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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
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POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

CONFERENCE OF FAO

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REPORT OF THE REGIONAL PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING IN
EUROPE

Rome. 10th - 15th October 1949

INTRODUCTION

Delegates from eleven countries and observers from five organizations attended this Regional Pre-Conference Meeting for Europe in Rome from 10th to 15th October 1949.

The Meeting was one of a series held in the various FAO Regions prior to the Fifth Session of the Conference of FAO in November.

The aims of the Meeting were:

- (a) to assist Member Governments in preparing for effective participation in the work of the Conference of FAO, particularly the food and agricultural outlook and programmes in the region;
- (b) to afford an opportunity for consideration of problems and action of a regional character to which the world-wide Conference could not give detailed attention;
- (c) to permit advance consideration of the important policy questions and issues that are likely to come before the Conference; and
- (d) to help to improve the work of FAO, especially to coordinating its future activities with the programmes of Member Governments.

The agenda covered a number of important items, including (a) Review of the region's food and agricultural situation following the 1949 harvests; (b) consideration of 1950/51 trends in production and consumption; (c) problems relating to the region's position in world trade in food and agricultural commodities; (d) FAO activities in the region in the past year and the programme of work for 1950 relating to the region; and (e) FAO's Report on Special Technical Assistance (point IV).

The Meeting heard statements from the FAO Secretariat summarizing the prospects, programmes and problems of the region with regard to production, trade and consumption, the outlook for supplies of agricultural requisites, investment plans and measures under consideration for international action in the field of food and agriculture as a general background for the discussions in the Regional meeting.

The officers elected for this Meeting were: Chairman of the Meeting, Mr. L. Maire, Switzerland; Vice-Chairman, Mr. G. U. Papi, Italy.

A Drafting Committee was established, composed of the officers of the Meeting and representatives of France and the United Kingdom.

CHAPTER I.

PRESENT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Following the 1949 harvests which are now being completed it is clear that the improvement in total available supplies which during 1948/49 took place in many parts of Europe could be maintained and extended, provided that imports continue at a level comparable with that of the preceding twelve months. It is becoming more and more apparent that the year 1948 marked the ending of acute food scarcities in Europe and, while production has not yet entirely regained its pre-war volume, the major rehabilitation in agriculture has been achieved.

For the countries represented at the European Pre-Conference meeting agricultural production in 1949 may, on the whole, be considered as satisfactory, the unfavourable weather conditions during the summer months being unlikely to endanger the output of essential agricultural products.

Concerning the basic commodities the situation is as follows:

(a) Crops

Bread grains are generally plentiful and of good quality. In Belgium, France, Switzerland and Italy crops exceed those of the year before. Production in the United Kingdom, however, is lower than programmed owing to a reduction in acreage. In Finland, Greece and Yugoslavia the harvest is not up to expectations.

With respect to coarse grains the countries represented have benefited from a harvest which in many cases exceeded that of 1948, the increase being particularly noticeable in Yugoslavia.

Production of potatoes in the principal producing countries is appreciably lower than in the preceding year due to a decrease both in acreage and in yields.

Output of sugar will equal or surpass the 1948 level.

Vegetables have been plentiful and production of fruits was abundant in France and good in other countries. Industrial crops e.g. tobacco, flax, hemp, etc. yielded good harvests in France and Italy, but were lower in Belgium owing to a reduction in acreage.

(b) Livestock products. As a result of drought conditions, in a number of countries, milk production in summer declined somewhat from the high levels attained in the early months of 1949. It seems likely, however, that total output in 1949/50 will be roughly equal to that of the previous year. Production of meat appears to be less affected by the unfavourable weather conditions, although special emergency measures had to be taken in France to assist farmers in some production centres. For Europe as a whole indications are that last year's production of meat will be exceeded in 1949/50.

Briefly the season which is now ended may be considered as favourable for European crops. Progress made the year before has been confirmed and consolidated. Output of livestock products continues to expand and is unlikely to be appreciably affected by the abnormal weather conditions of last summer.

Although not yet able to supply as large a proportion of its food commodity requirements as before the war, European agriculture is already making progress towards that position.

On the other hand general economic conditions in several countries could seriously impair the programmed expansion of agricultural production. For example in many countries the ratio between prices of agricultural products and those of production requisites is unfavourable and is beginning to limit farm consumption of fertilizers and agricultural machinery, as well as private investments in agriculture.

Moreover in spite of the fact that current consumption levels are approaching the prewar average in most countries, the composition of the diet is still inadequate, and in particular, the proportion of certain protective foods (livestock products and fats) remains unsatisfactory. In addition in many countries food expenditure accounts for an excessive share of the family budget of the lower income groups.

Finally, the agricultural labor situation continues to cause grave concern to Governments in several countries, either because of shortages as for example in Yugoslavia, or because of surpluses as in Italy and Greece.

CHAPTER II.

PLAN AND PROGRAMMES OF PRODUCTION, TRADE AND CONSUMPTION

After having discussed separately the problems relating to the 1950/51 objectives of production, trade and consumption and the comprehensive information supplied by the Secretariat, the Meeting felt that, because of the interrelated nature of the problems involved, it was necessary to present its observations and conclusions in one report.

A. Production -

Having noted the views of the delegates of the various countries represented and taking into consideration the information furnished, the Meeting is of the opinion that European agriculture, through a greater diversification of its production, and, in particular, through an expanded output of livestock products, is making progress in its efforts to provide improved consumption standards for the peoples of Europe.

These plans for diversification of agricultural production will not be fully realized by 1950/51. Thus while the total volume of crop production in Europe as a whole is expected to regain the prewar level in 1950/51, prewar output of livestock products will not be restored by that time in spite of the programmed rapid expansion from current levels. Among the various crops, production of sugar and oilseeds is scheduled to surpass considerably the prewar average, but output of cereals and potatoes will hardly attain its prewar level. Of the principal livestock products total production of milk in 1950/51 is programmed to reach 92% of the prewar average, meat, 90%, and fats and oils of all types, 93%. It should be noted, however, that these figures conceal very considerable variations as between the various countries.

The Meeting expressed some apprehension in regard to the possibility of fully implementing production programmes by 1950/51. Any shortfall in the achievement of the targets may very well have serious effects on future consumption levels. In this connection, the Meeting noted that if the continued increase in European population is taken into account, the planned output of crops on a per caput basis will remain some 8-10% below prewar in 1950/51 and that of livestock products as much as 15%.

In order to appraise more completely the possibilities of reaching the levels of agricultural production programmed for 1950/51, the Meeting gave special attention to the prospective availabilities of agricultural requisites. With regard to agricultural machinery, in particular tractors, and fertilizers it was found that Europe's programmed requirements could be adequately met from the region's own production ^{1/}. However, it appeared of the utmost importance that measures be taken to help agricultural producers in the various countries to have access to the agricultural requisites European industry is in a position to supply. Such action could be facilitated by an expansion in trade between the industrialized areas in Western Europe and the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Measures will be needed to ensure adequate levels of income to the farmers and proper relationships between agricultural and industrial prices to enable them to purchase the supplies of requisites needed for increased production.

With regard to animal feedingstuffs the Meeting noted that Europe expects to remain a large importer. It also noted that an overall increase of about 7% in the European output of home-grown feeds including grazing, would give a quantity of feed equal to the total prewar imports of all types of feed

While such an increase appears technically possible, the Meeting recognizes that an adequate feed supply is not a matter of quantity alone, the quality

^{1/} -- Although some imports of tractors and machinery of special type will be needed.

composition being equally important, and the replacement of imports by expanded European production of fodder crops might involve difficult questions of substitution especially in respect of protein supplies.

In its review of production plans and programmes the Meeting also considered in detail prospective levels of investment in agriculture. From the material assembled by the Secretariat it concluded that there is a serious likelihood that in some countries planned rates of agricultural investments may be too low to achieve the levels of agricultural production envisaged for 1950/51 and the continued expansion of production beyond that period. If agricultural investment and production is permitted to lag too far behind and cannot be supplemented by substantially increased imports, foodstuffs supplies will tend to fall short of effective demand and may result in continuing inflationary pressures and economic instability, which would, in turn, hamper industrial development. In addition, the failure to expand agricultural investment and production adequately would mean that it would not be possible to raise intra-European trade in foodstuffs as much as is necessary to ameliorate Europe's balance of payments difficulties, and to expand the volume of exchanges between the agricultural and industrial surplus countries so essential to the general development of both.

B. Trade

In reviewing European net import requirements of the major food and feeding-stuffs in 1950/51 the Meeting noted that the region will continue to be greatly dependant on sources of supply outside the region. While the absolute volume of 1950/51 imports of bread grains may be expected to decline somewhat from the 1948/49 level it would still remain some 6 million tons above prewar, largely because of the import needs of the Occupied Areas. For coarse grains it is clear that an increase in import requirements to roughly the prewar level of 9.5 million tons may be expected, due to the general intention in Europe to expand animal numbers and output of livestock products. The increase in import requirements of sugar to a level well below that of prewar years reflects the expected improvement in European indigenous production. For meat and fats and oils, the marked reductions shown for the import requirements in 1950/51 as compared with prewar, are due mainly to the financial position of the traditionally major importers, the United Kingdom and Germany respectively. These requirements, therefore, do not reflect fully Europe's internal needs.

The Meeting wishes to emphasize that the foregoing import requirements are based on the achievement of the European agricultural production plans and on the implementation of plans for expansion of intra-regional trade, in particular East-West Europe. Should there be a shortfall in the production plans or a lower than expected volume of export supplies from Eastern Europe, net imports from overseas would have to be increased correspondingly or the planned levels of consumption could not be attained.

With respect to Europe's ability to finance the import requirements of food and feedingstuffs which account for over 50% of the total value of its imports, the current balance of payments difficulties are well-known. On the one hand, import needs are high because of reconstruction and expansion programmes. On the other hand, export capacities are still limited and investment and service earnings are appreciably lower than prewar. In addition, the deterioration of Europe's terms of trade, the changed structure of world trade and payments and the great dependence on the United States for both agricultural and industrial products have all contributed to Europe's balance of payments problem.

The Meeting is of the view that it is highly probable that Europe will still be unable to cover its balance of payments deficit by 1950/51 and that serious difficulties may be encountered in financing import requirements of food and feedingstuffs. (It should be noted that in reaching this view it has not been possible to take into account the uncertain effects which will follow on the recent

changes in exchange rates). The direct dollar deficit with the U.S. will probably continue to be an important and serious problem in this connection. But Europe's trade and financial position with overseas countries other than the United States should be given careful attention, considering that these countries are suppliers of a large share of Europe's imports and important markets for Europe's exports, and that the expansion of trade with these countries may make a major contribution to the solution of Europe's balance of payments difficulties.

Concerning the possible exportable surpluses from overseas countries in 1950/51 it appears from the information available that such supplies will be physically available in quantities sufficient to meet Europe's import requirements. The Meeting, however, is keenly aware of the fact that a large part of the world's exportable supplies will be concentrated in the North American continent, even though Europe's dependence upon the United States and Canada may not be as great as it was in 1948/49. Thus, the problem of obtaining her import requirements will rest essentially on Europe's ability to finance such imports, in particular from North America.

C. Consumption -

The Meeting considered the effects on the levels of consumption resulting from a possible failure of some countries to implement fully production and trade programmes. These programmes aim at providing a calorie level roughly equal to that of prewar years. On the other hand, prewar quality standards are not likely to be reached in all countries and, in particular, the South Eastern and Mediterranean countries will still be inadequately supplied with food and their diets will not be sufficiently well balanced. It is well known that under such conditions efforts towards general economic development are greatly hampered.

