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Fruitful Efforts of Bharat Krishak Samaj

Golden domed Amriki Mela Gift for India

New Delhi : The U. S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker at a ceremony here, on April 14, presented the five-acre, four-building structure with dome and water-garden motifs — Amriki Mela, the U.S. Pavilion at the World Agriculture Fair, to the Government of India.

Shri K.C. Reddy, Union Minister for works Housing and supply who received the gift for Government of India, remarked that during the run of the Fair the Mela was one of the star attractions, and the large number of Indian farmers who visited it had gained considerable knowledge of improved methods of farming. "My country deeply appreciates this unique gift which is an indication of close and friendly relations between India and the United States," he said.

Mr. Bunker said: "It is to us something more than an architectural achievement, for within this building more than 3,000,000 Indians were for a time guests of America and had an opportunity of seeing something of the methods used to achieve agricultural progress within a generation.

The Ambassador observed: "it was here that President Eisenhower came during his historic visit to India and remarked that 'American Exhibit' at this Fair presents the role, we feel, agriculture can play in furtherance of a healthy, fruitful, peaceful world where families of all nations can live in freedom from fear of famine and war."

Complete Exemption of Excise Duties on Agricultural Tractors

Announced in Parliament

With a sense of pride we announce that the voice raised by Bharat Krishak Samaj organisations and the Agricultural Machinery Association of India against the levy of heavy excise duties on agricultural tractors, as were provided in the earlier proposals for 1960-61 budget, has borne fruit and the Union Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai has announced the complete exemption of agricultural tractors from the levy of excise duties.

Moving the Finance Bill which seeks to give effect to the taxation proposals the Finance Minister on April 20, 1960 also announced in the Lok Sabha certain concessions in regard to co-operative societies. He increased the basic tax free limit from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 so that only business profits in excess of Rs. 15,000 would be liable to income-tax. He also included in the category of exempted incomes, the incomes derived by co-operative

societies from their banking business. Profits earned by primary milk societies would be exempted from the tax.

Tax Holiday Period

Shri Desai informed the House that he proposed to extend the period of tax holiday provided by Section 15 C of the Income-Tax Act to seven years in the case of an industrial undertaking run by a co-operative society.



**Shri B.R. Sen, Director General
FAO receives gifts from Dr.
Punjabrao Deshmukh**



President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj gave a reception in honour of the FAO Chief, Shri B.R. Sen, on April 21, at New Delhi.

Social and Economic Advancement of India's Millions Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Explains Ultimate objectives of the Bharat Krishak Samaj

Sending a Message on April 3 — the National Farmers' Day, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, wrote as follows :

"On the occasion of the first National Farmers' Day organized by the Bharat Krishak Samaj throughout the country, I send my sincere greetings and good wishes to all my farmer brothers and sisters who have gathered to celebrate this unique occasion, and to the Presidents, Secretaries and organizers of the Krishak Samaj in the States and also to all those who have cooperated and helped in the celebration of this function.

All of you perhaps may not be aware of the significance of 3rd April—the date fixed for observing the National Farmers' Day. It was on this day in 1955 that the first National Convention of Farmers was held in New Delhi and inaugurated by Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. The Third Convention in 1957 had passed a resolution that this day should be celebrated as a National Farmers' Day throughout the country and it was reiterated by me at the close of the inauguration of the Sixth Convention held here last February.

As most of you know, the Bharat Krishak Samaj is a very young organization of the farmers of this predominantly agricultural country, but even so, the success we have made so far have been truly phenomenal. The holding of the 11th General Conference of the International Federation of

Agricultural Producers in November—December 1959, in India, which was the first time that it was on Asian soil and playing host to the delegates to the Conference and organizing the World Agriculture Fair—the first ever to be held anywhere in the world—with such outstanding success, are clear and gratifying proofs of our strength and of the confidence this organization enjoys of not only the farmers of India but of the world.

As I have pointed out earlier, we have achieved a good deal, but there is still a tremendous lot to be done. But I have not the least doubt that with your help and cooperation we shall succeed in reaching our ultimate objective, viz. the social and economical advancement of millions of the farmers of India and consequently of the nation itself.

Although I am not physically present amidst you in the celebrations, I assure you that all my thoughts are with you. I want you to remember that holding more gatherings of farmers, discussions, lectures or exhibitions on this day is not the chief aim. What is required is a pledge to do active and constructive work for strengthening the Samaj by increasing its membership and helping it to advance rapidly towards the attainment of our goal. I want you to take this pledge today. I am confident that you will have acquitted yourself creditably when we take stock of our progress on the next National Farmers' Day.

I wish you every success."

F.A.O. Launches Freedom From Hunger Campaign National Programme Committees to be set up

The Food and Agriculture Organisation, a specialised agency of the United Nations was set up in 1945 to eradicate the menace of hunger from the fair face of modern age of the scientific agricultural progress.

At the FAO Conference in November last year it was decided to start a world wide "Freedom from Hunger Campaign."

July 1, 1960, has since been tentatively set as the opening date of the Campaign, which will extend upto 1965, highlighted by celebration of the World Seed Year—1961, and a World Food Congress 1963.

To make and direct national action programmes, the Member Nations will establish national Campaign Committees which will include apart from representatives of different voluntary organisations, the representatives of various Government departments.

Responsibilities of the National Campaign Committees will mainly be :

- (a) Informational and educational;
- (b) fund raising; and
- (c) ensuring national participation in the campaign.

