

# REPORT OF THE FOURTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

# *LATIN AMERICA*

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FAO publications on agricultural development in Latin America include the following. Editions in English, French and Spanish are indicated by the letters E,F,S, respectively.

**Report of the Third Regional Meeting on Food and Agricultural Problems and Outlook in Latin America, Buenos Aires 1-10 September 1954**

1955. 100 pp. (E S) \$1.00 or 5s.

**Prospects for Agricultural Development in Latin America**

1953. 146 pp. (E S) \$1.00 or 5s.

**Agriculture in the Altiplano of Bolivia**

1950. 34 pp. (E S) \$0.25 or 1s. 3d.

Report of an FAO Mission to determine the particular type of agricultural development best suited to the region.

**Report of the Inter-American Meeting on Livestock Production**

1950. 100 pp. (E S) \$0.50 or 2s. 6d.

Report of the meeting convened jointly by FAO and the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Turrialba, October 1950.

**Report of the Second Inter-American Meeting on Livestock Production**

1953. 138 pp. (E S) \$1.50 or 7s. 6d.

**Report of the Meeting on Fertilizer Production, Distribution and Utilization in Latin America, Rio de Janeiro, 4-12 December 1951**

1951. 52 pp. (E S) \$0.50 or 2s. 6d.

**Manual of Supervised Agricultural Credit in Latin America**

1955. 56 pp. (E S) \$0.50 or 2s. 6d.

**Recent Developments Affecting Livestock Production in the Americas**

1956. 182 pp. (E F S) \$1.50 or 7s. 6d.

**Possibilities for the Development of the Pulp and Paper Industry in Latin America**

1954. 142 pp. (E S) \$1.50 or 11s.

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REPORT OF THE FOURTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
FOR LATIN AMERICA

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FOR LATIN AMERICA**

*Santiago, Chile*  
*19-30 November 1956*

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

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## *Chapter I*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Through the hospitality of the Government of Chile, the Fourth Regional Conference for Latin America was held at Santiago from 19 to 30 November 1956. During the Conference an examination was made of the general agricultural situation and outlook in the region, including the production, distribution and consumption of agricultural, fisheries and forest products. As a result, recommendations were made both to member countries in regard to their national plans for the development of agriculture and to the Director-General of FAO in regard to the program of work of the Organization for the period 1958-1959.

This Fourth Conference was attended by delegates of the following governments:

Argentina	Dominican Republic	Panama
Bolivia	Ecuador	Paraguay
Brazil	El Salvador	Peru
Chile	France	United Kingdom
Colombia	Honduras	United States of America
Costa Rica	Mexico	Uruguay
Cuba	Netherlands	

Observers were present from the following organizations:

The United Nations  
The International Labour Office  
The Organization of American States  
The Inter-American Statistical Institute  
The Holy See  
The Regional International Organization for Plant and Animal Protection (OIRSA)  
The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration  
The Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Science  
Confederación Internacional de Sociedades Cristianas  
The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

A complete list of delegates, observers and FAO staff members attending the Conference will be found in Annex A.

The inaugural session was held on 19 November in the Salon d'Honneur of the Congress, at which H.E. the President of the Chilean Republic was present. The speakers were H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. the Minister of Agriculture of Chile, Sr. Jorge Aravena Carrasco, and the Regional Representative of FAO for Latin America, Sr. William C. Cásseres.

The Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his pleasure that his country had been chosen as host to the Conference. He drew attention to the fact that the Conference coincided with the establishment of the Regional Office for Latin America in the capital of Chile, expressed his thanks for the distinction which both these actions implied, and felt that this was an acknowledgment of Chile's goodwill and desire to co-operate with FAO. After welcoming the delegates of other governments and the staff members of FAO who were taking part in the Conference, he recalled the birth of FAO at the end of the Second World War and the reasons for its establishment, among which were the exceptional economic and agricultural conditions then prevailing in the world. In declaring the Conference open, the Minister expressed the hope that important conclusions and recommendations would be reached which would benefit all countries in the region.

The Minister of Agriculture, Sr. Jorge Aravena Carrasco, also welcomed the delegations in the name of his Government and expressed his best wishes for the success of the Conference. He briefly recalled Chile's relations with FAO and the contribution the Organization had made, together with other international organizations, to the agricultural development of his country. The agricultural program which Chile was at present carrying out was based on the recommendations of FAO and of the International Bank. Its objectives were to increase agricultural production through better technical and other measures and thus contribute to a higher standard of living and better nutrition. Although considerable efforts would be needed to reach the final objectives of the plan, significant progress had already been made.

The FAO Regional Representative, Sr. William C. Cásseres, in the name of the Director General of FAO, thanked the Chilean Government for its hospitality and emphasized that greater co-ordination between the national agricultural programs and those of FAO should result from the present Conference. FAO Regional Conferences were advisory in nature, both to governments and to FAO. On the latter side, the advice of the Conference would be sought on the work for FAO in 1958-59. He recalled the purposes for which FAO was formed and stressed the magnitude of the problems which had to be faced in order to meet the growing needs of the human race. The Technical Assistance Program was a principal means of reaching FAO's objectives, and the connection between this program and the regular pro-



gram of FAO was becoming closer. Collaboration with other international and regional bodies, such as ECLA, OAS, IICA, ICA, etc., was also increasing, to the mutual benefit of all these organizations. He hoped for great results from the discussions to be held in the working sessions.

### *Officers and Committees*

At the first working session His Excellency Sr. Jorge Aravena Carrasco, Minister of Agriculture of Chile, was elected Chairman of the Conference; His Excellency Sr. Mario Meneghetti, Minister of Agriculture of Brazil, His Excellency Sr. José Quiroga, Minister of Agriculture of Bolivia, and His Excellency Sr. Andrés Alvarado Puerto, Minister of Natural Resources of Honduras, were elected Vice-Chairmen. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen together constituted the Steering Committee of the Conference. The Conference also set up a Credentials Committee composed of the Heads of the Delegations of Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

### *Agenda*

The Conference adopted the following agenda:

- (1) Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
- (2) Adoption of agenda
- (3) Recent developments of the food and agriculture situation in Latin America
- (4) The work of FAO in the region
- (5) Food and agricultural policies (selective expansion)
- (6) Approaches to rural welfare
- (7) Land settlement and colonization
- (8) Activities requiring Conference guidance
  - (i) Soil surveys and soil fertility
- (9) Matters requiring government attention or international co-operation
  - (i) The use of general fisheries surveys as a basis for regional and national development planning
  - (ii) Regional co-ordination of forestry research
  - (iii) The 1960 World Census of Agriculture
  - (iv) Livestock improvement
  - (v) Regional co-ordination of agricultural research activities
- (10) The future orientation of FAO's work in the region
- (11) Consideration and adoption of the report of the Conference.

The Conference appointed two working parties. The first, to examine problems connected with the selective expansion of production and consumption, consisted of the delegates of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Honduras, Paraguay and Uruguay. The second, on matters of rural welfare, was composed of the delegates of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Paraguay. The reports of the two working parties have been incorporated into the report of the Conference.

## *Chapter II*

### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA**

The Conference noted with satisfaction that greater attention was being given to agricultural development in Latin America, and that it was now widely recognized that industrialization and other forms of economic development must be balanced by a comparable expansion of agricultural output. This was reflected in many ways; in the more widespread planning of agriculture in the region; in greater provision for investment; in increased purchases of agricultural machinery; in the greater use of fertilizers and pesticides; and in the steady extension of the cultivated area. Nevertheless, the overall situation in the region had not changed basically since the Third Regional Conference in 1954, as the expansion of agricultural production had only just kept pace with the rapid growth of population.

During the past five years<sup>1</sup> both the total agricultural production and the production of food in the region had increased on an average by about 2 ½ percent annually, or at approximately the same rate as in the world as a whole. The region's population, however, had also increased by about 2 ½ percent annually, compared with the world figure of only 1 ½ percent. Thus while world per caput production had risen by some 4 percent in this period, per caput production in Latin America, with its high population growth, had scarcely changed and was still about 6 percent less than before the war. It is evident that if any improvement is to be achieved in the rather low food consumption levels in some countries of the region and if there is to be any real relief from recent inflationary pressures, agricultural expansion must be much more rapid in Latin America than in the world as a whole.

The recent expansion of production in the region has been unevenly distributed, both among countries and commodities. In recent years the most rapid expansion has been in cereals, especially maize and rice, in potatoes, various oilseeds, cotton and coffee. The production of sugar has not increas-

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<sup>1</sup> The figures compare the situation in 1955/56 with the average of the years 1948/49 - 1952/53.

ed in the region as a whole, since the last Conference, because of the need for restriction in some exporting countries.

Development in the livestock sector has been slower than for basic crops. Milk production has shown considerable expansion, but until 1955 the growth of meat production had been much slower and the output of wool had tended to decline. Cattle numbers in a number of countries have recently been increasing to record levels, reflected in larger marketings and exports of meat in 1956. Further progress may be expected if marketing and distribution problems can be solved, but a still more rapid development of livestock production seems to be needed to meet the rising demand for livestock products in the region.

The lower level of per caput food production in Latin America is reflected not in lower food consumption levels, but rather in smaller exports and larger imports of basic foodstuffs, although the region again became a small net exporter of wheat for the first time for some years. In 1955 gross exports of all food and feeding stuffs were about 10 percent less than before the war, while gross imports of food and feeding stuffs had increased by nearly 50 percent. The total volume of agricultural exports, however, has been maintained at about its prewar level because of increased shipments of coffee and agricultural raw materials. Export earnings have also been greater because the terms of trade for the main export products have been much more favorable since the war than in the depressed prewar years.

At the same time, the improved price relationship for agricultural products on world markets has weakened in recent years, and since the Korean boom there has been an almost continuous downward trend in prices of agricultural products as a whole, though this is not, of course, true for each individual commodity. Thus the total volume of world trade in agricultural products reached a postwar peak in 1955 with an increase of 5 percent over 1954. But because of the decline in prices, the increase in the total value of agricultural trade was only 1 percent, while the increase in its real value was virtually nil, because of a slight rise in the prices of manufactured goods in international trade. Recently there have been some indications that prices of foodstuffs have been steadier on the world markets. It is too soon to say if the downward trend of agricultural prices will be resumed. But with the present level of stocks of many agricultural products, both within and outside the region, any marked improvement in price levels is very unlikely.

When allowance is made for the fall in exports and rise in imports, per caput supplies of foodstuffs for consumption in the region as a whole appear to have shown relatively little change since the prewar period. At the same time there has been a marked increase in demand as a result of higher incomes and greater prosperity, and in countries where this has not been matched by larger supplies, there has been a sharp rise in the price of foodstuffs,

bringing with them demands for higher wages. These estimates of supplies are of course subject to a considerable margin of error, but in spite of the lack of complete information on food consumption levels, it is clear that no substantial changes have taken place in the last few years, other than short-term variations due to temporary fluctuations in supplies.

The following is a summary review of the specific situation in many countries of the region as presented by the respective delegations attending the Conference.

## **Country Reports**

### **ARGENTINA**

After some comment on the reduced level of per caput Latin-America agricultural and livestock production, compared with the prewar period, with special reference to meat production, the Argentine delegate indicated the main facts of the economic and agricultural developments in his country.

He indicated that the plan of economic recovery is founded on a policy of incentives to farmers through minimum prices, on the improvement of systems of marketing, including the construction of silos and elevators, and on the betterment of the transportation systems. The plan includes also measures to increase the productivity of farm labor, the revision and adjustment of the system of land tenure, and the encouragement of the national production of agricultural machinery and the use of improved seeds. The increased export of meat and meat products to traditional and new markets is being encouraged. Thus all the main aspects needed to develop a satisfactory agricultural policy have been taken into account. As first results of the recovery policy, there have been obtained so far in the 1955/56 and 1956/57 campaign, appreciable increases in the production of sunflower and flax seed. Numbers of beef cattle increased in 1956 to 45 million head, the highest level yet reached. Meat production will permit not only increased domestic consumption, but also the export in 1957 of about 600,000 tons of fresh and canned meat. In fresh meat alone the increase over 1955 will be 103 percent.

The delegate then commented on the agricultural situation in Argentina in relation to that of Latin America and of the world as a whole. He drew attention to the unfavorable level of international prices of agricultural products, with the grave effects of their fall in world markets and the worsening of the terms of trade with manufactured goods. The effects of this lack of balance on the economic development of the less developed countries were emphasized. Another unfavorable factor was the agricultural surpluses in some countries which threatened to undermine the international price structure and to hinder the expansion of agricultural and livestock production.

The Argentine delegation considered that the only way to solve this prob-

lem was to adhere strictly to the principles of surpluses disposal recommended by FAO; to discourage production which was not in harmony with natural conditions; and to develop and favor international trade on an economically sound basis, that is, in conditions of free competition.

## BRAZIL

Last year Brazilian livestock and agricultural production increased by 5.3 percent over the previous year. In the agricultural sector alone, which represents 73 percent of the total rural production, the increase was 6.1 percent. Brazil has thus been able to satisfy its population's increasing demand for basic foodstuffs, such as rice, maize, sugar, cassava, potatoes, beans, meat, fats, dairy products, poultry, etc. In general terms, the production index for foodstuffs for internal consumption increased 38 percent during the last ten years.

The expansion of the production of some deficit commodities has not been sufficient, however, to cover consumption requirements. Among them, wheat has received preferential attention from recent governments in order to expand and rationalize its cultivation.

Conscious of the importance of the agricultural and livestock industry in the national economy, the present Government intends to work out a plan of development which can be carried out in all its stages independently of any changes of personnel or policy which may occur in the country. The National Agricultural Mechanization Plan, which has at its disposal an initial sum of 60 million dollars and which can be expanded through the development of the national industry within a reasonable time, constitutes a first step. Irrigation works and the application of systems of crop rotation to prevent soil erosion and to achieve a greater and more economic use of the soil are integral parts of this plan, which are already being partially put into practice.

The possibility of giving long-term credits at low interest rates has been studied, and legislation for this purpose will be presented to Congress at an opportune moment.

As part of the Government's program, an increase in the production of higher qualities of coffee and cacao, which will obtain better prices in the market, is being carried out. This is being done without affecting the normal volume of production which this year will reach approximately 12 million bags of commercial coffee and 2.5 million bags of cacao.

Problems of technical improvement are being tackled as a whole by the operation of numerous experimental stations, and the distribution of seeds, insecticides and fertilizers. The program of plant protection is being developed according to plan; the coffee bore, the brown rot of cacao and the white

scale of citrus fruits are being attacked with success. A campaign of forestry education has been undertaken for the rational exploitation of resources and for the replanting of forests.

The cattle industry has made a marked recovery with more than 63 million head, which, apart from satisfying the local demand for meat, leaves an exportable surplus of beef of 20,000 tons. Pig numbers have reached 38 million head, sheep 18 million and goats 10 million. For the first time, programs for the improvement of breeds of cattle, pigs and sheep are being followed, both by the development of new hybrids and the application of artificial insemination. Milk production is increasing at a promising rate, firmly supported by the Government in all of its aspects. The production of powdered milk doubled between 1946 and 1955, reaching 20 million kilograms. Two new factories are being installed with a capacity of 11,000 kilograms daily. Problems of animal hygiene are being taken up and promising results have been achieved.

Many of the problems of Brazilian agriculture are being tackled with the aid of FAO technicians. But it must also be realized that the extent of Brazil and its varied conditions of climate and soil present a complex situation. This is one more reason which makes imperative the working out of a special plan compatible with the country's actual situation.

## CHILE

As in all Latin-American countries, Chile has a large rural population amounting to nearly 40 percent. Agricultural production represents approximately 20 percent of the national income.

Because of the increasing population and of its greater purchasing power, and the awareness of nutritional standards, the demand for foodstuffs has grown at a faster rate than their production. Consequently, Chile is an importing country of such items as wheat, meat and oil which could well be produced internally. Other products which cannot be readily produced in the country and have to be imported are cotton, tea, coffee, cocoa, yerba mate, etc.

With the help of FAO and the International Bank, the government formed an Eight-year Plan for the Development of Agriculture and Transport, which they have been applying for three years.

To be able to carry out these vast developments, the plan itself aims at putting on a better footing those State organizations linked to agriculture. One of its first acts was to reorganize the Ministry of Agriculture, giving it a better organization with the necessary human and economic resources. The Ministry is responsible for the execution of the national agrarian policy.

The results have been promising. Perhaps one of the most important

results accomplished is that of having obtained agreement and close co-operation between the private sector and that of the State, in regard to agricultural production. The plan receives the full support of the agriculturists, who constitute its most enthusiastic promoters.

With the aim of aiding and perfecting the execution of this plan, a number of laws have been drawn up, many of which are already in force. Among them one of the most important and interesting is that relating to agricultural taxation, which becomes effective in January 1957. Land will be assessed only in relation to its productive capacity, and improvements will not be taxed. For this purpose the country has been classified, in accordance with the soil survey, into more than 20 distinct types, which show which class of investments or improvements are not subject to taxation. Other important measures have been taken to prevent the excessive subdivision of the land and to favor the formation of limited companies in agriculture, the first for the purpose of avoiding too small holdings and the second with the object of attracting small investors to agriculture, thus expanding land ownership without dividing it physically.

Among the results of the plan is a network of milk plants, of which eight are in operation and five are under construction; the installation of a refrigerated slaughterhouse in Osorno, already in operation, and the construction in the near future of two more in Santiago in addition to those already in operation there. The plan on public and private investment in agriculture is given in detail in the Plan for the Development of Agriculture and Transport, which has been presented to FAO for information.

The Government of Chile wishes to maintain a stable policy which will give confidence to those who make long-term investments. For that reason it maintains a policy of free prices, while the progressive elimination of unnecessary middlemen is being approached in order to help the producer as well as the consumer. On the other hand, it is maintaining a credit policy tending to broaden the extension of medium-term credits.