While the most serious difficulties of supply which were a characteristic feature of the early postwar years and which had made it necessary for all governments to put into application strong and comprehensive systems of rationing and price control appear to have been overcome, a number of serious problems nevertheless continue to face national governments. The marketing and distribution machinery in Europe is inadequate to bring about the desired expansion in consumption of fruits, vegetables and fish which some countries have available for export, and for the provision to the urban areas of sufficient milk supplies. In view of the continued scarcity of some protective foods in a number of countries, their governments would have to continue systems of distribution measures which give priority to the vulnerable population groups, in particular, infants and adolescents.

It seems likely that in the future a generally high level of employment and of income will be maintained. But even so in this case, the economically weaker consumer groups will probably not be in a position, in default of special measures, e.g. price controls and subsidies, to secure a satisfactory level of food consumption. This will inevitably retard improvement and might even result in a deterioration of health conditions, which will burden the community as a whole with new responsibilities. All countries, therefore, are involved in the task of providing a fair distribution of the available food supply among the various sectors of the population and they adopt a diversity of measures such as school feeding, milk schemes, distribution of meals in factories, subsidies for high-priced protective foods, etc., to secure proper nutritional standards for the most vulnerable groups.

As a consequence of the findings of this Meeting with respect to the trends in production, trade and consumption for 1950/51 and the immediately following years, the Meeting is of the opinion that, for the longer-run, Europe's objectives should be to expand agricultural production to the greatest possible extent consistent with economic soundness. This conclusion takes into account:

- (i) Europe's consumption needs;
- (ii) the production potential of Europe;

- (iii) the possibilities of raising the volume of intra-European trade;
- (iv) the expansion of interregional trade, with Europe as a market for certain agricultural products to the extent that its financial position is improved by increased exports, and
- (v) the general need to increase Europe's efficiency of production, both in agriculture and industry.

Such a programme of expanding agricultural production must be taken with a view to ensuring a rising, enriched and varied level of consumption for the whole population of Europe, and to ensure a level of income to farmers, such as will allow them to purchase their means of production, to increase their own agricultural investments, and to attain satisfactory standards of living.

To bring about a greatly expanded volume of agricultural production, it will be necessary for European countries, to draw up detailed, coordinated plans and programmes, and to carry out the related activities with the greatest possible energy and cooperation. Within such programmes recognition should be given to:

- (i) the diversification of agricultural production in countries where appropriate. The intensification of production of specialized commodities may be necessary in the countries where the export of such products are essential to the earning of foreign exchange and importation of more basic agricultural and industrial commodities;
- (ii) the desirability of expanding in particular the output of animal products;
- (iii) the possibilities of expanding the production of feedstuffs and employing the most efficient methods of conservation and utilization of fodder crops;
- (iv) the means of reducing the costs of agricultural machinery and production requisites, to bring about their greater utilization;
- (v) the development of mutual technical aid between European countries. Such aid would pertain inter alia to such matters as (a) soil conservation, (b) irrigation and drainage, (c) education and extension services, (d) fostering all forms of cooperative undertaking, and,
- (vi) generally increasing the rate of agricultural investment.

Beyond such technical agricultural matters, the Meeting recognized the very serious difficulties raised by the existence of surplus rural populations which reduce agricultural productive efficiency and hamper efforts to raise general standards of living, at the same time as manpower shortages limit agricultural production elsewhere. The Meeting, therefore, reached the conclusion that suitable remedial actions be explored, such as migration and resettlement in such countries where this problem is particularly acute, for instance, Greece.

An attempt has been made in the preceding observations to define the direction in which the different European governments intend to pursue their action in order to realize an orderly development of the region's agricultural production. However, the choice of this direction does not depend on their intentions alone, owing to the constantly increasing interdependence between the different regions of the world. If Europe is to remain a major importer of agricultural commodities, it will be necessary to remove the disequilibrium

which at present is the most characteristic feature of the world economic situation.

To this end, comprehensive measures will have to be taken individually or jointly by governments with faith in the organizations of the United Nations.

The Conference is in full agreement with the analysis made by the authors of the Report on World Commodity Problems (recently submitted to the Governments by the Director General of FAO for consideration at the next session of the Conference), concerning the nature of the measures required:

- 1) - The maintenance of a high level of production and employment in the U.S., because of the critical importance of this country in the economy of the world. It is obvious that a similar responsibility rests with all other countries.
- 2) - The provision, by private enterprise and by national and international action, of a large and continuing flow of capital investments, from the developed to the less developed areas of the world.
- 3) - The reduction of trade restrictions including tariffs and quantitative and monetary restrictions.
- 4) - The restoration of convertible currency and multilateral transactions as the basis of world trade.

If the measures advocated above fail to be taken, or if new factors emerge to complicate the present disorganization of international trade relations Europe would unfortunately have no choice about the direction in which it should develop its agricultural activity. For the technical, economic and social reasons which contribute to the development of livestock production, to the expansion of the production of high priced commodities, and to the increase of its trade with other continents, would be substituted a formal obligation:

Not being able to market its products and thus obtain the means of payment needed for the maintenance and expansion of its imports of foodstuffs and animal feeds, Europe would have to attempt to become self-sufficient within the extreme limits of its agricultural potentialities. It is inevitable that this would seriously affect the living standards of the peoples of Europe.

The Meeting, recognizing the great importance for Europe of the analysis made by the Committee of Experts of the pre-conditions of full economic recovery in pages 3-7 of their report (C49/10), but in view of the fact that detailed consideration of these problems extends beyond the field of FAO, suggest that the Fifth Session of the Conference might give attention to the desirability of bringing this part of the report in particular, to the special attention of ECOSOC.

CHAPTER III.

FAO PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1950

In dealing with the proposed FAO programme of Work for 1950, the Meeting considered the following conclusions reached by the European Representative of the Director-General of FAO as of sufficient importance to merit the attention of the Annual Conference, and was of the view that the complete statement of the FAO European Representative should be annexed to this Report.

1. Many government officials in the countries of Europe are not adequately familiar with the work of FAO.
2. FAO publications are not distributed to the right persons or widely enough within many countries so that they lose much of their effectiveness and usefulness.
3. Expert missions sent to various countries often do not find in those countries sufficient preparation for their work, and the findings and recommendations of such missions are frequently not implemented.
4. In many countries, there is a great necessity for the establishment and improvement of internal machinery to deal with the work of FAO.

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The Meeting considered the proposed FAO Programme of Work for 1950 and was in agreement with the programme as presented generally. In particular, the following activities were considered of major importance in the region:

The spread of extension work to improve production efficiency.

The improvement of livestock production through the improvement of grasslands and the conservation and utilization of fodder crops; animal disease control; artificial insemination; and the standardization of herdbooks, milk recording and similar quality control.

The improvement of crop yields by the use of selected seeds and hybrids correlated with nutritional value; control of weeds; and the control of plant diseases and pests.

The study of the relationship between food consumption and income.

The analyses of food retail prices and the marketing and distribution margins between farm and retail levels.

The intensification of the collection and compilation of statistics on fisheries in Europe.

The promotion of international consultation on fisheries, especially the work towards establishing a regional Council for the Mediterranean Sea.

The effort to organize a meeting of technologists to study the possibility of increasing the consumption of herring by means of new methods of processing.

The proposal for holding an International Statistics Conference on Forestry and Forest products made by European Commission on Forestry and Forest products.

The intensive study of modern techniques for Forest fire control, developed throughout the world, and the circulation of the results thereof to member governments as rapidly as possible.

The continuation of the FAO European Bulletin "Food and Agriculture" and the FAO underwriting scheme for subscription to the Bulletin.

The greater assistance to be given by the European National FAO Committees to the Information work of FAO to Europe.

The intensification of studies of complementary feeding programmes for children (possibly in collaboration with UNICEF), dietary surveys and family living studies.

The promotion of regional meetings of Nutrition workers for discussion of nutrition questions or problems of general or common interest.

The establishment (in conjunction with WHO) of suitable nutrition criteria for assessment of nutritional status of population groups.

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In addition to the above activities, listed in the FAO Programme of Work for 1950, which were considered as of major importance in the region, several delegates expressed great interest in the maintenance of the Library established by IIA and concern lest it should be prematurely dispersed owing to lack of funds.

It was suggested that the dispersal of the Library before a decision has been reached regarding the permanent site of FAO might create later difficulties if the decision were in favor of a European site and involve costs which would have been avoided had the Library been maintained.

It was suggested therefore that the future of the Library be discussed at the Conference in Washington in November.

Considerable interest was also shown in the maintenance of the Legislation Service established by IIA and this question also, in the opinion of the Meeting, should be discussed at Washington in November.

CHAPTER IV.

FAO REPORT ON SPECIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Meeting examined the resolution of 15 August 1949 adopted by the Economic and Social Council and submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations concerning an expanded programme of Technical Assistance for Economic Development. Europe seems in a position to give effective aid in the carrying out of the programme proposed notably by making available its experts to less developed countries, by granting scholarships enabling foreign students to attend its technical schools and universities and by organizing special training courses for technicians less familiar with the most modern methods.

The Meeting expresses satisfaction that a detailed programme for the expansion of technical assistance for the development of agriculture, will be submitted to the next Annual Conference of FAO. It urges that the measures to be adopted by this Conference, after consideration of the Programme in the light of the general objectives of the Organization, cover any mutual aid that countries can render each other in various fields, in order to make possible the improvement in standards of living, and to facilitate or prepare any related capital investments or transfers of manpower.

The Meeting considered of the greatest importance that with a view to obtaining an optimum production in Europe the measures of implementation adopted be closely coordinated.

It is important that there be adequate preparation to ensure that the action proposed is initiated as soon as possible and that from the beginning this action will be carried out on a large scale.

Therefore the Meeting suggests for the consideration of the Conference:

- 1) that at a world level be defined in detail, in the shortest possible time, the conditions of cooperation of the different specialized agencies concerned. The scope of the responsibilities of these agencies should be explicitly determined. The methods of implementation to be applied and the means of measuring the results achieved will require the fullest attention of the coordinating machinery which will be established;
- 2) that at the European level, the preparation be confined principally to determining the methods of implementation to be put into action. It would involve a listing of available experts in the various fields of food and agriculture and the briefing of these experts concerning their future assignments. Finally, careful attention should be given to prepare the way from a psychological viewpoint for activities under this mutual aid programme in the receiving countries and for the adaptation of these activities to the social patterns and the local cultures of those countries.

The Meeting wishes to thank the Director of the European Regional Office and his collaborators for the remarkable way in which they prepared its work. The documents presented to the Meeting, and the oral surveys made during the course of it, greatly helped towards making it a success, and enabling the delegates to carry out the wishes of the Fourth Conference and of the Council of FAO.

APPENDIX

FAO PROGRAM OF WORK IN EUROPE IN 1950

Speech of Mr. A. H. Boerma, Representative of the Director General of
FAO, introducing items 5 and 6 on the Agenda of the Pre-Conference
Meeting referring to the work of FAO in Europe in 1948/49 and the
program of work for 1950

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I should like to present two documents: (a) Report of the activities of the FAO European Regional Office - 1948/49 (No. 711a) and (b) FAO Program of Work for 1950 (No. 733a).

I. The title of the second document is certainly more appropriate than that of the first, as this latter might suggest that the European Office is a part of a federation of regional offices constituting FAO, which you well know is not the case. FAO is in fact an organization with only one program of work approved by its Annual Conference and is not at all a federation of regional offices. With this clear in our minds we can agree that the task of FAO comprises regional aspects which necessitate a certain decentralization of the work.

II. The task of FAO is well known to you. However, I shall sum up its activities as I see them.

First of all it is charged with the responsibility of collecting and disseminating information. Its Member Countries request FAO to collect the information which they cannot obtain via their own channels. In this respect, they especially desire that the FAO figures be compiled in such a way as to give an objective analysis of the particular situation under review.