The principals and methods governing the Freedom -From-Hunger Campaign have been set as follows :

I PRINCIPLES

Millions of people still go hungry in the world, or at least do not have a proper diet to sustain their health, growth and vigour. The causes of this state of affairs, though complex, are well known. But experience proves that they will not be corrected fast enough, so long as the problem is not given the full attention which it deserves. Concerted action is required on a world-wide front and the purpose of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign is to mobilize on a voluntary basis and co-ordinate the efforts of all those who are anxious to contribute to such action.

Thus the emphasis is on *action*. But not action of a charitable character such as would merely consist in supplying food to the needy. This would bring temporary relief only. What is required is to undertake, in the areas where food is scarce, the kind of constructive work which will eventually break the

vicious circle of poverty and stagnation and enable the local people to fend for themselves. Such action must be initiated locally but it cannot achieve quick results, thus avoiding continued human sufferings, without the assistance of those who are able to help.

Such assistance must be *voluntary*. The very essence of the Campaign is human solidarity. Nations, international organizations, church and civic bodies, foundations, local groups and even individuals can give assistance, however modest, to help in alleviating human suffering and in paving the way for a better world, where improved economic and social conditions will bring more security. The very spirit of this undertaking is that of goodwill and good neighbourliness.

But it stands to reason that the efficiency of the campaign will depend upon proper *coordination*. Experience has proved that individual, localised efforts to solve specific difficulties cannot produce lasting results when other faulty conditions are not corrected at the same time. Responsibility for initiating action rests with the governments of the countries where such conditions exist, and any action they take, to be fully effective, must fit into the pattern of a balanced development plan, based upon a careful assessment of local conditions and involving a series of measures calculated to break

through all major obstacles to progress. However, governments in under-developed regions do need assistance first to prepare their development plans and then to implement them with the required celerity. This assistance must take the form of technical advice and include the means of procuring the necessary equipment and supplies. It all costs money.

But it also calls for concerted international action, designed not only to make proper use of available resources but also to create a sense of urgency, demonstrate the value of specific programmes and achieve the desired impact on local conditions.

These principles are embodied in the decisions made by the FAO Conference in November 1959. Resolution 13/59 placed the Campaign under the leadership and general co-ordination of FAO as the proper United Nations Organization dealing with the whole circle of inter-related problems at the international level. It invited Member Nations of FAO, of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, international organizations, religious groups, private foundations etc. to participate in the Campaign.

II PLANS AND REQUIREMENTS

Plans are under way to launch the Campaign on July 1, 1960.

Governments have been invited to set up national Campaign Committees and arrangements are being made to enlist the cooperation of international organizations. A Trust Fund has been set up by the Director-General as prescribed by the FAO Conference, and since money is the essence of success, it is hoped :

- (a) that in order to defray initial expenses, early contributions will be received from Nations and other entities who are in a position to send them;
- (b) that an intensive drive will be set afoot by all interested parties for the purpose of collecting voluntary contributions from the time the Campaign is officially launched.

Financial matters will be considered in more detail below.

Campaign Arrangements

(a) National Action in Food Deficit Areas

The FAO Conference has pointed out that much of the success of the Campaign will depend upon the steps taken by the governments of the less developed countries and has emphasized that they should themselves develop effective and useful action projects within overall national development plans. Whenever they feel that practical external assistance is necessary in support of their local efforts, for executing any schemes within the scope of the Campaign, they are invited to apply to the Director-General either directly or, if more convenient, through FAO's Regional Representatives. The initiative for national action programmes thus must lie with the national governments themselves. Other Nations or Organizations which are in a position to help may, under the aegis of the Campaign, assist in, or contribute to any programmes or projects they wish.

(b) Role of FAO as Leader and Coordinator

Applications for external assistance reaching the Director-General will be analysed from the standpoint of practical implementation and brought to the attention of those Nations and Organizations wishing to assist.

In addition, because of the considerable experience which FAO has acquired of the nature, scope and importance of the food and agricultural problems affecting under-developed areas of the world, and in order to provide guidance to all interested governments, the Director General will make available documents setting out the types of action projects or of research projects which he recommends for the consideration of all concerned. Each of these projects will be briefly described, essentially for the purpose of indicating the kind of results which can be expected. Some of them will be "régional", which means that they will be designed to apply to a group of adjacent countries where local conditions are comparable. It stands to reason, however, that the practical implementation of such sample projects recommended by the Director-General would most

likely involve a measure of adaptation to the specific conditions prevailing in the areas to which they would be applied. Therefore the sample projects will be presented in broad terms only, without any attempt at this stage to estimate the cost of implementation.

Furthermore, other Specialized Agencies of the United Nations will be consulted and their cooperation requested in connection with such aspects of action projects as come within their purview (for instance in the case of irrigation projects in tropical areas, the cooperation of WHO would be sought because of the danger of water borne diseases).

More generally, United Nations Organizations will be informed of FAO's sample projects and will be invited to submit suggestions for any further work they considered necessary.

(c) Voluntary Contributions

Since the Campaign can be successful only if it is carried out on as broad a basis as possible any nation, organization, foundation, church or civic group, or other bodies or individuals wishing to be associated to the Campaign will be at liberty to take one of the following courses :

1. Pay contributions to the Trust Fund, with provision that the Director-General may use them for any of the purposes of the Campaign.
2. Pay contributions into the Trust Fund with the request that these contributions be spent for campaign purposes in a given country or group of countries, leaving it to FAO to use the funds as it deems best;
3. Select one or more specific projects, or parts of such projects, and pay a contribution into the Trust Fund to cover the cost thereof, leaving it to FAO to ensure implementation;
4. Pay contributions into the Trust Fund, to be expended for given types of projects, in agreement with the donor as to individual projects selected;
5. Select one or more of the projects proposed for ex-

ternal assistance or parts of such projects, and assume full responsibility for them, subject to the conditions set out below;

6. Offer other forms of assistance such as fertilizers for demonstration purposes;
7. Any combination of the above possibilities.

