

KRISHAK SAMACHAR

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No. 2

31st Meeting of all India Farmers Council of Bharat Krishak Samaj

Resolution

Secretary General's Report

Building up Bharat Krishak Samaj

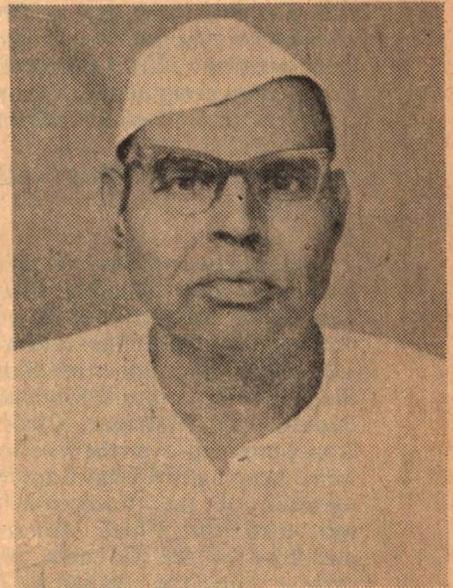
Happy New Year to Our Readers

Krishak Samachar (English) is now again being published by the Central Office of Bharat Krishak Samaj as usual beginning with this issue. Because of certain difficulties the January, 1978 issue was not published. We apologise to our readers for the difficulties they have faced.

D. A. Bholay
Editor

Shri Mohan Lal Varma,
Chairman of Bharat
Krishak Samaj

Mr. Varma was the Chairman of our Uttar Pradesh Krishak Samaj and Vice-Chairman of Bharat Krishak Samaj for the last six years. He is a farmer from Hardoi, U.P. Shri Varma was elected unanimously by the 31st All India Farmers Council in their meeting held at Faizabad (U.P.) on 28th December, 1977.



31st Meeting of All India Farmers Council of Bharat Krishak Samaj held at Faizabad, (Uttar Pradesh) 27th & 28th December, 1977

Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Samaj was held on 26-12-1977 at 6.00 P.M. Next day on 27th December, 1977 at the meeting of the Governing Body of the Samaj was held at 10.00 A.M., the meeting of the State Secretaries of the Samaj was held at 12.00, the meeting of the Resolutions panel was held at 1.00 P.M. and the meeting of the Foreign Exchange Participants was held at 7.00 P.M. at the venue of the National Council Meeting.

80th Birthday of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Celebrations

27th December, 1977 being the 80th Birthday of our Founder President Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was celebrated at

3.00 P.M. on 27th December in the main pandal. The Chairman of the Samaj Mr. R. Srinivasan presided over the meeting. Floral tributes were paid to Dr. Deshmukh. Many of the Governing Body members and the National Council members spoke on the occasion highlighting the stupendous work done by late Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh for the uplift of the downtrodden people especially the farmers. Many brought out the salient purpose of organising the Bharat Krishak Samaj to serve as the platform for farmers expressions and exchange of ideas which was kept as non-political and non-secretarian. It was very strongly felt and expressed by many members that in future also the Birthday of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh should be most befittingly celebrated on 27th December alongwith the joint meeting of the National Council or National Convetion each time.

Inauguration of 31st National Meeting

About two thousand farmers from local areas and National Council Members from all parts of the country were present for the inauguration function at 4.00 which was done by Shri Rajendra Singh, the Agriculture Minister of Uttar Padesh. Mr. Srinivasan, Chairman of the Samaj presided over the meeting. After the welcome song., Mr. Jai Ram Varma, local member of the Reception Committee welcomed the Chief Guest and all members of the Council and farmers present on the occasion. Dr. D.A. Bholay, Secretary General read out the messages of good wishes received from the President of India, Prime Minister of India, Union Agricultural Minister and other Union Ministers, State Governors, State Chief Ministers, State Agricultural Ministers, Vice-Chancellors, of Agricultural Universities and other dignitaries and well wishers of the Samaj. Dr. Bholay presented the report of samaj activities during the period between the last council and this council meeting ending November, 1977. Mr. R. Srinivasan, Chairman of the Samaj narrated briefly about the work done by the Samaj during its past 22 years. He assured on behalf of the farmers to produce sufficient food required to feed the people in the

country. For this he appealed to provide the necessary tools of production and provide the required incentives to the farmers. He made a strong plea to reduce taxes on all farm inputs. He suggested to exempt guava gardens from the land ceiling act in Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Srinivasan requested the Chief Guest Shri Rajender Singh, the Minister of Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh and President of Uttar Pradesh Krishak Samaj to give his blessings for the Bharat Krishak Samaj and consider on priority basis allotment of suitable piece of land at Luckuow for the construction of State Krishak Bhavan by Uttar Pradesh Krishak Samaj. Sri Mohan Lal Varma, Chairman, Uttar Pradesh Krishak Samaj requested the Chief Guest to iuagurate the National Council Meeting.

