



Bharat Krishak Samaj
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KRISHAK SAMAJ'S BOLD LEAD IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

KRISHAK SAPTAHA CELEBRATIONS IN MADHYA PRADESH

The Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj took a bold lead after enrolling largest number of life members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, by celebrating Krishak Saptaha throughout the State from May 25 to 31.

The Saptaha was celebrated in seven selected villages of each district of the State and aimed at making a concerted effort for the adoption of improved methods and techniques of agriculture and to carry out a campaign for greater effort to increase food production and implement agricultural schemes. The programme included group discussions on local agricultural problems and seeking their remedies, distribution of literature on agricultural subjects and practical demonstrations of various improved methods of agricultural operations.

The Saptaha succeeded in generating widespread enthusiasm and consciousness among the farmers throughout the State with the cooperation of Agriculture & other Departments.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj and Shri K. D. Sharma, Secretary visited the State and toured several of the villages where the Krishak Saptaha celebrations were in full swing.

Addressing a rally of farmers in connection with Krishak Saptaha celebrations at Eantkheri 50 miles from Bhopal, **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh** regretted that although India called itself an agricultural country yet it had no effective organisation of the farmers. The lacuna, he said, had been filled by the Bharat Krishak Samaj which was a non-political organisation of the farmers and was striving for their amelioration.

He said that some people criticized the organisation without bothering to find out facts. "Nevertheless", he said, "I do not at all mind this sort of criticism. I do not care whether people call it 'sarkari' organisation or whatever they might choose to as long as the Krishak Samaj keeps marching ahead, materializing schemes aimed at the relief and betterment of the distressed peasant".

Some people, he said, had objected to the entry of wealthy farmers into the organisation. "Why object to it? After all they are not robbing the poor farmer of anything. On the other hand their monetary contribu-

tions would make the organisation more prosperous and would put it in a position to render effective help to the poorer members of the body," he said.

It was wrong to presume that the 'big' farmer would devour the 'small' farmer. In fact the people who ate up the 'small' farmer were the traders and other middle-men, he added.

Dr. Deshmukh said, it was a travesty that in India the prices of foodgrains were not fixed by the people who produced them but by 'dalals' and 'vyaparies'. He deprecated attempts by certain elements to create a rift among the farmers for the sake of petty political benefits.

Earlier welcoming Dr. Deshmukh **Shri S. N. Mushran**, Deputy Minister



Dr. Deshmukh addressing the Krishak Saptaha Meeting

for Agriculture said that it was a challenge to farmers that the country suffered from foodgrains deficit despite the fact that agriculture was the mainstay of the people of the country. He said that it devolved upon the Krishak Samaj to prepare the farmer to meet this challenge.

Shri M. C. Bondriya, Secretary of the State Samaj also addressed the meeting. Those present on the occasion were **Shri Karnikar**, Commissioner, Bhopal Division; **Shri Murad**, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, **Shri R.S. Varma**, Deputy Secretary, Co-operation.

Under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture an Agricultural Exhibition was organised at Eantkheri in which other departments of the State Government including Industries, Veterinary Service, Information and Publicity also participated.

In **Chattarpur** Krishak Saptaha was celebrated with enthusiasm. Daily 'Prabhat Pheries' were taken out attended by agriculturists. Agricultural literature was freely distributed and practical demonstrations of digging and filling ideal compost and farm yard manure pits were given to the people. Informative talks were delivered to agriculturists making them aware of the vital need of improved seeds, systematically prepared manure and proper use of chemical fertilizers for increasing the average yield per acre. Individual agricultural problems were discussed and their solutions were also suggested.

In **Rangawasa** (Indore) besides farmers the students of the village took keen interest in the Krishak Saptaha programme. Demonstration for preparing mixed manures were held. **Shri M.R. Upadhyaya**, Joint Director of Agriculture, Indore told the farmers about the new agricultural researches. Agricultural literature and green manure seeds were distributed among agriculturists. On this occasion 15 life members of the Krishak Samaj were also enrolled.

Ten life members of the Samaj were enrolled in **Banedia** village where also the Krishak Saptaha was celebrated with enthusiasm.

In **Raghogarah** Community Development Block, Extension Officers and village level workers toured the area and spread the message of improved agricultural methods. The village leaders and Panchayat members were also consulted for planning the agricultural operations of the year.

