

October, 1965

Prime Minister's Broadcast to Nation

Self-Sufficiency in Food

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Notice

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The Prime Minister in a broadcast to the nation on October 10, 1965, over the All India Radio, laid great stress on achieving selfsufficiency in food. The following are the excerpts from his broadcast:-

- 1. "The one lesson which we all must learn and whose implications we must all accept deep down in our hearts is that for the preservation of freedom we must have the necessary internal strength and that we must be as self-reliant as possible. We have to build up our eeonomy in such a manner as to be self-sufficient in certain essential sectors.
- 2. "I CONSIDER SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD TO BE NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN AN IMPREGNABLE DEFENCE SYSTEM FOR THF PRESERVATION OF OUR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. OUR LONG TERM OBJECTIVE MUST BE TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD NOT BY SELF-DENTIAL BUT BY PRODUCING ENOUGH IN OUR COUNTRY IN ORDER TO FEED AND BUILD UP A NATION WHICH IS HEALTHY AND STRONG.
- 3. "Dependence on food imports is not only bad for the economic health of our country but it undermines also our self-confidence and self-respect. We have to stand on our own legs and a beginning has got to be made right now towards self-sufficiency in food. The food front today is almost as vital as the military front.
- 4. "The Rabi sowing season is upon us and this is the most crucial period of the agricultural year. On what we are able to do now, will rest the fortunes of our country in the coming year. Our aim, our objective, our slogan should be "TWO GRAINS SHOULD NOW GROW WHERE ONLY ONE GREW BEFORE".
- 5. "Firstly, increase in agricultural production would mean intensive cultivation and raising of more than one crop on a plot of land, where only one grew before.
- "If two crops are already being taken, then we must strive for even a third. This is not at all difficult with proper rotation.
- "We must also try wherever pos-ible to grow some minor crop along with the major crop.
- "As you are aware, our everall supplies of fertilizers are inadequate. Foreign exchange being so scarce, we would not be able to import enough to meet all our requirements. We have, therefore, to make good this deficiency by concentrating all attention on increasing composting.

"Per unit of material, compost has higher nitrogen and other nutrient contents than ordinary cow dung manure. All steps should therefore, be taken to utilize our resources to increase compositing to the maximum extent possible. Under the existing circumstances, this is absolutely indispensable for securing a substantial increase in agricultural production.

- 7. "Advance action for the utilization of ful! irrigational potential should be taken. This year the rainfall all over the country has been below normal. The rabi crops are naturally threatened with lack of moisture....... The requirements of irrigation should be met by digging temporary kutcha wells, if traditional sources of irrigation are not able to meet the demand of our high targets.
- 8. "In the present emergency every area should try to grow whatever cereal or oilseed or other useful crop that can grow in the area with the availability of water and other climatic conditions. Every bit of land should be cultivated. Even in cities, every little plot of land, every bit of garden that can be made available, should be used for growing of vegetables.
- 9. "We must aim at equitable distribution. Here again, it is the cultivator and the farmer who can be of the greatest help. They have to feed the workers in factories and mines, landless labourers who work for wages, the city-dwellers and above all, the men of the Armed Forces, who are defending our frontiers.
- "My farmer friends, you may certainly keep enough for your requirements. But you must consider it your national obligation to make the rest available to accredited agencies. You have already been assured of a fair price.
- "I want to address myself especially to the bigger farmers who are better off and who have some holding capacity. I would ask them earnestly to come forward and to help the nation by marketing the entire surplus which they may have. This is the best service they can render to the country in these days of of emergency.
- "Withholding of supplies causes distress and this, I am sure, every one would want to avoid. I would ask all the farmers to adopt the slogan—'PRODUCE MORE AND MARKET MORE'. There should be organiza-

tions in every village to enthuse the Kisans, and I hope the village Panchayats and producers' co-operatives will take the lead in this. In our freedom struggle, the Kisans of India played so notable a part. I am confident that they will stand by the country in its present hour of need.

