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REPORT OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ON PROGRESS IN THE CO-ORDINATION OF
STUDIES TO BRING ABOUT AN INCREASE IN
FOOD PRODUCTION

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the members of the Council the attached report,* submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in accordance with resolution 103 (VI).

* A limited distribution of the appendices mentioned in the table of contents will be made to each delegation.

/FOOD AND

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

REPORT
of
THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
to
THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
in accordance with
RESOLUTION 103 (VI): CO-ORDINATED ACTION TO MEET
THE CONTINUING WORLD FOOD CRISIS

/TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Introduction	7
Action at the National Level	10
Action at the Regional Level	12
Action at the International Level.	17
Conclusions.	21
Annex A - Resolution of the FAO Conference on Commodity Problems	23
Annex B - Resolution of the FAO Conference on Trends in International Trade.	24
Appended:	
The State of Food and Agriculture - 1948	
National Progress in Food and Agriculture Programmes - 1948	
The Work of FAO 1947/48 (Appendix B - Work of FAO 1949)	

FAO REPORT TO EIGHTH SESSION OF
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

This Report is being placed before the Eighth Session of the Economic and Social Council in response to a Resolution taken at its Sixth Session, during which the Council considered the Report presented by FAO drawing attention to the continuing nature of the world food crisis.

The General Assembly of the United Nations at its First Session adopted resolutions on the world food situation. Its Resolution of 11 December 1945, was followed by a Report by the Director-General of FAO on "The Shortage of Cereals and Other Foodstuffs" to the Second Session of the Assembly. The Assembly's Resolution of 14 February 1946, was followed by the Director-General of FAO calling a Special Meeting on Urgent Food Problems. As a result of this meeting, the International Emergency Food Council was established and Governments had submitted to them detailed recommendations as to how the General Assembly Resolution on the short term crisis could be brought into effect. So far as the longer-term factors were concerned, the Special Meeting made recommendations which resulted in the Conference of FAO, at its Second Session, setting up the Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals. At its Third Session, the Conference of FAO unanimously accepted the Report of the Preparatory Commission, and being convinced that international action parallel to that of FAO, in promoting the expansion of agricultural production, was essential in the realms of industry, mining, transport, and finance, proposed that the Economic and Social Council should secure effective integration.

The Economic and Social Council, at its Sixth Session, after considering the Resolution of the FAO Conference, adopted the following Resolution on Co-ordinated Action to Meet the Continuing World Food Crisis:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having in mind the General Assembly resolution 45 (I) of 11 December 1946 on the 'World shortage of cereals and other foodstuffs';

"Taking note of the memoranda submitted by the FAO on co-ordinated action to meet the continuing world food crisis (documents E/613 and E/660);

/"Recalls,

"Recalls, in regard to the distribution and allocation of scarce foodstuffs and products necessary for increased food production, the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 45 (I) of 11 December 1946;

"Recommends that Member States give serious consideration to the continuing world food shortage and take measures individually and in co-operation with the FAO, and, where appropriate, with other international agencies and organizations of which they are members, to contribute to the solution of this problem;

"Invites the specialized agencies concerned and the regional economic commissions, in consultation with the FAO, to study suitable measures to bring about an increase in food production by the elimination of supply shortages such as those of oil, coal, steel, electricity, chemicals, which directly or indirectly affect the production of fertilizers, agricultural machinery and the availability of transport;

"Requests the FAO to make a report to the seventh session of the Council of progress achieved in co-ordination of these studies, and

"Requests the FAO to present a factual report to the first session of the Council following the 1948 annual Conference of FAO, on the measures which have been taken by Member States, regional commissions and the specialized agencies to alleviate the world food crisis, and to recommend specifically what further action might appropriately be taken in this field."

The Third Session of the Assembly, in December 1948, adopted a Resolution on the "Problem of the Wastage of Food." That Resolution is before this Session of the Economic and Social Council.

The Present Situation

The Sixth Session requested FAO to present to the Council this present Report "following the 1948 Annual Conference of FAO." It is in the light of the appraisal of that Conference of the present state of food and agriculture that the Council may wish to review the subject-matter of this report.

The Annual Conference of FAO noted a substantial improvement in the present supply situation.

