

FORUM NEWS

DECEMBER 1956

DELHI FARMERS' CONVENTION AT MEHRAULI

The First Convention of Delhi State Krishak Samaj was held at Mehrauli, 10 miles south of Delhi. The Convention was largely attended by farmers from all over the State, agricultural officials and experts stationed at Delhi.

The Convention was inaugurated by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister of Agriculture and President, Farmers' Forum, India and was presided over by Shri Brahm Perakash, Development Minister of Delhi State and President, Delhi State Krishak Samaj.

The programme included a small exhibition and a seminar on various subjects in which a large number of farmers and agricultural experts participated. The subjects discussed were, Cooperatives, National Extension, Land Reforms, Panchayats and Social Welfare. Among the important recommendations made on Cooperatives were that every member of the Krishak Samaj be advised to send his surplus produce to marketing societies in order to create an incentive among the cultivators. The subject of Cooperation should be introduced in every school. Publicity and propaganda for encouraging the formation of cooperative farming societies should be intensified. Government be moved to exempt cooperative stores from sales tax.

COORG FARMERS' MEETING

The First Convention of Farmers' Forum, Coorg, and the Farm Day Celebrations were held on October 19 and 20 at the Government Agricultural Farm, Kudige. The Convention was inaugurated by the Chief Commissioner. The Chief Minister and the Minister of Law and Education addressed the farmers. Various problems were discussed and a number of resolutions were

passed. An Executive Committee consisting of representatives from taluks and three crop prize winners was also formed.

The Farmers' Forum, Coorg has so far enrolled over 600 members and its Constitution has been drafted in consultation with the State Project Advisory Board.

MYSORE YOUNG FARMERS' CONFERENCE

The First Conference of the Young Farmers of Vishal Mysore State was held at Shimoga on November 7, 1956. The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister of Agriculture and President, Young Farmers' Association, India and was presided over by Shri Nijalingappa, Chief Minister of Mysore. The Conference was attended by about one thousand young farmers from all parts of the State. An exhibition was also arranged on the occasion.

In his inaugural address Dr. Deshmukh called upon the young farmers to prepare themselves to shoulder the responsibility of the reconstruction of rural India and help the farmers to get high yields and achieve better standards of living.

Shri Nijalingappa, Chief Minister of Mysore, in his address expressed the hope that the Young Farmers would prepare themselves to strengthen the nation under the auspices of the Farmers' Forum, and the Young Farmers' Association.

A Seminar on "How Best the Young Farmers Can Assist in the Rural Reconstruction of the Country", was also held on this occasion and subjects like Cooperative Farming, Collective Farming, Cooperative Marketing, Rural Credit and Agricultural research were discussed. The Seminar was inaugurated by Shri H.S. Rudrappa, Minister of Agriculture of the new Mysore State.

SONEPUR CONFERENCE OF BIHAR FARMERS

A Conference of the Farmers of Bihar convened by the Saran District Krishak Samaj was held on November 18, 1956 on the occasion of the famous Sonepur fair in Bihar. The Sonepur fair is the largest cattle fair of the country and is held year after year during the *Kartik Snan* and is attended by lakhs of farmers from all parts of Bihar and neighbouring States. The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. Anugraha Narain Sinha, Agriculture Minister of Bihar. There was a large gathering of farmers from all districts of Bihar. The Minister expressed great satisfaction at the fact that the farmers of Bihar were taking interest in the activity of the Krishak Samaj which he hoped would help considerably in ushering prosperity into their homes.

The Conference was also addressed by Shri K.D. Sharma, Secretary of the Farmers' Forum, India who explained the aims of the Forum and the ways in which it was planning to help the farmers.

INTERNATIONAL FARM YOUTH EXCHANGEES' MEETING

A Meeting of IFYEs and Young Farmers' of Bombay was held at Bombay on October 28, with the State Development Commissioner in the Chair. The Conference was attended by all IFYEs of the State. The subjects discussed in the Conference were, Sponsoring Farm Youth Activities in the State under the National Extension Service, Project and other areas, Utilization of the Experience of IFYEs in Boosting up the Farmers' Organization Activity and Imparting Training to Village Level Workers at Extension Training Centres.