Shri Rajender Singh, Minister of Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh while inaugurating the 31st All India Farmers Council Meeting said that only those, who are themselves farmers and who are quite aware of day to day problems and difficulties of farmers can only help in removing the difficulties and help the farmers welfare and certainly not the Government servants or non-farmers. Shri Rajender Singh was pained to find that not much has been done during the last 30-years after independence to improve the economic condition of the farmers. He blamed the leaders for not giving adequate attention to the development of agriculture during the period. He observed that except the first five years plan the rest of the five years plans did not give priority to agricultural development, otherwise the situation would have been different. Unless the farmers lot is improved the nation cannot make progress. The efforts in this direction should be above politics. He said that only 2 per cent of the farmers are using improved seeds and unfortunately as of now there has not been State Seeds Corporation in Uttar Pradesh. The adequate agricultural production, unemployment, the distance between the urban and rural people and corruption are basic issues before the country which require fighting against them at war level. Shri Rajender Singh said that the Bharat Krishak Samaj must be a non-political organisation of farmers. He

wanted the members of the samaj should help the Government to see that all benefits and the help being given for the good and welfare of the farmers really riches the farmers.

Sri Guru Prasad Tandon, the General Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Krishak Samaj expressed the vote, of thanks to the Chief Guest, all invitees the farmers and the members of the National Council. He thanked all persons and departments who have directly or indirectly helped the Samaj to make this programme success.

After the tea break the discussion on organisational matters of the Samaj continued. A background paper "Building up Bharat Krishak Samaj" prepared by Dr. Bholay, was circulated. Shri Balram Jakhar, Shri Thimma Reddy, Shri M.S. Khanuja, Shri Shantilal Shah, Shri Rajballabh Misra and Mr. Diblochan S. Deo and many other members expressed their views on the Bharat Krishak Samaj and the farmers problems in general.

On 28th December the National Council resumed its session at 10.00 A.M. Shri R. Srinivasan, Chairman of the Samaj presided over the meeting. He invited for nominations for the election of the Chairman of the Samaj for the next term of 3-years and expressed that since we cannot hold council meeting quite often he decided to retire and have the election during this Council meeting itself. The name of Sri Balram Jakhar was proposed by Mr. Sunder Singh Lathar and seconded by Mr. Ram Singh. The second name of Mr. Mohan Lal Verma was proposed by Mr. M.S. Anvikar and seconded by Mr. V. Venkatarao. After long and hectic discussions, Sri Balram Jakhar with the permission of the Chair appealed the Council members to keep unanimity in the Samaj with understanding he suggested the proposal of the Chairman should come after consultation among the members. Thereafter Mr. S. S. Lather withdrew his proposal of the name of Mr. Balram Jakhar. Since there was no other proposal, the Chairman Mr. Srinivasan declared Sri Mohan Lal Verma, as unanimously elected Chairman of the Bharat Krishak Samaj for the next term for 3-years.

The Chairman Mr. Srinivasan invited the proposals for the election of four Vice-

Chairmen of the Samaj. The Members of the National Council unanimously authorised the newly elected Chairman of the Samaj Sri Mohan Lal Verma to nominate the four Vice-Chairmen of the Samaj for the next term.

The National Council passed the resolutions authorising Mr. Mohan Lal Verma to carry on the Banking operations of the Samaj in place of the past Chairman Mr. R. Srinivasan for all the accounts of the Bharat Krishak Samaj with Farmers Cooperative Bank of India, United Commercial Bank and State Bank of India. Thereafter Mr. R. Srinivasan made his retiring address; copies of which were circulated among the members of Council. Shri Mohan Lal Verma newly elected Chairman was welcomed by the members and Sri Verma thanked all members of the Council for their confidence expressed in unanimously electing him as the Chairman and he assured to devote to the cause of strengthening the Bharat Krishak Samaj.