"The year 1948 has been particularly favourable to agriculture. At the beginning of the year the southern

/hemisphere

hemisphere countries gathered excellent harvests, particularly of cereals. In the summer and autumn the northern hemisphere harvests were also extremely good, particularly in North America and Europe, where exceptionally favourable weather conditions prevailed. For the first time since the war the food situation, at least in the western world, has been greatly eased."

In doing so, the Conference did not overlook the fact that the world is not producing more food than before the war, despite an increasing world population nor that there are other dangers inherent in the present supply situation.

"The great improvement in recent months in the world food situation, particularly in regard to cereals, may too easily engender a false sense of security. First of all, this year's harvest was far above what could be expected in an average year. Secondly, the increased dependence of the world on supplies from North America increases the element of risk, because of the extreme fluctuations of output which may occur in the United States and Canada. Thirdly, world stocks of food have been cut to the barest minimum, and will still be low at the end of 1948-49, so that the world will again depend on the luck of next year's harvest. For all these reasons, optimism must be tempered with caution in appraising the future food outlook."

In summing up, the Conference had this to say:

"The preceding analysis indicates clearly that only one region, North America, has made substantial progress in the past decade, and has become the principal supplier of all deficit areas. This involves not merely agricultural products but industrial equipment too. This, coupled with the abnormally high reconstruction needs of those areas illustrates the grievous unbalance between the economies of different regions, which constitutes the principal international economic problem of our time. A significant fact in this respect is that in recent years 80 per cent of the world's cereal exports came from hard currency areas.

"This unbalance has two aspects, one temporary and the other more permanent. It is temporary to the extent that both the main deficit regions, namely, Europe and the Far East, have become more than usually deficit on account of war damage, but are in the process of recovery and rehabilitation.

/It may have

It may have elements of permanence for two reasons: (1) that less food is being and is likely to be exported from other areas of the world as a result of political changes in some of those areas and increased domestic consumption in others, and (2) that production is expanding less rapidly than population in the deficit areas themselves, certainly in Asia and possibly also in Europe.

"Unless positive action is taken, the result might well be aggravated disequilibrium in many spheres; a glut in some areas, deficit in others, a glut of one commodity and shortage of another, unexportable surpluses in one region for lack of the necessary foreign exchange elsewhere.

"This raises, therefore, the two fundamental questions. The first question concerns production. A large increase in production is called for in the world as a whole and is obviously most urgent in the deficit regions and the low income regions. A maintenance or expansion of high levels of production in North America where conditions for technical progress are especially favourable would be universally welcomed provided that satisfactory solutions could be found to the international trade and payment problems which the deficit countries at present face.

"This leads to the second principal question, namely, how can the international trading arrangements of the nations be improved so as to facilitate a larger and more regular flow of products at prices fair to producers and reasonable to consumers."

ACTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Increasing agricultural production and improving internal distribution depends primarily on national action. The work of Member States in attempting to do so has continued during the past year on many fronts. Reports on these activities have been submitted to FAO by a number of Governments. They have been summarized in "National Progress in Food and Agriculture Programmes - 1948." Additional material will be found in "The State of Food and Agriculture - 1948." Both documents are appended to this Report.

Governments during the past year have taken measures for the conservation and more effective utilization of food supplies. In the field of conservation, some progress has been made through pest and

/insect control

insect control measures, improved storage and the utilization of by-products while, in respect to the more effective utilization, there have been some improvements in milling and processing and in the use of milk products. In the production field there has been considerable activity.

Measures adopted by Governments naturally cover most types of agricultural activity - the use of new resources of land and water, scientific and technical research, agricultural education and advisory services, soil and water conservation, improved plant and animal stocks, improved farm practice and services, and the more advantageous use of labour. An interesting feature of these activities is the character and extent of direct Government participation. In the field of fisheries, since the war, some Governments have taken a more active interest in this resource. These measures are closely bound up with those taken by Governments in the economic and social field. These are likewise summarized in the document referred to above "National Progress in Food and Agricultural Programmes - 1948."

The work of FAO in assisting Governments must necessarily correspond to the wide range of their activities and interests. This work in providing such assistance through missions and through a variety of other forms of technical assistance has been set out in the activity reports of FAO to the Council and in the document attached, namely, "The Work of FAO - 1948" which also contains in its Appendix B a summary of the Organization's 1949 Programme.