## COLOMBIA

The Colombian Delegate referred first to the policy of his Government for self-sufficiency in agricultural, livestock and forestry production, and to the results obtained in this respect in recent years. To illustrate this point, he cited a series of statistics of importations in 1954 and 1955, which showed a considerable decrease in foreign purchases of such products as potatoes, peas, beans, chickpeas, lentils, cottonseed and fiber, flour and semolina.

He referred to the fact, frequent in Latin-American countries, that a single agricultural export commodity constitutes the principal source of foreign



exchange, this being coffee in the case of Colombia. This is an undesirable situation which the Government is trying to modify by searching for a greater diversification of exports.

This policy and that of self-sufficiency in agricultural, livestock and forestry products constitute the foundation of the Colombian agricultural planning program.

In the case of food products, Colombia is devoting itself fundamentally to increasing the production of oilseeds (sesame, soya, groundnuts and oil palms), cocoa and cereals. Realizing the value of fertilizers for this purpose, the Government encourages the use of fertilizers (nitrogenous, phosphoric, and potassic) which still have a low consumption.

An ammonium sulphate producing plant is being constructed. Phosphoric fertilizers will be produced from the waste products of the iron and steel industry, and rational use in soil improvement will be made of certain by-products and waste products such as coffee residues, animal manure, and garbage.

Important items in the program of production of raw materials for industry are: rubber, wood pulp for paper and cardboard manufacture, and soft fibers for the cotton and wool textile industry, the production of which, in particular, is rapidly developing.

Colombia is endowed with very favorable conditions for the development of livestock. The consumption of livestock products, especially meat, is low (20 kilograms per caput in 1954) and its increase constitutes a fundamental problem for the Government.

The Colombian delegate indicated the importance of determining the present and prospective future demand in world markets before initiating plans for the development of agricultural products for export.

He referred to the interest of his country in developing immigration and colonization, and the establishment of a pilot project for the establishment of a colony of 200 families in the Department of Magdalena. Finally, he enumerated the bases of the Colombian Government's Four-Year Plan (1957-60) with regard to the "Substitution of imports, development of exports, and creation of the National Corporation for Production", in order to obtain in 1960 a surplus of foreign exchange.

## CUBA

The Cuban delegate referred to some aspects of the state of nutrition in his country. He said that there were no signs of malnutrition in Cuba and that, in general, the available foodstuffs would be sufficient to assure an adequate diet, provided that certain problems of distribution among the different sectors of the population could be solved. There naturally exist isolated cases of vitamin and protein deficiencies, etc., but in such a small number

that they are far from constituting a problem. Neither did there exist serious problems of agricultural production, since the various regions of the country produce a sufficient quantity of the different types of foodstuffs.

During the last three years the rate of increase of agricultural production has been maintained, except in the case of sugar cane, the production of which has been reduced as a result of the restrictions imposed by world market conditions. A trend toward the diversification of production was noted, special mention being made of the record production of rice, coffee, maize, *Arum esculentum* and sweet potatoes. Rice production, after overcoming the initial difficulties in the development of this crop, in 1955 has come to within 50 percent of supplying domestic requirements. Coffee production has also increased, and in 1955/56 exceeded the requirements of national consumption. Maize production increased by 300,000 metric quintals between 1953 and 1955. In the case of these three crops the policy of credits for production and guaranteed minimum prices to producers has contributed greatly to the increase in production.

The delegate mentioned, in addition, that in Cuba the cost of labor in agricultural production represents between 40 and 50 percent of the value of production. The value of agricultural production represents 30 percent of national income, having fallen slightly in 1954 and 1955, as a result of the reduction in the production of sugar cane. The export of fruit and vegetables has also increased since 1953, although it has not been sufficient to compensate for the decline in the export of sugar.

## ECUADOR

The delegate of Ecuador said that the country could be classified as one of the group of underdeveloped countries, as are most of the countries of Latin America. Her principal activity is agriculture which accounts for 50 percent of the national income, as against only 10 percent from manufacturing industry. Her principal export is tropical fruits. Ecuador is in a position to increase considerably her production of fruit without creating problems in the international market or affecting price levels.

The banana is an important factor in the national economy. Since 1953 production has exceeded 40 million bunches, thus making the country the largest exporter in the world.

The considerable resources of land with varied climates and at different altitudes would permit of an increase of production of food and raw materials to a surprising extent but, unfortunately, there is a serious lack of capital for the rational exploitation of the agricultural potential.

In order to foster agricultural development, the Ecuadorian Government has created a special bank for economic development, supplying 60 percent

of the total banking capital. This bank grants credits at a minimum rate of interest. Thanks to this policy and to the technical assistance given to the farmer, it is calculated that the income per inhabitant has risen substantially during the last ten years in comparison with the previous decade.

In spite of this, the problems still to be solved are tremendous. Ecuador would welcome greater technical aid from FAO and other international organizations, and hopes also to obtain international economic assistance for the better carrying out of a program for the solution of these problems and for the improvement in the living conditions of its people.

## HONDURAS

After explaining how the Ministry of Natural Resources of his country is organized, the delegate referred to the program of development which, in collaboration with other government bodies and experts of FAO, had been worked out by this Ministry.

He enumerated the agricultural and livestock products of most importance in Honduras and referred to the necessity of improving the diet of the people and, in order to achieve this, to the necessity of stimulating agricultural and livestock production.

He gave details of the practical programs being carried out in the fields of irrigation, road building, extending the cultivated area, mapping by aerial photography, development of fresh-water fishing, and to the project for establishing a pulp and paper plant in which 40 million dollars are to be invested. He also mentioned the program for improvement in the quality of livestock by artificial insemination, and for the better use of by-products, and referred to the technical aid given by FAO to his country.

## MEXICO

The Mexican Government has developed a national agricultural plan with the basic aim of self-sufficiency of its rural population which represents 60 percent of the total population.

The National Agricultural Plan covers all government agencies concerned with agriculture. It has formed in various regions Directive Committees for Production, through which state assistance is carried to the farmers. Mexico has made available all the necessary resources to improve its production. It has increased its agricultural and livestock research and the results are carried to the farmer by 450 agricultural extension technicians.

The application of the Agricultural Plan has begun to bear fruit, greatly increasing the production of the three principal foodstuffs. In 1949, Mexico produced 500,000 tons of wheat; in 1956, this production reached 1.3 million

tons. During the same period maize production increased from 2.85 million to 4.4 million tons. Bean production rose from 200,000 to 500,000 tons. These advances have been accompanied by an increased use of fertilizers, the greater part of them produced nationally, and by the construction of numerous storage silos for the purpose of regulating the supply.

Small irrigation works have been increased, raising the area irrigated by 50,000 hectares, and especially benefitting small properties.

The settling of peasants in the land and giving them opportunities for more varied cultivation has been a major preoccupation of the Government. With this in mind, the Government has given attention to livestock development. In four years, Mexico has installed 19 artificial insemination stations with satisfactory results. Between 1949 and 1956 the cattle population increased from 15 million head to 20 million head.

## PARAGUAY

In her efforts toward economic recovery Paraguay has had to overcome many problems arising from the inadequate development of her abundant natural resources and from her lack of access to the sea. The poor yield and low production due to the small areas under cultivation means that production is sometimes unprofitable and has to be subsidized, with consequent inflationary results, to the detriment of the country's economy.

Paraguay has no less than 40 million hectares of unused cultivable soil, the greater part of which is wooded or devoted to cattle farming. The turning over to agriculture of even a part of these resources would change the economic situation of the country. The Government has appreciated this and is making efforts, by means of road building on a scale never previously attained, to shift population toward new and richer zones in the North and Southeast of the Republic. This effort is being complemented by a sustained campaign directed toward the mechanization of cultivation. During 1957 it is hoped to bring in about 1,000 tractors to add to the 700 already working.

Production is further being stimulated by credits and the fixing of incentive prices for certain products. In the case of maize, for example, thanks to price incentives a surplus for export of 15,000 tons was obtained during the last year. The prospects for groundnuts are excellent and the yield expected to satisfy the total domestic demand for oil.

Livestock is one of the most important factors. Paraguay possesses 5 million head of cattle, or 3.5 animals per head of population. The consumption per caput is 60 kilograms of meat per annum, leaving a surplus for export. In 1956 100,000 head were to be processed for this purpose.

Forestry is also important; the timber trade with abroad produces an income of 10 million dollars annually.

Paraguay urgently needs a development plan for her agriculture and her economy in general. This is being accomplished in all its aspects with the collaboration of FAO and STICA. The Ministry of Agriculture has been reconstructed and efforts are being made to obtain the co-operation of international bodies, so that the plans and programs for development may give the best results.

#### PERU

The delegate mentioned that the figures previously cited indicated that agricultural production in Latin America would experience a crisis which few nations of the region would escape. He analyzed the causes of the crisis: inflation, low capital investment, technical and other deficiencies, and also a human factor, the exodus from the country to the city.

He referred to the reasons which cause the peasant to go to the cities: greater economic opportunities for industrial labor, the lack of social incentives in rural life, the greater rate of rural population growth compared with that of urban population growth.

But behind all these economic reasons, a human problem exists: as the land was converted into a source of investments and income, so labor tended to become a matter of trade, to which the law of supply and demand was applied. At times sight has been lost of the community of interests which should link the owner, the worker and the soil. The rural worker, tenant, laborer, or peasant, in many cases has lost sight of three facts:

- 1) the rural farm is a community in which man lives from the land and in which the problems and interests of all of its members should be one;
- 2) the rural population constitutes a sector of great importance for national stability, with its own traditions and rights, its reserve of physical and spiritual health;
- 3) on it falls the responsibility of producing the most needed food-stuffs and other goods.

It is necessary to preserve or to restore the fulfillment of this national function. To do this, it will be necessary to develop the existing rural culture, to give it equal consideration with that of the cities, and to preserve its traditions in religion and folklore, and its way of life. Then the rural economy will rest upon a serious and secure foundation, both human and just.

A conference on rural life which would meet in Santiago next April, organized by the National Rural Life Conference, would be directed toward this end.

#### BRITISH CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES

Sugar is likely to remain the principal crop in the British Caribbean territories since soil and climate are favorable, its high labor requirement is

important in view of the increasing population pressure, and the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement gives security to producers. Nevertheless a considerable diversification of agriculture is being achieved. For example, improved varieties and techniques, coupled with long-term contracts with other British territories are leading to a steady increase in rice production in British Guiana. Cocoa production is expanding in most of the territories, notably Jamaica, while the control of witches' broom disease, now under active investigation, should assist the high quality production in Trinidad and Granada. Banana cultivation has recovered rapidly, and citrus production is expanding, both largely for export to the United Kingdom, citrus fruits mainly as juice and other canned products. In both cases exports are assisted by equalization funds, set up in 1955, to stabilize returns to producers. Special mention should be made of the extensive agricultural education facilities available in the territories, at the higher level at the Empire College of Tropical Agriculture at Trinidad, and at a lower level through farm institutes and extension services. Investigations into the production and marketing of foodstuffs are also in operation, among other things to promote inter-territorial trade.

#### URUGUAY

The Delegate of Uruguay referred first to the economic policy of his country on wheat production. Uruguay had always provided wheat for its domestic consumption, and had exported any surplus, usually of a small amount. When there was a period of bad harvests, restricted areas and low yields, production was stimulated by means of official prices (which reached 18 pesos per 100 kilograms) and credits given for the purchase of agricultural machinery.

Such a policy had led to an expansion of the area sown, improved methods, and higher yields, and resulted in large exportable supplies, which had to be marketed with great losses to the public treasury. The policy of the Government, during the last two years, has therefore been designed to divert resources from wheat toward more economic types of production.

By means of a lower support price, and a wheat subsidy per hectare, which decreases as the area sown with wheat and the total farm area increases, the amount of land sown in wheat has been reduced in 1956/57, this reduction being compensated by an increase in other crops.

At the same time, measures have been adopted which aim at accelerating the recovery in cattle and livestock production, and to develop land cultivation in accordance with more modern techniques.

Referring to certain crops which can be grown more economically elsewhere, but whose restriction would create problems, he cited sugar beet,

whose introduction has contributed to resolving the social problems of certain groups of producers, and had led to improved crop rotation.

The delegate then mentioned another problem, the illegal traffic of cattle across the borders. Since this problem also affects the other countries of the region, it would be advantageous for FAO to give its attention to trying to find satisfactory solutions, in agreement with the affected countries.

The delegate concluded by referring to the slow recovery of the cattle industry in his country. The lowest production index was registered in 1954/55; in 1955 it was necessary to eliminate almost completely the export of frozen meat in order not to affect domestic consumption. In 1955/56 figures of production and exports show a favorable trend.

## COSTA RICA

After expressing his gratitude for the hospitality of the Chilean Government and the satisfaction of his Government with the work carried on by FAO, the delegate from Costa Rica pointed out that, in theory, his country still maintains two thirds of its territory as national reserves, and that agriculture contributes 45 percent of the national income, gives employment to more than half of the population, and supplies 90 percent of the exports.

The policy of the Ministry of Agriculture was directed toward the satisfaction of the demand of a rapidly growing population (3.25 percent annual increase), to the improvement of its nutrition and to the development of production of articles for export and of raw materials for industry. The National Production Advisory Board also concerns itself with the development of agricultural and industrial production and with the stabilization of prices at a just level for producers and consumers, the agricultural credit services being in the hands of the State banks.

Referring to the importation of agricultural products by Costa Rica in 1956, he indicated that it was due to the bad harvests, resulting from adverse weather, and that prospects for the 1956-57 harvest are very good.

Finally, he mentioned the concern of his Government as to the conservation and rational exploitation of the natural resources of the country, and that it was passing laws to this end.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A clear indication of the livestock and agricultural progress in the Dominican Republic is given by the per caput export of fruit; in 1912 this amounted to only 18.84 pesos, while in 1954 when the population was 2.5 million persons, the per caput exports reached almost 50 pesos, with a total value of 119.7 million pesos.

The country has 2,282 kilometers of irrigation canals that are serving 125,000 hectares. The investment in these works reaches the sum of 14.7 million dollars.

An idea of the constructive plans of the Government is given by the high degree of exploitation of the land in this country. Of the 4.8 million hectares in the Dominican Republic, 2.6 million are devoted to agriculture, compared with only 421,000 hectares in 1930. The agricultural land is made up as follows: natural pastures: 20 percent; artificial pastures: 38 percent; crops for domestic consumption: 19 percent; crops for export: 21 percent, and raw material crops for national industry: 2 percent. Preference has been given to the cultivation of low-priced foodstuffs. The result has been promising, and the Dominican Republic has become an exporter of many products that, until 1930, had to be imported.

Livestock production has increased rapidly and now provides an important item of export. The production of fresh meat rose from 16,100 tons in 1930 to 26,800 tons in 1955, and the production of canned meat rose from 40 tons to 1,241 tons during this same period. Exports of meat rose from 500 tons in 1930 to 2,509 tons in 1955.

One factor which has contributed greatly to the progress of production has been the establishment of a system of credits at low interest rates. The Agricultural and Industrial Bank of the Dominican Republic was inaugurated in 1943 with a capital of 2 million pesos; at present, it operates with 100 million pesos.

The sugar industry has been strengthened by the infusion of strictly Dominican capital for the installation of two important sugar plants. One, the Haina Center (the largest in the world), has a production of 220,000 tons of sugar and 14 million gallons of molasses per year. The Haina Center has a normal milling capacity of 12,500 tons of cane in 24 hours.



### *Chapter III*

## **THE WORK OF FAO IN THE REGION**

One of the main purposes of the Regional Conferences is to advise the Director-General in shaping FAO's program of work for the ensuing years, and with this end in mind it is useful to give a brief outline of the activities of FAO which are of special interest to the region. Suggestions for future work emerging from the discussions of the Conference are summarized in Chapter VI. It should be added that so far as the regular program is concerned, these suggestions must relate to the 1958-59 program, since the 1957 program has already been agreed in broad outline by the Eighth Session of the FAO Conference at Rome in November 1955 and confirmed by the FAO Council in September 1956. The Technical Assistance Program for 1957 has also been finalized, and on this side too, suggestions could not normally be implemented before 1958.

To give in a short space an adequate picture of FAO's activities as they affect Latin America is difficult. The work of the five technical divisions has become very complex in the ten years of the Organization's existence. Still more important, only passing reference can be made to the work of Member Governments in the field of FAO, though this is of crucial importance if FAO's objectives are to be reached. However useful the Secretariat's functions, both as a catalytic agent to hasten new developments, and in providing a forum where governments may exchange experiences and arrive at common policies, FAO's goals can be achieved only within the countries by the countries themselves. The responsibility for achieving true progress in the sense of the FAO charter thus rests primarily with the governments.

### **World-wide Activities of FAO of Interest to the Region**

Many activities of FAO are of a global nature, including a number discussed by the Fourth Regional Conference, among which are policy development for production and consumption (selective expansion), soil surveys, rural welfare policies, livestock improvement and the 1960 Census of Agriculture.

Many more of FAO activities are of a similarly universal nature, e.g., the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention, assistance in quarantine measures designed to check the spread of epizootics, a comprehensive publications program, and most of the activities in the field of economics. This applies particularly to commodity work, which must necessarily be based on a world picture. The assembling and analysis of information on the principal agricultural products, on national commodity policies and on the possibilities of international commodity arrangements are continuing tasks, the importance of which has increased with the emergence of surpluses. The information thus assembled is made available to Member Governments directly, or through the Committee on Commodity Problems. Commodity consultations on items important in world trade such as rice and cocoa, and ad hoc meetings on coffee, grains and coconuts have been held under the aegis of this committee. Of special interest to this region is a world-wide study on hard fibers now under way, since Latin America produces more than one third of the world's hard fiber requirements.