MR. GEORGE WILSON'S REPORT

"The basic need of India and Indian farmers is increased production per man and increased production per acre. Increased production is the only sound basis for increased income, increased standard of living and community development. The increased income and better living conditions will further help increased production. *Increased production as a sound base for increased personal income is the primary and fundamental objective of a farm organization,*" says Mr. George H. Wilson in his report which he has submitted to the Farmers' Forum India on the completion of his 90 days' stay in India.

Discussing about the place of a farm organization in an expanding economy, Mr. Wilson remarks that the men and women who till the soil in India are adequate to perform the task of greater farm production but need enlightenment through a strong independent farm organization which is theirs and which will give the farmer a feeling of belonging, confidence, and an organized strength greater than his own, a material increase in his production, more and fair share of his production, better amenities of life, reward him with better community, schools, roads, opportunity for his children to rise to a higher, sound and economic status. This will make the farmer a better purchaser in an expanded industrial system and will contribute substantially to the development of the nation as a whole.

Emphasizing the place of the farm organization he says, "Building men to take their place as effective producers, builders, contributors to the general welfare is the place of a farm organization in a growing democracy. This is accomplished through its meetings, discussions and decisions, through educational programmes, and close cooperation with the National Extension Service, Community Development and other programmes, like youth work, women's work."

Mr. Wilson further says that it would be a serious mistake to assume any defeatist attitude toward farm organizations because of traditional practices of factions, castes, etc., when one of the greatest services a Farmers' Forum can accomplish is to bring these factions together in a constructive common cause which will speed the effective elimination

Mr. Wilson is an influential farm leader of the United States and an Ex-President of the California Farm Bureau Federation. He has also been associated with the American Farm Bureau Federation and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. Mr. Wilson came to India under a Technical Cooperation Mission Programme to advise the Farmers' Forum, India on organizational matters. The Farmers' Forum arranged his visits to various States and enabled him to come into close contact with farmers and study the problems which faced the farmers and the agriculture industry of the country.

of prejudices. This is not to say that the task will be easy, however, farm organization which is administered to progressively include a complete profile of rural people should accomplish even more toward this reform then can cooperatives which are usually based upon specialised economic interests.

Mr. Wilson who has a first hand knowledge of farm organizations believes that cooperation in increased farm production and community development will be the first and continuing major project of the Farmers' Forum, India and its branches.

Talking of agriculture and allied problems, Mr. Wilson says that village and community development can be stimulated by Government, but Government cannot do the job for the people. It must be done largely by the people if it is to be rapid and permanent. These projects, to be most successful, must become a natural development, planned and carried out by the people through their own organization in cooperation with Government.

Regarding cooperative credit, processing and marketing he said that they work far more successfully where they have the encouragement and guidance of a general farm organization. A farm organization will develop programmes which will improve the creditworthiness, of the farmers. It can further help farmers to develop plans which will soon find many ways of meeting their own needs rapidly and with a minimum of government expense and also help formulate general farm policies, price policies, eliminations

of barriers to trade within India, import and export policies, land reforms, taxation etc.

Mr. Wilson thinks that full discussion of all phases of problems by the farmers themselves in their own meetings will bring to them a far clearer picture of causes and effects and will often result in closer and more enthusiastic participation in the existing programme, or may even result in a relatively simple, fair and acceptable solution to what seemed a complicated and highly controversial problem.

Mr. Wilson says, that a realization of India's hopes requires that the farmers shall unite to increase production and to better their position economically and socially. *A government programme for increased production cannot succeed fast enough by officials dealing with individual farmers here and there. Group cooperation on general rural phases as well as specific economic phases and feeling on the part of the farmer that the programme is his programme are essentials to full production. Group actions will increase the production of each individual participant.*

He believes that full and affirmative cooperation can come only if the farmers have had full opportunity to freely debate the important issues in their own organisation and have their viewpoints considered.