A further task of FAO is to make available technical assistance to Governments. This may be in a direct form in cases where a Government request FAO for the services of technicians or experts, or in an indirect form through the organization of meetings on specific technical problems, or through the sending of technical publications to the countries.

This leads me to emphasize the services which the Organization can render by convening meetings or groups of experts in a particular field for the purpose of exchanging the latest technical information or of making a fuller informative study of the problem concerned. Such meetings may lead to the formulation of agreements, conventions, etc.

III. The work of the Regional Office of FAO is merely that of carrying out the tasks I have just mentioned. In order to facilitate this work FAO employs a rather flexible procedure. On the one hand, a small technical staff is assigned to Regional Offices on a more or less permanent basis, and, on the other, when required, Headquarters sends technicians for a more or less long period to the Regional Offices to undertake specific work. The present meeting is a good example of this flexible cooperation between Headquarters and the European Regional Office; the Secretariat consists of staff members attached to the Regional Office and officers from Headquarters. I could of course, mention many other examples of officers being sent on temporary missions to this region. Any other arrangement would be too expensive for the Organization.

IV. It is evident, however, that FAO cannot accomplish its task on its own. It relies on the effective collaboration of Governments and of international organizations, both governmental and private.

V. I should like in the first place to lay stress on cooperation with Governments.

This gives me the opportunity of speaking about the specific task of the Regional Representative. It is his task, on the one hand, to ensure liaison between the Organization and the Governments in order to make the latter acquainted with the objectives and program of work of FAO, and, on the other hand, to ascertain the wishes of the Governments in regard to the assistance they expect from FAO.

In an effort to establish closer contact with countries and to ascertain their wishes with regard to our future activities, a new method of approach was tried this year. This took the form of "Staff Visit" to various member countries. With a small group of technicians I visited 10 European countries, and during these visits we had the opportunity to thoroughly discuss with the Governments the FAO program of work, ascertain their recommendations regarding our future work and collect valuable information for the Organization. The views obtained have been widely utilized in drafting the program of work for 1950.

Allow me to say a few words on these visits. I assure you that the comments I am about to make are not in any way censorious, and you may depend upon it that I do not mean to generalize my remarks nor to apply them to every European country. You all agree, however, that we must make every effort to render the Organization as useful as possible to the Government, and consequently we must endeavour to establish close relations between the Governments and FAO.

We noted that in some countries little was known about FAO; even the Government officials knew nothing about the program of work of the Organization and did not realize what could be expected from it.

We also found that very little of the considerable amount of information supplied by FAO to the Governments reached the officials by whom it could be best utilized. In some instances for example, FAO publications are never seen by the persons who could use them to advantage, but pile up in the Ministry bureaux or in the libraries. This is a very serious matter. If a better use cannot be made of such publications I consider that FAO ties up an appreciable part of its resources for no purpose.

In some countries it was found that very little attention is paid to the many recommendations which are passed at successive international meetings. I refuse to believe that these recommendations are taken without due reflection, but if this is not the case, it is most unfortunate that they remain a dead letter in some countries, either because they have gone astray in the Government administrative mechanism, or because there are no funds to carry them out. We know that many officials attach great importance to these recommendations, but come up against considerable difficulties, of which not the least is the lack of funds to achieve them.

Indubitably when the recommendations are drawn up, all the difficulties should be considered and it would be better to reduce the number of recommendations or their range if it is realized that there is a possibility of their not being put into effect. This also applies to the use of specialists or experts by the Governments. I sometimes question the usefulness of sending specialists to a country, as only too often it has been found that Governments fail to make adequate preparations for the work to be undertaken or else do not bother to follow up the recommendations made. I am very well aware that in this latter case also, the chief handicap is the lack of funds.

One last remark which I should like to make is that we have very frequently heard it said that the Organization asks too much from the Governments, or that several organizations repeatedly set the same questions.

There is no doubt that the working methods of the various organizations can be improved, and it is not improbable that the coordination of the work among these organizations can also be bettered. However, it is certain that the Governments which have set up the different international organizations have not established, on a national level, the executive agencies indispensable for obtaining the greatest possible benefit from these organizations.

You realize that an organization, like FAO cannot perform its mission if it cannot count on ample documentation from member Governments as quickly as possible.

Lastly, I may say that our visits to the various countries have produced profitable results; they have tightened the bonds between the Organization and the Governments, and have given us a much clearer and much more concrete idea of the problem in each country and of the assistance each expects from FAO.

VI. FAO ought to ensure full cooperation not only with the Governments but also with the numerous international organizations which are established in the European region. In this respect it gives me much pleasure to report on our close and cordial relations with ILO, WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF and other international organizations. It devolves more on Headquarters to maintain contacts with these world organizations, but since their main offices are in Europe our Regional Office has naturally frequent opportunity to enter into relations with them.

I should particularly like to speak about the liaison established between FAO and ECE. You are well aware of our arrangements whereby FAO provides the secretariats for the Committee on Agricultural Problems and for the ECE Timber Committee. This form of collaboration is entirely satisfactory to the two organizations and in particular, has the important advantage of preventing any possibility of overlapping of work.

The importance of OEEC in western Europe is appreciable. This organization has undeniably accepted heavy responsibilities also in the agricultural field. FAO, for its part, is equally burdened. Here again cooperation is essential and we have been able to establish excellent relations between the two organizations. OEEC has established an Agriculture Committee which covers all agricultural problems of common concern to its member countries. This Committee has set up a working group to examine agricultural technology question

FAO has also set up a European Committee on Agricultural Technology. Were it not for the good relations which exist between FAO and OEEC there would certainly be a serious danger of overlapping in the technological field.

I should also mention the ECA which, as you know, makes available considerable funds to the OEEC countries for technical assistance. It is certain that these funds -- in so far as they are employed for agricultural purposes -- may be allocated to projects which directly concern FAO.

For example, these funds may be partly employed to send specialists or experts to the countries which require assistance in certain fields. In the past requests of this type have also been met by FAO. It has happened that a Government requested experts in the same field from both ECA and FAO with the result that they arrived practically the same day to carry out the same mission. This is unlikely to occur again as close coordination has now been established between ECA and FAO. Mr. Thibodeaux, Head of the Agriculture Division of ECA, sends us the lists of approved projects, and has instructed the ECA Country Missions to cooperate with the National FAO Committees in order to avoid duplication of work. For my part, I have addressed a letter to the Chairman of the National Committee in each country concerned stressing the importance of close collaboration with the ECA Missions and the advantage of coordinating efforts.

There is also the International Institute of Agriculture and Forestry in Prague. This Institute, although a Czech National Institute, collects information from several Eastern European countries. We have been able to establish contacts with this Institute, and a complete range of publications is now exchanged.

Other international agencies exist in Europe, and of these, particular mention should be made of the International Office of Epizootics in Paris. It would be futile to deny the difficulties which have arisen in the past between FAO and this Office. Fortunately, these difficulties have now been entirely overcome and relations are normal in every way.

FAO also maintains close relations with the International Wine Office.

In addition to the foregoing official organizations there is a very considerable number of private international bodies or institutions. At the request of the European Technological Committee, we attempted to draw up a list of such institutions. This list is now very long. We have found that several of the organizations deal with related problems and we have therefore tried to group them in categories. Steps will be taken to establish contacts with these agencies or groups of agencies, and we sincerely hope that our efforts will result in a better coordination of their respective activities.

VII. So far I have referred to FAO's general lines of action in Europe, and I should now like to speak more particularly about the work carried out by the Organization in this Region last year.

First of all I should like to tell you that President Einaudi, Head of the Italian State and other eminent diplomatic and political personalities, honoured us by a visit on the occasion of the commemoration of the centenary of David Lubin's birth. Their visit and the interest they showed in our activities were most encouraging.

I have already mentioned the visits I made with a group of the regional personnel to 10 European countries and stated my observations. In addition, I had the opportunity of visiting a number of other European countries with the Director-General. I regret that it was not possible to visit all the member countries in Europe, but it is our intention, if you approve, to continue these visits next year. First consideration will of course be given to the countries we were unable to visit this year. We hope to have a detailed exchange of views in each country in the same way as we had with the governments of the countries already visited.

There has been one special development during the year to which I should like to call attention, namely, the establishment of the European Committee on Agricultural Technology. This Committee now provides the means of direct consultation with Governments on action to be taken in the technological field. The experience which we will gain in Europe through this Committee may possibly indicate the advisability of establishing similar committees in other regions.

VIII. In presenting the FAO program of work in Europe for 1950 in more detail, I suggest that after a general discussion on questions I have raised in regard to our conception of the work of FAO, the representative of each FAO Division present, introduced the technical program concerning his Division, and that each program be discussed in turn.

I should like, however, to deal with two special questions which, although not the direct responsibility of the Regional Office, are, owing to peculiar circumstances, embodied in the Rome Office. I refer to the Library of the former IIA and to the Legislative Service.

In regard to the Library of the former IIA you all realize that FAO is in a difficult situation. On the one hand, there is the fact that the collections of the Library are important and represent a considerable intellectual and cultural asset, but, on the other hand, unfortunately, the maintenance, bringing up to date and expansion of the Library cost a lot of money. In addition, the regional personnel of FAO cannot make adequate use of this Library. All these factors naturally cause FAO to hesitate when it comes to providing funds for its maintenance.

To be quite frank, I feel that I ought to point out that the Budget proposed by the Director-General for 1950 does not include any expenditure estimate for the Rome Library. You well know that FAO undertook the entire upkeep of the Library until the end of 1948. You also know that this year the costs, totalling \$30,000 were shared by FAO and UNESCO and that the Italian Government grants its support by making available the building in which the Library is housed free of charge.

FAO, UNESCO and the Italian Government formed a Joint Administrative Committee which prepared the meeting held at the end of last July for the purpose of finding a means for settling the future of the Library. This meeting was well attended and a recommendation was passed unanimously for the establishment of a Centre to be called after the founder of the IIA David Lubin. The report of this meeting has been submitted to the Governments and international institutions concerned and many replies have been received. They are all positive as regards the establishment of the Centre which seems to be unanimously desired, but also, all are negative in so far as the financing of the Centre is concerned. Furthermore, I have to announce that, for its part, UNESCO has notified us that it will not be able to provide any financial assistance next year.

Consequently, frankly speaking, the situation does not appear to be very encouraging. No estimates have been made for 1950. What must be done? Will we be forced to close down the Library on 31 December? I most sincerely hope not. But if we are obliged to do so, what is to be done about the collections? As you realize, at least some funds are required if only to heat the building in order to safeguard the collections from deterioration through humidity. The collections could be sold, or they could be given free of charge to the United Nations' Library in Geneva which is interested in at least part of the books, but neither seems to be a satisfactory solution.

Regarding the Legislative Service, you know all the details of the matter. The last Conference recommended the continuation of this Service. Accordingly the Director-General endeavoured to give effect to this recommendation but encountered insuperable difficulties because of the fact that the Conference had failed to provide the necessary funds to maintain the Service at full strength. Consequently, its staff is now composed of one technician and one secretary, and you will realize that while this embryonic Service can do good work it cannot cover the same range as the IIA. To the extent permitted by linguistic knowledge (which is extensive) of this staff, extracts are made of the legislation of the different countries, and such information is put at the disposal of the FAO Divisions and the Governments, either by replying to enquiries which are received, or by publishing legislative news in the European Bulletin of FAO.

