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WORLD AGRICULTURE FAIR TO BE HELD IN DELHI

FOOD MINISTER LAUDS THE DECISION OF THE BHARAT KRISHAK SAMAJ

A World Agriculture Fair would be held in New Delhi from December 1959 to February 1960. This announcement was made by Shri A.P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture at a special function held on June 27 at the Exhibition Grounds, Mathura Road, New Delhi where the office of the World Agriculture Fair has been opened.

Among those present in the gathering on the occasion were Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim, Union Minister for Irrigation and Power, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, Minister for Commerce, Shri M.V. Krishnappa, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, officers and representatives of the Ministries of Food and Agriculture, Works, Housing and Supply and other Ministries of the Government of India and representatives of the business community and press. Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj presided over the function.

Addressing the gathering **Shri Jain** said that it was a praiseworthy attempt on the part of the Bharat Krishak Samaj to organise the Fair. He said, "It is with great pleasure that I extend my full co-operation and support of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to this Fair."

He said that Dr. P.S. Deshmukh had mentioned about the Fair about a year ago and he had liked the idea. Shri Jain said that he had seen several agricultural exhibitions held abroad, particularly the Agricultural Exhibition in Moscow which was one of the greatest in the world. He said that he was very much impressed by it and had felt for a long time the need for such an exhibition in India. It was rather unfortunate that so far there had not been even an attempt to organise one. He was therefore happy that this attempt was being launched by the Krishak Samaj.

Shri Jain said that experts and other officers connected with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture will extend their

full co-operation to make this attempt a success.

Detailing the different sectors which

could be represented in the exhibition Shri Jain said that forestry had always been taken as something alien to common man but was now being given its due importance. There was, he said no greater friend of the agriculturists than the forests. He said that there were the numerous processing industries and other industries allied to agriculture such as farm machinery and fertilizers.

There were also the achievements of Co-operation in many foreign countries. He said that he liked the idea of bringing—so to say—under one roof all the various aspects and activities of agriculture and presenting its integrated picture.

He believed that such a Fair would do a lot of good to this country as well as others and he trusted that all other countries would participate and lend their co-operation to it.



Shri A. P. Jain speaking at the function

Earlier, **Dr. Deshmukh** in his address said that some people might be somewhat surprised at the apparently sudden decision of the Bharat Krishak Samaj to organise a World Agriculture Fair. He assured the gathering that it was no sudden decision. The Samaj had been working on it for more than one year. The first meeting in this connection had been called about a year ago. It was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Food and Agriculture, Works, Housing and Supply and Commerce and the consensus of opinion in that meeting was that this Fair be organised by a non-official body like the Bharat Krishak Samaj. Soon after it, he said that he had mentioned the subject to the Prime Minister and received his blessings. The work in this connection had to be slowed down due to certain difficulties but time was ripe now to launch this decision.

He disclosed that the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture had promised its fullest co-operation in the organisation of the Fair. He felt certain that the Fair would help not only the Indian farmers and Indian agriculture but also farmers of other countries. It would also help in establishing business and cultural contacts and exchange of views between the agricultural producers of different countries.

THE FAIR

A World Agriculture Fair, the first of its kind in the history of the world to be held on an international scale, would be held in New Delhi towards 1959 and with a dual purpose to educate the Indian farmers about the latest advances in agricultural sciences in India and abroad and to show to the world especially the participating countries, various facets of Indian agricultural life and progress.

Arranged to synchronize with the 11th Annual Meeting of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the World Organisation of farmers, in New Delhi, the Fair would last six to eight weeks, beginning in the third week of December 1959. If there is demand, it might be extended by a week or two more.

This Fair, which would be in its essentials an exhibition, would also bring home to Indian farmers, through educative displays, how the battle on the food front is being constantly waged and gradually won by people all over the world. They may, thus, it is hoped, equip themselves fully to produce more what are India's immediate needs—food and fibre.

The Fair, which is expected to be a great success, will be held on the Mathura Road Exhibition Grounds in an area of about 80 acres.

Sectors in the Fair

The Fair is proposed to be divided into five sectors. The first would be the Foreign Sector, in which various countries of the world would be invited to organise their own exhibitions.