- 10. "As I said earlier, the next Rabi season will commence shortly and the coming three or four weeks are, therefore, of great importance. First and foremost you have to sow all available land and no patch should be regarded as too small for the purpose. For assisting you in every possible way, the whole machinery of the Government is being geared up.
- 11. "There has to be and there must be a well coordinated effort to provide seeds, fertilisers, water and other requirements in the best manner possible. A scheme for the whole district has to be drawn up and groups of villages have to be entrusted to officials whose responsibility it would be to keep in close and direct touch with the farmers and to do everything possible to resolve their difficulties. The entire team in a district has to work with a sense of dedication in the same manner as a soldier on the battle front.
- 12. "In this moment of crisis our jawans have shown the way, can our kisans lag behind? The jawan is giving his blood, he is staking his life for the country. I am asking the kisans to give their toll ahd their sweat. Let them also go out in their millions to the fields that are waiting be to sown and with enthusiasm, endeavour and enterprise make every effort possible to increase the production of food.

"Whatever may befall, let us conduct ourselves that even by suffering and by sacrifice we succeed in making this country of ours self-sufficient, self-reliant, self-respecting and strong."

Minimum prices for Foodgrains

On the advice of the Agricultural Prices Commission, set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.L. Dantwala, and in consultation with the Chief Ministers of States, the Union Government announced on June 7 the minimum prices of paddy, jowar, bajra and maize for the 1965-66 season. The minimum prices per quintal of standard varieties of paddy State-wise are:

State	Variety of Paddy	Rate per Quintal
Andhra Pradesl	1 Akkulu	38.00
Assam	Winter Sali	35.00
Bihar	Coarse	35.00
Gujarat	Sathi	39.00
Kerala	Palghat Matta	40.00
Madhya Pradesh	Gurmatia	35.00
Madras	Kattai	38.00
	Sambha	
Maharashtra	Jada	39.00
Mysore	Abbansala	35.00
Orissa	Common	35.00
Punjab	Begmi	35.00
Rajasthan	Suthersaul	35.00
Uttar Pradesn	Grade III	35.00
West Bengal	Common	38.00

The minimum prices of kharif coarse cereals for 1965-66 season per quintal are: Jowar Yellow Variety Rs. 38.00 with suitable discount for red and premium for white varieties, Bajra FAQ Rs. 40.00, Maize FAQ Rs. 36.00.

The State Governments and the Union Territories have been authorised to work out and announce the minimum support prices for other varieties of paddy keeping in view the normal varietal differentials. They have also been authorised to declare assembling points at which the Government will be prepared to purchase all quantities of paddy, jowar, bajra and maize offered for sale.

[Agricultural Situation in India, June 1965.]

Taichung Native-I

A New High-yielding Paddy Variety for India

Taichung Native-1 paddy variety was obtained by the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack from the International Rice Research Station in the Philippines. It is a photoinsensitive variety and can be grown both in the kharif (rainy season) and 'dalua' (January to May) seasons. At the Cuttack Institute it has given a record yield of 7,500 lbs of paddy per acre in the dalua season. On the Sakhigopal Government Farm in Puri district, in Orissa State, a yield of 4,200 lbs of paddy was recorded, which is almost double the yield normally expected from other improved varieties in the State.

Characteristics of this variety

It is a dwarf variety with the height of plants of about 30" to 35". It is absolutely non-lodging, even under conditions of high soil-fertility, upto even 100 lbs of nitrogen per acre. It is highly responsive to fertilizer application and tillers profusely under heavy fertilizer dosages. No ineffective tillers are present in the plants of this variety. Further, it is highly resistant to blast disease which generally occurs in other varieties. The plants possess strong erect leaves. All ears are well set from the first to the last spikelet and give a very heavy yield.

The milling percentage of the grains is very high i.e., upto 77%, as reported by the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack. The grains have low moisture content, which is convenient for storage purposes. The rice colour is white and the quality medium. It is very heavy yielder and,

Members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj are requested to send their suggestions to the Secretary of the Samaj for setting up a suitable memorial to the late President, Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, as early as possible.

as such, is liked by farmers. Some weak points of this variety are that the plants are susceptible to bacterial blight. Further, it is also susceptible to gall fly and stem borer. However, trials conducted at the Cuttack Institute have proved that plant protection measures can effectively control the same.

During the current season, some 250 to 300 actual field demonstrations have been laid out all over the country with this variety.

Seed multiplication programme

The Orissa Government, encouraged by the good, all-round performance of the new prolific variety, has launched an intensive seed multiplication programme of this variety on various Government Farms, from the current *kharif* season. 400 lbs of foundation seed, initially supplied by the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, has been utilized for the purpose. In the next 'dalua' season an area of about 20,000 acres is proposed to be covered under this improved variety.

