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USSR Report

AGRICULTURE

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20 April 1984

USSR REPORT
AGRICULTURE

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MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

MOSCOW TELEVISION SUMMARIZES SOWING CAMPAIGN

LD152352 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 15 Mar 84

[From the Vremya newscast; IZVESTIYA observer Anatoliy Ivashchenko video talk]

[Text] Hello, Comrades. The time has not yet come for the Central Statistical Administration reports on mass sowing, but the crop farmers have been giving thought to it for a long time. In some places the shoots are gladdening the grain growers, in others they are alarmed by dry winds, dust storms, sparse snow. In a word, spring is behaving as it usually does. There have been springs like this before and there will be again. But now one should work so as to achieve as big as possible a harvest of all crops. That is why, in the Don region, for instance, at many farms the present difficult situation was foreseen and they will not have to treat almost half the areas under winter grain crops. In the past few years many farms there have abandoned the classic moldboard plowing and have changed over to surface tillage and are conducting sowing with rod seed drills. They are working most skillfully, in defiance of the storms and the droughts, in the Matveyevo-Kurganskiy Rayon, in Neklinovskiy, (Kagalnitskiy) Peschanopskiy, Orlovskiy and other rayons. In the [name indistinct] steppe, for instance, even on the slopes a harvest is growing year in year out. People from all over the country are now traveling there.

It is known that the winds also do not bypass Stavropolskiy Kray, but in Kochubeyevskiy Rayon, especially at the "Kosminskiy" kolkhoz, where they have learned to confront adversities, even in extreme conditions yields are achieved of 40, 50 and even 60 quintals of grain per hectare. But as the first swallow does not make a spring, so even the best experience of enthusiasts will not bring universal success.

What is the answer? It is already time to draw up the plans for each spring taking only into consideration the most difficult conditions. I shall say a few words about specific tactics for the present sowing campaign. The Kubanites, for instance, have already started and on a fairly wide scale. And it needs to be said that sowing is being conducted rapidly there. Because of the shortage of moisture, the lack of snow and thirsty winds the gap between presowing tillage of the fields and sowing itself has been reduced to a minimum there. Units for the preparation of the soil are operating in two shifts, even at night. At the crack of dawn the seed drills go into action. The interest in such an approach

is to a large extent dictated by the striving to be paid for the harvest achieved. If only people would work like that in the sowing campaign everywhere.

And, all the same, today one needs to look ahead. Complaints have been reaching and are still reaching television and us in IZVESTIYA about the shortage of erosion-fighting equipment. But the machine-builders continue to be indebted to the crop farmers. This is a pity, since this debt is already becoming a debt which cannot be repaid.

CSO: 1824/287

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

MOSCOW RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS 25 FEB-20 MAR

25-29 February

LD010604 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 25-29 February. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

25 February

Two new state farms have been set up in Uzbekistan on assimilated virgin lands in the foothills of Samarkand Oblast. They will specialize in grain crops and in livestock breeding. During the current 5-year plan period 500,000 hectares of virgin land will be assimilated in Uzbekistan. More than 100 new state farms will be set up. (0500 GMT)

Lithuanian enterprises are helping Selkhoztekhnika to assemble and adjust new farm machinery. Preparations for spring sowing have, in the main, been completed in the republic. Farm machinery has been overhauled, and the overhaul of tractors is being completed. The farm machinery enterprises have set up a network of zonal repair shops equipped for operational maintenance. (0900 GMT)

26 February

Farms in southern Belorussia have made full provision for seeds for next year's harvest and overhauled machinery. (0304 GMT)

The Kuban is preparing for the spring sowing: 4,315,000 tons of grain sales to the state have been pledged, and preparatory work has already been done on 1,400,000 hectares. (1100 GMT)

Brest: In the southern oblasts of Belorussia, seeds and machinery are ready for spring. (1200 GMT)

Petrozavodsk: Selkhoztekhnika fulfills pledges.

Preparations for spring have begun in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, where the target is a million tons of grain corn--250,000 tons more than last year. This is no easy task, yet it is already being solved. Overhaul of tractors for corn sowing is being completed, and other machinery is ready. The scientists are helping the farmers to achieve good results in spite of the fact that, because of bad weather during autumn sowing the winter crop area has been considerably reduced. (1200 GMT)

In western Turkmen SSR where water has only just been supplied along the Kara-Kum Canal, to date nine oases have come into being along the course of the waterway, which extends for 1,100 kilometers. Over 500,000 hectares of virgin land have been developed in the zone of the canal. By the year 1990 water from the Amu-Darya will reach the subtropical part of Turkmen SSR. In the south of the republic it is intended to irrigate about 1 million hectares of fertile land and to create a number of cotton-growing state farms and farms for the cultivation of subtropical crops. (1500 GMT)

Spring sowing is not far off, and some 130 million hectares are to be sown to grain crops in the country. Farmers are finishing preparations for sowing. Farms in Southern Belorussia are fully equipped with high quality seed of early crops. Farm machinery is ready and cadres have been trained. (1930 GMT)

27 February

Krasnodar Kray farms are preparing for the spring sowing. Fertilizers have been spread on 1.4 million hectares from the air. (0204 GMT)

Spring sowing preparations in Poltava Oblast are proceeding well in most rayons though a number of farms are lagging in preparing seeds and overhauling machinery. (0600 GMT)

Machinery overhaul in Ulyanovsk Oblast is not going badly, but in spite of a generally favorable situation, almost 1,000 of the 2,500 high-powered tractors in the oblast have not yet been overhauled, due to a lack of spare parts. (0600 GMT)

Farms in the Kuybyshev Volga area are completing snow tilling, beginning work on the last 100,000 hectares today. This year snow-fall has been disappointing in the steppe area. Taking into account the complex climatic conditions--as is known, the Kuybyshev Volga area is part of the zone of risky agriculture--farmers have adopted additional measures to keep maximum moisture in the fields. (1630 GMT)

28 February

Snow retention in Kazakhstan on 33 million hectares was completed by today. (0700 GMT)

29 February

Gorkiy Oblast is all ready for spring sowing. More than 1 million hectares will be given over to spring crops. (1200 GMT)

In Voroshilovgrad Oblast 570 mechanized detachments have been created to cultivate about 80 percent of all arable land. (1200 GMT)

Sowing and cultivating machinery has been checked in Kirghiz SSR. Around 28,000 tractors and other machinery is now ready. (1300 GMT)

Farms in the East Kazakhstan and Semipalatinsk Oblasts have completed preparation of grain and pulse seeds. (1300 GMT)

In the Kuban and the Crimea, selective sowing of early spring crops has begun. Snow retention is in progress in Transural, Siberia, and Kazakh's virgin lands. (1400 GMT)

In Uzbekistan preparations are underway for the sowing season. More than four-fifths of all sowing and cultivating machinery is ready. Cotton seeds have been prepared for sowing earlier than last year. Winter grain crops are being fed in the republic. Planes are spreading mineral fertilizer on fields of wheat and barley. (1400 GMT)

1-7 March

LD080326 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 1-7 March. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

1 March

Grain farmers of Kabarda-Balkar ASSR have completed preparing sowing materials for the spring effort. (0200 GMT)

Alfalfa sowing has started in the Kuban. (0200 GMT)

The sowing of alfalfa has been begun in the Chechen-Ingush Republic. (0500 GMT)

2 March

Spring is slow in arriving. Central Asian and Trans-Caucasus republics have not yet really begun field work. Fields are being irrigated and crop-protection tree plantings are underway.

Machine operators are preparing the soil for sowing in spring. (1400 GMT)

The agricultural aviation of Brest Oblast began field work today in the south of Belorussia. The fields are being prepared for the sowing of summer crops. Mineral fertilizers--mainly potassium fertilizers--will be dropped from planes over an area of more than 200,000 hectares. The quality of the work of the Belorussian agricultural aviation will be assessed in the future not according to the number of flights but according to the quality of treatment of the fields and the harvest grown up. (1630 GMT)

4 March

In Stavropol Kray farmers have completed preparations for spring sowing. (1500 GMT)

5 March

Smolensk Oblast farmers have fulfilled the plan for spreading organic fertilizer in the fields. (1100 GMT)

Altay machine operators have repaired 43,000 tractors, 85 percent of the total. (1100 GMT)

In Turkmenia mass potato planting has begun in the Kopet-Dag foothills, where another 200 hectares of virgin land have been brought under cultivation. In the republic as a whole potatoes are to be planted on over 1,500 hectares [as heard], which is more than last year's area. (1200 GMT)

Omsk Oblast agricultural workers have received more than 1,000 tractors and transport vehicles and a large quantity of sowing equipment since the start of the year. (1630 GMT)

6 March

Belorussian machine operators have overhauled 120,000 tractors to date, over 90 percent of the pool. (0304 GMT)

Winter ploughing is ending in Kazakhstan. Snow banks have been piled up on over 30 million hectares. In Kokchetav Oblast snow retention has been conducted on 5 million hectares, while the plan was 3.7 million hectares. In Kustanay, snow has been ploughed on 6 million hectares and in Severo-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast, on 4 million. The delivery of fertilizers to the fields is also going at a good pace. (0900 GMT)

The first shoots of spring crops have appeared in the south of the country. Rural workers have more to do than usual. The weather now obliges them to be particularly careful. There is concern about the warm winter and the unprecedented dry February in many parts of the country. Reserves of winter moisture are alarmingly low in a number of rayons in the north Caucasus, the southern Ukraine and the lower reaches of the Volga. Many parts of Bryansk, Orel, Smolensk and certain other oblasts had virtually no snow. So it is already obvious that the task of primary importance is the struggle for moisture in the soil. Thaws and black ice, have made it difficult to tend our winter crops, which should normally be particularly rich. In some places it will be impossible to avoid adding to the sowing or even resowing altogether. However, there are quite enough seeds in the country, and there is a good reserve for insurance. Their sowing qualities are better than in previous years. At many kolkhozes and sovkhoses, all the winter crop seeds are up to the very highest standards. (1100 GMT)

7 March

The farms of the southern zone of Rostov Oblast have started selective harrowing. For 2 months hurricane winds have been blowing unabated. The dry autumn and the snowless frosty winter have depleted water reserves in the soil. The volume of

work at some farms has doubled. Yet the machine operators are set to complete sowing of early crop in 70-80 working hours. (1630 GMT)

Over 200 farms in Mordavia have overfulfilled the quarterly plan for the sale of meat to the state. At present 3,000 more tons of it have been procured than during the same time last year. (1630 GMT)

8-10 March

LD110142 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 8-10 March. Times of broadcasts are given in parenthesis at the end of each item.