Offers or proposals should be addressed to the Director-General, Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome (Italy).

Offers or proposals thus received will have to fit into the pattern of the Campaign action. They will also have to be accepted by countries to be benefited as contributions to their development plans.

When an offer has been accepted and is to be implemented by FAO, the Director-General will keep the donor or donors informed of progress at convenient intervals. Conversely, when a project has been accepted as part of the Campaign, but is to be implemented under the responsibility of the donor, the Director-General will make it a condition of FAO's acceptance that he too be kept similarly informed. Such information will then be embodied in the reports on the progress of the Campaign which the Director-General will submit from time to time to the Campaign Advisory Committee, to the Council of FAO and to the Conference. These reports, which will give due recognition to the sources of contributions, will be made public.

(d) Advisory Role of FAO

The Conference also visualizes FAO guidance and technical assistance to bilateral programmes. FAO will be prepared to render direct help to both country and regional research and action programmes established in consequence of the Campaign. This assistance will be given only upon the request of the countries conducting the programmes or of the organizations providing the funds for them. Through that phase FAO could help when requested in the selection, formulation and implementation of action projects, even where the funds for such projects were granted direct

from the donor organization to the recipient country.

The requests for advisory assistance, where needed by bilateral agencies should be addressed to the Director General.

(e) Information and Educational Activities

The necessity of carrying out information programmes need hardly be emphasized. Everyone is aware that it is essential for the success of the Campaign that the governments and peoples of the world should have a proper understanding and appreciation of the current and prospective world food situation, of the possibilities of improvement which exist, and of the Campaign and its purposes. This informational and educational side of the Campaign has been visualized as an important category of activities.

In conducting this phase of the programme, it is expected that a great deal of the activities will be conducted by non-governmental organizations of all types, working at international, national and local levels.

Such informational and educational programs must of necessity be planned on a national basis, but the Director-General will, on request, provide all assistance within his power, and in particular such material as: general pamphlets, discussion brochures, leaflets, information notes for the guidance of speakers, posters, pictures, filmstrips, etc.

Since FAO pamphlets and background papers, and other materials, can be made available in only limited quantities and in the three official languages, it is expected that governments and non-governmental cooperating organizations will devote part of their efforts and resources to translating, republishing, and distributing (or selling) them in large numbers in their own countries.

Preparation of this material will depend upon the availability of funds. It will be noted in the following section of this memorandum, and particularly in the appended budget, that provision has been made for expenditure for information purposes under Campaign costs.

Suitable priority will be given to contributions to the Trust Fund, which are not earmarked for specific action projects, to develop the information aspects of the Campaign.

(f) Financial Matters

As has already been indicated, the Conference has approved the creation of a Trust Fund into which all voluntary contributions in cash will be paid.

This Trust Fund has been established in conformity with the following provision of FAO's Financial Regulations (Regulation 6-7);

“Voluntary contributions, whether or not cash, may be accepted by the Director-General, and trust and special funds may be established by him to cover monies made available to the Organization for special purposes, provided that the purposes of such contributions and monies are consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the Organization. The purposes and limits of any trust and special funds shall be clearly defined. The acceptance of any such contributions and monies which directly or indirectly involves additional financial obligations for Member Nations and Associate Members shall require the consent of the Conference. Trust and special funds and voluntary contributions shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Organization, unless otherwise provided for by the Conference. Trust and special funds shall be reported to the Finance Committee”.

Thus the Campaign Trust Fund will be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and the Financial Rules of the Organization.

The accounts of the Fund will be subject to internal and external audit and will be submitted to the Governing bodies of the Organization for review and approval together with the Regular Programme and other Trust Fund accounts.

The expenses to be charged against the Trust Fund will fall into two categories:

(a) Campaign projects expenditure;

(b) Campaign costs.

The first category will include all expenses connected with specific Campaign projects. For each project a careful estimate of the cost will be made in relation to (i) contributions specifically earmarked for this project by donors, and (ii) the availability of non-earmarked funds.

The second category will include expenses incurred in the management of the campaign like personal services costs, travel, publication costs (translation, printing, mimeographing) office supplies, etc.

A provisional budget of the Campaign costs has been drawn up and is appended. It applies only to the first twelve months of the Campaign since it is impossible, at this stage, to make any valid estimate of long-term requirements.

Even for the first year of this Campaign, it is not possible yet to foresee with any certainty what the actual needs will be. But the appended budget is the best estimate that could be made at this stage.

THE BEST VILLAGE

This year's prize of Rs. 5,000 for the best village in the country is to be awarded to Averegere village in Davanagere black in Chitradurga district of Mysore State, according to an official press note in New Delhi

It has been estimated that during the half year period which was the basis of the assessment for the prize 92 per cent of the families of the Averegere village participated in the 'kharif' campaign and 75 per cent in the agricultural training camps. The area irrigated during 1959-60 increased to 130 acres as against 98 in the previous year.

Larger Representation of Poor Farmers BKS Evolves New Formula of Membership Village Forums to Study Agricultural Situation

Today is the 10th of April, 1960, or a week after the sixth anniversary of the formal establishment of the Bharat Krishak Samaj at New Delhi, namely, on the 3rd April, 1955. There are many ideas and thoughts arising in my mind, which I would like to share with my brother farmers, from time to time, if not with some regularity. I have, therefore, thought of writing a monthly letter to all the life members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and to those who are prepared to subscribe to the Krishak Samachar, the journal of the Samaj.

