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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYMPOSIUM ON WORLD POPULATION AND FOOD

The International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) has proposed to hold a Symposium on World Population and Food under the joint auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)/Committee on World Population and Food in Rome in December, 1975. The main objective of the Symposium will be to examine major issues and point out high priority research areas and potential break-through points which offer promise, if effectively programmed, in contributing to solutions of the world population-food crisis. In preparing for the Symposium, the IAAE committee on world population and food has decided to commission a number of topical background papers and sponsor six within-country case stories examining in depth the relationship between the policies and the population-food balance/imbalance of the selected developing countries.

Topical Background Papers

The background papers will be treated in three ways : first, will be an analysis of both experience and research documentations relevant to the topics; second, a projection of strategies/programmes with implications; and third, an identification of the priority areas for research to provide guidance for both policies and programmes for the future. Specific topical background papers will be concerned with three major research areas as outlined below :

A. Increasing Production and Assuring Needed Political, Institutional and Organizational Support

(1) Alternative Organizational Forms for Agricultural Production.

(a) Individual farm unit—

1. Small farms—both viable and non-viable units;
2. Large farms.

(b) Co-operative—

1. The *kibbutz* of Israel.
2. The commune of the People's Republic of China.
3. The *ujamaa* village of Tanzania.
4. Other co-operative farming arrangements.

(c) Integrated rural development.

- (2) Intensification of On-Farm Application of Proven Existing Practices.

While a case is made for research that will provide new technology in the form of a package of practices adapted to within-country soil and climatic regions, an even stronger case, in the short run, can be made for all-out political and educational support emphasizing greater farmer effort (harder work) on two existing practices : getting a good stand and weeding. It is what farmers do with what they have, not waiting to get what they need, that will contribute most, in the short run, in staving off starvation.

- (3) Increasing Productivity of Human and Animal Energy (Power).

Since human labour and animal power are the chief source of energy for agricultural production in most of the developing countries, (1) what can be done to increase the efficiency of human energy and animal power, and (2) what are the needed energy supplementations, but not replacements, for human labour ?

- (4) The Energy—Food Balance.
- (5) Primary, Secondary, and Out-of-School Educational Emphasis on the Development of Rural People's Competence in Organizing and Managing New Technology, both for Agriculture and the Development of Alternatives to Agricultural Employment.
- (6) The Role of Women in Agricultural Production.

Since women play an important role in formulating family values, in what ways can achieving the family values be related to the importance of the farm family deciding to increase agricultural output ?

- (7) The Time Factor in the Process of Transforming a Traditional Agriculture Towards a Scientific/Modernizing Agriculture.
- (8) Implications to Agricultural Production of Climatic Variability.
- (9) The Role of Price Incentives, Marketing, Transportation, and Storage in a Predominantly Traditional Agriculture.

What is the evidence that price incentives contribute to the small, insecure farmer's decision to apply the new agricultural technology ?

B. *The Most Vulnerable Sector of Society*

- (1) Communicating Improved and New Technology to the Small Farmers and Mixed Agricultural-Non-agricultural Households. (All media, including extension linkages) will be included in examination and analysis.)

The basic issue for the small farmer is one of security and insecurity. The small farmer feels secure with traditional agricultural practices. The question is how to assist the farmer in applying the new in ways that give him a sense of security in the new technology and the institutions he must rely on to serve him in applying the new technology.

For the mixed agricultural-non-agricultural family, agricultural information will have to be made meaningful to the family's total way of life.

- (2) Providing Employment, Including Training, Outside Agriculture for the Under-Employed and Unemployed.
- (3) The Domination of Social Power.

Is there any hope that the small farmers will get the needed agricultural inputs and that institutions will serve their needs so long as institutional power is held by elitists and institutions remain oriented to give priority to the needs of the elitists?

- (4) Providing the Necessary Political and Organizational Support.

What is the understanding of political leaders about the nature and magnitude of the impending population-food crisis?

C. *Long Range Outlook*

- (1) Achieving Balance Between Population and Food.

Assuming a balance between population and food will be achieved by the year 2000, the question is how? Will the balance be struck by a reduction in population, achieved through famine, pestilence, and death? Will it be struck by an equitable reduction in per capita consumption by all people around the world? Or will it be struck by important increases in food production that enable the poor and hungry around the world to increase their consumption of food?

- (2) Family Planning.

If one accepts children of low income families as being the only security they can count on in old age, is it realistic to assume the families living in poverty will practise family planning until and unless they are full participants and equal beneficiaries of development?

(3) Organizing Agriculture for the Year 2000.

How will agriculture be organized, what inputs will be used in what quantities, and what products will be used if the cost of energy is in 1990 twice that of 1970, or three times that of 1970, or four times that of 1970?

Country Case Stories

The country case stories will include:

- (1) an analysis of: (a) The influence of national development policies on fertility and mortality rates, population growth, levels of living, and migration; (b) the influence of population growth on agricultural development, employment/unemployment, levels of living, and migration;
- (2) the implications of rural migration and factors influencing migration;
- (3) the implications of mechanization;
- (4) an analysis of the food situation in 1974 in relation to nutritional adequacy of all the people;
- (5) a forecast for the next decade regarding food enough and exports or imports, and what changes in quantities can be anticipated;
- (6) the cost of increasing agricultural production;
- (7) the major impediments, barriers, and constraints to: (a) increasing agricultural production; (b) reducing population growth; (c) increasing employment opportunities for the masses unemployed in rural areas; (d) increasing the level of living of all the people.

Six developing countries have been selected and institutions will be commissioned by the IAAE committee to prepare country case stories. Funds to support commissioning the background papers and the country case stories are being provided through the UNFPA. The UNFPA will also provide travel funds for about 30 participants to attend the 1975 Symposium, scheduled to be held in Rome in December, 1975, as well as fund a number of internships.

For additional information about the proposed symposium, please write to Dr. Douglas Enslinger, Chairman, Committee on World Population and Food, 231 Gentry Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 65201 (U.S.A.)