8 March

Formation of sowing complexes has begun in Altay Kray farms. More than 2,000 collective contracting teams will work on the fields. (2004 GMT)

Mass sowing of early crops is under way in Uzbekistan. (2105 GMT)

9 March

Spring sowing preparations are under way in Tuva. (0304 GMT)

Turkmenistan farmers have begun mass sowing of alfalfa: 60,000 hectares need to be sown, significantly more than last year. (1630 GMT)

10 March

In the Ukraine sugar beet growers are fully supplied with high-quality sowing material. Seed-purifying enterprises have completed the dispatch of seed to the farms. Three-quarters of all seeds are of first grade standard. The planned yield is at least 322 quintals per hectare of roots. (0204 GMT)

Sowing of perennial grasses begins in Azerbaijan. (1600 GMT)

Corn seed dispatched to farms in non-Chernozem Zone. (1600 GMT)

All the sowing and soil processing machinery is ready for spring in Tadzhikistan. Good organization of labor has helped to speed up the pace of overhaul of the machinery. (1600 GMT)

Due to selectionists' efforts, over 300 new grain crops have been made available for farms. It has become possible to change the sorts of grain crops every 4-5 years. Each new sort has a potential harvest yield of two quintals per hectare above the one which it has come to replace. (1730 GMT)

11-12 March

LD130214 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 11-12 March. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

11 March

Saratov Oblast preparing for spring field work. (0304 GMT)

Spring field work preparations in progress: In Mordovia over 80 percent of grain seeds are brought to high sowing standard, and nearly 90 percent of tractors are ready. Repairs of potato-seeders are faster than last year, and also of sprinklers and hay-harvesters. (0500 GMT)

Kurgan Oblast is preparing over 5,000 new machine operators in readiness for two-shift use of machinery. (0500 GMT)

Mass spring sowing of spring crops has started in the Kuban; warm weather and brief rain enable hundreds of crews of sowing complexes to sow oats, barley, leguminous and fodder crops. "Owing to lack of moisture, a snowless winter, winds and dry winds, machine operators are striving to cut to the minimum the interval between pre-sowing processing of the soil and the sowing." Kuban farmers are to sow spring crops this spring on nearly 2 million hectares. (1600 GMT)

This year the area under spring crops in Tajikistan is almost 430,000 hectares, which is more than last year. A total of 350 major mechanized complexes, formation of which was completed, will work there this spring. (1630 GMT)

This was the first winter the new variety of the Albidum-12 wheat has been tried by Siberian selectionists on the first dozens of hectares. This variety of winter wheat was developed by scientists of the Siberian branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. It was received by methods of genetic engineering when some of the normal wheat chromosomes were replaced by chromosomes of cough-grass which improves the cold-resistant qualities of the crop. Albidum-12's yield is by several hundredweight per hectare higher than that of the ordinary spring wheat. In addition, it has excellent baking qualities. (1630 GMT)

Spring crops are to be sown on 30 million hectares in Kazakhstan this year. (1930 GMT)

Five million metric tons of organic fertilizers have been carted out onto the fields by machine operator detachments in the Mari non-Chernozem Zone. (2204 GMT)

12 March

Kazakhstan: Machinery almost ready for sowing: 220,000 tractors from a fleet of 250,000 have already been repaired. About 500,000 attachments have been repaired, too. (0500 GMT)

Tadzhikistan: Sowing of fodder crops has begun in the southern regions. Machine operators in Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube oblasts are sowing alfalfa, sugar beets and corn. Due to the exceptionally cold winter, sowing begins about 2 weeks later than usual. Soon sowing of cotton will begin on more than 300,000 hectares. (0500 GMT)

Selective field work has started on the farms of Stavropol Kray. This spring there have been strong gusty winds but field work is going ahead nonetheless. (1630 GMT)

Topdressing of winter cereals has been completed in Kirghizia. This work has been done on 250,000 hectares. (1630 GMT)

Farmers in Tadzhikistan have begun the pre-sowing irrigation of the cotton fields. First to start this work were farms in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. (1630 GMT)

13-14 March

LD150135 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 13-14 March. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

13 March

In Moldavia over 1,000 comprehensive machine operator teams have been formed for the sowing. (0100 GMT)

Kurgan-Tyube Oblast in Tadzhikistan begins presowing irrigation of cotton fields. (0100 GMT)

In Turkmenia the second air-spray of winter crops with fertilizer begins in the south. (0100 GMT)

Grodno Oblast in Belorussia has trained over 1,500 new machine operators this winter, and as many machine operators have improved their qualifications. (0304 GMT)

Orenburg Oblast farms completing preparation for spring sowing. (0700 GMT)

Belgorod Oblast: aerial top-dressing of winter grain crops is underway. Mineral fertilizer spreading is also being carried out on the ground. This spring, winter grains are to receive top dressing over an area of around 300,000 hectares. (1200 GMT)

Southern rayons of Rostov Oblast are preparing for sowing. (1400 GMT)

Sowing has begun on corn plantations of southern Uzbekistan. (2330 GMT)

14 March

In Omsk Oblast mutual checks of the readiness of machinery for sowing have begun. About 4 million hectares will be sown. (0500 GMT)

Ukrainian farmers' potato-planting machines are ready for work. The area to be sown to potatoes in the Ukraine by mechanical means is being increased by 50 percent. Chernigov farmers' experience is being studied. This year the potato farmers plan to sell the state some 3.5 million tons of potatoes. (1100 GMT)

The Kuban plans to produce 4,315,000 tons of grain this year. Valentin Tarasov says this means an average yield of 37 quintals per hectare. Winter grain now total 1,726,000 hectares. Anatoliy Grigoryevich Pashkov, deputy head of the Krasnodar Kray Directorate of Agriculture, tells of various crop-tending measures, including more rational use of fertilizers, which will ensure a good harvest. (1200 GMT)

Spring field work under way in Ararat Valley. This year the Ararat potato-growers plan to increase growing area by 45 hectares. (1430 GMT)

15-16 March

LD170647 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 15, 16 March. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

15 March

Spring has finally reached Eastern Georgia, after heavy snow and frost. Today farmers in Shirakskaya Steppe started mass sowing of sunflowers. First-class, drought-resistant seeds produced by local selection have been sown. (1400 GMT)

The country's corn-growers have had their seed orders fulfilled by the Ukraine's calibration works, who have dispatched the last batches of seeds to consumers. Ninety-three percent of the entire pool of corn seed is of the highest quality. (1400 GMT)

Selection of cotton seeds from the procurement points [as heard] has been completed by farms of Turkmenistan. Cotton cleaning works have fulfilled the plan for the preparation of seeds for the coming sowing ahead of schedule. More than 100,000 tons of seeds have been prepared. This year cotton will be sown on more than 500,000 hectares. (1430 GMT)

16 March

An agronomical conference will take place in Kurgan today. The results of agricultural work in the past year are to be summed up and the tactics of the present spring sowing campaign are to be determined. Our correspondent reports that this campaign will be difficult. Because of the rainy autumn it was not possible to provide the remote collective and state farms fully with the necessary seeds. The area which was intended for plowing in autumn has remained unplowed and spring field work is to be carried out on almost 2.5 million hectares. (0130 GMT)

Semen Astakhov reports that seed-drills are out in Vladimir Oblast, where sowing of clover has begun in some parts. In North Caucasus, which is enjoying warm weather, sowing of spring crops is underway. He talks with Chechen-Ingushetia correspondent Tamara (Aliyeva), who says that sowing of Lucerne, oats and peas is taking place on steppe farms there, basically in Shelkovskiy Rayon. The spring is cold at present--unusual for the area--and snow is still on the ground in some places. Hurricane-strength winds, which lasted for a week, greatly increased the workload of farmers. A dust storm damaged part of the crops, and caused upper layers of soil to dry. Machine operators at front-ranking farms are working day and night on the fields. (0500 GMT)

Rostov Oblast farmers have decided to complete sowing work in 80 working hours. For Don farmers and those of neighboring oblasts the present spring is a very difficult one. There is little moisture in the soil, and machine operators are carrying out surface tilling. (0500 GMT)

Spring sowing has begun in Crimea, south Uzbekistan, Stavropolye, Kuban, and on the Don, and in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast, in Tajikistan. (1600 GMT)

Dispatch of seeds of new strains of spring wheat Kharkovskaya-7 and barley Kharkovskiy-74, developed in the Ukraine, to eastern Siberia and the Volga area was completed today. They can give a yield of up to 60 quintals per hectare and are highly resistant to drought, disease and flattening. Strains developed in Kharkov will be sown this spring on more than 2 million hectares in the USSR. (1630 GMT)

Khabarovsk: Airmen have begun spreading fertilizer on spring-cereal growing land. The area worked from the air in the Far East has now increased to 1.2 million hectares. In addition to spraying herbicides, aircraft will also carry out sowing of rice on flooded paddies. (2105 GMT)

18-20 March

LD210514 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 18-20 March. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

18 March

A journalist reports on the spring sowing in Krasnodar Kray. He visits a local farm. Anatoliy Grigoryevich (Pashkov), deputy chief of the agricultural production directorate of the kray executive committee, says that spring this year has been "unparalleled in recent years," with great variations in the weather. Strong dust storms have passed through the kray twice. Paramount attention has been devoted to restoring the plant density of the thinned winter crops. This spring, owing to additional sowing and resowing of thinned winter crops, the kray needs to sow almost 2.4 million hectares of fields. The equipment has been

fully readied, and there are sufficient stocks of seed, fertilizers and herbicide. The plan is to sow 177,000 hectares to early spring grains and pulses; 70,000 hectares have already been sown--almost 40 percent of the plan. The first results of the spring field work show that "unjustified sluggishness" is apparent "in individual rayons." "Owing to lack of organization and supervision, additional sowing and resowing of winter crops with early spring crops is being conducted slowly on farms in (?Travinskoy) and Krylovskiy Rayon, where this important agricultural measure has been carried out on just 25-30 percent of the planned areas." (0900 GMT)

Nikolayev Oblast: Sowing of spring crops has begun in the south of the oblast. Other areas are sowing too. Over 150 million hectares have to be sown this year, a gigantic task. (1600 GMT)

19 March

Mass sowing has begun in steppe area of Chechen-Ingush ASSR. (0304 GMT)

Amur Oblast: All tractors have been repaired. (0304 GMT)

Ryazan Oblast: Autumn-sown grains, perennial grasses and pastures are being top-dressed from the air. More than 400,000 hectares of bread-grain and 100,000 hectares of meadows and pastures are to be dressed with mineral fertilizers in this way. (0700 GMT)

Sowing of early cereals underway in Crimea. (1630 GMT)

Corn sowing underway in south Turkmenistan. (1630 GMT)

All cultivation and sowing equipment ready in Tatariya. Irrigated fields here will occupy about 250,000 hectares now. (1630 GMT)

Sowing of early grain and pulse crops is underway in the Kuban. Barley, oats, peas and fodder grasses have now been sown on 200,000 hectares. Sugar-beet growers are preparing to go out in the fields. (2330 GMT)

20 March

Corn sowing has started in Uzbekistan. Almost 250,000 hectares are to be sown, most of it in Karshi Oblast. (0100 GMT)

Irrigation work has started in south Kirghizia. Sowing of perennial grasses, peas and other pulse crops has started in Osh Oblast. Fodder crops alone are to be sown on over 130,000 hectares here. Spring is approximately 2 weeks late in arriving. (0100 GMT)

Crimean farmers are sowing only first-class seeds, thanks to the [word indistinct] Almost all farms have started sowing perennial grasses and fodder mixtures. (0104 GMT)

All sowing and soil tilling equipment has been repaired in Chuvashia. (0130 GMT)

The Don region machine operators, who have started spring sowing, are now undergoing a severe test. This year's spring campaign is miserly with fine days and night frost constantly tests the grain growers' character. Dust storms are also still blowing. The main task is to get the sowing done as soon as possible and preserve valuable moisture. Sowing [sev] of early cereals and pulses, taking into account the sowing [posevy] of winter crops, has been carried out on the first 500,000 hectares. (0204 GMT)

Most Omsk Oblast farms have first-class seed for the entire spring sowing; over 400,000 tons have been prepared. This year new high-yield strains will be sown, such as Omskaya-9, Almaz and (?Seshchanka)-10 spring wheat, and will occupy 1.7 million hectares, three quarters of the entire grain area in the oblast. (0300 GMT)

In the Kuban 5,000 sowing machines are at work; to date 200,000 hectares have been sown to grasses, barley, oats, and peas. (0700 GMT)

Stavropol Kray farms have started mass sowing and re-sowing of almost 500,000 hectares of the winter-sown area weakened after the winter, which was almost snowless and marked by hurricane winds. In spite of weather difficulties, farmers are determined to put no less than 1.96 million tons of grain in the state granaries. (1100 GMT)

In South Kazakhstan today harrowing and top dressing of winter crops started, along with selective sowing of grass and cereals. Farmers have a lot of work to do in view of the delayed spring. (1400 GMT)

Grain growers have begun sowing in the Talas Valley where 272,000 hectares is to be sown; four-fifths of this to grain. (1630 GMT)

Cotton sowing has begun in Tajikistan. As the spring is late this year, work is to be carried out in the optimal 5-6 days. Some 307,000 hectares of the best irrigated land has been allocated to cotton. (1630 GMT)

CSO: 1824/287

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

'STRONG WINDS' DROP DON LEVEL, HITS WATER SUPPLIES

PM061321 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 6

[Own correspondent G. Gubanov dispatch under the rubric "The Elements and the People": "Cyclones Versus the Don"]

[Text] Rostov-na-donu--Recently strong winds have accelerated the flow of Don water into the Azov Sea. The river level has dropped. Water supply installations in Rostov, Novocherkassk, Shakhty, Azov, and Taganrog have been uncovered. A threat to normal water supply has arisen.