As a basis for more effective action at the national level, the Preparatory Commission and subsequent sessions of the Conference and Council of FAO have urged Governments to develop national agricultural programmes in the light of an analysis of their actual situation, needs and capabilities. FAO is likewise making available assistance to Governments in their formulation of such plans.

The recent Conference of FAO in reviewing and giving its approval of these activities, considered them region by region. With respect to the more sparsely populated regions, namely, Africa, Latin America, and, with qualifications, the Near East, the Conference considered particularly the question of opening up new lands. In that consideration several priorities emerged such as (1) improved transportation facilities; (2) irrigation and drainage; (3) the introduction of suitable conditions of land tenure; and (4) the necessity for agricultural extension work. In its consideration of the more densely populated areas, the Conference was particularly concerned /with the problem

with the problem of increasing yields in areas already under cultivation. Experience in a number of countries has proved that yields of crops and of pastures and livestock can be greatly increased by the use of appropriate methods. Sessions of the Conference and Council of FAO and meetings of FAO Standing Advisory Committees have been in agreement on the methods and techniques required.

The possibilities of increased production if energetic efforts are made in all fields are indeed so great as to afford the hope that the world can not only feed its present population and raise diets to a health standard, but can also meet the requirements of an increasing population for a considerable time to come.

ACTION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

This Session of the Council has before it activities reports from its three regional economic commissions. These activities affect the issues before the Council in this Report. As stated in its report to the Seventh Session of the Council on "Progress in the Co-ordination of Studies of Suitable Measures to Bring About an Increase in Food Production", FAO has initiated with each of the three commissions programmes of joint work. These programmes and those of FAO in the regions are complementary. A summary of them is given region by region.
Asia and the Far East

ECAFE - The question of supply shortages affecting agricultural production was before the Fourth Session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in the Report of the Joint FAO/ECAFE Working Party on Agricultural Requisites and in that of the Industrial Development Working Party. The action taken by the Fourth Session is contained in the Report of that Commission to this Session of the Council.

FAO-ECAFE - Reference has been made to the importance which the Preparatory Commission and Conferences of FAO have attached to the development of national plans and programmes. The preparation of estimates of the types and quantities of various agricultural requisites that can be utilized effectively in the attainment of national production and distribution targets and a realistic assessment of the probable sources of such supplies is an important factor of such national plans and programmes. FAO welcomed, therefore, the resolution of the Sixth Session of the Council inviting the regional economic commissions, in collaboration with FAO, to study suitable measures to eliminate supply shortages, particularly in
/the industrial

the industrial field, affecting the availability of agricultural requisites. FAO proposed to the Third Session of the ECAFE the establishment of a joint working party to (a) examine the stated requirements of governments in the ECAFE region for agricultural requisites; (b) advise governments on action that can be taken nationally to meet these requirements from indigenous sources; (c) determine the circumstances and conditions under which governments in the ECAFE region would be benefited by taking joint action with reference to both the production and distribution of agricultural requisites and (d) analyze and examine the national food and agricultural plans in the ECAFE region in the light of the stated requirements of agricultural requisites and the supplies thereof which are expected to become available from indigenous production and international trade. The working party was established and has made its report to the Fourth Session of the Commission.

After considering the report of the Joint Working Party on Agricultural Requisites, the Commission recommended that FAO take suitable steps to urge the needs of the region upon countries in other parts of the world producing agricultural requisites, and to advise appropriate international organizations with a view to increasing to a satisfactory level the supply of such requisites to countries within the region.

The Fourth Session of the Conference also recommended that FAO and ECAFE urge the member countries in the region to undertake studies to determine to what extent present agricultural practices are an obstacle to the adoption of new techniques, and the effective use of agricultural requisites; and requested FAO to give assistance to such countries as might require it in the planning of these studies. The Fourth Session recommended that FAO and ECAFE jointly call a Conference of Agricultural Officials to follow up the work of the Joint Working Party as soon as practicable, but after adequate preparations have been made. The country studies referred to are regarded as necessary documentation for this Conference.

FAO - At its Fourth Session, the Conference of FAO approved the provisions of the draft Constitution for an International Rice Commission drawn up at the FAO Rice Meeting held in Baguio, Philippine Islands, in March 1948. The functions of this Commission will include: formulating and keeping under review all problems involved in the production, distribution and conservation of rice; promoting and co-ordinating research; encouraging the mobilization and use of scientific personnel; undertaking co-operative programmes; /assembling,

assembling, collecting and disseminating information; establishing committees and calling meetings of experts; and, through FAO, recommending such national and international action as may be necessary. A substantial part of the Organization's activities in the region will arise out of the work of the Commission.

The Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council recommended by the FAO fisheries meeting at Baguio was established in November 1948. Its functions include: the encouragement and co-ordination of research and the application of improved methods; assembly and disseminating biological and technical information; recommending and undertaking co-operative research and development projects; and promoting the standardization of scientific equipment, techniques and nomenclature. FAO is providing the secretariat of this Council and a large part of its work in the field of fisheries will arise out of the work of this body.

The FAO programme for the control of rinderpest, launched in Nairobi in October 1948, and similar programmes in such fields as pest and infestation control, improved genetic stocks, improved techniques and crop reporting and the like, have and will be carried out in the region on an increasing scale.

Latin America

The first stage in the development of FAO work programmes in this region has been the more precise assignment of regional needs in terms of the resources of the Organization. FAO welcomed, therefore, the establishment of the Regional Economic Commission for Latin America and proposed at its First Session a Joint Working Party similar to that established with ECAFE. In addition, FAO offered its assistance in the preparation of an economic survey of that region. The report of the Joint Working Party is currently being written and it and the Economic Survey will be submitted to the Second Session of the Commission.

Certain problems such as grain storage and infestation control, exploratory work on the development of fisheries and more limited technical activity such as that with respect to hybrid corn and oil bearing seeds have, however, already been initiated by FAO. With the development of the work programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the appointment of an FAO representative for Latin America, the work of the Organization in the region will substantially increase.

The nutrition problems of Latin America were considered at a Nutrition Conference convened by FAO in July 1948. In this as in other regions programmes for increasing food production must be related to the nutritional requirements of the people.

Europe

ECE - The work of the Committees on Industry and Materials, Inland Transport, Coal and Electric Power, is included in the Report of the Economic Commission for Europe to the Council. The work of these committees has resulted in a diminution of some of the principal shortages in industrial fields directly or indirectly effecting agricultural production.

The Sub-committee on Fertilizers of ECE, through making extra allocations of coal, electric power and silica bricks for use of nitrogen production, has materially assisted in bringing about an improvement in the availability of nitrogen for use as fertilizer. The discussion of experts, however, now shows that countries are finding it increasingly difficult to pay for their required imports of fertilizers due to a shortage of foreign exchange despite an apparent great need for increased fertilizer use. The ECE secretariat, in co-operation with FAO, is now surveying the situation to discover where there may be effective demand for additional nitrogenous fertilizers, and whether any controllable factors may be preventing the need for fertilizers in some countries from being translated into effective demand for supplies.

On perishable foodstuffs, a Sub-committee of the Inland Transport Committee has been established. A statistical report on the availability of fruits and vegetables is being issued regularly by FAO during the marketing season. It is envisaged that FAO and the ECE secretariat will work jointly with experts on the prompt development of a project for a European refrigerator car pool, and on projects regarding refrigeration equipment.

Joint FAO/ECE Activities

At its Third Session, the Commission established an ad hoc Committee on Agricultural Problems of Common Concern to FAO and ECE to determine which were the problems of most immediate importance militating against the reconstruction of European agriculture. As a basis for its work, that Committee, which met in September, had before it the FAO Report "European Programmes of Agricultural Reconstruction and Development", published in July 1948, to supplement the ECE Report "Survey of the Economic Situation and Prospects of Europe".

/The Committee

The Committee named the following problems: farm machinery, fertilizers, pesticides, the supplying of animal feedstuffs, the transport of perishable products, and the revival of intra-European trade in agricultural products. Action taken with respect to fertilizers and perishable foodstuffs by ECE or jointly is summarized in the preceding paragraphs. A joint survey of the need for spare parts for farm machinery has begun. Work on spare parts for motor transport equipment is now in an advanced stage within ECE, and this should ease the way for similar effective arrangements for agricultural machinery and spare parts.

As a basis of a study of the wishes of the European Governments with respect to East-West trade, a questionnaire has recently been dispatched to European Governments with a view to determining which are interested in importing increased supplies of agricultural products in exchange for requisites and which, on the other hand, are interested in increasing their exports of agricultural products if increased production through expanded imports of agricultural requisites could be realized. It is planned to form working parties as soon as sufficient background information can be developed to make such working parties useful.

