

# farmers' forum, India

## KRISHAK SAMACHAR

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### LOCAL STANDING COMMITTEE MEETS IN NEW DELHI

The Local Standing Committee of the Farmers' Forum, India met in New Delhi on August 10 and 11 under the Presidentship of Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Cooperation and President, Farmers' Forum, India. It was decided to hold the meetings of the Standing Committee on Research, Crop Committees and the All India Farmers' Council in September.

The meeting of the All India Farmers' Council will be held in Hyderabad from September 26 to 28, 1957.

Addressing the meeting Dr. P. S. Deshmukh said that he would place for consideration at the Council meeting the decisions and recommendations of the Crop Committees of the Forum which will meet in New Delhi during the first and second weeks of September.

The meeting also decided to establish a Bureau of Agricultural Economics in the Forum. This will be a bureau of agriculture, economics, statistics and information which will study various factors of agrarian economy, related to production and planning of crops and regulating import and export policy. It will also study the demand for Indian agricultural commodities in foreign markets and will serve as a source of statistical information to the farmers.

It was also decided in this meeting to form a Parliamentary Study Group of the Farmers' Forum, to study various agrarian problems, especially those on which any legislation had been passed or was proposed to be passed.

This decision has been made considering the fact that the present Parliament consists of larger number of farmers than previously. Therefore the Forum proposes to benefit from this larger representation of the farming community to see that problems that are of vital interest to the farmers are thoroughly studied by the farmer parliamentarians and the view point of the farmer is effectively placed before the government.

The Local Standing Committee also discussed Shri R. K. Patil's Report on Agrarian Cooperatives in China, Krishnappa Committee's Report on Agriculture in China, Report of Shri George H. Wilson and the Questionnaire issued by the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee.

Considering the programme for the establishment of small scale cooperative farms, the meeting emphasized that such farms should in the beginning concentrate only in the sphere of marketing, credit and supply of consumer goods etc.

Dr. Deshmukh said that Farmers' Forum can help in the advancement of cooperative farming. There are certain aspects which can certainly be tackled successfully by the cooperative method. These farms may be started on a small experimental scale in certain selected areas.

Among other subjects considered in the meeting were determining procedure for starting District and Village level Forums and framing model bye-laws for the guidance of these Forums; taking up with the railways the case for providing cold storage warehouses, wooden wagons for transport and reduction in freight charges.

### PUNJAB FARMERS' FORUM

A Meeting of the Punjab Farmers' Forum was held on July 4 in Chandigarh under the Chairmanship of Shri Pratap Singh Kairon, Chief Minister of Punjab and President, Punjab Farmers' Forum. More than 200 farmers from all parts of the State, district representatives, conveners and members of State Forum's Executive Committee attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting Shri Kairon asked the farmers to strengthen the Farmers' Forum so that this organisation could serve as a platform for discussion of all agricultural problems and suggest methods for the improvement of agrarian economy.

All the speakers who addressed the meeting emphasized the necessity of strengthening the organisation and improving the economic conditions of the farmers. Among those who addressed the meeting were Shri Kartar Singh Dewana, Shri Satwant Singh and Shri Vishwanath Puri.

The meeting also formed the district committees and the district organisers were asked to constitute Tehsil sub-committees of the Forum in their respective areas.

The resolutions passed in the meeting related to fixing the minimum price of all foodgrains so as to provide incentive to the producers for increasing production. It was recommended that fertilizers should be made available to the cultivators at a rate not exceeding Rs. 11 per maund. The meeting also recommended that the scheme for the formation of warehouses should be taken up immediately and the members of the Forum should be consulted in all matters relating to farming and agrarian reforms.



## DELHI KRISHAK SAMAJ

The Delhi Krishak Samaj has decided to form the Delhi State Young Farmers' Association in co-operation with the Development Commissioner and the Farmers' Forum, India.

The Delhi Y.F.A. will organise various programmes for the development of the rural community. The Association will actively work for the implementation of the Second Five Year Plan schemes relating to the amelioration of the village community.

## KHANDESH FARMERS MEET

The District Farmers' Forum, East Khandesh held a meeting on July 27, in which Shri B. C. Choudhry was elected the President of the District Forum and it was decided to celebrate Farmers' Day in the last week of September.

