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CHINESE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES 1951  
 AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND PRODUCTION QUOTAS

The Government Administration Council of the People's Republic of China, at its 70th conference on 2 February 1951, announced a ten-point policy for agriculture and forestry for 1951. These ten points included the general policy of protection of land reform, farm taxes, promotion of mutual aid organizations and cooperatives, increases of production of foodstuffs, cotton, tobacco, and hemp, and control of forests to prevent their abuse, while at the same time, increasing afforestation, and encouraging private investment in agriculture.

Satisfaction was expressed over 1950 production data, while production increases of 7.1 percent in foodstuffs and industrial raw materials were planned, including 36.9 percent in cotton, 324.8 percent in tobacco, and 9.7 percent in oil-producing crops.

Agricultural conferences on the regional, provincial, and local levels outlined plans for carrying out the Central People's government's policies and allocated acreage to be devoted to various crops, setting production aims for each.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

National Agricultural Policies

One of the most important policy points of the People's Republic of China is to increase agricultural production. To encourage production increases and to regulate the acreage devoted to various crops, the Government Administration Council, at its 70th conference on 2 February 1951 passed the agricultural and forestry production plans for 1951. The principal points in these plans were as follows:

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1. In old liberated areas, where land reform has been fully carried out, property received by the people is to be effectively protected against encroachment. In newly liberated areas, in the process of carrying out land reform, property rights are to be fixed immediately and deeds issued. In areas where land reform has not yet been undertaken and only rent reduction has been carried out, the principle that the one who tills is the one who received is to be effectively carried out.

2. A fair and reasonable farm tax policy is to be applied. In case of increased output due to diligence in improving farming techniques, the amount of production over the normal amount is not to be taxed. On the other hand, when output falls below normal due to negligence, no consideration is to be shown in reduction of taxes. What is considered to be over the normal production level is to be decided upon democratically by public recognition. To give both material and honorary encouragement, the Central People's government is opening a model worker movement and a popular production campaign. Wherever management and leadership have shown obvious merit, they should be given praise. Unproductive landlords and greedy and lazy ones are to be reformed. In old liberated areas, the landlords and old-style rich peasants are to be encouraged to participate in labor after land reform has been carried out, and, according to orders from the government, after 3 years for the rich peasants and 5 years for the landlords, they may apply for the farm village representatives assembly to change their apportionments, subject to approval by the People's government.

3. Mutual aid work organizations should receive all possible encouragement and support from the people's governments. They may obtain national loans, technical instruction, superior seeds, and priority in obtaining agricultural sprays and equipment and new-style farming implements. Also, they are to receive priority in marketing farm products and by-products through government trade facilities. Hiring of temporary short-term labor is to be permitted among these farmers' mutual aid bodies. The hiring of labor by rich peasants is to be permitted.

4. Production of raw materials vital to industry is to receive government encouragement to assure the supply of cotton, hemp, and tobacco. Reasonable prices are to be maintained and market outlets assured. Prices are to be fair and reasonable and according to quality, and it is forbidden to undergrade a product when buying it. A system of farm-product contracts and credit management is to be instituted. Levies on cotton and tobacco farmers are to be paid in a lump sum, and may be paid in crops.

5. Wooded mountains are to be controlled. Burning-off or excess cutting of forests is strictly forbidden, and areas are to be demarcated for supervision. Planting of trees and orchards and cooperative afforestation are to be encouraged. Dissimilar areas are to be differentiated, and the digging of tree or grass roots is to be strictly forbidden. To obtain good results in planting and caring for the forests, the people's governments should give both material and honorary recognition. In rugged mountain areas and on undeveloped lands, the masses should be encouraged to engage in afforestation. They are to retain the rights of forestry and reforestation of these lands.

6. Repair and construction of water conservancy projects is to be encouraged, since water conservancy leads to increased production. The masses are to manage such work themselves on a cooperative basis. Any production above normal in any given area which results from such work within 5 years will not be subject to any additional levies. Products from newly reclaimed lands will not be taxed for the first 3-5 years, but it is strictly forbidden to open rough mountain terrain or steep slopes to cultivation. In mountain areas already under cultivation, the necessary terraces will be built and maintained. It is to be stressed to the cadres and explained to the masses that to open mountainous areas or steep lands to cultivation is detrimental to the people as a whole. This cannot be overemphasized.

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7. Profits from cattle raising are to be protected. An increase in livestock is to be encouraged to raise the social level of those engaging in livestock raising. A home-innoculation campaign is to be initiated and livestock insurance is to be pushed.

