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A. I. Farmers' Council Meeting at Srinagar

NEW DELHI, May 27, 1961 : The 12th Meeting of the All India Farmers' Council will be held at Srinagar in the first week of October this year.

The decision was taken today on receipt of the following telegram from Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed, Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir in reply to BKS President Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh's letter on the subject :

"YOUR LETTER OF MAY SIXTEEN STOP PROPOSED DATES FOR KRISHAK SAMAJ COUNCIL MEETING AT SRINAGAR FROM OCTOBER FIRST TO FIFTH SUITABLE STOP ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE ACCORDINGLY AND DETAILS SENT TO CHIEF SECRETARY".

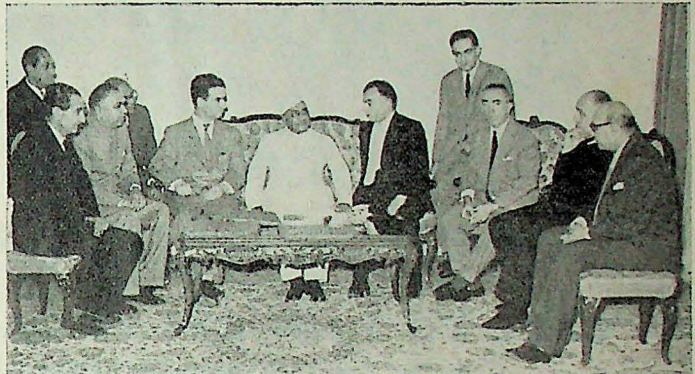
All the members of the Farmers' Council and others interested in taking part in the deliberations of the meeting may kindly note carefully the dates of the meeting and prepare themselves to attend the same. It will be the most pleasant season in Kashmir and will be a little cold.

Arrival of the Delegates and their Registration starts on 1-10-1961

Inauguration of the meeting at 10 A. M. on 2-10-1961

The meetings will continue on October 2, and the following days. Sight-seeing programmes for the members at their own cost will also be arranged.

Detailed programme of the meeting and arrangements regarding their boarding and lodging will be finalized and conveyed to members at a later date.



Tehran, May 8, 1961 : Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, India's Minister for Agriculture and President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj in conference with other members of the Executive Committee of the proposed Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation.

Standing at the left is Mr. Bahram Jooyandeh (Iran), sitting next to him are Mr. K. D. Sharma and Mr. M. Motilal (India), Mr. Balasaygun (Turkey), Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, H. E. Mr. Ebrahim Mahdavi, Ex-Minister for Agriculture, Iran, Mr. Amir Hassan Amir Parviz (Iran) and Dr. Esfandiari, Dy. Minister of Agriculture, Iran and officers of the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture.

A WORLD BANK OF FARMERS AFRO-ASIAN DELEGATES DECISION

TEHHRAN : The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the proposed Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Conference was held at Tehran (Iran) on May 8 and 9, 1961 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister of Agriculture India.

It was decided that steps towards the establishment of a World Co-operative Bank of Farmers should be taken and a beginning should be made by constituting an Afro-Asian Agricultural or Cooperative Bank.

It was also decided that a nucleus of a Secretariat should start working at New Delhi.

Representatives of Japan, India, Turkey, Iran, U. A. R. and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Iran Government were present. Dr. Nasu, the originator of the idea of Afro-Asian meets also attended the meeting.



Kartar Singh Dewana receiving the Award of Padmashri from the President of India



New Delhi : A photograph taken at a dinner given recently by BKS President Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh in honour of the outgoing Japanese Ambassador in India, Dr. S. Nasu and TCM Advisor Mr. John H. Webb and his Mrs.

A CALL TO JOIN BKS IN LARGE NUMBERS

Chief Minister Jatti Inaugurates National Farmers' Day

THE 3rd April 1961 was observed as a National Farmers' Day with a large gathering at the premises of the Mysore State Farmers' Forum, Cenotaph Road, Bangalore. It was a festive occasion inaugurated by Sri B. D. Jatti, Chief Minister of Mysore. Sri Nijalingappa, President of the Mysore Pradesh Congress Committee, distributed the prizes and Sri N. Rachiah, Minister for Agriculture, presided over the deliberations.

Sri L. T. Karle, Vice-President of the Mysore Farmers' Forum, welcomed the audience, giving the history of the Farmers' Forum, India, and the Mysore Farmers' Forum. He read out the message of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, President of the Farmers' Forum, India, and explained that the day was being observed all over India and it was a day for holding Seminars and lectures, reviewing the progress of the Farmers' Forum and making resolve for future progress. He pointed out that the day was being celebrated also as a call to more and more farmers to enroll themselves as Life Members of the Forum.

Sri B. D. Jatti, Sri S. Nijalingappa and Sri N. Rachiah, announced that they were enrolling themselves as life members of the Forum, amidst cheers from the audience.

Sri B. D. Jatti, Chief Minister of Mysore State, inaugurating the function went right into the spirit of improved agriculture, in advising the farmers to have an open mind and increase their yields by studying the competitive crop produced by their friends. The high yields obtained by the prize winners indicated that there was clear scope for securing self-sufficiency in food stuff in our country.

Nine farmers from Mysore who competed for the Kharif Crop Competition Prizes received the prizes for good crops grown by them.

Shri S. Nijalingappa, while congratulating the prize winners and referring in general to potentialities of our farmers would still have the leaders and the public remember a few facts. The rural population also was growing and there was a clear case for family planning. Our five Year-Plans had achieved some results in food production but this would

not take us out of difficulties in food production in the face of rise in the number of consumers. It was also the duty of the Government to see if enough aid has been given to farmers to adequately improve their Agriculture; such examples as the Tungbhadra Canal area where the farmers have really no provision to cope with the increased effort required to change over from the old dry land farming to new irrigated farming, called for a requisite volume of help to be chalked out. Both the Centre and the State had their duty here. There was also a great change necessary in the attitude of the officers who should in the present context mix freely with the farmers and do their best for them.

Shri N. Rachiah, Minister for Agriculture of Mysore State, presiding over the function, laid great stress on the importance of agricultural labour. They should be given greater protection and kept happy in order that they may work hard as the output of agricultural production was directly related to the hands working at it.

(More news on page 7)

Vital need of Potash for the Soil

Deserts may turn into productive fields

Potash, the powdered fertility of ancient plains, is signaling the beginning of a new era and may be the key to turning today's deserts into productive fields so that the world of tomorrow will have enough to eat.

Constant experimentation has found new uses for potash, one of the world's oldest natural products. New methods are being found to mine the important mineral. Experimentation continues. The future is promising.

Peoples down through the centuries have used the potash-containing brines for soaps and lesser uses. Only since the beginning of this century has man discovered the vital need of potash for the soil. Through a clumsy and cumbersome youth, new uses were found and new methods of mining were discovered.

Today, potash has come of age. We know and see its importance. But few experts can imagine the promising potential of the industry.

Fifty years ago, scientists held little hope for sufficient supplies of potash to meet the world needs, then only a small part of the needs of today. Rich beds of potassium—containing potash and magnesium were found only at Stassfurt in Germany. The beds were so extraordinary and the conditions under which they were formed were so rare that geologists—and the public—assumed that nature had never staged a repeat performance.

Nature forms salt deposits under desert conditions, and those of the potash-magnesium group crystallize out of brines only with extreme heat and aridity. In fact, some of these rare crystals will dissolve in the moisture contained in air at ordinary room temperatures.