Mr Wilson thinks that the buyers of the industrial production of India must be the farmers for they are most of India. If they do not have rupees with which to buy, unemployment will spread and industry will fade away. If farmers are not organized to see in industrialization those things which contribute to rural development, then in India the numerous farmers can greatly delay and obstruct industrial development.

Mr. Wilson has given useful suggestions about the organization of Farmers' Forum at State and Local levels. He thinks that there should be Forums at Taluka, District and the State level. He also suggests that there should be a paid man to organize the Forum at the District level. The membership fee should be divided among Local, Taluka, State and Central Forums.

Regarding the relationship of Young Farmers' and Women's Work etc., Mr. Wilson has suggested that Young Farmers and Women's work

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Indian Farm News

SUGARCANE ACREAGE

This year's area under sugarcane is estimated at 47.17 lakh acres i.e., 16 per cent over last year's all India figures. The area under sugarcane during the current year is the highest on record since 1948-49. Increased acreage has been reported by almost all the sugarcane growing States especially Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In Madhya Pradesh and Hyderabad a little decrease in acreage has been reported.

REPORT ON OILSEEDS

CRUSHING INDUSTRY

The Oilseeds Crushing Industry Inquiry Committee, which was set up by the Government of India in 1955 has submitted its report. The Committee's main recommendations are that *ghanis* have superior employment possibilities compared to mills and there is a case for giving every possible encouragement to them even if this means a slight loss of the total vegetable oil resources of the country. While en-

couragement should be given to *ghanis* the oil milling industry is also entitled to a place in India's economy. No more power-driven mills should be set up in the country and the installed crushing capacity of the milling industry may be allowed to operate in respect of all oilseeds except sesamum.

The recommendations of the Committee are being examined by the Union Ministry of Agriculture.

A NEW SOWING MACHINE

Shri K.N. Palshikar of Indore, Madhya Pradesh has designed a new sowing machine. It is claimed that with its help an increase of 20 to 100 per cent in the yield of all crops can be achieved. The sowing machine is being given a trial by the Madhya Pradesh Government at the Bhawar Kuwa Farm.

With the help of this machine triangular sowing system is practicable and line sowing or seed-drill sowing becomes unnecessary. The seed rate of all the crops will come down by 12½ to 70 per cent. The covering capacity of the machine is about 4 acres a day in light soil

and about 3 acres on heavy clay. It is simple to operate and needs one man and a pair of bullocks. The mechanism of the machine is simple and a bicycle mechanic can do the repair work if required.

MARKETING OF COTTON

The possibilities of processing and marketing of cotton on cooperative basis are being explored in the intensive cotton growing areas of Uttar Pradesh. The organizational pattern of a marketing cooperative society for cotton, when it comes into being, will be the same as envisaged in the All India Rural Credit Survey Report.

SESAMUM ACREAGE DECLINES

The all-India first estimate of sesamum 1956-57 puts the current year's area at 35,11,000 acres. This shows a decline of 1,06,000 acres in area during the current year as compared to last year.

The decrease in acreage during the current year has been shared mainly by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Dr. K.N. Katju, Union Defence Minister inaugurating the Second Meeting of the All India Farmers' Council in New Delhi.



FARMERS' WEEK

The Central Office of the Farmers' Forum, India has proposed to all the State and District Farmers' Forum to prepare for the Farmers' Week Celebrations in their respective areas.

The decision to hold the Farmers' Week in all States was approved by the last meeting of the Governing Body of Farmers' Forum which met at New Delhi during September last. It was decided to organize these weeks at a time when farmers are comparatively free from field operations and when they can attend meetings and take part in functions which may be arranged during this week.

