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GHEORGHIU-DEJ ANALYZES AGRICULTURAL SITUATIONLupta de Clasa
Bucharest, Jun 1953Collectives

The plenary session of 3-5 March 1949 of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers Party outlined the historical duty of the socialist transformation of agriculture. Since that time, the party, the people's democratic state, and the Rumanian people have achieved important successes in this direction. More than 280,000 peasant families have united in 1,960 collectives and 2,000 TOZ (agricultural cooperatives). State farms, collectives, and TOZ cover almost one quarter of the entire arable area of the country. The average production per hectare of many collectives and TOZ has exceeded that of individual farmers by 25-50 percent. This fully proves the superiority of collective agriculture on large areas of land with mechanized equipment and scientific methods, over farming narrow strips of land with backward means and methods.

Many collectives have been strengthened economically. They have started to introduce advanced cultivation methods, to use natural resources increasingly for irrigation and soil improvement, to increase animal raising and other branches of agricultural production, and to build intensively. A large number of such collectives thus have become models for attracting individual working peasants to collectivization. They have become living examples of the meaning of socialist agriculture and large farming.

For example, the 16 Februarie Collective, Mizil Raion, Ploesti Regiune, had a much larger harvest in 1952 than its individual peasant neighbors. The collective harvested 2,200 kilograms of wheat per hectare, compared to 850 kilograms at individual farms; 1,350 kilograms of corn per hectare, compared to 800 kilograms at individual farms; 1,150 kilograms of sunflower seed per hectare, compared to 300 kilograms at individual farms; and 30,000 kilograms of fodder beet per hectare, compared to 8,000 kilograms at individual farms. Besides soil cultivation, the collective also developed other branches of agriculture. At present it has 370 sheep, 72 lambs, 17 hogs, 200 fowls, and 320 young chicks; this is a very good beginning. As a result, the collectivists had a large income. For example, collectivist Savu Patria and three members of his family worked 500 workdays; he received 1,700 kilograms of wheat, 1,650 kilograms of corn, 500 kilograms of sunflower seed, 500 kilograms of barley, 2,500 kilograms of fodder beets, 2,500 kilograms of hay and lucerne, and 4,000 lei in cash. It must be said that the members of the 16 Februarie Collective not only are hard-working men, but also are anxious to learn. Many of them regularly attended agricultural courses. Here is a truly good example for other collectives and an indication of the road for individual peasants to follow.

Many collectives also constructed large buildings on their farms. For example, a collective in Valea-Rosie, Bucharest Regiune, constructed a grain storehouse for 600 tons of grain, a stable for 50 animals, 3 sheds, 2 workshops, and a poultry house for 1,000 fowls. Local material was largely used for these buildings.

The Palazul-Mare Collective, Constanta Regiune, gave special attention to animal raising and now has 50 cows, 450 sheep, 100 hogs, and 700 fowls, which represent considerable wealth and an important source of revenue for the collectivists.

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What is the explanation for the success of collectives? It is the good organization of labor by permanent brigades, completion of agricultural preparations and work on time, observance of agricultural standards, and the fruitful political activity of primary party organizations. Kolkhoz delegations from the Soviet Union gave collectives important assistance in organizing labor. Soviet technicians and agronomists visited Rumania and gave the young collectives valuable advice acquired from their own experience.

The results obtained by collectives have a strong influence on working peasants with individual farms; in 1952 alone, 44,000 peasants joined collectives by their own free choice and another 42,000 peasants in over 3,000 villages filed requests to form new collectives. TOZ have demonstrated their power to convince the peasants and educate them in collective work. In raions where party and state agencies devote sufficient attention to TOZ, 5-8 times as many TOZ have been formed so far in 1953 as in all of 1952. There are more than 21,000 requests from 1,404 villages to form new TOZ. The correctness of the party line was again confirmed by the transformation of 218 TOZ into collectives at the request of their members. The foregoing proves that an ever-larger number of small and medium farmers are accepting the idea of belonging to TOZ and collectives, where collaboration and mutual assistance are practiced, advanced technical methods are used, and a better life is being created. Most of the individual peasants have improved their standard of living, but they cannot rid themselves of the difficulties encountered by the small producer. These small farms cannot ensure increased production or, in bad years, even normal production. Medium peasants are becoming aware of this fact. Their situation has improved considerably since their days under landlords and kulak exploitation, and they are joining collectives and TOZ.

