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605 Crores Worth Wheat and Rice for India President Eisenhower Signs 'Food for Peace' Agreement

“THIS is a ceremony, Mr. Patil, in which I am both honoured and delighted to participate,” said President Eisenhower on the occasion of the signing of the new PL480 agreement.

“The agreement that we have just signed is a practical symbol of the term “food for peace.”

“In a world marked too often by fears and distrust it warms my soul to take part in an event which is the product of mutual respect and ever-growing friendship.”

He further said: “My thoughts go back to the day—it was December II—when I was in New Delhi at the opening of the great World Agriculture Fair. I recall the words of your Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, when he said that “In this world today the call is for ever greater cooperation between individuals, between groups, between nations.”

When Mr. Nehru spoke of cooperation, he was speaking of true cooperation—the kind that is freely extended by one equal to another. What we are observing here today is the signing of a cooperative agreement freely entered into by each nation pledged by each of us as equal partner in the world community.

Food for Peace

The food that we make available under our special programmes today will be reflected in India's accelerated progress tomorrow—this is what we mean by “Food for Peace”, said President Eisenhower.

This agreement, historic in several respects, was signed by President Eisenhower and Shri S.K. Patil in the Cabinet Room at the White House on May 4, 1960.

India's Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri S.K. Patil expressed deep appreciation and told the President it was “a signal honour to my country” that he had set his hand to the agreement, which would bring 1,500 shiploads of wheat and rice over the next four years to meet India's harvest deficits and build up reserve.

Significant in Concept

Shri Patil said: “this agreement is probably unique—in its range and dimensions, but it is perhaps even more significant in its concept”

Of the rupees India will pay, \$ 1,076 million worth will be made available to India for economic development projects, half as loans and half as grants.

The remaining \$ 200 million worth will be used to pay U.S. expenses abroad and finance other U.S. programmes including development of foreign markets for U.S. agricultural commodities.

Imagination Staggered

Mr. Ezra Taft Benson, the Secretary of Agriculture, who attended the signing, said the new agreement was of such size as to stagger the imagination.

The volume of wheat to be shipped to India was “nearly equal to half an average U.S. wheat crop and is more wheat than we consume in the U.S.A. as food in an entire year”, Mr. Benson said. “The volume” of rice is substantially more than half an average of U.S. rice crop and is substantially more rice than we consume as food in any one year.”

The first shiploads to sail for India under the agreement will leave U.S. ports on or after July 1, the start of the new U.S. fiscal year.

Freedom from Hunger Campaign India farms National Campaign Committee' Dr. Rajendra Prasad Patron-in-chief

President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad has agreed to be patron-in-chief of the National Campaign Committee for the worldwide “Freedom From Hunger” Campaign, extending from 1960 to 1965. The campaign will be formally inaugurated on July 1.

Vice-President, Dr. Radha Krishnan and Prime Minister Shri Nehru will be its patrons. Shri S.K. Patil Minister of Food and Agriculture will be the president of the Committee and the Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, its executive president.

State Ministers of Agriculture

and other officers concerned will also be members of the committee.

As explained in details in April issue of Krishak Samachar, the campaign, among other things, is intended to promote studies and investigations aimed at securing and disseminating “better information” on measures needed to check hunger and malnutrition, on technical and economic possibilities of increasing production and improving distribution, and on the manner in which “the problems of hunger and malnutrition can be tackled by the utilization of technical and economic knowledge and the resources now available”.

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Special discount of 2½% on all spares will be given to all farmer members of Agricultural Machinery Association of India, New Delhi.

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EVEREST

Krishak Samachar

Development of Sugarcane Cultivation 29th Meeting of the Central Body Inaugurated by Dr. Deshmukh

New Delhi : Inaugurating the 29th meeting of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee on May 3, Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, Union Minister of Agriculture, called upon the administrators, scientists and the sugarcane growers to critically study the reasons for low acre yields of sugarcane and devise future plans so that "our efforts might produce substantial improvements both in respect of sugarcane production and sugar recovery".

The Minister said that a review of sugarcane production during the past few years indicated that either the targets were not fixed properly or the resources contemplated did not come to hand or even that the basic approach of the plan was defective.

Expressing satisfaction at the rise of per acre yield of sugarcane during 1958-59 to 14.7 tons as against 13.4 tons in the previous year, he said that this related to one year only and could not justify the absence of any lasting and steady success during the past 10 years of sugar development work.

Field Demonstration

Referring to the need for creating in the cultivators a desire to use improved practices, Dr. Deshmukh said that the cultivators would be prepared to accept and apply the recommended improved methods in their fields only after they have been fully convinced by the technical workers through properly planned field demonstrations and practical guidance. He hoped that the situation would appreciably improve as a result of better coordination between the agriculture and the community development departments and undertaking distribution through co-ops.

Regarding the extension of research to the field, he said that large amount of "commendable research work" had been carried out during the past 25 years at the different sugarcane research centres in the country. In future, however, research should be carried out in the field and in conditions under which an average farmer lived and worked, he said.