On the 2nd October, 1953, I had commenced a series of circular letters as India's first Minister of Agriculture. The very first one was actually written from Porbander, the birth place of Mahatma Gandhi. For some reasons, I have discontinued writing and issuing them; yet I had written as many as 43 of them with a certain degree of regularity. They were very popular with a large number of people, high and low. I have, however, discontinued them since about to years ago. Still, those that saw the light of the day contain the working of my mind, the emphasis that I sought to lay on various aspects of agricultural industry in India and the proposals and schemes I made and pursued. The results that we achieved are also recorded in those letters. I have now decided to take up that thread in a different shape and here is the first of them.

Phenomenal success achieved

Our organization has achieved a phenomenal success not only in the shape of enrolling a large number of intelligent, influential and practical farmers as our members but also in bringing them together, to get their ideas, their handicaps, their demands and requirements debated and discussed at least twice every year. This has secured to us certain advantages and many more will, I am sure, follow. The organization, devoted wholly to upholding the cause of farmers soberly and constructively is already having an important impact on the development of agricultural policies of the country and this is sure to grow as time goes by and the organization becomes more and more broadbased.

As a result of our drive from the beginning of November, 1959 to the end of February, 1960, our life-membership has been doubled. Whatever happens to our earnest endeavour and legitimate aspiration to build up an agricultural museum in the country together with a Farmers' Rest House and Hostels, I can safely say that our original aim that the organization should stand on its own legs is getting progressively realized. Although the funds in our hands may not be very large, I have no doubt whatever that we will not suffer from any deficiency of finances at any rate so far as carrying out the normal activities is concerned. I am certain all of you would rejoice at this. Of course, to make it still more prosperous, sound, and useful to the farming community, it has to be pushed ahead with all the earnestness and energy at our command so as to enrol larger number of life members, ordinary members and start forums at village and other levels.

Membership by attending Forum Meetings

Some people had been complaining that the poorer farmer has very little money to spare to pay even the smallest subscription that we expect from him. We have, therefore, evolved a formula by which at the village level a member of the Farmers' Forum will have to contribute nothing except to attend at least 50% of the meetings that would be held

at the village to consider the agricultural situation of the farmers living there from time to time. All those who will attend more than 50% of the meetings will be entitled to be members of the Samaj for the next calendar year. This would be incorporated in the rules under the constitution in due course. Everybody who would like to take part at the Block or district level would have of course to subscribe according to the constitution that may be in vogue in that area.

Minimum Price Literature

It will, however, be seen that the village farmer subscribes to the purchasing of at least one copy of the Krishak Samachar so that they might remain in touch with the activities of the Samaj in the country. The next thing I would suggest for the village forums to do is to have a small reading room in some suitable place or even a school containing literature of very simple nature for the development of various sides of agricultural activities. I propose to obtain such tropically important leaflets and other literature, and I hope the minimum price that would be charged would be contributed by the village. I hope all of you will kindly attend to this request of mine as best as possible, and drop me a line in reply stating what you propose to do and what it would be possible for you to accomplish in this direction. If you would be pleased to take some personal interest in these matters, we would be glad to utilize your energy, enthusiasm and initiative to be of great use to your fellow farmers constantly. It is sure to be of help to yourself also.

The great task ahead

I now come to another subject. You might probably remember that Mr. James G. Patton is the President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers for the last two years. At the Eleventh Conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers held in New Delhi, he was re-elected. He has written to me some letters conveying his appreciation of thanks for the excellent arrangements we made when he visited India for the above Conference and how happy they were to meet a large number of Indian farmers. He has just recently sent me a book entitled "The Case for Farmers", which he has himself written. This book begins with a Foreword by no less a person than Lord John Boyd Orr, a great farm-leader who not only held the high post of the first Director-General of the F.A.O. but our Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had invited him to India in 1951, seeking his advice for improving Indian agriculture.

You will, therefore, be able to appreciate the high position, which this veteran scientist and farming expert occupies in the field of International Agriculture. I have given these few facts about him in order to convey to you the high authority with which he speaks. He says—

"I am glad James G. Patton has written this book. It is time someone with a knowledge of the facts made a reasoned statement in defence of the farmer, who has seldom had a square deal from the rest of the community."

I would like you to mark these words because they come from a great man whose competence to give an opinion on the subject cannot be questioned by anybody in the whole world. You have in fact also to remember that he speaks from his personal experience of the position of farmers all over the world including such countries as the U.K., U.S.A., Canada, Australia, India etc. And it is true of such advanced countries, I would like you to imagine how true it must be of our own farming community in India. He goes on to say—

"The return for capital and labour in agriculture has nearly always been less than in other industries."

This is of course a patent fact so far as India is concerned. The much sympathised agricultural labour even in India very often than not get more than a small farmer who employs him. I would refer all those who doubt the veracity of this statement to see the reports produced by competent Government officials from Punjab working in the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics. Secondly, all of you know, the average income of people living on agriculture is far less than those who live in towns. Lord Boyd Orr then says—

"This is well illustrated by a comparison of the price the farmer gets for producing food with what the food companies get for processing and selling it. For example, according to 'Food Cost Trends' issued by the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, of 26 cents, the selling price of a package of corn flakes, the farmer who grows the corn gets 3.1 cents while the processor and sales man get 22.9 cents. And with a change in money values, it is the farmer who suffers. For example, in the last decade, farm prices for dairy products have fallen by 8 per cent but retail prices have risen by 14 per cent, and while the farm price of wheat fell 16 percent, the retail price of cereals and bakery products rose to 33 per cent."

