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PREFACE

We have selected the material of No. 61 of our Bulletin series from lectures in agricultural economics delivered, except one, during the past months. The members of our Institute informed the participants of international professional fora in Helsinki, Kiel, Berlin and Budapest, on the achievements and troubles of Hungarian agriculture, or in a wider sense of our food economy. They presented the actual situation, or dealt with some questions /for example, foreign economics, production systems/. A separate summarizing article gives account on the work of the section in agricultural economics at a scientific conference, entitled "Main directions of agricultural development", held with the participation of Hungarian agricultural experts living in this country and abroad.

As it is well known the conferences, deliberations, just as the events of the professional and scientific life, are confined to a limited scope. We are of the opinion that we follow our traditions in the Bulletin series by making available the material of these lectures in agricultural economics to our partner institutions abroad, to our researcher colleagues, and libraries, maintaining and developing relations with our Institute in the fields of cooperation, exchange of informations and publications.

The Appendix presents a brief outline on the thirty years of the Research Institute for Agricultural Economics, as well as on the Hungarian sources published in foreign languages which offer more detailed and analyzing information to readers interested in our agriculture.

Budapest, September 1985

The Editor

THE PRESENT STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY IN HUNGARY AND SOME ASPECTS OF THE MEDIUM TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANS*/

by

Tamás UJHELYI

General policy aims and developments

The basic objective of Hungarian agricultural policy is to make the best use of the available agro-ecological potential as a contribution to the global development of the national economy. Food economy is an integral part of the national economy, closely linked with all its major developments, sharing both positive and negative trends. The past decade brought much more bad than favourable changes for the national economy and the food sector; both had to adapt to a much deteriorated situation, continue development in a harsher international climate. It took a big effort to find new ways, methods, approaches to meet the mounting problems. We do not expect of course to have found all the necessary answers, but hope to have reached at least some more or less sound conclusions, how a small, moderately developed, landlocked country with a strong agricultural base tries to face the enormous challenge of the international situation. This paper gives a brief account of some results and some more or less precisely formulated ideas about future development.

The importance of the agricultural sector in the national economy is clearly demonstrated by the following figures:

- share of the food economy in GDP 28 percent
- share of the food economy in net domestic product
 22 percent
- share of the food economy in total exports 24-25 percent
- share of the food economy in exports to developed market economies 34-35 percent.

The agro-ecological potential of the country, the supply of agricultural land and the climate could double agricultural produc-

^{*/}Paper presented at the Hungarian Trade Day organized by Rastor Institute , 14 May 1985, Dipoli Congress Centre, Helsinki.