Third Plan Targets

Earlier, Shri Ameer Raza, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food and

Agriculture and President, Indian Central Sugarcane Committee said that a target of 925 lakh tons of sugarcane and 30 lakh tons of sugar had been proposed for production during the Third Five-Year Plan. These targets would require that the work of sugarcane research and development was expected on a much larger scale.

Shri Raza also said that some progress had been made in the sugarcane yields but still our yields were very low and a strong and sustained effort was necessary for increased production. Compared with the per acre yield of 12.9 tons in the base year of 1955-56, the yields during the first three years of the Second Plan were 13.2, 12.7 and 14.7.

He further expressed, as 60 per cent or more of the total sugarcane produced was converted into *gur* and *khandsari* — it was necessary that improvements were made in the crushers, furnaces, bels and clarificants. Equally important was the search for suitable storage methods for *gur* and *khandsari* under varying conditions. Shri Ameer Raza said that close liaison was essential between the I.C.S.C. and the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Commission which was responsible for the development of these commodities.

Research Work

Reviewing the progress of research work, he said that

during 1958-59, 85 research and development schemes for raising the quality and per acre yield of sugarcane and for conducting research on *gur* and *khandsari* functioned at the various sugarcane research stations and development centres in the country.

The acreage under sugarcane in the country during the year was 48 lakh acres as against 50 lakh acres in the preceding year. The total production of sugarcane was 709 lakh tons against the Second Plan target of 720 lakh tons. The overall acre yield of sugarcane was 14.7 tons compared with 13.4 tons in the preceding year.

Shri R. B. Deshpande, Asstt : Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj also attended the meeting on special invitation.

Schemes for the next Year

The 29th meeting of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee reviewed the progress of sugarcane research and development in various States and sanctioned a number of schemes for implementation during the next year.

Among the important schemes approved by the Committee were the expansion of sugarcane development programme in Andhra Pradesh including the Telangana area, intensification of sugarcane in *gur* and *khandsari* areas of Uttar Pradesh, pilot scheme for controlling sugarcane borers and the scheme for studies on the problems of *gur* storage and packaging. In view of the importance of the *gur* and *khandsari* industry which consumes nearly 60 per cent of cane, the Committee appointed a special sub-committee to make an assessment of the research work done so far for improving the manufacture of these products and to suggest the future line of work.

Seed Nurseries

The Committee stressed the need for the establishment of seed nurseries in sugarcane areas for the supply of pure and disease free seed to the cane growers and decided to enlarge the scope of All-India Sugarcane Crop Competitions by awarding prizes for *Eksali*, *Adsali*, Ratoon and early crops of sugarcane.

Madhya Pradesh Prepares For Kharif Production Campaign

Implementation of Nalagarh Committee Recommendations

The Central Agriculture Ministry has called upon the State Governments to submit proposals for giving effect to the recommendations of the Agricultural Administration Committee known as Nalagarh Committee.

Already the Government of India has broadly accepted its report and has agreed to share 50% of the expenditure involved during 1960-61 and 1961-62 on approved items. Thereafter the Central assistance will be determined by the Finance Commission.

Raja Surendra Singh of Nalagarh, Agricultural Production Adviser in the Food and Agriculture Ministry, who was the Chairman of the Committee, will soon be visiting various States to assist them in the implementation of the important recommendations *inter alia* called for "drastic measures to be taken, not merely to retrieve the situation but even more to make up for time already lost."

Stressing the imperative need to raise agriculture to a position of major importance the committee had stated that a streamlined agricultural administration was an urgent necessity "and the food situation of the country could be appreciably eased if positive steps were taken to achieve this objective".

The State Agriculture Ministers in a conference in February 1959, agreed to implement forthwith the recommendations involving no expenditure. These were mainly about delegation of powers, simplification of departmental procedures etc.

Regarding the recommendations involving expenditure the Central Government has decided to provide financial assistance on condition that the proposals relate to the State Agricultural Department only and the additional expenditure is over and above the normal commitments. In the current session of Parliament several members demanded early implementation of the Committee's report and an assurance of its broad acceptance was given by the Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.

Stage is being set ready for launching Kharif Production Campaign in Madhya Pradesh in full swing during the ensuing Kharif season. Instructions have been issued by the State Government to all Commissioners and Collectors to constitute Kharif Production Campaign Committees at various levels. In preparing a programme for the launching of this campaign, efforts will be made to see that preparation of land and sowing is done in time. Cultivators will be encouraged to use improved and healthy seed. It will also be seen that seeds and fertilizers are distributed to them well in time.

A drive will be started in each village and efforts will be made to persuade a local organisation to participate in the campaign at the village level. The cultivators will be directly approached and their willing co-operation will be secured.

All the available resources of the different departments of the Government will be mobilised to make the campaign a success. The Agriculture Department will be mainly responsible for the campaign. It will intensify implementation of Kharif schemes and arrange for timely supply of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides etc. It will organise crop competitions and will arrange for full utilisation of town compost.

Multiplication of Improved Seed

Each district in Uttar Pradesh has been asked to make its own plan for multiplication of improved seed. In the Third Plan every block will have three cooperative seed stores, one agriculture seed store and one farm unit of 20 acres for seed multiplication and the plan for the village and blocks should be prepared on the basis of every seed store stocking a minimum of 2,000 maunds of improved seeds.