The Farmers' Forum, India, has conceived of this idea, whereby it would be possible for the farmers and officials concerned with the betterment and prosperity of rural India, to come in close contact with each other. It is expected that fullest use of this opportunity would be made by the officers of the Agricultural and other Rural Development Departments to convey to the farmers the activities which will be undertaken by these Departments during the course of the Second Five Year Plan and the benefits which they are expected to confer on them. It is proposed that cattle shows, small exhibitions sports etc., may also be included in the programme alongwith meetings of farmers where the Farmers, Forum workers will explain to the farmers the objective for which the Forum has been established and the activities it desires to pursue in advancing the welfare of farmers. During this week the sale of "Two Anna Farmers Seals" would also be inaugurated.

MR. WILSON'S REPORT

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should be recognized departments and integral parts of the Farmers' Forum, with staff supervised and paid by the Forum and operated on a budget approved by the Forum.

Mr. Wilson has also suggested that Commodity Committees should be departments of the Farmers' Forum. They may be financed by the Forum or it may raise extra money to meet the needs of the department.

World News

WORLD RICE SITUATION

According to the International Federation of Agricultural Producers a record crop of rice was harvested in 1955-56. The production totalled about 422,400 million pounds of rough rice, slightly above the previous record set in 1953-54.

World rice acreage increased by 4,300,000 acres or 1.7 per cent compared with the past year. The gains in acreage were largely in the heavy rice growing countries of Asia, mainly Thailand, India, China and Japan. About 93 per cent of world's rice crop has been harvested in Asia.

In the first half of 1956 exports of rice from Thailand were 605 million pounds compared with 710 million pounds in the same period, the previous year.

United States rice exports expanded in the past crop year reaching 15 per cent more than in 1955. Nearly 12.5 million 100 pound bags

Talking of the relationship of the Farmers' Forum and NES, Community Development and Agricultural Department etc., Mr. Wilson says that the relationship should be very close, each giving aid to the other in order to make the good work of each most effective for the benefit of Indian Agriculture and India. It may later be desirable to enter into a written agreement of understanding as to just what the field of each is and how the Forum and each of the above can work most efficiently together. It might be that the NES would see fit to provide in the future that new blocks would be given preference in areas where Farmers' Forum was established with at least a membership of 3 or 5 % of the farmers in the block and the Forum had pledged cooperation with the NES work in the Block. "I believe this would add greatly to the speed, efficiency and effectiveness of the work in the 2/3 of the blocks still to be served by the National Extension Service," he says.

Mr. Wilson has suggested, to the Technical Cooperation Mission, in his report that a team of three to five specialists be sent to India for a two year term to help the officers of the Forum on organisational matters and analyses of agricultural and allied problems.

of rice were exported in the marketing year.

BIGGEST WHEAT CROP

The world is growing more wheat this year than ever before in history. But wheat production in Asia will be about the same as in 1955. The Dutch farmers are growing more wheat to the acre than farmers anywhere else in the world. They are getting about 54.6 bushels to the acre.

Preliminary estimates made by the U. S. Foreign Agricultural Service put total world wheat production at 7,510 million bushels. The increase is due to bigger acreage.

MILK PIPELINES

In some mountainous parts of Austria milk is being piped to towns. A farm lying 3,000 feet above and a mile away was connected by plastic pipeline with Mittersill. Milk was sent through the pipeline. The pipeline is washed between milking. Similar systems are being adopted at several places in Austria.

TRENDS IN COTTON

The last few months have recorded interesting fluctuations in the import and export of cotton in the world market. While Egypt had increased its cotton exports, Turkish cotton exports had dropped. India had reduced its cotton imports and it has become a net exporter of cotton for the first time since partition in 1947. India exported 5,04,000 bales of cotton in the past marketing year. The biggest exports went to Japan which took about half the total.

In Egypt exports had been running about 44 per cent ahead of last year and most of the increase went to Czechoslovakia, China, Rumania, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Russia.

Cotton exports by Pakistan have increased by 13 per cent in the past marketing season but prices have dropped in recent months. Japan continues to be Pakistan's best foreign customer, taking about one third of the country's export.

Cotton exports from Turkey in the 1955-56 season were 29 per cent below the previous season. During the year Turkey exported 1,14,000 bales.