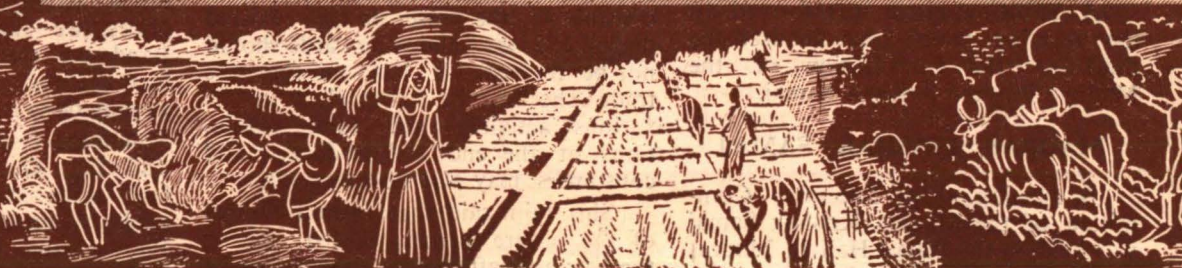


Bharat Krishak Samaj KRISHAK SAMACHAR

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No 9.



FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF FARMERS

The Fourth National Convention of Farmers will be held in the Talkatora Gardens, New Delhi from March 14 to 19, 1958.

The Convention will open on March 14 with the Seminar on "Krishak Samaj In Agricultural Extension". Farmers taking active interest in the activities of the Krishak Samaj and experts connected with extension work, both at the centre and the States and also farm leaders, have been invited to take part in the Seminar. The Krishak Samaj is very keen to play its due part in agricultural extension and has chosen this subject for discussion so that it may gather the opinion of all experts and others who are connected with agricultural extension in the country. It will equip the Samaj to formulate its plan of action and it will enable it to take up the work with zeal and in an appropriate manner.

An Agricultural and Rural Industries Exhibition will also be held during the Convention. The exhibition this year will be much bigger and more representative than the previous exhibitions. State Departments of Agriculture, various Ministries of the Union Government and a large number of firms dealing with agricultural machinery and equipment are expected to participate in it.

The inaugural session of the Convention is proposed to be held on Saturday, March 15. The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru has been requested to inaugurate the session.

After the inaugural session, the Convention will divide into the following three Commissions :

- (1) Commission on Agriculture and Animal Husbandry ;
- (2) Commission on Co-operation and Marketing ;

(3) Commission on Finance and Organisation.

The recommendations of the Commissions will be placed before the All India Farmers' Council and the Plenary Session of the Convention for ratification.

As during the previous years Railway Concessions will be issued to all delegates attending the Convention. **Railway Concession Certificates will be available from the Secretary of the Krishak Samaj in the respective States.** There will be a post Convention tour, the details of which are being worked out.

MADHYA PRADESH KRISHAK SAMAJ

A meeting attended by over 60 farmers hailing from all parts of the State took the decision to form the Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj. The meeting, which was held in the hall of Sophia College in Bhopal, was presided by Shri S. N. Mushran, Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

Owing to some very urgent work which had cropped up immediately Shri Takhatmal Jain, Madhya Pradesh's Minister of Agriculture, had to go out of Bhopal and he could not attend the meeting. He had sent a message through Shri Mushran assuring the State Krishak Samaj of his fullest support.

FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF FARMERS

March 14 to 19, 1958

Tentative Programme

Friday, March 14, 1958.

7.00 A.M.
10.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.

3.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.
7.00 P.M.

Saturday, March 15, 1958.

9.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.
3.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.

Sunday, March 16, 1958.

9.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.
3.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.

Monday, March 17, 1958.

9.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.
3.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.

Tuesday, March 18, 1958.

9.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.
3.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.

Wednesday, March 19, 1958.

9.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.
3.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.

Registration of Delegates begins.
Seminar on—"Krishak Samaj in Agricultural Extension."
Seminar continued.
Opening of the exhibition.

Statewise meetings of the Delegates.
Inaugural Session of the Convention;
Constitution of the Commissions.

Meeting of the Commissions on :—
(i) Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.
—do—

—do—
(ii) Co-operation and Marketing.

—do—
(iii) Finance and Organisation.

Meeting of the All India Farmers' Council.
Plenary Session of the Convention.

Shri K. D. Sharma, Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj, Shri Murao, Secretary Agricultural Department, (MP) and several important members of the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha were present in meeting.

A Sub-Committee was formed in the meeting which later finalised the draft of the Constitution of the Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj.