All India Final Estimate of Dry Ginger, 1959-60

The All-India Final Estimate of dry ginger, 1959-60 puts the current year's area and production at 37,000 acres and 13,400 tons respectively, according to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture. As compared with the Partially Revised Estimates of 35,700 acres and 12,300 tons for 1958-59, the Estimates for 1959-60 show an increase of 1,300 acres or 3.6% in area and 1,100 tons or 8.9% in production.

The increase in area under ginger during the current year as compared to the previous year is accounted for mainly by Kerala, the main ginger producing State and Bombay. The increase in production is shared mainly by Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

All-India Final Estimate of Black Pepper,

The All-India Final Estimate of black pepper, 1959-60 puts the current year's area and production at 232,000 acres and 25,400 tons as against the Partially Revised Estimates of 230,100 acres and 25,500 tons respectively for 1958-59, according to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

The increase in acreage during the current year is due to the increase in area in Kerala State attributed to favourable weather conditions at the time of sowing. There has, however, been a slight decrease in acreage in Mysore State. The nominal decrease in production of black pepper during the current year is accounted for by Kerala State, which may be attributed to unfavourable weather condition at the time of flowering and growing period of the crop.

Sannhemp Final Estimate

The all-India Final Estimate of Sannhemp, 1959-60 puts the current year's area and production at 813,000 acres and 80,000 tons respectively according to the Directorate of Economics & Statistics Ministry of Food and Agriculture. As compared with the Partially Revised Estimates of 807,000 acres and 31,000 tons for 1958-59, the Estimates for 1959-60 show an increase of 6,000 acres or 0.7% in area and a decrease of 1,000 tons or 1.2% in production.

Japanese Farmers Report

"With a desire to stage a practical demonstration of the Japanese Method of Paddy Cultivation in Indian rural areas, we took up wet land cultivation in Sorana village of Saharanpur district in June 1959," says the report submitted by four Japanese farmers who for the first time started practical demonstration of paddy cultivation in India, at the instance of Japanese Embassy and with the cooperation of the Government of India.

Although the arrangements and facilities for paddy cultivation were inadequate, the Japanese farmers produced nearly double the yield per acre as compared with the average yield in Saharanpur District. For instance, the three varieties used in the experiment viz. C.H. 4. T. 1 (Lalmati) and T. 3 (Basmati) yielded 33 maunds and 9 srs.; 40 maunds and 23 srs. and 38 maunds and 10 srs., respectively, against the average yield of 15 maunds in the district. The maximum yield round-about Saharanpur is 35 maunds, but this is obtained by only a few farmers and that too on parts of the cultivated land.

Summing up their experience, in Chapter I of the Report, they describe the environments of the farm where details of maximum and minimum temperatures as well as rainfall from 11th June to 11th November are given. The work was started on the 10th June, 1959 when preparation for transplanting had just then been completed in the neighbourhood. As the season was a little late and as agricultural tools and implements in their possession were inadequate, they chose only 3 acres of land instead of 10 acres. These 3 acres of land was made up of 6 different plots. As land had not been used for paddy cultivation before, the irrigation facilities were not good. They consisted of a single well which covered over six acres of farmland. Owing to shortage of water, tillering was bad and the yield fell by about 30%. Fourth and the fifth Farms, however, being lowlands, remained submerged under one foot water from mid-August to mid-September, thereby causing a reduction of 80 per cent yield. Thus, inadequacy of drainage and irrigation facilities was one of the foremost causes for last year's poor yield.

In Chapter II are given the details of cultivating operations. Information regarding preparation of seed bed, ploughing, method of transplanting, setting of seedlings

in the paddy field, irrigation, inter-tillage and weeding, fertiliser application, harvesting and threshing make a very instructive reading.

Chapter III is devoted to results of management, analysis and appraisal. Table 3 gives the quantity of paddy harvested. The three varieties of paddy used by them gave the average yield per acre of 33 Maunds and 9 Srs., 38 Maunds and 10 Srs., and 40 Maunds and 23 Srs. The national average yield per acre in India has been stated as 14.56 Mds. and the average in Saharanpur District is said to be about 15 Mds.

The Message of National Farmers' Day

In a message to farmers on April 3, 1960, Dr. K.N. Katju, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, said: "Indian farmers will celebrate the 'National Farmers' Day on April 3, 1960, under the auspices of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. Our future depends mainly upon agriculture. Once our country was known for its richness in milk and farm-produce. By and by, we forgot the values of farming practices which gradually brought us to a poor condition of today when we are compelled to exhaust our foreign exchange upto the tune of crores of rupees for importing foodgrains and which could otherwise be utilized for our national development programmes. Now if we are unable to solve our food problem, that will hamper our national progress, because on one hand we are facing a great food shortage and on the other, our population is on the increase at a big rate i.e. 50-60 lakhs a year. We have to find out some solution to this biggest national problem. It is our sacred duty to adopt modern farm practices and get higher yields per acre. This is the message of the 'National Farmers' Day'".

I appeal to the Madhya Pradesh farmer brethren to extend their whole-hearted cooperation in making the celebrations a success."