The second would be the Agriculture Sector. It will be divided into several Courts which will exhibit the advancements recorded in the field of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, forestry, co-operation, etc., in India.

The third sector would be devoted

Group photograph taken on the occasion of the announcement of the Fair. (Front row, left to right) Shri M. V. Krishnappa (second), Shri S. M. Wahi, Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim, Shri A. P. Jain, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Shri Nityanand Kanungo and Shri K. D. Sharma.



to Rural Industries and other industries allied to agriculture.

The fourth would be the Food Sector. This would exhibit the advancements made in food-processing, technology and nutrition.

The fifth sector would be the Market Sector, which would display as well as sell, Indian products of all kinds, needed by the farmer. Apart from the regular exhibition there will also be cattle, poultry, sheep, flower, fruit and fisheries shows.

There would also be an Entertainment Sector which would have an international folk theatre and will include an amusement and entertainment park. It is also proposed to organise a rural films festival during the Fair.

The sections proposed to be represented in the Fair are :

I Foreign Sector

(a) Agricultural, Horticultural Research and Animal Husbandry; (b) Fertilizers; (c) Plant Protection; (d) Agricultural Machinery and Food Processing Plants; (e) Co-operatives; (f) Marketing; (g) Foods of various Nations; (h) Farm Organizations; (i) Publicity and Publications.

II Agriculture Sector

1. Agriculture : (a) Cereals, (b) Pulses, (c) Oilseeds, (d) Fibres, (e) Cotton; (f) Tobacco, (g) Sugarcane, (h) Plantation crops—Tea, Coffee, Spices, Coconuts, Arecanuts etc., (i) Manures and fertilizers, their manufacture and uses, (j) Soil Conservation, (k) Plant Protection, (l) Farm Machinery.

2. Animal Husbandry : (a) Dairy, (b) Poultry; (c) Pisciculture; (d) Apiary, (e) Sericulture, (f) Sheep breeding and Wool, (g) Goat breeding.

3. Forestry, including Forest Industries.

4. Horticulture : (a) Flowers; (b) Vegetables; (c) Fruits; (d) Fruit Preservation.

5. Co-operation and Marketing : (a) Progress of Co-operation in India; (b) Agricultural Marketing.

6. Indian Drugs and Herbs.

7. Rural Housing and Electrification.

8. Irrigation and Power.

9. Community Projects.

10. Publications.

COLLECTIVE APPROACH TO FARMERS' PROBLEMS ESSENTIAL

Collective approach would always prove more beneficial for the success of any scheme meant for agriculturists said Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj in Madras on July 3.

Dr. Deshmukh was inaugurating the State Farmers' Council of the Madras Krishak Samaj. The meeting was held in the Memorial Hall, Park Town and was presided over by Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Agriculture Minister, Madras.

Dr. Deshmukh said that organisations like the Krishak Samaj could act as the necessary link with individual farmers and individual approach would not solve the problems.

III Rural Industries Sector

(a) Khadi; (b) Village Industries; (c) Handloom Industry; (d) Handicrafts.

IV Food Sector

(a) Food Processing Industries; e.g., sugar, breakfast food, bakeries, biscuits, sweets; (b) Food Technology and Nutrition; (c) Food of various States.

The various Indian State Governments, Commodity Committees, Research Institutes, Community Development Administration, Khadi and Village Industries Board etc., would be invited to set up their own pavilions in the Fair.

The amount of covered and open space available for hire to the participants in the Fair has been worked out. It is also proposed to develop an additional area of at least 17 acres, just adjoining the exhibition site, to overcome the possibility of any paucity of accommodation.

Fair Committee

The Fair Committee of about 80 persons has already been set up under the presidency of Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Co-operation. The two Vice-Presidents of the Committee are Shri M.V. Krishnappa, Union Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Shri A.M. Thomas, Deputy Minister for Food. Shri K.D. Sharma, Secretary of the Bharat Krishak Samaj is the Secretary of the Fair. It includes officials of the various ministries of the Government of India, State Governments and representatives of many organisations connected with rural life.

Several sub-committees dealing with individual subjects have been constituted.

Addressing the meeting Shri Bhaktavatsalam said that land legislation, increase in land tax and similar measures could not be looked upon as factors preventing increased production. He called for closer contacts and co-laboration between research workers, farmers and agricultural officers.