Messages On Krishak Saptaha

The following messages were received by the Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj on the occasion of the Krishak Saptaha Celebrations.

In a message the Prime Minister **Shri Jawaharlal Nehru** had sent his good wishes to the State Krishak Samaj in their grow more food campaign.

Shri A. P. Jain, Union Minister for Food & Agriculture in his message said : "I am glad to know that the Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj has decided to launch a concerted campaign for the intensification of agricultural production and the promotion of the cause of grow more food and for this purpose they have worked out an effective programme to reach every individual farm. This is a laudable object. Food is our most pressing necessity to-day and upon increase in the food production will depend our planning and

future prosperity. Let me hope and pray that the Krishak Samaj will succeed in achieving its objective."

Shri H.V. Pataskar, Governor of Madhya Pradesh says : "It is a pleasure to hear that the Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj is organising a Saptah. The pivotal position that agriculture occupies in our national economy has been recognised by our leaders and in our Five Year Plans more and more emphasis is laid on the needs of the agriculturist, such as large scale tractorisation, increasing use of chemical manures, more and more irrigation facilities, extending co-operation to all phases of agriculture from production to godowning and marketing. It is, however, necessary to educate our farmers to make intelligent use of these facilities and increase production and thereby our national wealth. The Saptah which you are planning can play this educative role. I wish it all success."

In village **Daurana** new agricultural methods were demonstrated to farmers. A film show was arranged which was witnessed by over 500 farmers.

In **Seeya** (Devas) an Agricultural Exhibition and a poetic symposium was held.

In the Babai Development block the villagers of **Mangrol** held a farmers meeting in which talks were delivered on agricultural and livestock improvement.

The farmers also discussed their agricultural problems and passed the following important resolutions :

(1) Irrigation facilities should be given soon for the development of agriculture ; (2) An up-to-date Agricultural centre should be established; (3) The village should have seed store stocked with improved varieties; (4) Taccavi should be given for purchasing bullocks and bunding etc; (5) Improved types of implements should be supplied.

In **Saimalya Chau** village plant protection experts of the Central Government explained the crop diseases and their prevention. The farmers were told of the importance of their organisation—Krishak Samaj and 13 ordinary members were made.

In village **Jhagar** over 200 farmers participated in the Krishak Saptaha programmes and a Co-operative Society was established.

In **Pipalda** village the Agricultural Extension Officer explained to the farmers the importance and need of the Krishak Samaj.

A meeting of farmers was held in which farmers from Bahadurpura, Kumhara, Kukavali and Mungavali participated. It was addressed by the Joint Director Agriculture and **Shri Ganpatrao Khalot** told the gathering about the Fourth National Convention of Farmers and about the first convention of the Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj.

In village **Amari and Aphoda** of District Bhind farmers prepared 70 manure pits and 22 maunds of seeds of improved varieties were distributed. Thirty life members of the Samaj were also enrolled here.

In **Nipania** village of Astha development Block a meeting of farmers was addressed by **Shri P. S. Raizada** who told the farmers about the Krishak Samaj and also about increasing production by improved implements.

FARMERS ORGANISATION ESSENTIAL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. KATJU'S RADIO BROADCAST

Delivering a message to the farmers from the Bhopal and Indore stations of the All India Radio Dr. Kailash Nath Katju, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, urged the farmers to organise themselves and solve the agricultural problems confronting them.

The broadcast was made on the eve of the Krishak Samaj Celebrations in the State on May 26.

Dr. Katju expressed satisfaction on the fact that Krishak Samaj had been established in the State and was being set up at district, tehsil and village levels.

He said that this was the age of unity and co-operation and advised the farmers to organise themselves since the difficulties confronting them could be tackled more effectively collectively rather than individually.

Discussing important agricultural problems Dr. Katju said that soil erosion, cowdung utilisation, planting fuel trees, improvement of live stock and increasing agricultural production for making the Plan successful were some of the important problems before the agriculturists today.

He advised that the present day need was that the farmers organisation should consider and plan the programmes of agricultural improvement and see that they were implemented effectively. He said that Krishak Samaj could do much in this direction.

Referring to the complaint that farmers did not receive full support from the Government officers and the officers did not understand their problems, Dr. Katju said that compared to the large community of farmers the officers were in only in a very small number and they had multifarious duties. Besides, increasing the number of the officers was impracticable considering the large amount of finances required for that purpose. He said that even then agricultural advancement had to be made in all eventuality and the farmers required more assistance.