Table IV gives the profit and loss account. Cost of production is stated as Rs. 252.87 per acre as the average, while the profit varies between Rs. 128.38 to Rs. 301.66 per acre. The figures are exclusive of the self-supplied labour by the Japanese and the depreciation charges of the agricultural implements.

Table V gives details of cost of production.

Table VI gives distribution of labour over each work and Table VII monthly labour hours per acre.

Chapter IV contains the views of these Japanese farmers on the technique of paddy cultivation and their observations on agricultural practices in Saharanpur. This is by far the most important Chapter because it brings out the defects of the Japanese methods as practised in India and especially the Saharanpur district and points out how these defects can be removed and the Japanese Method of paddy cultivation perfected.

In Chapter V the farmers describe the interest evinced by neighbouring farmers in their activity and Chapter VI gives observations on their work-plan.

As this is the first time that the Japanese method of paddy cultivation is being demonstrated in India by the Japanese farmers themselves, It is hoped that this rare opportunity will be availed by a large number of our paddy grower farmers.

Copies of the report in English would be supplied by the Central Office of the Samaj on request.

**NATIONAL PROGRESS
THROUGH INCREASED
PRODUCTION****Dr. Deshmukh addresses farmers at
Nauchandi Mela**

The Union Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh advised the farmers to maximise their farm produce which would make the country self-supporting and stable as, he said, ultimately, the progress of national industries also depended mainly upon the farmers for the supply of raw materials.

Dr. Deshmukh was addressing a meeting of the farmers under the auspices of the Meerut Krishak Samaj, held on April 6, 1960, on the eve of Nau-Chandi Mela.

Dr. Deshmukh emphasised on the importance of Cooperative Farming. He felt happy over the awakening of the farmers towards their rights and duties.

Shri Mohanlal Gautam, Minister for Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh also addressed the meeting. Explaining the benefits of service cooperatives, Shri Gautam asked the farmers to organise themselves into co-operatives.

Nasik Farmers Celebrate April 3

Nasik : 40 Life Members including 9 members of the All India Farmers' Council apart from a large gathering of the local farmers joined to celebrate the National Farmers' Day, which also happens to be the birthday of the Nasik District Krishak Samaj. Shri Harischandra Patil, Vice-President of Bombay State Krishak Samaj, presided over the function.

**East Khandesh District Krishak
Samaj****B.C. Choudhary elected President**

More than 500 farmer representatives attended a meeting held at Yawal, on April 3, 1960 in connection with the National Farmers' Day Celebration under the auspices of the East Khandesh

Japanese Method of Paddy Cultivation

The Conference of Research workers of Plant Physiology was held by the I.C.A.R. on May 2- 3, 1960 at the Pusa Institute. I had the privilege to inaugurate this Conference when I made the following observations :-

"Gentlemen, you are aware that back in 1953, I initiated on a Nation-wide sale a campaign popularly called the Japanese Method of Rice Cultivation. I feel that this method would go down in the history of Indian Agriculture, as one of the most successful campaigns of better agricultural production sponsored by the Govt. through the cooperation of the farmers. In spite of the fact that a few people delight in talking ill of it for one reason or the other, the method has come to stay because it has conferred definite benefits. Those who have practised it fully have reaped unimagined yields and the average production has also shown considerable improvement. Recently, we have tried other methods also but superiority of the Japanese Method remains unchallenged. I hope hereafter also it will continue to be popularised under this very name and no effort would be made to belittle its importance.

"All that I have said in this context has been further strengthened by four Japanese farmers engaged in paddy cultivation in India for the last four years. Their recent experience of paddy cultivation in a village called Sorana in Saharanpur District is embodied in a very fine Report which has come to my hands only a couple of days ago. I consider it a valuable document, as it reveals many things which the ordinary farmers need know and the officers and experts intended to guide the cultivators should study. I recommend perusal of this Report to all of you".

I am utilising this quotation to draw your attention to this Report, a brief summary of which is being published elsewhere in this issue.

Practical Results

On May 4, 1960, I addressed the 29th Meeting of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee. I referred to this Report there also and said :-

"This Report is not the result of findings in a laboratory but in actual practice and in conditions under which an average farmer lives and works. I would like to be corrected if I am wrong, but I feel that by and large, such a concrete approach on our part on proper scale is lacking."

"While it may be that our scientists have dealt with the sugarcane crop in the same way as the Japanese farmers have with paddy, but what probably may not have been done to an adequate extent so far is the attention to details, under average farming conditions, of the various aspects that constitute the whole operation of sugarcane growing. I, therefore, would recommend to you a study of this Report and to find out if we have really done anything at all in that nature anywhere in the country, and if not, to see if we could take up the various aspects of the cultivation of the crop in a somewhat similar but practical way. If this matter is attended to on a wider scale, it would be possible to recommend to the farmers such things as, for instance, the depth and quality of ploughing and preparation of the soil upto a required standard; proper selection and treatment of seed; the manuring and fertilisation of the soil and most important of all, the use of irrigation water, etc. I have no doubt that this will impart a more practical solution of the problems of the farmers and would become a more convincing demonstration because the conditions under which these experiments would be carried out would not be far different from what the farmer works under".