Shri R. Srinivasan, Secretary, Madras Krishak Samaj welcoming the gathering informed that 20 branches of the Samaj had been established in the State and 650 life members of the Samaj have been enrolled. He said that the Samaj intended to reach every farmer in the remotest corner of the State.

He said that the State Farmers' Council should be recognised as consultative body by the State Government on all matters pertaining to agriculture and the farmer.

A Seminar was also held at the occasion on "Agricultural Research and the Farmer". The recommendations made in the seminar were on the following subjects : Research, Farmers Problems, Horticulture and Vegetable Seeds, Pastures and Animal Husbandry.

Dr. Deshmukh felt that the recommendations made in the Seminar were sensible and he had no doubt that Shri Bhaktavatsalam and others concerned with it would take due notice of them.

SAMAJ REPRESENTATION ON STATE BODIES

The Rajasthan Government has given representation to the State Krishak Samaj on :

1. State Electricity Consultative Council
2. State Planning Board
3. District Development Committees
4. Block Advisory Committees

The State Krishak Samaj has also secured representation on the Zonal Railway users Consultative Committee of the Western Railway.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF MADHYA PRADESH KRISHAK SAMAJ

The Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj has issued the following agricultural development programme to its branches and has asked its members to implement it successfully.

1. Advise cultivators for sending soils for soil analysis to the Soil Testing Laboratories at Gwalior and Jabalpur.

2. Report on outstanding fruit plants in their localities to the Government Horticulturist, Pachmarhi (M.P.).

3. Take up specific items of propaganda amongst the cultivators such as :

- (a) Encouraging exchange of improved seed for impure seed instead of giving the improved seed to the labourers for consumption.
- (b) In areas bordering forest and where bushes and trees are in abundance encourage the use of green leaf for manuring taking care that the plants are not damaged.

(c) Advise cultivators to compost all farm waste, cattle dung etc. by adopting scientific methods which would result in the increase in quantity as well as quality.

(d) Co-operate in conducting free fertilizer demonstration trials and simple manurial trials on cultivators fields under the schemes sanctioned by the State Government.

(e) Co-operate in offering lands for demonstration of improved seeds, fertilizers, agricultural techniques, trials of new crops etc.

(f) Advise cultivators to utilise available water resources co-operatively such as by putting up pumping plants, preparation of field channels, their maintenance etc., and also putting up temporary bunds on the nalas, streams etc., where facilities exist.

(g) Advise cultivators for soil conservation measures such as

field bunding, strip cropping etc.

(h) Encourage co-operative purchase of plant protection equipment for protection against crops pests and diseases.

(i) Advise cultivators to produce their requirements of seeds for green manuring by growing them on bunds, waste lands, mixing them with other crops etc.

(j) Advise on improvement of grass lands by controlled grazing, introducing improved grass varieties etc.

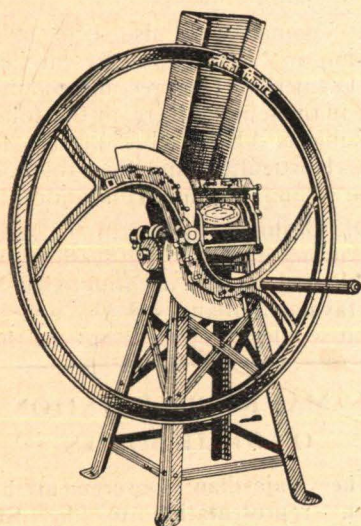
(k) Do propaganda in regard to planting of shade trees on village commons.

(l) Encourage growing of green fodder under irrigation where irrigation facilities exist.

(m) Organise crop protection societies.

(n) Encourage co-operative farming and to begin with have crop planning in blocks, so that suitable rotation can be followed and watching of crops properly done.

(Continued on Page 7 Col. 2)



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RISE IN FOOD PRICES TEMPORARY

The present rise in food prices was not likely to continue or remain where it was as the Government had plenty of food stocks, said Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in a press conference in New Delhi.

Shri Nehru spoke on a wide range of subjects, both domestic and foreign and said that the real remedy to the food problem was more production.