Gentlemen, I have given you all these particulars so that you may be in a position to advise your Governments in an objective way in regard to the problems involved in the continuation of these two Services -- the Library and the Legislative Service -- in which the European countries have taken so great an interest.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. D E L E G A T E S

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Mr. R. FISHER, Counsellor, Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. A. BAUER, Counsellor, Ministry of Agriculture

BELGIUM

Mr. G. L. MATHIEU, Secretary General, Ministry of Food
and Imports

FINLAND

Mr. H. E. PERITULA, Chief, Division of Production, Ministry
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FRANCE

Mr. A. MAYER, Professor, "Collège de France", Chairman,
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Mr. G. H. JANTON, Auditor-General, Ministry of Finance and
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Miss A. LISSAC, Embassy Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

GREECE

Mr. C. HIMARIOS, 1st Secretary of the Legation

ITALY

Mr. G. U. PAPI, Secretary General, Italian National FAO
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Mr. V. TORNETTA, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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Mr. L. MAIRE, Vice-Chairman, National FAO Committee
Mr. J. KELLER, Vice-Director, Agricultural Division,
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Mr. A. BOREL, Deputy Director of the Swiss Peasants Union

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II. OBSERVERS

United Nations and specialized agencies

ILO Mr. G. GALLONE, Director of Rome Office
WHO Mr. G. BERGAMI, Member of Joint FAO/WHO Expert
Committee on Nutrition

Special Observers

HOLY SEE Mr. E. BONOMELLI

Government international organizations

OECE Mr. P. G. H. BARTER, Counsellor

Non-government international organizations

IFAP Mr. R. SAVARY, Assistant Secretary General

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FAO EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE

1948/1949

(EFFECTIVE UP TO 15 SEPTEMBER)

The year 1948/49 - during which the European Office has greatly expanded its activities - coincides with the centenary of the birth of David Lubin, citizen of the United States of America, founder of the International Institute of Agriculture and pioneer in the realm of international collaboration. A particularly brilliant tribute was paid to the memory of this world citizen on 25th July in Rome by H. E. Einaudi, President of the Italian Republic, eminent personalities of political and diplomatic circles, former delegates and collaborators of the I.I.A., and scientists and agricultural technicians from many countries.

In associating ourselves with this tribute we are helping to demonstrate that the ideals of this promoter of international collaboration, especially in the field of Agriculture, have found - through the IIA - their full recognition in the aims and work of FAO.

This is surely the best tribute to his memory.

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This report emphasizes those aspects of FAO's work which are of particular and direct interest to Europe. They have been carried out in complete coordination with FAO's general activities and with those of the other regions.

The work of FAO in Europe during the past year has included a fairly wide range of activities in agricultural technology, economics and statistics, forestry, fisheries and nutrition.

The Regional Representative has given much attention to FAO's important task of maintaining close contacts with Governments, and with those government and non-governmental organizations which have their Headquarters in Europe.

Before making a detailed analysis of the work of the European Regional Office in 1948-49, it is appropriate to underline two new aspects of this work which will directly influence future activities.

There is first of all the staff visits to 10 European countries which on the recommendation of the 4th Annual Conference, were made by the Regional Representative accompanied by a group of technicians.

These visits provided excellent opportunities for discussing with governmental authorities and experts, and many other personalities, the aims and functions of the Organization and its present and future programme.

Many interesting and useful remarks and suggestions made on the occasion of these visits were embodied in extensive reports and submitted to the Director-General of FAO as well as to the Governments concerned.

The following countries were visited (in chronological order), Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Portugal, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Similar visits to other European countries are planned for next year.

The second important development has been the setting up of a European Committee on Agricultural Technology. At a meeting held in Paris at the end of June, 1948, the representatives of 12 European Governments unanimously recommended to the Director-General the establishment of such a Committee. It will serve as the Centre for most technical activities for the benefit of European Agriculture and coordinate the work carried out by official, semi-official and non-governmental organizations to bring about unification and simplification wherever possible.

With two other Committees functioning already, namely the Committee on Agricultural Problems of the Economic Commission for Europe - in which FAO actively cooperates - and the European FAO Forestry Committee, it should be possible to consider all aspects of Agriculture and Forestry throughout Europe as a whole.

I. GENERAL ACTIVITIES

1. Relations with Governments

The Director-General in most cases accompanied by his Representative for Europe, visited the United Kingdom, Portugal, Italy, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece, Poland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia to discuss matters of general policy with the respective Governments.

2. Relations with UN organizations and other International Institutions.

In order to collaborate as closely as possible with the various international organizations, the Regional Representative conferred with representatives of UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO, and WHO on matters of common interest.

A very frequent and intensive contact was maintained with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), with particular regard to the creation of the ECE Agricultural Committee. He also had preliminary discussions on the possibility of eventually setting up a "Mediterranean Fisheries Council". A meeting on this subject has been convened for September 19.

The Regional Representative established contact with the International Wine Office, the International Commission of Agricultural Industries, the International Colorado Beetle Committee, the Near East Foundation, the ASSINSEL, and the International Federation of Olive Growers. He had also frequent discussions with OEEC and ECA in order to bring about a close collaboration, especially in the field of agricultural technology.

3. Participation in Conferences and Meetings

The Regional Representative, or his alternate attended, at least part time, the following conferences and meetings convened either by FAO or by another International Organization which extended an invitation to FAO to attend:

- i) Soil Conservation Meeting (Florence, September 1948)
- ii) International Cooperative Alliance (Prague, September 1948)
- iii) ECE Ad Hoc Committee on Agricultural Problems (Geneva, September 1948)
- iv) Meeting on Food Preservation (Copenhagen, Oct. 48)
- v) Meeting of the Mediterranean Sub-Commission of the European Commission on Forestry and Forest Products (Rome, Dec. 48)
- vi) International Congress on Sheep Breeding in the Mediterranean Countries (Rome, April 1949)

- vii) International Pasture Congress (Noordwijk, June 1949)
- viii) FAO Council Meeting - Sixth Session (Paris, June 1949)
- ix) Preparatory Meeting for the creation of the U.I.S.A. (Union Internationale des Sciences Agronomiques) - Paris, June 1949
- x) Preparatory Meeting for the creation of a European Commission on Agricultural Technology (Paris, June 1949)
- xi) 18th International Wool Conference (Florence, May-June 1949)
- xii) 2nd World Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions (Milan, June 1949)
- xiii) Meeting on Extension Services (Brussels - The Hague, August 1949)
- xiv) Herring Meeting (The Hague, September 1949)
- xv) International Youth Week (Huizingen, September 1949)
- xvi) Meetings of the Food and Agriculture Committee of the OEEC and its Technological Working Party (June & Sept. 1949)
- xvii) World Federation of the United Nations Associations (Rome, Sept. 49)
- xviii) Vereniging voor Internationale Rechtsorde (Haarlem, Sept. 49)

II. AGRICULTURE

A. European Committee of Agricultural Technology

A meeting was convened to consider the setting up of an European Committee of Agricultural Technology, composed of representatives of Governments, to which could be referred all technical problems in European Agriculture requiring international consideration. At the meeting which took place in Paris 27-28 June 1949, 12 countries (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom) sent delegates, while ILO, UNESCO, ECE and OEEC sent observers. It was unanimously agreed that the Committee should be established and plans were made for its initial meeting to be held in Rome, beginning 26th September 1949.

B. Developing Government Services in Agriculture

1. Collaboration among European Research Institutes. Various steps have already been taken to promote cooperation and coordination in scientific research work in Europe.

According to the agenda of the 5th International Congress on Animal Production, scheduled to be held in Paris, 3-10 November 1949, a general paper will be submitted on cooperation among experiment stations and coordination of scientific research.

Efficient cooperation has also been established with the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering. In March 1949 CIGR asked FAO to provide a directory of agricultural engineering institutes and, with a view to facilitating the coordination of research work in Europe, FAO is engaged in collecting material for such a directory. This will give information on the staff and activities of research institutes, etc. and on problems of a technical nature requiring national or international action.

2. Extension services

A home economic extension specialist spent several months in Europe making a comparative study of extension services for farm women in various countries. Special advisory assistance was given in Italy, Greece and Poland on home economics extension problems.

A meeting on quick freezing and cold storage of foods was held in Copenhagen in October 1948 with 13 European countries participating. The latest information on all important aspects of preservation of foods by cold was presented and discussed. The important basic information is being prepared for publication.

A staff member visited several seed clinics, in response to a request from the Turkish Government, for information on types of plants that would separate noxious weed seed from cereals and from sesame and poppy seeds.

The meeting on organisation of extension services was held in Belgium and the Netherlands, 1-13 August 1949. The following countries were represented: Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, while observers from ILO, IFAP, OEEC, the Western Zones of Germany and the Holy See, also attended.

3. Fellowships

Six fellowships have been granted so far to five of the ex-UNRRA countries. Four or five additional fellowships will be granted during the latter part of 1949.

C. Animal Industry

1. Assistance to the Preparatory Committee for the setting up of the European Association for Animal Production.

Assistance was given for the setting up of the European Association for Animal Production, and secretarial help was provided for its Preparatory Committee. At its meeting held 11-12 March 1949, in Paris, the Preparatory Committee worked out the final draft statutes, the programme of work and a tentative budget, and these were circulated among the European countries. The Constituent Assembly of the Association will be convened at Paris on 11 November 1949.

2. Unification of methods of herdbook keeping and standardisation of milk and butterfat recording.

The draft codification which was worked out by a small committee of experts (members from France, Netherlands, and Switzerland) was distributed among the European member countries and so far 16 answers have been received. A summary of the replies has been drawn up and circulated. It is planned to hold an expert meeting on a larger basis (representatives from 8 to 9 countries will be invited) to work out the final draft. It is tentatively proposed to convene this meeting in November 1949 at Paris.

3. Artificial Insemination

A survey summarising the results of an enquiry has been completed and published. This survey gives information on the development of artificial insemination in Europe, the views concerning the use of this method in the different European countries and their legislation and regulations. A special chapter included in the survey shows the aspects of this practice in the United States. This document will be distributed and will form the working

paper of a meeting planned to be held in the near future. At the proposed meeting consideration will have to be given to the possibility of working out international regulations concerning this method of breeding with particular emphasis on the technical side of an international agreement on the shipment of semen within and between countries.

4. Livestock numbers, breed composition, number of registered animals in herdbooks, production and requirements of breeding and commercial stock in Europe in 1947.

The results of an enquiry which was started in 1947 have been compiled in statistical tables and will be published in the near future, probably in the FAO European Information Bulletin.

5. Horse Breeding Problems

A representative of the European Regional Office attended the international conference on horse breeding convened at Utrecht, Netherlands, September 1948. At the request of that conference, its findings and recommendations were communicated to FAO Member Governments and to the Joint FAO/ECF and FAO Committee on Agriculture.

6. Poultry Production Problems

A representative of the European Regional Office attended the Eighth World Poultry Congress organised by the World Poultry Association at Copenhagen, Denmark in August 1948.

7. Feeding Problems

The preparatory work for a meeting on feeding problems is under way. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in December of this year in Zurich, Switzerland, and its aim is to facilitate the exchange of information on newer developments in the fields of animal feeding and forage production. The main purpose of the meeting will be to show the possibilities of adapting feeding practices to existing feed supplies and to explore the possibilities of reducing to a minimum the need for concentrates in animal feeding.

8. Assistance to international congresses on problems of animal production.

Assistance was given at the Mediterranean Sheep Breeding Congress which was held in Rome 4-7 April 1949. Technical advice is also being given to the Organising Committee of the 5th International Congress of Animal Production. The final program, agenda and the rules of procedure for the forthcoming Congress to be held in Paris 3-10 November 1949, were worked out at a meeting of the organising Committee in Paris, on 10 March, 1949.

9. Central catalogue of cattle breeds and types

Information has been collected on cattle breeds and types in the various countries.

