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SOURCE Polish newspapers as indicated. (Information requested.)

DEVELOPMENTS IN POLISH AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION -- Robotnik, No 339, 9 Dec 48

Despite the priority of industry due to the decision to industrialize the country, the state financial effort to modernize agriculture in 1948 was considerable, namely, 18.6 billion zlotys were allotted to agriculture, not including outlay for buildings; 4 billion zlotys were spent on machinery both of domestic manufacture and imports. The number of active tractors was increased to 12,600. Also, 440,000 tons of artificial fertilizer had been supplied for the 1948 harvests and 430,000 tons for fall planting.

INCREASED AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT -- Trybuna Ludu, No 7, 22 Dec 48

The 6-year plan estimates the 1955 crop yield will be 14-15 quintals per hectare of land from ordinary farms and 17-18 quintals per hectare from state farms. The peak prewar crop yield was 11.6 quintals per hectare.

FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE -- Zycie Warszawy, No 358, 30 Dec 48

During 1948, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Reform, 100 kilometers of embankments for flood control were built, mainly along the Wisla (Vistula) River. In addition, another 800 kilometers of such embankments were repaired and restored. On the banks of the Oder and Wisla rivers, 20 thousand hectares of arable land were reclaimed.

Substantial capital outlays have also been made for the control of non-navigable rivers. This represents a basic improvement project for drainage of land. Ninety kilometers of new projects and 1,500 kilometers restoration projects will eventually permit the drainage of about 100,000 hectares daily.

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Furthermore, 640 kilometers of ditches were dug for the drainage of 250 thousand hectares of arable land, and 1,500 kilometers of old ditches were restored.

CREDIT FOR ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZER -- Gazeta Ludowa, No 322, 11 Dec 48

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Bank released 1,953,660,000 zlotys of short-term credit for the purchase of artificial fertilizer for the spring season. Of this sum, 750 million zlotys are designated for farmers with small- and medium-size holdings, 913,405,000 for State Agricultural Holdings, 178,814,000 for State Institute for Horticulture, and 65,609 for State Horse Breeding Farms. Further credit is foreseen for higher agricultural schools and research in the amount of 45,830,000 zlotys; this amount will be increased as the necessity arises.

ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS -- Trybuna Ludu, No 7, 22 Dec 48

The 6-year plan estimates the 1955 artificial fertilizer production per hectare to be as follows: nitrogen, 12.5 kilograms; phosphorous, 14.5; and potassium, 10. This is compared with the 1938 production which was: nitrogen, 1.7 kilograms; phosphorous, 3.1; and potassium, 2.3.

SOVIET TRACTOR DISTRIBUTION -- Rzeczpospolita, No 346, 16 Dec 48

The Przasnyski Powiat, Bieszczow Wojewodztwo, has received 50 Soviet tractors for distribution among the various villages within the powiat. Ten of these tractors are assigned to the State Agricultural Holdings in Stubno and another ten to the State Agricultural Holdings in Nawel. The remaining tractors will be distributed among the other villages by 20 December 1948.

TRACTOR PRODUCTION -- Trybuna Ludu, No 7, 22 Dec 48

The 6-year plan estimates the 1955 production of tractors to reach 12,000. In 1948, the production was 1,200; in 1947, 152; 1938, zero.

COOPERATIVE MILLS -- Gazeta Ludowa, No 314, 2 Dec 48

Milling cooperatives regulate 798 mills in Poland. The largest number of mills, 127, is found in the Poznan Wojewodztwo and 120 in Bialystok Wojewodztwo; the smallest, 20, is in the Szczecin Wojewodztwo.

The largest of the cooperative mills can produce up to 80 tons a day; the average produces about 4.3 tons a day.

The cooperative mills, working at capacity, can process 951,760 tons of grain annually. This is 27 percent of Poland's total milled grain which amounts to 3,282,388 tons annually.

HIGH FEES TO CHECK ILLEGAL SLAUGHTER OF LIVESTOCK -- Zycie Warszawy, No 358, 30 Dec 48

The Ministry of Agriculture has standardized fees for the inspection of slaughter animals and meat. The fees are particularly high in application to meat originating in illegal slaughter. For example, the inspection fee for a quarter cut of veal from illegal slaughter amounts to 700 zlotys, whereas inspection of the same amount of meat at the slaughter

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house costs 40 zlotys. It is expected that this measure will make the illegal slaughter of animals unprofitable.

POMORZE ZACHODNIE DOUBLES PIG PRODUCTION -- Rzeczpospolita, No 357, 29 Dec 48

On state farms in the Pomorze Zachodnie (West Coast) the number of pigs has almost doubled each year since 1946. There are now about 230,000 pigs in this area.

Because shortage of boars prevents faster multiplication of pigs, 500,000 zlotys have been allocated to bring in boars from central Poland to hasten the breeding of pigs.

MODERN VETERINARY HOSPITAL -- Zycie Warszawy, No 357, 29 Dec 48

Gdansk has one of the largest veterinary hospitals in the world. Horses are the most frequently cared for animals. There are three huge stables for 240 horses, an operating room, a surgical dressing room, offices for doctors, a model kitchen, stables for isolating animals suspected of communicable diseases, laboratories, X-ray room, pharmacy, and maintenance and administrative quarters.

NEW VEGETABLE SOURCE OF TANNIN -- Rzeczpospolita, No 354, 24-26 Dec 48

The State Institute of Horticulture at its experimental station in Strzelo near Kutno is developing the culture of a new plant rich in tannin, a valuable raw material for the tanning industry. This plant, "badan," was brought into Poland in 1947 from Alta (USSR) in the mountainous regions of Asia. The tannin content of the plant is 16-24 percent. The plant also contains hydrochinon, obtained as a by-product in the extraction of tannin.

The plants at the experimental field now have leaves resembling beets grown for pasture. With grafting, the crop is harvested in the third year. The experimental plants will be ready for harvest during the coming year.

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