He said that in spite of an extraordinary run of bad luck for the country which had three successive bad harvests because of floods or drought, the Government had been successful "in holding the fort and we have held the fort of course, because we have plenty of stocks and we are getting something more. But the real answer to the food problem was more production internally."

Shri Nehru said that there could be no big or small industry unless there were stable agricultural foundations. Only when agricultural production was adequate, would supplies be available for industry. Unfortunately it was not yet possible to control the elements. The time might come when in spite of bad weather, unfavourable situations could be dealt with but for the moment a very bad monsoon would knock the country on the head.

"Twenty-five per cent increase in food production is a patently realisable thing. It may become unrealisable if we do not work for it. So we must create a psychology of work right from top to bottom," he added.

DR. DESHMUKH'S MESSAGE ON NINTH VANA MAHOTSAVA

In a message from the All India Radio Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Co-operation emphasised on planting small forests not only in every village but by individual farmers also. The broadcast was made on the occasion of the celebration of the 9th Vana Mahotsava on July 1.

He said that in Europe, agriculture is almost every where combined with forestry. Almost every farmer while cultivating certain areas has certain areas under forests. He said that he did not mean that forests should be planted on good agricultural land on any large scale but the requirements of timber

and fuel were so great that asking and encouraging the farmer to grow some trees in a separate patch of his land, based on consideration of rational land use, would not cause any damage to national interest.

He recalled the beginning of the Vana Mahotsava Movement when it was started by Shri K.M. Munshi eight years back. He said that the celebrations of Vana Mahotsava were not useless formalities, they involved a vital principle.

He urged that larger number of plants be planted and tended and protected throughout the whole season.

RURAL HOUSING SEMINAR

The need for implementation of a well considered housing programme in rural areas was stressed by Shri K.C. Reddy, Union Minister for Works, Housing and Supply, inaugurating the Rural Housing Seminar at Mussoorie (U.P.) on June 28.

He said that such a programme should be implemented with the least possible delay to bring about the desired transformation in rural areas which had suffered considerably due to neglect on the part of the Government.

Shri Reddy laid great emphasis on continued increase in agricultural production which, he said, was possible through incentive for better living available to peasantry.

The seminar concluded on June 30 after passing several resolutions for planned improvement of housing in villages.

The seminar recommended that the scope of village housing scheme should be enlarged to enable funds being made available for the provision of community facilities.

News Briefs

ON June 1 the Government had 16.72 lakh tons of food grains comprising 10.57 lakh tons of wheat and 6.15 lakh tons of rice, said Shri A.P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture at Nainital on June 20. He said that India will import 12 lakh tons of foodgrains during the next few months from the U.S.A.

Presiding over the first conference of the Bharatiya Gramin Mahila Sangh at Vijayawada on July 13 Shrimati Rajbanshi Devi, President of the Sangh called upon women engaged in social service to understand the needs and difficulties of the people in villages and strenuously work for solution of their problems and advised to establish village units of the Sangh all over the country.

A North Regional Cattle and Poultry show will be held from July

29 to August 3 at Jullunder by the All India Cattle Show Committee. Important breeds of sheep, goats, camels, horses, donkeys and mules have been also included for exhibition at the show.

A target of nine million acres had been fixed for the area to be brought under irrigation from minor irrigation schemes during the Second Plan period. Of this about half would be under agricultural development schemes and the other half under the national extension and community development programme.

INDIA and U.S.A. have signed four agreements providing loans and agricultural commodities to India aggregating Rs. 72.2 crores which would be repaid in rupees, thus not affecting India's foreign exchange position.

THE FAO has suggested to the Government of India that in view of large scale development in dairying in India the next FAO Regional Conference of Dairy Programme for Asia and Far East be held in India.

This column is being started with a view to provide useful and important information at a glance to the readers, contained in various agricultural and allied journals.

Co-operative Movement in Sweden

The following is an extract from the article "Co-operative Movement in Sweden" published in the *All India Co-operative Review* of June, 1958 :

.....Ninty eight percent of all milk, 75-89 percent of meat, 70 percent of eggs and 65 percent of foodgrains are handled by the farmers own co-operative societies. The activities of providing rural credit and of organising the purchases of seeds and farm implements etc., are also largely taken care of by parallel co-operative societies. This growth of the co-operative sector in the rural economy of the country is, by and large, a phenomenon of the last 25 to 30 years. When the farmers of Sweden really woke up to the need of collaboration and value of co-operatives, they proved to be highly efficient in managing their own affairs.