The discussion on organisational matter of the Samaj continued. Many members of the Council expressed their views and put forth the difficulties of the farmers. In the afternoon the draft resolution prepared by the resolution panel were presented by Mr. Shah, which was passed by the Council. The closing session was addressed by Shri Jang Bahadur Singh, Minister for Public Health and Engineering of Madhya Pradesh. He said the farm community must try to be self reliant and should not always think of running to the Govt. for each and every thing. Bharat Krishak Samaj should be a non-political organisation and it should represent farmers and their problems and see that the Government facilities extended for the good of the farmers down to the lowest level of small farmers. Mohan Lal Varma while closing the deliberations of 31st All India Farmers Council Meeting assured the members that he will do his best to serve the Samaj and expected cooperation from all members in strengthening the Bharat Krishak Samaj.

The background paper and the retiring speech of Sri Srinivasan, the resolutions passed by the Council are being printed on the following pages.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed unanimously :

Resolution No. 1 :

In view of 1980 being the Silver Jubilee year of Bharat Krishak Samaj, it is resolved that the period between 1978 to 1980 be adopted as the "ACTION PERIOD" and programmes may be mounted up from now on to celebrate the Silver Jubilee year fittingly. The Chairman of the Samaj is authorised to take suitable steps immediately. The State Samaj units are recommended to adopt minimum action programme at all levels through organization, educative remunerative, developmental and service projects based on the pronounced local needs in the interest of farming community in the area. The Regional Offices of the Samaj should be established and given the responsibility of activating the State units and village units in the region by launching mass contacts, mass membership campaigns, studying farmers problems, organising representations and taking up remunerative and service projects. In order to strengthen the State samaj units, each Vice-Chairman of the Samaj may be allotted different states for organising and strengthening the State Units.

Resolution No. 2 :

Bharat Krishak Samaj welcomes the Government of India's decision to give priority to agriculture by allocating forty percent of the Plan resources for the development of agriculture and appeals that eventually the Plan resources for agricultural development should be increased proportionate to the population of the country engaged and dependent on agriculture which is just fair and equitable.

Resolution No. 3 :

Bharat Krishak Samaj notes with great concern that even after thirty years of independence, Indian farming is still in the position of a perfect gamble exposed

to natural hazards and calamities like floods, droughts, hail storms, cyclones and epidemics which cause immense misery to the farmers and a great loss to agricultural economy. The Samaj, therefore, strongly recommends to the Government of India to set up "NATURAL CALAMITIES RELIEF BOARDS" for studying the extent and magnitude of such natural calamities and devise ways and means to protect and extend just relief to the affected farmers. National cattle and crop insurance agency should be set up immediately with wide coverage to insure and stabilise farmers economy.

Resolution No. 4 :

Bharat Krishak Samaj strongly feels that to boost the agricultural production and to reduce the cost of production thereof, the State Governments are requested to abolish all direct and indirect taxes, sales taxes and local taxes on all agricultural inputs, viz., farm machines, farm implements, tractors, seeds, fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides etc.

The Samaj requests the Central Government to abolish all sorts of excise and import duties on the above agricultural inputs and their components since these are used to produce the agricultural commodities most essential to maintain the National Health and prosperity.

Resolution No. 5 :

Bharat Krishak Samaj feels that all Government agricultural departments and organizations and the agricultural universities should be exclusively manned by agricultural technocrats and persons with farming background.

Resolution No. 6 :

Bharat Krishak Samaj requests the Central and State Governments to nominate the farmers representatives in consultation with the Samaj whenever they constitute any committees and commissions to deal with agricultural matters which involve representation of the farmers.

Resolution No. 7 :

Bharat Krishak Samaj strongly recommends the Government to exempt the agricultural land actually being used for cultivation by thousands of farmers all over the country falling within the limits of urban agglomerations from the purview of Urban Land Ceiling Act in the best interests of the effected farmers and bestow the sense of security which is so essential for increasing agricultural production.

Resolution No. 8 :

Some of the State Governments like Uttar Pradesh in their land Ceiling Act have unfortunately treated Guava Gardens as general purpose agricultural land thus depriving the nation from the abundance of guava the common man's fruit. This has badly affected the Guava plantations. Bharat Krishak Samaj recommends the State Governments to recognise and treat Guava Gardens as Fruit gardens and horticultural land for the purposes of State Land Ceiling Acts and extend all

horticultural development assistance for the improvement of Guava fruit gardens.