Although the discovery of a similar bed seemed hopeless, the relentless search continued. In 1911,

the U. S. Congress appropriated money for exploration and experimentation designed to find domestic sources of this vital chemical. American geologists believed if it was to be found there at all, it would be in the Permian Basin that starts in central Kansas and extends southwestward across Oklahoma, a small tip of Colorado and into West Texas and New Mexico.

But endless search yielded nothing. Fortunately, for the United States and its allies, however, a modest supply was found in the brines of Searles Lake in California.

The price of potash skyrocketed from \$ 35 a ton to nearly \$ 500 during World War I, but even with this stimulus, the United States was only able to produce 209,000 tons, and this stopped the minute the war ended.

Scientists were beginning to learn more and more of the importance of the chemical, however, and the U. S. search continued. It concentrated on the Permian Basin. They were just about to give up hope on the area in 1931, when a petroleum engineer—not a geologist—stumbled upon the beds in Carlsbad region of New Mexico.

Congress voted support for an exploratory drilling programme that proved the presence of potash salts ranging from 373 to 2737 feet in depth and from one foot six inches to eight feet in diameter.

It was no easy task starting a new industry in competition with the well-developed fields of Germany. It was at the height of the depression. Methods of mining and processing had not developed sufficiently to put U. S. production on an equal footing with Europe. But American ingenuity pushed forward. The baby industry moved ahead without a setback. By 1935, potash production in the U. S. pushed ahead of the World War I mark. However, the impor-

tance of the mineral zoomed during World War II, and the U. S. still could not compete with Germany.

Every effort to increase production in Western Germany fell short even for domestic requirements. The French mines suffered considerable damage during the war, but recovery was quick. Production reached its peak in just two years. The growing domestic demand ate up much of France's increased production, but she still exported about 35% of her mined potash.

The growing demand fathered the discovery of lesser and lower grade potash in a number of places. Modest beds of the chemical were exploited, and in many cases, drained, throughout the world. Ingenious Palestine produced potash by evaporating the waters of the Dead Sea.

But all sources were not enough to meet the rising demand. More and more the free world looked to the United States, and the United States answered by multiplying its production of potash. By 1949, the German monopoly had all but disappeared and the U. S. produced almost as much as East and West Germany combined.

Production has moved ahead steadily since 1945. Twin to potash production is experimentation. Hundreds of new uses for the chemical have been found. Efficiency of production has increased ten-fold, but exploration into new methods continues and is needed.

Potash has long been associated with soaps, cleansers, industrial chemical uses and fertilizers, its basic use.

Today, about 10% of the total U. S. production goes into chemical uses. These include explosives, matches, analine dyes, engraving and lithography, soap, paint, gasoline, drinking water, tobacco and ceramics in addition to soaps and cleansers.

The potassium found in potash, one of the primary elements needed by crops in large amounts, is recognized as the plant food most likely to be deficient in the soil. It is vital in maintaining fertility, for rebuilding vigour to washout soil and reclaiming lost land.

Modern man realizes more and more the need for increased production to feed a starving world, for keeping the soil strong so that it can be used efficiently year after year. And modern men is realizing more and more the need for potash in doing the job.

The need for potassium-containing potash is an ironic twist in Mother Nature's infinite make-up that man has only recently discovered.

The soil is naturally rich in potash. The top six inches of crop land contains about five billion tons, or as much as the the total known world deposits of water-soluble potash salts. Unfortunately, however, most of the potash is locked up in the soil in forms that plants cannot readily use. A field may have a total of 40,000 pounds of potash per acre stored within the plough depth, but only a small amount may become available to plants in any one season. A healthy plant needs a minimum amount of it to survive and eats much of potassium available in the soil, and usually thirsts for more.

Barley eats about 12 pounds of potash per acre per year, some varieties of corn eat as much as 46 pounds; some wheat takes 15 pounds of potash, and alfalfa hay eats as much as 178 pounds per year.

This usable potassium must be replenished each year if the soil is to remain fertile.

The signs of potash deficiency are many :

1 Mottling, spotting, streaks or curling of leaves, starting at the lower levels.

2 Lower leaves scorched or burned on margins and tips. These

dead areas may fall out, leaving ragged edges.

3 In corn, grains and grasses, firing starting at the tip of the leaf, proceeding down from the edge, usually leaving the midrib green.

4 Premature falling down prior to maturity due to lack of root development of plants like corn.

On the other hand, potash, aids crops five different ways :

1 Imparts increased vigour and disease resistance to plants.

2 Produces strong, stiff stalks, thus reduces lodging.

3 Increases plumpness of grain and seed.

4 Essential to the formation and transfer of starches, sugars and oils.

5 Imparts winter hardness to legumes and other crops.

Studies conducted since World War II have shown a direct relationship between the use of potash and farm income. The knowledge is reflected in growing sales. Use of potash has increased every year over the past 50 years.

The most significant period of growth has been since the war. Farm consumption has increased ten-fold despite the decrease in farms.

New companies have entered the field. In America, Farmers Union entered the field in the 1950's joining with Kerr-McGee and Phillips Petroleum in developing the rich beds near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

New beds have been found in southern Utah and in Canada. Production is about 2,500,000 tons per year, a long road since the 209,000 tons produced during World War I.

Potash stocks grew during the '50s, hitting 560,000 tons in 1957. But growing demands have whittled this reserve down, and by the end of

1959, stocks were only 277,000 tons. This depletion is continuing in '60.

Most of the production goes to commercial mixers and cooperatives. Individual farmers can order pure potash, but mixing it themselves is difficult and it usually pays to buy it pre-mixed.

Since World War I when the price of potash jumped from \$ 35 to \$ 500, the price has been relatively stable. The primary reason for this, experts say, is the increasing demand for potash. These experts are also optimistic about the future of the industry. Potash lost to crops will have to be replenished each year. There is no substitute for it. As new land becomes fertile, the demand increases. Hopes for turning today's deserts into fertile fields of the future in order to produce enough food for a rapidly growing population are based on the availability of chemicals, including potassium.

Continued experimentation is a vital part of the expanding industry. Since World War II, hundreds of new uses have been found for potash. New uses are found every year.

Potassium-bearing potash, although one of the oldest natural products, is still a relatively new member of the chemical family. It is already sitting at the head table. It has a most promising future.

CUTTING BANANA STEM EFFECT ON YIELD OF 'FOLLOWERS'

Completely removing the parent plant of the banana after the bunch is harvested has bad effects on the 'follower' plants, it is found in trials.

In the trials, leaving the stem of the parent plant untouched, or even cutting it to half helped the 'follower' plants produce good bunches, and resulted in getting better yields from the plantation. The trials were conducted at the Central Banana Research Station in Aduthurai in Madras State.

The results point out to the need of letting the stem of the banana alone, after the bunch is harvested, which many growers don't.

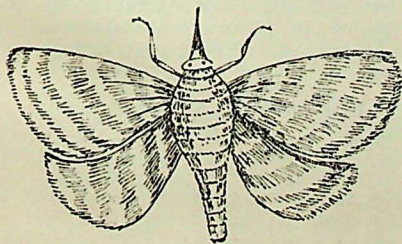
Pyrilla—Sugarcane Leaf Hopper

Sugarcane leaf hopper (*Pyrilla*) is a well known pest, attacking sugarcane in India. Adults and nymphs of this pest suck plant sap from the underside of the sugarcane leaf, which results in the affected leaves becoming pale, presenting a sickly and blighted appearance. Due to its attack, the affected canes become useless and the recovery of *gur* and sugar is considerably reduced. In case of heavy infestation, even preparation of good quality *gur* becomes difficult.