It is important to notice that poor and medium peasants have become aware of their position in respect to kulaks. These peasants now realize that the working peasant is united with the working class, which is the leading class in the people's democratic state. In recent years, despite the shortcomings of some party and state activists and mistakes committed by them, a more concrete and realistic attitude has been adopted by medium peasants toward kulaks, the exploiters of the peasantry. As a result, the political party line was applied more firmly in restricting kulak exploitation. The class struggle in villages is becoming increasingly sharper. Transformation in agriculture, according to the teachings of Stalin, takes place inside and outside the collective despite the efforts of the enemy to infiltrate into collectives.

For example, alarming news came from the Fratesti Collective, Bucharest Region, over a period of time. There were signs of criminal negligence of public property. This resulted in such regrettable incidents as the spoiling of carloads of fodder. A careful investigation disclosed that the management council of the collective consisted of undesirable elements and that the chairman of the collective was an enemy, a legionnaire, who maintained close relations with kulaks. He hated the collective and tried to destroy it. Similar situations were also discovered in other places.

Collectives are a socialist form of organizing production, but the most important individual in the collective is the chairman. We must see that honest workers lead and manage collectives and TOZ, men who are attached heart and soul to the people's democratic regime and the socialist cause. The strengthening of collectives and TOZ and their intensified ties to individual working peasants lead to the isolation of kulaks from the large peasant masses, and to the strengthening of the fight waged by working peasants against kulaks. The development of class struggle in villages in Rumania in the last 4 years fully confirms the correctness of the line proclaimed by the plenary session of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers Party in March 1949.

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 MIS

MIS have an important organizational role in the socialist transformation of agriculture. MIS contributed to the creation of TOZ and collectives and to the rich harvests obtained by these units. Many MIS proved to be real organizers of production at collectives and TOZ. Investments in MIS have been greatly increased in 1953, as compared to 1952.

There are at present 218 MIS in Rumania with a total of 9,650 tractors and more than 25,000 agricultural machines, besides the 4,400 tractors at state farms. MIS are serviced by 114 repair shops and 19 regiune mechanical centers.

The removal of the old, defective system of wages and the introduction of the new socialist wage and incentive system are a powerful stimulus for tractor operators and other technicians and workers at MIS. Charges to collectives and TOZ for work done by MIS have been reduced. As a result of the measures taken, MIS tractors performed four times as much work in the spring of 1953 as in the spring of 1952. Tractor operators are now introducing new services in the fields, including mechanical sowing and cultivation.

Despite the successes obtained, there are still many serious shortcomings in the building of socialism in villages. In the past, the major trouble was caused by the counter-revolutionary action of rightist deviationists who carried on a policy of protection of capitalist elements in villages, to the detriment of medium and small farmers. They permitted the infiltration, into collectives, of kulaks plotting to destroy the collectives from within and to discredit them in the eyes of individual peasants. These deviationists forced peasants to disregard the principle of free consent, thus hurting the alliance between the working class and the peasants. They also caused damages of billions of lei (old currency) to MIS and state farms.

After a year of intensive effort, MIS started on the road to consolidation; 602 new collectives were created and the number of TOZ increased by 1,121. More than 3,000 kulaks who had infiltrated into collectives were unmasked and evicted.

Class Struggle

The meaning of the fight waged against those who attempted to divert our party from the Lenin-Stalin road is more evident now than ever before. There is no doubt that our entire advance toward socialism would have been hampered if this fight had not been launched on time. The principle of free consent and the joining of collectives or TOZ by free choice is the fundamental Lenin-Stalin principle in the socialist transformation of agriculture. Only the peasants' profound conviction of the great advantages of collective farming can serve as a basis for the creation of truly lasting collectives.

Disregarding the party line only helps kulaks and other class enemies who try to discredit the idea of socialist transformation of agriculture and to break up the worker-peasant alliance which is the basis of the people's power. What kind of collective can result when doubting people are herded into it at random, not convinced of the advantages of collective farming and constantly looking back to their small strips of land? Such collectives are destined to fall apart from the beginning, because in such circumstances it is easy for a kulak to use his tricks.