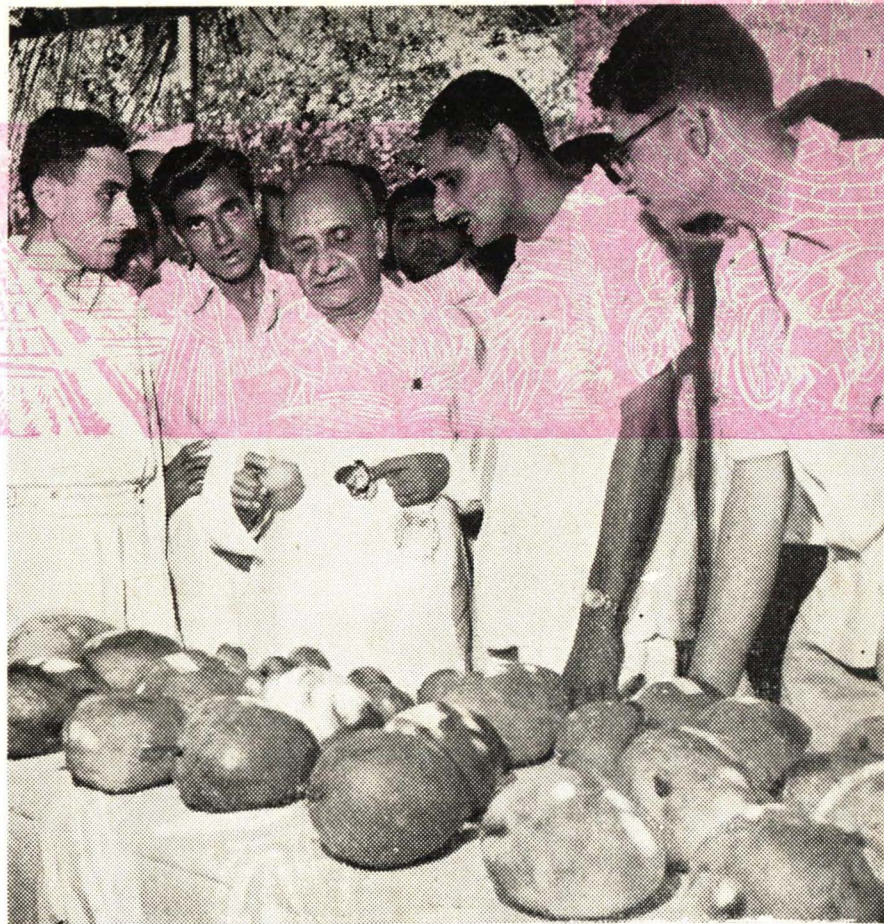
The meeting requested the Government to declare the minimum prices of foodgrains and other agricultural produce before the season and to reduce the railway freight for plantain wagons in the interest of farmers. It was also recommended that manures and other material required by the farmers should be sold at fixed and reasonable rates, which should be declared before the sowing season.

## Young Farmers

### PARDI CONFERENCE

A Conference of the International Farm Youth Exchangees of Bombay State was held at Pardi to consider the utilisation of the services of the young farmers in the development of the rural community.

Inaugurating the Conference Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Coöperation praised the efforts of the organisers of the meeting. Addressing the young farmers Dr. Deshmukh said, "If we build up intelligent leaders who can advise villagers in improved methods of farming, marketing and homemaking only then our plans can succeed". Such leadership can only be sustained by suitable institutions established in villages. He said that was why it was so important to build up the Y.F.A. in Community Development and N.E.S. areas.



Dr. P. S. Deshmukh examining prize specimens at the mango show held at Pardi Conference.

The Constitution of Bombay Young Farmers' Association was also approved in this meeting.

The Conference was held at the orchard of Shri Jal Bhiladwala who is a member of the Y.F.A.I.

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF RURAL YOUTH

Shri N. Basu, Secretary, Young Farmers' Association, India will lead the Indian Delegation to the Second International Conference of Rural Youth being held at Beirut (Lebanon) from August 25.

Delegates from 40 countries representing 160 rural youth organisations are expected to attend the Conference. The Conference will discuss organisational and other problems relating to rural youth movement.

This Conference is organised under the auspices of World Assembly of Youth which is an advisory body of the United Nations.

### YOUNG FARMERS MOVEMENT IN MADRAS

The Madras Government has decided to employ profitably the services of the youths trained in the United States under the International Farm Youth Exchange Programme in building up Farm Youth Organisation.

The Director of Extension and Training has suggested that the Exchangees' advanced training in U.S.A. should be made use of in organising Young Farmers' Clubs in the National Extension Service Blocks and to impart lectures on Youth activities to the Village Level Workers under training in the rural Extension Training Centres.



