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POLICIES, PLANNING
AND MANAGEMENT
FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

PAPERS AND REPORTS

FOURTEENTH
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

*Held at the Byelorussian
State University, Minsk, U.S.S.R.*

AUGUST 23rd—SEPTEMBER 2nd 1970

OXFORD
INSTITUTE OF AGRARIAN AFFAIRS
FOR
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMISTS
1971

Concluding Statement:

ACADEMICIAN P. LOBANOV

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Four decades have passed since the first International Conference of Agricultural Economists was held, convened on the initiative of British scientists and Dr. L.K. Elmhirst the Founder President.

Profound social and economic transformations have taken place during this period, they place new complex problems before economists in agriculture. Our epoch is characterised by rapid rates of scientific and technological progress in all spheres of material production and a higher level of intensification of all branches of agriculture. All these factors are of great impact to the main trends of agricultural scientific development.

The international conferences of economists which have taken place in various countries of the globe—and the current 14th Conference held in our country—have shown the importance and effectiveness of such representative forums periodically convened by the Association. At this hour when our conference terminates its work we all have reason to say that, thanks to the concerted efforts of the participants from 57 countries of all continents, tangible and helpful results have been reached and a considerable contribution made towards working out the aims of the 14th conference, among them the problems of economic policies, planning and management in agriculture.

Noteworthy is the interest in agrarian and economic problems shown by the experts and scientists from developing countries. Active participation of the delegates in, and contribution to, the plenary meetings, section meetings and the discussion groups made it possible to discuss in depth a wide range of problems pertaining to economic planning, emphasising both agrarian and industrial countries. It was possible to discuss problems of cooperation, organisation and management of external trade, transportation, financing, credit, and application of mathematical models in an agricultural economy.

I would recall and note how interesting was the inaugural speech by Prof. Westermarck, it was permeated with an idea of concerting the greater efforts of students of various schools, trends and social formation towards solving these complex tasks.

At Plenary and section meetings we listened to a number of papers which enrich and affirm the agricultural economic theory, and facilitate the working out of the most pressing problems which agriculture is faced with. It is necessary to note the high level on which the discussions were held and the profound interest of the participants in seeing true and correct ways to resolve economic problems.

For the papers and contributions of the Soviet participants as well as during the excursions to the Byelo-Russian farms and enterprises, the participants of the conference have a chance to get acquainted with our

agriculture and its objectives and perspectives of development. As you are aware, intensification in our country is the general line of development of the agricultural economy.

At present we translate into reality an extensive programme of rapid development of agricultural production, it includes comprehensive mechanisation, fertilisation and amelioration carried out on a wide national scale, and an increase of economic stimuli in the development of crop and animal husbandry. Perfection of planning techniques, management and organisation of labour is a vast inexhaustible reserve for rapid development of the economy of our agriculture.

This system of activities, scientifically substantiated is aimed at the further all-round increasing of the wealth of our people.

During their tours of different regions of the Soviet Union, participants at the conference will be able to get closely acquainted with our Collective and State farms, Research Institutions and those of higher learning. These tours will add to your understanding of the life of the Soviet countryside, of the achievements of our science and the practice of our agriculture.

Let me express a belief, that the discussion of a great many important economic problems will be conducive to the development of science and technology in the sphere of agriculture and more efficient utilisation of the scientific research made in agriculture. It will be no exaggeration to say that our conference, held in an atmosphere of understanding, and free discussions will constitute a fresh important step in the direction of enhancing understanding.

Prof. Westermarck in his inaugural speech, said that we have come here to exchange our experiences and not to take the floor to superficially subject to criticism the systems without a profound knowledge of them. The conference has been permeated with this great spirit, though I think the synopsis by Mr. Bergmann whose consideration was subjective and personal, departed therefrom and his remarks got a rebuff from a number of participants to the conference.

The conference will be an important step in the direction of enhancing international scientific cooperation and will contribute a further development of agrarian sciences in their positive influence on the world's agriculture.