Another world-wide activity is the systematic improvement of national statistical services in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, which are essential for any development plans. In this field, a great amount of work has been done in the region, while special efforts are being made in connection with the 1960 World Census of Agriculture.

Under the heading of global activities, reference may also be made to some new projects, sanctioned by the Eighth Session of the Conference in 1955, most of which are carried on jointly by all technical divisions of FAO.

#### SURVEY AND APPRAISAL OF THE WORLD'S AGRICULTURAL, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY RESOURCES IN RELATION TO NEEDS

This is a large, long-term undertaking which can be carried out only with the active co-operation of Member Governments. It should be of particular interest to many countries in this region, since realistic development plans must be based on an accurate knowledge of natural resources.

Other survey work already under way includes surveys of the fisheries resources which have been carried out in many Latin-American countries as a first basic step for fisheries development, and a general forestry survey.

#### THE USE OF ATOMIC SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE

FAO is particularly concerned with the use of radio-active isotopes as tracer elements, e.g., in studies of plant and animal nutrition, in the application of irradiation in plant breeding (inducement of mutations), and

in food preservation. Scarcity of funds prevents active work in all regions, but the findings of a European working party will be made available to all Member Governments.

#### REGULAR PROGRAM RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The Director-General has recently invited all Member Governments to submit applications for the newly created André Mayer FAO Research Fellowships.

### **Regional Projects**

Many of FAO's specifically regional projects are carried on by special bodies, such as the Latin-American Forestry Commission, and the Standing Working Party on Livestock Production now in process of formation. Such regional bodies provide an invaluable means for the exchange of information. The same can be said of the series of meetings on specific subjects, such as the Nutrition Conferences, the fourth of which will take place during 1957 in Guatemala City, in cooperation with WHO.

Special reference should be made to some projects carried on jointly by FAO and the Economic Commission for Latin-America, including studies on livestock production in selected countries of Latin America, and a survey of coffee production with special reference to productivity. A handbook on agricultural programming is in preparation, as are studies on agricultural investment and credit in Latin-America, and appraisals of price policies.

A rather new, but important, field of endeavor in Latin-America is the fostering and co-ordination of agricultural research. Vastly increased research programs are a first necessity in most of the countries of the region.

FAO has already developed an active program on agricultural extension services in co-operation with the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. The first Regional Extension Meeting was held in Turrialba in 1949, and many have followed. A more recent development is the conducting of national training centers, particularly in Central American countries, in which their entire field staffs can participate. A conference for extension directors of Central America and the Caribbean Area is under consideration. A joint FAO/IAIAS study of systems of higher agricultural education and training in relation to needs, now nearing completion, will be considered at a meeting to be convened in 1957. For 1959 a study of veterinary education and training facilities in Central and South American countries is projected.

FAO's work on the improvement of tropical crops, so important to the region, will now profit greatly by the appointment of a competent specialist from the region itself. Meetings in Africa on cacao and coffee production are planned for 1958 and 1959 respectively, and it is hoped that specialists

from this region will attend. A meeting on horticultural production in tropical America, covering both fruits and vegetables, is also planned for 1959. In the field of pasture and fodder development, a first subregional meeting will take place for Central America, Mexico and Panama in Turrialba in December next. Recognizing the importance of crop production in the widest sense, it is intended to strengthen the regional program on this side.

Plant Protection activities in the region culminated recently in the formation of OIRSA (*Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria*). This organization of the Central American Republics, Mexico and Panama, which grew out of an earlier FAO-sponsored organization for the control of locusts, now embraces all aspects of plant and animal disease control. The Third FAO Regional Conference in Buenos Aires (1954) recommended that two regional plant protection centers should be set up, one for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean Area, and one for South America. This recommendation has only partly been complied with through the creation of OIRSA, and the Conference may wish to consider whether the time is ripe for similar action in South America, where the already existing *Convenio Interamericano de Sanidad Vegetal* and the *Comité Inter-Americano Permanente Antiacridiano* (CIPA) might serve as a nucleus for widened activities.

Problems of livestock production, and the Report of the Third Meeting on Livestock Production in the Americas, held in Buenos Aires 1955, are considered elsewhere. A fourth meeting in the series is to be held in Jamaica in 1958. A meeting on sheep and wool production is planned for 1959, and if Technical Assistance funds permit, a sheep-shearing and wool classification course on the pattern of that organized in Uruguay this year. A parasitology meeting will be held in 1958, and it is hoped to organize a consultation on tick-borne diseases in 1959.

Ever increasing emphasis is being given by FAO, in co-operation with UNICEF and WHO, to the production, processing and distribution of milk. Of special interest to this region are the efforts to assist in overcoming the handicaps the dairy industry meets in the tropics. A meeting of dairy technicians and administrators is planned for 1957, to be followed by a training center for dairy workers in 1958.

The development of dairying is but one of many activities specifically slanted toward the improving of nutritional levels. It is difficult to summarize FAO activities in the field of nutrition, since these include both improved production and food distribution. Specific mention may be made, however, of assistance in planning and implementing nutritional policies and programs, the implementation of school feeding schemes and assistance to raise the intake of animal proteins, particularly by the increased use of fish in national diets. In this connection assistance in the improvement of mar-

keting services, which is under way in many countries, deserves special mention.

A subject of great concern to the region is land use in its broadest connotation, including the institutional aspects of land tenure, agrarian reform, colonization and settlement. The Land Problems Seminar, held in Campinas, Brazil, in 1953, has been instrumental in providing sound guidance for programs which are now under way in many countries. The Regional Forestry Commission for Latin America has now set up a working party for a long-term program of forestry development in the region which will first consider the improvement of land use in relation to sound forestry policies.

Only one item on the Conference agenda dealt specifically with forestry, although the importance of forestry to the region is obvious. The reason is that the Latin American Forestry Commission is to hold its sixth session next summer in Guatemala. Consideration at the policy level of the commission's activities will therefore be more appropriate at the next regional conference. Nevertheless, reference to some important forestry projects should be made here, notably:

(1) studies in the field of pulp and paper manufacture, including guidance, in co-operation with ECLA and UNTAA, in the field of investment;

(2) studies in the use of tropical timber for the manufacture of insulation board, hardboard and pressboard;

(3) the project of a timber trend study in co-operation with ECLA, along the lines of similar studies carried out jointly with the other regional economic commissions.

### **The Technical Assistance Program**

Many of the activities referred to above profit from Technical Assistance funds. It is FAO's policy to integrate its programs financed from the regular budget and from Technical Assistance funds, as fully as possible. There are two sources of funds, but one unified program of work.

The interest of the region in technical assistance has shown a steady growth over the last three years. In 1954, 124 experts were assigned to the region, including personnel assigned to regional projects and training centers. The figures for 1955 and 1956 are 190 and 244 respectively. In the period 1951 to 1956, 183 fellowships have been awarded.

It must be said, however, that the best method of making the most of the co-operative effort involved in each technical assistance project has not yet been found in all countries and in all cases. In particular, attention should be drawn to the need for providing permanent counterpart personnel for each expert. Ideally, this personnel should be selected even before the expert arrives in the country, so as to avoid the loss of precious time which often

occurs, and should stay with the expert throughout his assignment. Working day after day with an experienced man provides an important opportunity to impart training which should not be missed.

In addition, it remains FAO policy to link fellowships with technical assistance projects and often local counterpart personnel are the logical candidates for fellowships, either awarded individually or in connection with training centers to which FAO attaches great importance. Unfortunately their number is limited because of the limitation of funds for regional projects which has been decided by the Technical Assistance Commission of ECOSOC. This limitation affects FAO more directly than some other agencies because the nature of its work makes regional projects more desirable and more fruitful. However, it is hoped that TAC will see its way to make more generous allocations for regional activities. The organization of regional training centers is of particular importance since the shortage of trained personnel is still a major obstacle to economic development. The organization of national training centers, a practice to which many countries are increasingly turning, also provides an additional opportunity of using temporarily foreign experts who work on a project in the country.

The responsibility of governments in planning, within the allocated country ceiling, the technical assistance they wish to receive, is another matter deserving attention. In some cases, the requests do not appear to fit into a well-conceived national agricultural development plan. Often, this is not the fault of the ministries of agriculture. The fault lies much more with the fact that these ministries are not given sufficient weight and influence in forward planning. It is an undeniable fact that in some countries where the vast majority of the population is engaged in agriculture, the status of the ministries of agriculture is very low in relation to others. This is also reflected in the remuneration received by agricultural technicians which is often lower than that received by their professional colleagues in other ministries.

The activities of FAO in the region have grown so complex that it is impossible to do them justice in a brief summary. And yet, in relation to existing needs, the program is still woefully inadequate.

If there is a common denominator for FAO activities in this region, it lies in the effort to raise the productivity of the chief natural resources, land and water, and more important, the productivity of human labor. The unacceptable differences in living standards of developed and underdeveloped countries stem chiefly from the differences in the productivity of human labor, and most projects in this program of the region are directly or indirectly geared to its improvement. In the formulation of future programs a great deal of attention should be concentrated on projects which have an immediate impact upon productivity.

## *Chapter IV*

### **MAJOR POLICY QUESTIONS OF REGIONAL INTEREST**

#### **(a) Selective Expansion**

##### BACKGROUND ON SELECTIVE EXPANSION

The broad lines of policy referred to as the "selective expansion of agricultural production and consumption" were first formulated at the 1953 Session of the FAO Conference, as a result of the recent re-appearance of surpluses of several agricultural commodities. It was recommended that in their agricultural production policies, Member Nations should concentrate on those products most needed for the better feeding and nutrition of the world's people, and on the products for which there was a greater demand in domestic and export markets. With the end of the postwar period of shortages a more general and unselective expansion of output could lead only to falling prices, increasing barriers to international trade, and larger surpluses. At the same time it was stressed that greatly increased efforts should be made to expand consumption and outlets, particularly in domestic markets, parallel with the growth of production. This might be achieved by measures to reduce production costs, by the more efficient organization of marketing, and in some cases by providing foodstuffs at low cost to special groups, e.g., school and preschool children, nursing and pregnant mothers, etc.

This general line of policy was confirmed at the 1955 Session of the Conference. It was considered with particular reference to conditions in Latin America at the 1954 Regional Conference at Buenos Aires, and also at a FAO regional consultation on selective expansion which was held within the Agricultural Committee of the Sixth Session of ECLA at Bogotá in September 1955. At these latter meetings a number of lines of further work were indicated which are being actively followed up. There was a further active discussion of the topic at the Fourth Regional Conference, with statements by representatives from 12 countries and the observer for the United Nations. In these statements, important points were made by the delegates of the following countries:

### *Brazil*

Progress has been made in improving sources of electric power and means of transport. These will aid the general development of both industry and agriculture. Development activities in agriculture contribute to the improvement of nutrition in the North and the hinterland regions of the South. Efforts are under way to expand indigenous fruit output and wheat production in the South in line with growing population. The supply of many temperate-climate fruits, such as apples and pears, and about two thirds of the wheat, will continue to depend on imports, however. Attention will also be given to improving marketing facilities and reducing marketing costs, to encouraging co-operative development, and to providing more farm credit. This will help provide as much useful employment as possible on farms for the growing farm population, and diminish the shift to the cities.

### *Argentina*

This delegation emphasized the complexity of the idea involved in selective expansion and the need to define it in short and specific terms, and stated as its opinion that this principle is based on a primarily economic concept, and that as such it should look toward commercial exchanges aiming at the balanced complementation of national economies, as a means of securing better supplies for the populations under the best price and quality conditions. The real meaning of the concept should be clarified in as simple terms as possible.

Selective expansion cannot be approached in abstract fashion, but must be developed in the light of the real situations and issues in each country and in the region as a whole. The production and supply of meat is perhaps the most typical example of this, because of the high development of livestock production, and the technical progress already made in Argentina; the general shortage of meat in Latin America, as compared to the prewar level per caput; and the possibilities of further expansion of livestock production, trade, and consumption, compatible with efficient production and natural conditions and possibilities of development in each country. Argentina has highly-productive strains of cattle and sheep and has made much progress in its marketing methods and facilities. It would be glad to participate in a regional discussion of possible co-operation in this connection, and to make its resources and knowledge available.

### *Cuba*

Attention was called to the need for more precise formulation of nutritional requirements in the region, and to the need for action by governments to carry these facts to their people, and to take steps for the necessary food to



be distributed among, and made available to, all those population groups which need more. In this connection attention should be given to the balanced consumption of basic foodstuffs.

### *Chile*

The need was emphasized of linking agricultural policies not only to nutritional needs but also to the general economic position within each country. In Chile, for example, earnings of foreign exchange depend primarily on mineral exports derived from irreplaceable natural resources. With unstable exports and markets for these products, consideration had to be given to the possibilities of expanding domestic food production, so as to reduce the dependence on food imports and to save paying out foreign exchange for them. Chile is therefore planning to expand output of products which it is well suited to produce, including wheat, meat, oil and fats, and beans - all for domestic consumption. It is also planning to expand products for which it has good export markets, such as dried fruit, wines, wood, winter vegetables, and dried fish meal. It will continue to import other farm products which it cannot produce so well in large quantities, including coffee, maté, cotton and sugar. The Chilean agricultural development program therefore takes into account the principles of selective expansion, as well as the general needs of the Chilean economy.

### *Uruguay*

An effort to encourage wheat production to meet current needs some years ago unintentionally stimulated an over-production of wheat and too big a cut in meat production, with resultant wheat surpluses. Prices have now been readjusted by reducing guaranteed wheat prices (with a special subsidy per acre to the smaller producers), and by a readjustment of exchange regulations to give better meat prices to producers. Wheat acreage in 1956 has fallen 17 percent and livestock numbers are rising. Steps are also needed to increase consumption of fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs and poultry; to improve marketing methods, especially for such products; and to correct the illegal border traffic in cattle stimulated by exchange controls. FAO action and help on all these issues would be most useful.

### *Peru*

The importance of expanded fishery development was emphasized in meeting dietary protein needs. The need was also stressed for considering human, individual, and social aspects of development programs, as well as the economic ones.

### *Caribbean Territories*

The United Kingdom representative reported that much progress is under way in line with the principles of selective expansion. This includes expansion of products with growing export markets, such as bananas, citrus fruits, cocoa, coffee, rice, and Sea-Island cotton, in various territories well-suited to them. Agricultural development programs are emphasizing production and marketing of these products, and also of other products, such as market gardens, and milk needed to improve domestic food consumption.

### *Paraguay*

Emphasis was laid on the fact that the tendencies toward self-sufficiency in many agricultural programs are of grave concern to countries depending on agricultural exports. Selective expansion involves two halves: expansion of consumption as well as wise expansion of production. Nations should use FAO meetings to clarify these issues, and to aid in determining where and to what extent production should be expanded; and where and how much, consumption be increased.

### *Mexico*

This delegation agreed with this suggestion, but pointed out that in that country, development had moved in the direction of a more highly diversified agriculture. There had been growth in many new lines of export adapted to the country and which had widening markets. Expanding production of many staple foods for domestic consumption, especially maize and beans, had helped improve domestic standards of food consumptions; and new developments had taken place in industries based on agricultural products.

### *Honduras*

Honduras also agreed, and pointed out that some progress was being made along these lines, through the development of procedures for regional economic integration among the Central American republics. These methods might also be of value to Latin America generally.

### *United States*

This delegation emphasized, in connection with selective expansion, that not only nutritional needs but also anticipated price-cost relationships must receive attention because these relationships are a guide to production. They will lead to an economically desirable selective expansion of production only if liberal trade policies are followed.

## PROGRESS IN SELECTIVE EXPANSION

The Conference had before it a secretariat paper summarizing developments in the region since the last Latin-American consultative meeting. This paper, together with the above reviews of the situation in each country, shows substantial progress toward achieving the goals of selective expansion in some particulars. Some developments in some countries, however, seem of doubtful value in this direction, and suggest the need for additional international consultation to provide a better basis for national policy decisions and actions.

### *Agricultural-Industrial Relationships*

One significant development in recent years is the growing realization in many countries that adequate attention to agriculture is as essential to general economic development as is the expansion of nonfarm industries. During much of the postwar period, agriculture has been rather neglected in Latin America, while the major emphasis of governmental action and investment has been placed on other industries. In a number of countries exchange regulations and price controls were used to provide cheap foods to workers in non-farm industries, with little regard to the possible effects on farmers' income or in their ability and willingness to produce. This has been one important cause of the lag in food production in Latin America, compared to population growth. It has also contributed to the chronic inflation in several countries.

During 1955 and 1956, a marked shift has taken place in many Latin American countries. Increased attention and governmental action is being devoted to agriculture. Exchange regulations and controls have been simplified and relaxed. In several countries, notably in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay, direct action has been taken to improve the price level of farm products compared to the cost of products farmers buy, and to adjust internal price relations more closely to those prevailing on international markets. This has been done deliberately to encourage larger farm production for domestic consumption or for export. Similar action has been taken or is under discussion in a number of other countries. This shift to more realistic economic and price policies is a healthy one. Together with enlarged programs to encourage farm production in other ways, it promises to stimulate much more adequate food supplies and output in Latin America, during the immediate future and for the longer-term period.