Package of Practices for Cultivation of Taichung Native-1

1. Seed Treatment : And block assembly

seed soaking for 8 hours in Cerasan wet and Agromycine against, seed-borne infection such as bacteria, nematodes, fungi etc. The packet of Cerasan wet and Agromycine placed inside should be mixed in one bucket of water (4 gallons) and the seeds may be kept overnight before sowing.

2. Seed bed sowing:

At relatively thin seed rate like Japanese paddy seedbed.

3. Fertilizer schedule:
Incorporate 90 quintals of compost or 2500 kg. of green matter per acre during the preparatory cultivation.

At the time of puddling the field, immediately apply the fertilizers (60 lbs. N or 300 lbs. ammonium sulphate + 30 lbs. P₂O₅ or 200 lbs. superphosphate + 30 lbs. K₂O or 75 lbs. sulphate of potash,

4. 25 days after sowing:

Uproot and dip seedling leaves in a Folidol-copper fungicide mix-

Book on "Insect Pests of Crops and their Control."

We are glad to inform our readers that Shri Shailendra Kumar Sinha 'Nirmal', B. Sc. (Agri), Bihar has brought out a book in Hindi on the above subject. Shri Shailendra Kumar is a Life member of the Bharat Krishak Samaj.

The book is published by Bihar Rashtra Bhasha Parishad, Pa'na. The price is Rs. 5.50. The book is in Hindi and contains coloured and black and white illustrations. It has also a glossary of Hindi-English Entomological names of insect pests with their Orders and Families. The book would be useful to students of Agriculture, Extension workers, progressive farmers etc. We congratulate Shri Shailendra Kumar for his praiseworthy attempt.

Secretary

fature to guard against infection fafrom the seed bed to the field.

- 5. 40 days after sowing or 15' days after planting
 Weed the fields giving a good stirring.
- 6. 45 days after sowing or 20 days after planting:

 Apply one spray (Folidol) as a prophylactic measure.
- 7, 60 days after sowing
 Weed the field
- 8. 65 days after sowing or 40 days after transplantation:
 Apply 40 lbs. N or 200 lbs. ammonium sulphate per acre (second dose), Spray second time (Folidol).
- 9. 90-95 days after sowing or 70-75 days after transplanting to Spray Endrin or Folidol at a time about one week before flowering.

Important

- (i) The sowing should be done in the second week of June and transplanting by first week of July so that the harvest comes by second fortnight of November.
- (ii) As this variety is responsive to high fertilizer doses, plant protection measures is a must and they should be carefully taken up at every stage.

Freedom From Hunger Campaign

Young World Mobilisation Appeal

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations launched a world-wide campaign on Freedom From Hunger on July 1, 1960. India is an active participant in this campaign. It has recently been proposed by the F.A.O. that it would be desirable with a view to utilising the energy and enthusiasm of young people and their idealism to launch a Young World Mobilisation Appeal on October 16, 1965.

The Young World Mobilisation Appeal calls upon young people to devote 21 hours of their time over a period of 21 weeks to Freedom From Hunger Campaign work. The figure 21 has a symbolic value as the United Nations and F.A.O. are due to enter the 21st year of their existence around Oct. 16, 1965, the designated date for launching the appeal. However, the 21-week period will only be a start to what the F.A.O. hopes will be a long term involvement of young people in the Freedom From Hunger Campaign and it is intended merely as a call to worldwide action.

The objectives are two-fold: the first is to make young people conscious of the urgency and implications of the problem of hunger and to increase their knowledge about connected matters such as mal-nutrition, food habits etc. The second and more important objective is to contribute in small measure towards production of food in the community. This contribution can take the form of joint activities by voluntary clubs and associations. These two objectives have to be taken together and not independently of each other particularly in educational institutions, where they have, in the very nature of things, to be treated as part of the process of education,

The Indian National Committee for the Freedom From Hunger Campaign has decided to participate in the launching of the Young World Appeal and has set up a Young World Action Central Committee which includes inter alia the representatives of a number of important youth organisations.

On a request from the F.A.O., the YWA Central Committee has agreed that the week commencing October 16, 1965 shou'd be observed as Freedom From Hunger Week. The Committee intends to highlight youth activities during this period.

