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1948 Yearbook of Food and Agricultural Statistics. Volume I, Production. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS. Washington, D. C., 1949. 283 pages.

THOSE INTERESTED in international information on agricultural production will find this yearbook an extremely useful volume. It is the second in the series issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization. As its name implies, it is largely a statistical compilation and, like the 1947 volume, it contains statistical series on crops and livestock numbers formerly published by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. Figures included in the tables are described as having been supplied by the governments of the various countries through special questionnaire, or as taken from official government publications. Where official figures were not available, reliable unofficial sources were used and these unofficial figures have been marked. A close review of the tables discloses a relatively small proportion of the figures so marked but there seems to be rather frequent occurrences of "data not available." It should be pointed out, however, that this volume is more nearly complete in this respect than the 1947 volume. Each year more data are being made available to FAO, partly as a result of the resumption of statistical and publication services in several countries after the disruption by war and other causes and partly because of the adoption by FAO of a regular questionnaire program.

The text is carried in English, French, and Spanish, and the tables in English and French, using metric units. Text has been limited mostly to the explanation of the data contained in the tables giving sources of figures, time reference, notes on individual countries and commodities as well as on the symbols and conversion factors used. The explanatory notes on commodities and countries are complete and helpful.

Some of the tables show area in production data for the principal crops in the prewar period (generally 1934–38), and in 1945, 1946, and 1947. Livestock numbers are given for the latest prewar year (usually 1939) and for 1945, 1946, and 1947. This volume presents one series of tables that gives details by commodities by countries and a second series that shows in detail, for specified countries, the utilization of land in crops and the output therefrom, together with detailed classification of livestock numbers by sex and age groups if these are available. The commodity series covers most of the important crops grown in the United States although such crops as hay, many of the fruit crops, and all of the truck crops, are missing in this section. The series by countries, however, includes a complete summary of commodities estimated in the United States. As food and agricultural statistics have not been available for recent years for the U. S. S. R., no figures for that country are shown for 1945, 1946, and 1947, but prewar averages are given for U. S. S. R. on the basis of present boundaries.

Tables new in this yearbook are those showing estimated total population by countries in 1937 and 1947 and those showing number of persons, by sex, engaged in agricultural occupations and in all occupations. Tables have also been added on the production of condensed, evaporated, and dried milk.

R. K. Smith