In its lower reaches the Don can change its level up to 40 times a year. But this is the first time in the last decade that we have seen such a strong flow of water as we are seeing now, V. Sarazhin, chief of the North Caucasus Territorial Hydrometeorological and Environmental Control Administration says. Ice jams formed at the same time. The reason behind the complex situation was the interaction of a powerful anticyclone from the Central Urals and cyclonic conditions over the Black Sea. This built up east winds in the territory of Rostov Oblast to 23-27 meters per second.

Our service gave good warning of the possible danger. Operational groups immediately went into action at the oblispolkom and in all cities. We managed to take the necessary measures in the time available. Some water was urgently transferred from the Tsimlyanskoye reservoir in order to raise the Don's level.

Today the interaction of the cyclonic conditions and the anticyclone lessened somewhat and the wind speed dropped. The consequences of the major outflow of water are being eliminated, and water supply in the cities is returning to normal.

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MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

'STRONG, PERSISTENT WINDS' HARM TOPSOIL IN STAVROPOL KRAY

PM071430 Moscow TRUD in Russian 7 Mar 84 p 3

[Report by P. Guskov under the rubric "We Report the Details": "How They Fought the Black Storm"]

[Text] Stavropol Kray--I had to stop the car the other side of Svetlograd. The pall of dust across the highway had grown so thick that even the headlights could not discern the Kirovets tractors which for a long time had been looming indistinctly ahead of us. I knew that the large village of Gofitskoye should be a little way off somewhere, but the black storm had covered it too. Somehow, with enforced stops, we reached Stavropol. The storm was raging here only slightly less fiercely than in the steppe, in the east of the kray....

"We'll remember this winter a long time: strong, persistent winds particularly in January and February continued virtually non-stop, L. Sukhova, an employee at the Stavropol Zonal Hydrometeorological Observatory, says. "But on Saturday and Sunday the wind reached an utterly unprecedented strength--22 meters a second. And, which had also not happened before, it encompassed virtually the entire territory of the kray."

Specialists believe that the rampaging wind is perfectly explicable. The anti-cyclone which had lingered over the Urals became a kind of "mountain" from which avalanches of cold air have been descending into the valleys in the North Caucasus region for several weeks now. The winds spread not only through Stavropol Kray but also touched the north of Krasnodar Kray and descended on Rostov Oblast.

Reports that the elements were gaining strength were conveyed in good time to all the kray's services. S. Sadko, duty officer of the kray's housing and municipal services administration, takes up the story:

"We had created in advance up to 20 duty teams in all rayons. They were provided with transport. We set up communications. Several municipal power lines were damaged by the wind, but they had been put back in operation within an hour."

Sunday was a strenuous working day. Especially for M. Varshavskiy, chief of the kray agricultural administration. In his opinion, the main depredation caused by the elements was not even the hundreds of local power line pylons damaged in recent weeks but the devastation suffered by the soil of Stavropol, especially in the past 2 days. Had it not been for the dry soil protection arable farming system established here a few years ago, the damage would have been far greater. Nonetheless, the crops were harmed over considerable areas.

"On the kolkhozes and sovkhoses everything is already ready now for bringing the sowing equipment out onto the steppe and starting the resowing and under-sowing of the stricken areas," M. Varshavskiy says. "Large consignments of high-quality seeds are now being prepared for delivery to the areas."

The winds over Stavropol are dying down. They can no longer harm the large amount of skilled, well organized work which has been launched here.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF APK ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

Moscow VESTNIK MOSKOVSKOGO UNIVERSITETA, SERIYA 6: EKONOMIKA in Russian No 6,
Nov-Dec 83 pp 15-23

[Article by Yuriy Iustinovich Krasnopoyask, doctor of economic sciences, professor at the chair of management, Faculty of Economics of Moscow State University: "The Food Program and Perfecting the Management of Agriculture Within the APK [Agroindustrial Complex] System"]

[Text] Together with the adoption of the Food Program, the May 1982 CPSU Central Committee Plenum ratified the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree "On Improving the Management of Agriculture and the Other Sectors of the Agroindustrial Complex" which, in order to create favorable conditions for the successful implementation of the Food Program, stipulated the comprehensive implementation of a set of corresponding organizational measures. Determining among them is the creation of a system of management organs of agroindustrial complexes (APK) on all levels of the territorial structure of the national economy. In accordance with the approved standard regulations, these organs were granted the necessary rights and possibilities in the fields of planning and regulating the most important intersectorial production and economic relations and capital construction, material and technical procurements, finances, credits and so on, with a view to surmounting lack of departmental coordination among APK partners, between agriculture and the sectors which service and support it, above all. Their entire activities are aimed at the proportional and comprehensive utilization of APK resources.

However, improving the management of agricultural intersectorial relations with the APK system does not resolve the problem of improving the management of agriculture as a sector of the national economy. The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree characterizes the basic shortcomings in agricultural management as follows: an excessively cumbersome nature and lack of coordination and the fact that a rational combination between sectorial and territorial management principles is not always secured. The decree notes that a considerable percentage of agricultural enterprises are subordinated to numerous trusts, associations and other organizations and departments on the republic, oblast and interrayon levels, the result of which is an unjustified increase in the size of administrative staff. It also points out the weakening of the rayon agricultural management level and the increased bureaucratic administration and regulation of kolkhoz and sovkhos activities.

other sectorial and territorial ministries and departments. That is why the USSR Ministry of Agriculture objectively implements some functions in the sectorial management of agriculture in the country and provides functional management and control over technological processes related to agricultural production in other sectors and departments.

The union-republic ministry of agriculture in the USSR was reinstated by the 1 March 1965 CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree "On Increasing the Role of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture in the Management of Kolkhoz and Sovkhoz Production." It was entrusted with managing the development of agriculture and responsibility for the condition of agricultural production. Initially, the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and its local organs provided comprehensive agricultural management both as a sphere and sector of the national economy.

Subsequently, as a result of intensified specialization and increased concentration of agricultural production, a trend was noted toward the creation of separate organs in charge of managing specialized production on all management levels. The narrowly specialized management organs created paid greater attention, particularly at the beginning, to the development of specialized farm sectors.

However, the specialization of agricultural production and of agricultural management organs are not identical concepts. Because of the specific features we noted and the existence of large multisectorial farms in our country, agricultural specialization cannot engage in the comprehensive breakdown of agriculture into narrowly specialized enterprises and vertically separate and isolated associations. The management of specialization is only part of the management function. Even in specialized farms production-economic relations develop less vertically than horizontally, i.e., on the territorial level.

To begin with, the creation of numerous republic, oblast and interrayon trusts, associations and other specialized sectorial management organs disperses and weakens a number of common agricultural production management functions. Secondly, subordinating a significant number of sovkhozes and associations to nonagricultural specialized departments breaks up the single sector--agriculture--into artificially isolated sectors.

This trend resulted in the violation of the necessary combination of sectorial with territorial agricultural management principles in favor of sectorial administration. Even now, in the course of the creation of oblast and rayon APO [agroindustrial associations], many agricultural enterprises within them are only functionally subordinated to said agricultural organs, i.e., they continue to obey their sectorial and departmental organs. Thus, in the Ukraine, in addition to the republic's ministry of agriculture, other agricultural organs are functioning on a parallel basis: the Ministry of Sovkhozes, the Ministry of Fruits and Vegetables and the Main Fruit and Wine Industry Administration. Additionally, a number of republic nonagricultural departments (Ministry of Food Industry, Ministry of Water Resources) have jurisdiction over sovkhozes and agricultural associations. In many RSFSR

The elimination of such shortcomings requires improvements in the organizational mechanism of agricultural management.¹ It is a question of streamlining the structure of managerial organs and the way of distributing among them the basic functions, means and procedures for their implementation. This is important also because agriculture is not simply a structural component but the core, the integrating factor of the entire APK and because improvements in agricultural management will have an essential impact on the management of other APK sectors.

The concepts "agriculture" and "agricultural production" are frequently considered synonymous. However, as an area of material production agricultural production is substantially different from industrial production, construction and so on. It is a question of organizational-technological and socioeconomic factors which determine the features of the reproduction process in this area and demand a mandatory consideration in the organization of its management. Agricultural production takes place on the land, which is not only an object of economic management but a productive capital and, as such, practically nonreproduceable. That is why agricultural production is inseparable from the land and, by virtue of this fact, is territorially dispersed. It is based on the use of biological functions and processes occurring in the soil and in vegetable and animal organisms and, more than in any other material production areas, depends on zonal (territorial) natural and climate conditions.

In addition to these factors, the seasonal nature of agricultural production and the noncoincidence between the work and production periods lead to the fact that, as K. Marx himself pointed out, economic reproduction processes become closely interwoven here with the natural reproduction process.²

From the socioeconomic viewpoint agricultural production takes place in three economic forms: national, cooperative and private auxiliary farms. The state sector accounts for less than one-half of the entire gross agricultural output, including slightly more than one-third of the animal husbandry, vegetable and truck gardening output. Some other social factors should be taken into consideration as well: the existing habits, traditions and means of settlement in rural areas and the national features of one area or another in the production and consumption of agricultural commodities.

All of this proves the need for the practical adoption of a primarily territorial approach to the organization of agricultural production management. Agriculture means the totality of economic organizations which are an economic sector and are part of the structure of the respective ministry--the USSR Ministry of Agriculture. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes are the main organization units in this sector. However, other economic organizations are also targets of management within agriculture: construction, processing and storing agricultural commodities, technical, agrotechnical and transport services to agricultural production and some others.

At the same time, a number of production and other organizations are engaged in agricultural production: departmental sovkhozes and auxiliary farms, truck-country home cooperatives, game farms, and others, which are part of

oblasts and rayons, in addition to the local agricultural agencies, agricultural enterprises are managed by a variety of department organs--oblast specialized trusts and interrayon associations.

Improvements in agricultural management under conditions governed by the establishment of a national economic agroindustrial complex on all levels should begin by concentrating its basic management functions as a sector and a sphere within a single system--the Ministry of Agriculture and its local organs. The agricultural agencies should have direct jurisdiction not only over kolkhozes but also sovkhozes and other agricultural enterprises.

In our view, this step will contribute to establishing the necessary conditions for improving management in the development of agricultural production by the Ministry of Agriculture and its local organs and will enhance their responsibility for production results, simplify the agricultural management structure within the country's APK system and eliminate unnecessary administrative units on the territorial plane and on all levels; it will relieve other nonagricultural ministries and departments from agricultural production management functions extraneous to them; finally, it will reduce the size of the agricultural production management apparatus.

Exceptions to the general rule would be possible. They would apply to strictly specialized agricultural enterprises whose marketable output is used locally: auxiliary farms of production enterprises and other organizations and suburban fruit and vegetable farms with their own or assigned commercial or public catering network. This would apply also to farms which form a single agroindustrial complex of the "sovkhoz-plant" type with the processing enterprises: starch-syrup, wine making, fruit and vegetable canning, volatile oil manufacturing and some others. The Ministry of Agriculture would provide functional management of the organization of agricultural production in such farms in terms of technology, use of scientific achievements, cadre training, state inspection and so on. Such farms would therefore be under double jurisdiction: the jurisdiction of their own departmental organs and the functional jurisdiction of the respective Ministry of Agriculture agencies.

The USSR Ministry of Agriculture now becomes the main link within the agroindustrial complex management system on all national economic levels. Its local organ is, as we know, the functional apparatus of the APO. This apparatus assumes responsibility for the overall end results of the activities of APO councils. In our view, allowing the Ministry of Agriculture and its organs to assume all the functions in agricultural management as a national economic sector and the exercise of its functional management of agricultural production organizations as a specific area of material production is an objectively topical task.

