

FORM 1952

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION FROM  
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT   
CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY China

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952 - 1953

SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture, cotton production, state farms

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

DATE DIST. 15 Jun 1953

WHERE PUBLISHED China

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE PUBLISHED 20 Dec 1952 - 25 Feb 1953

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Chinese

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

STATE FARMS FAIL TO REACH GOALS FOR 1952 PRODUCTION OF COTTON

Summary: Two state farms near Peiping directly under control of the Ministry of Agriculture issued high production challenges to the nation in 1952 and then completely failed to attain their goals of from 450 to 1,000 cattles of cotton per mou (one mou equals 1/6 acre).

The first tractor station in the new China has aroused great enthusiasm among the farmers.

Shensi farmers have been getting irrigation systems in shape during the winter for big 1953 crops. The writer of a letter to a newspaper scores waste of funds needed in production.

STATE FARMS FAIL IN PRODUCTION -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 6 Feb 53

(Report by two staff reporters) In March 1952, the Shuang-chiao Mechanized Agricultural Institute Demonstration Farm and the Wu-li-tien State Farm, both controlled directly by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Central People's Government, took the lead in conjunction with ten other state farms in challenging the nation to high cotton production during 1952.

The Shuang-ch'iao farm set as its goal an over-all average production of 450 cattles of unginmed cotton per mou which was 52 percent over the 1951 production on the farm. A goal of 1,000 cattles of unginmed cotton per mou was set for a plot of 30 mou of specially cultivated land.

The Wu-li-tien farm advertised as its goal an average of 550 cattles of unginmed cotton per mou on 800 mou of irrigated land, or 156 percent over 1951 production. Its goal for production on 900 mou of nonirrigated land was 450 cattles of unginmed cotton per mou, 109 percent over 1951; and on 10 mou of special high production land the goal was 1,000 cattles per mou.

CLASSIFICATION		<u>RESTRICTED</u>		DISTRIBUTION								
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB										
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI										

RESTRICTED

At harvest time, the Shuang-ch'iao farm harvested only 258 catties of un-ginned cotton per mou as the average of both their general and special production plots. This was less by 38 catties per mou than the 1951 production. The production on the 30-mou demonstration plot was 508 catties, slightly over one-half the goal. The Wu-li-tien farm harvested 204 catties per mou on the 800 mou of irrigated land and 289 catties per mou on the 900 mou of nonirrigated land. The average production on this farm (including the special demonstration plot of 10 mou) was 228 catties of un-ginned cotton per mou, only 13 catties per mou over 1951.

What were the causes of these failures to reach the goals set, failures which made them a laughing stock to the individual farmers in the area who had better yields than in 1951?

Some said it was too close planting. However, the fields that had the thickest stand (up to 5,400 plants per mou) produced the best yields. The experience of individual farmers over a period of years in planting thicker stands also supports the idea that thicker planting is an advantage; the failure, then, must be attributed to methods of operation.

These methods of operation were as follows:

1. Fertilizer

The Wu-li-tien farm used as a basic fertilizer (preplanting) a mixture of 2,000 catties per mou of local manures mixed with earth, 150 catties of cottonseed cake, and 40 catties of lime. Later, 200 catties of cottonseed cake and 65 catties of lime phosphate per mou were added. These fertilizers contained 26 catties of nitrogen, 24 catties of phosphoric acid, and 17 catties of potassium oxide. Soviet practice calls for 31 catties of phosphoric acid per mou to produce 500-600 catties of un-ginned cotton per mou. The authorities at Wu-li-tien knew they were short on phosphoric acid which is necessary to insure timely ripening of cotton flowers and to prevent buds and bolls from dropping, but they did nothing about it. Also this lack resulted in delayed maturity and frost damage. Furthermore, the soil was not tested to discover its degree of receptiveness to each of the elements in the fertilizer. In connection with the application of follow-up fertilizer, there was failure to irrigate properly.

2. Irrigation

At the Wu-li-tien farm a policy of frequent light irrigation was announced, but in practice irrigation was too heavy and too late. On the Shuang-ch'iao farm the irrigation practice for uneven ground was very faulty.

3. Pruning and Topping

The two farms handled the pruning and topping processes improperly. They left too many main branches on the stems. When the rainy season came on these grew too rank and heavy.

4. Insect Pests

The farms were on guard against aphids and red spiders but made no preparation to deal with boll weevils which, consequently, took a very heavy toll.

5. General Failure

While it cannot be denied that 1952 was a difficult year weather-wise and that in some areas insects pests were more numerous than usual, it is apparent that had the advanced scientific knowledge and equipment available to

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

STAT

RESTRICTED

STAT

these farms been accompanied by a reasonable amount of common-sense planning on the part of those privileged to have these advantages, preparations would have been made to forestall the worst effects of weather and pest troubles.