Dr. Katju advised to follow the middle path to solve this problem, and said that the Krishak Samaj offered the middle way. The Government workers would keep in contact with the Krishak Samaj and the Samaj would spread the information received from the Government workers in the villages and the blocks. He said that

Samaj would be the farmers organisation which would consider the problems of the farmers and the Government and would thus advance the work essential for the progress of the country. He said that the country needed this thing urgently to-day.

Dr. Katju said that in foreign countries there were organisations of the farmers where only 12 to 13 per cent population was engaged in agriculture and the Government always considered their views on agricultural problems. The farmers of those countries never depended on Government workers. That is why those countries were progressing fastly, he added.

He said that India was an agricultural country where 80 per cent population was engaged in agriculture. On agriculture and agriculturists depended the fate of the country. He said that with the help of organisations like the Bharat Krishak Samaj some Government programmes could be easily accelerated and many common problems of the farmers could be solved.

He affirmed the view that Krishak Samaj would remain farmers own organisation, would consider their problems to their advantage, would advance agriculture and would be based on true patriotic feelings.

BECOME A.I.F.C. MEMBER

Are you a member of the All India Farmers' Council of the Bharat Krishak Samaj?

If not then become an A.I.F.C. Member by enrolling yourself and 19 others as life members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj.

The All India Farmers' Council was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in April 1955 and so far has held five meetings. It is the most important deliberative body under the Samaj, which discusses major agricultural problems of the country.

NIMAR FARMERS' CONVENTION

Farmers should do away with traditional methods and advance with this progressive age when scientists were trying to conquer the space, said Shri S. N. Mushran, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Vice-President of Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj addressing a Farmers' Convention of West Nimar District on May 22, 1958.

Shri Mushran was inaugurating the District Krishak Samaj Convention at Badwaha which was attended by about 200 farmers hailing from all parts of the district.

He said that farmers should come forward to help—materialize the plans and should secure their due place in the social and economic set up of the country. He expressed the view that this could only be achieved with the active co-operation of people and the Government.

He said that the National Extension Service and Agricultural Extension programme could only succeed and could become of permanent value to farmers if the farmers' organisation takes over the responsibility of spreading the message of extension.

He complained that some people said that some landholders and capitalists had established Krishak Samaj to gain a place in political life and said that the allegation was baseless.

Shri M. C. Bondriya, Secretary Madhya Pradesh Samaj gave a brief speech on this occasion in which he stated about the necessity for an organisation of farmers.

Shri N. W. Tilloo, Deputy Director of Agriculture, addressing the meeting declared that Samaj was a constructive organisation and there was no place in it for narrow sectionalism and party politics. He said that the people and the officers should come in closer contact and help in achieving the targets.

Earlier welcoming the delegates Shri Balkrishna Kothari said that the Samaj would give its full support in reorientation of the agriculture of the country. He said that the future of India depended on the farmers of the country.

The following are some of the important resolutions passed in the convention :

- (1) Co-operative Credit Societies
- (Continued on Page 5 Col. 3)

MADRAS FARMERS' COUNCIL

The Madras State Farmer's Council will be inaugurated by the Union Minister for Co-operation, Dr. P.S. Deshmukh in the first week of July. The main function of the Council will be to review the work of the Krishak Samaj, Madras and frame the policy of the Samaj in accordance with its objectives.

It will consist of a maximum of 100 members, including all members of the State Executive Committee, the Chairman of District Committees, agricultural experts, officers of the Community Development programme, Presidents of Central Co-operative Bank and Co-operative Wholesale Stores or Marketing Societies in the Districts and the City.

PUNJAB KRISHAK SAMAJ EXECUTIVE MEETING

A meeting of the executive committee of Punjab Krishak Samaj was held at Patiala on May 17, under the chairmanship of Shri Gurbanta Singh, Agriculture and Forest Minister of Punjab and Vice-President State Krishak Samaj.

Addressing the meeting **Shri Gurbanta Singh** said that although agriculturists form 80 per cent population of the State they had no voice in the sale of their commodities and in fixation of prices. He said that the Samaj had been established to represent the case of farmers before the Government and mould its agricultural policies. He asked the farmers to strengthen the Samaj.