## COMMODITY ADJUSTMENTS

Action taken to expand production and consumption in general line with the principles of selective expansion may be grouped under three heads:

- (i) Action to expand domestic production and consumption concurrently, along the lines necessary for better human nutrition. Action of this type has been taken in a number of countries to a greater or lesser extent. Outstanding examples are: the development of an expanded dairy output associated with the development or improvement of milk-bottling and marketing facilities, and of dry milk plants; increased production of fresh fruits and vegetables and of farm gardens, both for direct consumption in the farm home and for home preservation for consumption in dry or winter seasons, and for commercial sale to towns and villages; and increased catching and distribution of fish to raise the intake of animal protein at reasonable retail prices. All of these increases in production have been aided by efforts to teach the nutritive value of the newly available foods, and to encourage their increased consumption, even in countries already well fed where nutritional deficiencies still prevail, either as a consequence of inadequate incomes or of unsatisfactory traditional diets.
- (ii) Action to expand production to meet more fully the needs of expanding domestic demand, in the light of national economic development programs, and to save foreign exchange otherwise required for expanding food imports. In many cases this has involved a reversal of earlier postwar policies of putting the primary emphasis in economic development on the development of other sectors of the economy, with little attention to the need for concurrent expansion in agriculture, even if not to the same extent, and of keeping farm and food prices low to facilitate industrial expansion. Among countries where such reversals of production and price policies have taken place recently, to a greater or less extent, might be mentioned Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Brazil. In some cases the development of new policies have been assisted by the work of technical assistance experts on agricultural programming or on price policy.
- (iii) Action to adjust production in the light of the total demand situation, in export markets as well as in domestic markets in order to select in each country, from among the commodities which it is well fitted to produce, those products for expansion which have the most promising future export prospects, and (in some cases at least) to avoid contributing to the development of further accumulation of surpluses. While the decisions in each case no doubt reflected other domestic considerations, some examples which appear to fit within this general group are the new emphasis on cattle instead of wheat in Uruguay; the decision in Brazil to limit the price support given to further expansion of wheat; and the general expansion in many countries of tropical products whose markets

in general show long-term upward trends in exports, and a marked response of world trade to general expansion in world economic activity and real buying power. These products include fresh fruits and vegetables, cocoa, and coffee (of the higher and lighter qualities), in Brazil and other countries.

It was noted, however, that some countries seemed to be developing their agricultural plans primarily on the basis of seeking to produce practically everything they were physically capable of producing. They give little apparent consideration to whether they are as well suited to produce each product as they are for other alternative products that might be exported and traded for some of the products that could be obtained with less outlay by continuing to import them. Each country has only limited quantities of land and capital that can be used in agriculture. If it devotes much of these limited resources to expanding the output of products that it is not well suited to produce, its real national income is likely to be lower than if the same resources were devoted to other products, agricultural or industrial, which it is in a better position to produce efficiently. It is noted that in other regions of the world, also, many countries are tending to make self-sufficiency a major guide in developing their agricultural programs.

It is obvious in world trade that all nations, taken together, cannot export more of any one product than all nations together are ready to import. To the extent that nations do make self-sufficiency a major consideration in establishing their national development programs, to that extent they may also find it difficult or impossible to find markets for the products which they plan to export, and find their development plan running into difficulty because of foreign exchange earnings failing to reach the amount expected. This fact is particularly important for the temperate regions of Latin America, which in the past have been one of the largest exporting regions of staple foods.

These considerations are reinforced by the analysis of recent trends in world trade, as shown in the *State of Food and Agriculture 1956*<sup>1</sup>. Tropical products such as cocoa, tea, coffee, citrus fruits, and various other fruits and vegetables, have shown a steady growth in the real value of world trade, in line with the total growth in real world income. Other products which can be produced without great difficulty in the main industrialized countries, notably food grains, meat, sugar, and dairy products, have shown no such growth, and in some cases a decline. Still other products subject to increasing competition from synthetic substitutes, such as silk, cotton and rubber, have shown little growth of trade and often a decline. Studies of the response

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<sup>1</sup> *State of Food and Agriculture 1956*, Chapter III. FAO, Rome, September 1956.

of consumers' expenditures, and of national per caput levels of consumption, to changes or differences in real national income per caput, and to changes of commodity demand, give similar conclusions. These facts indicate, for products important to Latin-American exporters, conclusions as follows:

- (i) Cocoa and coffee: this group of products is sensitive to changes in real national income, especially as incomes reach levels well above minimum subsistence, and their demand will continue to respond to further advances in real income throughout the world (except that extremely high prices, such as occurred for cocoa in 1954, may temporarily depress the whole level of demand for the product for a time thereafter).
- (ii) For meats and dairy products, except in some cases butter, and for fruits and vegetables, demand is generally very responsive to higher real income per caput, especially after income reaches reasonably good levels; and increased world economic development will therefore tend to expand consumption and also international markets, except to the extent that domestic production in importing countries can be further expanded, thus reducing import requirements.
- (iii) Consumption of wheat and other starchy foods expands at first with national economic development, as national income per caput increases from very low levels up to about U.S. \$ 200 per caput. Beyond that point it starts to decline gradually. Wheat consumption, however, may increase further with increasing income in areas previously consuming manioc, cassava, or rice, as an increased proportion of the population moves into urban areas and shifts from other starchy foods toward wheat bread. Growth in world demand for wheat will therefore be particularly influenced by the speed of economic development in the areas with the lowest levels of income, such as in the Indian subcontinent and southeast Asia, northeast Brazil and the Andean highlands; and by the success of measures to raise the levels of income among the poorest groups of workers in all countries, including landless rural workers and hired labor on farms. Export demand, however, will be largely affected by the trend in many countries toward greater self-sufficiency in cereals.
- (iv) Cotton. This product, though rather responsive to income changes, is subject to the competition of synthetics and to the effect of the gradual modification by the U.S. of its cotton policies, which hitherto have had the indirect effect of supporting world prices. The future expansion of Latin-American exports is therefore doubtful. It should also be mentioned that in some cases the production of cotton has

displaced food crops, necessitating imports of foodstuffs in order to maintain supplies.

- (v) Wool. Despite the growth of substitutes, wool seems to have held its own well as the top textile for cool-weather clothing and to have shown a reasonably steady growth in demand and response to rising real income levels. Further it is a product which is grown most generally under pioneer conditions and tends to be replaced by other products as agriculture becomes more intensive. It therefore appears to have a more favorable trade future than other fibers.
- (vi) Long-term demand prospects for less important world trade products are indicated in various FAO Commodity Reports and Outlook Statements.

#### TRADE PROSPECTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

From this review of past trade trends and present indications of future demand prospects, it appears that the situation in the tropical and temperate halves of Latin America is sharply contrasted. The tropical region has in general good prospects of continual growth in export markets for its specific products, with the possible exception of sugar and cotton. Unfortunately some areas of this region, i.e., in the Caribbean zone, are in general the most heavily populated and with the smallest reserve of undeveloped land. The temperate regions, on the other hand, appear to have much less promising export markets for their products with the exception of wool and possibly meat, as still higher levels of economic activity are reached in Western Europe and elsewhere <sup>2</sup>.

Yet these temperate regions are, in general, the areas with the greatest possibility of readily expanding production through putting more land into use and through developing more intensive combined crop and livestock farming on family-sized farms and on areas now used largely in less intensive cattle ranches. (As noted later in this report, land reform is a key factor in such intensive development and is actively under way in several countries.) Expansion of domestic markets is already absorbing an increasing share of Latin-American food production. To the extent that future economic development in the temperate zones can intensify industrial development still further, it will help to widen the market for a continued expansion in food production. Measures to relieve low-income groups, both farmers and low-income labor, from bearing an undue share of financial burdens, either through direct taxes, inequitable exchange regulations, or taxes on

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<sup>2</sup> Possible future growth of markets in Eastern Europe and in China was excluded in this summary, in the absence of any definite basis for judgement.

traffic movements, etc., will increase the demand for food products and further absorb increasing agricultural production and raise nutritional standards toward desirable levels.

With all that can be done in these ways, however, it appears that food-exporting regions, especially in the temperate zone, will tend to face increased competition for their products. This will need to be recognized in developing national economic and agricultural development programs. To meet this probability, increased attention will need to be given to widening markets as much as possible by making products available to consumers, in domestic and foreign markets, as cheaply as possible, while maintaining satisfactory incomes to producers. Increased emphasis must therefore be given to raising efficiency both in producing the goods and in distributing and marketing them. Possibilities of preventing spoilage and waste in storage and marketing, of lowering marketing costs and of increasing production efficiency by introducing improved agricultural techniques are therefore all the more necessary.

Technical assistance experts have already helped in such technical advances, in planning agricultural programs and in improving marketing methods; more can be supplied as countries need them, within the budget limitations.

#### *Clarification of the Definition of Selective Expansion*

The discussion brought out the need for a further clarification of what was meant by "selective expansion". It became evident that the subject was being approached from two varied points of view, according to whether the emphasis was placed on the nutritional or the purely economic aspect.

*Nutritional aspect.* Some delegates stressed the importance of having enough food of the right kinds produced and distributed to all sections of the population in line with the nutritional recommendations already adopted by FAO meetings.

*Economic aspect.* Other delegates emphasized that the nutritionally desirable volume of production could be achieved only if consumers could and would spend on them what it cost to produce and market those quantities. This applies both to the total output of a country, and to the production of each individual product. It applies equally to production for the domestic market and for export markets.

"Selective expansion of production and consumption" is an attempt to chart a course of action that will harmonize these two apparently conflicting principles. It attempts, in the light of all the complications involved, (including economic development, distribution of income, international trade, balances of payments, inconvertible currencies, etc.) to suggest a line of action which if followed by each country in developing its own policies, will help



to solve this problem. It would help to achieve continued growth in agricultural production and human consumption, of the right kinds of food and other products, and with farmers, foresters, and fishermen sharing fully in the increasing prosperity as well as in the better levels of nutrition.

Selective expansion does not imply any regulation or control from outside of what any given country would do. It means, rather, that each country would choose for itself, in the light of such attention as it cares to give to these general FAO policy suggestions, just what specific plans and programs it decides to adopt, and what specific steps it takes to help carry these into effect. In this process, it can also receive such help as *it itself requests* (such as that of planning, production, and marketing experts) from FAO or other sources of technical assistance; and information as to the present and prospective future state of international markets and supplies, from FAO and other sources of information.

#### CONCLUSIONS: DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPT OF SELECTIVE EXPANSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the general progress made toward selective expansion, and of the reasons summarized above for continued action by Latin-American countries in this direction, the Conference has agreed to the following definition and makes the following specific suggestions.

1) The selective expansion of production and consumption is the rational planning of the livestock and agricultural policy best suited to the ecological characteristics of each country, to be developed by each in order to satisfy its needs in the most suitable way, looking toward the improvement of nutritional levels, and harmonizing these objectives with those of economic complementation with the other countries of the region and of the world.

2) The studies already under way, on problems of livestock production, on agricultural programming, on agricultural investment and credit, and on price policies in Latin-American countries, should be completed and published as soon as possible, in several partial reports, if necessary.

3) *Improved Basis for Planning Food Policies.* Even when available statistical information does not permit, in the majority of cases, an exact knowledge of the figures of food consumption and the nutritional status of the populations of the regions, it is certain that none of the Latin-American countries is free from nutritional problems, either general or localized in socio-economic or regional groups. This nutritional situation constitutes a factor occasioning, and aggravating, the various pathological pictures which are evident in the curves of morbidity, mortality, rate, and expectation of life of the in-

habitants of the region, and represents a serious limiting factor to the economic and cultural progress of the Latin-American nations.

The reasons for this state of affairs are many. Among them are the following: the agricultural production of the region as a whole increases at a rate lower than the population growth, producing an increasing dependence on the import of foodstuffs, or the reduction of exports with a view to avoiding a drastic fall in consumption; insufficiency of purchasing power to obtain an adequate diet; deficiencies in the transport system, distribution and marketing of production; and the dietary habits of the people.

For these reasons the Conference reaffirms the principle that one main objective of agricultural and economic planning is to satisfy the nutritional requirements of the different groups of the population. Such an objective can be obtained only through the combined efforts of the technicians in agricultural production, economics and human nutrition.

For the fulfillment of the aforementioned basic objective, it will first be necessary to know, at the agricultural and economic planning stage, the following factors:

*a)* Estimated requirements of the population, in terms of the nutrients necessary to ensure an adequate level of nutrition. A thorough knowledge of population structure should be the basis of such an estimate, not only with regard to the composition by sex and age, but also by occupational groups, vulnerable groups and taking into consideration ecologic conditions.

*b)* Statistical knowledge of the actual situation with respect to food consumption and the state of nutrition. For this it will be necessary:

- i)* to improve the statistics of production and utilization of food products;
- ii)* to carry out dietary surveys, to assess the differences in the consumption of food among the different sectors of the population, to determine the economic, agricultural and social reasons for such differences, and to work out economic indices such as the relation between the economic situation and food consumption. All such indices are of incalculable value to agricultural and economic planning;
- iii)* to conduct surveys on the nutritional status of the populations, for the purpose of determining the existence and frequency of deficiency conditions and their relation to the characteristics of the diets of each group, region, etc.

*c)* The study of the factors mentioned under *a)* and *b)* above will give an indication of the difference between actual and ideal consumption. In order to assist governments in agricultural and livestock planning, it would be necessary to establish targets of production and trade which would assure

the availability of as adequate supplies of each type of food as are economically feasible.

In order to assure, on one hand, the carrying out of the above-mentioned studies and the corresponding advice to the bodies responsible for planning and, on the other hand, to co-ordinate the different aspects at the national as well as at the regional level, it appears essential to create, re-organize or strengthen, as the case may be, the nutritional services. It might be mentioned that in some countries funds accruing from sales of U.S. agricultural commodities under Public Law 480 have been used for nutritional campaigns. The Conference therefore recommends:

*To the Director-General of FAO:*

*Nutritional Requirements*

The inclusion in the agenda of the Fourth Latin-American Nutrition Conference of a high-priority item dealing with the establishment of the nutritional requirements of the populations in the region, in accordance with their biological, social and economic characteristics.

*Establishment of Targets of Production and Trade in Foodstuffs*

That a meeting should be called in Latin America of a committee of international experts, including experts from the countries of the region, with the purpose of studying the establishment of national targets for production and trade in foodstuffs, taking into account the nutritional requirements of each country and of the region.

*To the Member Countries of the Region:*

*Nutritional Services*

That they should organize their nutritional services, or amplify and strengthen those already in existence, so as to obtain efficient action in the nutritional aspects of food policy.

That permanent contacts be established, at government level, among the groups of experts in livestock and agricultural production, in economics and in human nutrition, so as to ensure an efficient co-ordination of the efforts of the different countries and within the region.

*Statistics and Surveys*

That they devote special attention to:

- statistical studies of the available supplies of foodstuffs;
- surveys of food consumption and the state of nutrition of their peoples.

4) *Intensified Work on Marketing Improvement.* The lack of effective standards, facilities and procedures in the marketing of agricultural products aggravates the problems arising from price fluctuations of agricultural products and contributes to an unequal distribution of profits between the middleman and the producer.

The development of improved marketing organization and marketing policy for agricultural products can be assisted by the completion of a series of technical investigations, taking advantage of national and international experience on a level which is not within the reach of many of the countries of Latin America. Moreover, international co-operation and the assistance of FAO would enable the countries to base themselves upon expert knowledge with which they could handle the problems of marketing their agricultural products for export as well as for internal consumption. A valuable tool, of which some nations could take advantage in improving markets, might be the use of Section 104 (a) funds accruing from the sales of U.S. agricultural commodities under Public Law 480. The Conference therefore recommends:

(a) *To the Director-General of FAO and to Member Governments of the region*

That in carrying out studies already under way of the problems of trade in agricultural produce, special account should be taken of the following aspects:

*Methods of increasing and stabilizing prices paid to the producers, by:*

- improvement of quality (selection and standardization of products);
- measures against buyers and middlemen's monopolies (publication of price lists, warehousing, creation of co-operatives, public price-fixing bodies, minimum prices, etc.);
- reduction of marketing costs (improvement of the means of transportation, processing and distribution, transportation co-operatives, control of transportation prices by the State, etc.);
- the appointment by FAO (within the budget laid down for regional projects by the Technical Assistance Program) of an official to assist in the development and regional co-ordination of marketing activities.

*Methods of increasing earnings from exports*

- improvement of quality and appearance (standardization and homogeneity);
- processing of the crude product;
- working toward policies or, eventually, agreements among the exporting and importing countries (such as are already under way or in

prospect for hard fibers, grains, rice, coffee, cocoa, etc.) in regard to fluctuations in supplies and prices, minimum prices, marketing during years of over-production.

*Elimination of losses and waste*

organization of the harvest (rapidity and timing);  
conditioning and packing to avoid damage during shipment and improvement of facilities and organization for marketing;  
utilization of by-products and damaged products.

*(b) To Governments in the Region*

that they request technical aid for the realization of the studies necessary for a sound trade policy for agricultural products and for the carrying out of this policy, including both experts and fellowships for the training of local specialists in this matter;

that they assist the FAO secretariat in collecting and analysing information with regard to their marketing arrangements and trade policies for agricultural products. The results obtained from such an analysis shall be made available to all countries in the area.

In connection with the general question of the market for agricultural products, the Conference approved the following resolution:

*Resolution IV (a) 1*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering:*

- 1) that the majority of the countries of Latin America depend for their well-being upon the export of a few agricultural and livestock products and other raw materials;
- 2) that the markets of these products are for the most part highly speculative;
- 3) that since FAO's terms of reference include all the technical and economic aspects as regards agricultural products and, therefore, its markets;

*Recommends:*

to the Director, General of FAO that greater attention be paid to the study of the structure and operation of the markets in which such agricultural and livestock products are traded, in order to stabilize and improve their prices, so that the countries may, in their plans of development,

count upon a less uncertain element in their agricultural and general programming;

likewise requests of the Director General of FAO that future budgets devote more funds to its study and to the extension and improvement of the relevant services.

5) *Meeting on the Better Integration of Trade in Livestock and Meat.* The Conference also requested the Director-General of FAO to consider the possibility of convening, in consultation with ECLA, a meeting of experts during 1957 to examine the possibilities of increasing the trade in breeding stock, meat and other products among Latin-American countries and of recommending any feasible and desirable actions by governments to this end, so as to lead to a greater supply of meat. It is suggested that the Director-General might discuss with governments their willingness to send experts to participate in such a meeting, and base the decision on holding such a meeting on the answers to the inquiry.