The increased responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture in organizing agricultural production management calls for increasing its rights in some areas of activity. The Ministry of Agriculture and its organs must become the owners of the basic material and technical facilities used in agricultural production. The Ministry of Agriculture should play a leading role in the planning and allocation of material and technical facilities among all APK partners, including those currently engaged in their marketing

(Sel'khoztekhnika, Sel'khozkhimiya and others). However, these problems are more closely related to the advancement of the economic mechanism and require special consideration.

So far we discussed primarily improvements in the structure of agricultural management, i.e., the forms of assigning basic management functions to the various elements of the management system. The structure is characterized also by the number of levels of subordination or vertical management levels. In terms of objectives and content, agricultural management is far more restricted than other economic sectors. It is coupled and intersects with the activities of local state and party organs. Therefore, the structure of the agricultural organs must be entirely consistent with the administrative and territorial division of the country and its levels must range from three in union republics without oblasts to six in autonomous RSFSR oblasts.

However, the improvement of the organizational mechanism is not exclusively related to structure. It presumes the respective streamlining of the means and procedures for the exercise of management functions, i.e., it applies to the nature of relations among the structural elements. Such relations, as we know, are implemented in two forms: vertical, i.e., mandatory subordination or management, and horizontal--the coordination and cooperation among organizationally interrelated elements which are not subordinated to each other. In turn, the vertical relations may be broken down into linear, i.e., mandatory to all subordinate projects and all functions, and functional, in which the subordination applies only to a single or several related functions.

Defining the level of linear management of specific projects, i.e., singling out the structural nucleus which is given the right directly to influence a project in terms of general management functions, is of great importance in streamlining such relations. The current management of all technological processes in agricultural production should be the prerogative of the basic economic units of kolkhozes and sovkhoses.

In this connection, the decisions of the communist party and the Soviet government have repeatedly indicated that in the creation of various interfarm organizations and agricultural associations the kolkhozes and sovkhoses retain their economic autonomy and rights as juridical persons. The resolutions of the May 1982 CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the Standard Regulation on the RAPO [Rayon Agroindustrial Association] emphasize the need to increase the autonomy and initiative of the farms. The observance of these decisions offers the necessary organizational prerequisites for the efficient current management of technological processes in agricultural production on the level of the basic economic units.

However, these stipulations continue to be violated to this day. They are essentially related to efforts to shift the current management of agricultural production to a higher level in the management hierarchy. Many superior organs exert a direct influence on production-technological processes in subordinate farms. They issue them mandatory assignments not only in terms of the volume of commodity output and a limited range of other parameters stipulated in respective directives, but also for a number of additional

indicators, such as the structure of crop areas, cattle, crop yields, and so on. All of this lowers the responsibility and interest of labor collectives in end production results and weakens the initiative of farm managers.

The reasons for such violations and shortcomings are largely related to the fact that so far the main unit in the linear management of the basic economic units has not been singled out and its level has not been defined. Here is a typical example of this fact. In Sumi Oblast the oblast and rayon APO includes 61 sovkhoses in addition to the kolkhozes. Thirty-three of the sovkhoses are outside the system of the Ministry of Agriculture. Their linear management is in the hands of the republic and oblast trusts, associations and other organs of corresponding departments. The remaining 28 sovkhoses are part of the Ministry of Agriculture system. However, their linear management is on different hierarchical levels: 11 sovkhoses are managed by the oblast Sumzhivprom trust; three are under the oblast poultry-breeding association of the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Sovkhoses; five training farms and three sovkhos-technical schools are under the direct jurisdiction of the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Agriculture; the remaining six sovkhoses are under the jurisdiction of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture.³ A similar situation is developing in a number of other oblasts and republics.

These shortcomings in the distribution of the functions in the linear management of basic economic units within the structure of the sectorial management of agriculture entail violations of the principle of unit of command and optimal assignment of respective rights and responsibilities based on the hierarchical position of management organs. Even now, with the creation of the RAPO, sectorial organs frequently located hundreds of kilometers away from their farms determine not only the amount of specialized commodity output in their farms but the entire production structure, the amounts and allocations of capital investments, the nature of interfarm relations and others. However, they are frequently unfamiliar with and do not always take into consideration local conditions.

Meanwhile, the main responsibility for the productive utilization of the land, the intensification of overall agricultural production, increasing its efficiency, utilization of manpower, cadre deployment and others is borne by the rayon organs--the RAPO council, the agricultural administration, the rayon party and the rayon executive committees. Since said farms are not linearly subordinated to the local agricultural authorities, other rayon organs, including those of the party, which have no departmental affiliation or restrictions are forced to participate in their management. Inevitably, this leads to obeying a double set of orders.

This proves the need to single out the rayon agricultural authorities as the main link in the linear management of the basic economic units in agriculture. It is precisely on this level that the management of agricultural production is intersected and combined as a sphere and sector of management. It is precisely within the rayon complex, in accordance with the specific natural and economic conditions, that the expansion of the economic autonomy and the initiative of the primary units can be ensured most efficiently. It is precisely in the rural rayon that the sectorial interests of agriculture

are coupled with the territorial interests of the entire rayon agroindustrial complex and the main tasks related to the implementation of the Food Program. It is precisely here that the objectives earmarked in the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers 14 November 1980 decree "On Improving Planning and Economic Incentive in the Production and Procurement of Agricultural Commodities" can be met: "Ensuring the balancing of sales to the state of crop and animal husbandry products with existing productive capital and allocated material-technical and financial resources..."⁴

With a linear jurisdiction over basic economic units, the rayon agricultural organs will formulate and ensure the implementation of the following mandatory indicators for the development of agriculture, stipulated in the decree we mentioned: on the sale of agricultural commodities to the state, material and technical support, use of scientific and technical achievements, finances and credit and capital construction. All other indicators of production activity, such as the structure of areas in crops, the size of the cattle herds, yields, livestock productivity, and so on, must be formulated and determined by the farms themselves "with the extensive advice of specialists, kolkhoz members, workers and public organizations and in accordance with local conditions, progressive experience and the recommendations of scientific research institutions, based on the requirement of ensuring the strict implementation of the plans for state purchase of agricultural commodities and the satisfaction of intrafarm needs for such products."⁵

However, it would be inexpedient to make all farms linearly subordinate to the rayon agricultural authorities. In addition to the auxiliary and some other specialized farms managed by other sectors and departments, the rayon unit may have functional jurisdiction also over enterprises within the agricultural system. This includes experimental and base farms of scientific research institutes and scientific-production associations; some strictly specialized farms (nurseries and elite seed growing and animal-breeding sovkhozes), the training farms of agricultural institutes and sovkhozes-technical schools; and large farms operating on an industrial basis, such as greenhouses and poultry combines, hog-breeding complexes using feed grown elsewhere and game farms.

The development of interfarm cooperation and agroindustrial integration led to the creation of numerous agricultural enterprises and organizations. By the end of 1982 there were 9,700 such units with a total of 158,000 participating farms (essentially kolkhozes and sovkhozes).⁶ Many sovkhozes and, particularly, kolkhozes are also shareholders in several (frequently as many as 10!) independent organizations and associations. Linear management of the interfarm agricultural enterprises and the organizations of such associations is provided by councils and other authorities especially set up by the shareholders. Wherever the activities of such enterprises and their management organs come together the duplication and intersecting of some administrative functions take place along with occasional conflicts. That is why we deem it expedient for the general management functions of said agricultural enterprises and organizations to be transferred to the rayon unit. The functioning of autonomous associations is justified only if the shareholding farms have reached the necessary level of production-technological and economic

relations which turn them into a unified economic complex similar to production associations in industry.

Some new features are added to other aspects of agricultural management as a sector in the course of the establishment and functioning of agroindustrial complexes, as a result of expanded production-economic relations with APK partners. "It is necessary," as was pointed out at the May 1982 CPSU Central Committee Plenum, "to ensure on all management levels a close tie and coordination of activities among subunits within this economic area and their assumption of strict responsibility for achieving best end results and interest in increasing the production of high-quality foods."⁷ That is why many of the problems related to improving agricultural management cannot be successfully resolved today from the positions of a single sector or with the forces of a single sectorial organ--the USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

As we pointed out, the ministry has jurisdiction not only over agricultural but other production enterprises and organizations as well. The agricultural organs are in charge of managing capital construction, providing technical, transportation and agrochemical services to agriculture, producing mixed feeds and processing agricultural materials and others. For example, the various construction organizations and subunits within the Ministry of Agriculture system employ more than 1 million average annual workers and their volume of construction work is comparable to that of the Ministry of Rural Construction.

The establishment of agroindustrial complexes and associations creates favorable conditions for integrating a number of common (analogous) functions in managing agricultural production services and other related production processes which are so far implemented separately by agricultural organs and their partners. In the future, such integration should lead to the concentration of these functions in the hands of the APO and RAPO sectors and departments specializing in such areas.

This will relieve the agricultural organs from extraneous managerial functions and will enable them to concentrate all their efforts on improving the efficiency and quality of agricultural production management. The necessary steps are already being taken in this direction. Thus, for example, the RAPO in Novomoskovskiy Rayon, Tula Oblast, has assigned the main functions in managing the engineering service in the rayon and the farms to the rayon Sel'khoztekhnika which is fulfilling them successfully.

The production of agricultural commodities by private auxiliary farms (LPKh) of all types is of major importance along with public farming. These farms account for more than one-quarter of the entire agricultural output and about one-third of the animal husbandry output, which is the scarcest. At the present time, after the CPSU Central Committee and Council of Ministers decree on the development of auxiliary farms, a substantial increase in LPKh output may be noted in many republics and oblasts. However, neither the agricultural organs nor other systems have singled out functions for managing production or providing comprehensive production aid to the LPKh. The sovkhozes and, particularly, the kolkhozes in the Ukraine, Moldavia and some

other republics and RSFSR oblasts, are providing substantial aid to their working people in organizing production in and services to LPKh. Interesting experience has also been acquired in integrating LPKh with public production in sovkhoses and kolkhozes in the areas of cattle feeding, seed production and others. Most LPKh, however, are using primitive farming methods.

Economists have estimated that LPKh labor outlays total 29 billion man/hours nationally, or the equivalent of the work of 14 million average annual workers.⁸ Essentially, this is manual labor with primitive tools. The lack of necessary truck gardening tools, the scarcity of good quality seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, purebred cattle, fodder and film, marketing difficulties and others are restraining the development of LPKh. The solution of all these problems requires the participation of many sectors and departments. Responsibility for the coordination and organization of this work should be assigned to specific administrative units of agricultural organs on all levels.

In conclusion, we should discuss a problem related to agricultural management on the rayon level. The process of the establishment of RAPO is based today on long-existing administrative rural rayons. However, the RAPO is not an administrative but a production-economic unit. In frequent cases farms of similar specialization and purpose, which gravitate toward each other in production relations are organizationally divided by rayon boundaries. That is why in creating and organizing the work of RAPO we must mandatorily consider not only the administrative boundaries of the rayon but the actually existing production-economic relations among farms and, inasmuch as possible, make the former consistent with the latter. This would require a great deal of time, research and additional effort. However, it is only in such cases that the rural rayons will become true agroindustrial complexes and the management of such complexes and agricultural enterprises, most efficient.

Therefore, the overall concept of improving the organizational mechanism of agricultural management within the APK system in formulating the general plan of the Ministry of Agriculture could include, in our view, the following basic stipulations:

a. Concentrating the basic agricultural production management functions in the hands of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and its local organs. To this effect the agricultural enterprises and associations should be under the linear or functional jurisdiction of the ministry and its organs which will also bear the responsibility for the functional management of agricultural production by the auxiliary farms of industrial enterprises and organizations belonging to other departments, the private auxiliary farms (LPKh) and the collective truck gardens;

b. Unlike in industry, where improvements in the organizational structure in the formulation of general plans is achieved by reducing unnecessary administrative "vertical" units, in agriculture we must intensify the territorial approach to management and the elimination of "horizontal" units on all levels;

c. Making the rural rayon the main unit in the linear management of primary economic units (kolkhozes, sovkhozes, etc.) by increasing their autonomy and initiative and enhancing their responsibility for production results;

d. Relieving agricultural organs and primary economic units from a number of functions related to servicing agricultural production by concentrating such functions in the hands of corresponding APK sectors and departments.