MADRAS KRISHAK SAMAJ

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Madras Krishak Samaj was held in the Rajaji Hall in Madras on December 8, 1957.

Among those present in the meeting were the Additional Development Commissioner, the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Animal Husbandry, Madras.

Shri K. D. Sharma, Secretary of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, who was present in the meeting congratulated the farmers of Madras for their resolve to enrol 1,000 life members before the Fourth National Convention of Farmers. He also thanked the Additional Development Commissioner and also the Director of Agriculture Madras for their assurance to extend their fullest co-operation in organising the Samaj in the State.

The meeting made some important amendments in the Constitution of State Krishak Samaj.

RECEPTION TO AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION STUDY TEAM

The Bharat Krishak Samaj gave a reception to the FAO Agricultural Study Team, consisting of twenty one persons, on December 11 in New Delhi.

In December 1955 the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN held the Agricultural Extension Development Centre for Asia and the Far East in Bhopal. It had recommended regional study tours for extension administrators. The present study tour was the implementation of that recommendation and the tour lasted from November 4 to December 14th. Twelve countries of Asia and Far East participated in it. They were Burma, Formosa, India, Japan, Korea, Malaya, Philippines, Thailand, Hong-kong, Sarwak, North Borneo and Vietnam. There were also three representatives of the FAO and one of the International Co-operation Administration.

In Parliament

CONTROLS ON FOODGRAINS

Shri A. P. Jain said in the Lok Sabha that the Foodgrains Inquiry Committee has recommended that controls in the sense as they existed during the war and afterwards should not be revived. It has said that the trade should be controlled in its various activities and some regulations at the ends of producers and consumers may also be exercised.

Shri Jain said that overall control of the nature which existed during the war and afterwards should not be revived because of the inherent difficulties in these controls and the huge requirements of food that these controls entailed with ever increasing demand and general aversion of the country to controls.

The Food Minister outlined the policy of the Government and said that the policy of the Government

was that trade should be controlled. He said "we must know how and where stocks are, how they are being disposed of, at what prices they are being disposed of; and where we find that trade is indulging in speculative activity, trying to push up prices, we shall not hesitate to lay hand on them." He said that in fact, the west Bengal Government has already done it.

On the distribution side, Shri Jain said the Government were opening fair price shops and issuing identity cards in certain areas. He said the Food Grains Inquiry Committee has laid great emphasis on building up a reserve. He said that the Government has succeeded in building up a reserve stock of one million tons or perhaps a little more but conditions arising from drought might hamper the work in this direction.

He expressed confidence that through increased use of fertilizers, integration of the activities of the CPA and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the better utilization of the irrigation facilities already available, it would be possible to exceed the target of food production mentioned in the Committee's report.

A SOLEMN RESOLVE

The Madras Krishak Samaj has resolved to enrol 1,000 life members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj before the Fourth National Convention. An intensive drive to enrol these members has been launched by the State Krishak Samaj in all the Districts of the State.

BUFFER STOCK OF FOODGRAINS

The Government has a buffer stock of a little over a million tons of foodgrains, Shri A. M. Thomas, Deputy Food Minister said in the Lok Sabha.

The composition of the buffer stock is as follows: rice, 275,000 tons; wheat, 712,000 tons; and other foodgrains, 48,000 tons.

Shri Thomas, who was replying to a question, said it had been the policy of the Government to build up gradually a stock of about a million tons each of wheat and rice.

The Food Minister, Shri A. P. Jain intervening, said that the present high prices in the world market made it impossible to build a buffer stock of a million tons of rice in the near future.

FOODGRAINS IMPORT

Shri A. P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture said in the Rajya Sabha that 700,000 to 800,000 more tons of foodgrains would be imported this year from the USA and Canada in addition to 1.5 million tons from the USA and Burma under PL 480 and other agreements.

NAGPUR FARMERS' SEMINAR

The Nagpur District Krishak Samaj held a Seminar on November 29, 1957 which was inaugurated by Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Co-operation. An Agricultural Exhibition was also arranged on that occasion. Discussions were held on subjects concerning the farmers and the agricultural development in that area.

FARMERS' DAY IN RAVER

The East Khandesh District Krishak Samaj Celebrated the Farmers' Day at Raver on December 1 and 2, 1957 which was inaugurated by Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, President Farmers' Forum, India. On this occasion the District Samaj enrolled 140 Life members for the Bharat Krishak Samaj. East Khandesh has so far given largest number of life members to the Krishak Samaj.