"Individual farmers with small units are an easy prey for food companies which are better able to control the prices at which they buy and sell. To protect their interests, farmers may combine in cooperative or other groups, which gives them greater bargaining power. They may go further and organize a verticle system enabling them to compete with the companies in processing and selling to the retail trade. The other method is to get together in a Farmers' Union to promote government measures for profitable and stable prices."

I have no doubt whatever that this should be quite an eye-opener not only for the farmers but to many other people in India. I do not know what are the basis for such thinking but we are all familiar with large number of people in India who hazard opinions and stick to them without caring to investigate the matter or to study facts. The Bharat Krishak Samaj has to undertake this task of shedding more light on these and similar issues so that the wrong judgments of people and their incorrect ideas do not continue to cause loss and misery to the farming community in India. For the time being, I wish to close this letter here only, but not before thanking such of you who did take the trouble of celebrating the sixth anniversary of the Bharat Krishak Samaj on the 3rd April, 1960.

(Panjabrao Deshmukh)
President,
Bharat Krishak Samaj.

Encouraging Progress Made in Indian Agriculture Farmers' Forum Filling a Definite Need U. S. FARM LEADERS' VIEW

Twelve American Farmers, who visited India on a friendly mission during the World Agriculture Fair, and lived with, talked to and listened so many of us, have expressed their feelings in a letter received in the office of Bharat Krishak Samaj as under:

"We wish to take this opportunity to personally express to the Farmers Forum of India and to their members our appreciation for the wonderful hospitality and kind consideration given us. We realize that on many occasions our presence caused inconvenience and much effort on your part.

"We are most enthusiastic about our trip and what we have learned in India. We are most encouraged with the progress made in Indian agriculture, and confident that if you continue and expand your present efforts, you will achieve your goal of self-sufficiency in food production. We feel that Farmers' Forum is filling a definite need in Indian agriculture, and as it grows, it will play a prominent part in enhancing the place of the Indian farmer in your society.

"It is our prayer that through this farmer-to farmer exchange we may in some small measure help bring closer world peace and understanding."

"We hope that in the future comparable teams of Indian farmers may come to our country on a like project, and similar groups of American farmers may continue to visit India."

Wheat crop yield increases 96 per cent use of green manure experimented at Allahabad

How a green manure crop not only benefits the immediately next crop but also the other crops in succession, was recently seen in experiments at the Allahabad Agricultural Institute.

Sunhemp was grown and ploughed in as green manure for the succeeding wheat crop. The wheat gave an additional yield of 96 per cent. The *bajra* fodder crop that followed and the wheat crop that was grown after the *bajra* also gave considerable increases in yield.

This showed that the residual effect of green manuring remained in the field long enough to benefit the third crop in succession.

IMPROVED SEEDS

All farmers are aware that an improved variety of seed, suited to one's own area, gives a higher yield than the local seed.

To get best out of improved seed, however, farmers should see that the seed they select is also well matured, well formed and is plump.

The seed they select for sowing should also be healthy in being free from disease and insect pest injury. The seed is best stored under dry condition.

Farmers will do well to avoid using seed which is old. Such seed will not give good germination.

BETTER QUALITY TOBACCO LEAF

Virginia tobacco growers lose much of their profits when they produce and market inferior leaf.

One factor affecting leaf quality is manuring. If excessive nitrogen is applied as top-dressing, coarse, green and diseased leaf results.

Late planting similarly reduces the yield and produces more of dark green and inferior quality leaf.

Growers should top-dress all plants in the field immediately the

first few flowers are seen. This will result in higher yields and a larger percentage of leaf with good colour.

They should also not neglect suckering. A crop suckered twice or thrice, yields more bright leaf.

APHIDS ON SAFFLOWER

With one or two sprayings of nicotine sulphate, aphid trouble on the safflower crop can easily be ended.

Among the few pests that bother safflower, aphids are the most serious. They do their worst damage in December-January.

The pest can be easily controlled by spraying the crop with nicotine sulphate. One ounce of the chemical is to be mixed in four gallons of water with four ounces of soap.

Forty to fifty gallons of the mixture will be sufficient for spraying an acre of the crop.

A second spraying should be done seven to ten days after the first, if found necessary.

The two sprayings will cost about 12 rupees per acre.

Instead of spraying nicotine sulphate, you can also dust the crop with ten per cent BHC at ten pounds per acre. A second dusting may be given if necessary. Each dusting will cost you about five rupees per acre.

ANTHRACNOSE DISEASE OF COTTON

Anthracnose, a bad disease of cotton, can be completely wiped out if the seed is treated with any organic mercurial compound before sowing, experiments in Bombay State point out.

Anthracnose caused great damage to the cotton crop in the Khandesh area of the State in 1954. Experiments were therefore initiated to find remedial measures.

The seed treatment, however, has to be done thoroughly and on a community basis. Even a single field not so treated will be a source of infection to a large area around it. If done thoroughly, seed treatment alone, it was found, was sufficient to control the disease.

SPACING OF CHILLI PLANTS

Recent trials in Andhra Pradesh show that chillies in the rainfed coastal regions of the State are best planted singly at a distance of 5½ inches, with the rows at 22 inches apart.

The farmer in the Guntur tract plants his chillies 22 inches either way, with four or more seedlings per hill. In Godavari tract, the spacing is 27 inches, with two seedlings per hill.

Trials showed that planting single seedlings with 5½ × 22 inches spacing could bring the farmer an additional profit of Rs. 156/- per acre.

This improved practice of single planting and closer spacing is now being recommended for dry-land chilli tract, particularly in the coastal regions of the State.