FOOTNOTES

1. The directions to be followed in improving the economic mechanism of agricultural management were essentially defined in the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers 14 November 1980 decree "On Improving Planning and Economic Incentive of Production and Procurement of Agricultural Commodities" and refined in the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree "On Measures To Improve the Economic Mechanism and To Strengthen the Economy of Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes," approved at the May 1982 CPSU Central Committee Plenum.
2. See K. Marx and F. Engels, "Soch." [Works], vol 24, pp 404-405.
3. See A. V. Ul'yanenko, "Improving the Management of Agriculture Within the Oblast APK System on the Basis of Combining Sectorial With Territorial Principles." Candidate dissertation. Moscow, 1983, pp 8-9.
4. "Spravochnik Partiyogo Rabotnika" [Party Worker's Manual], No 21, Moscow, 1981, p 290.
5. Ibid., p 292.
6. "SSSR v Tsifrakh" [The USSR in Figures], Moscow, 1982, p 136.
7. "Materialy Mayskogo Plenuma TsK KPSS 1982 Goda," [Materials of the May 1982 CPSU Central Committee Plenum]. Moscow, 1982, p 26.
8. EKONOMIKA SEL'SKOGO KHOZYAYSTVA, No 1, 1983, p 74.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

BROADER USE OF SOCIALIST COMPETITION IN PROCUREMENT ENTERPRISES ADVANCED

Moscow ZAPUKI SEL'SKOKHOZYAYSTVENNYKH PRODUKTOV in Russian No 2, Feb 84 pp 1-3

Article: "For Mass Nature of Socialist Competition"

/Text/ The 3rd year of the 11th Five-Year Plan is behind. It was a year of peaceful creative labor for our country. Under the leadership of the Leninist Party and its Central Committee our multinational homeland continues the progressive movement toward new heights of communist construction. Socialist competition--a powerful means of increasing labor enthusiasm, successfully fulfilling and overfulfilling production plans and adopted obligations and accelerating scientific and technical progress also contributes to this movement.

The decisions of the November (1982), June and December (1983) Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and the decree of the CPSU Central Committee "On Improving the Organization and Practice of Summing up Socialist Competition and the Provision of Incentives for Its Winners" set the task of increasing the efficiency of socialist competition and strengthening its role in the intensification of the economy, a more effective utilization of the production potential, the most rapid introduction of the achievements of science and technology, the development of workers' labor and social activity and on this basis the provision of the further strengthening of the homeland's economic and defense power and a rise in the people's well-being. The new demands on competition are also brought about by the improvement in the economic mechanism, rise in the role of labor collectives, dissemination of the brigade forms of organization and stimulation of labor and need for the maximum possible strengthening of socialist discipline.

Having widely expanded socialist competition for an appropriate welcome for the 66th anniversary of the Great October, collectives of state procurement inspectorates, administrations of grain products and enterprises and organizations of the USSR Ministry of Procurement made a definite contribution to the fulfillment of the planned assignments established for the 3rd year of the 11th Five-Year Plan.

The purchase of grain and sugar beets increased as compared with 1982. In 1983 the plans for the purchases of rye were fulfilled 142 percent, oats, 128 percent and brewing barley, 100 percent. State resources received, 5,004,000 tons of barley, 675,000 tons of leguminous crops and 100,000 tons of rice more than in 1982.

In 1983 agricultural workers and procurement officials, realizing the assignment of the Food Program, achieved a big labor victory, having overfulfilled the state plan for the purchases of livestock products. Procurement centers and processing enterprises received 17.5 million tons of livestock and poultry, that is, 101 percent of the plan, 63.4 million tons of milk, that is, 106 percent, 48.2 billion eggs, that is, 107 percent and 238,000 tons of wool (in terms of pure fiber), that is, 103 percent. The purchases of milk, livestock and poultry increased by 9 percent as compared with 1982 and of eggs and wool, by 4 percent.

The plan for the purchases of potatoes was fulfilled 101 percent and of vegetables, 103 percent. State resources received more fruits, berries, melon crops and tea leaves than in 1982.

However, despite the advances made, it is necessary to more actively and purposefully strive for greater organization in work and efficient and careful management at every section. "Now," as Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, indicates in the text of his speech at the December (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, "the most important thing is not to lose the gathered speed and the general positive mood for enterprise and to more actively develop positive processes."

Workers and engineering and technical personnel in the USSR procurement system are fighting for an increase in production efficiency and in the quality of output with the slogans "To Work More Efficiently and Qualitatively," "Labor Honor and Glory," "Not a Single Lagging Man Alongside" and "Engineering Support for Work Initiative."

On the eve of the 66th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution for outstanding achievements in labor three workers of our sector were awarded USSR state prizes for 1983. They are grain dryer Kenzhibay Zaygonovich Bugenbayev from the Koschekinskoye Grain Receiving Enterprise in Tselinograd Oblast, grain dryer Anatoliy Mifod'yevich Shaposhnikov from the Kalacheyevskiy Elevator in Voronezh Oblast and Vladimir Oganosovich Martirosyan, leader of a brigade of electric fitters at the Yerevan Milling Plant. Initiators of socialist competition and active innovators, they have mastered several related occupations and with their shock labor make a big contribution to the fulfillment of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress.

The right wingers of the all-Union socialist competition--enterprises that attain stable results in procurement and production activity year after year--set examples of shock labor. Considerable potentials for the attainment of the goals set can be found at every enterprise and work place. The initiative of the collectives of the state inspectorate for the purchases and quality of agricultural products in Balakovskiy Rayon and of the Balakovo Elevator in Saratov Oblast can serve as a confirmation of this. They appealed to all the country's procurement officials to attain an unconditional fulfillment of the plans for purchases of high-quality grain in the established assortment in 1983. Accepting the appeal, they undertook high socialist obligations, which they fulfilled honorably. With a plan for the purchases of grain in the

volume of 116,000 tons in the rayon, 123,000 tons were procured. The plan was also fulfilled in terms of the assortment: The state received more rye, strong wheat, millet and barley than the planned quantity.

The close business-like cooperation between the collectives of the rayon state procurement inspectorate and the elevator ensured efficient control over the fulfillment of forward contracts and socialist obligations by farms. The receivers of grain became its procurers. This useful undertaking should be adopted by all the workers of the procurement front.

In 1983 on the basis of work results during three quarters 247 combines of grain products, elevators and grain receiving enterprises were the winners in the all-Union socialist competition. They include the following collectives famous throughout the country: of the Amankaragay Elevator in Kustanay Oblast, the Ayaguz Elevator in Semipalatinsk Oblast, the Apostolovo Elevator and the Bozhedarovskiy Elevator in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, the Kirovsk-Omsk Order of the Badge of Honor Elevator in Omsk Oblast, the Peshkovskiy Elevator in Kustanay Oblast, the Peskovskiy Elevator in Kokchetav Oblast, the Argun Grain Receiving Enterprise in the Checheno-Ingush ASSR, the Yavlenskoy Grain Receiving Enterprise in North Kazakhstan Oblast and others.

What potentials are utilized at these advanced enterprises? First of all, improvement in the conditions and organization of labor, strengthening of order and discipline and on this basis refinement in production technology, mechanization and automation of production processes, introduction of the achievements of scientific and technical progress and careful expenditure of raw materials, fuel and electric power--this is where these and other advanced collectives find potentials for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the planned assignments of the 11th Five-Year Plan.

To activate these potentials, advanced enterprises have involved workers in all basic shops and auxiliary, subsidiary sections in competition. When working out the conditions of socialist competition, party organizations, local trade union committees and the administration of enterprises assign an important place to such an indicator as the state of labor discipline in the collective. For example, in the Orenburg Oblast Production Administration of Grain Products the state of labor discipline is taken into consideration when socialist competition among the sector's enterprises is summed up. At the Ozerovskoye Elevator for one breach of labor discipline the bonus envisaged by competition conditions is reduced by 25 percent and for two breaches, by 50 percent. When there are three breaches, the shop collective loses the right to participate in competition.

The Nikolayev Order of the Red Banner of Labor Combine of Grain Products can serve as an example in the organization of efficient socialist competition in the sector. Labor education is carried out here by means of improvement in the organization of the forms of competition for communist labor and maintenance of the advanced initiative "To Work Without Lagging Workers," "To Finish the Five-Year Plan in One Collective" and others.

Wide publicity is given here to the course and results of competition. Competition screens are hung out in all shops and the Board and Roll of Honor and the titles "The Best in His Occupation" and "Shock Worker of Communist Labor" have been instituted. A certificate and a money prize are given to the worker that receives the title "The Best in His Occupation" at a general meeting of the collective.

Many of the sector's grain receiving and processing enterprises attain a significant saving of labor resources through an increase in labor productivity on the basis of the introduction of the latest machinery and equipment, mechanization of labor intensive processes, application of scientific organization of labor, including the brigade form, improvement in production management and increase in the efficiency of socialist competition. At such enterprises as the Yaroslavl, Orenburg No 3, Brest and Vasilkov combines of grain products high production indicators have been attained with a number of workers much lower than envisaged by existing standards. The collectives of these enterprises ensure a stable fulfillment and overfulfillment of planned assignments and a strict observance of labor safety techniques.

Are these potentials not available to many other enterprises of this sector? To be on a level with the right wingers of socialist competition and to fulfill and overfulfill the assignments of the 11th Five-Year Plan and socialist obligations--this is the debt of honor of every labor collective. The experience of the sector's advanced enterprises is our common property. Its systematic study and dissemination are major potentials in the fight for technical progress. Administrations of grain products and state procurement inspectorates should accomplish this task promptly.

The study and introduction of advanced experience are especially important for the collectives of enterprises, kolkhozes, sovkhoses and procurement organizations that to this day do not work with a full return and do not fulfill the established state plans. This leads to a decline in the indicators that have already been attained. For example, the wheat, millet, buckwheat and corn grain, oil sunflower seeds and grapes procured during the 3rd year of the 11th Five-Year Plan are below the 1982 level.

The low level of mechanization at the system's individual enterprises led to the fact that during 10 months of 1983 the average idle time of every railroad car during freight operations was 4.59 hours, which was 1.32 hours higher than the established norm. For the above-standard idle time the system's enterprises paid a fine of 10.3 million rubles. The largest number of railroad cars was detained during grain unloading at the enterprises of the RSFSR (Arkhangelsk, Vladimir, Kemerovo, Krasnoyarsk and Khabarovsk administrations of grain products), the Ukrainian SSR, the Kazakh SSR and the Turkmen SSR ministries of procurement.

The situation with the fulfillment of planned assignments for capital construction is unsatisfactory. In the RSFSR Ministry of Procurement 92 percent of the capital investments were utilized, the Belorussian SSR, 76 percent, the Tajik SSR, 65 percent and the Turkmen SSR, 54 percent.

The construction of dwelling houses, children's preschool institutions and vocational and technical schools continues at totally unsatisfactory rates. All this hampers the staffing of the enterprises that have already been built.

The existence of these major shortcomings indicates that in a number of cases there are elements of formalism in the organization of socialist competition in the localities. For example, performance discipline has not been placed at the proper level in a number of ministries of procurement of the Union republics. Adopting socialist obligations for 1983, the Uzbek SSR, the Azerbaijan SSR, the Tajik SSR, the Armenian SSR and the Turkmen SSR ministries of procurement did not ensure prompt control over their fulfillment.

It is important that ministries of procurement of the Union republics, administrations of grain products, state procurement inspectorates, elevators and grain receiving enterprises at the beginning of the year work out and implement specific measures to improve the organization, practice of control and summing up of competition and the provision of incentives for its winners with a view to increasing its efficiency in the fight for the fulfillment and over-fulfillment of the state plan for the economic and social development of 1984 and the 11th Five-Year Plan as a whole during the first quarter of the current year.