FAO - As a means of making information on new chemicals, new equipment and new methods of insect and plant disease control more generally available, FAO will sponsor in the current year a technical meeting on this subject similar to those already held on other technical subjects.

A cardinal question with respect to feedstuffs is whether current livestock targets are feasible in the light of the probable availability of feedstuffs from either domestic or import sources. The Conference of FAO has requested that this question be examined. A related question is that of the production of feedstuffs. This problem, with particular reference to such specific issues as improved use of grass lands, is an important part of the work of the FAO European Office.

With reference to other work previously mentioned on perishable foodstuffs, FAO is assembling data on the possibility of expanding production of lower cost fish in areas requiring protein food supplements through the diversion of herring from use as oil and meal to its use as food.

In connection with such work as that of the joint survey on the need for spare parts mentioned above, FAO is promoting (a) the organization of closer co-operation between scientific institutions, farm organizations, manufacturers and dealers within and between its member countries through the medium of national farm machinery centres; and (b) in co-operation with the Commission of Agricultural Engineering, is studying certain aspects of standardization and the development of tractors and implements for small holdings.

/As will

As will be seen from the foregoing, action is being taken on those problems listed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Agricultural Problems of Common Concern to FAO and ECE as being of most immediate importance for the reconstruction of European Agriculture.

Near East

Only approximately 4 per cent of the total area of this region is under crops. With the rapid growth of population in the Near East countries, it is desirable that a thorough investigation be made of what areas can be brought under cultivation by desert reclamation, irrigation and soil conservation. To that end, the Conference of FAO suggested that such a general survey, perhaps sponsored by FAO, should take place in the region.

Following the FAO Conference in Cairo in February 1948, technicians were sent by FAO to the region to conduct surveys on irrigation and deep well drilling, drainage, crop production under irrigated conditions, and animal husbandry with emphasis on sheep breeding. These experts have now made their reports to the Governments of the region.

Should the Council decide to establish an Economic Commission for the Middle East, FAO would work in co-operation with the new Commission along lines that seem most useful in arriving at solutions of problems of the area.

ACTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

1. FAO - The work of FAO during the past year towards meeting the continuing world food crisis has been summarized in "The Work of FAO - 1948". Similarly, FAO's programme of work for 1949 is set out in Appendix B of that document. As stated, this document is appended to this Report.

The recent Conference of FAO, in addition to endorsing the more specifically technical activities for 1949, laid a special emphasis on certain crucial economic problems which it wished to have examined further. In the field of international investment, it evinced much concern that the present facilities might be inadequate for getting developmental projects started.

The Conference noted that at the meeting of the Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals, attention was called to the possible existence of a "gap" in the international investment field. It was pointed out that on the one hand the United Nations had created in the specialized agencies a means of providing governments with technical assistance. On the other, through the creation of the International Bank, the United Nations had created a source of loans for reconstruction and development. There might,

/however,

however, be no adequate facilities for the financing of the necessary demonstrational work which, in a number of cases, is an essential prelude to the development of a sound investment programme. In order to ascertain how far there might be such gaps and to enable the next session of the Conference to consider possible lines of action, the FAO Conference adopted the following Resolution:

"The Conference

requests the Director-General to invite the assistance of the United Nations, the Bank, and other appropriate United Nations agencies in preparing for consideration by the Council a fact-finding statement, concerning all financing facilities, the use being made of them, and the nature of the demand for them;

and requests the Council of FAO to prepare a report thereon for the next session of the Conference."

The Conference was also concerned with international trade and commodity problems. It expressed satisfaction at the resumption of the international wheat negotiations and expressed the view "that FAO should encourage the continuation of negotiations looking towards inter-governmental agreements on single commodities such as wheat and sugar". It requested the Council of FAO to arrange for a preliminary review of commodities and groups of commodities, and the Council of FAO has set up an inter-governmental working party for this purpose which will include the collaboration of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements. The text of the Conference Resolution is attached. (Annex A)

The Conference also noted the substantial shifts which have occurred in the composition and direction of world trade, and recommended that the Council of FAO "in consultation with all the appropriate international organizations such as the Economic and Social Council, its Regional Economic Commissions and the International Monetary Fund, should study the trends which emerge as regards international trade in food and agricultural products". The full text of this resolution is attached. (Annex B)

The Conference further recommended "that FAO in association with ICCICA give continuing publicity to the provisions and purposes of existing and contemplated commodity arrangements in the field of food and agriculture with special emphasis on the interlocking of the interests of producers and consumers in any such arrangements."