The adult pyrilla bug is a medium-sized straw-coloured insect, with the head drawn into a distinct and pointed peak and two pairs of wings are folded on the back in roof shape. The adult insect is about $\frac{1}{4}$ " long with a wing expanse of $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The young-ones of this pest are called nymphs which are active pale brown hopping creatures. Swarms of these insects are found on the leaves of sugarcane crop in the infected fields. Eggs are laid in batches on the underside of a leaf close to the mid-rib when the crop is young and on the inner side of the sheaths of leaves in case of the grown-up crop. The eggs are pale white to whitish blue in colour, which are covered with white wax threads derived from the anal tuft of the female.

Control Measures as Recommended

(a) *Dusts* :—Application of 5 per cent BHC dust @ 20-30 lbs. per acre in the early stages ; 33-50 lbs. per



Pyrilla Adult

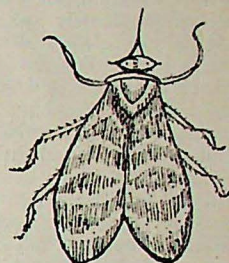
acre where the inter-nodal formation has set in and 50-80 lbs. per acre in full-grown crop.

The pre-monsoon attack of *Pyrilla* can be effectively controlled by this treatment. Dusting operations should be carried out in the morning when there is no wind and the sugarcane leaves are wet with dew. BHC 7 to 10 per cent dust can also be used for quick results.

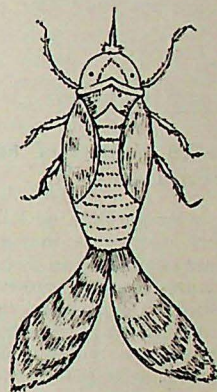
(b) *Sprays* :—(i) D. D. T. 0.25 per cent suspension ; (ii) BHC 0.25 per cent suspension ; (iii) Toxaphene 0.25 per cent emulsion ; (iv) Endrin 0.1 lb. of actual emulsion per acre ; and (v) Malathion 0.1 per cent emulsion.

The requirement of spray material per acre would be 25-50 gallons in the early stages of the growth and 100-150 gallons afterwards according to the size of the crop. For control of the pest in the post-monsoon period, preference should be given to spray as far as practicable.

Pyrilla Adult



Pyrilla Nymph



Better Sugarcane Cultivation

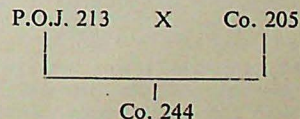
The cultivation of Co. 244 is restricted to Bulandshahr district in Western Uttar Pradesh, where it occupies an area of about 2,500 acres. The variety was sent from Coimbatore to State Research Stations in the year 1922.

Main Characteristics of the Variety

Co. 244 is a hard-rinded cane of lodging habit. It comes up fairly well even under indifferent cultivation and is therefore, called a "Poor man's cane". It is late in ripening, poor in sucrose and inferior in *rab* and sugar. It shows a certain amount of resistance to insect attacks and is fairly resistant to red rot, but

susceptible to smut and tolerant to mosaic.

Co. 244 was evolved at Coimbatore by crossing P. O. J. 213 with



Co. 205 in which P. O. J. 213 was used as mother and Co. 205 as father. It has medium-thin, staggered and solid canes with fairly hard rind and greenish brown internal tissue. The colour of the cane is green, sometimes pale-green with

bone yellow or brown. *Growth Ring*—Yellowish brown; *Joint*—Cylindrical with slight bulge at bottom especially at the side opposite to bud; splits common, medium-long and narrow; ivory markings profuse as short and thin brownish lines, more common towards the top of internode; bud groove common, short and shallow; bloom moderately spread throughout the joint; *Root zone*—medium in width and swollen, having three rows of regular root eyes which are small and slightly swollen; *Node*—Even with joint; *Leaf Scar*—Not prominent and straight or slightly slanting; *Bud*—medium, rather ovate and inserted at leaf-scar; *Leaf*—light green and of medium size; *Foliage*—Medium abundant and open at the top, young leaves with sharp curve below tips and older ones broadly curved.

Sugarcane Research

Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow

Gamma BHC @ 1 lb. actual per acre over setts in furrows at the time of planting in February provided pre-monsoon protection against termites and shoot borers but it failed to arrest the shoot borer infestation in autumn. Application of D.D.T. @ 0.25 lbs. actual per acre brought about 50 per cent decrease in the stalk borer, *C. auricilia*. The pink mealy bug, *Saccharicoccus Sacchari* Ckll. could be successfully controlled with 0.05 per cent malathion spray.

Andhra Pradesh—Minimum incidence of early shoot borer, *Chilo-traea infuscatellus* Snell was found in plots treated with D.D.T. 0.32% in 4th, 6th and 9th weeks age of the sugarcane crop as compared to suspension sprays of 0.25% and 0.16% D.D.T. and 0.02%, 0.015% and 0.01% of Endrin. It was also found that the chemical treatment did not influence the juice sucrose content of the crop.

Studies on spreading cane trash in between cane rows in a measure of control of early shoot borer showed low borer infestation (5.9%) in trash-spread plots than in control plots (16.6%).

Among the early maturing varieties, minimum infestation was found in Co. 1012 and Co. 1064 (3.3%) while the maximum occurred in Co. 527. In series I, maximum infestation by internodal borer on cane basis was found in Co. 997 (38.4%) as against the lowest in Co. 419 (26.3%), but the percentage loss in weight was greater in Co. 419 (16.7%) than in Co. 997 (4.2%). In series II, minimum internodal infestation was recorded in Co. 1077 (20.0%) and maximum in Co. 419 (44.6%), the percentage loss in weight being 1.6% and 16.6% respectively.

Bihar—The annual pest survey conducted in the sugar factory areas of the State showed that B. O. 22 and Co. K. 28 had less incidence of borers than other varieties. B. O. 10, B. O. 22, B. O. 14 and B. O. 29 in North Bihar and B. O. 11 and Co. 419 in South Bihar suffered a greater loss in sugar recovery due to borer attack. The loss in tonnage due to attack of borers was more in B. O. 14 in North Bihar and in B. O. 32 and Co. 419 in South Bihar. The incidence of *Pyrilla* was of moderate intensity which was localised at Majhulia and Motihari. The attack of whitefly was heavy in water-logged areas of Hassanpur and Samastipur.

The top borer, *S. Nivella* and the shoot borer *Ch. infuscatellus* had five generations each, of which the third generation of the former and second and third of the latter were found to be most destructive. The root borer, *E. depressilla* had four generations, of which the first two were most active during summer.

A comparative trial on soil insecticides against termite showed that Dieldrin, Aldrin, Chlordane and Lindane @ 1 lb. actual per acre were quite effective against termite but crude BHC @ 1.25 lb. actual per acre proved to be a failure.

Madras—At Gudiyattam, Co. 740 and Co. 1001 were found to be more susceptible to Top borer damage whereas Co. 449 and Co. 527 were fairly resistant to it. Endrin emulsion and B. H. C. (wettable powder and emulsion) were found to be good for the control of early shoot borer. Early planting of cane was found to be good in avoiding early shoot borer attack.