When to Harvest Coconuts

The following is an extract from the article "When to Harvest Coconuts" by Shri M.M. Krishna Marar published in the *Coconut Bulletin* of June, 1958 :

By harvesting nuts one month prior to full maturity, copra is lost to the extent of 6 percent, 16 percent in 10 month old nuts and 33 percent in 9 months old nuts. The loss in the out turn of oil also approximates to the same extent. The copra and oil suffer considerably in quality also. The copra from 12 and 11 months old nuts is crisp and of white colour while that from 10 to 9 months old nuts is pliable and wrinkled. Coming to coir fibre, there is not much difference in the out-turn from the husk of different maturity, but there are marked differences in quality. Fibre from 12 month old husks is inferior being brittle and of a brownish colour. The fibre from 11 and 10 months old husks is good being elastic and of golden brown colour. The fibre from 9 month old husks is inferior as a lot of pith will be found adhering to the fibre.

MYCOLOGICAL RESEARCH WORKERS MEET IN SIMLA

Some 30,000 diseases attacked plants grown for food and commercial purposes, said Shri M.V. Krishnappa, Union Deputy Minister for Agriculture addressing the Mycological Research Workers Conference held in Simla from June 20 to 24. He said that the cut in production caused by a group of diseases alone was equal to a quarter of the estimated annual deficit of cereal foodgrains.

Shri Krishnappa said that smut of jowar alone caused an annual loss of 325 thousand tons, while the loss due to loose smut of wheat was nearly a lakh tons. Wheat rusts had proved equally menacing and even during normal years losses amounted to Rs. 5 crores. In rice blast disease was the most serious and Indian varieties were highly susceptible to disease. Seventy-five thousand tons of sugarcane was damaged due to redrot.

The Deputy Minister said crops must be protected from being damaged in all possible ways to ensure adequate supply of food for masses.

Among the various recommendations made by Conference was the setting up of chairs in mycology and plant pathology in various universities in India. The conference suggested that suitable containers and packing techniques be developed for storage and transport of fruits and vegetables and the possibility of employing radio-active isotopes for minimising losses be explored. The conference urged that the large number of fungicides available in the market be properly assayed and certified. Standardisation of dusting and spray equipment was also urged. The conference felt that more intensive work should be done to investigate the possibility of utilising indigenous substances for production of new fungicides and antibiotics for use in plant protection work.

SOIL TESTING SCHEME

Fourteen Soil Testing Centres have started functioning and 10 more would be started as a result of an agreement between Government of India and the T.C.M. The object of the scheme is to analyse soil, by rapid methods, of the individual farmers and to recommend suitable fertilizers for increasing his crop production.

Soil testing services will be available to individual farmers from the labora-

tories which have already been established at Nagpur, Calcutta, Poona, Coimbatore, Cuttack, Sabour, Ludhiana, Rajendra Nagar Farm (Andhra), Bangalore, Nabha, Trivandrum, Gwalior, Simla; the Indian Agricultural Research Institute New Delhi will serve farmers of Delhi territory.

AGRICULTURAL METHODS SURVEY

The co-ordination meeting of officers of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Ministry of Community Development held in New Delhi has decided to make a survey to assess the extent to which the improved agricultural practices, as well as facilities for the supply of improved seeds and fertilisers, have been utilised in areas having irrigation facilities and assured rainfall.

It is understood that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research will furnish the design of the survey, which will be undertaken by the Ministry of Community Development.

DR. DESHMUKH CALLS FOR RESEARCH IN FORESTRY

Addressing the fourth meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Forest Utilisation at Dehradun on July 11, Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Co-operation called for greater effort for utilising India's forest resources.

He said that research activities should be intensified and effective methods be devised to bring the results of research and knowledge of new uses of forest produce to the notice of those concerned with them.

He said that research could help in better utilisation of sugarcane bagasse and in reducing waste of timber and other forest produce.