An Agricultural Exhibition was also held. Discussions were held in the meetings on Irrigation and Cooperative Farming etc.

He expressed the hope that these imports, along with the present Government stocks of one million tons, would be enough to meet the present food crisis.

The new imports from the USA, Shri Jain stated, would be out of allocations originally made under PL 480 for cotton, tobacco and milk products. Regarding imports from Canada, he added, the Indian representative there had been instructed to negotiate imports of about 200,000 tons on terms similar to those of the American PL 480 programme.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING

The Minister for Co-operation, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh said in the Lok Sabha that Government had decided to carry out 6,000 co-operative farming experiments in all the States during the next three years.

Dr. Deshmukh said that the standing committee of the National Development Council at its meetings on September 14 and 15, had decided that a survey of existing co-operative farming societies should be undertaken in each State with a view to selecting those societies which should be developed further for co-operative farming experiments.

STATES' REACTION TO PATIL REPORT

"Some of the State Governments have accepted joint co-operative farming, provided people voluntarily agreed to such farming," the Minister for Co-operation, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh said, replying to a question by Shri Bhakt Darshan in Lok Sabha. Shri Darshan had asked about the views expressed by the various State Governments on the report submitted by the Patil delegation which visited China sometime back.

Dr. Deshmukh said that views on the report had been received from 15 States and Union Territories. Most of them were in favour of better farming societies, while some had accepted joint co-operative farming provided the principle of voluntariness was adhered to.

THE PRICES

Shri A. M. Thomas, Deputy Minister for Food said that the Government would fix "reasonable prices" for the newly-harvested food crops expected to arrive in the market shortly.

He added that the Government's price policy would be announced as early as possible.

Research

ICAR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

About 300 new-projects and proposals for extension of current schemes for research in agriculture and animal husbandry were considered by the Advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, which met in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Randhawa, Vice-President of the Council.

The Board has approved about 195 new and current schemes for research in agriculture, animal husbandry and veterinary science.

Among those who attended the Board's meetings were State Directors of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Director of Central Research Institutes and representatives of Central Commodity Committees, Universities and Bharat Krishak Samaj.

The schemes will now be considered by the Standing Finance Committee and the Governing Body of the ICAR.

The Board has also recommended setting up of a committee to advise on the design and structure of farmers' houses, storage godowns and cattle-sheds.

Agricultural Schemes

The evolution of superior strains of paddy suitable for the areas which were inundated during the rains and for alkaline and saline soils, and a study of improved technique of the Chinese methods of paddy cultivation were three new research schemes approved by the Advisory Board.

Other important schemes are for development of hybrid maize, study of water requirements of crops, research in off-season bearing in mango, improvement of vegetable crops, pastures, grasses and legumes, and co-ordination of work in floriculture.

A project for conducting a survey of agricultural implements in Rajasthan, Madras, Uttar Pradesh, Mysore, Orissa, Bihar and Assam was also approved.

The regional schemes included intensification of research on cotton, oilseeds and millets in various areas, setting up of a fruit research station in Andhra Pradesh and cultivation of camphor in Wynad (Kerala).

Animal Husbandry

The animal husbandry schemes approved by the Board included those for improvement of cattle, sheep, goats, poultry and other livestock, and research in animal nutrition, dairy science, animal diseases and fisheries.

The Board has recommended schemes for setting up of cheap poultry houses, a Central bureau of animal husbandry in ICAR, award of fellowships in the animal husbandry subjects, establishment of research units for study of cheap production in mixed farming economy and commercial evaluation and manufacturing trials on graded wools of principal sheep breeds.

The Board had decided to set up a standing committee to supervise and co-ordinate the work of various cattle breeding schemes.

The Board further approved a scheme for establishment of a bee-keeping centre in the northern region.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting of the Fruit and Vegetable Development Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, held in New Delhi has recommended a survey of marketing practices in grape, banana and citrus fruits should be conducted and the reports already published about them be revised and brought up-to-date. Surveys should be undertaken with a view to improved marketing and helping fruit growers in the country.

The Committee suggested setting up of following three sub-committees to study certain aspects of production and marketing of fruits and vegetables.

(1) Committee to study the working of the garden colony scheme in the Punjab. It was also suggested that the committee should discuss with the State Government the question of supply of pedigree fruit plants to growers and organisation of co-operative stores for supply of agricultural implements, garden tools and insecticides.

(2) Another committee will try to obtain concessional freight rates and better wagon facilities for fruits and vegetables. This will ensure better returns to the growers.

