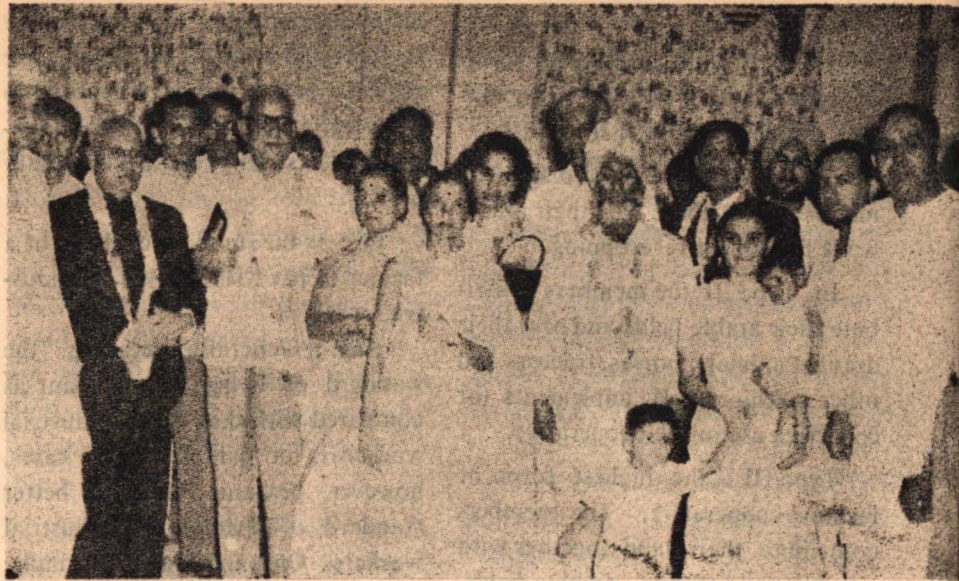
In USA the group will stay for about 9 weeks. The members of this group will visit Washington, South Carolina, Florida, Kansas City, Colorado, Chicago, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. Here they will visit granges, farms, land grant college, dairy farms, National Farmers Union Head Quarters, Youth Camp and Irrigation and Dry land farming, Cooperatives etc. The programme of Orientation will be conducted at Washington. Besides this, they will have a keen study of the farming methods of cotton, forestry, Tobacco, Citrus, ornamental flowers, vegetables etc.

Letter to the Editor

Ranjit Hybrid Maize

Dear Sir,

You might be aware about the Hybrid Maize, which is a revolutionary and unprecedented research in the history of our Agriculture.



Group photograph taken at Palam Airport when the farm leaders proceeding to the U.S.A. were seen off by Shri K. D. Sharma, Secretary ARRO and Dr. R. B. Deshpande, Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj.

The old concept of big, long and dent imported hybrids has entirely changed by this new Hybrid developed in India. It is similar to local yellow maize with little bigger and sweeter grains. Its cultivation is similar to the local maize. It has to be grown at two feet apart, with a distance of one foot between each plant and it can be grown on any well drained soil and in Kharif, Rabi and summer seasons. Its fodder remains green, even when ripe and is succulent and nutritive. It gives 3-6 times yield than the local ones. On our farm it has given 6000 to 6500 lbs yield per acre. About 40 farmers in different villages had grown this seed and none of them had got less than 4800 lbs yield per acre. It is essential to give necessary manure and fertilisers to this crop. It is estimated that after deducting all expenses a farmer gets a net income of about Rs. 400 to 500 per acre per season and our National Food Production is increased by 1 to 1½ tons per acre by growing Hybrid Maize.

By the co-ordinated efforts of the Central and all State Agricul-

tural Departments and Institutions and by the technical help of the Rockefeller Foundation, Maize Hybrids have been evolved. Now by various extensive trials it has been established that Ranjit Hybrid Maize is most suitable for Gujrat, Rajasthan, West Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. This Ranjit Hybrid Maize Seed is Produced on Pandya farms by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, under Rockefeller Foundation's guidance and supervision. One acre of land will require 12 lbs of seed and accordingly the seed has been packed in 12 lbs bags for one acre and 24 lbs bags for two acres. They are sealed and labelled. The prices of each bag of 12 lbs and 24 lbs are Rs. 9/- and Rs. 18/- respectively. All Instructions regarding its cultivation, manuring etc., are also enclosed in these bags. This seed is sold at our farm and above prices are for our farm delivery, packing, gunny bags, cartage, labour etc., other charges being extra.