6) *Interchange of Information on Prospective Trade in Farm Products among Member Countries.* In view of the tendencies toward self-sufficiency in the agricultural planning of many countries and the danger that planning for export programs may seriously exceed the real possibilities for many countries, it is desirable that all countries have available as clear as possible a picture of the probable effects of such developments on the possible success of their foreign trade programs.

The Conference therefore suggested that the Director-General might request the Committee on Commodity Problems to explore the possibilities of making a factual appraisal of this situation, for consideration at the 1957 Session of the Conference, or later if that is not possible. Such an appraisal might include a request to all governments to report the foreign trade implications of their agricultural programs, say two years and five years ahead, for all groups of agricultural products, with regard to expected imports and exports of each specified product.

Such information might be collected on the specific assurance that the data would not be regarded either as a claim for a share of exports, or as a guarantee in any way as to estimated volume of imports, would be subject to change with changed income or price conditions, and would be submitted merely as the best and most unbiased estimate possible of the probable future development of foreign trade, in the light of current facts, programs and plans. In line with this assurance, the data might well be collected on the condition that the individual figures for each country would not be revealed by the Director-General to any person outside his staff, but would be used merely for the compilation of world totals of prospective volume

of imports and of exports of each item, and of regional totals in those cases where such regional totals would not indicate the facts as to individual countries.

Such summaries, when available, would constitute a compilation of important facts for consideration by interested governments, both at meetings of the Committee on Commodity Policy and at regional consultations or meetings, in revising the progress and prospects for selective expansion.

### **(b) Rural Welfare**

The Conference took note of some considerations regarding the present situation in the region in the fields grouped under the general heading of rural welfare: land tenure, co-operatives, agricultural extension, supervised credit, rural industries, and rural sociology, and also of the work which FAO has carried out in these fields, as set out in Document LARC 56/4, which served as a basis for the discussion.

The Conference listened with interest to the statements of the delegations with regard to the measures adopted in their countries to improve the condition of the peasant. The delegate of Chile made a detailed statement of the government services dedicated to the improvement of the conditions of life and work of the rural population and to increasing its productivity. He referred particularly to rural education and health services and to the training of experts in rural welfare. He pointed out that with respect to supervised credit, an agreement had been reached with the State Bank of Chile for a joint program of action with the Ministry of Agriculture, which would take charge of giving technical advice to those to whom credits are granted. Referring to co-operatives, he said that an adequate level of development had not yet been reached, but that the problem was being studied and that an improved law was being drafted for the encouragement of these institutions.

The delegate of Paraguay referred in particular to the establishment of a rehabilitation fund which had permitted the setting up of a service to provide a more complete type of aid to peasant families. This service includes the teaching of new working methods, of improvements in home economics, the production of better seeds, and other activities of a social, economic, and technical nature. The service has given excellent results in the 62 villages where it has been so far set up, and its development continues in full swing. The delegate of Paraguay referred likewise to the recently initiated agricultural and livestock census which would make available adequate data, upon which future action could be based. In conclusion mention was made of the action of the Central Bank of Paraguay in supervised agricultural credit, at pref-

erential interest rates, which contributed to the orientation of agriculture by recommending certain basic crops.

The delegate of Mexico referred first to the co-ordinated activities of rural education and agricultural extension, which are carried out in part through youth clubs and through the selection of pilot areas in which intensive instruction in agriculture, small industries, and hygiene are given to peasant families. He likewise pointed out the emphasis his government was placing on the development of small agricultural industries to complement the farmer's income, particularly in areas where only one annual crop may be grown. As for agricultural credit, he explained the operation of the local societies of agricultural credit, which are associations that receive their funds from two national banks. The action of these banks is co-ordinated with that of the technical agricultural services upon whose plans the allotment of credits is based. In addition there are special credits for the development of agricultural mechanization, for the construction of silos and barns, and for the industrialization of agricultural raw materials. In addition to official action in this field, it has also been possible to attract private capital, principally through the establishment of integrated agricultural insurance which would insure against the natural risks of the farmer, and thus permit the re-payment of any credits contracted.

The delegate of Costa Rica referred particularly to the development of the extension service, created originally under a bilateral agreement with the United States of America, and recently taken over completely by the Ministry of Agriculture, thus being transformed into a national service.

The delegations of Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, and Honduras also referred to the development of several of the matters under discussion. The observer of ILO, who also participated in the discussion, referred to the programs his organization was carrying out in Latin America and in particular to those in which it was working jointly with FAO. He likewise pointed out that his organization exercised the highest care in the programming of its activities so as to co-ordinate them with those of the other organizations who were working in related fields, in order to avoid duplication of effort and to achieve the maximum unity of action.

After having heard the above statements, the Conference decided that intensive work was being carried out in each one of the fields grouped under the general heading of rural welfare. Nevertheless, when trying to make a general evaluation of the situation, two weak points appear:

- 1) the lack of co-ordination of the various efforts which are being carried out, generally caused by a large number of services, often located in diverse ministries, which are pre-occupied with the human factor in agriculture, and to the absence of a central co-ordinating body;



- 2) the lack of earlier specialized studies upon which to base the planning, which frequently results in the fact that measures are incomplete or unilateral, when the complexity of the problem is considered.

As a result of a recommendation by the delegation of Brazil about problems which can result from the rural exodus, the Conference agreed to establish a working party which would discuss this problem, as well as all the other resolutions which have been presented under the heading of rural welfare. This working party held two meetings, and presented a report which was incorporated into the present report of the Conference.

With reference to the rural exodus, the Conference considered that the movement of the rural population to the cities is closely linked to the economic development of a country, and is inevitable, as history has shown. Therefore, in the general economic planning, this must be taken into account, and measures must be adopted so that the decrease of manpower in the countryside will not result in a decrease of agricultural production. This could be achieved by the adoption of suitable programs of mechanization, the use of improved seeds and of fertilizers, the fight against pests, and other measures which help to increase productivity.

The Conference agreed that to avoid a sudden exodus, and to maintain sufficient people on the land, governments should adopt measures tending to raise the standard of living of the rural population within a long-term economic plan. Such measures should include the establishment of adequate land tenure conditions, the making available of credit, help in the organization of co-operatives and those which would contribute to improve the education and culture of the rural population.

The Conference was in agreement that to carry out intensive work in all these fields, more adequately trained personnel must be available. In this sense they approved the following recommendations:

#### *Resolution IV (b) 1*

#### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA,

convinced that the improvement of living conditions in rural communities requires a well-integrated approach to the many complex problems, in which the education of rural peoples is one of the most basic;  
noting that many international agencies and national government services are interested and active in certain sectors of rural education;  
concerned that both, on the international and national levels, duplication and waste of resources might result from a multiplicity of insufficiently co-ordinated efforts;

### *Requests*

the Director-General of FAO to continue his efforts to co-ordinate FAO's program of work in the fields of agricultural extension, co-operatives and home economics with UNESCO's fundamental education program and other multilateral or bilateral efforts in the same direction;

### *Recommends*

to the Governments of Latin America to create facilities for inter-ministerial consultation and co-operation in order to promote a well-integrated approach to all rural welfare activities and particularly those having to do with education in the broadest sense.

## *Resolution IV (b) 2*

### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

#### *Recommends*

- a) to the Governments, that, in the schools of agronomy of the universities of the region, courses be organized for training in rural sociology, methodology of agricultural extension and agrarian law, and that schools on the university level for the training of rural home economists be created;
- b) to FAO to organize, in co-operation with the other international organizations, a training center, or seminar of rural sociology, to train the technicians of Central American countries, continuing to pay suitable attention to the organization of courses of agricultural extension.

## *Resolution IV (b) 3*

### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

#### *Recommends*

to the Governments of Latin-American countries that they intensify fundamental adult education as well as child education, establishing plans of study and programs which will give the maximum useful education, including the broad objectives of national socio-economic enquiries like the agricultural census, adapted to the sociological and economic conditions of each country.

*Resolution IV (b) 4*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Recommends*

the setting up, on a permanent basis, of a Center of Research and Training in Rural Sociology for South America;

*Thanks*

the Government of Chile for its generosity in offering the city of Santiago as the headquarters of this center and the University of Chile for its offer to place at the disposal of this center its premises and installations as well as the facilities of the Institute of Sociological Research and the auxiliary personnel required;

*Requests*

that the Director-General of FAO exchange opinions with the Chilean Government on the best methods to follow for the establishment of the said center and to present, as far as possible, a proposal to the Ninth Conference of the FAO.

*Resolution IV (b) 5*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Recommends*

- 1) to governments the progressive introduction of systems of supervised credit with the object of bettering the living conditions in the rural areas;
- 2) to FAO that it continue and extend its assistance in this matter.

The Conference noted the multiple activities that FAO carries out in the fields grouped under the general heading of rural welfare and expressed its satisfaction with the results obtained, requesting that the Organization continue its efforts to the best of its possibilities. It requested also that in economic and technical planning FAO continue to take into account the human factor in the regions in which these plans are to be applied, taking into consideration especially the existing social conditions and the judicial structures and general customs that govern rural life, in order to better them in accordance with those spiritual traditions and ethnological idiosyncrasies that constitute such important elements of the national character.

Finally, the Conference noted the generous offer of Chile to be host to the Rural Sociology Seminar planned by FAO for 1958 which could be held concurrently with the Agricultural Congress sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation.

### **(c) Land Settlement and Colonization**

Land settlement, the essence of which is the creation of new farming units whether on old or new land, is perhaps of greater importance in Latin America, with its relatively vast land resources and only localized population pressure, than anywhere else in the world.

The key problem of settlement is closely tied to the main agricultural problem of the region, the twin solutions of which are on the one hand the intensification of already cultivated, but extensively used, areas and, on the other, the development of new, hitherto unused areas. It seems that the public resources devoted to land settlement in the region are inadequate for the task and out of proportion to the importance of the problem.

The Conference drew attention to various types of legislative and administrative arrangements established in a number of countries in the region to deal with land settlement questions. Some countries, such as Uruguay and Paraguay, have had special organizations for some years for settlement planning and execution. Others like Costa Rica and Ecuador are now studying new legislation which would put settlement activities on a systematic and long-term basis. While in recent years most countries have experimented with individual and in most cases localized settlement schemes, the typical arrangement is a rather loose collection of legal and administrative provisions, often scattered in a number of governmental and semi-governmental agencies, which seem much in need of re-organization and consolidation if they are to serve the increasing need of systematically creating new and better farming units.

The discussions, in which the delegates of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay, Paraguay and the observers from the OAS, the ILO and the ICEM took part, clearly showed that the governments are becoming increasingly aware of the inadequacies and dangers of spontaneous, unplanned internal migration and settlement. They also realize the need for careful field investigations of settlement possibilities (both in terms of natural and human resources) and the necessity to give new settlers financial, technical and social assistance. The discrepancy between the available world experience and knowledge and the status of actual colonization work is very great. This is a field, therefore, in which international assistance can play an important part if governments are prepared to devote the necessary financial and organizational resources to comprehensive settlement projects.

The discussion brought out the following general principles of interest in planned colonization work:

The first essential to consider is the *appraisal of land and other natural resources* to determine the most appropriate sites for colonization and to find the type of land use most suitable for new farms. This is a phase, however simple, that seems most frequently neglected. When people are put on the land it is no longer necessary to leave them to experiment, with the risk of a high proportion of failure, when good survey methods are available to ensure sound possibilities of success.

Even when their resources are quite adequate, *new farms need a sound economic basis* to ensure their long-term productive operations. The size of these new units, the best combination of their land, labor and capital resources, their land tenure and marketing arrangements should be carefully studied and determined. In this respect, healthy tenure arrangements on new land (which is often easier than the reorganization of already established units) may have an important influence on the whole agrarian structure of the country.

When planning based on resources and economic factors is completed, it is equally and perhaps even more important to put into practice a program of *technical assistance to the new settlers*. This, of course, can begin even after spontaneous settlement where no prior planning has been done. Such assistance normally has three elements: credit, extension and co-operatives. The programs are frequently combined and amplified in a comprehensive plan of rural development. The special relevance of supervised credit programs for purposes of new settlements was stressed by the Conference.

It was emphasized that the costs of well-planned and well-followed-through settlement may be heavy, but that a large portion of these expenses, particularly those related to education, rural welfare and some of the costs of supervised credit can be regarded as legitimate public costs, that is, an investment in people. Other expenses such as the building of roads, irrigation facilities, houses and other capital goods can be recovered if they are preceded by careful studies and are accompanied by appropriate assistance and supervision.

Concerning settlement immigrant with farmers from abroad, it was emphasized that care must be taken in the selection of the candidates and in their financing, and discrimination must be exercised in their location, so that they could be of maximum help as nuclei to surrounding regions. Indiscriminate or mass migration cannot take the place of selective and carefully planned foreign settlement.

A strong interest was shown in the land settlement work being carried out by FAO. A number of suggestions were made on how countries might

take greater advantage of the existing facilities offered by FAO and how, in turn, the Organization's relevant programs could be made more useful to Latin America. For instance, it was recommended that a systematic flow of information on land settlement legislation, planning and programs in the region be maintained by FAO. Also, that critical analysis of the administrative, financial and economic performance of such programs be made and disseminated to countries. Governments were urged to ask for FAO's direct assistance in land settlement programming.

A concrete suggestion was for the greater use of the recently established Mexican Center of Agrarian Studies for research and training on fundamental aspects of land economics, which may serve as a basis for systematic land settlement.

A large number of countries asked for the activation of the planned Latin-American Seminar on Land Settlement in FAO's approved program of work, with highest priority among the regional technical assistance projects for 1958. It was recommended that such a seminar would be most appropriate to review progress made thus far in the region, to exchange technical information on all aspects of colonization and to draw up a suggestion to the Director-General for the establishment of a permanent regional working party or commission on land settlement. The delegate of Uruguay indicated the interest of his country in acting as a host for such a seminar. The work of the Uruguayan National Institute of Colonization could serve as excellent field demonstration.

The Conference then passed the following resolutions recommending increased national and international attention to colonization questions:

#### *Resolution IV (c) 1*

#### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA,

- a) *considering* that colonization forms an integral and essential part of the policy of agricultural development in the countries of Latin America;
- b) *recognizing* furthermore that considerable work in planning, training and technical supervision is required for the success of the programs of colonization, as well as large investments of capital for the acquisition and improvement of land, for the organization of credit and for other activities in rural development;
- c) *recommends* that the countries of Latin America pay the greatest attention to systematic programs and policies of colonization, by means of special measures of an administrative, technical and financial nature, whether through strengthening existing bodies or by creating new governmental

or semi-governmental agencies to deal with the planning and execution of comprehensive programs of colonization;

- d) *asks* that FAO devote its active and continued attention to land settlement, at headquarters as well as in the field, with the objective of giving the maximum amount of assistance to the countries of the region; FAO should also give greater attention to the continuous analysis and review of legislation covering colonization and to the plans and programs which are worked out and put into practice in the different countries of the region;
- e) *recommends* that the work of the Latin-American Seminar on Land Problems, organized so successfully in Campinas, Brazil, in 1953, should be continued in the form of more intensive activities in the fields of investigation and training with special emphasis on practical problems relating to the establishment, on a satisfactory basis, of family-type farms for intensive agriculture;
- f) and that FAO should organize a regional Seminar on Land Settlement in 1958, in co-operation with appropriate international organizations such as OAS, ILO, ECLA and IBRD, giving it the highest priority on the list of regional Expanded Technical Assistance Programs projects. The Seminar should consider the possibility of establishing a permanent FAO working party or regional commission on land settlement and recommend to the Director-General of FAO its terms of reference.

#### *Resolution IV (c) 2*

#### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

##### *Recommends*

- 1) that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in co-operation with other relevant organizations, should deal with the following problems:
  - a) the organization of a regular service of information and interchange with regard to colonization policies in the various countries taking into account the general programming aspects as well as the results of the work;
  - b) the study of the administrative rules and procedures for colonization, so that in the future countries can have the benefits of a programming system in this field;
  - c) the study of the methods which can help countries to estimate the costs of colonization projects, and to choose in each case the most adequate means of financing;

- d) the establishment of a set of principles including the financial, technical and social aspects, to help countries in organizing and assisting colonization centers;
  - e) the provisions of technical assistance to countries of Latin America, in the planning and actual execution of such projects, including sending of experts and granting fellowships to personnel both at the executive and working levels.
- 2) That the governments of the countries of Latin America contribute all possible resources to the carrying out of settlement projects planned with FAO's assistance, and inform the other countries of their experiences, through the facilities offered by FAO, in agreement with paragraph 1) a) of this Resolution.

#### *Resolution IV (c) 3*

##### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA,

- a) *considering* that for successful colonization programs in the countries of the region, the activities of the Mexican Center of Agricultural Studies involving land use and tenure could be very useful;
- b) *suggests* that the countries of Latin America take advantage of the facilities of the Center for research and training, principally by sending scholarship students to take part in field studies, and aid the Center in assembling a comprehensive reference collection for the region in its sphere of activities;
- c) *recommends* to FAO that, in the spirit of FAO Conference Resolution N° 17/55, and in line with the suggestions contained in document LARC 56/5, REV 1, dealing with topic 7 of this Regional Conference, it give high priority to assistance to the Center, within the Expanded Technical Assistance Program, and that it consider taking advantage of the Center's facilities for giving training courses in matters related to colonization.