The National Freedom From Hunger Campaign Committee, India an exhibition in tion with the Freedom From Hunger Campaign and the Young World Action for Food Week at the Nehru Memorial Museum, New Delhi on October 16, 1965 at 6-30 P.M. This exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Government of India. The Union Minister for Food and Agriculture and Prime Minister of India have issued special appeals in support of this Campaign.

Gleanings

The Union Food & Agriculture Minister told Lok Sabha on May 4 that the views of the Farmers' Panel would be taken into account by the Government while taking a decision on the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission.

The Union Food Minister announced in Rajya Sabha on May 10 that it was proposed to build a buffer stock of two million tonnes of rice and four million tonnes of wheat,

It was announced in New Delhi on May 16 that a high powered Special Committee on Cooperation under the Chairmanship of the Union Food Minister has been constituted by the Depa tment of Agriculture to deal with problems connected with cooperative development in the country. Besides the Chairman, the Committee would have four other permanent members. They are: the Minister for Community Development and Cooperation, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Member of the Planning Commission in charge of Cooperation and the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. The Secretary of the Agricultural Production Board would function as the Secretary of the Special Committee.

The Union Food Minister said at Ernakulam on May 20 that an Indian Fisheries Corporation with American collaboration was expected to be formed shortly. The Corporation would be concerned with the development of deep sea fishing and export of fish products.

During discussions with Dr. Grant A. Shrum, Director of the National Four H. Club of America at New Delhi on May 27, the Union Food Minister expressed a desire to enlarge the scope of exchange of farmers between India and the United States under the International Farm Youth Exchange Programme organised by the Club.

Shri B.R. Sen, Director General of F.A.O, said in Rome on May 5 that the world food situation remained perilous in spite of all that had been done by governments, international agencies and voluntary associations. He told representatives of Freedom From Hunger Campaign Committees that all possible measures should be taken to raise productivity and to stabilise population growth, lest the world faced a disaster of an unprecedented magnitude.

India would import from the U.S. 3.5 lakh tonnes of fertilizers this year. The imports would be paid for from the \$190 million united credit that the U.S. Government would make available as part of the \$435 million comitted to India as economic assistance for 1965-66 through the Aid India Club.

Letters have been exchanged between the Ministry of Finance and the United States Agency for International Development Mission in India providing for a grant of 9,000 tonnes of wheat valued at Rs. 41 lakhs under U.S. Public Law 480 Food for Peace programme. This wheat would be distributed as part wages in a Rural Manpower Utilization Programme in U.P. Programme which would continue till March 1966 would create flood protection for 375 villages and 54,000 acres of land, 143 miles of road, 54 miles of canals and channels and 15 miles of drains.

[Agricultural Situation in India, June, 1965]

Krishak Samaj News From States

Punjab Krishak Samaj

At an emergent meeting of the Farmers' Forum, Punjab, held at Chandigarh on 10-9-1965, under the Chairmanship of Shri Bachan Singh Bala, the members unanimously offered their fullest cooperation to Government and whole-heartedly placed all the resources of the farming community in the State before the Government to utilise them in any way.

The meeting further appealed to the farmers to place their jeeps, motor cycles, cars trucks, tractors etc., at the disposal of the Government during the period of National Emergency and also to strive their utmost to raise the food production to its maximum in order to meet the food demands of the country.

Gurgaon

At a meeting of the District Farmers' Forum, Gurgaon held on 20-9-1965, under the Chairmanship of Ch. Attar Singh, President, the members unanimously resolved to assure the State and Union Governments that the farmers in the district will do their utmost during the current Emergency and will spare no pains to fight on the food front and raise the agricultural production to the maximum possible extent. They also resolved to recruit their sons in the Defence Forces to fight the enemy.

Orissa

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Bharat Krishak Samaj (Utkal Branch) was held on 24-7-1965 under the Chairmanship of Shri P.M. Pradhan, M.L.A., President, Among other items discussed and adopted in the meeting, the Committee discussed the following important matters relating to the farmers in the State and the decisions were taken as per resolutions place below:

(a) Apprehension of Drought in Orissa

The Committee deeply observes that 50% paddy lands in Orissa have not been sown and transplanted due to want of rains although half of month of Sarvan (Srawan) has passed by this time. At this, the Committee feels it a great concern for the cultivators. Generally three-fourth of the Beushaning and transplanting ope ations are done by this time. But this year, this has not yet been done. So, the Committee apprehends outbreak of a famine, on account of drought, the next year, in Orissa, if there will be no rains in the near future. Due to want of rains, scarcity and rise in the price of paddy and rice are gone up in some parts of Orissa and at the same time field labourers are being deprived of their wages and ordinary cultivators are not getting loans as the agricultural operations are at a standstill. These are the indications of an impending famine. So it should be the duty of the members of the Utkal Branch of Bharat Krishak Samaj to immediately visit the rural areas with an aim to give people inspiration and hope particularly to agriculturists and the public, in general, not to be perturbed at this critical hour.