The switch from the old capitalist order to the new socialist order constitutes a profound revolution in the life of the peasants. Men lived the way their ancestors lived; for years they trod the old capitalist track. Now they are suddenly shown a new way, the way of collective farming. Such a step is not easy to

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take. That is why patient enlightenment must be pursued, why such things as conditions in villages, class relations, and the machinations of kulaks must be studied. On the basis of this study, we can combat evil, and we can overcome all doubts and questions and remove enemy influence through patient persuasion and convincing examples and arguments. Unfortunately, this method is not to the liking of some activists who prefer "strong methods." The peasant needs time to become convinced; he must see the advantages of collective farming with his own eyes. What working peasant does not desire a better and richer life, with more education for himself and his family? The peasant is not satisfied with words; no matter how nice they may be, he wants proofs. Such proofs exist and are quite numerous, but they must become known to all peasants.

If, for example, roads separating the more than 23 million lots of peasant land were converted into productive areas by collectives and TOZ, agriculture would obtain an additional 200,000 hectares of arable land. This area, now covered with weeds could produce more than 200,000 tons of wheat or corn; 160,000 tons of sunflower seed; or 3.3 million tons of sugar beets, equal to 2 years' sugar production at present.

A large number of collectives and TOZ came into being in the last few years. They have become a powerful incentive for every peasant who visits them. The 1,000 Rumanian peasants who visited the Soviet Union from 1949 to 1953 played an important role in the creation and strengthening of collectives in Rumania, because they saw Soviet kolkhozes and became convinced that only collective farming can lead to a plentiful and happy life.

We must draw attention to the unfair attitude which recently has appeared among leading collectivists; namely, their reluctance to accept new members in collectives on the ground that these applicants should have joined collectives from the beginning. This attitude isolates the collectivists from individual peasants, whom they drive away instead of befriending. Such an attitude pleases the kulaks, who in turn try to influence individual peasants to keep away from collectives.

TOZ

Kulaks know that when every working peasant has joined a collective or TOZ, the possibility of exploiting peasants will no longer exist and the liquidation of kulaks as a class will be at hand. That is why kulaks try by every means at their disposal to isolate individual peasants from collective members, and try to prevent them from following the good example of socialist farming. The fact that some working peasants did not join collectives and TOZ from the beginning should not be a reason to reject them now. On the contrary, we must intensify political work among them; we must convince them with new proof. Frequently, party organizations, party members, and collectivists who continue their persuasion with perseverance and patience finally succeed in convincing even the most stubborn to join collectives. Some of these new members become good workers and even collective leaders. This fact demonstrates that only patient enlightenment will give good results. In the organization of collectives, special attention should be given the wives of individual peasants.

In many instances, TOZ are not considered sufficiently important by party and state activists. The TOZ is a form of collective production unit for the peasants who have not yet definitely decided to take the final step into a collective, but who do see the advantages of tilling large areas of land with mechanized equipment and want to try out this method. The increasing number of peasants who apply for membership in TOZ proves how unfounded the attitude of these activists is.

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A further dangerous tendency is spreading among political activists. Once they have convinced peasants to join collectives or TOZ, they do not follow up their activity. Peasants are expected to carry out their intentions and set up collectives and TOZ with no further guidance or help. This attitude is destructive and opportunist. Party organizations and executive committees of people's councils must stand by at all times and not only help in the formation of TOZ and collectives, but continue to remain in touch with these units and guide them in their development and effort. Some party and state agencies become complacent and think they have done their duty once peasants are convinced to unite in collectives and TOZ. Party and state agents must give every day and every hour to this activity. Each success that has been obtained must be consolidated, and new achievements must be encouraged.

Mechanization

Some MTS do not act as production organizers in collectives; they do not help collectives sufficiently to adopt and apply Soviet agricultural methods and experience. MTS must always assign the same technicians and tractor operator brigades to one collective to obtain the best collaboration between tractor brigades and field brigades. The specific conditions of the soil at collectives and TOZ are not sufficiently studied and known by MTS operators because this rule is not observed. There are still many cases of indifference to public property -- loss of implements and tools, deterioration of machines, and even theft of parts -- because tractor operators are not held responsible. A further important problem is the full use of MTS machines. There also are many cases where the K D 35 tractor, for example, is used at only 50 percent of its capacity because machine couplings are not set up to use its full power.

The concern for the material and cultural needs of MTS workers has not been given enough attention by MTS managements and by the Ministry of Agriculture. The party and the government consider MTS as nuclei of socialism in villages. MTS must honorably fulfill their duties and responsibilities.