8. Farmers are to be encouraged to invest in increased production. Mutual aid societies are to be started and cooperatives are to be relied upon. Freedom to borrow and lend is to be instituted, and guarantees for repayment of loans are to be provided. It is now an opportune time to make use of national investments and loans. The government is to offer protection and encouragement to investments by private parties in development of forestry and agriculture and water conservancy projects and loans by private parties to farmers to aid them in developing production.

9. In isolated areas where food production is rather large but there is no way of transporting it to market (as in Northern Shansi and certain provinces or areas in the Southwest), the government should encourage the increased production of hog bristles and the raising of cattle and horses, as well as the distillation of fuel alcohol to enable the farmers to obtain fair prices for their products. Certain areas are suitable to the introduction of cotton, tobacco, or hemp, which can be shipped to market.

10. It is absolutely forbidden for landlords, special agents, and counter-revolutionaries to engage in such reactionary practices as unreasonable neglect of land, slaughtering of livestock, sabotaging of farm equipment, chopping down of trees, or demolishing of structures. The people's governments are to enforce this strictly. (1)

#### Production Quotas for 1951

Over-all production figures for 1950 indicate a successful completion of that year's agricultural production quotas. Food production for the country as a whole was 10.8 percent above 1949, while cotton production increased 59.8 percent.

For 1951 over-all production increases of 7.1 percent in foodstuffs and industrial raw materials are planned. This includes 36.9 percent in cotton, 69.1 in hemp for use in bags, 324.8 in tobacco, 35.1 in tea bricks, 14.9 in cultivated cocoons, 56.8 in wild cocoons, 9.7 in oil-producing crops, 29.1 in sugar-producing crops, and 20.8 in aquatic products. In addition, 2 million mou of land are to be reforested, and 56,000 mou will be devoted to raising saplings; 8,000 mou of mountain lands are to be planted with trees. Special attention is to be given to domestic and draft animals, special products, and village supplementary industries. (1)

Simultaneously with the national conference in Peiping, conferences on regional levels were being held in various places. (2)

#### 1. Central and South China Region

For example, production plans for 1951 outlined for the Central and South China Region call for maintaining the 1950 production level with an increase of 8.1 percent in production of foodstuffs, expansion of cultivated area by 1.2 percent, and an increase of production per mou of 6.9 percent. Cotton production is to be increased by 64.9 percent, with the area devoted to it to be increased by 22.2 percent and yield per mou by 35.1 percent. Tobacco production is to be increased by 439.1 percent, the area devoted to it by 406 percent, and the yield per mou by 6.5 percent. (2)

The production record for 1950 is used as a base. In spite of natural calamities, this record was 56.7 billion catties of agricultural products, or 96 percent of the goal, 10.4 percent above the 1949 figure, and 76.7 percent of the prewar figure (average of the years 1931-1936). The total production of

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cotton was 236,250,000 market piculs, 94.6 percent of the goal and 31.8 percent of 1949, or 76 percent of the prewar figure.

The forestry goal for 1951 is fixed at 1,960,000 market mou, of which 710,000 are to be afforested; 29,170,000 trees are to be felled, and 7,898 market mou are to be devoted to raising saplings; 740,000 cattles of tree seeds are to be planted. The record for 1950 is given as 389,565 market mou having been afforested, 559 percent above the goal. Altogether 91,864,089 trees were felled, 685 percent of the goal. Also, 3,569 market mou were devoted to raising saplings and 85,028,181 saplings were felled, a total of 95 percent of the goal; 736,800 cattles of tree seeds were planted, 832 percent of the goal. (3)

#### 2. Kwangtung Province

The conference dealing with agriculture and forestry for Kwangtung Province set as its goal an increase of 700 million cattles of foodstuffs above the 1950 figure. Methods of management to assure completion of production quotas were discussed, with much emphasis placed on water conservancy. It was claimed that through proper water control, not only are floods prevented, but the constant source of water for irrigation, through proper control, can lead to making two-crop fields out of former single-crop ones and three-crop fields out of former two-crop ones. There would be a resultant increase of 100 percent in production, with the yield per mou raised by 50 cattles.

A concerted program to prevent the spread of insects was discussed, which would include inspection of travelers, sanitation work in the fields, and the use of hot water or salt water for soaking seeds. According to the plan, the reduction in damage would amount to 30 cattles per mou. Selection of seeds would also lead to 15-20 additional cattles per mou. (3)

#### 3. Honan Province

In Honan Province, the plan calls for planting 5.4 million market mou of cotton, with a production of 1,458,000 market piculs of raw cotton. (4)