Shri Ranbir Singh, Secretary, State Krishak Samaj in his address said that the Central Government should help Indian cultivators to produce more by giving them more incentive in the shape of subsidy for the over and above production from what they produced at present.

He said that at the time when prices of cereals especially were coming down and effecting the farmers adversely they go after producing other commodities which give them better prices such as cotton and oilseeds etc. He suggested that if some subsidy is offered to them they would try to produce more foodgrains which would go a long way to solve the food problem.

Shri Basant Singh, District Organiser of the Samaj complained that although the Prime Minister and other

SHRI G.N. BHANSALI PASSES AWAY

We regret to announce the death of **Shri Gopaljibhai Umersinh Bhansali**, Member of the Governing Body of the **Bharat Krishak Samaj**, who died on May 10, 1958.

Shri Bhansali, a progressive farmer of Cutch Bhuj, was one of the first to become a life member of the **Bharat Krishak Samaj** and had always taken keen interest in the activities and growth of the Samaj.

Ministers of the Centre as well of the State Governments always mention in their speeches that cultivators should be given due prices for their crops but no practical shape had been given to this.

SAKOLI FARMERS RECOMMENDATIONS

A farmers' conference held at Sakoli in district Bhandara on March 31, under the presidentship of **Shri S. P. Capgate** discussed various local problems of agriculturists and passed several resolutions.

In a resolution the conference resolved that it would be unjust and undesirable to fix minimum ceiling limit on agricultural land without first fixing the minimum ceiling limit on the income of an individual or of a family.

By another resolution it said that while enacting laws for the economic development of the cultivators unless some protection is given to the cultivators regarding prices of agricultural produce their economic condition is not likely to improve much. The resolution said that whereas agricultural production depended on the vagaries of weather the income of the cultivator depended upon the market rates. Government should fix prices of agricultural commodities after taking into consideration the cost of production, the resolution added.

BEGUSARAI KRISHAK SAMAJ

The Mongher (Bihar) Krishak Samaj has opened a branch office of the Samaj at Begusarai. The office is equipped with all the information, literature and necessary forms for those desiring to become members or life members of the Samaj. **Shri Gupteshwar Prasad Singh** is the Secretary of Begusarai Samaj.

SAMAJ ORGANISER AS ADVISER TO GOVERNMENT

Shri V.N. Kak, Zonal Organiser **Bharat Krishak Samaj** has been appointed by the State Government as Adviser to Rajasthan Government in the Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

It may be recalled here that **Shri V.N. Kak** was awarded the first prize at the last All India Cattle Show held in Delhi for his Marwari breed cattle. **Shri Kak** is a progressive farmer and has varied interest in the field of agriculture.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND KRISHAK SAMAJ

Participation by Government Servants in the activities of the **Bharat Krishak Samaj** and **Young Farmers Association, India** has been permitted by the Rajasthan Government according to a circular.

The Krishak Samaj has been established with a view to providing a common platform to interested farmers from different places for mutual exchange of ideas, practical experience etc. in their sphere of work. Since the organisation is of a constructive and non-political nature, the State Government has permitted all Government employees to take part in their programmes.

FARMERS DECIDE TO FORM KRISHAK SAMAJ IN DAMOH

A meeting of farmers of Damoh District was held on April 20 in which it was decided to establish **Krishak Samaj** in the district. **Shri Kasturchand** was elected the President and **Shri Govind Shanker** was elected the Secretary of the Committee formed for organising the Samaj.

The meeting also discussed various agricultural problems and passed a number of resolutions.

In a resolution adopted by the meeting it was proposed that the representatives of District **Krishak Samaj**, Damoh should be appointed as representatives in the District Advisory Council and in each advisory committee of Development Blocks and farmer representatives may be sent to different training centres in the country for training in new methods of agriculture and thereby infuse new spirit in the countryside.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE MEETING AT SIMLA

SHRI JAIN'S CALL FOR STRENGTHENING RESEARCH WORK

A strong research organisation had to be created in every State if a progressive and orderly development of agriculture was to be achieved, said Shri A.P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture while inaugurating the Crops and Soils Wings Conference of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry at Simla. He said that with the I.C.A.R.'s financial assistance States should try to develop such facilities immediately.