WHIP-SMUT RESISTANT SUGARCANE VARIETIES

The best way a sugarcane farmer can get over the whip-smut disease trouble is to grow a resistant variety of cane.

Farmers can choose from the several resistant or tolerant varieties such as Co 527, Co 285, Co 356, Co 385, Co 449 and Co 370 available from the Agricultural Department.

Whip-smut appears in November-December. In the early stages of the disease, affected plants show stunted growth. Later, they develop whip-like structures with a silvery cover. When mature, the cover breaks open, letting out a black powder. This powder falls on the ground, only to produce the disease in the next crop.

To get rid of the disease, farmers should pull out diseased clumps and destroy them. Ratoon should never be raised from such a crop. Farmers should also make it a point to see that they plant only from disease-free clumps.

Cotton cultivation after paddy a novel experiment

A novel experiment of cotton cultivation after paddy is being conducted on the farm of the Agricultural Institute, Kosbad Hill near Bombay. The Institute is the place where the wellknown Japanese method of paddy cultivation was first successfully tried. The workers of this institute under the guidance of Shri Harishchandra Patil, who is one of the pioneers of the Japanese Methods of paddy cultivation in the country and Vice-President, Bombay State Krishak Samaj, are doing a very useful work on agricultural education, extension and rural development for the farmers in general and Adiwasis in particular.

A number of demonstrations of paddy cultivation by the Japanese method are held every year on the Institute farm. Hundreds of progressive farmers including Adiwasis assemble at Kosbad and take part in the demonstrations and seminars. Besides them, about 500 extension workers from official and non-official agencies are being trained every year at the Institute in extension and rural development work.

Paddy is the only main crop of Konkan. It keeps the farmer occupied duly for about four months in a year and he has no other agricultural occupation for the rest of the year. Consequently the general economic condition of the Konkan farmer is very poor. The workers of the Institute have been conducting a number of experiments with a view to see if some money crop could be taken after paddy without irrigation, the area under irrigation in Konkan tract being very limited. Some farmers do grow Dolickes beans, locally called "Wal" (Hindi-Sem), but the yield of the crop is low and it is, moreover, vulnerable to stray cattle of which there is considerable nuisance.

The improved "Laxmi" variety of cotton commonly grown in Mysore has been selected for trials in this experiment which is now in the second year. This variety was selected for trials because it is suit-

able for late sowing, requires humid conditions and has shallow root system, the soil in most places in the Kankan tract being 2 to 2½ ft. in depth. The crop is grown entirely on the moisture conserved in the soil, no irrigation being given. The performance of the crop was found to be very good in respect of growth, boll formation, opening of bolls etc. and therefore the experiment attracted the attention of progressive farmers from all over the Konkan tract.

After the harvest of paddy, the land was ploughed with country plough as soon as it was in workable condition. The cold crushing was done by heavy wooden plank, locally known as "Maind". The seed was dibbled 2 inches deep at a distance of 2 ft. between rows and 1 ft. between plants, three seeds being sown at a place. Four inter-culturings were given during the life of the crop; the first five weeks after sowing and the remaining three at an interval of 15 days. The interculturing was done by the common handrake. The Institute is eager to design a suitable implement for this purpose as interculturing is a very important operation in cotton cultivation to preserve soil moisture. Thinning of the crop was done immediately after the first interculturing, i.e. 5 weeks after sowing, only one healthy plant being kept at a place.

As regards pests, the only pests observed were spotted boll worm and pink boll worm. The farmer damaged growing shoots but this induced branching. The pest later attached flower-buds but was controlled by spraying "Endrex". The attack of pink ball worm was relatively more in the early sown crop than in the late sown crop, but this was also controlled by 3 to 4 sprayings of "Endrex". No disease was observed. Due to the availability of enough soil moisture and presence of adequate atmospheric humidity the growth of the crop was excellent. Each plant on an average had five side shoots and

15 bolls. The average spread of the plant was 3 feet. The bolls commenced opening in the first fortnight of March and continued to open upto the beginning of May. The bolls opened normally. The plants remained green upto the end of May. The total yield from 3 pickings of seed cotton came to 266 lb/acre.

This experiment has been repeated this year on early and mid-late patches. The growth of the crop is better than in the last year. It has been planned to undertake more trials next year on cultivators' fields. The Institute also proposes to send the cotton samples to the Cotton Technological Laboratories, Matunga for voluation.

The cultivators who have seen the crop have expressed surprise at the stand of crop. They see a great future for paddy-cotton cropping if the experiment of Kosbad Institute succeeds, as is anticipated.

The experiment is being conducted by Shri J. S. Patil M.Sc. (Agri) under the guidance of Shri Harishchandra Patil. Shri J. S. Patil is also the Secretary of the Thana District Krishak Samaj.

TREATING SEED BEFORE SOWING

If you are growing barley this season, ask for a variety which is resistant to the "covered smut" disease. Your Agriculture Officer may be able to supply you with varieties like K 12, C 84 and CN 294 which are resistant to the disease.

Covered smut of barley is easily noticed when the ears are formed. Unlike a healthy ear, a diseased one will be black and the grains contain a black powder. A diseased crop, therefore, gives but a poor yield.

The disease can be prevented if you dress the seed meant for sowing with sulphur, "Agrosan GN" or "Ceresan". Use 7½ to 10 tolas of sulphur for every 40 seers of the grain; or 8½ tolas of "Agrosan GN" for the same quantity of grain. For wet treatment with "Ceresan" 2½ tolas of the chemical in seven seers of water will be needed for 60 seers of grain. For dry seed dressing, 7½ tolas of the chemical will be needed for the same amount of grain.