Resolution No. 9 :

Farmers' just demand for remunerative agricultural prices, especially procurement prices of foodgrains, is always set aside by the Government by putting forth the plea that any increase in foodgrain prices will result in inflationary trends in the national economy. Farmers alone can not bear this responsibility which is a national responsibility and must be adequately shared by the Government and all other sectors. Considering that hardly thirty percent of the total foodgrains produced in the country are marketed while only ten percent of the total go to the procurement basket and consumed by non-agricultural sector which earns more than fifty percent share of our national income, the above plea appears to be unjustified. Under the circumstances, Bharat Krishak Samaj should take up as a major study project to justify the increase in foodgrains procurement prices in the light of its effects on the national economy.

Secretary General's Report

Dr. D. A. Bholay

Brother Farmers,

The 17th National Convention and 30th All India Farmers Council Meeting were held at Hyderabad on 25th to 26th June, 1977. The present report covers the period from June, 1977 to November, 1977.

In response to the invitation from Uttar Pradesh Krishak Samaj we are holding this 31st All India Farmers Council Meeting at Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh. I hope this will give an opportunity to the Farmers of Uttar Pradesh to meet their counterparts from other parts of the country. It will also give the farmers assembled here from other places an insight into the problems and working of farmers of Uttar Pradesh.

It is a matter of regret that the country suffered very heavily from the natural calamities like Floods in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar and Delhi and specially from the Cyclone in Andhra Pradesh have broken the records of past 150 years with the loss of about 20-thousand human lives and lacks of farm animals. The total loss is estimated to be worth hundreds of crores. The average annual loss due to floods in the country is estimated to be worth more than four hundred crores of rupees. This is a very pitiabale plight of our Indian Farmers. The Central Government, the State Governments and many Philanthropic organisations have rushed their help to the affected area.

The Samaj is in regular liasion with the Ministry of Agriculture through their Directorate of Extension and carry out

various developmental projects like Short Demonstration camps for the use of organic manures, Farmers Exchange Programme within the country and Farmers Training Programmes. The Samaj represented the realistic views of farmers while serving on various bodies and committees of Agriculture Ministry, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Indian Standards Institution, Peoples Action for Development, India and various National and State level committees and seminars.

I am glad to inform you that during the period ending November, 1977 of the financial year we have enrolled 766 life members and we are confident to exceed one thousand members very soon with the help of new awakening and high spirit of service aroused among the members of the Samaj during the year. We are specially thankful to Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab State Krishak Samaj.

The Samaj at the Central level and State level represented the farmers problems for their redress to proper authorities. The Samaj has been consistently asking for increased Agricultural Prices for their agricultural products at the same time appealing to reduce the high prices of various agricultural inputs. The Samaj has set up a Panel of Members to follow-up the Resolutions of the National Conventions.

The Samaj has sent a group of Six Indian Farm Leaders to U.S.A. under our Farmers Exchange Programme and very soon expect a group of American Farm Leaders to visit India. Similar efforts are being made to have the farmers mutual exchange programme with France, Netherland, Denmark, West Germany and Italy. The Samaj has presented a project proposal on Family Welfare and Rural Development worth of Rs. 12 Lakhs for execution in six States in the country with the help of grants from Swedish International Development Authority and International Labour Organization.

It is heartening to note that Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishak Bhavans have

been completed in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Tamilnadu. Other States like Karnataka, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh are progressing in this project. Many Farmers have visited Agricultural Fair at Delhi and we are glad to inform that several hundred farmers have stayed in batches in our Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishak Bhavan, New Delhi.

I must express my grateful thanks to all the Members of the Governing Body, the Standing Committee and the All India Farmers Council and to you all for your help, guidance and cooperation extended to me in discharging my duties as the Secretary General of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. I also thank the State Krishak Samaj Secretaries for their kind cooperation extended to me from time to time in discharging my duties. I am sure without the cooperation and guidance of all of you, it would not have been possible for me to discharge my duties so sincerely and efficiently. I hope to receive your sincere cooperation and guidance in the future also as in the past. I wish to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to the Members of the Central Office who have unhesitatingly worked so hard and always cooperated with me in discharging my duties even though we have only a very limited staff. They always held the work of the Samaj as their upper most responsibility.