At Kulitalai and Kumarman-galam, Co. 785 was found to be more susceptible to early shoot borer than the other varieties and its incidence was more in Co. 419, Co. 449, Co. 758 and Co. 785. Co. 740 recorded the highest incidence of top borer. Co. 419, Co. 1001, Co. 758 and Co. 740 were found to be highly susceptible to top borer and POJ, 3016 was least susceptible to it.

Orissa—Behaviour of 289 varieties of cane planted in the museum plots with reference to borer attack was studied. Out of these varieties, B.O. 7, ORB 52, ORB 98, ORB 121, 234 B showed as low incidence as 0.10 per cent. Trials with D.D.T. 16 per cent emulsion, Endrex 19.5 EC. and Malathion 25 per cent W. P. against *Pyrilla* showed that Endrex 0.02 per cent was very effective, followed by D. D. T. 0.02 per cent and Malathion. Trial with Intox '8' liquid and Endrex 19.5 E. C. against white fly clearly indicated that Intox '8', 0.1 per cent was more effective than Endrex.

Punjab—Co. J. 44, Co. 886 and Co. 976 were found to be highly susceptible to stem borer. Co. J. 42, Co. J. 44 and Co. 842 proved to be comparatively resistant to top borer whereas Co. J. 37, Co. L. 29, Co. 886 and Co. 976 were found to be moderately susceptible to it.

Two sprays with 0.1 per cent Endrin proved to be a good check to the top borer, proper time for spraying being 6 and 8 days after moth emergence. Proper time for top-dressing the cane crop with 10 per cent BHC dust @ 20 lbs. per acre for the control of stem borer was found to be in the month of May. Organic-phosphorus insecticides proved to be quite satisfactory against white fly with special reference to 0.02 per cent Ekatin closely followed by 0.1 per cent Malathion. Spraying with 0.1 per cent. Endrin gave very good control of *Pyrilla*.

Uttar Pradesh—At Shahjahanpur, Co. S. 571, Co. S. 569 and Co. S. 551 appeared to be more susceptible to stem borer and Co. 1149 and Co. S. 573 were comparatively less attacked. At Muzaffarnagar, Co. S. 245; Co. 312 and Co. S. 321 were severely attacked by top borer while

Co. 1007, Co. S. 567 and Co. 1101 recorded the least attack. The attack of internodal borer *C. auricilia* D. was more prevalent in water logged areas of Ghoghraghat and *Tarai* areas of Central and mid-eastern ranges. In non-factory areas, the attack of all pests was mild at Mathura and Etawah, but at Varanasi the average root borer and termite attack was 33.9 per cent and 23.5 per cent respectively. Co. S. 510, Co. S. 524, Co. 617 and Co. 845 were highly susceptible to root borer and termite.

Effect of micro-climate on the pest incidence indicated that shoot borers were active during hot weather. The population on the whole was higher in spring planted crop than in the autumn or ratoon crops due to high temperature and low humidity.

Soil application of Gamma BHC at one lb. actual and Heptachlor at 3 lbs. actual per acre effectively controlled termite and shoot borers during hot weather. The cost of these insecticides applied at planting time worked out to Rs. 45/- per acre. In other experiment Gamma BHC liquid at 0.75 lbs. actual per acre proved to be equally effective and economical in controlling termite and shoot borers. Two sprayings of Endrin and Dieldrin each at 0.1 per cent strength proved effective against the internodal borer. These insecticides cost Rs. 35/- and Rs. 20/- per acre per spraying respectively.

Reproduced from 'Sugarcane Herald', Mar.' 61

'Padmashri' Award for Dewana

Shri Kartar Singh Dewana, Member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, is a progressive farmer who was regarded as the best fruit grower in the undivided Punjab. After partition, he has converted the sandy and unproductive land allotted to him in Sangrur into a fertile farm which won the Pepsu State Prize for the highest yield of wheat per acre. He is the President of the Punjab Co-operative Agriculture and Horticulture Society and a member of several other co-operative organisations.

He is also a member of the All India Farmers Council of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and a special invitee of the Governing Body meetings.

Award of 'Padma Shri' was given to him by the President of India, this year on April 27 at a special ceremony.

Call to Youngmen for Joining Farm-business

Shri Chandrika Ram, Dy. Minister for Agriculture, Bihar inaugurated the National Farmers' Day function at Agricultural Farm Patna, in the presence of farmers, officers of the Agriculture Department, workers and representatives of the Bihar Krishak Samaj.

In his short speech, Shri Chandrika Ram stressed on great importance of increasing food production and the role of farmers in the same.

Describing the non-political nature of this All India Organisation of farmers, he wanted farmers to join this organisation as members (both as life members and ordinary members) in large numbers and to make Bihar Krishak Samaj, a strong organisation of their own.

Shri Ramdeni Ram, M.L.A., drew the attention of educated youngmen to the need for stepping up food production and said that they should not hesitate to join the business of farming, like people in America and other countries.

In the end, the Director of Agriculture also appealed to all to increase food-production in the State and to make the Bihar Krishak Samaj, a strong organisation.

W. Bengal

In W. Bengal, wide publicity was given to the aims and objectives of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and the National Farmers' Day through public meetings at village level and posters and pamphlets.

Rajasthan

Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly inaugurated the National Farmers' Day celebrations in a meeting organised by Rajasthan Krishak Samaj at village Ruparampura near Jaipur. Government officers, farm leaders, Panchayatdars and farmers in big number participated.

Punjab

Shri S. N. Bhanot, Deputy Commissioner Patiala inaugurated the

celebrations at a meeting of farmers in village Kutbanpur.

An Agricultural Exhibition was also arranged.

Resolutions thanking the Government for providing more facilities for farmers in the 3rd 5-year plan were passed.

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Farmers Resent Govt. Land Acquisition Policy

A big meeting of farmers was convened on March 5, 1961, at village Dhatir tehsil Palwal in connection with the Farmers' Week celebrated under the auspices of Gurgaon District Krishak Samaj. The meeting was presided over by Ch. Suraj Mal, Minister P. W. D., Punjab.

The farmers expressed their great concern over the land acquisition policy of the Government. The Government acquires the land for private factories and colonisation compensating the farmers at the rate of four annas per yard only while the colonisers and even the factory owners get Rs. ten per yard for the same land under resale. Farmers are not strong enough to fight and protect their rights.

The Government was requested to take steps for protecting the farmers rights by way of either banning the acquisition of land for other than Govt. purposes or compensating the farmer at the rates prevalent at the time of acquisition.

The Government was also requested for opening a technical training institute in Gurgaon district.

In view of growing cultivation of sugarcane in Gurgaon district it was demanded that a sugar mill should be established in some suitable locality and approach roads should be provided in rural areas.

Campaign for strengthening the Farmers' Cooperative Bank

A second meeting of the Board of Directors of the Farmers Co-operative Bank Ltd. was held in April and various steps for supporting the bank are being taken up. Both the Maharashtra as well as the Mysore State branches of the Samaj have printed admission forms and pamphlets in the State languages and are distributing them. I think Punjab will follow suit and so will the other States. It is, however, important that the members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj should take up the matter with utmost earnestness. Every member should do his best to purchase as many shares as possible, the least being one costing Rs. 102/- only.