## DR. DESHMUKH INAUGURATES ORANGE GROWERS' COOPERATIVE

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Cooperation, speaking in the Nagpur Orange Growers' Co-operative Association, which he inaugurated on July 12 said that within the last five years the acreage under foodgrains, cotton, oilseeds, sugarcane and other agricultural commodities had increased from 12 to 50 percent and production had risen to a high level in India.

He said the Japanese method of paddy cultivation introduced in only 400,000 acres in the first year would now be extended to 550,000 acres. Despite the scepticism of some experts in the early stages, this method had yielded nearly 17½ maunds per acre. At present, 759 lakh acres were under rice cultivation and this new method was expected to be applied in most areas in future.

He said that sugarcane had also registered an increase of 37½ per cent, in production owing to increased use of ammonium sulphate.

He said that the cooperative principle in production and marketing was essential for progress and that the Union Government would extend all help to orange cultivators.

## CANE GROWERS' MEET IN NEW DELHI

A meeting of the Council of the All India Cane Growers' Federation was held on July 20 in New Delhi.

Addressing the cane growers Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Co-operation said that the cane growers should strengthen their organisation for agricultural advancement and for their own betterment. He said that he was not speaking to them in the capacity of a minister but as a friend of farmers. The greatest need was to bring life to their organisation and put it on a sound footing.

Ch. Brahm Perakash M. P. supported the suggestion for the establishment of a Price Fixation Board which was demanded by many speakers. He also praised the efforts of Dr. P. S. Deshmukh for the welfare of the farmer and said that in times to come the people will realize the importance of the Farmers' Forum which Dr. Deshmukh had established.

Earlier, Shri Lal Singh, President of the Federation welcomed Dr. P. S. Deshmukh and thanked him for coming to address the meeting and gave a brief account of the Federation's purpose and progress.

## SOIL TESTING LABORATORIES

Twenty-four soil testing laboratories are being established in different States to evaluate manurial schedules for different soils on the basis of rapid tests.

The Laboratories are at Nagpur (Bombay), Calcutta (West Bengal), Poona (Bombay), Coimbatore (Madras), Sabour (Bihar), Ludhiana (Punjab), Cuttack (Orissa), Rajender Nagar Farm, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Bangalore (Mysore), Nabha (Punjab), Trivandrum (Kerala), Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Simla (Himachal Pradesh), and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

The remaining 10 laboratories would be opened at the following places :

Damodar Valley Corporation, Hazaribagh (Bihar), Agartala (Tripura), Kotah (Rajasthan), Bapatla (Andhra Pradesh), Rajkot (Bombay), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Central Tobacco Research Institute (Rajamundry), Coffee Research Board, Bollihanur (Mysore), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), and Jorhat (Assam).

The sites have been selected so as to give at least one laboratory to each State.

## UNIFIED REVENUE CODE FOR MADHYA PRADESH

Different Land Revenue and Tenancy Acts are now in force in various units which comprise the new State of Madhya Pradesh. It is, necessary to have one unified Land Revenue and Tenancy Law for the entire State. To achieve this object, an Officer on Special Duty has been appointed for bringing about the integration and unification of the existing—Land Revenue and Tenancy Laws keeping in view local peculiarities and existing rights, at present enjoyed by the land holders and tenants, under their respective laws.

The State of Madhya Pradesh has 35,230,000 acres of cultivable land and 78 percent of her 26 million people have agriculture as the mainstay of their livelihood.

## TUBEWELLS IN BIHAR & PUNJAB

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Minister for Co-operation disclosed in Lok Sabha, why in certain areas in Bihar and Punjab the existing irrigation facilities for tubewells were not being fully utilized.

He said that the main reasons for this were the higher tubewell irrigation rates charged by the Governments as compared to the existing canal water rates. Other chief contributory factors were lack of sustained supply of electric power for running the tubewells and lack of channels.

The Minister said that the Central Government had written to the two State Governments and they had now appointed committees to look into this matter. They also ordered certain reduction in the rates.

## COOPERATIVE FARMING

Shri A. P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture said in Lok Sabha that development of cooperative farming should be the pattern of farming in the country. He said that cooperative farming would not be imposed on the people but would be brought about by persuasion.

Winding up the debate on his Ministry's demands for grants totalling Rs. 133 crores which the Lok Sabha voted, Shri Jain told the House that the only solution to the problems of uneconomic holdings was the formation of cooperative farms which, among other things, would increase production.

He made it clear that the proposed method would not be like the collective farming in the Soviet Union where a farmer lost his individuality. What he had in mind was to have a fairly small cooperative where farmers might have an intimate knowledge of one another, cooperate and work together.