Collective Statute

Special attention should be devoted to the application of the new collective statute. Since the statute, an extensively debated one, has been adopted, we must emphasize a few principles which form its basis.

What is the source of strength and endurance of a collective? No doubt it is common ownership. The creation and consolidation of common ownership is the main object of collectives. The greatest successes in the economic and organizational strengthening of collectives and in the increase of their revenue were obtained by the collectives which expanded the common ownership and turned to animal raising and other branches of agriculture in addition to the raising of grain. For example, the Olga Bancic Collective, Constanta Regiune, had a good harvest and earned more than 200,000 lei from the sale of animal products alone. Many of its members were able to build new homes, to buy cows for their own use, and to buy radios, bicycles, etc.

The statute also points out that personal interests of collective members are in harmony with the common interests of the collectives. This means that the income of every collectivist, derived from his workdays, increases with the growth of the collective's common property. Work within the collective is the main concern of every member. Personal farming is merely an auxiliary factor adding to the income derived from the collective work.

The collective, which is a farm including hundreds of families, can be managed only on the basis of a plan. Plans are drawn up by the management to expand a collective, with the aid of people's agronomists councils and of MTS technicians;

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they are discussed and approved by the general meeting of the members. There are still some cases, however, where plans are drawn up without the participation of collectivists, where the potentials of the collective are neglected, where the use of local resources is not provided for, or where plans are issued from an office of the committee of the raion party organization or the raion people's council without consulting the collectivists. Such bureaucratic practices lead to serious mistakes. For example, at the Ianca Collective, large quotas were planned for animal raising but the fodder supply was overlooked.

A problem of greatest importance for the consolidation and development of a collective is the constant increase of its basic fund. The basic fund is the mirror clearly reflecting the over-all progress of the collective. The total basic funds of collectives throughout the country amount to 230 million lei, a 60 percent increase in one year -- sufficient proof of the expansion of collectives in Rumania. Most collectives increase their basic fund from year to year. It must be said, however, that some collectives tend to distribute the entire income of the collective and do not withhold a portion for the basic fund. Naturally, such a practice cannot lead to prosperity.

One of the most important principles that must be introduced into collectives is the principle of personal responsibility. The entire organization must be streamlined to permit at all times the determination of good or poor workers and the discovery of those deserving credit for positive results and those guilty of negligence.

The statute adopted by the Party Congress stresses that the permanent brigade is the principal unit of labor organization. In some collectives, however, brigades are set up and changed every year; they are reorganized at the beginning of each agricultural campaign. This practice is in contradiction with the basic organizational principle of the collective. Each brigade must be permanent and must be responsible for the portion of land entrusted to it for the duration of the crop period.

Socialist competition has proven successful in mobilizing and organizing labor at collectives. It has been adopted only recently, but has already stimulated thousands of collectivists to fight with enthusiasm for the strengthening of the collective, for an increase in labor productivity, and for the introduction of advanced methods -- especially Soviet methods. Socialist competition has brought to the forefront leaders in the fight for rich harvests and for large productivity in animal raising. It has revealed collectivists with initiative, with organizational talents, and with farming skill -- men such as Petre Dragoescu and Alexandru Aron, chairmen of collectives; brigade leader Aur Baicu and Ludovic Varga; leading milker Gheorghe Ardeleanu; leader in field labor Stefan Simion; and others.

Despite these successes, it must be recognized that party, state, and agricultural agencies and management councils do not fulfill their duties satisfactorily. They do not develop agricultural technicians and other trained personnel. They do not encourage progress or promote new methods.

Internal democracy is the basic organizational principle in the management and operation of collectives. In most collectives, correct management and labor organization methods of the party have been applied. There are, however, some collectives where general meetings are not called, reports are not presented at regular intervals, daily problems of the collective are not solved, and all matters are decided by the administration or the chairman. Such infringements of the statute are not permissible and must be eliminated.

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The application of democratic principles calls for the promotion of the most reliable collective members, men, women, and youths to leading positions. In collectives there are women who fill responsible positions with honor and skill. For example, Maria Zidaru and Maria Buciuceanu are chairmen of collectives. Lucretia Ilinca is a leading milker, and Marina Cristea is caretaker of a poultry farm. There are still party activists, however, who do not understand the teachings of Stalin with regard to the role of women and youths in collectives.