My report will be incomplete without mentioning and recording my highest regards and most sincere thanks to Shri R. Srinivasan, the Chairman of the Samaj for his full confidence in me and the timely guidance and advise which has kept my spirit alive for carrying out my responsibility to the best of my ability. Last but not the least, I sincerely beg your pardon for any shortcomings in my efforts but I assure you that my heart and soul are committed to the cause of farmers, and furtherance of the Samaj.

Once again I sincerely request and hope to receive the same cooperation, help and guidance from you all so that the samaj may march ahead with renewed strength and vigour for better service to our farming community in the country

which is the foremost cause for which the Bharat Krishak Samaj is rightly committed.

Brief Reports of Activities of various State Krishak Samajs received so far from the respective units :

Maharashtra State

The report of activities of Maharashtra State Krishak Samaj Jalgaon during the period from 1-6-1977 to 30-11-1977 is as under :

1. Distribution of quality seeds : Grow More Food Campaign :

S. No.	Variety	Quantity
1.	H-4-Cotton	7.50 Quintals.
2.	Varlaxmi Cotton	1.5 "
3.	CSH-1-Jawar	276.60 "
4.	CHS-5-Jawar	134.70 "
5.	HB-4-Bajara	2.00 "
6.	BJ-104-Bajara	346.46 "
7.	MBH-104-Bajara	5.96 "
8.	Wheat Kalyan Sona-1593	160.00 "
9.	Wheat Donalika 1953	8.40 "
10.	Pusa Savani Behndi	8.00 "
11.	Nav Bahar Gawar Seed	1.60 "
12.	Maize	33.00 "

2. Farmers Day

On 25 October, 1977 Farmers' Day was celebrated at the Agricultural Research Station at Mamurabad with the cooperation of the Rahuri Krishi Vidya-peeth and the Agricultural Department of the Zilla Parishad.

On the occasion about 1000 Farmers were present. First they were shown all the Kharip crops on the farm and the tiral crops. They were given information about the cultivation, manure treatment of insecticides and pesticides. Thereafter seminar was held. All the questions raised by the farmers were properly replied. The farmers were satisfied with the function.

3. Demsnstrations

On 14-10-1977 demonstration on the crops of the following varieties of cotton was taken at Vilage Pal, Taluka Raver, Dist : Jalagon.

1. MCH-11 2. MCH-20 3. MCH-1230

These high yielding hybrid cotton varieties have been evolved by the Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company at Jalna and were given for the trial on the farm of Shri Sunit D. Bonde. The crops of these varieties were found to be superior to the crops of the other hybrid varieties and it is expected to have high yields. About 500 farmers from round about villages were present.

The function was presided over by Shri M.S. Anvikar, President Maharashtra State Krishak Samaj, Jalgaon. Shri B.R. Barwale, the Chief Executive of Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Co., was present. He gave information about the qualities of the seed. Shri Bonde explained the method of cultivation, treatment etc.

On 16th October another demonstration on the crops of hybrid cotton varieties was held at village, Akulkhede, Taluka Chopade, District Jalgaon. The avrieties were : 1. MCH-1203, 2. MCH-18, 3. MCH-4, 4. MCH-1.

These varieties have been evolved by Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Co., Jalna and were given for trial to Shri L.N. Mahajan, who took different plots. About 500 farmers were present on the occassion. They saw the crops with comparative view with other crops. All of them expressed that the yield would be more.

The information about the varieties was given by the expert of the Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. and proper replies were given to the questions raised by the farmers. It is expected that the crops would definitely give high yield.

4. Enrollment of Life Members

During the period under report i.e. 1-6-77 to 30-11-77 this office has enrolled 57 life members including 15-Family Life Members.

This in short is the report of the activities.

Farmers' Forum, Madras

The year 1977 was a turning point in the annals of the Farmers Forum, Madras. The forum has been contemplating for more than a decade to have a building of its own in the city of Madras for establishing its office as well as a Farmers' Guest House to provide cheap accommodation for farmers visiting Madras city from the mofussil. After repeated representations for allotment of a site free of cost or a cash grant in lieu of the site for establishing a Krishak Bhavan, the Government of Tamilnadu realising the good work done by the Farmers Forum to the cause of the farming community, was pleased to sanction Rs. 50,000/- as matching grant. A building has been purchased in a central locality of Madras city at a cost of Rs. 1.25 lakhs and including registration and repair charges, the total cost has come to Rs. 1.65 lakhs. This has been named as "Bhaktavatsalam Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishak Bhavan" and the building provides accommodation for about 25-farmers in the dormitory and for 4 farmers in two rooms. The office of the Farmers' Forum, Madras and the National Teenage Club of Farmers are also housed in the same building. There is also provision in the building for getting a rent of Rs. 1,000/- per month apart from the accommodation provided for the office and Guest House. The affairs of the Krishak Bhavan are managed by the Farmers Welfare Trust which has been formed with Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam as Chairman and Shri R. Srinivasan as Vice-Chairman.