Organisational

The next point I wish to deal with in this letter concerns our Organisation. It is found that in many districts, although we have life members and members at the State level, no regular activity on behalf of the Samaj has so far been undertaken. This responsibility naturally rests with the State Secretaries and their co-workers. In each district at least one meeting of the life members and others must be called so that

the work of the Samaj may be more properly entrusted to them and their energies utilised for furthering the cause of the Samaj. At such meetings, separate discussion groups on various important problems facing the farmers may be formed. There should also be an Executive Committee for the districts which should meet at least every three months. This Executive should have as its members one or two prominent farmers from each block or tehsil. I had also envisaged that there should be in each tehsil two seminars a year where the conveners of the Samaj should invite Government officials from all the development departments such as Community Development, Agriculture, Health, Veterinary, Revenue, Cooperation etc. I have no doubt if proper approach is made to them, they will all cooperate and do their best to make this Samaj successful. Actually, our experience is that they have whole heartedly helped our programmes wherever they were arranged. The report of these Seminars would then go to the District, the State as well as the Central Office. I would prefer these meetings to be more businesslike, not wasting any money and time on inaugurations, garlands and formalities.

All of you might have heard of a big rally of farmers in the Sholapur District, which was addressed by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, our Prime Minister. I was glad to find that the Agriculture Department of the State had invited representatives from various other districts also. As I have said previously, most of the active, intelligent and progressive farmers are joining the Samaj everywhere and, as such, most of the representatives at the meeting were the already life members of the Samaj. As most of the representatives from various districts of Maharashtra State did not quite understand the relationship between the Farmers' Union and the Bharat Krishak Samaj, one of our prominent life-members raised a point of order at the very beginning of the meeting. I am happy to report that the sponsors of the meeting had to admit the need of coordination between these two organisations in a proper manner because the objectives of both are identical.

Incidentally, I would like to bring to your notice a report of the activities of the Krishak Samaj, Achalpur Tehsil, Amravati District. In the general meeting of the Samaj, held on the 20th March, 1960, amongst other things, the following targets were fixed :—

- (1) enrolment of 1,000 ordinary members ;
- (2) holding of a Krishak Mela, a Shivar and 56 public meetings ;
- (3) participation in the Kharif Campaign ;
- (4) establishment of cooperative service societies.

Amongst the resolutions passed by them are :—

- (1) request to State Government to control the menace of wild and stray cattle to crops in the tehsil.
- (2) request to the District Development Board for representation to the Samaj at the Taluk level.

I have given this brief account with a view to suggesting that similar activities may also be undertaken in other districts and tehsils as well.

It has also been reported to me that in Rajasthan, the State Office of the Samaj held a very well attended meeting of the conveners and representatives from all the districts of Rajasthan and considered a detailed programme for opening offices at various district headquarters and taking up other activities. Summary of their deliberations which have just been received would appear in the next issue.

Samaj Members and the Kharif Campaign

Lastly, I would like to appeal to all members of the Krishak Samaj to take the most active part in the Kharif Campaign which is about to begin. Unless we take up this activity seriously and distinguish ourselves, the country will never achieve the success in agricultural production that it needs. I would, therefore, like every member of the Samaj to give his wholehearted cooperation in this campaign and if at any place proper recognition of their effort is not forthcoming or their cooperation is not sought by those in-charge of the campaign, the members must compel the recognition by the excellence of quality and quantity of their work.

Panjabrao Deshmukh

Districts Krishak Samaj. The Prant Officer, Jalgaon presided over the meeting.

Messages of national leaders were read out and the leading agriculturists of the area addressed the meeting.

It was decided to enrol more life members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and open branch offices of the Samaj at Gram and Taluk level.

Different committees were set up to be responsible for various activities of the District Krishak Samaj.

Shri B. C Choudhry was elected as President of the District Krishak Samaj, East Khandesh.

Shri Y. S. Patil was appointed organiser.

BURDWAN FARMERS ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Burdwan District Krishak Samaj held its Fifth Annual Convention at Galsi on Saturday, March 19, 1960, in a nicely decorated pandal, specially constructed for the purpose. Shri K. D. Sharma, Secretary Bharat Krishak Samaj, presided over the function.

An Agro-Industrial Exhibition organised on this occasion was opened by Shri S. C. Nag Biswas, the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Range, Burdwan.

Shri Ramhari Ganguli, Chairman of the Reception Committee gave welcome address to all the present.

Shri Nag Biswas speaking on this occasion laid stress on making "Grow More Food" a success and requested all to make their all out efforts in that direction. He also explained the role of farmers and cultivators in achieving this objective.

Shri K. D. Sharma, in his presidential address emphasised the importance of strengthening the organisation and explained the necessity of multiplying good seeds for the good harvest through Cooperative endeavour.

A few resolutions were adopted regarding the difficulties and disadvantages experienced by agriculturists and the farmers of the area.