#### 4. Kwangsi Province

In the 11 hsien around Kweilin in Kwangsi Province, the goal of 40 million cattles over 1950 was set, and tobacco, ramie, and sugar were to be pushed. It was also planned to repair or construct small-scale irrigation facilities for 200,000 mou, carry out insect control for 150,300 mou, select seeds for 60,000 mou, and inoculate 103,000 cattle against rinderpest. Also, 600,000 cattles of bone meal and 700,000 cattles of ammonium sulfate are to be distributed. In all, the total cultivated area was to be expanded by 300,000 mou, with areas devoted to tobacco maintained at 12,000 mou, ramie at 8,750 mou, and sugar cane at 620 mou. (5)

#### 5. Shansi Province

In the Northwest, Shansi Province is stressing cotton production, with a production quota set at 66 million cattles over the 1950 production of 52 million cattles. Foodstuffs production was to be increased 700 million cattles above the 1950 figure of 5.2 billion cattles. It was expected that the old liberated areas would be back to the prewar normal production level, and the newly liberated areas would reach 85 percent. (6)

#### 6. Chekiang Province

For 1951 production, Chekiang Province set forth a nine-point policy, as follows:

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a. Foodstuffs--An increase of one billion catties over the 1950 figure of 10.3 billion.

b. Cotton--900,000 mou, including 531,000 mou of improved cotton and 369,000 mou of medium-grade cotton, at the same time striving to raise the yield per mou to 26 catties, for a total of 234,000 market piculs.

c. Hemp--Increase acreage to 165,000 mou, including that of yellow hemp, and raise the yield per mou to 360 market catties.

d. Sericulture--Maintain 1.3 million mou of mulberry bushes; sell 900,000 improved egg sheets, together with 340,000 market piculs of silkworms.

e. Tea--Maintain the same acreage, but improve cultivation methods to raise the quality, increase the yield of black tea, improve the quality although reduce the quantity of green tea, for a total production of 194,000 market piculs.

f. Livestock--Maintain the present number of 30,000 head of cattle, but increase the number of hogs to 200,000 head and sheep to 50,000 head.

g. Forestry--Organize the masses into a "Tend the Forests" movement.

h. Village Supplementary Industries--Investigate production and marketing conditions to set production quotas, improve techniques, and raise the quality of the products.

i. Fruits and Vegetables--Press for increased production of the better varieties, call for tending of orchards by the masses, and encourage the planting of orchards. Increase the production of Chinese cabbage, turnips, and melon seeds. (7)

In round figures, an increase of one billion catties of foodstuffs, 10 percent over the 1950 figure of 10.3 billion catties, is planned for Chekiang Province. (8)

#### 7. Shantung Province

Shantung planned an increase of foodstuffs production of from 1.5-2 billion catties. The area devoted to cotton is to be increased to 7 million mou to meet the demand for 2,030,000 piculs of raw cotton. Tobacco is to be expanded from 190,000 mou to 425,000 mou, while areas originally scheduled for cultivation of peanuts are being changed to cotton production. (8)

#### 8. North Kiangsu

At the Northern Kiangsu Agricultural Conference, which convened on 1 February 1951, production quotas were set for 1951. They include 9.2 billion catties of foodstuffs to be produced, and 4.5 million mou to be devoted to cotton production, with a goal of 1,035,000 piculs. Programs were outlined for flood-prevention work, dredging of rivers and harbors, removing of shoals from inland rivers, repair of culverts and storm sewers, and prevention of drought. Stress was also placed on organizing the masses for insect control, which has been quite severe in the area. Plans for other crops for 1951 were an increase in acreage of long-grained rice to 1,697,000 mou; of wheat to 572,000 mou; sales of maize, barley, and soybeans to be increased by 230,000 catties; and cotton by 4,833,000 catties, with an increase of 657,500 mou in acreage. (9)

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## 9. South Anhwei

Southern Anhwei's agricultural production plans, announced on 21 January 1950, includes an increase of 100 million catties in foodstuffs, of which 60 million catties are to be from the vital Hsuan-ch'eng Special District, 33 million from Ch'ih-chou Special District, and 7 million from Huei-chou Special District. Also, 170,000 mou were to be planted with cotton, with an expected yield, at the rate of 24 catties per mou, of 40,800 market piculs of raw cotton. In the rehabilitation of stricken areas, special crops such as peanuts, sesame, and rape seed are stressed, due to the need for oils. A total of 2,875 catties of cocoons were planned. The number of draft oxen is to be expanded by 7,500 from the present 180,000. The forestry program includes 100,000 mou of forests, with 400 mou devoted to raising of saplings; 8,000 mou are to be afforested by 300 teams organized for the purpose. (10)

## SOURCES

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5. Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 5 Apr 51
6. Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 19 Feb 51
7. Shanghai, Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 13 Feb 51
8. Shanghai, Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 15 Feb 51
9. Yang-chou, Su-pei Jih-pao, 13 Feb 51
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