Production

The fact that industry produces and supplies agriculture every year with increasing numbers of such items as tractors, agricultural machines, construction materials, fertilizer, and means of transportation is of greatest significance. Industry supplies rural areas with industrial consumer goods, such as fabrics, clothing, footwear, household appliances, and others. In turn, agriculture must supply industry with vegetable and animal raw materials, and the urban population with food.

In the present phase of economic development, industrial production in Rumania has tripled its volume in only 4 years, while agricultural production has remained considerably behind because of the poor production of individual farms. Small and medium farms occupy most of the agricultural land in Rumania. About 70-75 percent of the entire grain production of the country comes from individual peasants. This is shown by the following table:

Production of Marketable Grain and Kernel Vegetables

	1950		1951		1952	
	Tons	Percent	Tons	Percent	Tons	Percent
Total	2,528,519	100	4,304,726	100	2,960,207	100
Total Socialist Sector	208,740	8.3	403,149	9.4	442,694	15.0
State Farms	201,720	8.0	343,988	8.0	289,598	9.8
Collectives	7,020	0.3	59,161	1.4	117,545	4.0
TOZ	--	--	--	--	35,551	1.2
Working peasants	1,885,980	74.5	3,210,998	74.6	2,152,425	72.7
Kulaks	133,799	17.2	690,579	16.0	365,088	12.3

The data regarding the socialist sector refer to the production of grain from 9.21 percent of the total arable surface of the country in 1950, 12.31 percent in 1951, and 17.39 percent in 1952. The percentages are constantly changing as a result of the creation of new TOZ and collectives. The production of grain and kernel vegetables is still unsatisfactory, even though the average production per hectare at many state farms, collectives, and TOZ considerably exceeds the average harvests of individual farms. How is this explained? The production of marketable grain and kernel vegetables in the socialist agricultural sector fell behind scheduled quotas in part because socialist agriculture had to concentrate

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on an increasingly larger production of industrial and food plants, such as cotton, flax, hemp, and sugar beets, to supply the working class and the processing industry. For example, 21.4 percent of the area planted to cotton and more than 24 percent of the total area of quality vineyards are situated in the socialist sector, in addition to special planting intended for choice seeds and saplings for vineyards and orchards. The major portion of these areas is, therefore, oriented towards intensive planting.

Another cause for the unsatisfactory production of grain in the socialist sector is the fact that state farms formerly operated over areas divided into thousands of small plots, often of fewer than 10 hectares, and many of them kilometers apart. Before consolidation of state farm land in 1952, state farms were divided into more than 17,000 plots.

Equipment, Labor

The equipment of state farms is still below the level required by advanced agricultural rules. Combines and machines for cultivation and harvesting are lacking. Hand labor is still practiced on a large scale. These deficiencies result in insufficient manpower and cause great harvest losses, because crops remain too long in the fields. Moreover, corn, industrial plants, and fodder plants suffered from the drought in Constanta, Galati, Bucharest, and Timisoara regions, where about 50 percent of the total arable land of state farms is located.

Collectives still produce far less grain than their potential permits. The cause must be sought in the economic and organizational shortcomings still prevailing at many collectives, such as poor labor organization, inefficient functioning of permanent brigades, inefficient utilization of mechanized equipment, and slow expansion of the common property. Collectives have unlimited possibilities for increasing agricultural production. For maximum use of the advantages created by social agriculture, constant attention must be given to the strengthening of the collective. Every collective chairman, every member of the management council of a collective, and every collectivist must clearly understand that the production of marketable grain is the index of the strength of the collective and of the quality of its work, and at the same time is an important factor in the increase of income for all.

In 1953, the area cultivated in the socialist sector has reached 24.7 percent of the total arable land of the country, as against 17.39 percent in 1952. Favorable climatic conditions also have contributed to a better harvest. A much larger production can, therefore, be expected in the socialist sector in 1953.

The living conditions of working peasants who had little or no land have been improved since the distribution of land to peasants by the democratic agrarian reform of 1945. In addition, the state has supplied the peasants with tools, selected seeds, and cheap credits to buy cattle. Socialism does not mean ruin and destruction for small and medium farmers; on the contrary, with the aid of the people's democratic state, the peasants raise their standard of living and education. Working peasants are guided toward large socialized farms which ultimately will save them from poverty and hardship.