In view of the above, the Com-

The 19th Meeting of the All India Farmers' Council, which was Scheduled to be held at Lucknow, U.P., on the 12th, 13th & 14th November 1965, will now be held on the 26th. 27th & 28th December 1965 at Lucknow.

mittee requests all members of the Samaj to persuade people in rural areas to raise other food crops in order to compensate the loss that may be sustained on account of present drought.

Further, the Committee requests the Government to take up the following precautions to avoid the impending drought condition:

- To open sale centres of rice and paddy at places of scarcity,
- to supply wheat, rabi and other vegetable seeds to the agriculturists in time.
- To give taccavi loans to the needy cultivators.
- In order to provide employment to the people in the rural areas attempts may be made right from now to excavate tanks and construct Minor Irrigation Projects.

(b) Representation of Farmers on the Panchayat Raj

The Committee realises fully well that those who are enrolling themselves as Life Members of the Samaj. have a general trend towards adoption of modern and improved methods of cultivations in their lands. Therefore, the Committee requests the Government to allow such members proper representations in the development blocks, i.e., they may be specially invited to attend the block meetings. They may also be given facilities to take part in the agricultural seminars, meetings etc., that are organised at the block, district and State levels.

(c) A Special Train for Farmers

Resolved that an attempt be made by the Samaj in collaboration with the State Government to run a special train for the farmers of Orissa who are desirous of visiting Northern India with a sole aim of acquainting themselves with the agricultural practices and developments followed

New Life Members of Bharat Krishak Samaj

Following is the list of life members of Bharat Krishak Samaj enrolled from 5-2-1965. The entries are as they are given in their application forms. They are requested to verify the entry and intimate correction if any, to the Samaj and the samaj are the samaj and the samaj are the

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Memorandum to the Governor of Kerala

Submitted by the Working President of the Kerala State Farmers' Forum, Erimayur P.O, Palghat, on behalf of the Palghat District Farmers' Forum giving their objections to the proposed extensions to the Kurisi canal (Chulannur) in the Malampuzha system.

Shri V. G. Sukumaran, Working President of the Kerala State Farmers, Forum, submitted to the Governor of Kerala, on behalf of the farmers of the Palghat district, a detailed memorandum elaborating the objections of the farmers on the extension to the Kurisi canal (Chulannur channel), in the Malampuzha system.

In this memorandum an appeal was made to the Governor to appoint a high level Committee to enquire into the feasibility or otherwise of extending the Malampuzha canal to Pampadi, when the existing water resources are insufficient even for the existing ayacut. The Irrigation Department is well aware of this, and in the year 1960, they had refused the extensions on the plea of insufficiency of water. Lift irrigation to areas close to the existing ayacut has also been denied on the recommendations of the Irrigation

Department for the same reason.

Since it is difficult to supply water to the above projects, it should be much more so in case of Pampadi which is farther away and to which 4 miles of canal has to be taken along hilly and barren tracts involving a lot of wastage of water in transit. It will bring disaster to the existing ayacut. To irrigate a doubtful 700 to 800 additional acres, the existing ayacut of about 52,000 acres is going to be seriously affected, because the quantum of water required for the additional 700 or 800 acres will be disproportionately large and will affect the existing ayacut.

Particular mention has to be made with respect to the newly reclaimed dry and single crop lands lying on high level areas served by the canal; for these depend on the irrigation alone. Farmers have converted these dry and single crop lands into double crop lands because these were included in the envisaged ayacut itself of the Project and charged water cess. These lands are not getting sufficient water and the farmers are unable to raise a crop for want of water and have applied for refund of water cess.

In view of these and other difficulties it is necessary for a high level committee to go into the whole question in detail before the new project is started otherwise the food production in the area is bound to be hampered and the farmers will suffer unnecessarily.

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