#### *Resolution IV (c) 4*

##### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA,

###### *Considering*

- a) that carefully studied colonization plans, well carried out, improve agricultural production, tend to balance the distribution of the population and favor the creation of regional centers of economic activity



which will facilitate the harmonious development of Latin-American countries;

- a) that a number of these countries lack sufficient financial resources for such plans;
- b) that the Government of the United States has approved certain laws (See Document LARC 56/2) which promote the economic development of Latin-American countries, among them being law N° 480, dealing with mutual aid, allocating funds to carry out, among other things, programs for establishing centers of colonization either with nationals or by means of immigrants, according to the preferences shown in the agricultural policies of the interested nations;

### *Recommends*

to the Latin-American Governments that they request credits or grants-in-aid based on Law N° 480 of Mutual Assistance; that they give proper attention, in the use of funds obtained, to investments in specific and carefully studied schemes of colonization;

and that also in case of colonization through immigrants, efforts should be made to secure the co-operation of the Inter-Governmental Committee of European Migration (ICEM) and of other international organizations, to ensure the success of such plans and to express to the Government of the United States of America the interest which the Latin-American nations have in making a positive effort through these means toward strengthening their economies.

## *Chapter V*

### **MATTERS REQUIRING CONFERENCE GUIDANCE, GOVERNMENT ATTENTION OR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION**

#### **(a) Soil Surveys and Soil Fertility**

The Conference reviewed the past activities of FAO in these two fields and noted with satisfaction the offer of the Government of Costa Rica to act as host to two consecutive meetings which will take place in March or April 1957. The first will ensure a continuation of the activities, begun in 1951 at the Rio de Janeiro Meeting on Fertilizer Production, Distribution and Consumption in Latin America, and the second will afford, for the first time, the opportunity to make a review of the progress accomplished in the region, mainly under the Technical Assistance Program, on soil surveys and classification.

In the discussion, the basic importance of soil surveys for the planning of agricultural production was stressed. This applies particularly to a region such as Latin America, which possesses on the one hand vast untouched areas of potential agricultural development, and areas where the fertility of the soil has been exhausted, and where misuse and erosion have wrought havoc. Systematic soil surveys are a safe guide to the full appreciation of the protective role of forests in the upper reaches of watersheds, and contribute enormously to the judicious use of land, either for forest, pasture or intensive crop husbandry, in the high plains, valleys and seashore regions. They are urgent in order to correct past mistake, where this is possible, and to avoid future ones. In addition, it is recognized that a great deal of research is needed into the basic properties and the proper use of tropical soils, which have had much less attention than the soil types of temperate regions. It was also stressed that much was to be gained by inter-country consultation, with the help of FAO, in the survey and mapping of contiguous regions of one soil type, as for instance in the case of the La Plata region.

During the discussion, the Argentinian, Brazilian and Chilean delegations, recognizing the great importance of furthering soil surveys and soil classifica-

tion work, not only in their countries, but in the region as whole, kindly offered on behalf of their respective governments, facilities for the establishment of a regional center on soil survey and soil classification, including facilities for laboratory work and training. After discussing their respective proposals, they agreed to submit to the Conference a joint draft resolution, asking the Director-General of FAO to examine the problem further with the three governments concerned, and to submit a definite proposal to the Ninth Session of the FAO Conference in November 1957.

The Conference recognized that training in the methods of soil survey and classification was a generally felt need in the region. With this in view, the Argentine, Brazilian and the Chilean delegations offered the assistance of their countries in acting as hosts to a training center on the subject, which, funds permitting, might be organized in 1958 in co-operation with FAO and OAS.

A number of technical problems which arose during the discussion were referred for further consideration to the two technical meetings to be held in Costa Rica in early 1957.

At the end of the debate, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

*Resolution V (a) 1*

THE FOURTH FAO CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering* the great importance of soil surveys and soil classification for the conservation, improvement and judicious use of soils which are the most important renewable resource of the Latin-American Region;

*notes* with great satisfaction the generous offers of the Governments of Argentina, Brazil and Chile to make available to the countries of this region, under the auspices of FAO, their centers for soil survey and soil classification, including laboratories for soil analysis;

is particularly pleased that these offers include facilities for the training of personnel in the subjects mentioned;

*Requests the Director-General of FAO*

1) to explore with the three governments concerned the constitutional and budgetary implication of their offers, having particular regard to any long-term commitments the Organization may have to make under either the regular or technical assistance budgets in order to safeguard the permanency and the healthy development of the center over a number of years;

2) to report to the Ninth Session of the FAO Conference in 1957 on the results of his negotiations, and if possible to submit a definite proposal for its consideration, including a draft agreement for the establishment and operation of the center.

### **(b) Fisheries Surveys as a Basis for Regional and National Development Planning**

The Conference took note of a paper (LARC 56/7) on "The Use of General Fisheries Surveys as a Basis for Regional and National Development Planning" which stressed that the task of promoting balanced fishery development depends essentially on the existence of adequate information on biological and technological as well as on economic and social factors.

The preliminary survey stage should be followed by a planning and implementation stage, and only then could an intelligent choice be made between alternative development policies for fisheries, in conformity with the general economic policy of the country in question and compatible with its physical, technological, economic and social potentialities. The later stages of such a program must be subject to extensive revision in the light of the experience gained in its earlier stages, but these revisions should not, if the program is carefully and adequately planned, be the consequence of avoidable failures. Steady development is, however, possible throughout these stages.

Such surveys already exist in some countries at the national level, and at least one group of countries in the region has found it desirable to co-operate closely in this field. FAO is endeavoring to assist both through the assignment of experts and through the development of methods. This approach does not represent merely a purely theoretical appraisal of the regional fisheries situation, but is also based on the considerable experience which FAO has accumulated during several years of active endeavor in this region.

Under the FAO Expanded Technical Assistance Program, two training centers have been conducted in Chile and Mexico and during the past five years 25 fishery experts have been assigned to 13 countries of the region. While many worthwhile results had been achieved, there was a grave lack of basic information on the various aspects of the fishery industries, and perhaps the major hindrance to the formation of realistic development plans is the lack of a balanced general survey of the fishery industries which would provide a reliable indication of the contribution which fisheries do make or could make toward the attainment of the over-all economic, nutritional and social objectives.

An important result which governments may hope to gain from such fisheries surveys would be a reliable indication as to the prospects of success

for their various objectives. From FAO's point of view, such surveys would advance the assembly and international comparability of fisheries information. Increasing interest of governments in making a more realistic appraisal of their fisheries resources was becoming ever more apparent and it was hoped that both the national and the FAO programs would profit from investigations of this nature, in which FAO was anxious to render all possible assistance.

The Chilean delegation stated that the fishery industries in Chile had developed to an extraordinary extent during recent years and special legislation had been introduced to favor fisheries development. Technical assistance from FAO and the active co-operation of national institutions have been important factors in achieving this progress and new fishing industries which are being established promise to constitute one of the principal economic activities of Chile. It was the present policy of the Fish and Game Department to direct the fishing effort toward consumption by the people in preference to massive utilization as subproducts. The training of technicians and professional personnel for the solution of fishery problems was considered to be of the utmost importance and was being undertaken by the Chilean universities. Nevertheless, a serious crisis was becoming apparent in the Chilean fishery industries and a more intense program of technical aid was requested from FAO in order to assist the Government in overcoming these difficulties.

Finally, the Chilean delegation introduced a resolution in the sense that the countries of the region should give the greatest importance to the establishment of the Latin-American Fisheries Council, the constitution of which was drawn up in a special meeting held at Lima in 1951 and recommended for adoption at the Third Regional Conference held in Buenos Aires. It was believed that such a regional Fisheries Council would facilitate in a large measure the solution of the problems which fisheries institutions are facing in all countries of the region.

The delegation for Ecuador called attention to the great interest taken in the development of fisheries in his country. Steps were being taken to develop a fisheries policy and the Government was anxious to carry out the basic studies indispensable for the development of the industry, in co-operation with FAO.

The Ecuadorian Government was, with FAO assistance, already developing a marketing, refrigeration and processing unit based on many of its principal fishing ports and hoped to extend its activities to other landing places in the near future. It was also interested in developing the inland fisheries in the rivers at high altitudes as an important source of food for those sectors of the population lacking in animal protein. Latin-American governments should establish development programs for biological research, in order to be able to judge the degree of intensification of fishery development possible

without endangering the resources. A resolution was presented by the Ecuadorian delegation to the effect that FAO should assist countries of the region in developing their research and investigation programs and that fellowships should be made available for training professional personnel.

Since certain countries with coasts on the Pacific Ocean share common fisheries resources, the delegation of Panama proposed that these countries should, pending the formation of the Latin-American Fisheries Council, take immediate interim measures to convene a meeting in order to establish a program of investigation of their common aquatic resources, through the co-ordination of their technical assistance and educational programs. The Panamanian Government offered full co-operation in such a scheme through the utilization of the existing facilities in its National Fisheries Laboratory, and its good offices in approaching other sources of technical assistance in order to base on that laboratory a concerted program of fishery investigation in the interest of these neighboring countries.

The Peruvian delegation called attention to the fact that an increased supply of animal proteins would depend largely on the availability of protein from seafood. It therefore became necessary to undertake basic studies of the fishery resources with a view to their development and conservation. The delegation therefore proposed that the Conference should recommend that studies for the development of the fishery industries should be integrated with the general economic policy of each country, and that special attention should be given to the development and conservation of the biological resources.

The resolutions approved on fisheries matters follow.

#### *Resolution V (b) 1*

#### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICAN

##### *Considering*

that, at the FAO Regional Conference held in Montevideo in 1950, a resolution was passed recommending the establishment of a Latin-American Fisheries Council;

that the delegates of countries represented at special meeting called by FAO held in Lima in September 1951, drew up a projected agreement for the setting up of such Council;

that when the Third Regional Conference was held in 1954, the creation of the Regional Latin-American Fisheries Council still had not been ratified; and for that reason the delegates approved a resolution recommending to the governments participating, that they take the necessary steps to enable the Council to begin its activities as quickly as possible;

that, nevertheless, up to the present time, the necessary number of ra-

tifications has not been obtained and the Latin-American Fisheries Council still remains only a project;

that the Regional Councils which operate in other areas have carried out and are carrying out fruitful research work;

*Recommends*

that the representatives of the governments of those countries which are attending this Conference should urge the immediate ratification of the agreement reached at the Lima Conference relating to the setting-up of a Latin-American Fisheries Council.

*Resolution V (b) 2*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering*

that the American fishery resources and reserves constitute one of the major sources of wealth of the American countries;

that the biological research carried out has been, with certain exceptions, deficient, thus resulting in unbalanced management or in restricted exploitation;

*Recommends*

to FAO that it give special technical assistance, through its experts, to those countries which request it, in order to appraise and control its maritime wealth; and that it give preferential attention in its fellowship program to the education of technicians in this field to those countries which request it.

*Resolution V (b) 3*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering*

- 1) that some of the coastal countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean possess certain fishing resources in common;
- 2) that industrial fishing in certain countries in the Latin-American region and which exploit these common resources, have achieved a notable development during recent years;
- 3) that, with the object of encouraging the better development of these common resources and ensuring the maximum production on a permanent basis, it is vital to acquire an adequate knowledge of the subject;
- 4) that many of these countries at present lack the necessary facilities to undertake such studies and that their individual resources are

insufficient to permit them to initiate them on a scale large enough to give satisfactory results;

- 5) that technical assistance at present available is limited to certain specific projects in certain countries on an unco-ordinated short-term basis;
- 6) that it is the belief of the Panamanian delegation that it would be to the benefit of these countries to take steps to remedy this situation by co-ordinating their efforts;

#### *Recommends*

- 1) that nations having a coast line within the geographical zone previously mentioned take immediate action to lead to an effective co-ordination of their efforts toward the study of those fishery problems which affect the common resources in question;
- 2) that until the Latin-American Fisheries Council is formed, the constitution of which was drawn up during a special meeting called by FAO in Lima in 1951, the nations of the geographical area referred to above should call a meeting of their accredited representatives with the object of examining the possibilities of taking immediate interim steps to lay down a plan of action to investigate their marine resources by co-ordinating their technical and educational programs on fisheries and with the advice of FAO;
- 3) that the nations referred to consider the desirability of making use of the already existing facilities in the National Fisheries Laboratory set up by the Government of Panama under the Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry as well as of the good offices of the Government with a view to obtaining the participation of other organizations in providing technical help, especially in the acquisition of personnel, equipment and services which cannot be covered by the FAO budget, together with the greatest economic help which the Panamanian government can offer to this program within its possibilities.

#### *Resolution V (b) 4*<sup>1</sup>

#### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

##### *Recommends*

without bearing on the juridical aspects involved, that in the studies for the development of fisheries and related industries, as well as in their application, there be taken into account:

<sup>1</sup> The delegates of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Brazil and France abstained from voting on this resolution.



- a) the general program of economic development of each country and its physical and technological potentialities;
- b) that each country should exercise good management to maintain and conserve living aquatic resources;
- c) the greater interest of coastal states in maintaining the productivity of the marine resources.

### (c) Forestry Problems

(i) *Forestry and Colonization.* The Conference took note of a document of the Secretariat concerning forestry and colonization, indicating that new settlements established on land covered with forest vegetation should maintain a part of the existing forest, particularly for soil protection against wind and water erosion. Even in settlements on originally non-forested areas the inclusion of trees can be of great benefit for soil conservation and water regime regularization, shade for cattle, timber for the farmer, etc.

The Chilean delegation spoke on unregulated exploitation and its disastrous consequences, both on soil and water conservation and on the timber market, by giving rise to soaring prices and increasing transportation difficulties. The Conference adopted Resolution V (c) 1 stressing the importance of the collaboration of forestry technicians in developing any plans of colonization and agricultural expansion.

#### *Resolution V (c) 1*

#### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

##### *Recognizing*

- a) the fundamental role of forests and trees in the maintenance and re-constitution of the fertility of the soil; and
- b) as a consequence, the permanent role which these play in the development of agricultural expansion and colonization;

##### *Recommends*

- 1) to the Governments of Latin America that all plans of colonization and agricultural expansion should include the collaboration of forestry technicians in their planning and execution;
- 2) to FAO that it should take into consideration this collaboration of forestry experts in the assistance given to countries requesting help for colonization and agricultural expansion projects.

(ii) *Forestry and Soil Fertility.* The Conference considered a statement on the relations between the fertility of agricultural soils and the conservation

of forest soils. The role of the forest in watershed management was stressed. The danger of the usual shifting cultivation in tropical areas was illustrated and mention made of a new method for improving such cultivation.

Two resolutions were adopted by the Conference on this matter (V (c) 2 and 3 below), the first stressing the need for legislation to protect forest resources, and for its effective enforcement, while the second recommended to countries affected by deforestation problems increased programs of reforestation through technical organizations.

#### *Resolution V (c) 2*

#### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

##### *Considering*

that in the Latin American countries the forests, in addition to fulfilling their natural function of biological control, also constitute in themselves a factor of exceptional importance in commercial trading;

that the great benefits of all kinds, resulting from the existence of these forests, make of them a substantial part of the patrimony of each country;

that the exploitation of the forests is leaving cleared land suitable for agricultural uses, its condition varying according as to how rational is the system of exploitation;

that the rainfall, the temperature and the richness of the soil are, among other things, natural phenomena closely related to the existence of forests and the use made of them;

that in consequence it is necessary to control the conservation or exploitation of the existing forests by governmental measures, taken in order to protect this precious natural resource;

##### *Recommends*

that the governments of the Latin-American countries pay even greater attention to their forestry resources, for which purpose it is considered advisable to pass suitable legislation dealing with the subject and to enforce it permanently.

#### *Resolution V (c) 3*

#### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

##### *Considering*

that in some Latin-American countries the lack of a practical policy for the protection of the natural forests has created a condition of deforesta-

tion of alarming proportions, highly prejudicial to various aspects of the life of these countries;

that this fact, as is well known, had the negative result among others of originating and multiplying the disastrous effects of soil erosion, to the point of ruining large tracts of land that could have been turned into positive sources of production;

that it is necessary for the countries affected or notified of the danger to put into practice plans for reforestation (natural or artificial) in those cases where this is not being carried out and that, gradually, they contribute to the restitution of their lost patrimony;

### *Recommends*

to the Latin-American governments affected by the deforestation problem that they devote greater concern and interest to practicing, bettering and amplifying the programs of reforestation now under way, by means of specific technical organizations.

(iii) *Forestry Research.* The Conference took note of the document LARC 56/8 in which special reference is made to the possible contribution of member countries to the Latin-American Forestry Research and Training Institute at Merida, Venezuela. This contribution is essential if the Institute is to be run on a permanent basis.

A statement was read on the organization and the tentative program of the Institute pointing out that it had become effective in May 1956 through the signing of an agreement between FAO and the Government of Venezuela. After the appointment of the Director and the Technical Advisor as from 1 August, a program had been elaborated for the Institute, including research in wood technology, forest botany, wood chemistry and small-scale forest inventories. A documentation and translation service will be set up to provide the region with up-to-date information on forestry matters. The Forestry School at Merida, is well equipped with laboratory space and instruments and the Institute will be able to start forestry research in these fields. The research in the wood technology and in forest botany will be carried out by specially appointed FAO technicians whose appointments will be made before the end of the year. The staff of the forestry faculty, whose main task is teaching and practical work with the students, will co-operate in forestry research as far as time will permit.

In the course of the discussion, the delegates of France, the Netherlands and the Dominican Republic pledged financial contributions to the Institute and also expressed the opinion that the provision of technical help might be favorably considered by their respective governments. The delegates of Mexico, Brazil, Chile and Honduras expressed also their willingness to co-operate with the Institute, while the delegate of Honduras added the offer

of laboratory space and equipment in his country to carry out research of a national or local character. The Conference adopted Resolution V (c) 4 emphasizing the continuing interest in the project, thanking FAO and the Venezuelan government for the action they had taken, noting the support which had been pledged by some countries and requesting other countries to consider and to advise FAO what contribution they could make.