Tax Exempted Categories of Cooperatives

Representation on Advisory Committees : Kannad Krishak Samaj Demands

The position regarding the taxation of business profits of the various types of cooperative societies under the provisions of the India Income-tax Act, 1922, as amended by the Finance Act, 1960, is as follows :

I. Societies Exempt from Income-Tax are :

(a) A society engaged in carrying on business of banking or providing credit facilities to its members : This would include :—

(i) Primary Credit Societies ; (ii) District and Central Co-operative Banks ; (iii) Apex Co-operative Banks ; (iv) Land Mortgage Banks (Primary as well as Central) ; (v) Non-Agricultural Credit Societies such as Urban Banks ; (vi) Employees' Credit and Thrift Societies etc.

(b) A society engaged in a cottage industry.

(c) (i) A society engaged in marketing of agricultural produce of its members. This would include Primary, Central and State Marketing Societies. (ii) A society engaged in purchase of agricultural implements, seeds, livestock or other articles intended for agriculture for the purpose of supplying them to its members.

(d) A society engaged in processing, without the aid of power, of the agricultural produce of its members. This would include :— Societies for hand-pounding of paddy, oil Ghanis etc.

(e) Primary Milk Societies :— A primary milk society engaged in supplying milk raised by its members to a Federal Milk Cooperative Society.

In case the societies mentioned in the above category undertake activities other than those mentioned in the above clauses; they shall be required to pay income tax in respect of the profits attributable to such activities. The tax however is payable only on that part of the profits which is in excess of Rs. 15,000.

II. Societies Partially Exempt from Income-tax are :

(a) Societies other than those mentioned in I above.

Profits or gains of business of a cooperative society other than a cooperative society referred to in I above shall not be taxable up to Rs. 15,000. In other words transport societies, housing societies etc. will have to pay tax if their profits exceed Rs. 15,000 on such excess.

(b) Processing Societies using power :

So much of the profits derived from an industrial undertaking like a cooperative sugar mill, cotton gin, oil mill, solvent extraction plants etc., as does not exceed six per cent per annum on the capital employed in the undertaking computed in accordance with the rules made by the Central Board of Revenue, shall not be liable for assessment for the financial year, next following the "previous" year, in which the society begins to manufacture or produce the articles and for the six assessments immediately succeeding, provided the conditions laid down in section 15 C of the Income tax are satisfied.

(c) Consumers' Societies :

Where a consumer society makes bulk purchases of commodities which it sells to its members, the rebate passed on by such a society to its members on the value of purchases made by them during a year will be treated as deferred discounts and be deducted from the gross profits.

Government hope that as a result of these concessions it would be possible for cooperative institutions to strengthen their resources and build up their organisations on sound lines. It is of utmost importance that the concessions made available by the Government to cooperatives are utilised only by those which are really genuine and that the advantage of the tax exemption is not taken by spurious cooperative societies.

Good Sons of the Soil

"To improve our farm yields, we should use improved seeds and implements and adopt scientific methods of farming and make the things easier for us by adopting cooperative principles. The importance of celebrating "National Farmers' Day" lies in avowing ourselves to be very good sons of the soil and fight out the devil of hunger from our sacred land", said Shri S. N. Mushran, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh, broadcasting a message to farmers on April 3, 1960.

Kannad : A meeting of the Taluk Krishak Samaj was held here on March 24. Shri V.B. Deshmukh presided. The Chairman explained the aims and objects of the Samaj and stressed its importance in a predominantly agricultural country like India.

Shri Kamble, Development Officer, said that Marathwada had made considerable progress in the Development Project and urged that people should give maximum co-operation. The Krishak Samaj, he said, should guide the farmers and endeavour to improve their economic condition.

Shri Mali, Extension Officer, stressed the importance of bunding, green-manuring, use of fertilizers, compost and good seed in increasing agricultural production. Information on cooperatives and co-operative marketing was also furnished.

After a good deal of discussion on problems and difficulties of the farmers, the meeting unanimously passed six resolutions. The first two asked for representation of Krishak Samaj on the Taccavi Loan and Block Advisory Committees. The third one requested the authorities to raise Pishore Block to a full Block status. The fourth resolution requested the Government to grant Taccavi loans on a larger scale for oil engines and to provide irrigation tanks for encouraging horticulture. The fifth one requested the Coop. Department to provide godowns for storage of agricultural produce and the sixth requested the Government to take up bunding immediately in 80 villages of the hilly areas of the Taluk for increasing agricultural production.

Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Memorial Prizes for Agricultural Research

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has, with a view to creating an incentive for research workers and to recognising outstanding research work done by them in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry and allied subjects, instituted 11 prizes of the value of Rs. 5,000 each. These prizes are known as "The Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Memorial Prizes for Agricultural Research" and one prize will be awarded biennially i.e. once in two years for outstanding research work done in India in each of the following subjects:—

Agronomy, Agricultural engineering, Agricultural chemistry, Agricultural botany, Agricultural Zoology (including fisheries), Horticulture, Animal breeding, Animal nutrition (including physiology and biochemistry), Animal diseases, Dairying, Agricultural and Animal husbandry economics and statistics.