(Continued on page 8)

MEET OUR FARM LEADERS

Proceeded to U.S.A.

(Brief bibliographical sketches are given below to introduce the readers with our farm leaders, proceeded to America on a 9 weeks tour)



Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, M.P., MA, D. Phil (Oxon) Bar - at - Law, born cultivator, owns a farm of 96 acres. Founder and President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and its

allied activities. Founder and Life President of Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati and All India Backward Classes Federation. President of several other All India and International Organisations from their very inception, such as the Farmer's Forum, India, Young Farmers' Association of India, International Rural Youth Conference and its Interim Committee etc., first President of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (India), Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Conference, World Agriculture Fair, the First and the Second National Agriculture Fairs. He has established the Farmers' Cooperative Bank of India Ltd. He was Central Minister for Agriculture upto April '62 and travelled all over the world.

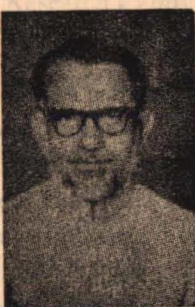


Mrs. Satyavati Chaudhuri, New Delhi—born on 21.9.31 in Punjab, is Secretary of Women's Wing of Delhi Unit of Farmers' Forum, Village Co-operative Society, Block Welfare

Committee, Khanjaula, and D.C.C. (Rural). She is a life member of the BKS and owns a farm of 10 acres.

Mrs. Vimalabai Deshmukh, B.A. L.I.B., 56, wife of Dr. Deshmukh, President, Farmers' Form, India. She owns a farm jointly with her husband and grows

cotton, wheat, groundnut, millets, linseed, chillies, tobacco, etc. Life member BKS and member of its Governing Body. Treasurer of the Rural Women's Organisation. She is ex-Member of All India Women's Food Council and of National Savings Committee. She visited USA and Japan.



Shri Altaf Husain, B. Sc., U.P.—born on 9.4.1904 at Gorakhpur (U.P.), is chairman of Cane Development Council and Member of All India Farmers Council and State Board

of Agriculture, U.P. He owns a farm of 250 acres.



Shri Hanumantha Rao, Andhra—born on 27.9.1918 at Kasthal, District Nalgonda (Andhra), is Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Krishak Samaj and Member, All India Farmers

Council. He owns a farm of 150 acres.



Shri Ajit Singh, B.Sc., Punjab—born on 19.12.1909 at Chak No.54 GB, District Lyallpur (Pakistan) is Secretary, Julundur District Krishak Samaj and Member of All India Farmers

Council and Punjab Sugarcane Central Board. He owns a farm of 24 acres.

Shri Bhagwati Prasad Wahi, Lucknow (U.P.) born on 12.4.1896 at Varanasi (U.P.), is a progressive farmer and life member of the BKS. He owns a farm of 200

acres and has a dairy herd of 85 heads, poultry, 400 birds and also raises pigs.



Shri G. Subramaniam, M.A., Kerala—born on 14.4.1901 at Trivandrum (Kerala), is member of Governing Body, Bharat Krishak Samaj and Coastal Regional Committee, I.C.A.R. He owns a large



Shri Lajpatrai Varma, Bombay—born on 14. 2. 1908 at Marh Blochan, District Sheikhupura (West Pakistan), is Joint Secretary of Maharashtra State Krishak Samaj, Ex-president, Taluka Development Board and member of Managing Committee, Andheri Taluka Board. He owns a farm of 274 acres.



Shri R. V. Robinson, New Delhi—born on 17. 2. 1932 at Allahabad (U.P) is Assistant Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj, New Delhi and at present he is the incharge of the Forum, its All India Farmers' Council, National Convention of Farmers, Governing Body and Standing Committee, State Organizations and National Level Farmers Exchange Programme etc.



Ch. Ajit Singh, District Organizer, Farmers Forum of Jullundur District, who has proceeded to U.S.A. under the Project of International Farm Exchange Programme, was also present in the meeting. He was requested to collect and compile the necessary data for his report, while touring in foreign countries.

On his return to India, he should undertake an extensive tour of the State and acquaint the rest of the farming community with the experiences gained by him abroad. The Punjab Krishak Samaj will organise his tour in the State, on his arrival back in the Punjab.

