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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

HELD AT  
BAD EILSEN  
GERMANY  
26 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER 1934

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## INTRODUCTION

A SHORT outline of the construction of the Programme for the Conference and the arrangement of the papers will be useful in directing readers through the pages of this, the third volume of the *Proceedings of the International Conference of Agricultural Economists*.<sup>1</sup>

The programme of the Third Conference was prepared with the purpose of emphasizing the significance of national policies and aspirations, their interaction in the modern world, and the international problems of economic relations which result, all with special reference to the sphere of agriculture. At the previous Conferences considerable attention had been given to the technical problems of agricultural economic research, but, in view of the gravity of world conditions in the period 1930-4, it was decided that the Third Conference should devote its whole time to a study of national and international policies and that questions of research method should be omitted.

The programme was divided into four sections, the same division being followed in this volume of the *Proceedings*.

The first section consists of papers dealing with the national policies of various countries, special emphasis being laid on the forms, stages, and limits of economic planning. It was impossible within the limits of the programme to have all countries represented in this series or for each paper to deal in detail and at length with a nation's policy. This difficulty was in part met in advance by the circulation of reports on the economic conditions and political developments of agriculture in twenty-one countries (for list of countries see pp. 477-8). This work was initiated and directed by Professor M. Sering.

The countries for which papers were delivered at the Conference are in many respects representative of certain types. The classifica-

<sup>1</sup> Volumes i and ii of the *Proceedings*, reporting the First and Second Conferences, held in 1929 and 1930, were published by the George Banta Publishing Company, Menasha, Wis., U.S.A. Copies are obtainable in Europe from J. R. Currie, Research Dept. (Economics), Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon, England; in the United States of America and Canada from Dr. G. F. Warren, Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

The main part of the *Proceedings* of the Third Conference has been published also in a German Edition—*Vorträge und Verhandlungen über die Weltagrarkrise* (Hans Buske Verlag, Leipzig, 1934).

tion made in organizing the programme and the countries taken as representing each class were as follows:

- (a) deficit countries with intensive farming methods (Great Britain and Switzerland);
- (b) deficit countries approaching self-sufficiency (Germany and Italy);
- (c) surplus countries with intensive farming methods (The Netherlands);
- (d) surplus countries with peasant methods (the Danubian countries and India);
- (e) overseas countries with mechanized or specialized systems of production (U.S.A. and Canada).

The second section of the programme dealt with a fundamental cleavage in the social and economic organization of farms throughout the world, the peasant system on the one hand and the Russian collectivist experiment on the other, to take the two extremes. It was intended that this section should not be confined to these extreme cases, but that it should include both the family farm (which, in many countries, has a different meaning from the peasant farm) and, on the other side, the large-scale capitalist or corporation system of farming (which, while requiring large-scale industrial methods, is not collectivist like the Russian experiment). The family farm is the subject of one paper, but discussion of the large-scale capitalist or corporation farm is unfortunately lacking.

The third section dealt with certain fundamental aspects of the trend of natural forces governing supply and demand—in sharp contrast to the whole of the previous sections, in which it was made clear that the political control of supply and demand was at present a dominating force in nearly every country. Of the two papers in this section, one dealt with the prospect of a declining population, and the other with the trend of population in relation to the depletion of the natural resources of the food supply.

The fourth section dealt with economic problems which are international in character and for which international solutions are sought. The first group of papers dealt with international currency and international debts; the second with trade agreements between nations; the third with attempts at international agreement for the control of production or of marketing.

In addition to the papers prepared, a few contributions were made in the limited time available for open discussion in the full Conference. These are reported at the end of the sections with which they deal. In addition to the main sessions, a number of informal

groups met to deal with special problems. One of these meetings, which dealt with the measures taken to regulate milk marketing in U.S.A., Germany, and Great Britain, is reported in an appendix (p. 465).

A photograph, with key, is placed between pp. 478 and 479. The names and addresses of those attending the Conference will be found on p. 479.

*Particulars of the International Conference of Agricultural Economists, its constitution, and list of members and correspondents in the various countries will be found on pp. 481-95.*