10. Veterinary problems

A meeting on animal diseases was held in November 1948 at Warsaw. Two experts loaned by FAO to the Polish Government have carried out advisory veterinary work in that country. One of them is still in Poland; the other, after completing one year's service was sent, at the request of the Dutch Government, to the Serum Institute in Rotterdam, Netherlands, to advise on the use of certain laboratory techniques which were demonstrated at the above mentioned Warsaw meeting. In August 1949 on the occasion of the 14th International Veterinary Congress in London, FAO convened a special meeting on foot and mouth disease.

11. Dairy Industry Problems

The relative questions pertaining to the Dairy industry are dealt with in collaboration with the International Dairy Federation and UNICEF. Milk equipment is being distributed to countries assisted by UNICEF and technical assistance is being given by FAO. The I.D.F. convened a Congress on dairy problems at Stockholm in August 1949. A representative of the European Regional Office attended this Congress and the annual meeting of the I.D.F. which was held at Stockholm prior to the Congress. The meeting of the Sub-Committee of the I.D.F. on fresh milk problems, in which FAO has been invited to participate will be held in Paris from 26-28 October, 1949.

12. Grassland Problems

Staff members attended the 5th International Grassland Congress which took place at Noordwijk (Netherlands) 22-26 June, 1949. An opening paper was presented on the subject "Grassland and the World's Food".

A range management specialist carried out advisory work in Italy; his activity terminated at the end of May 1949.

D. Plant Industry

1. Infestation control in stored grains

In August 1948 a meeting of European entomologists was held in Florence, Italy, to exchange information on the most effective methods of reducing losses in stored grain due to insects and other pests.

2. Pest control in crop production

A staff entomologist visited the Near East countries and Turkey from July to September 1948 to obtain first hand information on locust control problems and to exchange views with local experts in preparation for a technical meeting of representatives from the European and Near East countries. An international meeting on the Moroccan locust has been arranged for 19-25 September 1949 and will be held in Beirut, Lebanon.

3. Development of improved varieties by plant production

Staff members attended the 8th International Genetics Conference in Stockholm in July 1948. Information was gathered on varieties and stocks of wheat. The material collected will be incorporated in the world catalogue of wheat stocks.

A meeting was held in Rome from 10-14 January 1949 to consider the results of the experiments carried out with hybrid maize distributed by FAO to European countries, and to work out a future program of research work on this subject for the current year. At this meeting an association for the improvement of maize in Europe and the Near East was formed to carry out this research work and to facilitate exchange of information and of maize seed. Assistance has been given to this association to begin its operations. Additional hybrid maize seed was distributed to the various European countries for trial during 1949.

4. In the spring of 1949 it was found advisable to build up a stock of seed of outstanding varieties of cereals, grass, legumes, oilseeds and vegetables from which samples were distributed.

5. Preservation of green herbage, both by artificial drying and silage, in Great Britain, Scandinavia and Holland was investigated by interviewing the authorities in those countries to learn the present status of these practice

The methods currently employed and the relative merits of the different methods from the standpoint of economy, nutritive value and other factors. A report was prepared which summarises the results of this survey.

4. Land Use and Farm Machinery

1. Soil Conservation

(a) The Florence meeting held in 1948 recognised the need for action to bring about the best possible use and care of land resources. An informal European Committee for Soil Conservation was set up to facilitate international cooperation to achieve this end. In following up this work efforts have been and are being made to promote needed action in the various countries.

(b) A specialist in soil conservation worked on this objective in Italy; his activity terminated at the end of May, 1949.

(c) An irrigation and drainage specialist worked in Greece at the request of the Greek Government. The duration of his assignment was approximately four months.

2. Surveys on farm machinery situation

The speedy development of mechanisation of European agriculture has raised many complicated technical, economic and social questions. It calls for surveys regarding the situation of mechanisation in the different countries, showing the critical problems which might be solved in each country or by common action among countries. Such surveys have been started by the Agriculture Division staff at Rome, with special reference to factors having a bearing on the international distribution and utilisation of agricultural machinery. Reports on the farm machinery situation in Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Germany and Finland have already been sent to Headquarters, as well as information on the distribution and use of agricultural machinery in Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Netherlands and Belgium.

3. Promotion of cooperation on farm machinery within and among countries.

In various European countries there are national farm machinery centres whose task it is to coordinate research with practical work in farm machinery among scientists, manufacturers, farmers and public authorities. The setting up of these centres is being promoted in member countries where they do not already exist.

Repeated efforts have been made to establish liaison among the different national centres, but under present circumstances the creation of a liaison body presents some difficulties. Therefore, efforts are continuing for the time being to assure general liaison among the different groups interested in farm machinery.

4. Standardisation of farm machines

Cooperation with CIGR is concentrated on obtaining progress in the specific question of standardisation of tractors and equipment, necessary to the mechanisation of small farms. A member of the European Regional staff was present at the CIGR meeting in Lausanne, September 1948 and in Paris, in March 1949, where this question was discussed. FAO was asked to take all useful measures to put into effect the standardisation of tractors for the benefit of agriculture in Europe. FAO's support of this undertaking has helped to gain the full interest and cooperation of the International Standards Organisation and already of some national standardisation organisations in the different countries.

III. ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

1. Economics

a) FAO - ECE cooperation: The ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems

At its third session in April 1948, the Economic Commission for Europe established an ad hoc Committee to determine the most immediately important agricultural problems of common concern to FAO and ECE. The committee defined a series of such problems, and work on them was immediately begun by the secretariats of the two organisations. Following this, at its fourth session in May 1949, the Commission set up a permanent Committee on Agricultural Problems which is to have these functions: serve as a forum for discussion and exchange of information to insure close collaboration between European Governments in the agricultural aspects of reconstruction and development; initiate studies and make recommendations on practical means of cooperation in Europe to develop production of and trade in agricultural commodities; co-operate with other organs of ECE regarding industrial requisites for agricultural production and the exchange of industrial goods for foodstuffs. The Committee on Agricultural Problems will hold its first meeting on 3rd October and is to be serviced, like the ECE Timber Committee, by technical officers of FAO, who will prepare the documents and data for it.

b) Also in May the Industry and Materials Committee of ECE considered the fertilisers and farm machinery situation in Europe. This Committee felt that in both fields more abundant supplies are becoming apparent although real requirements are not yet met, and that the principal limiting factor now is the level of effective demand. The Committee on Agricultural Problems was therefore asked to explore the possibilities of expanding the use of chemical fertilisers and of agricultural machinery. The probable demand in the coming years, the optimum levels of consumption, and the steps necessary to increase effective demand are to be defined as far as possible.

The Committee will have as part of its working material a revision of the FAO report on agricultural programs for reconstruction and development first published in June 1948. This revision brings the original study up to date and incorporates data on such subjects as investment and prices which were not included in the original study.

c) A special study has been made on the fruit and vegetable situation in Europe. To comply with the requests of Governments, periodic reports are prepared by the Economic Staff. The third report covering the month of August has just been issued.

d) Assistance has been given during the year to the Secretariat of the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation in determining the probable supplies of foodstuffs that may be available for consumption annually during the next few years as a result of present and projected food production and trade plans and programs.

2. Statistics

a) European Centre of Applied Agricultural and Demographic Statistics

Preparations have been made to hold a statistical training course in Paris from 20th September to 23rd December 1949.

The necessary funds for this Centre have been made available by FAO in conjunction with the French Government, the U.N. and UNESCO. All technical preparations for this Centre have been made (setting up of programmes.

organisation of lectures, recruitment of professors, and students). It had originally been planned to have the lectures in French and English. However, as an insufficient number of entries were received for the English course, these have been cancelled.

b) 1950 World Census of Agriculture

Assistance by means of visits as well as by correspondence has been given by the Statistical Services of many European countries for the preparation of the 1950 World Census of Agriculture.

c) At the request of several Governments, a study is being prepared on the cost of operating a modern statistical service. A monograph on the agricultural statistical methods of a country is also under preparation.

d) Representation at International Conferences

An FAO expert attended the meeting of the European Regional Statisticians, the Population Commission of U.N., the Statistical Commission of the U.N., and the Stress Conference of Agricultural Economists (August 1949).

e) An FAO economist has been loaned to the International Bank for approximately six weeks to accompany a group of experts on a Mission to Turkey. He will advise on economic aspects on the field of agriculture.

IV. FISHERIES

1. Herring Meeting

A Herring Meeting was convened at the Hague from 29th August to 2nd September 1949 at which participated the representatives of 11 countries and two Observers from international organisations.

This meeting was of an exploratory nature and studied the different problems of distribution, utilisation and marketing of herring and allied species.

The meeting decided to limit its activities to the study of herring with particular emphasis on the recent methods of preparation which would facilitate the opening of new markets. Consequently, FAO may have to convene in the near future a meeting of specialists to study this particular problem.

2. Mediterranean Council of the Sea

A Conference is to be held in Rome from 19-24 September to discuss the proposed establishment of a Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean and contiguous waters. Fourteen countries have been invited to participate.

3. European Fisheries Statistics

The FAO is cooperating with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (Copenhagen) in a study of European Fisheries Statistics with a view to working out procedure for their improvement.

4. Technical Assistance to Governments

At the request of the Greek Government, two Italian specialists were assigned to Greece, for one month, to make a survey of Greek lagoons in order to ascertain the development possibilities in the field of fisheries.

5. ECE Cooperation

The fisheries representative in Europe assisted the ECE Working Party on the Transport of Perishables, by advising on the transportation of fish.

V. FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS

.. FAO/ECE COOPERATION

1. Timber Committee

The Fourth Session of the Timber Committee of ECE, which is serviced by the forestry staff of the European Office, was held from 7 to 10 March, 1949. The Committee took note of the changing position of the principal forest products from a sellers to a buyers market.

The Fifth Session of the Timber Committee was held in Geneva, 19 to 23 September, 1949. A review of the European softwood situation, in the light of information presented to the Committee, indicated that there should be no danger of a timber shortage in 1950. This was, in part, due to the exceptional timber surplus caused by forest fires in France, and the Committee stressed that the absorption of these availabilities would be a temporary process only, and that the importance of increasing export supplies of softwood for 1951 and beyond remained unchanged.

The Committee discussed its future work programme, and was unanimous of the opinion that its continuous existence was "obviously necessary, both in the interests of producing and consuming countries, and in view of the importance of the timber problem in the economy of Europe."

2. Statistics

The publication of the quarterly timber statistics has been continued with emphasis on market reports in the issue of the fourth quarter of 1948.

The collection, compilation and analysis of statistics and the preparation of market reports comprises an important element of the work of the Forestry staff of the Geneva Branch Office. The form of presentation of the statistics has been revised which means that the import and export statistical material has been improved, and statistics of purchases and sales dropped.

At its Fifth Session, the Timber Committee confirmed the necessity for continuation of the collection and publication of adequate statistics on primary forest products, and periodic analyses of the timber market situation in Europe.

The Committee was advised of the proposal made by the FAO European Commission on Forestry and Forestry Products, and assumed that a decision regarding this matter will be taken by the Annual FAO Conference in November, 1949.

3. Rationalisation in the utilisation of wood

This joint FAO/ECE project, formerly entitled, "Economies in the use of wood in construction", is being continued. The consultant in charge visited Eastern European countries to round out the construction phase of this study. The complete report of his study was presented to the Fifth Session of the Timber Committee and the latter advised that it be brought to the attention of governments. Governments will be requested to submit a statement on the extent to which approval could be given for action in accordance with the recommendations made. The replies received will be presented to the next meeting of the Timber Committee.

B. FAO FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

4. European Commission on Forestry and Forestry Products

The Commission held its Second Session from 5 to 9 September. It discussed its future programme of work and recommended concrete action in specific technical fields, such as seed certification and forest management. It also adopted its own rules of procedure.

The report of the Sub-Commission on Mediterranean Problems, which was approved, will necessitate consideration of the establishment of demonstration areas for the study of pasture problems requiring collaboration with other divisions of FAO. A second point to be considered is the preparation of ecological maps for the Mediterranean Basin.