The six-day conference which started from June 6, was attended by more than 200 delegates and invitees from all over India. The Bharat Krishak Samaj was represented in the meeting by Shri K.D. Sharma, Secretary of the Samaj, Shri U.P. Varma (Bihar) and Shri R. Ramamoorthy (Madras). Besides the Board of Agriculture Meeting a Hill Fruits Show, Entomological Research Workers Conference, Mycological Research Workers Conference and the meeting of I.C.A.R.'s Rice Committee was also held at Simla.

Shri Jain said that he was glad that I.C.A.R. had decided to regionalize research on crops, which fit in rotation with each other. The decision, he said, was already being implemented in case of cotton, oilseeds and millets at a cost of Rs. 72 lakhs for a five-year period.

Earlier, Shri M.S. Randhawa, Vice-President, I.C.A.R. and Chairman of the Board, welcoming the delegates, said that in order to achieve targets within the stipulated time, it was essential that all knowledge and resources at the country's command were fully mobilised.

He disclosed that 635 research and development schemes on agriculture, involving an annual expenditure of Rs. 57 lakhs, were operating in different States.

Seed Multiplication

The problem of seed multiplication and distribution, a major factor in the countrywide drive for higher agricultural targets, was discussed in the Conference.

The Conference, it is understood, endorsed the Government policy that each development block should be a self-contained unit for seed multiplication and distribution and that a Government seed farm should be set up in each block for production of foundation seed. It was also proposed to set up seed stores for proper storage within easy access of cultivators. It was felt that each State should establish a seed production unit so that nuclear seed of 100 per cent purity could be produced for supply to seed farms.

The desirability of standardizing techniques employed in multiplication and distribution of pure seeds of improved varieties were emphasized by the conference.



Shri A. P. Jain

SOIL CONSERVATION EXPERTS MEETING

The problem of conserving soil by a phased programme extending over 25 years on a 200 million acre extent of land in the country as a whole was recently discussed by soil conservation experts at the All India Soil Conservation Seminar held at Ootacamund on June 10.

Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for co-operation in his address at the meeting stated that prior to the formation of the Central Soil Conservation Board in 1953, no attempt to tackle the problem on an All-India basis was made although some soil conservation work was done by Bombay, Madras, Punjab and the former Hyderabad States.

During the First Five Year Plan about 700,000 acres were protected by soil conservation measures. The target for the Second Plan was fixed at 3 million acres of which 2 million were agricultural. In the first year of the Second Plan, soil conservation measures were extended over 1.77 lakh acres at a financial assistance of Rs. 79.96. During the second year, it was extended to about 2.50 lakh acres at a cost of Rs. 151.80 lakhs. For the current year 170 schemes for different States and some Union territories have been approved at a cost of Rs. 207 lakhs. The effect of soil conservation measures on increase in food production is considerable, he added.

NATIONAL SEED COMMITTEE

Appointment of a National Seed Committee for making recommendation on National Seed Improvement policy and encouraging the production and distribution of high quality seeds was approved at a meeting of the National FAO Liaison Committee held in New Delhi.

The FAO Conference held in Rome in November 1952 had decided to launch an international seed campaign and had urged member—government to intensify their programmes for the production and distribution of high quality seeds.