A prompt presentation of challenge red banners and other awards is an important aspect in the organization of labor competition and in ensuring its publicity. Challenge red banners are presented with big disruptions in schedules to winners in competition at the enterprises of the Chelyabinsk, Krasnodar, Bashkir and Dagestan administrations of grain products, as well as at a number of enterprises of the Kirghiz SSR and the Uzbek SSR ministries of procurement. This has a negative effect on competitors. The ministries of the Union republics and administrations of grain products should increase their responsibility for the observance of the schedules of presentation of awards.

The main attention of competitors should be concentrated on an acceleration of the rates of labor productivity growth, improvement in the quality of output, increase in production volumes with a strict fulfillment of deliveries and contracts according to orders, better utilization of raw materials, power and work time and strengthening of planning, state and labor discipline. It is necessary to improve the forms and methods of socialist competition in every possible way, to prevent duplication, parallelism and a routine approach and to direct collectives toward the attainment of high end results. We must improve competition among production brigades on the basis of the strengthening of cost accounting and the development of collectivist attitudes and the initiative of every brigade member. A profound economic substantiation of obligations, prompt development of competition conditions, wide publicity, systematic control of and efficient work on the introduction of the experience of the best enterprises and efficient utilization of measures of moral and material incentives--these are the indispensable conditions for further progress.

With the approach of warm days more favorable conditions for repair and construction work at the sector's enterprises are created. In spring it is important to greatly expand the number of repaired projects and to increase the

rates of performance of work. This will make it possible, after the completion of repairs, to utilize the time remaining before the beginning of procurement and forces for the construction and prescheduled commissioning of new projects earmarked for an improvement in the organization of the procurement, processing, drying and storage of grain.

The decree of the CPSU Central Committee "On the Further Development and Increase in the Efficiency of the Brigade Form of Organization and Stimulation of Labor in Industry" points out that the brigade form of organization and stimulation of labor is one of the directions in the increase in the work of enterprises, extensive involvement of workers in production management and education. The establishment of overall and integral process brigades both in basic and auxiliary shops and sections is an important potential for an efficient performance of repair and start-up work in the procurement system.

More than 9,500 brigades, in which 62 percent of the workers are employed, have now been organized at the system's enterprises. In these brigades labor productivity increases at higher rates, work time losses are reduced, material and labor resources are spent more economically and possibilities open up for an improvement in organizational and political-educational work, strengthening of discipline and consolidation of genuine collectivism, mutual exacting demands and comradely mutual assistance.

As yet, however, insufficient brigades have been established in the system. There are especially few integral process and overall brigades at the enterprises of the Uzbek SSR, the Georgian SSR, the Moldavian SSR, the Turkmen SSR and the Estonian SSR ministries of procurement. Work on the organization of brigades applying coefficients of labor participation in wage computation is poorly carried out at enterprises in the RSFSR and the Belorussian, Kazakh and Azerbaijan Union republics.

The ministries of procurement of the Union republics, production administrations of grain products and enterprises must take measures for the further systematic development of the brigade form of labor organization by means of cost accounting principles, payment based on final end results and consideration of the coefficient of labor participation. It is necessary to establish brigade collectives on the basis of a profound analysis, performing the necessary work on improvement in production, standardization and remuneration of labor and determination of the optimal sizes and types of brigades with due regard for the specific nature of production. There must be concern on the part of enterprise managers for the mastering of related occupations by workers, improvement in their skills, prompt presentation of long-term and current plans to brigades and ensuring their fulfillment with a smaller number of workers.

Special attention must be paid to selecting and training brigade leaders, raising their occupational skills and level of political and economic knowledge and teaching them the principles of social pedagogy and psychology. The establishment of councils of brigade leaders at enterprises will contribute to the enhancement of their role in the life of every labor collective.

The material and technical base of grain receiving enterprises will be further developed during the current year. It is a matter of honor for every collective to put into operation the maximum number of planned projects and to install new equipment before the beginning of arrival of the grain of the 1984 harvest. This will play an important role in the successful preparation, regular acceptance, prompt processing and full preservation of the grain of the 4th year of the 11th Five-Year Plan.

The collectives of the country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes now also live with concerns for the fate of the new harvest. The spring sowing campaign will begin soon. Everywhere state procurement inspectorates must create an atmosphere so that in the course of competition incentives are provided primarily to the farms that carry out 1984 spring sowing in strict accordance with the plans for the purchases of grain based on assortment.

A stable provision of the population with grain, hulled and rolled products, potatoes, fruits, vegetables, sugar and vegetable oil, as well as an improvement in the supply of livestock products, is the main task of the workers of agriculture and procurement bodies. Every worker should profoundly realize that a stable supply of various food products for the population is possible only if every kolkhoz and sovkhoz fulfills state procurement plans in the established volume and assortment. At every labor section it is necessary to organize socialist competition so as to ensure stable rates of increase in food resources.

Party and government decisions pay much attention to problems of improvement in the quality of agricultural output and its preservation. Even negligible losses of output measured in kilograms and a deterioration in its quality with the present volumes of production and procurement of agricultural products result in irreplaceable losses for the state. Therefore, every state procurement inspector should become a pioneer in socialist competition for a high quality of output and its full preservation. State procurement inspectors, as the organizers of competition, should see to it that collectives of kolkhozes, sovkhozes and procurement organizations include points on improvement in the quality of agricultural output and its preservation in socialist obligations and competition conditions and take into consideration the fulfillment of these indicators when summing up socialist competition.

Two years of the 11th Five-Year Plan are still ahead. The workers of our sector face big tasks. Now it is necessary, without postponing, to eliminate existing shortcomings and to apply all efforts so that every collective, utilizing internal resources, reaches the planned goals and ensures further progress.

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TILLING AND CROPPING TECHNOLOGY

RSFSR MINISTER DISCUSSES IMPROVEMENT IN SEED SITUATION

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Article by V.P. Nikonov, RSFSR Minister of Agriculture: "A Task of Priority Importance"

Text To improve the system of seed production for agricultural crops, accelerate its conversion over to an industrial basis, introduce new and highly productive varieties and hybrids more rapidly into production operations and to raise the quality of the seed (from the "Basic Directions for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for the 1981-1985 Period and for the Period Up To 1990").

Science and practical experience have proven that a conversion must be carried out over to zonal farming systems if high yields are to be obtained. Such systems have been developed practically in all areas, but they are being introduced into operations only slowly. The recommendations by scientists and specialists in this regard have been reposing on shelves for many years and farming continues to be carried out using the old methods. The introduction of scientifically sound systems must be accelerated. And this requires that a number of actions be carried out during the next year or two: the crop rotation plans must be mastered, the conversion must be carried out over to a sowing structure for the crops which will ensure the greatest yield of products per hectare of land, industrial technologies for the cultivation of crops and efficient soil cultivation methods must be introduced on an extensive scale.

The corner-stone in each farming system and in any zone will continue to be intelligently organized seed production for all crops.

The basic directions for the development of seed production during this modern stage are set forth in the 4 November 1976 decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers, entitled "Measures for Further Improving Plant Breeding and Seed Production for Grain and Oil-Bearing Crops and Grasses."

Recently the scientific principles for organizing industrial seed production were developed for each oblast, kray and autonomous republic, specialized farms for the production of seed for grain and oil-bearing crops and grasses were approved and annual tasks were established for the sale of high quality seed for adding to the state resources and also to farms in the zones serviced. It was precisely during these years that the logistical base for seed

production was created as a result of a great amount of persistence. The plans for the 1977-1981 period called for the planning and construction of 14 scientific-research institutes, mainly plant breeding centers. Of this number, nine have been built and the remaining ones are nearing completion. Practically all of the projects associated with the Krasnodar Scientific-Research Institute imeni P.P. Luk'yanenko, the Scientific-Research Institute of Agriculture for the Southeast, the Donskoye Scientific-Research Institute of Agriculture and a number of others have been placed in operation.

The strengthening of the logistical base for the plant breeding centers and improvements in their operations have made it possible to accelerate the creation of highly productive agricultural crop varieties. During the 1977-1982 period, 260 new varieties were bred and regionalized. The majority of them meet the requirements of the Food Program in terms of productivity level, quality of output and other parameters. Included among them are durum winter wheat Novinka 2 and Novinka 3 with a cropping power of 60 quintals per hectare; soft winter wheat Donskaya bezostaya, Prikubanskaya, Olimpiya, Tarasovskaya 29, and Kristall 2 with a potential cropping power of 80 quintals per hectare; short-stalk varieties of winter rye Chulpan and Chulpan 3, Talovskaya 12, Saratovskaya 5 (70-80 quintals per hectare), winter barley Debyut, Tsiklon, Novator (80-95 quintals per hectare); spring wheat Bezenchukskaya 139, Saratovskaya 54, Orenburgskaya 2; non-shedding pea varieties Shikhan and Saturn with a cropping power of 45-65 quintals per hectare, millet Saratovskoye 3 and Saratovskoye 6, resistant to loose smut.

In taking note of the positive achievements in plant breeding, I would like to direct attention to the fact that new and highly productive varieties of winter crops are slowly being created for the central chernozem region, the nonchernozem zone and the Volga region. Up until now, the principal areas in these regions have been occupied by Mironovskaya 808 wheat.

Matters are not proceeding too well as far as durum spring wheat is concerned. For all practical purposes, only one variety of this crop is available for all zones.

A serious lag has developed in connection with the creation of new grain crop varieties of the intensive type for the regions of Siberia. There are no good varieties of spring grain crops for cultivation on reclaimed lands. Considerable problems exist with regard to the breeding of early ripening hybrids of corn, sunflowers, that are resistant to diseases and pests. Practically speaking, there are no alfalfa or clover varieties that have high seed productivity.

In the interest of improving primary seed production in the oblasts, krays and autonomous republics of the RSFSR, a network of 406 experimental-production farms has been created at scientific-research institutes, agricultural VUZ's and technical schools, for the production of seed of high reproductions. Compared to 1976-1977 when the scientific institutes sold 409,000 tons of elite seed and 1st reproduction grain crop seed and 2,000 tons of grass seed, in 1982 such sales increased: for grain crops -- to 448,000 tons or by 11 percent and for grasses -- to 3,400 tons or by 62 percent.

The elite and 1st reproduction seed is sent mainly to seed production farms and this has promoted their more rapid propagation in a number of oblasts. However, over the past 6 years the republic's experimental-production farms on the whole sold high reproduction grain crop seed to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes to only 88 percent of their task, parental forms of corn hybrids -- 93 and perennial grasses -- 82 percent.

The scientific institutes in 31 oblasts, krays and ASSR's disrupted the fulfillment of the plan for selling elite and 1st reproduction seed. In the zone of activity of the Russian Branch of VASKhNIL /All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V.I. Lenin/, only 13 oblasts of 22 fulfilled this plan for grain crops; the Siberian Branch -- 6 of 17 and for the nonchernozem zone -- 14 of 25.

The 6-year task for the sale of grass seed was mastered by only 12 institutes, or 14 percent of their overall number.

The leaders of regional branches of VASKhNIL and the directors of institutes, experimental stations and experimental-production farms must restore order to the production of elite seed and ensure the unconditional fulfillment of the plans for seed sales for crops and varieties. Operational practice must include an annual examination, by the boards of directors of ministries and administrations, of the reports of directors of scientific and educational institutes. The leading scientific-research institutes in each oblast have been assigned responsibility for carrying out strain renewal and strain changing work. They must bear responsibility for the entire production of elite seed on the territory of an oblast, kray or ASSR. At the same time, the practice of assigning additional plans to the experimental-production farms for the sale of grain to the state must be terminated. Such actions lead to a lack of responsibility for large quantities of valuable grain crop seed, to losses in new varieties and they infringe upon the production of seed of high reproductions.