Two meetings of the Executive Committee of the Farmers Forum, Madras were held during the period. In the meeting held on 30th June, 1977 some of the important subjects discussed were as follows :

1. Low and unremunerative price of the paddy as compared to the very high cost of production due to the increase in the price of inputs and to request the Government of India and the Tamilnadu Government to enhance the levy price.

2. Absence of purchasing agencies for silk worm cocoons in Salem and Dharampuri Districts where cultivation of mulberry and rearing of silk worms are done extensively and the hardship caused to the farmers in selling the cocoons. The matter were represented to the Government of Tamilnadu and opening of purchasing centres in the above districts is under consideration of the Government.

The subjects of discussions among other things included the necessity to reduce the electricity tariff from 16 to 11 paise per unit, waiving of the additional surcharge on land revenue imposed for commercial crops during the period of the President's rule which was later kept suspended, etc. The matters were taken up with the concerned authorities.

The second meeting was held on 24th September, 1977 during which many important problems affecting the farming community were discussed, resolutions adopted and authorities moved for redressal a few of which are mentioned hereunder :

1. High cost of fertilisers and pesticides due to levy of excise duty for which there is no justification and the need to reduce their cost of waiving the excise duty for the cause of increasing food production. Compelling farmers to purchase complex fertilisers along with Ammonium sulphate and Urea and difference in rates of Rs. 2 to 3 per bag in the price of fertilisers supplied by the co-operatives and private firms.

2. Differences in respect of supply of electricity to farmers for agricultural purposes like charging the farmers for replacement of wire, fuse, carriers etc. worn out or broken due to fair wear and tear or natural causes even though the Electricity Board is expected to replace the above free of cost.

3. Need to enhance the premium from 10% to 12% of the prevailing market rate paid for the paddy seeds procured by the Agricultural Department in view of the increase in expenditure for rouging the crop, plant protection measures and cleaning, drying and transport of seeds.

It was decided to send a delegation of members to wait on the Chief Minister and to appraise him of the various problems confronting the farmers and to request him for early redressal of the same.

The Government of Tamilnadu was pleased to extent the deputation of Shri K.G. Narayanan Kutty, Executive Secretary for a further period of one year with effect from 26th July, 1977.

The Farmers Forum, Madras has taken up the scheme of distribution of vegetable seeds on no profit no loss basis to the residents of Madras city and others besides giving technical advice on matters relating to Agriculture etc. The international Literacy Day was celebrated in a befitting manner. One Life Member was sponsored under the Farm Leaders Exchange Programme, U.S.A. 1977.

Karnataka Pradesh

“Plan your work and work your Plan” is the young Farmers slogan. The Pradesh Farmers’ Forum passed half way through the advise and the coverage of plans upto basic Taluk levels was pictured and followed up by a request to our members and friends in the districts, to work towards an enhancement of membership and enabled the local programmes to be put on schedule.

Mr. P. Subbanna, one of our Executive Committee Members was selected for the Farmers’ Exchange with America and has returned after the trip. The Farmers’ Forum had the opportunity to receiving a group of members of a Cooperative Society in Goa. This is to mention the people to people contact that the Farmers’ Forum stands for. All through November, arrangements have been in progress to select a number of progressive farmers to visit the Agricultural Exposition at Delhi. The publication of monthly ‘Mysore Vyavasaya Patrika’ continues to be a standing programme of the Pradesh Krishak Samaj. The publication of Annual Diary cum hand book for 1978 has been taken up and is in print.

One new programme set on foot is the “Visit to Villages” which is at present

a monthly programme. It was suggested by Sri Sriram, President of the Bangalore Unit of the Samaj. Officers of the Department of Agriculture, and the University of Agricultural Sciences, are cooperating and the mode of operation is to visit a selected village with the representatives of the departments, meet the farmers, discuss their problems, offer such suggestions as the visiting group can, and communicate the needs to concerned authorities. Two such visits—one was arranged on the Gandhi Jayanti Day, have indicated that there is great scope for exchange of opinion and follow up measures.