Padma Shri V. E. Vikhe Patil, Maharashtra—born on 4-8-1901 at Loni Budruk, District Ahmednagar (Maharashtra), is Chairman, Pravara Cooperative Sugar Factory,



Pravaranagar; Pravara Agriculture and Industrial Development Cooperative Society; Director, Ahmednagar District Central Cooperative Bank; Member, District Development Board; Member, Managing Committee Maharashtra State Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation and Member, State Sugarcane Committee.

P.K.S. Executive Committee Meets in Chandigarh

In Aroma Hotel, Chandigarh a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Punjab Krishak Samaj was held on 22nd May, 1962 under the Chairmanship of Master Gurbanta Singh, Agriculture Minister, Punjab. About 23 members attended the meeting. Secretary P. K.S. read out the proceedings of the last meeting and the action taken by the office on various points was explained. Next meeting of Executive Committee will be held in Hoshiarpur District.

The decision of Shri S. K. Patil, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture was explained to the members, in which he has declined to check the falling prices of paddy. He told that farmers were already getting reasonable prices. The members felt that this matter deserves a careful analysis and an early remedy. The falling prices of Wheat should also be checked up. The next Convention of P.K.S. will be held at Karnal in the first or second week of December 1962.

(Contd. from page 6)

It is very essential that our farmers take full advantage of this unique research, which gives much more income and much more per acre production. We most sincerely and most earnestly request you to do all the needful so that our farmers know about this Hybrid Maize and take full advantage of it.

There is a great demand for this seed and it is likely that the stocks will be exhausted soon. The readers of Krishak Samachar are requested to inform at an early date, so that their requirements may be reserved.

Yours faithfully,
S.B. PANDYA,
Pandya Farms,
Dohad. (W. Rly.)

(Shri S.B. Pandya is an active member of the All India Farmers' Council from Gujrat. He is consistently labouring to improve his farm by doing extensive research and adopting modern methods in cooperation with the Central and State Governments etc.)

Shri Laxmi Narayan Hazra, West Bengal—born on 28.11.1897 at Anguna, District Burdwan (West Bengal), is President, Bankura District Krishak Samaj & Member, Governing Body, Bharat Krishak Samaj. He owns a farm of 150 acres.



Locust Invasions over India

Actually Northern India faced locust invasions this summer. It is also learnt that a team of Food and Agriculture Organisation is arriving in India for consulting with the Government regarding the remedial steps against locusts. One dakota is already fighting swarms which are damaging cotton and sugarcane crops, but it is not sufficient to operate the whole area invaded by swarms. Some more dakotas should be allotted for this purpose.

Locusts came from Pakistan has damaged over 3631 acres of standing crops in Garhshanker, Hoshiarpur District. The other effected areas were Ludhiana, Amritsar, Patiala, Ferozepur and Hissar. From Hissar the swarm moved into Rajasthan. The crops damaged by locusts were cotton and sugarcane.

In Monga Sub-Division and Allahabad it had damaged a part of crop and then passed through Phoolpur, Soran Tehsils towards Mirzapur District.

Security measures

Swarms are again expected to enter India from West Pakistan. So, adequate anti-locust measure should be taken for spraying and dusting. Union Government has warned the Government of Punjab, U. P., Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh to make independent arrangements to face it. At present most of the locust fighting squads are working in these states and others are standing by to face the situation. Union Government has 39 wireless stations called "Campaign out-posts" in the boarder area for getting information on locust invasion. The farmers

should also be vigilant and an adequate and immediate information should reach to the action party as the swarms enter. They should know that a swift movement of swarm covers 20 miles a day.

The Central Government has taken responsibility of controlling locust from desert areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab. This covers an approximately area of 80,000 square miles.

Locust breeding may become more wide spread

A warning that locust breeding will become more widespread in north-western India is contained in the latest report of the Anti-Locust Research Centre in London.

Forecasting the locust situation for the next two months, the report says: "Breeding will become more widespread, and in a number of areas heavy, in central, northern and eastern Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, Afghanistan, West Pakistan, and north-western India. Laying swarms will probably spread further north in Iran, Iraq, and Israel; are likely to invade Jordan and Syria; and may possibly reach south-eastern Turkey and the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt. Swarms are likely to enter East Pakistan; others may reach southern U.S.S.R., particularly Turkmenia".

The report adds: "From May onwards, young swarms will begin moving out of the breeding areas of the Middle East, particularly from Iran and Arabia. Some will add to the infestations in Pakistan and northern India, where monsoon

breeding must be expected on a substantial scale. Others will probably invade Egypt, the Sudan, northern Ethiopia and south-western Arabia, and may reach Chad, Niger and possibly Mali."