6. Unconsidered Estimates

According to Fan Pao-kuei, chief of the production unit on the Shuang-ch'iao farm, the production challenges were issued without any real preparation, such as evaluation of all the factors involved, both favorable and unfavorable. Even the farm workmen called it only a flash-in-the-pan, idle boasting. At Wu-li-tien, the basis for setting a goal of 1,000 catties per mou for high production, was that since ch'ü Yao-li, an individual farmer in Shansi, had a goal of over 1,000 catties it would look bad for a state farm to have a smaller goal. However, they failed to study his methods or profit by his techniques.

7. Inefficiency and Non-Democratic Practices

Because the leaders announced their policies without explaining to the workers the principles behind the policies, there was a lack of mass enthusiasm. Hence, many of the operations required much more labor time than was required for the same operations by the neighboring individual farmers or mutual aid teams who did not have the benefit of modern equipment and scientific instruction. Little attention was paid to cost accounting. Many costs involved in the use of machines were not included in the final figures. In some of the operations, actual losses were suffered. The farms not only failed to make good on their challenges but were much less than an inspiring example in the community where they are supposed to set high standards of efficiency in production. Such failures must not be allowed to happen again.

FIRST TRACTOR STATION IN NEW CHINA -- Chiu-chiang, Hsin-nung-ts'un Pao, 25 Feb 53

In Sunkiang Province, Northeast China, there has appeared the first Tractor Station, called the Hua-ch'uan Tractor Station. In this station there are six tractors, four Soviet five-bottom plows and many other new style farm implements. They are specifically for the service of the nearby farmers.

The Tractor Station made written agreements with the farmers, guaranteeing to plow and harrow their fields. Last spring they plowed more than 6,000 mou. Now the 800 farming households of nine villages, knowing the advantages of the arrangement, on their own initiative, have organized and made a request that the tractors plow for them.

Tractor plowing proved to be fast and labor-saving. Last spring continued rains delayed plowing, but the farmers near the Tractor Station, instead of being later than usual, had their plowing done in half the usual time. In using a tractor to plow 3,600 mou of land there is saving of 760 man-days of labor and an equal saving of animal power. Expressed in another way, a tractor will plow 2 mou in 15 minutes while two men with two bullocks need a whole day to do the same amount of work with the old-style plow. Furthermore, the tractor pulling the five-bottom plow does a better job. All the land so plowed last year produced good crops.

The Hua-ch'uan Tractor Station is now planning to increase its work and during the next season to plow 30,000 mou so that all farmers of the surrounding villages can avail themselves of the service.

As the nation's industry expands, new China will have this sort of tractor station everywhere.

- 3 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED



STAT

SHENSI FARMERS PREPARE IRRIGATION CANALS FOR 1953 -- Sian, Ch'un-chung Jih-pao,  
20 Dec 52

In the first 15 days of November 1952, the peasants of western Shensi removed silt, levelled washouts, straightened banks, etc. on 314.24 kilometers of main and branch irrigation canals. Since the introduction, under the people's government, of modern equitable methods of water supply and control for irrigation, the peasants' interest in the upkeep of the irrigation system has remarkably increased. Winter wheat raisers now realize that to be able to irrigate their winter wheat in early spring they must put the irrigation system in order in winter.

Because of poor crops in 1952, in some areas the men sought winter employment away from home. Hence the women in these areas mobilized to take the places of their men in irrigation repair work. There was keen competition between the men and women on the job. In some cases, the women were able to move 2.8 cubic meters of earth each in one day. The men were thus roused to greater effort. Because of this competitive spirit, a job estimated to require 7 days was completed in 4 days.

CORRESPONDENT SCORES FARMER'S UNPROGRESSIVENESS -- Chiu-chiang, Hsin-nung-ts'un Pao, 25 Feb 53

[The following information is from a letter published in the "Letters From Our Readers" column.]

In a certain village there is a middle-class farmer who is unprogressive so far as agricultural production is concerned, and who is still very superstitious. Recently, at the time of a death in his family, the farmer invited Taoist priests to perform the funeral ceremonies. He hired two trumpeters, purchased pork, ceremonial paper money, and paper houses to be burned for the dead. He invited 22 priests to take part and they feasted in his home for 2 days. Altogether, he wasted 1,070,000 yuan.

If he had used this money for the purchase of fertilizer for his crops he could have purchased 10,700 catties of lime which could have been spread on 107 mou of land. This could have increased production by 87 catties of grain per mou, or a total increase for the 107 mou, sufficient to solve the problem of food and clothing for 13 people for a whole year.

Furthermore, the 22 priests wasted 44 man-days of labor. Such waste of money and of labor is a great hindrance to the movement for increased agricultural production.

- E N D -

- 4 -

RESTRICTED