The Commission also expressed the wish that the Government of France would approve a proposal that the next meeting of the Sub-Commission on Mediterranean Questions be held in Algeria with a field excursion in Morocco.

The whole question of forestry statistics was reviewed, and the Commission referred to the Annual Conference of FAO a proposal for the calling of a World Statistical Conference on Forestry and Forest Products.

5. Cooperation with other International Organisations

a) International Union of Forest Research Organisations

The details of the work involved in providing the Secretariat for the Organization were discussed and defined at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Union held in Helsinki during the time of the World Forestry Congress.

At this meeting working sections were established and Chairmen were appointed for each Section. In this connection, it was decided to defer the activities of the sections dealing with mechanical and chemical conversion of wood, pending further arrangements with FAO, in the framework of which two expert committees on these subjects are already functioning.

A joint FAO/Union Committee on Bibliography was established which held its first meeting in Helsinki after the Forestry Congress. It made recommendations with regard to bibliographical classification, bibliographic service and preparation of summaries by authors. Several schemes are at present under discussion but no definite proposal has yet emerged.

b) International Commission on Poplar

This Commission met in April in Brussels, the Secretariat of the Geneva Branch Office being responsible for its servicing. The Commission paid special attention to identification and nomenclature of European Black Poplar, to pests and diseases, and to use and testing of poplar wood. A report drafted by the Secretariat and three technical papers prepared by rapporteurs will be submitted for approval to the Permanent Executive Committee, which is to meet in Geneva in October next, and subsequently published.

c) World Forestry Congress - Helsinki

The Chief of the Geneva Branch Office attended this meeting as Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Two officers as official FAO representatives, and a fourth in another official capacity, also attended.

d) International Chestnut Commission

Discussions will proceed on the organization of this Commission. FAO staff visits have brought out a rather widespread interest in the matter, and a Commission may possibly be established during the calendar year 1949. If not, the chestnut problem will be investigated in the meantime as an FAO project.

6. Sub-Committee on Wood Technology

An International Conference on Mechanical Wood Technology (an outgrowth of the FAO Sub-Committee on Mechanical Wood Technology) was held in Geneva August 29 to September 3, 1949. The Conference adopted certain recommendations regarding standardisation in the methods of testing of wood and stressed the necessity of particular care in the selection of test material, or the conditioning facilities, in order that results might be comparable world-wide to as great an extent as possible. The Conference indicated its belief as to the possibility of attaining "a certain degree of generalisation and simplification of the nomenclature of commercial woods", in recommending the exclusive use of one or a few commercial designations to identify each species, and set up a working party to consult with the FAO in this task.

With respect to timber grading, the Conference recommends that "a study be made of the definitions of terms and that, as far as possible, uniform principles of structural grading be established that can be generally applied to all species". A special study committee was established to carry forward this project.

7. Training Courses for Technologists of Mediterranean Countries

This new project has been developed as a result of discussions between the Representatives of the Director-General for Europe, and for the Near East, and the Director of the Forestry and Forest Products Division.

The proposal is to hold a graining course for agricultural technologists, probably in Cyprus in April or May 1950, with the objective of acquainting such personnel with the necessity of correlating forestry and agriculture in the development of the economy of Mediterranean countries.

A preliminary informal meeting to prepare the ground for these training courses will be held in Cyprus about January, 1950.

VI. INFORMATION

I. Press Relations Service

a) Press

Press Releases and cables have been sent out on occasions such as the Director General's visit to Europe, the staff visits to countries, and the meetings on Soil Conservation, Infestation Control, Food Conservation, Hybrid Maize, Agricultural Extension, the Herring Conference, etc.

Personal contacts with international Press Agencies and the local press are continuously fostered. The press in Rome was invited to meet the Director General and the Director of the Information Division respectively.

b) Radio

Every other Wednesday a four-and-a-half minute broadcast on a topical FAO subject is sent out over the short-wave Radio System from Rome in 16 languages. Copies of scripts are dispatched to European National Committees

for retransmission as well as for background material to recipients of the Press Releases, i.e. the press itself, the UN Information Centres, UNESCO, WHO. Evidence has been received from Finland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, the U.K. and the Netherlands that this material is used over the national radio systems. On the occasion of the Lubin centennial, a broadcast by the information officers was relayed direct to Lake Success.

II. Graphics

Film and Photographs

A number of films have been made available either by FAO or by member countries. Consequently it has been possible to comply with the requests for films from the following countries: Austria, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Ethiopia.

Four films were lent to the World Federation of the United Nations' Associations (WFUNA) on the occasion of their General Assembly in Rome.

Two film companies attended the David Lubin Ceremony.

The Rome collection of photographs has been enriched by a set of photographs from Norway, Finland and the United Kingdom; various photographs taken during staff visits, and sets sent from Headquarters. Photographs have been sent to the UN Information Centre in London, the Finnish, French, Polish and U.K. National Committees, as well as to the Swiss Agricultural Information Service, and the Rome Daily American (newspaper). They have also been distributed through the Italian National Committee to the Italian Press.

III. Lectures

Film strip Projector

A film strip projector has been received. The "Food and People Campaign" has been discussed with WFUNA. Material for lectures on FAO was distributed in Greece, Italy and the U.K.; lists of possible lecturers on food and agricultural problems were supplied to UNESCO.

The film strip projector was used during the Agricultural Extension Meeting in Holland and Belgium with two film strips.

IV. Contacts

Personal contacts have been established with international agencies which have representatives in Rome (WHO, IRO, ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO, Rockefeller Foundation). Assistance and information are being given to an increasing number of callers. An Information Reading Room has been established for the use of the Rome Staff, visiting experts and the Press.

V. The European Bulletin

In answer to an inquiry, suggestions have been received from fourteen countries, regarding the contents of this Bulletin.

From July 1948 - July 1949 four numbers, each averaging 88 pages, were published in French and in English; 2500 copies were printed in each language.

The present total of subscriptions (standing orders and individual subscriptions) amounts to 645 as compared to 423 in July 1948.

VI. Nutrition

1. European Nutrition Information Service

An important aspect of the work of FAO in this respect, has been the building up of a nucleus for a European nutrition information service.

2. National Nutrition Committees

In his contacts with these committees, the Nutrition Representative in Europe has given special attention to problems such as school feeding, food composition, nutrition education, food technology, dietary surveys, etc.

3. Technical assistance to UNICEF

The European Nutrition Representative has cooperated on a consultative basis with the UN Children's Emergency Fund. In that capacity he has collected information on prevailing nutrition conditions and basic needs in several UNICEF countries and visited Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Greece, Rumania, Italy, France, Austria. Special attention has also been given to the milk position in these countries.

4. FAO - WHO collaboration

Active liaison with the WHO has been maintained for better integration of FAO/WHO programmes in the field of nutrition.

Certain ad hoc consultative services have also been rendered from time to time to WHO in Geneva in the field of food and nutrition.

5. Work in Greece has been continued by an FAO Nutrition Officer attached to the Greek Ministry of Coordination. This included training of local workers in nutrition and the organization of supplementary feeding programmes. A law to establish nutrition services in the Ministry of Agriculture, based on studies made by this representative, is now before the Greek Parliament.

6. In Turkey, at the request of the Government, a preliminary survey of the nutrition situation was made which, it is hoped, can be followed by more elaborate investigation. This survey in Turkey was in some ways a pioneering effort and brought out many facts regarding the nutritional status of various groups of the population, and feed habits and methods of preparing food, which will be valuable in nutrition programmes designed to bring about improvements.

VII. LEGISLATION

During the past year a nucleus of the Legislation Service, which was taken over from the former IIA, has been maintained.

After the dissolution of the IIA, work on the 36th volume of the International Yearbook of Agricultural Legislation 1946 was continued and in the course of 1948 the book was printed. Although the yearbooks for 1943-45 (in 1 volume) and for 1947, covering the same subject, were in an advanced stage of preparation, work on them had to be discontinued owing to budgetary limitations. For the same reason the International Journal of Law and Legislation relating to Food and Agriculture (of which three numbers had been published in 1947 and 1948 by FAO in continuation of the IIA International Bulletin of Agricultural Law) has also been suspended.

As far as its small staff permits, the Legislation Service is continuing to analyse laws and decrees published in official documents on food and

agriculture matters in all countries of the world. This documentation is made available to the FAO technical Divisions and, on request, to Governments.

The Legislation Service is also making a regular contribution to the European Information Bulletin on the latest laws and decrees issued in Europe and Africa in respect of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

VIII. LIBRARY

Until the end of 1948 the important agricultural Library inherited from the International Institute of Agriculture was maintained, with a restricted staff, at FAO's expense. Following an agreement reached between the Director General of FAO and the Director General of UNESCO, and approved by the Conference of each organisation, a joint Committee, composed of two representatives of FAO, two of UNESCO and one of the Italian Government undertook to run the Library in 1949; expenses being shared equally between FAO and UNESCO up to a total amount of \$50,000.

On the recommendation of the 4th Annual Conference of FAO, means for continuing the Library after 1949 have been explored by the Joint Committee. As a result, a meeting was held in Rome on 26/27 July at which the representatives of 15 Governments and 30 organizations, institutions and scientific foundations participated.

At this Meeting it was unanimously recommended:

- " 1) that an international centre bearing the name of David Lubin be established around the former IIA Library at Rome by FAO or, if FAO finds it impossible, through cooperation among the Governments, the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other organizations".

In the meantime, books and periodicals in the field of food and agriculture have continued to accumulate in the Library. It has been possible to establish a free exchange between the European Bulletin and 312 periodicals.

Two supplements to the Catalogue of Books and Periodicals of the Library will be published in the course of 1949 in order to keep it up to date. The first is being printed.

IX. LIQUIDATION OF THE FORMER IIA AND CIS

At the request of the Liquidation Committee of the former IIA, FAO accepted to continue the liquidation operations as from 28 February 1949.

FAO has endeavoured to collect the arrears of contributions due to the IIA so as to be in a position to meet the obligations of the IIA towards its staff. Although quite a considerable amount is still due to the IIA as arrears of contributions, a sufficient sum has been collected to meet the financial obligations towards the staff. A report on the progress of the liquidation will be submitted to the 5th Annual Conference of FAO.

An offer to distribute free of charge old IIA publications has been made by FAO to its member Governments and former IIA member countries, as well as to scientific institutions and libraries. Special attention is being given to requests from those libraries and institutes which suffered through the war, to enable them to complete or build up their collections.

To date requests on behalf of 165 institutions have been made by 56 countries representing a total of 65,000 volumes. It has been possible to meet 77 of these requests, i.e. 20,000 volumes.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

PRE-CONFERENCE REGIONAL MEETING FOR EUROPE
(Rome, 10-15 October 1949)

FAO PROGRAM OF WORK IN EUROPE FOR 1950

The Director General will submit to the 5th FAO Conference a document (C49/3) entitled "Draft program of work for 1950" which, if approved, will serve as a basis for all FAO activities in 1950. This document covers both the general activities of the Organization on the world level and the more specific action regarding the different regions.

The draft program is concerned more particularly with the work which directly interests Europe. There is no need to emphasize that the FAO program of work cannot be considered as an agglomeration of the programs of the different divisions, nor of those of the different regions; on the contrary, it forms a well coordinated whole.

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FAO, being a governmental organization, desires to establish and carry out, to the fullest possible extent, its program of work in complete cooperation and with the unreserved support of the governments. Consequently, its program of work in Europe will stress the following points :

1. Relations with the Governments and National Committees -

The Representative for Europe of the Director General will make every effort to maintain close contacts with the Governments and the National Committees, and will discuss with them all general policy questions which may arise.