Over a period of several years now, a solution has still not been found in some oblasts for the problem concerned with providing the OPKh's /experimental model farms/ with additional land, for use in expanding the production of seed of high reproductions. This situation must be corrected during the coming months.

A decree of the party and government called for the creation of a network of seed production farms for the production and sale of seed for grain and oil-bearing crops and grasses, for the seed-breeding plots of kolkhozes and sovkhozes that are not engaged in the production of seed and also for the organization of a network of farms responsible for supplying seed for the state resources and for exchange operations. The first network included 2,330, as a rule, of the best kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Each of them was responsible for growing seed for grain crops of high reproductions for 3-5 neighboring farms on an entire area and for large farms -- on seed breeding plots.

In recent years, at a majority of the semkhozes /seed farms/, an examination has taken place of the structure of the areas under crops and the procurement plans for agricultural output, with the new production trend being taken into

account, all-round stations for the processing and storage of seed have been built and modernized and a seed production technology introduced into operations. Increases have taken place in the deliveries of equipment, mineral fertilizers and pesticides. The work carried out has produced results. Compared to 1978 when 3,570,000 tons of high grade grain crop seed were produced and 541,000 tons sold to other farms, last year 4,400,000 tons were produced and 980,000 tons sold. In addition, 829,000 tons of seed were sold to state resources. However, notwithstanding this considerable growth, the plan for selling seed to other farms was fulfilled by only 41 percent in 1982.

A similar situation prevails with regard to deliveries of high quality seed to the state resources.

Time has shown that the existing system of seed production for grain crops is cumbersome and poorly administered. The number of specialized farms engaged in seed production for grain crops has been increased to 5,200. They have been assigned plans of a general nature. The obligations and responsibility to the state and farms have not been formulated from a legal standpoint. As a result, a semkhoz /seed farm/ is obligated to supply neighboring farms with seed for high reproductions and to partially supply the state in this regard. Thus, in 1982, of 1,810,000 tons of seed intended for direct sale to kolkhozes and sovkhozes, 830,000 tons were utilized at grain procurements. And from the special network created for supplying seed for the state resources, only 42 percent of the overall seed procurements for grain crops was received in 1981 and in 1982 -- 47 percent. And this year, for example, the Volgograd oblsel'khozupravleniye /oblast agricultural administration/ allocated 51 percent of the procurement plan for seed for the state resources to farms not engaged in the production of seed. In the absence of an appropriate base, they naturally are supplying low quality material.

In 1978 the sowings of regionalized varieties of grain crops in the RSFSR amounted to 90.9 percent and in 1982 -- 87.5 percent. At the same time, only 27 oblasts, krays and republics out of 71 during these years succeeded in fully propagating seed for regionalized varieties and in sowing this seed on 100 or approximately 100 percent of all of the sowing areas.

The fact that no actual reduction is taking place in the sowing of seed of unknown reproductions underscores the serious formalism taking place in this important work. Last year, such seed was sown on 45 percent of the grain crop areas.

The time is at hand for isolating the causes of these negative phenomena and for eliminating them in terms of action and not just words.

On more than one occasion we have discussed the need for having stable cadres of chief farm agronomists. Unfortunately, the specialists are frequently being replaced in those oblasts where many important works in field crop husbandry have not been completed.

The restoration of strict order in strain changing work will produce good grain. Let us take Chulpan winter rye as an example. Prior to the year of its regionalization the Bashkir ASSR had seed for 151,000 hectares and 2 years later

this crop was being grown on more than 1.5 million hectares in the zone allotted. Omskaya 92 spring wheat, also during the year of its regionalization, occupied 108,000 hectares.

But examples of another type are more typical. In the case of such a wonderful variety of winter wheat as Mironovskaya 808, the regionalization process lasted for more than 15 years and Moskovskiy 121 barley -- more than 10 years. Similar situations prevail in the case of Voskhod 1 and Voskhod 2 rye and other varieties. When a variety is removed from regionalization, the scientific institutes terminate the process of its primary seed production and the farms continue to cultivate it without renewal of the seed. This constitutes a direct shortfall in the grain.

The work must be organized in a manner such that the process of accelerated propagation of promising varieties and improvements in the work with seed encompass all stages in their movement and in all oblasts.

Deserving of attention is the experience of SibNIISKhoz /Siberian Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture/, which through the oblast and kray agricultural organs selected a number of support farms in each oblast. At these farms, together with gosseminspektsii /state seed inspections/, new varieties are evaluated under production conditions and this makes it possible to evaluate more objectively a variety prior to the moment of its regionalization and to create the required supply of seed.

During the second and third stages, we must achieve higher coefficients of propagation. At the present time, the seed for very valuable varieties is being used at the semkhozoes for all types of intra-farm needs and it is being converted into simple commodity grain. Thus, instead of a coefficient of 15-17, we have only 1.5-2. This occurs in particular in the case of non-shattering varieties of peas.

In connection with an improvement in the system for administering agricultural production, the main center of gravity for the organization of seed production work has shifted over to the rayon level. The degree to which the kolkhozoes and sovkhzozes are supplied with high quality seed and the fulfillment of the seed procurement plans are dependent here upon the manner in which the seed work is organized.

We believe that in each rayon there must be two or three -- depending upon the size of the rayon -- seed production farms for the production of seed for grain and oil-bearing crops. They must be included organically in the structure of a RAPO /rayon agroindustrial association/, be supplied with elite seed intended for the rayon and propagate and sell the seed to the farms for the seed-breeding plots and also for the state resources.

Those sovkhzozes which grow seed for several rayons or for delivery to other regions should ideally be made subordinate to oblast, kray or republic agricultural organs and provided with all of the necessary materials. However, there have been some interesting cases. For example, in the spring of 1983 the Rossemsorgo Association in Rostov Oblast shipped 5,000 tons of sorghum seed to 20 oblasts, krays and ASSR's and received only 37 percent of its

fertilizer fund for the 1st quarter. In addition, its equipment deliveries were reduced, an UAZ-469 motor vehicle which was made available on the basis of funds was withdrawn and it lacked sufficient monetary resources. The use of a local approach for farms and associations engaged in carrying out tasks associated with supplying seed for several rayons or oblasts cannot be tolerated.

We have oblasts and autonomous republics in which, in each rayon, owing to the soil-climatic conditions, it is impossible to grow high quality seed on an annual basis. In such instances, this problem can be solved through the production of seed at specialized farms located in regions having more favorable soil-climatic conditions. Careful thought must be given to these possibilities.

Sunflowers occupy a leading place in the production of oil-bearing crops. The kolkhozes and sovkhoses are supplied with seed mainly from the state resources. Procurements for the state resources are concentrated in the central-chernozem, north Caucasus and Volga regions. Two hundred and fifty seven kolkhozes and sovkhoses specialize in the production of high quality sunflower seed. Over the past 3 years, we coped successfully with the plan for procuring seed for the state resources. However the quality of the seed made available in the form of procurements leaves a great deal to be desired.

Generally speaking, no 1st reproduction seed was obtained, for example, from kolkhozes and sovkhoses in Volgograd Oblast and the amount of 2d reproduction seed came to only 21 percent of the overall quantity obtained. The farms in Orenburg Oblast procured only 10 tons of 1st reproduction seed for the state resources.

While supplying the state resources with seed only of the 1st and 2d reproductions, the farms in Rostov Oblast, of 75,400 tons of sunflower seed, sent to the elevators only 400 tons which conformed fully to the sowing standard. The kolkhozes and sovkhoses in Krasnodar Kray sent only 9 tons of quality-standardized seed to the elevators. In Stavropol Kray, of 20,200 tons of seed sold to the state resources, more than 19,000 tons were not improved to the proper condition in terms of germinative capacity and degree of weediness.

In a number of areas proper attention is not being given to preparing sunflower seed to sowing condition, seed that was added to the seed funds of farms. Quite often the sunflowers are planted on unproductive land, mineral fertilizers are not applied and the seed sowing norms exceed the optimum rates by a factor of 1.5-2. The tending of the crops is not organized in the proper manner. The sunflowers are thus for all practical purposes transformed into weeds.

The chief means for increasing the production of sunflower seed -- a change in the attitude towards this crop and the conversion over to cultivating early-ripening varieties and hybrids. Extensive production tests carried out at kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the north Caucasus, the TsChO /central chernozem zone/ and the Volga region have shown that hybrid sunflowers possess a high technological nature and cropping power, are affected to a lesser degree by the causative agents of grey and storage rot and ripen 10-12 days earlier than variety-populations. The ministry is presently solving the problem of

organizing, commencing in 1984 in Krasnodar Kray, the cultivation of genetically pure self-pollinating parental forms and in a manner such that, beginning in 1985, the majority of the republic's seed production farms will convert over to the production of hybrid sunflower seed. And during the next 2 years attention must be concentrated on improving the agricultural practices associated with the cultivation of sunflowers and the sowing of earlier ripening varieties.

Corn must play an important role in increasing the production of grain and strengthening the logistical base of animal husbandry. The kolkhoz and sovkhos requirements for the seed for this crop are being satisfied completely at the present time.

However, one cannot help but notice that in seed production we quite often display concern only for "gross output." For the RSFSR as a whole, the 1982 seed procurement plan was fulfilled by 120 percent and procurements of 1st generation hybrids -- 74 percent of the plan. The plan for procuring early ripening and mid-season ripening hybrids was not fulfilled.

The largest supplier of corn seed -- Krasnodar Kray. In recent years the kray's farms have been over-fulfilling their procurement plans for high quality and hybrid corn seed. However the procurement plans for 1st generation hybrids were fulfilled by only 89 percent here, with generally no procurements taking place for early ripening and mid-season ripening hybrid seed.

Over the past 3 years, the use of rape has spread extensively throughout the Russian Federation. The task of producing 1 million tons of oil-bearing rape seed and obtaining high quality food products from it requires constant efforts aimed at creating and rapidly introducing into production operations double neutral (non-erucic and nonglucosin) varieties of rape and wild cabbage, with a potential seed cropping power of 25-30 quintals per hectare and an oil content of not less than 45 percent.

Primary seed production for these crops is entrusted at the present time to six agricultural scientific-research institutes.

The experience of Lipetsk and Omsk oblasts in rape cultivation using an industrial technology must be studied thoroughly and introduced into operations in all oblasts, krays and autonomous republics having plans for the production of rape for seed purposes.

In the decisions handed down during the 26th party congress and the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and in the Food Program approved during the latter, considerable importance is attached to increasing the production of animal husbandry products based upon a radical improvement in feed production and making it stable in nature.

Improvements in the intensity of field grass cultivation and fulfillment of the program for improving the natural feed lands are directly dependent upon grass seed production and upon the degree of availability to the kolkhozes and sovkhos throughout the republic of a complete assortment of seed for these crops. The mastering of a crop rotation plan is also dependent upon this.

In recent years the seed production for perennial grasses has improved somewhat. Such production reached 150,000 tons in 1981-1982 compared to 113,000 tons in 1977-1978. Farm specialization has been carried out in many oblasts and seed production by specialized kolkhozes and sovkhoses has increased to 50,000 tons or by twofold.

The experience accumulated in Saratov Oblast serves as a positive example with regard to the organization of grass seed production. Purposeful work by the agricultural organs in this oblast made it possible to increase such production in 1982 to 3,350 tons compared to only 1,160 tons in 1977 and to solve for the most part the problem concerned with supplying the oblast's kolkhozes and sovkhoses with seed.

The agricultural organs in Leningrad Oblast have achieved stable production operations for perennial grass seed. One feature of the organization of such production lies in the fact that 15 specialized farms here have been combined into three firms: Gomontovo, Krasnaya Baltika and Syaglitsy, each of which is located in one administrative region. In essence, farms of three regions are specializing in the production of grass seed. Their agricultural organs are responsible for supplying the oblast's kolkhozes and sovkhoses with seed. Here there is no conflict between the interests of a seed production farm and the region. And the results speak for themselves. In 1982 the grass seed sowings occupied 13,400 hectares or 27 percent of the arable land. Gross seed production reached 3,170 tons instead of 1,127 tons in 1977. Each sovkhos obtained an average of 3.1 quintals per hectare and at the Gomontovo Sovkhos the cropping power reached 4.4 quintals per hectare. Average seed production for the specialized farm was 214 tons. Each year the oblast fulfills its plans for laying in seed funds for the kolkhozes and sovkhoses and for procurements for the state resources.