Dealing with the general situation of locust infestations, the report says: "Swarms continue to infest a vast area between Arabia and northern India; some have moved further northwards in Israel, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan, and others considerably further eastwards across India. Breeding is now widespread in north-western India, northern Pakistan, and south-eastern Afghanistan. Laying and hatching have continued and become more extensive in western Iran, and laying has begun in north-eastern Iran and Iraq. Breeding in central and north-western Arabia has so far been reported only on a relatively moderate scale."

Fruit processing centres in Punjab

It is learnt by a reliable source that a citrus, grape, dates and other fruits processing centres would be set up at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs at Abohar.

Hybrid Cotton

Very soon hybrid cotton will be as popular with the farmers as hybrid maize is.

Preliminary experiments have given very good results. Seed which was obtained from a cross between an Indo-American cotton B.C. 68 and the fine long linted Sea Island variety S.I.V. 135 was used for trial in farmers' fields in the Kaira and Mehsana Districts of Gujarat State. The yields obtained were 1,656 pounds and 1,382 pounds of seed cotton, respectively.

Hybrid cotton has a fibre length of 1.24 inches and a spinning capacity of about 80's to 100's and was found as good as Sudan G. 25 cotton so far as length, fineness and strength were concerned. Quality is so high that traders offered Rs. 2,000 per candy (784 pounds). Efforts to improve the quality and also to produce hybrid seed on a large scale are now underway.

Increasing Motihari Yield

Latest experiments point out the cultural practices that will fetch a better return from Motihari tobacco.

Research shows that the crop is best planted in the second week of November. This planting time gives better results than the earlier or later plantings.

A closer spacing of 2 feet by $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet, is also seen, is better than a wider spacing of 2 feet by 2 feet which farmers follow. Such a spacing in the experiment resulted in about 14 per cent higher yield.

So far as topping is concerned higher topping increases the yield, but topping higher than six leaves results in a low quality leaf.

Respiratory Disease in Poultry

Caused by an organism, respiratory is an air-sac infection; the common symptoms are nasal discharge, sneezing, coughing and gasping, shaking of head, reduction of appetite. The eyes may not show swelling. Birds lose weight and death occurs, more so in the case of chicks a few weeks old. Egg production goes down in layers.

The disease is carried in the egg and birds once infected may remain carriers for a long time.

For treatment, the best thing to do is to consult a veterinary

doctor. The trachea or the breathing tube of the dead bird should be sent in ice in a thermos flask to the Poultry Research Division, Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh, for a correct diagnosis.

Damage due to pests

A survey conducted by the entomologist indicated that crop pests and insects caused an yearly loss of about Rs. 26 crores in Punjab.

Cotton crop in the worst sufferer in this respect, the loss coming to Rs. 4,78,80,000. Sugarcane comes next with a loss of Rs. 4,57,80,000. The third on the list is vegetables whose annual loss works out of Rs. 2,67,52,000. Wheat, the staple diet of Punjab, however, comes fourth with an annual loss estimated at Rs. 1,80,32,000.

The destruction of other crops at the hands of pests and insects has been assessed as follows :

Maize (Rs. 1,42,80,000), fruit trees (Rs. 1,00,80,000), Bajra (Rs. 31,36,000), Jowar (Rs. 6,72,000), Gram (Rs. 67,20,000), Rabi oilseeds (Rs. 80,64,000), Kharif oilseeds (Rs. 10,08,000), and Rice (Rs. 89,60,000).

Defective storage of grains is another big enemy of the Punjab peasant, inflicting an yearly damage work Rs. 7,84,00,000, the survey reveals.

While the loss in proportion to total produce of the State is 20 per cent in respect of vegetables and fruits each, it comes to 15 per cent to cotton and sugarcane each and 10 per cent to paddy, maize and rabi oilseeds.

Tips to Jute Growers

INTERCULTURE should start when plants are about 7-8 cm tall.

RAKING should be done first and then hand weeding and thinning. WATCH the crop: conditions permitting, undertake second weeding and thinning. Remove and burn all diseased plants. Do not resow jute in plots where failure has been due to SEEDLING BLIGHT.