2. ITO I/C and ICCICA - In November 1948, the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements published its second "Review of International Commodity Problems - 1948". FAO and the International Trade Organization I/C, working together through ICCICA, intend to keep international commodity problems under review in the year ahead.

The Executive Committee of ITO I/C, at its meeting in September 1948, fully recognized the special interest of FAO in commodity arrangements on agricultural products. It also recognized the high priority which should be attached to the production of agricultural requisites and of incentive goods to increase the flow of agricultural exports. The Executive Committee further noted the importance of the full participation of FAO in studies made on such subjects as the relationship between industrial and agricultural prices.

ILO - Two problems confronted in increasing agricultural production in several of the regions of the world are: (1) the distribution of agricultural labour; and (2) the problem of migration for land settlement. On 14 October, the Director-General of FAO received from Mr. Morse, the Director-General of ILO, a statement on action being taken by the ILO with respect to the Sixth Session of the ECOSOC. That statement contains the following paragraph:

"Shortages of agricultural labour and, in particular, of skilled agriculturists, have added to the difficulties already created by material shortages in many countries potentially capable of increasing food production. In addition, shortages of skilled industrial labour needed for the food processing and related industries have aggravated the effect of the general shortage of skilled and technical workers in industry and agriculture, as well as supervisory staff, in many areas. At the same time there is unemployment and surplus of labour in certain parts of the world. The shortages in some areas and the surpluses in others may be met in part by accelerating training processes on the one hand, and on the other by developing incentives for both men and women to enter, return to or remain in agricultural employment and in part by facilitating an orderly migration of workers and their families to the areas where they are needed. Measures taken on an international basis to overcome the lack of skilled workers and to obtain an adequate agricultural labour force should, therefore, form a basic element in the co-ordinated programme of action called for in the Resolution of the Economic and Social Council."

/This view

This view was concurred in by the Fourth Annual Conference of FAO. FAO has welcomed therefore the invitation extended by the Director-General of ILO to the Secretary-General and Executive heads of the specialized agencies at the Sixth Session of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in Paris to designate representatives to meet with him in Geneva early in 1949 to examine the ILO's programme in the fields of manpower, migration and technical training with a view to exploring the contribution which the United Nations and the specialized agencies may be able to make in implementing and completing this programme.

WHO - Both the Annual Conference of FAO and the World Health Assembly have recognized the important inter-relation between health and increased food production. In the FAO Report "Progress in the Co-ordination of Studies of Suitable Measures to Bring about an Increase in Food Production" to the Seventh Session of the Economic and Social Council, reference is made to a proposed joint programme for marrying increased food production in specific areas with malaria control. FAO has made a preliminary study of areas where malaria control would have a measurable effect on food production.

At its meeting in July 1948, the Joint Committee on Health Policy of UNICEF/WHO recommended that, "insofar as possible, all malaria control projects of UNICEF and WHO in any one area should be amalgamated, due consideration being given to the necessity for projects which will increase food production".

In November 1948, WHO had received requests from four of its Member Governments for malaria control demonstration projects. The two Organizations are considering whether such projects may be expanded into demonstrations on the relationship between malaria control and agricultural production.

UNESCO - It is difficult to realize any programme, including that for increased agricultural production, without the backing of an informed public opinion. UNESCO, fully aware of this fact, has orientated a part of its programme to creating as far as possible, an informed public opinion on world issues of particular moment. UNESCO has, accordingly, selected "Food and People" as the theme for its programme on the Social Implications of Science. In making preparations for this programme, officials of UNESCO have conferred both in Paris and in Washington with FAO. Although this is entirely a UNESCO programme, FAO has welcomed the opportunity to make available to UNESCO its advice and assistance with respect to the technical aspects of the programme as well as several of its more general features.

Bank and Fund

The position of these two organizations is stated in the Report of FAO on "Progress in the Co-ordination of Studies of Suitable Measures to Bring about an Increase in World Food Production", to the Seventh Session of the Council. Exchanges of view on programmes, particularly with respect to development projects, continue between the Bank and FAO. Members of the FAO staff have been called upon by the Bank both in Washington and in connection with field missions to provide technical assistance on agricultural problems. Similarly, FAO has called upon members of the Bank staff for advice and assistance, a current example being work on the Resolution of the FAO Conference on International Investment. FAO will consult with the International Monetary Fund in connection with its study on trends in international trade in food and agricultural products.