(3) The third committee will study existing conditions in cold storages and suggest methods for maintaining suitable conditions for storage of fruits and vegetables and other perishable commodities.

FAO CONFERENCE AT ROME

The 27th Session of the Council and the 9th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agricultural Organisation was held from October 31 to November 1 and from November 2 to 22 respectively, at Rome.

The FAO Council was attended by 24, FAO member Governments' delegates and 74 member countries were represented in the Conference.

The Council in its meeting considered the reports of other FAO bodies and prepared the agenda for the Conference to take final decisions.

The Conference which normally meets every second year discussed the Organisation's programme of future work and how much money Governments were prepared to contribute to it.

The Conference also reviewed the work which had been done and future activities planned under the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme with money allocated to FAO from the UNTA fund.

World Food & Agriculture

Opening the general discussion on the world food and agricultural situation at the Conference, Shri B.R. Sen, Director-General of FAO, warned that world agricultural production had reached a stage which, if not successfully surmounted, might result in some setback in the progress achieved since the Second World War. He further said, "There is a danger that the rate of expansion will be slowed down by scarcity of investment resources, by some general pause in economic advance, by fall in agricultural commodity prices—such a slowing down would be a serious matter at a time when inadequate and unbalanced diets are still the common lot of more than half the world's population."

Shri Sen also advanced four basic themes to help shape the work of eradicating poverty through making possible higher incomes for the world's people. They dealt with :

(1) the approach to economic development ;

(2) the need for a fair assurance of stability ;

(3) evolution of a code of international ethics in economic affairs, and,

(4) the need to improve extension services and nutrition policies.

Disposal of Surplus Food

During the discussion on the problems of food surpluses the delegates of the USA said in the Conference that the USA had taken every precaution to minimise any adverse effects on other countries of its surplus disposal programme. The USA recognised the fact that in some cases unfavourable trade effects could result from disposals as large as those being made.

The delegates from Canada said that certain US transactions had serious impact on Canadian marketings and especially because of "US disposal operations".

US Congressman Charles B. Hoeven declared that the US had tried to ensure that disposals did not encroach on exports of friendly countries, through constant analysis of likely impact and frequent consultations with other exporters.

Shri Hudson, a Canadian delegate observed that wheat farmers operating without subsidy had no assurance of protection from "competition with products, the distribution of which is financed from Government treasury". He further said that it was realized that the USA had tried to reduce dislocation to normal trade arising from disposals of surpluses. He, however, added that "it is incontestable that there has been damage."

Mediterranean Region

The Conference of FAO approved the request of the Director General for a further survey of the possibility of restoring the fertility of barren and low grade lands of the Mediterranean Region through re-forestation.

Budget for 1958-59

A Commission of the FAO recommended to give FAO 17 Million Dollars for operations in the period 1958-59, an increase of 3.6 Million Dollars over the last biennium. The Commission voted for a Netherlands amendment to a US resolution called for a 16 Million Dollars budget for the two years which was adjusted to 17 Million Dollars.

Commission on FAO Activities

The Commission on Current and Prospective Activities of the FAO asked the Director General to take the initial but limited steps towards strengthening social welfare activities of the FAO. The Commission adopted a US resolution amended by the delegation of the Netherlands approving a request for funds asking to begin limited evaluation of the welfare aspects of FAO's work.

Director General Sen had asked for 127,000 dollars to intensify and deepen technical work by strengthening direct welfare measures like Extension, Home Economics and Nutrition Education and by a closer coordination of technical programmes with welfare implications.

Home-making Experts' Meeting

On the occasion of the FAO meeting in Rome the Nutrition Division of the FAO called a meeting of the Home Economic Advisory Committee to consider how the FAO can assist its member countries in developing programmes of education and extension and to prepare women for their role in the home and the community.

Delegates from Canada, Denmark, France, India, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, Uganda, UK and USA attended the meeting.

India Re-elected to Council

The FAO Conference re-elected India for a further three year term as a member of the FAO Council. For the second Council seat for the Far East region Pakistan was elected for the period ending 1960.

Japan was also re-elected to the Council Seat for the period January 1959 to December 1961.

The Conference unanimously re-elected Shri A. S. Hasnie (Pakistan) as Independent Chairman of the Council until the 1959 Conference.

India Room in FAO

In the presence of a distinguished gathering of delegates to the FAO Conference in Rome Shri A. P. Jain, India's Minister for Food and Agriculture, formally presented the India room in the FAO building in Rome. In making the presentation the Minister said that the gift from the Government of India should be considered a token of faith in FAO's generous aims and achievements.