*Resolution V (c) 4*<sup>2</sup>

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Taking note* of document LARC 56/8 regarding the establishment of the Latin-American Forestry Research and Training Institute at Merida, as well as of the relevant comments made by the Secretariat;

*re-emphasizes* the expression of its interest in the project under discussion and thanks the Director-General and Venezuelan authorities for the steps they have been good enough to take to ensure its being carried out;

*and noting* the declarations made by the various delegations as to aid which their countries are prepared to make;

*asks* the other countries to study their own contributions to the project under consideration, and to advise the extent of these directly to the Director-General of FAO.

**(d) 1960 World Census of Agriculture**

The Conference took note of the plans of FAO for conducting a World Census of Agriculture in 1960. In particular, certain broad aspects of the draft census program, including the increased emphasis on the use of modern statistical techniques and its wider scope and greater flexibility compared with the 1950 program, were brought to the attention of the Conference. The delegates expressed general agreement with the new aspects of the program and expressed satisfaction at the arrangements made for regional consultation on the technical details. The Conference urged the governments of the region to make adequate budgetary provisions not only for the execution of the census but also for its processing, tabulation and publication of results.

The delegate of Chile, after mentioning the role of statistics as a science in the service of man for economic and social development, referred to the third session of the Inter-American Statistical Conference which recommended the organization of censuses in 1960. He expressed the hope that each

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<sup>2</sup> The United Kingdom delegate abstained from voting on this resolution owing to the lack of instructions from his Government.

country would examine the various concepts and items of the census programs and adapt them to local needs and requirements. Regarding sampling, he mentioned its use in the last agricultural census in Chile for enumerating farms under 1 hectare and also land operated by *inquilinos*. At the same time he emphasized the need of caution in using this new and delicate technique, which requires highly trained technical staff.

The delegate of Uruguay stressed the importance of periodic censuses for revealing the economic potentialities of a country. He expressed general agreement with the greater scope and flexibility provided for in the 1960 draft program. According to the legal position his country should conduct an agricultural census every five years, and since they have just taken a census in 1956, the next census in Uruguay will be taken in 1961. The delegate said that since Uruguay is a small country with good communications it would be possible to obtain reliable information by complete enumeration. He described briefly some of the concepts and methods used in the 1956 census in his country.

The delegate of Paraguay described the experience in planning and execution of the agricultural census currently being taken in his country with the assistance of an FAO expert. He mentioned that many problems of administration were solved by appealing to the patriotic sentiments of the people and enlisting their willing co-operation.

The delegate of the United Kingdom stated that there has been continual development of sample surveys since 1950 for obtaining agricultural statistics in the British colonies of the Caribbean Area. The offices concerned keep in touch with FAO on this subject.

The delegate of Mexico stressed the importance and usefulness of agricultural censuses.

The U.N. observer referred to the role of the United Nations as a user of statistics from various countries for purposes of economic analysis. He said that while countries have made serious efforts to improve in current statistics, these efforts in the field of agriculture are still proportionately much smaller. He appealed to the delegates to urge their respective governments to make much greater efforts not only for the improvement of statistics of agricultural production but also of those relating to prices, consumption, stocks and active agricultural population.

The following two resolutions were adopted:

#### *Resolution V (d) 1*

#### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

##### *Considering:*

- 1) that FAO, in accordance with the directives of the Eighth Session

of the Conference has prepared a draft program for a world census of agriculture for 1960, and which has already been distributed to the countries of this region for information and comments;

- 2) that the necessary measures are being taken for consultations, at the regional level, on the technical aspects of the program, with the Inter-American Statistical Institute (ASI), so as to ensure maximum comparability within the region;

*Recognizing:*

the importance of the census in obtaining information, not only on land use and agrarian structure, essential for agricultural programming, but also to establish benchmarks for the checking and improvement of current agricultural statistics;

*Recommends:*

- 1) that the governments of the countries of the region take part in the World Agricultural Census of 1960;
- 2) that the governments of the countries of the region make appropriate provision, in the budget of the bureaux of statistics or other organizations charged with carrying out the agricultural census, for the financing of the preparation, execution, tabulation, analysis and publication of the census results;
- 3) that the governments of those countries which have recently carried out an agricultural census, study the possibility of gathering census information by sampling for the year 1960.

*Resolution V (d) 2*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering:*

that agricultural statistical series in the period between the censuses have a basic importance for governmental decisions on agricultural policies, in the programming of agricultural development and in technical analysis on a national, regional and international level and therefore require continuous vigilance to maintain and improve their quality and scope;

*Recommends:*

- 1) that FAO and the Inter-American Statistical Institute promote, with the governments of each country, the creation of a national permanent committee of assessment and investigation in the field of agricultural statistics;

- 2) that the functions of this committee should be: to study the statistical systems and methods in use at present; to analyze the degree of precision of all important series, not only those concerning agricultural production but also producers' prices and other related series; to recommend the improvements technically feasible.

### **(e) Regional Co-ordination of Agricultural Research Activities**

The working paper LARC 56/11 on this subject was supplemented by a verbal introduction which drew attention particularly to some phases of FAO's work in Europe, and a recent beginning of similar activities in Central America by means of a meeting jointly organized in Turrialba by FAO and IAIAS in December 1955. A very lively discussion, in which the delegates of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, U.S.A. and the observer for O.A.S. participated, brought out the following points:

- 1) There is a great need to strengthen agricultural research facilities in all countries of the region, not only through increased appropriation of funds for building and equipment, but equally through the provision of training facilities for qualified research workers, and through employment conditions which are attractive enough to retain the best people in spite of the growing number of attractive possibilities in other lines of endeavor, including private industry.

- 2) National research activities must be closely guided by the needs of the agricultural industry. In order to achieve this, advisory bodies should be established in which the farming community itself can help in giving guidance to research institutions in the shaping of their long-term programs and the establishment of immediate priorities. Progressively, national agricultural research councils should be established, which should serve as intermediary bodies between farmers and the research institutions and would exercise a certain supervision over the activities entrusted to the latter by governments.

- 3) The closest possible contact should be established between national research and national extension services, so as to ensure that the results of research work are made available with the shortest possible delay to farmers.

- 4) In view of the present dearth of research institutions in the region steps must be taken to ensure:

- a) that research projects should be undertaken in the most appropriate sequence, having regard to the relation between their cost and the expectable benefit to agriculture;

- b) that close contact be maintained between all research institutes of the region, so as to make their programs complementary and useful to

other countries with similar conditions, thus avoiding duplication and waste of effort.

5) It was forcibly brought out that inter-country co-operation in research can be particularly useful in respect to the control of plant diseases, insect pests and epizootics, all of which respect no boundaries. As examples for much-needed co-operation, in which the help of FAO and other international agencies was requested, specific mention was made of the *Hemileia* pest of coffee, the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, and Foot and Mouth Disease. In this connection, the necessity for close co-operation between the interested international agencies was stressed.

6) It was pointed out that Central America, Mexico and Panama had already created an appropriate instrument for dealing with plant and animal quarantine and related research in the form of the *Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria* (OIRSA), and that the Southern American Region might wish to study a similar common approach to this important problem.

7) The Delegate of Uruguay proposed to the Conference the establishment of a regional agricultural and livestock research institute, for which his Government would make an initial contribution in the form of several thousand hectares of suitable land, together with the existing buildings which include some research facilities. The value of the full equipment of the Institute and the annual operations budget should be contributed, he suggested, by the interested governments of the region and by international agencies, primarily FAO. The Delegate of Uruguay requested the Director-General of FAO to study the plan in detail and inform Member Governments in the region of the result of his study, preferably at a meeting called for this purpose.

The Conference, while expressing its high appreciation of this offer, stressed the need for such a thorough study of the proposal particularly from the technical and financial standpoint. Some doubt was voiced whether the complexity of climatic and ecological conditions would allow a central institute to do applied research which would be useful for the whole region. In this connection, it was proposed that FAO undertake an ecological survey of the region with a view to establishing zones with common research problems. The Conference agreed that the proposal should be examined by the Director-General of FAO, in consultation with the Government of Uruguay, and requested that he report on his findings at an early date, possibly at the Ninth Session of the FAO Conference in 1957.

The opinion was also expressed that the immediate need was for the strengthening of national research facilities.

At the conclusion of the debate, the following further recommendations and resolutions were adopted:



*Resolution V (e) 1*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

A) With respect to the general organization of agricultural research,

*Recommends*

that periodic meetings on agricultural research in South America be held at which the national research programs will be reviewed and joint programs of co-operative work will be prepared <sup>3</sup>;

that FAO, within the limits of its resources, organize a seminar on planning, co-operation and evaluation of agricultural research in the region;

that governments sponsor the formation of a council for the planning and co-ordination of agricultural research and a committee for the evaluation of research projects.

B) With respect to research in diseases and pests affecting plant and animal life,

*Declares*

that the appearance of plant and animal diseases and pests should be considered a danger to all the other member countries; and thus

*Recommends*

that Latin-American countries co-ordinate their programs in research leading to co-operative action in the control of these plagues, especially where they can be considered a common danger to several countries of the region;

that FAO, in co-operation with other interested international organizations, provide the facilities for a continued exchange of information and experience in these fields;

that FAO organize a meeting or seminar to study methods of fighting plagues; in particular that a seminar be organized for the control of the fruit fly, for which Argentina offers all necessary facilities.

*Resolution V(e) 2*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering*

- 1) that the cultivation of coffee constitutes one of the major sources of wealth in Latin America;

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<sup>3</sup> In this connection, the delegate of Peru offered Lima as the center for one of these meetings.

- 2) that there is evidence that the terrible disease called Coffee Blight, caused by the fungus *Hemileia vastatrix* can be carried by wind from Africa to the American continent;
- 3) that this disease does not exist on the American continent and that its introduction would be disastrous to the coffee-producing countries;
- 4) that very important work on varieties resistant to the disease is being carried out in the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences in Turrialba, Costa Rica, resulting in a considerable number of resistant varieties giving a good-quality product;

#### *Recommends*

1) to the Latin-American coffee-producing countries that they initiate or broaden programs directed toward the obtaining of varieties resistant to *Hemileia*, taking advantage of the results of the research carried out by the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences at Turrialba;

2) considering the possibility of offering new economic support to the Institute in question so that it may intensify the work carried on up to now in this area;

3) to FAO that it suggest, draw up, or conduct a project that, attracting the joint action of the agencies of the Government of the United States of America, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, FEDECAME, the Colombian Federation of Coffee Producers and other national and international bodies, will help to guarantee the stability of coffee growing in the Americas.

### **(f) Improvement of Livestock Production**

The Conference reviewed the recommendations of the Third Inter-American Meeting on Livestock Production, held in Buenos Aires from 18 April to 30 April 1955. It considered, in particular, those recommendations which required attention on the policy level for their effective application, such as Nos. 33 and 34 which created a permanent working party on livestock reproduction, composed of technicians of the member countries, and sub-groups to study specific problems. It also studied recommendations 3, 4, and 6 which, under heading of climatology, referred to the problems of the high altitude and tropical areas. Resolutions 12 and 13, which carried out the recommendations of the Panama Conference of 1952 and 1954 on procedures for avoiding the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, and resolutions 16 and 19 which referred, respectively, to the diagnosis of vesicular diseases and to the control of parasitic diseases, were discussed. Attention was also given to the increase in poultry farming and to the importance of quarantine

arrangements in international poultry trade, to which resolutions 25 and 26 referred. Documents LARC 56/10 and the report of the Third Inter-American Meeting on Livestock Production served as a basis for the discussion.

The Conference listened with interest to a series of statements having to do with livestock policy. The delegation of Chile referred to measures for making livestock trade more orderly by the construction, with official support, of slaughterhouses and milk plants which will be handed over to private industry. Chile has carried out programs in the three basic branches which contribute to livestock improvement: first, the improvement of livestock by means of the importation of breeding stock and the establishment of pedigree registers and studs, the use of artificial insemination together with credits in aid; second, in the field of livestock management and feeding there is a trend toward increasing artificial pastures and, in the south, rabbit control is being carried out through myxomatosis; third, in the control of diseases, particular attention is being paid to foot-and-mouth disease, brucellosis, and tuberculosis. The parasitical diseases are being fought, and measures are being taken to reduce sterility. The delegation of Chile pointed out the important contribution that FAO had made in these fields in the country.

The Argentine delegate referred to the work on certain breeds of cattle known as *auquénidos* and *chinchillas* at the High Altitude Experimental Station at Abrapampa, Jujuy, situated 4,400 meters above sea level. He considered that this work has not yet been sufficiently extensive and that in the future it will be intensified. He said that Argentina could not set up an internal committee to study altitude problems because of the difficulties arising from the low cultural level of the native population. On the other hand, in so far as the problems of the subtropical zones are concerned, Argentina is disposed to establish a working party. The preparation of the phytoclimatic map was very advanced and work was being done on zooclimatic maps, but the latter were progressing more slowly owing to a lack of technicians. Regarding this, he suggested the forming of an international subgroup to work on zooclimatic maps with the help of experts in meteorology and climatology.

Referring to poultry farming he indicated that its development is relatively slow by reason of its being a subsidiary industry. Recently it was prohibited to import birds from countries where Newcastle disease existed. He concluded by informing the Conference that Argentina had nominated its members of the working parties.

The Paraguayan delegate reviewed the efforts, both official and private, to improve livestock and which included the import and local raising of breeding sires and the establishment of a blood bank by STICA which distributes Zebu sires especially of the Santa Gertrudi strain, to private livestock farmers. The introduction of this strain and its diffusion by means of artificial insem-

ination has given good results. In the realm of disease control he did not consider that sufficient progress had been made, but that the position had improved recently. He referred, finally, to the serious problems produced by the invasion of pasture by weeds and trees.

The Uruguayan delegate mentioned the high incidence of endoparasites in sheep. He pointed out that important progress had been made, with the co-operation of FAO; the consumption of fenotiazina having increased from approximately 30 tons to about 900 tons which has given rise to the installation of three factories in the country. In conclusion he referred to the experience gained by the National Commission for the Protection of Indigenous Fauna, and which he placed at the disposal of the other countries of the continent.

The delegate from Costa Rica expressed his thanks for the important help which FAO had given to his country in the improvement of the production of livestock. He mentioned that Costa Rica now finds herself in a position to export meat. He emphasized the importance of regional co-ordination, particularly as to control of disease, and in which Central America had made important progress, due to the setting up of OIRSA.

The Mexican delegate mentioned the fundamental importance to the country of the improvement in the production of livestock. He emphasized the efforts which his government is making to improve the management of pasture land and the establishment of artificial pastures. He discussed the relative priority which should be given to the control of disease and the breeding and management of livestock and stated that this point should be considered by the working party set up in Buenos Aires. He asked, in conclusion that FAO should lend greater assistance in the realm of poultry farming.

The delegations of Brazil, Colombia, and Cuba also took part in the discussion, referring to the various aspects of the livestock industry in their respective countries. Finally the Conference listened to the observer of OIRSA, who gave an explanation of the work his organization is doing in the co-ordination of the fight against diseases, in quarantine legislation and its activities in Central America, Mexico, and Panama.

The Conference took note of the progress report presented by the Secretariat on the joint ECLA/FAO Livestock Survey contained in Doc. LARC 56/3, Annex 1. The Conference suggested that the FAO Secretariat should consider the possibility of posting one or more livestock experts in its Regional Office to collaborate in this survey.

It also requested interested governments to give their best support to this study by collecting the necessary information and data following the outline contained in the above progress report and make it available to those responsible for the survey. The Chilean Government stated that it was ready to

furnish an extensive analysis on the livestock industry that had been prepared as a part of the eight-year agricultural plan currently in operation.

As a result of these discussions, the Conference approved of the following recommendations:

*Resolution V (f) 1*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering*

that it is necessary to approach the livestock problems of the region as a whole, combining aims which can be common to various countries which possess similar characteristics;

that the Third Inter-American Meeting on Livestock Production held in Buenos Aires in 1954 established a number of working parties having to do with specific livestock problems;

that various international organizations are working on this matter in the region;

*Agrees*

that there ought to be provided a central point of contact where the programs and efforts can be co-ordinated, and, for that reason;

*Recommends*

1) that the Governments proceed as soon as possible with the appointment of their members for the working parties established by the Buenos Aires meeting;

2) that FAO, within the budget laid down for regional projects by the Technical Assistance Program, appoint an official to take charge of the regional co-ordination of livestock activities.

*Resolution V (f) 2*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering*

that when planning improvements of agricultural and livestock production, it is of interest to take into account the biological equilibrium of the species;

that disturbance of the equilibrium has caused significant harm in many parts of the world;

that control by each country would avoid the decimation of indigenous species and would produce income which could be used to stimulate the breeding of useful species and the study of the diseases which affect them, or of which they could be the carriers;

*Recommends*

1) to the governments of Latin America that they protect the useful indigenous species, in order to avoid their extinction and also the disturbance of the biological equilibrium;

2) to FAO, that it include in the agenda of the next Livestock Production Meeting an item on the protection of the useful indigenous species.

*Resolution V (f) 3*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering*

that the formation of a seminar for the control of parasitic diseases in sheep is of interest to several Latin-American countries, and to FAO;

that the incidence of the scourge, in the exploitation of this species, may be of the greatest economic significance;

*Recommends*

that FAO organize a seminar for the control of sheep parasitic diseases in the course of 1957, for which Uruguay offers its institutions.

*Resolution V (f) 4*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering*

that infertility of various species of cattle is reaching very high proportions and constitutes one of the limiting factors of production;

that because of the complexity of the problem, which could be due to infectious, organic or nutritional causes, there is a need for experts in diagnosis and treatment, for a rational planning of the fight against infertility;

*Recommends*

that the Governments and FAO in their technical assistance programs give preference to the study of this type of problems, requesting and providing experts, and facilities for the training of technicians, including the granting of fellowships for study.