TOP DRESS the crop with Ammonium sulphate @ 110 kg per hectare (1 hectare=2.5 acres) in areas where sufficient moisture is available in the soil. Mix the Ammonium sulphate thoroughly with 4 to 5 times its weight of dry loose earth. Wherever available, NPK mixture (9:6:9) @ 150 kg may also be used as top dressing. Give a thorough raking and hoeing after the application of fertilizer mixture. A second top dressing may be given to Capsularis crop with the same quantity of Ammonium sulphate 3 weeks after the first application. Look out for the INDIGO CATERPILLAR and the JUTE STEM WEEVIL (APION). Where necessary, dust 10% BHC @ 13 to 17 kg per hectare.

Watch for Jute Semiloopers in early sown areas. Spray with either Folidol E605 @ 1 c.c. per 5 litre of water (= 0.01% actual Parathion) or Endrex 20 or Endrin 20% E.C. @ 7.5 per 5 litre (= 0.03% actual Endrin) or DDT 50% wettable @ 500-750 gms per 50 litre of water (= 0.5%-0.75% actual DDT). Apply 350-500 litre per hectare.

In early sown areas watch for the Yellow Mite of Jute. Dust lime-sulphur (3:1) at the rate of 17 kg per hectare or lime-sulphur solution (1 part: 49 parts of water) at the rate of 350-500 litre per hectare.

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भारत कृषक समाज

(आजीवन सदस्य सम्बंधी सूचना-फार्म)

पूरा नाम (साफ अक्षरों में).....

पता—गांव डाकघर

तालुका जिला राज्य

सदस्य बनने की तिथि रजिस्ट्रेशन नं०

क्या सदस्य भूमिदार है अथवा किसान या भूमिदार-किसान

राज्य कृषक समाज में सदस्य का स्थान

भूमि तथा काश्त के बारे में विवरण

भूमि का क्षेत्रफल (एकड़ों में)

जुताई का क्षेत्रफल " "

सिंचित क्षेत्र

सिंचाई के साधन

बोई जाने वाली फसलें

सिंचाई से (फसल का नाम और क्षेत्रफल दीजिए)

वर्षा से " " " "

उपयोग में लाये जाने वाले उर्वरक तथा खादें (हरी खादों सहित)

खेती के सुधरे हुए तरीके (उन्नत बीजों सहित) जो कि उपयोग में लाए जाते हैं

पदार्थ (फसल) विशेष जिनमें सदस्य की खास दिलचस्पी हो

काम जो कि सदस्य स्वयं अपने फार्म पर करता है

उत्पादन के लिए गोदाम तथा बिक्री की व्यवस्था

भूमि से अनुमानित वार्षिक आय

कृषि, पशु-पालन, कृषक संगठन अथवा सहकारिता इत्यादि

अन्य कोई क्षेत्र जिसमें सदस्य की विशेष रुचि हो

यदि कोई विदेश-यात्रा की हो तो उसका व्यौरा (विदेश का नाम, यात्रा का वर्ष तथा उद्देश्य)

कोई अन्य आवश्यक सूचना

सदस्य की शिक्षा तथा यदि कोई विशेष प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया हो तो उसका व्यौरा

जन्म तिथि (क्रिश्चियन एरा में)

स्थान

तिथि

हस्ताक्षर

सूचना :—यदि विवरण इस फार्म में पूरा न लिख सकें तो अन्य कागज में लिख कर फार्म के साथ जोड़ दें।

BHARAT KRISHAK SAMAJ

(Particulars of Life Members)

Full name (block letters) _____

Address (block letters) Village/Town _____ P.O. _____

Taluk _____ Distt. _____ State _____

Whether Landowner, Owner-cum-tenant or Tenant _____

Date of enrolment as Life Member and Registration No. _____

Position held in State Krishak Samaj.

Particulars of land and cultivation

Size of holding (Acres)

Acres cultivated :

Acres irrigated :

Source of irrigation :

Crops Grown

Irrigated (Give crops & area) :

Rainfed " " " "

Manures & fertilizers used including green manuring

Improved Cultivation practices adopted, including use of improved seeds

Special Commodity interests

Nature of work done on farm by member himself

How produce is stored and disposed of

Approximate annual income from land

Any other interest in the sphere of Agriculture or Animal

Husbandry, Farmers Organization, Co-operatives, etc.

Countries visited (Give object and year of visit)

Any other Information considered useful for the purpose

Education and training

Date of Birth (in Christian Era)

Place _____

Dated _____

Signature _____

Note : If there is less space in this form to furnish all the details, please attach extra papers with the form.