This may for the time being be treated more or less as a safe deposit for the cause of the farmers because unless we accumulate sufficient share-capital in the headquarters we will neither be able to start work nor operate on a large enough scale. The responsibility in this respect on the shoulders of the life members is greater because it was their decision which made us embark on this venture. I hope, therefore, that without delay the members of Farmers' Forum will help this important and revolutionary cause to advance the interest of the farmers of India and send in their applications for shares to the Central Office. Arrangements are being made to provide you with a form of application in this issue which can be removed and sent in with the necessary remittance.

Need of District Samaj Offices and Ad-hoc Committees of BKS Life Members

The second point which I wish to stress in this letter is to draw your attention to the starting of the Intensive District Production Programme in one district in each State. This is a programme intended to raise average production of the district by at least 50% in the next five years. Every kind of activity like the co-operative credit, seed multiplication, marketing arrangements, provision of fertilizers etc. is going to be provided for on an increased scale, from which the farmers are expected to benefit. There is, therefore, every reason why the Farmers' Forum in the district should have a real active office opened at the district headquarters, enrol the largest number of members of the State as well as the National level and see that periodic meetings of the members are also held in order that the Samaj may be able to help the farming community in general with the knowledge and information that would be provided to them.

This is, therefore, a special appeal and I hope the present Council and Life Members in the districts would kindly constitute themselves into an ad-hoc committee (where they have not already done so) and make a definite programme of work so as to derive the highest possible benefit from the programme that

is being ushered in at an early date. I would be personally happy if I am told from time to time what steps are being taken in response to this request of mine. The following is the list of Districts already selected from each State: West Godavri (Andhra Pradesh); Shahabad (Bihar); Ludhiana (Punjab); Aligarh (U.P.); Pali (Rajasthan); Raipur (Madhya Pradesh) and Tanjore (Madras).

World Cooperative Bank of Farmers to be established—Tehran Afro-Asian Meet Decision

I am sure all of you remember that towards the end of January this year we held a novel conference namely, the first Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Conference. There was very satisfactory response since nearly two dozen countries and five international organizations participated in it. They have passed sensible and practical resolutions and the conference also resolved that the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization should be established on a permanent basis. With this end in view an Executive Committee was appointed with myself as its Chairman.

We did not allow any time to be lost in drafting a constitution and arranging for its being considered at a meeting of the executive. This was done at Tehran on the 8th and 9th of this month at the invitation of the Government of Iran and I am happy to inform you that out of the members of the executive as many as five countries sent their representatives. They were Japan, India, Turkey, Iran and U.A.R. Dr. Nasu, the originator of the idea also attended. The meeting was most successful inasmuch as a good constitution has been drafted and a few other important decisions taken. This constitution would be placed before the second session of the conference to be held in Cairo at the invitation of the U. A. R. Government in the second half of March, 1962. The more important other resolutions passed in the meeting were:

- (1) That a nucleus of a Secretariat should start working at New Delhi from the 1st of May and the participating and other countries be requested for ad hoc contributions for running the office of the organization.
- (2) That the countries in the Afro-Asian continents should take steps to advance the cause of the cooperative trade between countries in agricultural goods, and
- (3) that, as a step towards the establishment of World Co-operative Bank of farmers, a beginning should be made by constituting an Afro-Asian Agricultural or Farmers' Co-operative Bank so as to serve as a step towards the formation of the World Co-operative Bank.

All India Farmers' Council Meeting at Srinagar

As desired by our Governing Body we are planning to hold our next meeting of the Council of

the Samaj in Kashmir. We have already approached Bakshi Sahib with this end in view and there is every likelihood that the Council meets in Srinagar in the first week of October, 1961. I have no doubt this will encourage influential farmers to enrol the requisite number of life-members so that they may be taken on the Council and would have the opportunity of visiting Kashmir and taking part in the deliberations of the Council.

American Farmers' wail Even Today

The following observations with respect to the American farmers, I am sure, would make interesting reading. This is intended merely to convey an idea of the position of the American farmers even today. They had started organizing themselves over a hundred years ago and still they are at the mercy of various circumstances, natural and otherwise :

“Several non-agricultural groups are making agriculture their business, referred to as ‘City cousins’. These non-agricultural meddlers in farm business were denounced by the farm leaders who had sought the legislation as Wall Street hay-seeds and people intent on “Farming toe farmers” and they are temporarily routed.

Just as a wisp of hay in his mouth was once the identifying mark of a farmer, it has become more fashionable to joke about a farmer driving a Cadillac. The type of work the farmers do now a days gives them a colouration more nearly like that of a businessman than a cow boy or other form of bumpkin. Still their basic problems remain unchanged. There are millions of individual producers competing for the same market. They are still very much at the mercy of weather and all of Nature, disease, insects, flood, drought, wind, hail and fire. They are also still at the “mercy of the market.” In spite of Government price supports on a few commodities most farmers do not know what price they will get for a crop they plant while it is growing, while it is being harvested or even as it rolls into town on a truck. The market can be that changeable. And after they fail to grow anything, there are no price supports, of course.”

Extracts from the book entitled “Who’s behind our Farm Policy” by Wesley McCune.

BKS Life Members to form a network of Commodity Councils for Agri-business Problems

The Farmers’ Forum had thought of having panels for various commodities and activities right from the very beginning. We have not gone very far in making these panels of any great use but in order to give them the status and position of effective organizations under the Farmers’ Forum, I think we may well consider if it may not be worthwhile calling them by the name of National Councils. In the beginning we might have a limited number of Councils by grouping together commo-

ties such, for instance, as cotton and jute. There may be another Council for cereals, pulses, and oilseed. A third one may be called the National Council for Horticulture which should include fruits like mangoes, oranges, apples and bananas as well as vegetables. The next may be a National Council for plantation crops such as tea, coffee, rubber, coconut, arcanut and spices. There should then be a Council for Animal Husbandry and still more important a Council for Farmers Cooperatives. In time to come we may have an Indian Institute of Cooperation which would be an educational arm of the Council of Cooperation. It might in due course of time achieve the status of an University. This Institute would undertake the teaching of the art and science of cooperation; it should undertake the spreading and servicing of cooperatives and working in collaboration with the Farmers’ Cooperative Bank, it may give it the financial support that the cooperatives may need.

We have some times been thinking of having separate associations for commodity purposes. It may be preferable to have these Councils instead because then there will be no tendency to work apart from or independently of the Farmers’ Forum. Otherwise the temptation would be great. All these Councils should be organized by the Bharat Krishak Samaj out of its life members and other representatives.

Scope of Work & Status of new Councils

The Samaj will frame rules governing these institutions which may lay down the rate of subscription, the scope of its work and activities as well as the functions which it is expected to perform. Depending upon how these bodies develop, they could in due course be given some semi-independent status with a secretariat and office bearers but still inalienably linked with the Bharat Krishak Samaj.

These suggestions are based on some slightly similar organizations in U.S.A. For instance, there is a National Council of Farmers’ Cooperatives in U.S.A. This organization known popularly as the Co-operative Council is so big and broad in its commodity interests that it is sometimes regarded as one of the general farm organizations. It also frequently lines up with two of them, the Farm Bureau and the Grange on national debates. It has 160 affiliates representing approximately 5000 Co-operatives serving a membership of nearly 3 million across the nation. The headquarters of the Council are in the Grange building in Washington where a business like staff represents its members daily in matters of transportation, taxes, marketing and other problems, much the same as ordinary trade association serves its members. It also appears before Congress on major legislation and sits in the high councils of the department of Agriculture. In the dynamic era ahead, the term ‘farm problem’ will become more and more a misnomer; farm problems will be recognized as being also business problems and *vice-versa*. More precisely, farm problems will be agri-business problems.