CONCLUSIONS

To sum up, the Council in considering the activities arising out of its Resolution on the Continuing World Food Crisis taken at its Sixth Session, the recommendations of the recent Conference of FAO and the action proposed by the Resolution of the Third Session of the General Assembly on the problem of wastage of food has before it four problems which involve collaboration with other international agencies of which only the first is a continuation of previous work: (a) improving the supply of agricultural production requisite; (b) a study of international financing of development; (c) an analysis of trends in the pattern of world trade and (d) improvement in marketing and distribution facilities. Accordingly the Council may wish:

1. to request that, as the studies on production requisites are completed, recommendations for action on the part of governments and appropriate international organizations be formulated by the Regional Economic Commissions, and the Council of FAO;
2. to request that the Secretariat of the United Nations collaborate with FAO and the other agencies concerned in the preparation of a report on international financing of development as requested by the Fourth Session of the FAO Conference;
3. to request that the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Regional Economic Commissions collaborate with FAO and other agencies concerned in studying trends in the pattern of international trade not only in food and agricultural products but in all commodities with a view to submitting a report to the Tenth Session of the Council;

/to commend

to commend the study of commodity agreement problems now being undertaken by the Council of FAO; and

4. in respect of the Resolution of the Third Session of the General Assembly on Food Wastage, to make appropriate arrangements for the examination of those aspects of marketing and distribution problems which do not fall within the purview of FAO with a view to making suggestions for improvement.

ANNEX A

RESOLUTION TAKEN AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE
ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF FAO ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

THE CONFERENCE recommends:

1. That the FAO Council provide at future annual conferences a committee of the Commission dealing with the annual review to examine and report on commodities as they are affected by agreements, international trade and distribution.
2. That appropriate working documents be prepared by the Council of FAO for Member Governments and the Conference.
3. (a) That the Council, bearing in mind the related and extensive documentation of the Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals, the Economic and Social Council, ICCICA, and the various Inter-governmental Commodity Organizations, arrange for a preliminary review of commodities and groups of commodities, within the purview of FAO, in respect of:
 - (i) the type and purposes of inter-governmental discussions or arrangements, if any, now proceeding or in being;
 - (ii) the relation between these purposes and the objective of FAO;
 - (iii) FAO's relations with bodies already established for discussions or negotiations.
- (b) That the Council be invited to submit this review to Member Governments if possible immediately following the first 1949 meeting of the Council, together with a statement of the Council's instructions to its observers at meetings of inter-governmental study groups, conferences or councils, and
- (c) That the Council in the light of its analysis submit to governments any suggestions it may see fit to make for governmental and inter-governmental action in respect of any other commodity or group of commodities.
4. That FAO in association with ICCICA give continuing publicity to the provisions and purposes of existing and contemplated commodity arrangements in the field of food and agriculture with special emphasis on the interlocking of the interests of producers and consumers in any such arrangements.

ANNEX B

RESOLUTION TAKEN AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF FAO ON THE TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

THE CONFERENCE

Notes that several exporting countries are endeavouring to introduce greater diversification of their agricultural production, thus tending to reduce the quantities of basic commodities available for export;

Notes with satisfaction that, by raising the purchasing power of the population, economic development in the countries hitherto less well developed is increasing internal demand;

Remarks however, that this increased diversification in the normal exporting countries would be likely to have the effect that the increase of agricultural production in these countries would not proceed with sufficient rapidity to meet the needs of the deficit countries;

Calls attention to the report of the Third Session of the Conference stating that optimum utilization of food will be served by maximizing as far as practicable, in view of economic conditions in exporting countries and other limiting factors, the movement of certain food and agricultural supplies in the form of raw materials, rather than as finished products;

Recommends that the Council, in consultation with all the appropriate international organizations, such as the Economic and Social Council, its Regional Economic Commissions, and the International Monetary Fund, should study the trends which emerge as regards international trade in food and agricultural products; and

Requests that the results of this study, together with suggestions as to the action which should be taken by Member Governments, should be submitted to the next Session of the Conference.