In addition, as in 1948, he will continue his visits with a group of the regional technical personnel to the European countries which could not be visited in 1949. In this connection the Governments of Poland, Hungary, Austria, Yugoslavia, Denmark and Norway have already been approached. These visits will include a thorough discussion of the FAO program of work and working methods, and will serve to obtain the suggestions of the Governments on all the problems examined.

2. Governmental Commissions -

Several governmental regional commissions were set up in 1949 which should be on a sound basis by 1950. They will cover different fields of FAO activity in Europe :

- (a) The Agriculture Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe deals with the economic problems of agriculture. This Committee, which will have at its disposal the technical personnel of FAO, provides a means of treating the economic questions which are the competence of FAO.
- (b) The European Committee of Agricultural Technology, which held its first meeting in Rome at the end of September, when it established the priorities FAO should follow, will be able to function as a Centre where the technical problems of European agriculture could be examined and where government efforts in this respect could be coordinated.

- (c) The European Forestry and Forest Product Committee with its Sub-Commission on Mediterranean Problems, has already drawn up its program of work for both technical questions and forest statistics.
- (d) The Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean which was proposed at a meeting held in September 1949, will probably be established in 1950. This Council together with the cooperation of FAO in the Council for the Atlantic, will permit studying European fisheries problems.

The European Regional Office of FAO, desirous of making every endeavour to avoid overlapping with other international organizations, and of ensuring full coordination of all efforts, maintains close collaboration with the specialized organizations of the United Nations such as UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO, WHO and the ECE, with which several projects covering 1950 are being carried out jointly.

The same policy is followed with several international, semi-governmental or private organizations or institutions which are established in Europe and with which the European Office will continue to collaborate.

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The following specific activities, grouped by divisions, are planned by the Regional European Office for 1950 :

- A. Agriculture
- B. Economics, Statistics and Distribution
- C. Fisheries
- D. Forestry and Forest products
- E. Information
- F. Nutrition

A.

A G R I C U L T U R E

The following program of work for 1950 is based on the overall program of work of the Agriculture Division, taking into account the recommendations of the first meeting of the European Committee on Agricultural Technology.

I. European Committee of Agricultural Technology

The Committee will serve as a centre for most international technical activities for the benefit of European agriculture and will coordinate work carried out in the technological field in Europe in order to bring about unification and simplification wherever possible.

II. General Agricultural Services

- 1. Extension and advisory services - Implementation of the recommendation agreed upon in the meeting on extension and advisory services held at The Hague in August 1949.
- 2. Exchange of workers - An enquiry will be made concerning the number of technical workers each country in Europe would be willing to take or release for more extended periods under a program for an inter-European exchange of workers...

3. Collaboration in research - Assistance will be given to facilitate the coordination of research work in Europe and to promote collaboration among the research institutes of the various countries.

III. Animal Industry

1. Improved production through breeding.

- (a) Modification to herd-book convention and standardization of milk recording methods. Efforts will be made to bring up-to-date the international convention for the standardization of the methods of keeping and operating herdbooks signed in Rome 1936. With this in view the work already initiated on the standardization of milk-butterfat recording practices in Europe will be continued.
- (b) Artificial insemination - Study of regulations governing the practice of artificial insemination in Europe will continue and a small meeting of specialists will be convened to consider this problem and particularly rules governing the international trade in semen.
- (c) Problems regarding horse and sheep breeding. Problems arising from the recommendations made by the International Conference on Horse Breeding (Utrecht, September 1948) and the Mediterranean Sheep Breeding Congress (Rome, April 1949) will be dealt with in consultation with the European Association for Animal Production.
- (d) Central catalogue of cattle breeds and types - Assistance will be given to Headquarters in the collection of material for a central catalogue of cattle breeds and types.
- (e) Livestock breeding in the tropics and sub-tropics - The international conference on these problems, planned to be held in Cairo October 1949, will take place possibly early in 1950, probably in Cyprus. The interested European countries will be invited to this meeting.

2. Improving animal nutrition

A conference will be held at Zurich in December 1949 on present problems of livestock feeding with particular attention to the need to replace imported concentrate feedingstuffs with home-grown forages. The recommendations of this meeting will be followed up.

3. Reducing losses from animal diseases -

- (a) Control of some major diseases, etc. Emphasis will be placed on assistance to member Governments in the control of a few major diseases which cause the greatest losses among the draft, meat, milk and fibre producing animals (foot-and-mouth disease, mastitis, brucellosis). This work will be carried out in collaboration with the International Office of Epizootics.
- (b) Biologics and exchange of stock cultures - Member Governments will be assisted in finding sources of biologics and exchanging stock cultures where needed.

4. Improvement of the production and processing of livestock products.

- (a) Meeting on dairy production, milk handling and processing problems - There will be a meeting of specialists to exchange information on dairy production and milk handling and processing problems. Other work on improving the quality and production of milk in Europe will be undertaken in cooperation with UNICEF's milk equipment project.
- (b) Meeting of experts on cheese - A meeting of governmental experts in cheese will be convened to examine the recommendations made to FAO by the 12th International Dairy Congress (Stockholm, August 1949) concerning : (i) regulations for the naming and denomination of cheeses and designation of their characteristics; (ii) classification and definition of the types of cheese in international trade; (iii) modification of the SBF method for the determination of fat in cheese, as defined in the international convention of 1934.

IV. Land Use

1. Soil classification and improvement -

- (a) Meeting on methods of surveying and classifying soils. An international discussion by specialists on methods of surveying and classifying soils will be held in the Netherlands in connection with the International Congress of Soils Science which will take place in Amsterdam, summer 1950.
- (b) Work on soil conservation - The work on soil conservation will be continued in collaboration with the European Committee on Soil Conservation, following up the recommendations made by the meeting of specialists on soil conservation problems (Florence, 1948).
- (c) Fertilizers - Attention will be given to the findings of forthcoming congresses on fertilizers; the problem of fertilizers will be considered in connection with the work on extension and advisory services.

2. Farm machinery problems -

- (a) Studies on farm machinery situation - Studies begun in 1949 on the farm machinery situation in European countries will be continued and completed.
- (b) Enquiry on forms of common use of machines - An enquiry will be carried out on the various forms of common utilization of farm machines in the various countries and the results so far obtained.
- (c) Mechanization of small and medium-sized farms - Information will be gathered on the possibilities of facilitating the mechanization of small and medium-sized farms.
- (d) Cooperation in farm machinery - Assistance will be given to promote cooperation in the field of farm machinery within and among countries.
- (e) Standardization of farm machines - In cooperation with CIGR assistance will be given to promote standardization of farm machines.

- (f) Small implements - Assistance will be given in collecting information for the study undertaken by Headquarters on this subject.

V. Plant Industry

1. Plant protection -

- (a) Coordination in the field of plant protection - Efforts will be made to bring about coordination in the field of plant protection on the occasion of the meeting of the International Committee for Colorado Beetle Control at Florence in January 1950.
- (b) Campaign against San José scale - It is expected that this problem will be referred to an international group which may be set up as a result of the abovementioned meeting.
- (c) Meeting of specialists on pest control - There will be a meeting of specialists on pest control in crop production, including weed control, organized by FAO in Europe in 1950.
- (d) Modification of international conventions - Efforts will be made to bring up-to-date the International Plant Protection Convention signed in Rome 1929 and the International Phylloxera Convention signed in Berne, 1881, with a view to unifying plant quarantine measures and phytosanitary certificates.

2. Development of improved varieties by breeding -

- (a) Latest developments in plant breeding and work on hybrid corn - A meeting of specialists will be held in Europe for an exchange of information on the latest developments in plant breeding and to follow up earlier meetings and experimental work on hybrid corn.
- (b) Catalogue of genetic stocks - Assistance will be given for the collection of material suitable for insertion in the catalogue of genetic stocks being compiled at Headquarters. In this work attention is being directed at present to wheat and rice.

3. Grassland problems -

- (a) Improvement of grassland - Efforts will be made to bring about the improvement of grassland by the introduction of improved varieties and strains including the production of herbage plants suitable for growing in arid zones.
- (b) Dissemination of knowledge on grassland improvement - In the planned work to be undertaken in the field of extension or advisory services special attention will be given to promoting the dissemination of knowledge on grassland improvement.

4. Seed production and distribution -

- (a) Assistance to member governments - Assistance will be made available to Member Governments in developing national plans to improve seed production and distribution including field crop and seed inspection services, seed certification, practical methods of handling and distribution and maintenance of foundation stocks.
- (b) Seed distribution - Governments will be assisted in obtaining seeds of various crops and varieties for experimental purposes.

B.

ECONOMICS, DISTRIBUTION AND STATISTICS

I. Action recommended by the first meeting of the Committee on Agricultural Problems (FAO/ECE)

In the course of its first session held in Geneva from 3 to 6 October 1949, the Committee on Agricultural Problems selected the following problems to be given priority attention :

- 1) The ratio to be maintained between animal industry and plant industry.
- 2) Production means necessary to agriculture.
- 3) Assistance to small-and medium-holders.
- 4) Verification of quality of perishable foods.
- 5) European bread grains problems.

It is to be noted that the Committee on Agricultural Problems considered that its field of action should not exclude technical and sociological problems influencing the economic aspect of the questions within its province.

Although the following particulars are given under the heading "Economics, Distribution and Statistics", they should be studied taking into account the aspect concerning other divisions, such as Agriculture and Rural Welfare.

I. Animal industry and plant industry

It is proposed to study : the trend in and possibilities of European animal products; the utilization of these products on the domestic market and for export.

In addition, these production programs should be examined in relation to the available feeding-stuffs supplies, as indicated in the programs of the different governments, particularly the possibilities of exchanging coarse grains and other feeds between the countries of Europe.

As regards the technical side, the Committee requested that it be given suggestions on the action to be taken to improve animal breeds, to strengthen veterinary services, improve livestock feeding practices, raise the standards for the quality of animal products and, in general, on all methods likely to perfect the said products.

II. Production means

With a view to reducing the cost of production means necessary to the farmers and, at the same time, to utilizing the production capacity of the different countries in Europe, the Committee requested that studies be made of the following:

- (a) chemical fertilizer consumption levels;
- (b) present requirements in agricultural machinery and spare parts;
- (c) situation as regards insecticides and other pesticides;
- (d) possibilities of developing the production and utilization of the above-mentioned products.

Further discussions, regarding particularly the reducing of the price of the material available to the farmers, will be carried out in cooperation with any other competent Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe.

III. Assistance to small- and medium- holders.

In conformity with the request of the Committee, surveys will be undertaken with a view to specifying the action which can be recommended in regard to :

- (1) the opening of credits at a low rate of interest;
- (2) the improvement of extension services;
- (3) the measures permitting a reduction in the purchase price of the production means utilized by small- and medium- holders.

IV. Verification of quality of perishable foodstuffs

A working group has been instructed to ascertain what standards could be established (for international application) for the different perishable foodstuffs and what verification of these standards would be necessary.

V. Bread grains

The Secretariat will examine the European situation in regard to bread grains, particularly in view of determining a means of covering the needs of deficit countries by the utilization of the resources of the European surplus countries.

VI. Other activities indicated in the programs of work presented by the Divisions

A. Economics and/or Distribution

The staff in Europe will participate in the following work :

1. Economics Division

- (a) Plans of Production, Consumption and Trade. The staff will be available for assistance to the countries requiring aid in the formulation or revision of plans.

(b) European Report

A new report on plans and programs will be prepared in 1950.

(c) Trends of Economic Development

It is suggested that the staff in Europe be made responsible for the assembly and analysis of the basic information needed by headquarters. The work done by the ECE provides a framework for such a study.

(d) Food Balance Sheets

The staff will follow the action taken by headquarters to obtain from governments the food balance sheets for 1949/50. It is envisaged that preliminary food balance sheets will be prepared by a staff member from information available in the region.