This was organized in 1925 to teach art and science of Co-operation. It has performed the function by means of annual conferences held for one week at different Land Grant Colleges, the programme jam-packed with speeches and discussions. The fact that it moves from place to place and originally had no staff led some to refer to the Institute as "the University without a campus", but it now has a small staff located in Grange building in Washington, D.C. Between the conferences this staff directs the regional workshops such as those held around the country with extension workers and carries on a lively correspondence. It works hand-in-gloves with the farmers of cooperative service of the Deptt. of Agriculture drawing much of its educational material from that source.

A large part of the Institute's programme is devoted to youth education with special attention to Boy-scouts, 4-H Clubs and the future farmers of America and the Institute conducts an annual award programme among the latter two organizations with paid trips to the conference as prizes. A typical programme for the annual conference deals with all sorts of details of running a cooperative such as management improvement, personnel and accounting; but the conference is also a meeting place for policy-makers in agriculture.

There is also a cooperative League of the USA which is a overlapping institution devoted to spreading and servicing co-operatives. The prime example of this is a nationwide Mutual Insurance Co. of Columbus, Ohio. The League's objective is officially stated as the growth of cooperation and cooperative policy enterprise to point out where the people's own business can become an effective balance-wheel of a just and truly free economy."

The best way to control monopolies, it is stated, is to encourage growth of cooperatives.

It might also be considered whether there is any need of an organization in India to see that the farm supplies reach the farmers in adequate quantities and at reasonable prices. This again may be assigned to a separate council which may deal with the question of supplying manures, seeds fertilizers and other chemicals, irrigation facilities, electricity, implements etc. All that I have said in the above paragraphs amounts really to thinking aloud. The whole thing would have to be considered carefully by the Governing Body when we meet next. I have put it down here with a view that our readers might revolve these things in their minds and consider their utility, their nomenclature, their functions etc.

Note: The information given here is based on the already mentioned book by Wesley McCune.

—Panjabrao Deshmukh

State Market Authorities Meet In October

Damle's opening remarks at Agricultural Intelligence Board Meeting

April 22: The first meeting of the National State Agricultural Intelligence Board was held in New Delhi today. The Board comprises State Secretaries of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Central Department of Food and the Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The Chairman of the Board is Shri K. R. Damle, Secretary, Central Department of Agriculture.

The Board was formed on a decision last year of State Secretaries of Agriculture when they considered a report by Dr. Bushrod W. Allin, Chairman of the Outlook and Situation Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture, entitled "Towards an Indian Agricultural Outlook Service"

Its functions and those of its supporting committees (Committee on Crop and Livestock Estimates, Committee on Marketing Intelligence and Committee on Economic Analysis of Situation and Outlook) are: To promote improvements in the coverage and accuracy of needed

basic data and the timeliness of their summarisation and release; to help provide necessary facilities for an adequate economic analysis of basic data—adequate in the sense of providing assistance to decision making at all levels, national, state and local; and to promote dissemination of economic information at all levels.

"FUNCTIONAL" STATISTICS

In his opening remarks, Shri Damle emphasised that agricultural statistics should be "functional in character" and there should be close coordination between agricultural administration, production and statistics. To ensure accuracy and timeliness of data, a sub-committee of the Committee on Crop and Livestock Estimates had recommended that the staff at tehsil and district level should be suitably strengthened and that provision in land records manuals regarding the supervision of crop statistics by revenue officers strictly enforced. "You will agree", he said, "that if we are to utilise every available acre of cultivable

land for crop production and also bring about a better land-use pattern, a plot-to-plot enumeration of land utilisation is essential. For this the primary reporting agency will have to be strengthened to the extent feasible".

The Chairman attached importance to the suggestion of the Committee on Crop and Livestock Estimates that a monthly crop production report should be prepared by the States.

He stated that adequate provision had been made in the Third Five-Year Plan of the States for the improvement of agricultural statistics. "I except that full use will be made by all the States of this provision", he said. The Board should at its annual meetings assess the progress achieved and take suitable steps for ensuring uniformity, accuracy and timeliness of the data used for purposes of policy and planning.

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

He said that the recommendation of the Foodgrains Enquiry
(Continued on page 15)

Retaining Moisture in Citrus Gardens

Mulching is a good way

The practice of digging the entire orchard in the summer to retain moisture, followed by some orchardists in the Malnad area of Mysore, is harmful to the trees.

To help retain the moisture in the soil, it is better to scrape off the surface weeds around the base of the trees and apply vegetable waste such as straw, hay, old grass, dry leaves, saw-dust and wood-shavings.

Such a mulch not only keeps the moisture in the soil for long periods and thus fights the droughts, but also protects the soil against beating rains and strong winds. It also prevents heavy clay from clodding.

Mulch also keeps down weeds and when it decomposes after some-time becomes a manure to the trees.

GINNING COTTON

Roller Gin Better

Indian cotton technologists say that it is better to use roller gins for ginning cotton than saw gins, in spite of the latter having some good points.

The roller gin, with a single or a double roller, is a very compact unit and is easy to handle. The ginning percentage obtained by this is higher by one per cent than that obtained by the saw gin. This gin consumes less power than the saw gin, and the spare parts needed are easily available.

As between single and double roller gins, the single roller gin is simpler in construction, has fewer parts, and is easier to operate, and is thus preferable to the latter.

The greatest advantage of a single roller gin is that it could be converted into single action gin and very well used for ginning of extra long

staple cottons, especially those of the extra fuzzy varieties.

FRUIT-ROT IN CHILLIES

Remedy in Bordeaux Mixture

A one per cent Bordeaux mixture is an effective remedy against chilli fruit-rot.

The disease appears towards the end of September or early October, when plants are starting to flower.

A late-sown chilli crop and plants growing under tree-shade escape the disease.

Fruit-rot affected get thin fruits, and the fruits are plants spotted or dis-coloured when they ripen. The stems may also die.

The Bordeaux mixture spray controls the disease, without affecting the colour of the ripening fruit, provided the spray is given in time.

Since the disease is carried by seed, the next crop should be raised only from seed collected from healthy plants.

Powdery mildew, another disease of chillies can be controlled with a dusting of fine sulphur. The dusting, using 15 to 20 pounds of the powder per acre, should be done on dewy mornings.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

Dipping in water Improves Grades

For every barnload of 700 pounds of flue-cured Virginia tobacco, an additional profit of Rs. 125 to 150 can be had by growers if they follow the simple process of dipping the leaf bases in water before curing the leaves.

The base of the tobacco leaves should be dipped in water for four hours before curing.

By doing so, the top leaves which normally turn out as inferior grades

get better yellowing and curing, and thus add to the better grade leaves.

Field-scale trials by the Indian Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, confirm that this is a paying practice for farmers to follow.

SUGARCANE RATOONS

First Year Crop Pays Best

Experiments conducted for a number of years in Uttar Pradesh show that ratoon crop of sugarcane pays the best only in the first year.

In the experiments, while the first year ratoon gave 20 to 25 per cent less yields than that of the plant cane, the yields of the second and third year ratoons went down by 30 to 35 per cent of the plant cane yield.