FARM SURPLUSES TO NEEDY NATIONS

Shri B.R. Sen, Director-General of the FAO told the United Nations Economic and Social Council meeting which was held at Geneva on July 12 that surplus agriculture producers could be made to contribute to building up food reserves in under-developed countries without diminishing commercial trade.

"I believe that national food reserves have a great contribution to make both towards the development of needy countries and the welfare of their people and towards providing effective ways of using some of the existing stocks of surplus food without interfering with normal commercial exports," Shri Sen said.

The problem of food surpluses has been created because the ability of more highly developed countries to expand food production for commercial sale had outrun the ability of people in less developed countries to pay for that food, Shri Sen added.

I.F.A.P.'s REGIONAL MEETING

World economic warfare versus international co-operation was discussed at the Fifth North American Regional Meeting of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers held in Ottawa.

Concerned with this problem, especially as it affects wheat, the delegates passed the following resolution :

"Recognizing that the current surplus position and resulting trading conditions on the world wheat market,

particularly sales on concessional terms, are a matter for international consultation, the meeting recommends that United States and Canada should take the lead in promoting such consultations."

The delegates also heard reports on what the European Common Market would mean to farmers in North America. The forecasts made said that Europe would import more dried and citrus fruits, feedgrains, oilseeds, cotton and high protein-hard wheat and would import less meat, eggs, dairy products, fresh deciduous fruits and tobacco.

DR. HIGGINBOTTOM DIES

The founder of Agricultural Institute of Allahabad, Dr. Sam Higginbottom died on June 18 at Port Washington, New York, at the age of 84. He had been renowned for his agricultural experimental work in India.

Madhya Pradesh's Programme (Continued from Page 4)

- (o) Organise co-operative marketing and distribution societies.
- (p) Help in distribution of literature in regard to agriculture.

BIRTH OF A FARM ORGANISATION

"Twenty five years ago in Ontario a 90 pound bag of potatoes sold for under 10 cents and the profit on a three-pound chicken was between 5 and 10 cents. Some farmers were so poor that only groceries they could afford to buy from the village store were tea, salt, pepper and odd spices.

"Cries of protest from the individual farmer were ignored in Ottawa—agriculture was gradually suffocating.

"The New Canada Movement sparked a latent interest in agricultural economics and the rugged individualistic farmer slowly appreciated the need of having an organised farm group like the unions in the industry.

"Then in mid-thirties a large number of disgruntled farmers booked a train and descended in force upon the capital to lodge a protest. At the time apparently no result was achieved", Mrs. Armitage said. "But in actual fact it brought home to the farmer that in order to obtain any sort of improvement on the land he had to have an organisation."

"I am of the opinion that this protest together with the New Canada Movement gave birth to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture", said Mrs. Ross Armitage who is an erstwhile secretary and an active farm leader of Ontario.

—"Rural Co-operator", Canada

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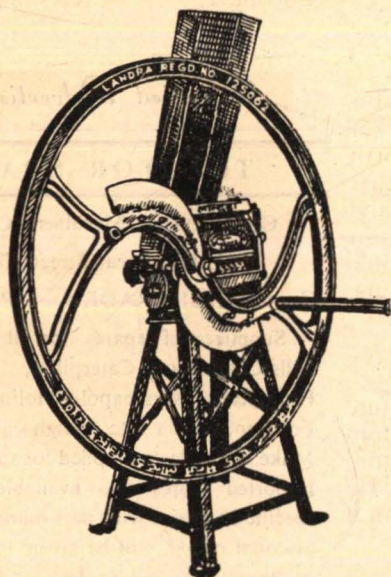
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- (q) Help in bringing to the notice of the cultivators the various schemes under food production.
- (r) Participate in organisation of exhibitions and fairs.
- (s) Get training in the techniques of top working of inferior trees to superior ones at Pachmarhi at their own expense.
- (t) Efforts should be made to take up mostly such items which do not call for any help, material or financial etc., from outside. Potential local resources should be utilised to the maximum.
- (u) The staff of the Agriculture Department can arrange to give short training at block, tehsil or district level as necessary.
- (v) Co-operate fully in the constructive activities of the gram panchayats without involving Krishak Samaj in local politics.
- (w) The members should fully co-operate in the development activities of the blocks.

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