The prizes will be in the form of gold medals or cash or both and one prize in each subject will be awarded on the basis of outstanding results of researches achieved by research workers in the country either individually or jointly, during the calendar years 1958 and 1959, i.e., 1st January, 1958 to 31st December, 1959. Results achieved prior to the calendar year 1958 or after the calendar year 1959 will not be recognised for the purpose of the present award. Applications on prescribed forms should reach the Secretary, I.C.A.R., not later than June 30, 1960.

The award of each of the prizes shall be based on significant advances in human knowledge in a particular subject as revealed by books, monographs or papers published in the name of the candidate or any other unpublished account of the outstanding research work done or discoveries and inventions made by him.

World News

Problems of Veterinary Education F.A.O. Convenes Conference

April 20: Specialists from more than 30 countries, including India, will review problems of veterinary education at a meeting to be held in London from April 25 to 29. The meeting has been called by the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization.

Among those present at the meeting will be Dr. L. Sahai, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The meeting hopes to devise training programmes suitable for various countries. Subjects discussed will include regional requirements of veterinary service, training and employment of lay persons in the field, and application of modern techniques in preventive medicine.

After the conference, delegates will be able to spend a week visiting university veterinary departments in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Cambridge and London. They will also see many of Britain's leading research stations, including the Institute of Animal Physiology, the Dairy Research Institute, and the Agricultural Research Council's Unit of Reproductive Physiology and Biochemistry.

Good Rice Prospects

Reports of good rice crops in Asia continue to come in, says the latest Rice Supplement published in London by the Commonwealth Economic Committee. Yield per acre is high in a number of countries.

The crop in India is expected to equal last year's high figure, the report says. Production is at a new high level in Pakistan, while the revised estimate for Japan increases the record total of earlier reports.

Indian Study Crop Production Methods in U.K.

Five Indian students are now attending a five-month crop-protection course with Fisons Pest Control Ltd. in the United Kingdom. This brings to 130 the total of students accepted for training by this British company under the Technical Co-operation Scheme of the Colombo Plan.

This is the ninth annual course at the company's laboratories at the

Chesterford Park Research Station in Essex. The training programme covers talks and lectures by specialists, a period of work and study with scientists and, finally, a series of visits to agricultural, scientific, and industrial institutions.

Indians on the latest course are Shri S. R. Husain, senior plant-protection assistant, U. P. Department of Agriculture, Lucknow; Dr. N. B. Kulkarni, sugarcane disease investigation officer, Pade-gaon, Maharashtra; Shri P. K. M. Koya, plant-protection assistant, District Agricultural Office, Kozhikode, Kerala; Shri D. V. Murthy, assistant entomologist, Mysore Department of Agriculture, Bangalore and Shri T. R. Subramanian, additional lecturer in entomology, Department of Agriculture, Madras.

Also on the course are students from the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Malaya, the Philippines, and Thailand. Accommodation for all the Colombo Plan students has been arranged in Cambridge by the British Council.

New London Centre for Study of Agricultural Parasites

New resources for the Campaign against agricultural parasites will be available at a laboratory to be built and equipped for the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London. It will be the first university laboratory in the Commonwealth specifically staffed and equipped for research and training in nematology at the post-graduate level.

Nematology deals with free-living and parasitic roundworms, the effect of which on agricultural production has aroused concern in recent years.

Secret of five-fold increase in Sugarcane yield

It has been reported that Shri Yelamanchili Venkatachalam of Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh has increased his cane yield nearly five times from 25 tons to 115 tons per acre. His average yield has also increased and is now 37 tons per acre. This is how he did it :

He gave a deep ploughing to the field and cross-ploughed it six times; applied 15 cart-loads of well rotted farm-yard manure followed by two top-dressings of powdered groundnut cake and ammonium sulphate. Good drainage was provided and preventive measures against pests were taken by spraying D.D.T. and B.H.C. As the crop had a luxuriant growth, he had it propped. From November 1956, he irrigated the crop every 18 days till May 1957. The crop attained a height of 22 ft. and yielded 115 tons. The variety of cane used was C. O. 527.

Beware of Potato Wart Disease

Potato growers should be on the look-out for wart-like out-growth on the stem or tubers of the potato crop. This disease was unknown in India but its presence has been confirmed. It is now regarded as one of the established diseases of potato in some eastern hill areas surrounding Darjeeling district of west Bengal. Control measures consist essentially in preventing contamination of land by avoiding use of seed potatoes from areas where the disease is prevalent or by using wart resistant varieties.

"Pusa Sawani" Mosaic Resistant Bhindi

"Pusa Sawani" is a variety of Bhindi developed at the Division of Bombay, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi. It has shown remarkable freedom from the yellow-vein-mosaic disease under field conditions all over the country. "Pusa Sawani" flowers in 40 days

as a spring-sown crop and in 53 days as a monsoon crop. The five-edged green, completely smooth fruits are about 5½ inches long and 0.8 inch in girth when tender. This variety has invariably yielded more than twice as much as "Pusa Makhmali" or any other variety. Limited quantity of seed of "Pusa Sawani" is available from the Head of the Division of Bombay, I.A.R.I., New Delhi-12.

New use of Mexican Poppy

If experiments with Mexican poppy a spiny weed with yellow flowers and *son* like seeds, which grows in abundance by roadside and banks of nullahs prove successful, it will be possible to reclaim millions of acres of waste *usar* land.