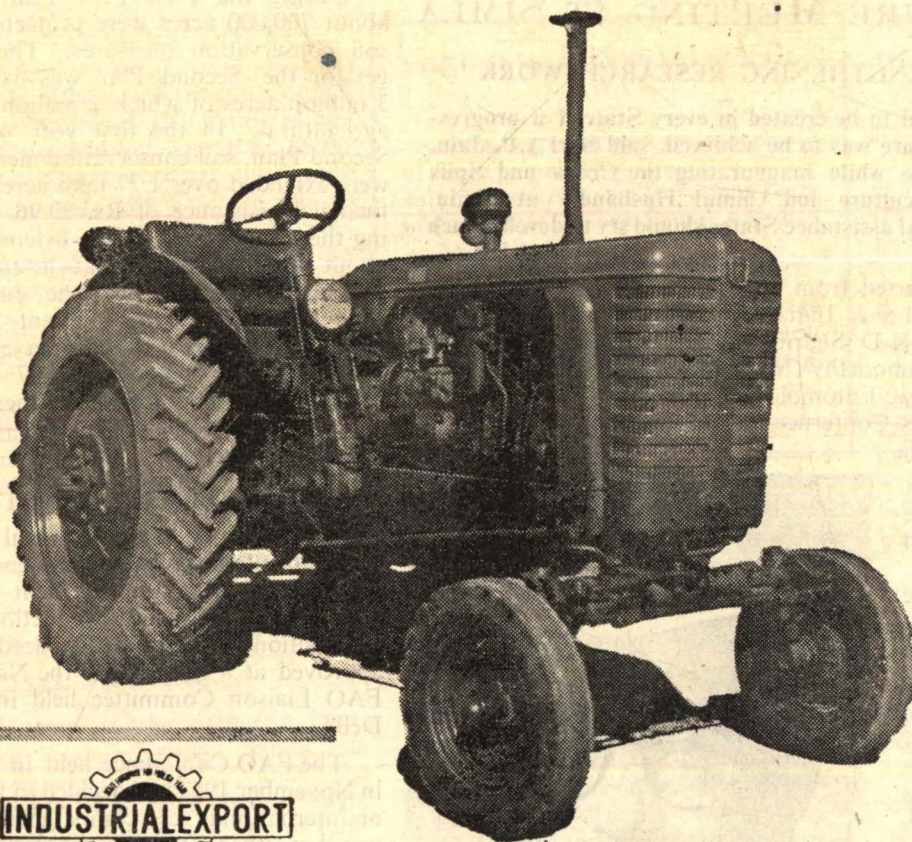
Shri M.V. Krishnappa, Union Deputy Minister for Agriculture will be the Chairman and Shri J.V.A. Nehemiah, Extension Commissioner, Member—Secretary of the National Seed Committee

NIMAR CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 3)

should be formed in every tehsil and help in developing minor irrigation facilities; (2) The rates of power for electric pumps are different in eastern and western districts of the State. The Government should enforce even rates in all districts; (3) Taccavi should be given to farmers in time and it should also be given for animal husbandry purposes; (4) Every tehsil should be provided with one tractor and boring machine; (5) Only certified seeds should be distributed; (6) A Co-operative Marketing Society should be established in every tehsil.

On the occasion of the District Farmers' Convention an Agricultural Exhibition was also arranged in which information on advanced methods of agriculture were imparted to the delegates.



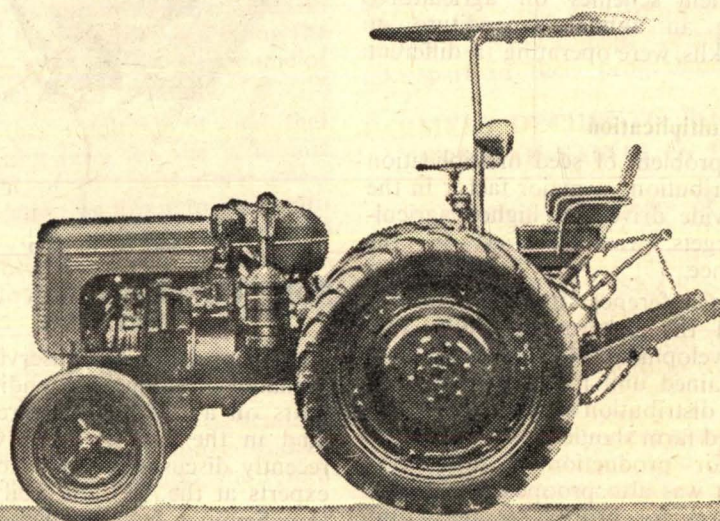
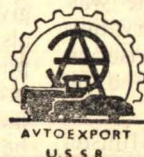
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Indian Farm News

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

The Agricultural Machinery Association of India has been formed. It has come into existence in pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting of the manufacturers, importers and users of tractors and agricultural machinery in India, which was convened by the Ministry of Food & Agriculture on August 8 & 9, 1957. The President of the Association is Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Co-operation.

The Agricultural Machinery Association of India is a forum where the manufacturers, importers and users of tractors and agricultural machinery and representatives of Government can sit together and discuss the problems facing the manufacturers and users of such machinery in the country. It will help in progressive mechanisation of agriculture with a view to bring about an increase in the agricultural production of the country.

The Standing Committee and the Governing Body of the Association have been constituted by the President. The Standing Committee of the Association recently met in New Delhi and discussed to have a meeting with the representatives of the Planning Commission, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Officers of the State Trading Corporation with a view to secure the clarification of the present policies of import of tractors and agricultural machinery in India.