Orissa Pradesh

The Orissa Krishak Samaj has enrolled about 10 Life Members and 42 ordinary members during the period under report. The Chairman is in-charge of the Secretary since the secretary is out of office. District level meetings have been conducted during this period. Ten Agricultural District committees, were formed and in the district level committees, farmers’ problems were discussed and reported to Government to solve the same. The honorary district organisers have been appointed in all the Agricultural Districts to strengthen the organisation at district level. A group of farmers from West Bengal was received by the Samaj during their tour to Orissa. Representative of Orissa Krisak Samaj are participating in Orissa University of Agricultural & Technology Management, Regulated Market Committee and Rodent Controlled Committees etc. to discuss and solve the problems of the farmers of the State. Activities of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and also Orissa Krishak Samaj have been broadcasted from All India Radio, Cuttack in Oriya.

There is a scheme to extend the Krishah Bhavan with some shop-cum-residence and with an auditorium to make it self sufficient. There is a proposal to publish a magazine in Oriya for the benefit of the farmers.

The State Executive Committee met two times during the period under report. The staff position of the Samaj :

1. *President*
—Shri Prahlahd Malik
Minister, Agriculture & Irrigation.
2. *Chairman-cum-Secretary*
—Sri Raj Ballabha Mishra,
Ex-Minister, Agriculture.
3. *Joint Secretary*
—Shri Rabindra Bhusan Kaungo
4. *Chief Organiser*
—Sri Surendra Chandra Devata
5. *Organiser-cum-Caretaker*
—Sri Madhabachandra Routray
6. *Office Secretary*
—Sri Purna Chandra Mohanty.
Besides, one part-time assistant, two
peons are also working in the office.

Uttar Pradesh

In the atmosphere of uncertainty in the State, the Samaj was not able to carry out many constructive activities. However efforts were made to activate number of district Krishak Samaj units. Having invited to hold the 31st All India Farmers Council Meeting of Bharat Krishak Samaj most of the Executive Members have become very active and are contributing their best to make this Council Meeting a success.

Farmers Conventions and Seminars have been organised by Muzaffar-Nagar, Bareilly, Farukhabad, Sitapur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Jallon and Kanpur districts Samaj in which various farmers problems have been discussed and stress has been given for strengthening the organization. Membership enrolment in these districts has been satisfactory. Most of the District Krishak Samaj units have represented the Government for giving remunerative prices to agricultural products at the same time reducing the inputs prices and especially to keep the agricultural prices on par with the prices of other consumers products. Government decision to give 20% subsidy on chemical fertilizers was widely welcomed by the farmers but demand was made to pay the bonus amount of the last year's levy foodgrains by the Government at the earliest.

Agricultural Exhibitions have been organised by the Samaj in Faizabad, and Sultanpur. It is heartening to mention that the "Krishak Wani" publication is continued on regular basis at no profit no loss basis. Upto November, 1977 Samaj has been able to enroll 78-Life Members and hope to complete the quota by the end of March, 1978. There has been good enrollment of Ordinary Members throughout the State.

Building up Bharat Krishak Samaj

Dr. D. A. Bholay

The urge to organise Bharat Krishak Samaj was felt out of the dire need for a common platform to express the views and exchange of experiences by the farmers in their own interest and in the broader interests of the Nation. For the past 22-years, the samaj stood to the test and did ventilate the grievances of farmers almost in all matters related to agriculture and farm life. Presently there has been a fresh mass awakening and awareness among farmers to have a very strong and effective organization which could meet the challenge and help them to meet their aspirations and play a vital role in stabilising the farming conditions in the coun-

try. The Samaj must accept the challenge of the time and mould itself subservient to meet the needs of the farming community and the Nation. The Samaj can do this provided it become a sensitive living organization built in a well-nit structure and adopts democratic principles in its planning and execution of concrete time bound programme postulates in the confines of self-discipline and spirit of service. Only after 3-years the samaj will be ready to celebrate its "Silver Jubilee" in 1980. The time is ripe, farmers are expectant, the organization must launch headlong action. Time and tide do not wait for anybody. Humble efforts in the right

spirit and right direction are always rewarded.

Some of the lines on which such desired direction could be given to the Samaj are given as follows which are in no way exhaustive nor exclusive. Built-in flexibility is a sound principle of planning, programming and action. Wider participation is the heart of success of an organization.

