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SOURCE Jen-min Jih-pao

AGRICULTURAL STATION IN KIRIN REPORTS SUCCESSES;
WORK TEAMS HELP FARMERS IN SHENSI

Summary: The Huai-te Agricultural Technical Demonstration Station in Kirin reported that its achievements during spring cultivation included improved techniques employed in planting and seed selection methods, fertilizer application, insect control, and conversion of farming equipment.

The Northwest Agricultural and Forestry Bureau organized two work teams to instruct the farmers in the use and care of new type farm equipment.

SPRING CULTIVATION ACHIEVEMENTS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 26 Jul 53

Good results obtained during spring cultivation in the Huai-te Agricultural Technical Demonstration Station in Kirin included expanding the use of new-type farm equipment and developing agricultural skills. In four ch'u under its supervision, the station stimulated the farmers to use new-type horse-drawn equipment, initiated advanced techniques, changed from ridge planting to level planting, and adopted close-planting for millet and soybeans on 680.92 hectares of land.

In drought prevention work, harrowing and rolling were carried out. Compared to 1952, sowing was completed 10 days ahead of schedule. Seed selection methods were used with soybeans, millet, kaoliang, and corn. Experiments were conducted in seed sprouting that resulted in a sprouting rate of better than 95 percent. With the mutual aid team as the basic unit, 35 hectares of land were set aside to grow improved seeds with the goal of raising the pure seed level above 95 percent.

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In insect control and plant disease prevention activities, the demonstration station circulated ten manually operated seed-chemical mixers among the village for seed disinfection. For wheat, 0.002 strength Sa-li-san was mixed with the seed; 0.003 strength Sa-li-san was mixed with kaoliang and millet seeds. The millet seeds were also rinsed five times in clear water. It is hoped that in 1953 kaoliang smut will be reduced to 5 percent (the 1952 disease rate was about 13 percent). Millet smut and pai-fa [white hair disease] must be reduced from the 10 percent rate of 1952 to 4 percent in 1953.

To exterminate aphids, emperor moths, chafers, and ch'ang-chuang-hsiang [stick-like insects], experiments using lead arsenate, "1605" arsenic, and soluble "666" powder will be conducted in key areas.

Achievements have also been made in the accumulation of manure. Besides using a soil-manure mixture, the farmers also used dried nightsoil and flue ashes. Chien-shan-tzu Ts'un has 1,350 hectares of cultivated land; in 1952, only 50 percent of this land was fertilized, but in 1953, 73.7 percent was fertilized. The Wang Wen-yung Agricultural Production Cooperative was operating only six carts per day, but within one month more than 2,700 [sic] carts of manure were brought in from Fan-chia-t'un, Ch'ang-ch'un, and other areas, resulting in 100 percent basic fertilization of the cooperative's cultivated land. The station also stimulated the farmers to use 33,000 cattles of granular type commercial fertilizer and 300 cattles of phosphate of lime.

The Hwai-te Agricultural Technical Demonstration Station considered the expansion and development of the use of new equipment and of new techniques as its main responsibility. Consequently, six disc-type 10-row seeders and three shoe-type 12-row seeders were converted in such a manner that wider seed furrows for all types of crops became possible. Fertilizer was applied immediately after completion of sowing; and 82 items of old farming implements such as plows, hand seeders, etc., were adapted to wider furrows. Using this type of equipment, the Wang Wen-yung Agricultural Production Cooperative, together with two others, was able to plant over 100 hectares of all types of crops including kaoliang and millet, and also applied more than 20,000 cattles of granular type commercial fertilizer mixed with the seed and over 6,000 cattles of dried nightsoil.

Prior to spring cultivation, the Hwai-te Agricultural Technical Demonstration Station conducted short-term training courses for over 90 activists, Youth Corps members, and other young people. They studied several important skills such as plowing, harrowing, seeding, and rolling. After the training period, these people returned to the villages and became the nucleus of a well-organized and well-led program.

During spring cultivation, all planned goals were fulfilled. For example, the Chang Chan-k'uei Agricultural Production Cooperative had originally planned to cultivate 20 hectares of land, but by using horse-drawn equipment, 26 hectares were worked.

NORTHWEST AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY BUREAU AIDS FARMERS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 26 Jul 53

In the latter part of April 1953, the Northwest Agricultural and Forestry Bureau organized a group of 31 technicians (including eight skilled cadres and 23 farm-equipment craftsmen) into two roving work teams. The teams assisted the farmers of the Pao-chi and Wei-nan Special Administrative Districts of Shensi in the repair, maintenance, and use of new type farming equipment. In approximately one month's time, the two teams repaired 1,002 walking plows, 13 pumps, 13 sprayers, and serviced 17 new-type plows. They also instructed 39 carpenters in the repair and maintenance of farm equipment.

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In the past, there were certain problems in the use of new-type farming equipment. The farmers in many areas of Shensi did not know how to use, repair, or service the equipment. But with the organization of the roving work teams, there was systematic instruction and publicizing of the advantages in the use of new-type equipment. Key areas were selected for instruction of the farmers. In the Pao-chi Special Administrative District, two hsiangs -- Han-ts'un and Hsiao-ts'un -- were selected as centers.

In 1952, when the new-type walking plows were introduced, these two hsiangs were appraised on the basis of the number of mutual aid teams and the area of cultivated land (one plow for each 40 mou of land), and the two hsiangs were given a total of 509 plows. However, of the whole amount only six plows were actually useable. This year, after the work teams arrived in the two hsiangs, meetings and instruction courses on the repair and use of new-type equipment were held, and no plow was used until it was in good condition.

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