Vested Interests Within And Without Co-op. Movement

Shri S. K. Dey

Shri S. K. Dey, Minister for Community Development and Co-operation, speaking in the Lok Sabha on April 4, accused "vested interests in the States of resisting the establishment of village panchayats and co-operatives.

Replying to the Lok Sabha debate on the demands for grants for his ministry, he stated that these vested interests did not like co-operatives; they were against giving powers to the people so that the rich could continue growing richer on the sweated labour of the poor.

The Minister made an impassioned appeal to the members to help him in his fight against this stiff resistance which was continuing even after two years in some of the States.

He said that the four main pillars of community development were agriculture, animal husbandry, minor irrigation and co-operation. His greatest difficulty was the co-ordination of these four activities at the State level where different departments handled each of these subjects.

PANCHAYATS

Shri Dey explained the whole scheme of panchayati raj which was based on functional panchayats and multi-purpose service co-operatives and referred to his Ministry's role of promoting co-ordination of inter-related specialized service at the lowest level.

He also said that since food was the main problem before the country today, he had already given instructions to give top priority to food production. But in a few years the priority might be something else, such as family planning, according

to the requirements of the country at that time.

He hoped that with increased allocations in the third Plan for fertilizers, iron and steel, minor irrigation and seeds, a more intensive programme of development of agriculture would be undertaken.

LAWS AND PROCEDURE

Referring to the complaints that cumbersome laws and procedures were hampering the growth of co-operatives, he announced that the States had already agreed to simplify them. But, according to him, this alone would not be enough unless there was a basic change in the mentality of officers and the movement was able to strengthen itself from the non-official sphere.

As a first step, his Ministry had decided to relieve co-operatives of official control, including that of Ministers.

MALPRACTICES

Shri Dey admitted that there were malpractices and maladministration in the co-operatives. This was mainly due to the natural gravitation of vested interests into them because of their privileges. He did not know how to tackle this problem. His attempt, however, was to support good people and good institutions.

Finally, he reiterated the ultimate objective of joint co-operative farming, to be undertaken on a purely voluntary basis. He saw no alternative for marginal landholders and the landless. But he said, the build-up must come through proper organization and not by dependence on Government subsidy.

As regards setting up of service co-operatives, the Minister said, the

Government was trying to build up such co-operatives all over the country so that each co-operative in a village could look after almost the total economic requirements of the villagers. The report of the Vaikuntlal Mehta Committee which was going into the question of increasing credit during the third plan for creditworthy purpose rather than for creditworthy people would be submitted to the Government by the beginning of May. A decision on report would be taken by July.

During the recent World Agriculture Fair held in Delhi he had met and talked to nearly 16,000 of the 20,000 farmers who had come to Delhi in groups to acquaint himself with the progress. He had a survey conducted by the Institute of Public Opinion to get an unbiased opinion.

More Mechanised Farms to be Set Up : Krishnappa

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Shri M. V. Krishnappa, said in the Rajya Sabha on April 14, that the Government of India proposed to set up 10 more mechanized farms on the lines of the Suratgarh farm.

State Governments had been asked to indicate the availability of contiguous blocks of land of 10,000 to 30,000 acres answering certain requirements. The Governments of Rajasthan, Bombay, Andhra, Punjab, Mysore, Orissa and Bihar had indicated the availability of such blocks. The suitability of those sites was under the consideration of a committee.

Shri Krishnappa said that experience of the Suratgarh farm had shown that it was profitable. They wanted to set up similar farms mostly for seed purposes. It was not the Government's intention, or desire, to mechanize Indian agriculture as such.

In the first year the yield in Suratgarh was 6 maunds an acre, in the second it was 12 maunds and in the third year 20 maunds. When they were assured of perennial irrigation through the Rajasthan Canal project the yield was expected to be increased to 30 maunds per acre.



The Ford Motor Company has recently presented 12 outstanding American farmers with Farm Efficiency Awards to provide recognition of the application of efficient management techniques to agriculture. The award winners are being sent on "all expense paid trips" into various countries as a means of advancing peace by "discussing farming on a person to person basis."

Four of the winners have come to India and were in Delhi in the last week of March. The group was accompanied by Mr. Carl Rose, President of the County Agents Association and two representatives of the Ford Motor Company. The plan is to have the American farmers meet the agricultural leaders in each country, study significant developments and trends, and discuss their own successful methods and management practices with local leaders.

At the request of the Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, New Delhi and the T. C. M.; the Bharat Krishak Samaj arranged with the help and cooperation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute for a meeting with progressive farmers at their farm in the villages Nangloi and Niloti, which are under the intensive cultivation and agricultural development project of the I.A.R.I. The group was first taken round the museum and then to the said farmers by Dr. Vishnoi, Professor of Agril. Extension I.A.R.I. They were also shown a cowdung gas plant at

work at a farmer's house in Nangloi. The members of the group were very much impressed with the progress made under the project during the short period of about 10 years. They admired the crop of improved New Pusa wheats in a progressive farmer's field. One of the members of the group from Kansas, who is also an expert in wheat cultivation, remarked, "We may very well ask some of our men to come here and learn wheat growing" The U.S. farmers mixed freely with our farmers and exchanged mutual ideas and views on agricultural and allied problems. They felt very much pleased over the get-together programme arranged by the Bharat Krishak Samaj. Mr. Halwan on behalf of the T.C.M. and Mr. Webb, Col. Dhillon and Shri Deshpande on behalf of the BKS accompanied the party.