Shri Jain declared that the agriculturists must get a fair price for their produce because a fair price alone would serve as an incentive for them to produce more.

He said that while the prices of foodgrains had gone up, they had not gone up to an "alarming extent", as complained by some.



## I.F.A.P. CONFERENCE

The Tenth Anniversary of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers was celebrated at Purdue University of Indiana in U. S. A. The meeting was attended by 200 farm leaders from 25 nations representing 35,000,000 farm families, who said the choice obviously was for more international co-operation and they offered a concrete way to achieve closer international harmony on trade in farm products.

Shri K. D. Sharma, Secretary Farmers' Forum, India and Indian Farm Leaders who have gone on a study tour of U.S.A. attended the conference.

While urging that there should be more effective cooperation among governments, the farm leaders from every continent said that farm organization officials also should be consulted frequently on such problems.

The ceremony was held immediately before the I.F.A.P. Conference began. Special messages from President Eisenhower and U. N. Secretary General were read on this occasion.

Addressing the meeting Shri B. R. Sen, Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organisation said that to a large extent the so called surplus problem is but the reverse of inadequate purchasing power of millions of underfed and ill-clothed people who are too poor to buy the goods they would like to obtain. It is only by relieving poverty through economic development, leading to higher incomes that the vicious circle can be broken.

He said that there was hardly a government in the world today, whether exporting or importing, which did not in one way or another regulate the production prices or trade of agricultural commodities; support measures had brought an added security to the farmer and also an added stability to market prices. It was however evident that some of those benefits had also been obtained at a heavy cost in terms of extra price rigidities sectionalized markets and other barriers to the free movement of goods. It was good that the farming community of the world was studying those questions aided by the enlightened leadership of the I.F.A.P.



IFAP President  
Shri John Andrew

After the Tenth Anniversary Celebrations the Ninth Ordinary General Meeting of the I. F. A. P. was held. In this meeting Shri John Andrew of New Zealand was re-elected the President of the I.F.A.P.

Three Vice-Presidents were also chosen on this occasion. They are Shri Nils Westermark (Finland) Shri James Patton (U. S. A.), and Shri A. Conix (Belgium). Among the nine members of the Executive Committee, formed at Purdue meeting are Shri S. M. Wahi a member of the Governing Body of the Farmers' Forum, India.

The I. F. A. P. delegates decided to hold the next conference in 1958 at Brussels, Belgium.

The meeting also received an invitation to hold its 1960 meeting in India. While recognizing that a final decision about it can only be taken at Brussels Conference the delegates felt that several factors including weather would indicate the best time for a meeting in India would be October.

During the Purdue Conference two farm organizations from Tunisia became new members of I.F.A.P. They are National Agriculteurs Tunisiens and the Union Tunisienne Confederation Generale del' Agriculture. This brings I.F.A.P. membership up to 43 Farm Organizations in 26 countries. The Farmers' Forum, India is also a member of the I. F. A. P.

## STUDY OF FAMILY FARMS

The Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has made a detailed study of "family farms in a changing economy". According to the results of the analysis part-time and residential farms have increased by nearly 600,000 in the quarter century from 1930-54 but number of subsistence farms has dropped from half a million, 25 years ago, to 2,00,000. Commercial farms are fewer in number but larger in size because of mechanization and other technological improvements.

### Britain

## ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MEDAL

The importance attached to the improvement of livestock by artificial insemination from pedigree sires was reflected at the Royal Agricultural Show at Norwich, Norfolk, on July 3, when a special award was made to Dr. A. Walton, of the Animal Research Station at Cambridge. The award—the Royal Agricultural Society's Research Medal and a cheque for 100 guineas—was presented by Queen Elizabeth during her official visit to Norwich.

Dr. Walton's researches into the storing and transportation of semen helped to make it possible for prize bulls and rams in the United Kingdom to father sturdy offspring of cows and sheep in places as far apart as Argentina, Australia, and Africa.

The attendance at the Royal Show have been breaking records, with the number of overseas visitors exceeding all expectations. Up to 4th July, 48 countries had been represented by more than 2,000 visitors from overseas. The attractions at Norwich were not only the pedigree livestock, but also the exhibition of the most up-to-date and efficient agricultural machinery.

### Egypt

## LAND FOR LANDLESS

Last month nearly 20,578 acres of land was distributed all over the country to landless peasants by the Egyptian Government's Agrarian Reform Department. Since the land reform law was passed in 1952, land held by those owning five acres or less has risen from 15 to 50 percent.