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BOOK NOTES

Bibliography of Food and Agricultural Marketing, Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization, 1958. (Processed.)

This is a bibliography in Western European languages relating to countries other than the United States and Canada, with summary comments on many of the publications listed.

American and Canadian publications have not been included because it was felt that, while there is an abundance of publications on marketing of North American origin to which reference and access is usually readily available, difficulties are often experienced in obtaining reference to marketing publications originating in other countries.

The purpose of this FAO bibliography is stated to be to help workers in marketing overcome some of the practical obstacles to a greater awareness of international experience. However, it is not intended to meet the rigorous requirements of university research. Nevertheless students will undoubtedly find it useful.

The subject area covered is the movement of goods from the producer to the consumer and the business activities associated with it. The economic aspects of such initial processing as may be needed to enable farm products to reach a market, and the preparation of products for sale in export markets have been included, but not international trade.

Important features of this bibliography are classification by marketing topic treated, summary notes on the contents, character and conclusions of the major publications listed, and geographical, commodity and author indexes employing a coding system which shows where the full entry can be found, the year of publication, the language, and the main subject emphasis.

FAO hopes that it will be possible to keep this bibliography up to date by the periodic issue of supplementary sheets and new index pages for insertion in an adjustable cover. It is intended that these supplements be sent automatically to holders of the original bibliography, which can be obtained on request from the Marketing Branch, Economic Analysis Division, FAO, Rome.

World Economic Survey, 1958, New York: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 1959. Pp. xv, 298.

The 1958 edition of the *World Economic Survey* published by the United Nations should be of particular interest to agricultural economists.

It is now established practice to publish in each annual issue a special study of an economic question of general interest. In this issue the special study—to which over half of the publication is devoted—deals with international commodity problems and policies in the post-war period.

It is divided into four chapters: "Trends and Fluctuations in World Trade of Primary Commodities", "National Commodity Policies", "International Commodity Policies" and "Problems of Primary Commodities in the Centrally Planned Economies".

Trade in agricultural products and the commodity problem generally is basic to the economies of the undeveloped countries—there is no single economic problem of more immediate consequence to the undeveloped areas than the stimulation of trade in rural products. In this report it is suggested that the “most important contribution the developed countries can make to the solution of the commodity problem is, without a doubt, to preserve high and stable rates of growth in their own economies”.

The need to moderate the existing degree of protection granted by the more highly-developed countries to their domestic primary production is also discussed.

The report goes on to suggest that:

“The basic solution to the commodity problem, however, cannot be sought in national economic policy of the developed countries. In the long run a solution can only be achieved by rendering the economies of underdeveloped countries less dependent upon the level of fluctuations of earnings from a handful of primary products. This can be accomplished only through general economic development. This means development of domestic resources and industries to the point where export proceeds from one or two commodities cease to be the strategic limiting factor upon the rate of total economic activity—where the national income is limited by the available manpower and productive capacity rather than by the ability to finance import of raw materials; where investment is limited by the rate of savings and not by the ability to finance import of capital goods; and where consumption is limited by the national income and not by the ability to finance import of foodstuffs. Ultimately, it means not only displacing some of the imports of capital goods, raw materials and foodstuffs by domestic production, but even expanding production to the point of exporting some of the very goods now appearing only on the import list.

“Of course, such a fundamental transformation of the economic landscape would greatly alter existing trading relations. And, assuredly, it would call for wisdom and flexibility in the adjustment of internal and external economic policy in all parts of the world. Given, however, a readiness to co-operate, there need be no fear that such development would reduce the volume of world trade or be detrimental to production in the developed countries. There can be no question but that the resulting gain in economic strength of the underdeveloped countries, enabling them to participate in world trade on the basis of steadily rising levels of income, would rebound to the benefit of all mankind—economically, no less than socially and politically.”

Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, 1958, Statistical Office of the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York: United Nations, 1959. Pp. xxiv, 257, 22s. 6d. (Aust.).

This, the second issue of the United Nations *Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics*, should prove of interest to all economists.

This issue contains detailed estimates of national accounts for seventy-eight countries compared with similar data for seventy countries in the previous issue. In addition it contains aggregate estimates of national

income or related aggregates for five countries. Included amongst the countries for which detailed estimates are shown for the first time are China (Mainland), Czechoslovakia and East Germany. Estimates for U.S.S.R. are not included.

Information contained in the Yearbook includes detailed estimates of the composition of national expenditure and income; the product by source of industry; investment by type of capital goods, industrial use and purchaser; the financing of investment; the composition of personal consumption; the accounts of household and general government.

Economic Survey of Latin America, 1957, New York: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 1959. Pp. xix, 202.

This rather belated report—the eighth in a regular series—provides a comprehensive picture of the economy of the Latin American area as at 1957. Quite comprehensive descriptive studies of current (1957) economic problems of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Cuba and Mexico are also included.