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REVIEW OF ARMENIAN SSR AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS AT REPUBLIC PARTY CONGRESS

The 20 September 1952 report by G. A. Arutyunov, Secretary, TsK KP(b) of Armenia, to the 16th Congress of the KP(b) of Armenia contained the following information on the progress of agriculture in the republic:

In 1952, the sown area in kolkhozes of the republic increased by 18 percent as compared with 1950. In 1952, the area devoted to grain crops increased by 26.6 percent, that devoted to wheat by 49.8 percent, as compared with 1950. In 1951, the grain crop yield per hectare increased by 14.4 percent over 1950.

In 1952, the area under cotton in kolkhozes of the republic increased by 4 percent as compared with 1950; the cotton yield per hectare in 1951 decreased by 1.4 percent as compared with 1950. The area planted to tobacco in 1952 increased by 7 percent over 1950; the yield per hectare in 1951 was 12.5 quintals, an increase of 11.6 percent over 1950. The average yield of sugar beets in 1951 was 200 quintals per hectare, a 29-percent increase over 1950.

The yield of potatoes on kolkhozes in 1951 reached 110 quintals per hectare, a 5-percent increase over 1950. The area planted to grapes increased by 400 hectares since the 15th Congress; in addition, old vines were replaced on 1,400 hectares. Orchards increased by 573 hectares; in addition, 2,050 hectares of old orchards were replanted. Tasks for establishment of subtropical fruit groves were fulfilled.

In the sphere of animal husbandry, the Three-Year Livestock Development Plan was fulfilled as follows: cattle 100.2 percent, with an 11.6-percent increase in the number of cattle, including a 29-percent increase in the number of cows; sheep and goats 100.1 percent, with a 21-percent increase in the number of head; hogs 106.7 percent, with a 68.2-percent increase in the number of head; horses 102.5 percent, with a 21.5-percent increase in the number of head; and fowl 73.5 percent with a 1.5-time increase in the number of fowl.

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Milk yield per forage cow in 1951 was 705 liters, a 34-percent increase over 1950. Wool clip per sheep in 1951 was 1.7 kilograms, a rise of 10 percent over 1950.

Since the 15th Congress, the area sown to fodder crops has increased by 14 percent. In 1951, 182,000 metric tons of ensilage were stored; in 1952, 200,000 metric tons will be stored.

In 1951, there was a further increase in the indivisible funds of kolkhozes. In 1951, the value of the basic means of production exceeded the 1950 level by 11.5 percent, and 84 million rubles were added to the indivisible funds. Total monetary income of kolkhozes in 1951 exceeded 1950 income by 27 million rubles.

In 1951, the number of workdays in kolkhozes was 3 million greater than in 1950, despite the fact that the number of able-bodied kolkhoz workers decreased by 5,000 as compared with 1950, due to transfer of these workers to work in industry and state construction projects. The average number of workdays per able-bodied kolkhoz worker reached 212 in 1951, as compared with 195 in 1950.

The number of MTS and MZhS (Mechanized Animal Husbandry Stations) rose from 46 in 1950 to 50 in 1951 and then to 53 in 1952. Between 1950 and 1952, the tractor park of MTS increased by 50 percent. The number of combines increased from 285 in 1950 to 475 in 1952, the number of threshers correspondingly from 378 to 575.

During the last 3 years, about 3,000 standard livestock shelters have been built in kolkhozes of Armenia.

Despite the cited successes in obtaining higher yields of agricultural products, comparison of the yields attained in 1951 with those planned for 1951 shows that yield goals were not reached for grains, cotton, tobacco, sugar beets, potatoes, grapes, and fruits; in addition, comparison of actual and planned yields reveals the following: perennial grasses, 31.4 quintals per hectare attained, 40-45 planned; natural hay grasses, 15.1 quintals attained, 16-19 planned; milk per foraging cow, 705 liters attained, 1,100 planned; wool clip per sheep, 1.7 kilograms attained, 2.3 kilograms planned.

The principal reasons for failure to attain planned yields are unsatisfactory utilization of agricultural machinery, improper application of agrotechniques, low quality of tractor work and other soil tilling work in most kolkhozes, and failure of MTS and MZhS to carry out the contracts made with kolkhozes.

The Ministry of Agriculture Armenian SSR and the Main Administration of Cotton Growing under the Council of Ministers Armenian SSR are unsatisfactorily disseminating and applying the experiences of leading kolkhoz workers and the accomplishments of Soviet agricultural science.

Specialists working in rayons, kolkhozes, and MTS are as follows: 629 agronomists, 643 agrotechnicians, 194 zootechnicians, 218 livestock technicians, 207 veterinarians, 284 veterinarian technicians, 68 mechanical engineers, and 262 mechanical technicians. Thus, the 630 kolkhozes of Armenia have the services of 2,500 agricultural specialists; of this number 1,250 are kolkhoz workers, including 280 who serve as kolkhoz chairmen.

Examples of failure to fulfill the tasks set by state plans are the following:

1. In 1952, the plan calls for an expansion in the area devoted to winter grain crops by 33,000 hectares; 15,000 hectares are to be derived from curtailment of spring grain crop sowing and 18,000 hectares from putting new land into use. Of the 18,000 hectares, only 5,786 had been plowed and prepared for sowing during the established period.

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2. The 1951 plan for increase in the number of cows in kolkhozes was fulfilled only 86.5 percent. As a result, cows constituted only 22.1 percent of all cattle in kolkhozes as of 1 September 1952.

3. The 1952 plan calls for construction of 785 livestock shelters in kolkhozes of the republic and silos for storage of 20,000 metric tons of ensilage. As of 1 September, only 215 shelters had been completed and 642 were still under construction.

4. In 1951, many kolkhozes did not fulfill the plan for fodder storage with the result that in spring 1952 epidemics (padezh) were prevalent among cattle, sheep, and goats. The 1952 state plan calls for storage of one million metric tons of coarse fodder (in terms of hay) in kolkhozes of the republic; as of 10 September, the plan had been fulfilled only 51.6 percent.

5. As of 1 September, the 1952 plan for tractor work had been fulfilled only 47.1 percent.

6. As of 1 September, the 1952 plan for hay mowing by MTS and MZHS had been fulfilled only 50 percent, that for ensilage storage only 75.7 percent.

One of the serious shortcomings of party organizations in kolkhoz supervision is the occurrence of kolkhoz charter violations in many kolkhozes of the republic. An investigation conducted by the TsK KP(b) of Armenia in spring 1952 disclosed charter violations and embezzlement of collective property in a considerable number of kolkhozes. Illegal acts uncovered were diversion of land and livestock by various organizations and persons and removal of kolkhoz products at reduced prices or without payment for them by various persons.

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