*Resolution V (f) 5*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering*

that the attempt might be made to introduce animals into Latin-American countries from areas subject to infectious diseases or parasites non-existent in the region;

that this would present a grave threat to zootechnical resources;

*Recommends*

that, under the auspices of FAO, the Latin-American countries subscribe an agreement that would control in all its details the entrance of livestock at their frontiers.

*Resolution V (f) 6*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering*

that the Third Inter-American Meeting on Livestock Production in its recommendations 3 and 4 pointed out the necessity of studying the diverse problems of animal production at high altitudes;

that there is a well-defined Andean area, formed by the Argentinian, Bolivian, Chilean, and Peruvian plateaux, where the animals of the llama group are bred, which constitute a valuable source of wealth, and that for the intensification of their production there must be made available better biological and physiological knowledge;

*Recommends*

the creation of a High Altitude Experimental Station of an international character in some plateau area which would also serve for the training of specialized technicians of the respective countries;

*Appreciates*

the offer made by Argentina to put at the disposal of the aforementioned countries the High Altitude Experimental Station of Abrapampa, in the Province of Jujuy.

*Resolution V (f) 7*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering:*

that the Third Inter-American Livestock Production Conference, in its recommendations 12, 13, 16 and 19, indicated the importance of the fight against some infectious and parasitic diseases and recommended certain specific means, urging the systematic elimination of these diseases;

that considerable progress has been made in finding new means of fighting these various diseases, as much on a national plane as on an international one, in which there exist organizations such as the Pan-American Institute for Foot-and-mouth Disease with headquarters in Brazil, which has contributed much to the international control of the diseases and will begin to function shortly in the Pan-American Zoonosis Center whose headquarters is in Argentina;

that lack of uniformity of ideas in the practical application of control methods should be avoided and that, also, many countries do not carry out an organized fight against animal diseases on a national scale because of economic reasons and lack of technical personnel;

*Recommends*

- 1) that the governments lend greater backing to the fight against epizootics, furnishing the necessary economic, technical and material facilities;
- 2) that they consider the advantage of organizing international training courses in the most important epizootic control systems.

*Resolution V (f) 8*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering*

that invasion of pasture lands of some Latin-American countries by herbaceous vegetation and trees already constitutes a serious problem for the livestock production of these countries;

that this persistent and tenacious invasion should be faced in time; on the basis of knowledge acquired through experiments, and with such modern systems of control as are considered technically advisable;



*Recommends*

to the governments of the Latin-American countries who face the problems of invasion of their pasture lands by herbaceous vegetation, shrubs and trees to put into practice programs to control this danger.

*Resolution V (f) 9*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering*

that it is fundamental to try to solve the livestock problem in its three basic aspects, i.e., zootechnical, nutritional and hygienic, all closely inter-related;

that it is important to increase the pasturing capacity of the land, to better the livestock through the use of thoroughbred breeding animals and to implant an adequate system of disease control, particularly of those diseases that extend across frontiers;

*Recommends:*

that special attention be given to the formation of artificial pasture lands and to the return to livestock of those lands that have been lost because of bad range management;

that, on the basis of zoo-climatical charts, those countries having similar climatic and zootechnical characteristics should be grouped together to form working parties for the study of their problems;

that special attention be given to joint measures to control animal diseases when these extend over several adjacent countries;

that, as soon as possible, the livestock production working party and the subgroups studying specific problems, established by the Conference in Buenos Aires, should be set up and that priority should be given to any requests they may make for technical assistance.

*Resolution V (f) 10*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Considering*

that the Third Inter-American Meeting on Livestock Production, in its recommendations 25 and 26, recommends the increase of poultry raising, in view of the fact that poultry constitutes a significant source of proteins;

that one of the most important factors in achieving this is the adequate feeding of poultry;

that the quality of feedstuffs is not at present adequately controlled by all countries;

that official bodies do not have the necessary technical and auxiliary staff at their disposal;

*Recommends*

- 1) that governments should draw up legislation regarding trade in poultry and livestock feedstuffs and that governments which have already done so should organize specialized services or extend the existing ones;
- 2) that FAO should provide technical assistance and training facilities for the necessary staff.

## Chapter VI

### THE FUTURE ORIENTATION OF FAO'S WORK IN THE REGION

The Conference considered jointly the statement which has been made on the present activities of FAO in the region under agenda item 4 and a verbal introduction by the Secretariat to item 10 on the longer-term aspects of the work in the region. The delegates of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, United States of America and the observer for OIRSA participated in a discussion which brought out the following points:

In respect to *fields of activity*, it was suggested to the Director-General that food technology should receive increased attention, and specifically the organization of a seminar on food technology and the publication of a compendium on food technology were proposed. In the field of marketing, the Director-General was asked to explore the possibility of appointing a regional marketing specialist.

A very interesting debate took place on the subject of *technical assistance*, some delegations, notably Chile, presenting a full account of their needs and experiences. General satisfaction was expressed on the technical assistance rendered by FAO. Specifically, it was urged that countries make full use of the training facilities offered by the presence of experts in the country, by attaching counterpart personnel to them and through the organization of national training centers with the help of the experts. The great value of regional training centers was stressed, and it was regretted that their number had to be reduced due to budgetary limitations on regional activities. Attention was also drawn to the great value of carefully prepared fellowships, and an increase in their number was requested. Governments were urged to co-ordinate their technical assistance requests to FAO and other agencies offering assistance in the broad field of agriculture so as to arrive at well balanced total programs.

With respect to the assignment of individual experts, it was agreed that one-year periods are often too short, and that two-year assignments offer, on the average, the highest chances of success. The need for careful selection of experts, both in respect to their technical standing and their human qualities was reiterated.

The Director-General was asked to study carefully all possibilities of assigning one expert to more than one country having similar conditions, in other words to suggest to governments of countries with similar needs, that they form a group for that purpose.

In respect to *FAO headquarters services*, it was pointed out that present quotas for free publications distributions are inadequate, since there is a growing interest in FAO publications. The wish was expressed that headquarters officials should visit countries more often and regularly, and their itineraries should allow for full consultations.

The Conference was unanimous in stressing the value of *Regional Conferences*, and expressed the wish that they should take place at intervals of not more than two years. FAO was requested to distribute a well-prepared documentation on the items to be discussed sufficiently ahead of time, so that delegations could come well prepared. In this connection, the suggestion was brought forward that governments nominate, in so far as possible, permanent delegates so as to ensure continuity of work.

The wish was expressed and generally supported that the next Regional Conference take place in the northern part of the region, including Mexico, the Central American countries and the Caribbean area, and the Director-General was requested to consult with the governments, through his Regional Representative, on the most suitable center.

The role of *National FAO Committees* was discussed, and it was agreed that they could be highly valuable instruments in furthering FAO's goals in the countries if judiciously composed and well directed. With this in mind the Director-General was asked to keep this problem continually under review and advise member countries on the best methods of organizing such committees and of using them to the greatest advantage.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the following resolutions were adopted:

#### *Resolution VI 1*

#### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

##### *Recommends*

to the governments of member countries within the region that through their representatives on the Economic and Social Council and the Technical Assistance Committee of the United Nations they support the strong desire evinced by all the countries of Latin America that no limit whatsoever be imposed on that proportion of the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance funds which could be used in regional projects, or that, in the last instance, such limit be raised to 25 percent, leaving it to the discretion of the

Organization to establish annually the amount within the maximum limit authorized;

to the Specialized Agencies, in general, to show more flexibility in the use of their Technical Assistance funds.

*Resolution VI 2 (Presented by the Delegation of Panama)*

THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

*Recommends*

that the governments of the region pay special attention to the improvement of methods of organization in the marketing of agricultural products, so as to cut out unnecessary handling and expense, to avoid spoilage and to reduce the price to the consumer;

*Requests*

the Director-General of FAO to continue to provide technical assistance in marketing problems in so far as funds permit, and to consider the appointment of a Regional Marketing Officer both to help the technical experts of FAO in their work as well as to serve as adviser on the solution of marketing problems in those countries where there is no expert in this field.

## *Chapter VII*

### **GENERAL MATTERS**

Finally, the Conference dealt with the salary paid to agricultural and livestock experts in a number of Latin-American countries. It was considered that, in general, this remuneration is very low, with the result that either the official departments do not have the necessary technical staff at their disposal, or else that the professional staff employed in public services are obliged to devote part of their time to other activities in order to supplement their incomes. With a view to correcting this situation, the Conference adopted the following resolution:

#### *Resolution VII 1*

#### THE FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

##### *Considering*

- a) that technical services constitute an excellent instrument for agricultural progress;
- b) that agricultural technicians have a predominant role in the organization, direction and carrying-out of these services;
- c) that there exists a marked desire in Latin-American countries to improve and train in ever-increasing measure the personnel responsible for the formulation and execution of their agricultural programs;
- d) that it is evident that the state will be able to count on a good team of technicians and the country on a sufficient number of them, if they are offered a just and appropriate salary;

##### *Recommends*

to Latin-American governments and state institutions that they improve the salaries of agricultural technicians, taking into account among other things the situation of professionals of equivalent academic training, their contribution to the success of agricultural and livestock plans and the demand for their services in private activities.

*Annex A*

**LIST OF DELEGATES, OBSERVERS AND FAO STAFF  
ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE**

**Delegations of Member Nations**

**ARGENTINA**

Sr. Norberto Reichart	Director-General of Agricultural Development
Sr. D. Lorenzo Raggio	Member, National Meat Board
Sr. Juan José Moreno	Director-General of Livestock Production
Sr. Gabriel O. Martínez	Economic Counsellor to the Argentine Embassy in Chile

**BOLIVIA**

Sr. José Cuadros Quiroga	Minister of Agriculture
Sr. Luis Peñaloza	Economic Counsellor to the Bolivian Embassy in Argentina

**BRAZIL**

*Delegates*

Sr. Mario Meneghetti	Minister of Agriculture
Sr. A. de Vilhena Ferreira Braga	Brazilian Ambassador to Chile

*Technical Consultants*

Sr. José Biffone	Technical Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture
Sr. Armando David Ferreira Lima	Technical Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture

*Advisers*

Consul Paulo Monteiro Lima	Technical Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Sr. Paulo Alfonso Monteiro  
Velasco  
Sr. José do Egito Estrella

Technical Adviser to the Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Secretary to the Minister of Agri-  
culture

## CHILE

### *Delegates*

Sr. Jorge Aravena Carrasco  
Sr. Mario Astorga

Minister of Agriculture  
Director of the National Board of  
Agriculture

Sr. Florencio Aguila Williams

Liaison Officer of the National Board  
of Agriculture

Sr. Hernan Valenzuela Rosales  
Sr. René Mery Silva

Director of Forestry  
Chief of the Agricultural Section of  
the National Service for Statistics  
and Census

Sr. Osvaldo Pérez Olmedo

Chief of the Department of Vital  
Statistics of the National Service for  
Statistics and Census

Sr. J. Santa María Santa Cruz

Liaison Professor of the Co-ordinat-  
ing Center of Dietetic Studies of  
the University of Chile, School of  
Medicine

Sr. Manuel Rodriguez Zapata

Director of the Conservation of Agri-  
cultural Resources of the National  
Board of Agriculture

Sr. Alfredo Riquelme Barriga

Chief of the Subdivision of Dietetics  
of the National Health Service

Sr. Guillermo Jul Reyes

Chief of the Agricultural Depart-  
ment of the Corporation for the  
Development of Production

Sr. Eduardo Hamuy

Director of the Institute of Socio-  
logical Research of the Faculty of  
Philosophy of the University of Chile  
Official of the Iodine and Nitrate  
Sales Corporation of Chile

Sr. Juan Enrique Merino

Chairman of the National Society of  
Agriculture

Sr. Recaredo Ossa Undurraga

Senior Vice-Chairman of the Nation-  
al Society of Agriculture

Sr. Luis Alberto Fernández

Second Vice-Chairman of the Na-  
tional Society of Agriculture

Sr. Guillermo Noguera Prieto



Sr. Alvaro Marfán	Chief of the Planning Section of the Corporation for the Development of Production
Sr. René Enriquez Frödden	Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Chile, School of Agriculture
Sr. Carlos Correa	Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture of the Universidad Católica
Sr. David Baytelman	Agricultural Engineer of the Department of Agriculture of the Corporation for the Development of Production
Sr. José Cademartori	Economist of the Planning Department of the Corporation for the Development of Production
Sr. Carlos Gayan Salinas	Chief of the Educational Office of the Iodine and Nitrate Sales Corporation of Chile
Sr. Ulises Moreno O.	Chief of the Fisheries Division of the Corporation for the Development of Production

*Advisers*

Sr. Moisés Hernández Ponce	Director of the Fish and Game Board
Sr. Antonio Borjes Valenzuela	Chief of the Technical Department of the Fish and Game Board
Sr. Marcelo Montt de Ferrari	Legal Adviser to the Fish and Game Board
Sr. Juan Galecio Gómez	Section Chief in the Department of Agricultural Extension
Sr. Jorge Avendaño Portius	Acting Director of the Department of Agricultural Economy of the National Board of Agriculture
Sr. Mario Cornejo Merino	Director of the Livestock Department of the National Board of Agriculture
Sr. Fernando Silva Gutierrez	Agricultural Engineer of the Department of Agricultural Extension
Sr. Gastón Carvallo Drien	Agricultural Engineer of the Department of Agricultural Economics

COLOMBIA

Dr. Ernesto Martínez Capella	Minister Counsellor of the Colombian Embassy in Chile
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## COSTA RICA

### *Delegates*

Engineer Alvaro Rojas Espinoza	Chief Planning Office and Secretary of the Technical Agricultural Board of the Ministry of Agriculture
Sr. Alfonso Goicoechea Quirós	Costa Rican Ambassador to Chile

### *Advisers*

Sr. Carlos Luis Solera Ruiz	Chief of the Department of Economic Research of the Board of National Production
Sr. Gilbert Bernard Little	Chief of Planning of the Board of National Production

## CUBA

### *Delegate*

Sr. Ramiro Hernández Portella	Cuban Ambassador to Chile
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### *Alternates*

Sr. Tomás Durán Quevedo	Professor of Havana University - for the National Bank of Cuba
Sr. Delfín Sánchez Córdova	Assistant Manager of the National Bank of Cuba
Sr. Fernando Porcel Garrera	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Sr. Franz Baehr	Minister Counsellor, Chargé d'Affaires in Chile
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## ECUADOR

### *Delegate*

Sr. Alejandro Dávalos Alvarez	Chargé d'Affaires
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### *Advisers*

Sr. Juan León Auz	Assistant in the Economic Research Department of the Central Bank
Sr. Galo Ramos Romero	Student at the School of Economics and Commerce of Chile

## EL SALVADOR

Sr. Gerardo Guzmán A.	Civil Attaché to the Embassy of El Salvador in Chile
Sr. Hector Palomo Salazar	Civil Attaché to the Embassy of El Salvador in Chile

## FRANCE

### *Delegate*

M. Léon Durand

Section Chief in the Ministry of Agriculture

### *Alternate*

M. René de Crouy Chanel

First Secretary of the French Embassy

## HONDURAS

Sr. Andrés Alvarado Puerto

Minister of National Resources

Sr. Fernando García

Director-General of Agriculture

Sr. Antonio Collart Valle

Head of the Technical Division of the National Bank for Development, Honduras

Sr. Radoslav Rasmilic

FAO Adviser in Honduras

Sr. Jorge A Coello

Minister of Honduras in Chile

## MEXICO

Sr. José de Nuñez y Domínguez

Mexican Ambassador to Chile

Srta. Josefina Coto Asenjo

Vice-Consul, Mexican Embassy

Sr. Miguel Sarmiento R.

Chief of Department for Cotton

Sr. Juan Manuel Gonzáles

Chief Forest Development Officer

Sr. Sabás Robledo

Chief of Technical Department

## NETHERLANDS

Sr. Bernardo Mersink

Agricultural Secretary of the Netherlands Embassy in Buenos Aires

## PANAMA

Sr. Julio Valdés

Panamanian Ambassador to Chile

Sra. Luisa Aguilera de Santos

Secretary to the Panamanian Embassy in Chile

Sr. Francisco Duque Ramos

Commercial Attaché, Panamanian Embassy

## PARAGUAY

Sr. Enrique Máas (Jr.)

Undersecretary of State for Agriculture and Livestock

Sr. Oscar Cabello

Director of the Bank of Paraguay

Sr. Anastasio Fernández

Director of Services of Agricultural Mechanization

Sr. Rogelio Ferreira Guerrero

Subdirector of the Inter-American Technical Service of Agricultural Cooperation (STICA)

PERU

Dr. Alberto Wagner de Reyna

Counsellor to the Peruvian Embassy  
in Chile

UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. Robert Henry Smyth

Attaché for Food and Agriculture,  
British Embassy, Buenos Aires

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Delegate*

Dr. Francis Linville

Economic Counsellor of Embassy  
at Lima

*Alternate*

Dr. Samuel Work

Agricultural Attaché to the U.S.  
Embassy in Chile

*Adviser*

Mr. Albion Patterson

Director of United States Operations  
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## *Annex B*

### **LIST OF DOCUMENTS PRESENTED BY THE FAO SECRETARIAT**

- LARC 56/1. Annotated Provisional Agenda
- LARC 56/2. Recent Developments in the Food and Agricultural Situation of Latin America
- LARC 56/3. Food and Agricultural Policies: The Selective Expansion of Production and Consumption
- LARC 56/4. Approaches to Rural Welfare
- LARC 56/5. Land Settlement and Colonization
- LARC 56/6. Soil Survey and Soil Fertility
- LARC 56/7. The Use of General Fisheries Surveys as a Basis for Regional and National Developmental Planning
- LARC 56/8. Regional Co-ordination of Forestry in Latin America
- LARC 56/9. Note on the 1960 World Census of Agriculture (Western Hemisphere)
- LARC 56/10. Livestock Improvement
- LARC 56/11. Regional Co-ordination of Agricultural Research Activities





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