Some of the special achievements of these farmers are listed below:

Norbert Meade of Exford, Iowa is a three way champion hog raiser having saved 11.1 pigs per litter, fed 307 pounds of feed per 100 pounds gain and obtained the number 1 grade on hog carcasses at the packing house. Hich Nichols, Jr. of Ichula, Mississippi has had cotton yields of over two bales— 1,100 pounds of lint per acre; and his actual costs have been about 20 per pound. Merle Peters of Geuda Springs, Kansas, has had wheat yields of over 40 bushels per acre that returned almost \$ 1 per bushel profit on a \$ 1.82 support price.

L. A. Abbott of Morrison, Illinois 23 year corn yield of 131.7 bushels per acre---farm wide---with a 49 per bushel cost.

Land Revenue Surcharge Measures Adopted by Rajasthan Assembly

The Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha on April 2, 1960, passed the Land Revenue Surcharge Bill after two amendments moved by Congress members were accepted by the Government.

The original Bill exempted land revenue of less than Rs. 50 a year from the surcharge, but one of the amendments raised the exemption limit to Rs. 75. The other amendment changed the levy from 6½% to 6% for land revenue above Rs. 75 but below Rs. 250, and from 12½% to 12% for land revenue above Rs. 250.

No Change in Sugarcane Price For 1960-61

There is no change from the existing prices in the price of sugarcane for 1960-61 according to a government notification.

The minimum sugarcane price was raised in October 1959 from Rs. 1.44 to Rs. 1.62 per maund for delivery at the gate of the factory and from Rs. 1.31 to Rs. 1.50 per maund for delivery at purchasing centres connected by rail for the 1959-60 season's crop. This incentive given to maximise sugar production will continue.

World News

FAO Meeting on \$3.5 Million Anti-Locust Project

Rome, April 3—Inaugurating a Special Meeting on Desert Locust Control at FAO Headquarters here today, Dr. Norman Wright, Deputy Director General of FAO, urged the delegates present to exercise "vision and mutual understanding" in agreeing to the proposed Six-Year plan for the control of the desert Locust. He reminded the delegates that their task was "of the utmost importance and urgency" as it involved measures for combating "a pest which knows no national or even regional boundaries."

The meeting, which is attended by delegates from 19 countries, is expected to last till 9 April 1960.

The Special Meeting has been covered by FAO to consider a draft Plan of Operations for a six-year project under the United Nations Special Fund, to expand basic studies of the desert locust problem with the objective of devising more efficient and less costly preventive and control measures. The Plan involves roughly \$3.5 millions. It envisages cash contributions from Government amounting to some \$1.25 million, while the Special Fund contribution is expected to be almost \$2.5 millions or over.

The signing of the proposed Plan of Operations by Governments, FAO, and the Special Fund would be a vital step preliminary to the receipt of actual contributions from Governments and the beginning of the project itself.

Continuing, Dr. Wright emphasized the international character of the project and stated that it was essential that the effort for control of the desert locust should be based on one integrated plan and no partition on national basis should be contemplated. He stressed that the Plan must be based primarily on technical considerations, and also pointed out that there was no intention behind the project to relieve governments of their present expenditures on direct locust control operations being undertaken by them.

EUROPEAN NATIONS TO DISCUSS INLAND FISHERIES

An organization designed for discussion and combined action on common problems of European inland fisheries will hold its first meeting from 25 to 30 April at Dublin, Ireland.

The new group is known as the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) and is sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

All European members of FAO have been invited to the meeting as participants or as observers. Fourteen countries have already signified their desire to become commission members. Five international organizations, involved in work related to fisheries, have been invited to attend as observers.

The new commission resulted from a meeting of an inter-governmental group of inland fisheries experts in Helsinki, Finland, in 1956. This group recommended that FAO establish an organization to meet the specific needs of European inland fisheries services.

"Although European fish culture has already reached a high degree of development," said William Dill, chief of the Inland Resources Section, Fisheries Division, FAO, Rome, "the pooling of research methods and techniques should increase food production far beyond that achieved by traditional means".

"This commission is planned as a means to present discussion and take combined action on problems common to the fresh-water fisheries of Europe."

Australia Tobacco Crop may Establish Record

Australia's crop of tobacco leaf is expected to set a new record this Season, the Minister for Primary Industry, Mr. C. F. Adernann, said when the 1960 selling season opened at Mareeba, North Queensland in February.

"The exact size of the 1959-60 tobacco leaf crop is not yet known, but it is expected to be well in excess of last year's record crop of nearly 7,000 short tons", he said.

Rogar Savary to Assist FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) today announced the appointment of M. Roger Savary as Special Assistant to the Director General for the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign.

M. Roger Savary (France) has been Secretary-General of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) since 1958 and has been seconded to FAO for six months beginning from 20 March, 1960.

Announcing this at Rome, Dr. Norman Wright, FAO's Deputy Director General said that confirmation of the appointment was received from the Director General Mr. B. R. Sen, who is at present in Denver, Colorado, U. S. A., where he consulted with Mr. James Patton, President of the IFAP. He added: "We are most grateful to the IFAP for their generosity in making available to us the services of a person so intimately connected with the work of FAO and the world's food problems. Mr. Savary brings to his new task a wealth of experience gained in those fields of activity which will form the basis of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign". Mr. Savary will be associated with the Campaign in the crucial period before and immediately after the official launching of the Campaign, which is tentatively scheduled for July 1, 1960.

Mr. Savary has been closely associated with FAO since its inception, and has been attending every session of the FAO Conference and many meetings of the Council and the Commodity Problems. He was also a member of the French Delegation in 1946, to the meeting on Urgent Food Problems. He was nominated Deputy Secretary-General of the IFAP in 1948.