It was also seen that varieties *Co. S. 245* and *Co. S. 321* could give better ratoon yields than *Co. 421*, *Co. 453* and *Co. 356*.

With good care and management, the first year ratoons of *Co. S. 245* and *Co. S. 321* could give over 900 to 1,000 maunds of cane per acre.

FERTILISING POTATO

Nanjanad Mixture for a good Crop

Which is better for potato—applying the fertiliser to the soil or feeding the plant through the foliage?

Experiments at the Agricultural Research Station at Nanjanad in the Nilgiris (Madras State) show that the former is better of the two.

'Foliar spraying' or spraying the plant-foods on the foliage, in the experiments gave lower potato yields.

The best form of feeding the potato crop in the Nilgiri hills, it was seen, was to give the crop 10 cartloads of cattle manure and a dose of 1610 pounds of 'Nanjanad' fertiliser mixture per acre.

This much of the Nanjanad mixture contains 500 pounds of groundnut cake, 200 pounds of ammonium sulphate, 350 pounds of steamed bonemeal, 336 pounds of concent-

rated superphosphate and 224 pounds of potassium sulphate.

INCREASING YAM YIELDS

Use Central Bud for Planting

The central bud of the elephant-foot yam is the best seed material for planting. At the Central Potato Research Station, Patna, it was seen that setts prepared with this bud produced tall, vigorous and healthy plants. The yams obtained also were large in size, uniform and attractive.

Farmers generally plant whole yams if they are small, or cut them and plant them if they are big.

When preparing setts from the central bud, give two vertical cuts on either side of the bud. If the setts cut are too big for planting, cut them further so that each piece has a bud.

Select only healthy and sound stock for seed. Larger setts give large yams of uniform shape. Therefore, prefer large pieces. If the yams are less than four ounces in weight they can be planted whole.

STRONG GUR

Use of Alkathene-Line Gunny Bags

The best method of packing gur for storage or for transport is to pack it in alkathene-lined gunny bags.

This is seen in experiments conducted in Bihar with different methods of storing gur.

For storing or transporting large gur blocks (*chakkis*), pack them tightly in alkathene-lined gunnies with bitumen bonding. Stitch the gunnies firm with a double thread of jute. This way, the gur will be safe from damage, and will not absorb moisture from outside.

For small blocks or lumps (*bhelis*), use strong gunny bag with

double seam and alkathene-lined with bitumen bonding (28 × 19 inches). Pack each gunny bag with only about 32 seers of gur, and not full. Close the mouth tightly with stitches of a double thread of jute.

In both cases, keep the bags open during the summer months so that the gur may be properly dried. Stitch the mouth of the bags before the rainy season starts.

EARLY MOULTERS

Birds that turn out as Wasters

During April and May, watch out for those poultry birds which stop laying even before the laying year is over and go into moult.

They will show dried up combs and wattles, and start losing feathers.

These are the wasters. Cull them out, and sell them, otherwise, they will continue to consume the feed you give, but will give you no eggs in return.

Early moulters take a long time to go through their moult. Detect them early.

When you see that birds don't lay for about two weeks, handle them one by one to see their condition.

You will see their dried up and hard vents with the yellow skin around in White Leghorns and Rhode Island Red breeds. The eyelids also will show a yellow ring. Birds will also have yellow beaks and shanks.

It is no use keeping such birds if you want to get eggs cheap.

PLANTING PEPPER

Rooted Cuttings for best results

Farmers and householders taking up pepper planting on their lands or homesteads during July this year are advised to use rooted cuttings instead of any other planting material.

Rooted cuttings, being raised in sufficiently large numbers by the Department of Agriculture in Mysore and Kerala States, are taken from high-yielding and bisexual vines, and will give a regular and high yield of pepper.

Farmers can raise a pure crop of pepper in their gardens with *Erythrina* as standard, or grow it as a mixed crop, using the mango, jack, coconut or arcanut as standard.

The rooted cuttings, when obtained, should be planted in 1-1/2 feet cube pits, spaced 12 feet apart, if a pure crop is desired.

Though planting can be done from July to September in the pepper areas, best results are obtained with July planting.

MULTIPLYING BANANAS

Butts and Bits as Planting Materials

Where it is difficult to transport banana suckers of good varieties over long distances for planting, butts and bits of banana rhizomes can as well be used for planting.

Trials with butts and bits of rhizomes of fruited and unfruited plants were undertaken recently at the Banana Research Station at Chinsura in West Bengal.

Results showed that the plants raised from these materials gave as good bunches as with the suckers planted.

Where suckers are difficult to be transported or where a banana variety has to be quickly multiplied, this planting method can as well be taken up.

Experts say that the method was found good for the *Beula* variety of bananas as much as for the long-duration varieties like *Martaman*, *Champa* and *Kanthali*.

They, however, point out that too small a bit of the rhizome should not be used for planting where conditions are not favourable.

FARMERS' COOPERATIVE BANK

OPENED

Join one Join all

We are happy to announce the formation of the Farmers' Cooperative Bank of India Ltd. The Bharat Krishak Samaj appeals to all farmers of the country and especially the members of the Samaj and the Young Farmers' Association to give their whole-hearted support to it by subscribing to its share capital. Each share is of the value of Rs. 100 plus Rs. 2 for admission to membership of the Bank.

The first Board of Directors appointed under Bye-law 42 consists of the following :

H.H. Shri Yadavindra Singh Maharaja of Patiala.	President
Shri C. D. Deshmukh, Ex-Governor of Reserve Bank of India and Ex-Finance Minister, Govt. of India.	Director
Shri K. D. Sharma, Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj.	Director

*For particulars please contact Krishak Samaj Office in your
State or District*

Or

**The Secretary
Farmers' Cooperative Bank of India Ltd.,
A-1, Nizamuddin West, Mathura Road,
New Delhi-13**

ADMISSION FORM

FOR THE

Farmers' Co-operative Bank of India Ltd.

A-1, Nizamuddin West, Mathura Road,
New Delhi-13

To

The Secretary,
The Farmers' Cooperative Bank of India Ltd.,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

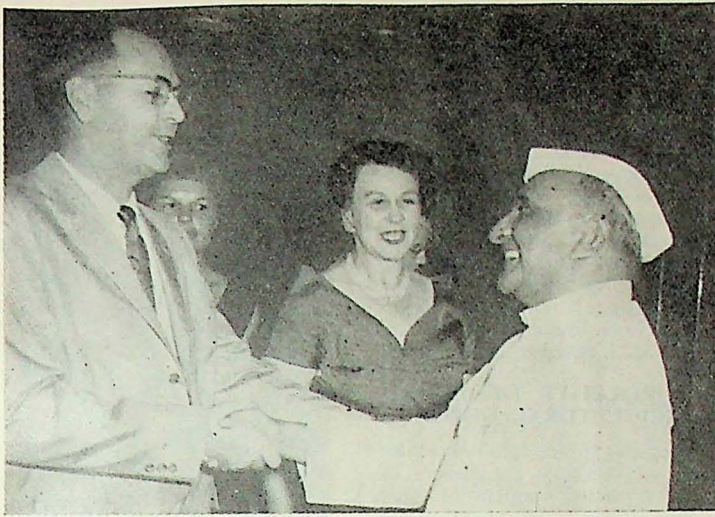
I/We wish to become a member of your Bank. Kindly grant me/us admission and allot.....shares of the value of Rs.....
The value of shares plus Rs. 2/- by way of admission fee for membership is being remitted herewith. The necessary particulars about me/us are as follows :

1. Name.....
2. Father's name.....
(Does not apply in case of institution)
3. Occupation/Functions.....
4. Address.....
(i) Permanent
(ii) Present, if any
5. Name of the nominee.....
or nominees and his/her/their
address and relationship
6. Number of shares subscribed.....
7. Value of shares subscribed.....