The experiments conducted by the National Botanic Gardens at Banthra near Lucknow have been successful in actually reclaiming 650 acres of *usar* land by using the weed as the chief chemical agent. As a result this land now yields exceptionally good crops, nearly 15 mds. of paddy per acre, as against the State average of 10 mds.

The method of using the weed as a manure is simple. It is collected in large quantities and allowed to dry up. It is then powdered and mixed up with irrigation water.

Experiments are being continued at Banthra to find out the best method of utilizing the Mexican poppy.

Low-cost Windmill

A Low-cost windmill suitable for lifting water for small-scale irrigation and also for domestic supply in rural areas has been designed at the National Aeronautical Laboratory, Bangalore. All the materials used in its construction are available locally.

In constructing this windmill, the winds prevailing in most parts of India and the need for high overall efficiency in light winds have been kept in view.

The design of the windmill is simple and it can be built and repaired easily. The cost of a complete windmill has been estimated as Rs. 2,500.

It is proposed to manufacture 200 units in the first instance and try them in different parts of the country.

Control of Weeds

Recent research in the Agronomy Division of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, has conclusively shown that the common rabi weeds of certain cereals can be very effectively and economically controlled by the chemical 2,4-Dichlorophenoxy acetic acid. The weeds are *batlu* (*Chenopodium album*), *piaz* (*Asphodelus tenuifolius*), *hiran khuri* (*Convolvulus arvensis*), *pit papra* (*Fumaria parviflora*), *pohli* (*Carthamus oxyacantha*) and *krishn nil* (*Anagalis arvensis*).

Weeds cause enormous losses in crop yields, which may range from 5 to 40 per cent in the case of cereals. Even at a conservative estimate of ten per cent, this loss in the wheat crop alone amounts to nearly 0.8 million tons, valued at Rs. 313 million annually.

Jowar Co 19-A New Improved Variety

The latest release of the Millets Breeding Station, Coimbatore, Jowar Co. 19 combines high yield with greater adaptability. It has consistently outyielded the standards, Co. 2 and Co. 3, giving an increased grain yield of 15 to 20 per cent in all yield trials conducted for six successive seasons at the breeding station as well as on farmers' fields which works out an additional profit of about Rs. 35/- per acre. A special feature of the new strain is its suitability for the varied soil and climate conditions of the entire Madras State.

Co. 19 is a vigorous-growing, reaching a height of 14 feet. It is sown with the monsoon in June-July and harvested in November-December. The panicles are large with loose streaming branches. The grains are pearly white, translucent and flinty with good keeping quality. They are preferred for food and exclusively suited for preparing pops (Tamil : Pori). The threshing of the grains is easy. The yield averages 800 to 900 lb. to the acre.

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OBJECTIVES OF PL 480

PL 480 has two principal objectives. One is to utilize the bumper crops produced by American farmers for the benefit not only of the population of the United States but also of the peoples of foreign countries which require food but have difficulty in financing imports out of their foreign exchange earnings. Under PL 480 the United States accepts the currencies of importing nations in payment. The other prime objective of the law is to help the economic development of developing countries.

India has been the largest recipient of U.S. agricultural commodities under PL 480.

Under the four agreements signed until November 13, 1959, the U.S. acquired \$ 967.51 million (Rs. 460 crores). The U.S. has reserved \$ 154.35 million (Rs. 73 crores—

16 per cent) for meeting its obligations in India (expenditure on its embassy, etc.) The rest has been devoted to India's economic development: \$94.11 million (Rs. 45 crores—9.7 per cent) has been received for loans to private enterprises; \$194.4 million (Rs. 91 crores—20 per cent) for grants; and \$524.65 million (Rs. 249 crores—54.3 per cent) for loan to the Government of India for utilization in its development schemes.

The loans are repayable in rupees over a period of 40 to 42 years. Interest rates vary from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent depending on the particular PL 480 agreements.

A sum of Rs. 15.39 crores was actually obligated as grants to various projects until the end of March 1960. Until March 31, 1960,

a sum of Rs. 132.3 crores was loaned to various development projects. Approximately 50 per cent of the total amount reserved for loans has so far been obligated.

Sen Appeals for Funds

Shri B.R. Sen, Director General, F.A.O. has appealed to all the Governments for contributing towards the Freedom from Hunger Campaign Fund.

The provisional budget for the first twelve months involves an expenditure of \$ 220,000 i. e. staff salaries and allowances etc.—\$ 145,000; meetings—\$ 50,000; campaign staff T.A's—\$ 75,000; posters, exhibitions and visuals etc.—\$ 45,000; publicity literature—\$ 37,000; production of technical documents—\$ 217,000 and administration and general operating expenses—\$ 220,000. The amount at present at the disposal of the Director General is only \$ 50,000.

Pictured in an exhibit hall of Pfizer's Agricultural Research and Development Centre in Terre Haute, Indiana, are agricultural leaders from India. The group toured Pfizer's agricultural research facilities, which contain the largest privately-owned experimental farm of its kind in the world, during their recent visit to the United States to study American agricultural practices., sponsored by International Cooperation Administration.