(e) Food Appraisals

The staff will assist in providing information for inclusion in the world food appraisals. It would be most useful if the regional staff could be given advance notice of the outline and content of those appraisals.

2. Distribution Division

(a) Commodity Bulletins

The programme of work of the Committee on Agricultural Problems will provide useful material for the preparation of some of these bulletins and close relationship should be maintained between the staff of the Distribution Division and the Secretariat of the Committee.

It has already indicated that the following products will be the subject of some study by the Committee :

Grains
Livestock and Livestock Products (including
Dairy Products)
Fertilizers
Foodstuffs

3. Agriculture Division

In the 1950 program of the Agriculture Division the following three problems are mentioned in which some participation by the economic staff in Geneva might be envisaged as a result of the work done at the request of the Committee on agricultural problems or as a special undertaking;

Fertilizer - Carrying out plans for the production of fertilizer

Machinery - Continuous survey of agricultural machinery situation in Europe

Seed supplies with respect to export availabilities and prices.

B. STATISTICS

1) 1950 World Census of Agriculture

The following operations undertaken during the early months of 1949 will be continued :

- Assistance to countries in carrying out the census (advice to the statistical services regarding technical preparation; aid in estimating the cost of census)

- Technical assistance over a period of several weeks to individual countries (when requested)

- Meeting of representatives of countries possessing overseas territories in order to ascertain the stage reached in the preparatory work on the census.

- Exchange of documentation between countries (questionnaires and census methods)

- Census propaganda by means of articles in the press.

2) Aiding Governments to improve Statistics

Technical assistance will not be limited to census operations as described above, but will include consultations with individual Governments on inadequacies in their agricultural statistics and methods for improvement and also on ways of improving the flow of statistics between FAO and Governments and on problems of statistical methodology.

3) European Statistical Training Centre

As results obtained in 1949 have been satisfactory it is envisaged that a new course of the European Statistical Training Centre will be held in 1950. The programme of this course will be improved and enlarged.

C.

F I S H E R I E S

1. Collection of Information

This collection will be carried out in all waters within the range of action of the European Bureau.

Emphasis will be placed on the Mediterranean region (and chiefly on the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea) in order to fill the gaps and complete the draft of the "Summary of available information of the fisheries resources of the Mediterranean and Middle East", already prepared by Headquarters. This task will be carried out by means of personal contacts and in close cooperation with the future Regional Fisheries Council.

2. Promotion of International Consultation

Following the Rome meeting (19-24 September 1949) a draft agreement will be submitted to the Governments of France, Italy, Greece, Lebanon, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia for the establishment of a "General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean Sea". This agreement will come into force when accepted by five countries, probably towards the end of 1950. Meanwhile two Interim Committees will begin the work in oceanographical and technological fields.

3. Technical Aid

A meeting was held in The Hague (29 August - 2 September 1949) to study the question of Herring production and marketing. The wish was expressed that a meeting of technologists be held in 1950 in order to study the possibility of increasing the consumption of herring by means of new processing methods.

D.

F O R E S T R Y

The program of work of the Forestry Section of the European Office will be organized as follows:

1. Implementation of the recommendations of the European Commission on Forestry and Forest products -

The Commission which held its second session at Geneva September 5-9, 1949, recommended concrete action in specific fields involving responsibilities for its Secretariat (the Forestry Section of the Geneva Branch of the European Office) as follows:

- (a) Circulation to Member Governments of forestry policy and program statements presented to the Commission by individual countries;
- (b) Organization of the second meeting of the Sub-commission on Mediterranean problems to be held in April-May 1950 probably in Algeria and Morocco including exploration of the possibilities of establishing demonstration area projects for high land forestry and pasture land use coordination, and progress in delimitation of the boundaries of the Mediterranean forest region.
- (c) Examination of the possibilities of using a convention on certification of agricultural seeds as a basis for a similar convention on forest seeds, if such a convention on more general lines should be brought about.
- (d) To refer reports received from governments on insect infestations to the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and to transmit recommendations for remedial action made by the Union back to interested Governments.
- (e) To prepare documentation for the World Statistical Conference on Forestry and Forest Products Statistics, should such be approved by the FAO Conference.
- (f) To organize the third Session of the Commission to be held in 1950.

2. Cooperation with other International Organizations

(1) ECE

The Forestry Section at Geneva will continue to provide the technical Secretariat for the Timber Committee, and will collect, compile, analyze and publish quarterly statistics on primary forest products and accompanying market reports. This, together with the organization of the 1950 sessions of the Timber Committee will comprise the major working assignment of the Geneva Forestry Section.

The completed report on the "More Rational Utilization of Wood" presented to the Timber Committee has been circulated to Governments, with a request that, if interested, they nominate a technical agency

for consultation respecting the possible preparation of specific proposals for governmental action. These will be documented for presentation to the Committee next ensuing session.

(b) International Union of Forest Research Organization

Under an agreement formally executed by the FAO and the Union, the Geneva Forestry Section provides the Secretariat for the Union. This function involves advice and assistance in the formation of policy and program.

(c) International Commission on Poplar

Under agreement, the Geneva Forestry Section provides the Secretariat for the Commission; including assistance in organization of Meetings and preparation of reports.

(d) Proposed International Chestnut Commission

The Geneva Forestry Office will participate in discussions respecting the organization of this Commission, which may possibly be established in 1950.

5. Special Assignments from the Forestry and Forest Products Division in Washington.

- (a) To prepare articles for publication in UNASYLVA.
- (b) As required, to provide the Secretariat for meetings of Forestry technical committees and conferences e.g. Mechanical Wood Technology, Wood Chemistry, etc.
- (c) Assistance will be provided for the organization of the Training Course of Technologists of Mediterranean countries (Europe and Near-East) proposed to be held in April or May 1950, possibly in Cyprus.
- (d) Implementation of the Point 4 Program will include forestry projects requiring assistance in organization to be provided by the Geneva Forestry Section.
- (e) The Geneva Forestry Section will participate in a special forestry mission requested by the Government of Austria.

E.

INFORMATION

The work of the European Information Service is a regular service to technical divisions following the pattern established by Headquarters in Washington.

I. Publications

The bilingual (English, French) publications originating both from the European Regional Office of FAO in Rome and from the Geneva FAO Office, as well as the major part of all other FAO French texts, will be printed in Europe. It is intended to intensify the distribution of these publications throughout Europe so that they may reach those interested.

Subject to the decision of the 5th Session of the Conference of FAO, the publication of the European Bulletin of FAO on a quarterly basis will be continued. In this case, it is intended to intensify the subscriptions and sales campaign, both through the assistance of the National FAO Committees and through proper channels, with a view to putting the Bulletin on a self-supporting basis.

II. Public Information

Activities will follow the same general pattern as hitherto. The eventual realization of the Technical Assistance Programme will go hand in hand with the adequate intensification of these activities.

Press - The Daily Press and periodicals will be directly supplied with news on FAO's work through own Press Releases, National FAO Committees, Press agencies, corespondence, Press Conferences, personal contacts. The assistance of UN Information Centres, other UN specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations will be enlisted to a considerable extent. The services of a small reading room for the Press at the European Regional Office will be further developed.

Radio - It is intended to continue the fortnightly broadcasts from Rome; the possibility of their being broadcast from UN stations will be taken into consideration. The scripts will continue to be distributed as information material to National Committees for rebroadcasting over national systems, to UN Information Centres, Press, etc.

Films - The present system of exchanging information in instructive films between member countries will be extended. The circulation of films, available at the European Regional Office, through the National FAO Committees will be continued. FAO film strips for lectures, together with scripts, will be included, at the request of the member countries, in this circulation programme.

Photographs - The present collection of photographs at the European Regional Office of FAO in Rome will be further enlarged and exchange of material fostered.

Lectures - The possibility of a greater dissemination of FAO's news through the assistance of National FAO Committees, National Agricultural Advisory Services, Educational Institutions and non-governmental organizations will be explored, in particular through the supply of speakers' notes.

F.

NUTRITION

1. General

In the broad programme of FAO to develop the human and material resources of Europe, nutrition is, of course, of central importance and all objectives for improved food production in Europe must be founded chiefly on knowledge of the existing consumption levels, dietary habits and actual nutritional requirements of countries.

A nutrition representative will therefore be maintained in Europe to assist the regional FAO representative in studying the nutrition problems of countries in this region and designing nutritional policies and programmes in consultation with the governments concerned. Among his important responsibilities will be that of liaison between FAO and WHO.

2. Collaboration with WHO

WHO, in outlining its nutrition programme for 1950 states that "...the objective 'food for health' is common to FAO and WHO, and the closest cooperation between these two organizations will be necessary. In FAO the emphasis is on nutrition in relation to the production, distribution and consumption of food; in WHO the emphasis will be on nutrition in relation to the maintenance of health and the prevention of disease. Nevertheless, every practical programme of nutrition has aspects which fall within the fields of interest of both organizations. Collaboration must therefore be flexible and no sharp dividing lines of responsibility can be drawn".

A Joint FAO/WHO Nutrition Committee will therefore be meeting in Geneva from October 24 to 29, 1949 to discuss the best ways and means for implementation of the above statement, as a result of which an FAO/WHO 1950 programme for Europe in the specific field of nutrition will also be devised.

The programme will, inter alia, undoubtedly include collection, evaluation and distribution of nutrition information, educational programmes to improve dietary habits in backward regions and invitations to FAO to join WHO's demonstration teams in the field of broad-scale projects for malaria control and over-all rural rehabilitation of under-developed areas: increasing food production, and raising of all health (including nutrition) and agricultural standards.

Full details of the outcome of the forthcoming nutrition discussions in Geneva, as far as FAO's programme in Europe will be concerned, will probably be available to the Annual Conference in Washington in November.

3. Collaboration with UNICEF

FAO will continue its advisory services to UNICEF where needed in Europe on the technical aspects of supplementary feeding programmes in UNICEF countries. Such services would be in addition to FAO's ordinary nutrition services to governments.

4. Regional Nutrition Meetings

Regional meetings of nutrition workers will be promoted to discuss general nutrition questions or problems of countries with particular emphasis on how diets can best be improved in regard to food supplies available locally.

It is felt that meetings of this kind should greatly assist governments in the designing of their nutrition policies and programmes.

Closely related to this is the great need in Europe for prevention of waste and most economic use of local food resources and there is a general need by governments for up-to-date information regarding developments in the field of food technology.

Close collaboration between nutritionists and economists at these meetings should furthermore prove reciprocally useful in the preparation of country "food balance sheets".

5. Methodology of Dietary Surveys, Nutrition Education

The Standing Advisory Committees on Statistics and Nutrition have respectively pointed out that country "food balance sheets", giving average per caput figures of the food available for consumption, must be supplemented by information obtained in dietary surveys. Knowledge of the food consumption levels of various groups in the population is necessary to plan food policies and programmes designed to raise the nutrition status of populations. The International Labour Organization is interested in this project and the necessary collaboration will be arranged. A publication of this subject is being prepared in 1949, and every endeavour will be made in 1950 to collect from European countries as much useful information as possible along the lines set out in this latest publication.

The same applies to a publication (also planned for 1949) analysing the principles on which programmes of nutrition education should be based - a project which will involve cooperation not only with WHO, as already stated, but also with the Rural Welfare Division.

G.

RURAL WELFARE

The Rural Welfare Division is still in the organisational stage.

Attention is being concentrated on the collection of background information.

The Division proposes to utilize existing women's and youth organisations and similar bodies to the greatest possible extent, and some joint meetings will be organized in 1950, e.g. World Conference of Women's Organisations being convened in Denmark by the Associated Country Women of the World.

The Division will of course cooperate with the agricultural and other Divisions of FAO in respect of social and cultural foundation of agricultural extension methods and organizations.