Dated :

Your faithfully,

to be cut from here



A hearty send off to Webbs (Mr. & Mrs. John H. Webb) after their long association with the Bharat Krishak Samaj. Mr. Webb was TCM Farm Organisation Adviser with Bharat Krishak Samaj, who rendered valuable services to the organisation by way of consultations in the field and the office. He left New Delhi with his wife for U.S.A. on May 25, 1961.

from page 10

Committee (Asoka Mehta Committee) for the setting up of a Price Intelligence Organisation had been accepted by the Government of India and steps to organise the collection of market intelligence had been taken by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in cooperation with State Governments.

He referred to certain "important lines of action" recommended by the Committee on Improvement of Market Intelligence and said that the Ministry of Food and Agriculture would convene a seminar of Market Intelligence authorities of the State Governments in October, 1961. This seminar would discuss the utilisation of market intelligence in policy-making.

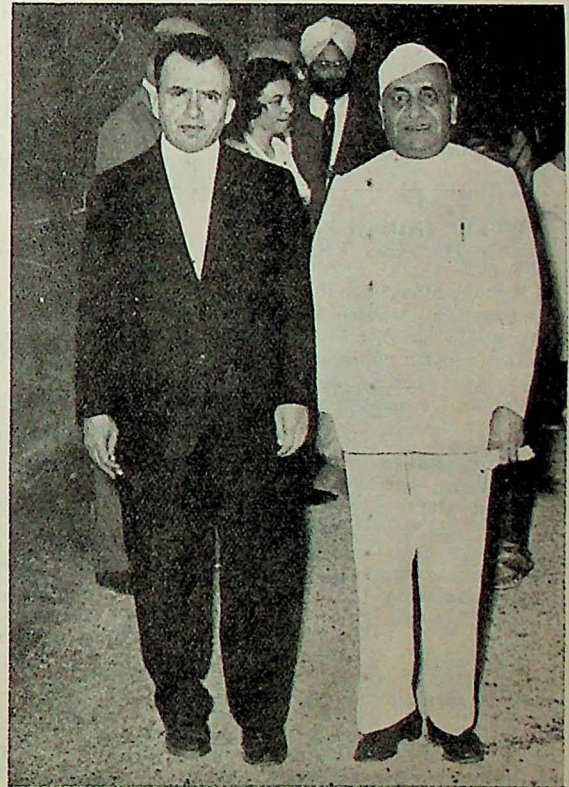
The Chairman felt that it was desirable to collect information on "the month-wise marketings" of important crops by farmers and the prices fetched by them. These statistics would indicate changes in the cash incomes of farmers and would connect the analysis of economic activity in agriculture with the rest of the economy. Close analysis of factors behind the shifts in acreage was also necessary. The influence

of relative prices of competing crops on farmers' decisions regarding the choice of crops needed to be specially studied. For the purpose of such studies, he felt that it would be necessary to set up agricultural intelligence units in States.

DRY GINGER

The All-India Final Estimate of Dry Ginger, 1960-61 puts the current year's area and production at 43,600 acres and 16,400 tons respectively, according to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture. As compared with the Partially Revised Estimates of 41,000 acres and 15,200 tons for 1959-60, the Estimates for 1960-61 show an increase of 2,600 acres or 6.3% in area and 1,200 tons or 7.9% in production.

The increase in area under ginger is accounted for mainly by Kerala, and West Bengal and is attributed to favourable weather conditions at the sowing time.



Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh with H.E. Mr. Ebrahim Mahdavi, Ex. Minister of Agriculture, Iran. H.E. Mr. Madhvi was mainly responsible for getting invitation from the Iran Govt. for holding the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Executive Committee Meeting at Tehran early this month

FOUR FIRST PRIZES FOR PATILS

We are very happy to learn that Shri V. V. Patil, a member of the Governing Body of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and his father, Shri V. H. Patil, member of the All India Farmers Council of the Samaj from Savda, East Khandesh have been awarded four First Prizes for different varieties of grapes, viz. Bhokri, Bangalore Blue and Black Prince exhibited by them at the Second All India Grape Show which was held in March 1961 at Poona under the auspices of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. They were also awarded two prizes for their grapes in the First All India Grape Show held at Hyderabad in 1956. We sincerely felicitate the Patils on their winning the coveted awards. The Patils have vineyards near Savda. Incidentally, the Patils have been the first grape growers in East Khandesh. We hope the Patils will share the secret of their success in grape cultivation with other grape growers.

TWELVE INDIAN FARMERS TO VISIT USA

A group of twelve Indian Farmers will leave very shortly for U. S. A. On a study tour for nearly 3 months. On their return journey, the group may visit Canada, U.K., Holland, Denmark, Germany and U.S.S.R. etc.

During this tour the group will visit different Agricultural, Cooperative and Marketing organisations, factories and fields and try to acquaint themselves with the modern Agricultural practices and marketing systems followed by farmers in countries abroad.

During their stay in U.S.A., the Indian farmers will mostly be the guests of their counterparts there.

In this programme of International Exchange of Farmers sponsored jointly by Bharat Krishak Samaj and the Farmers and Wrold

Affairs Inc. of U.S.A., the following Indian farmers will participate :

1 Shri Chandrika Ram, Bihar, 2 Shri Bishan Mansingh, U.P., 3 Smt. R. Rajalakshmi, Madras, 4 Shri Rayangoud Patil, Mysore, 5 Shri Jagjit Singh Mann, Punjab, 6 Krishi Pandit Vyankat Bhaga Patil, Maharashtra, 7 Shri B. S. Patil, Maharashtra, 8 Shri J. N. Bhardwaj, Delhi, 9 Shri R. B. Deshpande, Delhi, 10 Smt. K. D. Sharma, Delhi, 11 Shri V. G. Sukumaran, Kerala, 12 Shri M. S. Anvikar, Maharashtra.

COOPERATIVE TRADE OF AGRICULTURAL GOODS

Countries in the Afro-Asian continent will consider the chances of having expanded cooperative trade of their Agricultural goods in the near future.

This decision was taken in a high level meeting held recently in Tehran (Iran) which was attended by representatives of India, Iran, Japan, Turkey and U.A.R.

The meeting was presided over by India's Agriculture Minister, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh and attended by Minister and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Iran, high officials of the Agriculture Deptt. of Iran Govt. and Dr. S. Nasu, apart from other delegates.



Shri K.D. Sharma, Secretary of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and Secretary General of the proposed Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation is having a discussion with Shri M.R.A. Baig, India's Ambassador in Iran, during the latter's visit to that country early this month

JOIN

The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation

- It is Federal organisation with State Cooperative Marketing Societies as its principal members and shareholders.
- The Federation seeks to help the growth of Indian and foreign trade on cooperative lines.
- The Federation offers assistance and advice to cooperatives in organisational and business matters.

For your trade inquiries and any other information or advice please contact

Secretary

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd.

248-A, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi, (Tele. 40712)