At the oblast's seed production sovkhoses, the structure of the area under crops was examined and specialized crop rotation plans, a fertilization system and a seed cultivation technology were introduced into operations. Here they long ago rejected the practice of withdrawing seed plants from feed sowings and they plant them on a wide-row basis using low sowing norms. A considerable expansion has taken place in the sowings of intensive type grasses -- reed fescue, awnless brome grass, reed canary grass and cock's foot. In short, a thoroughly thought out system is in operation, one which includes the cultivation technology and organization of labor and the payments for that labor.

The organizational form established by the Leningrad workers, by means of which farms in an entire region specialize in the cultivation of grasses, is of definite interest. It merges very readily into the structure of agroindustrial associations and it makes it possible to take into account the partners in the agroindustrial complex and to increase responsibility for the fulfillment of production plans and the sale of seed.

The initial steps have been taken towards converting alfalfa seed production over to an industrial basis. Over a period of 6 years, the production of seed for this crop has increased from 7,300 tons to 22,100 tons. For the very first time, 1,100 tons of seed from the 1982 harvest have been delivered to regions in the nonchernozem zone and Siberia.

The situation with regard to the production of seed for grasses and especially pulse crops is arousing considerable concern. In 1983, the farms in 39 oblasts, krays and autonomous republics were unable to satisfy their seed requirements for spring sowing. Twenty six oblasts failed to fulfill their plans for procuring grass seed for the state resources.

The situation with regard to the production of grass seed is especially alarming in Ryazan Oblast. From a formal standpoint, everything has been done here: a network of seed production farms consisting of 34 kolkhozes and sovkhoses has been defined, the interenterprise Ryazan'semtrav Association has been created and a modern plant for the post-harvest processing of seed, with a capability for handling 2,000 tons per season, has been built. But what is actually the situation? For a period of 6 years now the structure of the area under crops and the procurement plans for agricultural products at the specialized farms have not been examined. These farms receive equipment and fertilizer on a general basis, the sowing of grasses based upon the use of a special technology is not planned, the seed-breeding plots are made available from the feed group and this precludes the possibility of carrying out a full volume of crop tending work. Each year one fifth of the seed-breeding plots allocated is used for feed purposes and during 1978-1982, for the oblast as a whole, 55 percent of the seed plants were used for seed purposes.

The vicious practice that has taken root in the oblast of allocating seed-breeding plots from perennially used feed sowings is the principal cause of low seed productivity (0.9-1.2 quintals per hectare) and weediness caused by wheat-grass and other harmful weeds, the removal of which by seed-cleaning machines is not possible.

It is by no means an accident that the kolkhozes and sovkhoses in Ryazansk Oblast are using up to 30 percent non-quality standardized seed for sowing purposes, despite the fact that they have fine cleaning equipment at their disposal. During the 10th Five-Year Plan, the task of adding grass seed to the seed funds of farms was fulfilled by 44 percent and in 1982 -- by 49 percent. The chronic shortage of grass seed has produced a situation wherein the area of old grass stands in the oblast is now 33 percent.

Despite the growth in the production of alfalfa seed, many local organs are not carrying out the plans for procuring seed for this crop for the state resources. The status of affairs with regard to the production of clover seed is arousing alarm. The production of seed for this valuable protein crop is unstable. This problem is largely the result of the fact that the main administration for seed production and the local agricultural organs are not devoting proper attention to introducing a special technology for the growing of seed for this crop. The seed sowings are being withdrawn from the general feed tracts. Phosphorus-potassium and bacterial fertilizers are not being applied in adequate amounts, top dressings of micro-fertilizers are not being employed and the pollination of clover by honey bees is no longer considered to be a mandatory agricultural method. As a rule, a majority of the farms are late in harvesting their seed plants, they are not carrying out dessication work and this is resulting in great losses.

Decisive improvements must be achieved in the organization of seed production operations for perennial grasses, especially alfalfa, sweetclover, Sudan grass,

clover, awnless brome grass and all seed must be improved to sowing condition prior to 1 February.

The agricultural organs in Stavropol and Krasnodar krays must reexamine their attitude towards the organization of seed production operations for sorghum.

On the average, the plans for laying in grain crop seed were fulfilled by 100 percent during the 6 year period. This was for the republic as a whole. An analysis by farms serves to further refine this picture. During the comparatively favorable year of 1982, there were 510 farms or 36 percent in the northern and northwestern regions which had not laid away seed in the principal fund, in the central region -- 294 or 6 percent, in the west Siberian region -- 346 or 16 percent and in the eastern Siberian region -- 302 or 28 percent. The situation was even worse with regard to the fulfillment of plans for adding grain crop seed to the insurance and carry-over funds. Overall, no reduction took place in the quantities of seed obtained by the sovkhozes and kolkhozes from the state resources.

The farms began receiving seed of random varieties and low reproduction. Not only did this not promote growth in the gross grain yields, but in fact it even retarded such growth. Concern was aroused over the quality of the seed being sown. Compared to Bryansk Oblast, which operates under difficult conditions in the nonchernozem zone and which in recent years sowed an average of 5 percent 3d class and non-quality standardized seed, in Ivanovo Oblast, under the same conditions, 60 percent of such seed was sown in 1979, in 1980 -- 51, in 1981 -- 79, in 1982 -- 66 percent and in Yaroslavl Oblast -- from 60 to 83 percent.

A most important criterion for determining the quality of seed in these regions is their low germinative capacity at harvest time. There are objective reasons for this condition: the harvest work is often carried out under inclement weather conditions, the total amount of positive temperatures required for the biological ripening of the seed is close to the critical norm. At the same time, one can also add to these objective factors certain subjective concerns which bring about a deterioration in the quality of the seed. For example, on 1 November 1980 54 percent of the spring grain crop seed was of 1st or 2d class quality (in percent of the amount laid away) (including 1st class -- 20 percent), in 1981 the figures were 53 and 20 percent respectively and in 1982 -- 76 and 31 percent. In addition, in 1982 almost one half of the seed laid away was not improved to sowing condition in the autumn.

Many positive examples can also be found in this same nonchernozem zone. For example, in Vologda Oblast the Myaksinskiy Sovkhoz created a modern base for the drying, processing and storage of seed. Here only 1st or 2d class seed is placed in storage simultaneously with harvesting the crop. Similar examples are to be found in the Volga region, Siberia and in the Urals. This includes the sovkhozes Druzhba in Kuybyshev Oblast and Yemurtlinskiy in Tyumen Oblast, the Sovkhoz imeni Gor'kiy and Kolkhoz imeni Shumakov in the Atay Kray, the kolkhozes Krasnyy Mayak and imeni Kuybyshev in Gorkiy Oblast and many others.

Radical improvements are required in the preparation of the grain crop seed. Such seed must be improved to the sowing condition day and night during the

harvest period. Special teams consisting of permanent personnel must be created. If a farm, rayon or oblast has not improved all of its grain crop seed to 1st or 2d class condition prior to November, it should be viewed as being an extraordinary incident and stern measures should be applied against the guilty parties.

In recent years, use has been made of such seed processing measures as hydrophobization, incrustation and pelleting, that is, covering the seed with film-forming solutions while simultaneously applying toxic chemicals and in some instances even nutrients. The creation of a protective coating on the seed protects it against the destructive effects of pathogens, especially in the soil, and also against pests.

A question arises as to how such facts can be evaluated when even chemical disinfection of the seed is not being carried out at the kolkhozes and sovkhoses? In particular, this question applies to elite seed and the seed of high reproductions on the farms of scientific and educational institutes. The mentioned method is mandatory and its carrying out -- the law.

In past years, 1,259 seed production complexes, or 94 percent of the task, have been placed in operation at a cost of approximately 600 million rubles. Although the republic is close to fulfilling its task in connection with the number of these installations, it has fulfilled its task with regard to the placing in operation of seed storehouses at these complexes by only 42 percent.

During these years, 183,000 square meters of outdoor and more than 2,000 triangular dryers of the Tyumen and Perm variants were built. Covered thrashing floors and asphalted sites have been installed at a majority of the seed production farms. During these same years, the farms received 29,000 machines of the SM-4, K-531 and other types for the cleaning of grain crop seed.

Prior to the beginning of this year, 150 seed production stations for grasses were organized in the republic and of this number 95 plants were built using the latest equipment for the processing and storage of perennial grass seed.

The agricultural organs in Perm, Sverdlovsk, Moscow, Vologda and Saratov oblasts, in the Altay and Krasnodar krays and in the Mary ASSR have given serious attention to the creation of a base for seed production. Here a seed production technology is being introduced for the processing of seed as a replacement for the grain technology. Temporary storage arrangements are being replaced through the construction of modern mechanized storehouses.

Some specialized organs are not always thoroughly familiar with the work at hand. As a result, we encounter incidents wherein all-round stations are being built on the basis of obsolete standards, despite the fact that more than 20 standard plans are presently available for the processing of grain crops: for horizontal or vertical use, for dry or damp zones, variants in which the production portion is carried out completely using structures supplied by the RSFSR Goskomsel'khoshtekhnika and so forth.

We often hear critical statements being made concerning the stations that are being built. For example, it is said that they are very costly. But not all

of the critics are aware that 55-60 percent of the costs for these installations are for the storehouse facilities. After all, how much seed can be stored on the basis of temporary arrangements?

The processing technology has been criticized. Yes, the old plans contained many unfinished items of work and the new plans include fewer such items. And a more bold approach must be employed in implementing the new plans. We support any local initiative concerned with the modernization of installations and the installation of seed equipment, pneumatic tables, forced ventilation hoppers and units for the drying of seed.

However, unified planning-estimates documentation must be prepared for the construction of complexes, documentation which takes into account the coordination of existing capabilities with newly built installations into a single technological line, as called for in the standard plans for seed production stations. Unfortunately, there are those in the various areas who possess only a simplified understanding of this task. For example, the Agricultural Administration of the Kemerovo Oblast Executive Committee reported the placing in operation of more than 25 stations for the processing and storage of seed, of which only 4 meet the requirements established for installations of this type. The remaining installations lack an entire series of machines, without which it is impossible to obtain 1st class seed.

Special attention must be given to the construction of seed production complexes. The plans for 1983-1985 call for the construction of 636 seed production installations. First of all -- plants for the processing of corn seed in Krasnodar Kray, Rostov Oblast and seed production stations in Siberia and the Far East.

An alarming problem exists in connection with the use of the seed production base already created. Some complexes that have been placed in operation are not operating at full capability. Thus, in 1982, 10 complexes representing an overall seed storage capability of 22,000 tons were in operation in Bryansk Oblast. However, 1st and 2d class seed constituted only 11,000 tons of this amount. In Kirov Oblast, 49 plants with an overall seed storage capability of 75,000 tons were in operation on the seed production farms. And yet only 26,000 tons of this amount consisted of 1st and 2d class seed. Thus these costly installations should not be used.

In summarizing the results of fulfillment of the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers entitled "Measures for Further Improving Plant Breeding Work and the Seed Production for Grain and Oil-Bearing Crops and Grasses," it bears mentioning that the agricultural organs, kolkhozes and sovkhozes and the scientific institutes carried out a definite amount of work aimed at improving seed production for these crops. However, no important improvement was achieved in branch management. Well organized, efficient and purposeful work by all teams in the complicated chain of plant breeding, seed production, strain changing and renewal is becoming a decisive factor for achieving the required grain quantities and quality. Use must be made in all areas of the conditions and opportunities available for improving the work. The creation of rayon and oblast agroindustrial associations is opening up new horizons in this regard.

I wish to express my confidence in the fact that the agricultural workers in the Russian Federation will undertake urgent measures during this current five-year plan aimed at radically improving seed production operations.

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