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## SECTION IV

### *Policy Reforms in the Market/Centrally-Planned/LDC Economies\**

#### INTRODUCTION

Agricultural policy reforms have been undertaken or are under serious consideration in numerous countries in recent years. Of course, agricultural policy reforms are nothing new. Various countries have made important changes in their farm policies over the past four decades. Examples were the abolition of the machine tractor stations in the Soviet Union in 1958, the introduction of target prices in the United States in 1973 and the establishment of the communes in China in 1958.

But during recent years the number of countries undertaking or considering reforms has increased to a large number and some of the reforms that have actually been undertaken, such as those in China, New Zealand and Chile, can only be described as radical. Due to the high cost of the farm price and income support programmes in the European Community and the United States there is considerable pressure for reform in each case.

Consequently it seemed appropriate to provide analyses of reforms, including some that were unsuccessful as well as some that at the moment appear to have been successful in achieving their objectives. It is hoped that the experience of countries that have undertaken major reforms will be of assistance to countries considering reforms.

\* Session Organiser: D. Gale Johnson, University of Chicago.