The meeting was held on June 12 and was attended among others by Shri M.M. Shah, Minister for Industry and Shri Nagendra Bahadur, Chief Controller of Imports, on behalf of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri E.P. Moon on behalf of Planning Commission and Shri Kishen Chand, Joint Secretary, on behalf of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. In the meeting, Shri Shah gave a clear elucidation of the policy of the Government of India with regard to the import and the manufacture of tractor and agricultural machinery in India and assured the Association of his fullest consideration of the advice offered by it from time to time.

ANDREW CAIRNS DIES IN PLANE CRASH

Mr. Andrew Cairns who was the Secretary General of the IFAP till October 1952, died with other 28 victims in a plane crash in New Delhi on May 15.

Mr. Cairns was the first Secretary General of the IFAP and had received a medal commemoarating the IFAP's tenth anniversary celebrations at Purdue last year.

The IFAP in a release says : "IFAP mourns his death as one of the key makers of its present influence in international affairs. The world's farmers have lost the man who conceived and made possible the successful operation of an international secretariat entirely devoted to the representation and defence of their mutual interests."

WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTHS

The third conference of the World Assembly of Youths will meet in New Delhi from August 3 for a fortnight. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru is expected to inaugurate the conference which is expected to be attended by over 600 delegates from the world over.

It may be recalled here that Shri N. Basu, Secretary Young Farmers' Association, India last year went to Beirut to represent India in the WAY meeting and he also went to WAY's Aloka Centre in Ceylon in a three months training programme along with two other young farmers of India.

EXPERT COMMITTEE OF UNION MINISTRY

The Expert Committee set up by the Union Ministry for Food and Agriculture with Raja Surendra Singh of Nalagarah, Adviser on Agricultural Production will visit six State before September, 1958. According to its tentative programme the Committee will visit Andhra Pradesh from June 7 to 17, Madras from June 18 to 21, Bombay from July 21 to 26, Uttar Pradesh from August 4 to 9 and Punjab from August 18 to 23.

The Committee is studying both immediate and long range problems relating to agricultural production in various States and will submit a report to the Government by the end of September 1958.

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Among those who are members of the Committee are Dr. J. S. Patel, Agricultural Adviser, Ministry of Community Development, Shri K. Sachidanandam, Deputy Financial Secretary, Shri J.V.A. Nehemiah, Extension Commissioner and Dr. R. N. Mathur, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, Union Ministry of Food & Agriculture who is also the member-Secretary.

World News

BRUSSELS WORLD FAIR

Dutch Agriculture is being represented in a grand way at the World Fair in Brussels which started in April and would continue till October 1958.

The Exhibits are on display in four sections viz. Cattle breeding, ornamental plant growing, land and water use and scientific research.

The excellent reputation which the numerous Dutch products enjoy abroad is the result of the unique co-operation between scientific research workers and industrial life. The Exhibition elaborately explains about the Netherlands disease free seed potatoes and their high yielding capacity, the methods in guaranteeing the quality of export products and the progress made in the field of sorting and storage methods.

SHOCK TREATMENT FOR SEED

Giving corn seed an electrical shock has produced faster germination and increased water absorption in studies carried out by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A device, patented by a U.S.D.A. engineer gives a uniform and specific electric treatment to crop seeds. The machine is a glass tube with an electrode at each end. The electrical energy can be varied and controlled.

USSR AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION

The USSR Exhibition of Agriculture opened on May 11, at Moscow. The Exhibition is spread in an area of 517 acres and has 314 pavilions. In the plant growing section the total area under demonstration fields, gardens, decorative plots and lands exceeds 250 acres.

The demonstration plots have been sown to more than 2,000 varieties of agricultural crops. In the livestock

section the exhibition has about 3,000 heads of cattle, 6,500 poultry and 5,000 fur and game animals.

Among the exhibits are more than 600 tractors and agricultural machines and implements.

METHODS FOR INCREASE IN POTATO YIELD

Recent experiments with regard to fertilizer requirements of the potato crop in the Central Tablelands district of Australia have indicated that increases of at least 6 Cwt. per acre can be achieved from superphosphate applications. The experiments were carried out on red basaltic soil of a light loamy texture. The land had not previously grown potatoes and had been under pasture for many years.

In another instance where sprinkler irrigation was used potato crop has yielded better results. A Tasmania farmer produced 15 tons of potato on an acre by effective use of water through sprinkler irrigation and correct manual dressing.

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