1. Pronounce the 3-years period 1978-80 as "Period of Action" before celebrating the Silver Jubilee in 1980.

2. Make the Samaj self-sufficient and self-reliant. Independent organization only can have strong voice and high stature. Reorganize all the resources of the samaj and its sister institutions into a meaningful effective package for projecting a wholesome image. Set a target of 25,000 life members and 25 lakhs ordinary members to be completed during the "Period of Action" by 1980. Establish Regional Offices, viable States Units with atleast 1000 life members and District Units with atleast 100 life members all over the country. Establish Village Krishak Samaj in atleast 2400 villages in the country. Establish atleast 10 Krishak Bhawan at state level, and 5 Krishak Bhavans at District levels. Decide to launch mass contact to generate mass awareness and mass membership campaigns at all levels. Study farmers problems, give information and consultation, take up remunerative and service projects, organise representation at all levels. Decide national, state and district agricultural policy of the samaj and widely circulate. Build up a strong force of sympathisers.

3. Organise "Organisational Leadership Training" programmes at all levels on continuing basis. Every member of the Samaj is a potential leader. Accept some self-imposed discipline calculated to better service and organizational integrity with self-imposed minimum organizational responsibility among the entire ranks and files. The strength of an organization is directly related to the inherent demonstrational strength and active participation of all its members. Collective leadership is more lasting and carries the organization much farther than the limit-

ed or individual leadership. Keep the organizational interests much above that of the personal interests since the life of an organization is much longer than any individual's life.

4. Adopt minimum action programme at all levels. Organise general conventions, Council meetings, Seminars, Conference, Farm demonstrations, farmers training camps, Soil Testing, Agricultural Library service, farm input supply service, farm leaflets, farmers exchange, farm radio listening groups, land army groups, plant protection squads, publication of annual diary-cum-farm manual, village to village contacts, farmers meetings during local fairs and festivals, coordination between panchayats cooperative societies and farmers organization, Agricultural Marketing Intelligence service, Farm Advisory Service, whole village adoption programmes, agricultural museums, custom hiring service, small farmer insurance, farm implements insurance, crop protection societies, farm products processing centres, adult education programmes, rural health and sanitation programme, kisan special trains, agricultural exhibitions, model farms, demonstratoin farms, registered seed production and supply, lift irrigation cooperatives, small farmers service societies, volunteer study teams for collection of vital farm data, farm taxation and farm laws, multi agency coordinated farm projects, mass publicity, legislative lobbies, producer to consumer direct linking projects, Family welfare and rural development projects, etc. etc. depending upon the pronounced local needs.

5. Decide to differentiate the organizational obligations to its members as against non-members since the samaj is the membership organization having limited resources at command.

6. Build strong organization near to the farmer in the villages as a broad based organization with deep roots in rural India.

Many more different ways and means could be put forth by many of our experienced members. What is important is that we decide a line of action after thorough conviction.

State News

Gurgaon

A circular letter has been sent by Mr. D.D. Gupta, Secretary, Gurgaon District Krishak Samaj to various concerned departments, and farmers on "Development of Agriculture Production" highlighting the importance of agricultural development on which the National progress depends. It is necessary that the supply of electricity to tubewells for irrigation should be sufficient and at proper time with minimum supply guarantee at reduced rates. Improved seeds be supplied to the farmers at proper time and reasonable rates. A sufficient stock of all kinds of fertilizers should be locally available to meet the needs of the farmers at reduced rates. The rules of granting

agricultural loans should be simplified and liberal loans be available to needy farmers. Pesticides and other inputs should be supplied in time and at reduced rates through single local panchayat agency. Farmers given extensive training in practical agricultural techniques at local levels. Small scale industries should be established in villages in accordance to the local available produce like Oil Mills, Dal Mills, Flour Mills, Rice Mills, Sugar Mill, Backery, Tomato sauce and other vegetables processing units, Mudda and Mat making, Black-smith workshops, Dairy, Piggery, Poultry and handloom industry etc. Direct purchase of farm produce from farmers by procurement agencies to minimise the evil of middleman is essential to help both the farmers and the consumers.



Shri Rajendra Singh, Agricultural Minister of Uttar Pradesh inaugurating the 31st All India Farmers Council Meeting of Bharat Krishak Samaj at Faizabad (UP) on 27th December, 1977