Our party must intensify assistance to poor and medium farmers to raise their level of training, their labor productivity, and the volume and quality of their harvests. A decree for economic assistance to peasants was strictly applied by the party and the government. Small and medium farms could considerably increase productivity per hectare. Individual peasants must achieve better results from the soil in their own interest and in the interest of the country. They can and must obtain increased production. Individual peasants can raise the yield per hectare by at least 25 percent within a few years, as neighboring democracies have done.

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At present, the problem of raising agricultural production and of obtaining greater quantities of marketable grain is of the greatest importance to Rumania's advancement toward socialism. A solution to this problem would bring greater supplies to the urban population and increase the raising of industrial plants.

The 1948 census shows that the Rumanian population increased to 16 million. If the population continues to increase at the same rate, it will reach approximately 18-18.5 million in 1960. A vast increase in population in cities and industrial centers is taking place as a result of migration of working people from villages to towns and industrial centers. According to demographic statistics, the population in cities and industrial centers grew from 3.2 million in 1948 to 5.5 million at the beginning of 1953, and is expected to reach 7 million in cities and industrial centers by the end of 1960.

The development of our socialist industry, the growth of the population of the country in general, and the growth of the working population in cities and industrial centers necessitate the expansion of agricultural production, to satisfy industry's requirements for raw materials and the constantly increasing needs of the population for consumer goods.

Agricultural Expansion

The problem of agricultural expansion and of grain production has become a concern of the state and the entire country. The socialist agricultural sector must be gradually enlarged and the yield per hectare must be considerably increased each year. State farms which now include more than 1.2 million hectares, will be able to consolidate and expand to 1.5 million hectares in the next few years by such measures as the acquisition of new land, the clearing of wooded areas, and soil reclamation. We expect the country to have 10 million hectares of arable land, including 6,850,000 hectares of grain fields.

The following average annual yields per hectare for the whole country will be reached in the next few years through the expansion of the socialist agricultural sector and through better working of the soil: fall wheat, about 1,500 kilograms; corn, about 1,800 kilograms; barley, about 1,500 kilograms; and oats, about 1,400 kilograms.

According to the foregoing figures, we expect to plant 6,850,000 hectares of grain, yielding about 10 million tons of grain annually during the second Five-Year Plan, as against 6-7 million tons obtained at present. The increase in grain production will be possible by establishing irrigation systems along the Danube, the Siret, and the Pruth rivers, and by the extension of irrigation along the Crisu, Mures, and Olt rivers. Methods used to solve the grain problem will help expand the development of industrial crops in areas which offer the best growing conditions.

Rumania has favorable climatic conditions for the cultivation of cotton. The cultivation of cotton must be extended to 300,000 hectares, with an annual yield of 1,100-1,200 kilograms per hectare of irrigated land and 600-700 kilograms per hectare of nonirrigated soil, as against the 400-450 kilograms per hectare total yield obtained at present. The quality of cotton must be improved and the length of the threads must be increased. The full supply of raw materials to our textile industry during the second Five-Year Plan must be satisfied from domestic production, and export surpluses must be created.

We must increase sugar beet planting from about 100,000 hectares in 1952 to 130,000 hectares, with an annual yield of 18,000-20,000 kilograms of sugar beets per hectare and a total annual production of about 2.5 million tons. This will result in more than 300,000 tons of sugar.

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The annual yield of sunflower seeds must be increased to 1,100-1,200 kilograms per hectare, thus enabling us to harvest about 450,000 tons of seeds from 380,000 hectares. This will yield at least 100,000 tons of oil annually during the second Five-Year Plan.

Potatoes will be planted on 270,000 hectares in the next few years. About 3.2 million tons of potatoes will be produced for central stockpiles, as against 2,250,000 tons in 1952. The increased production will fully satisfy the needs of the population and the demand for raw material in industry.

Rumania is known as one of the great European producers of grapes, wines and fruit. In the next few years, we must take full advantage of present favorable conditions to increase fruit, grape, and wine production, particularly of high-quality types. To achieve this, we must eliminate the serious shortcomings now prevailing in the Ministry of Agriculture, and must combat hostile elements in viticulture and orchards. Immediate steps should also be taken to improve conditions of low-grade, neglected vineyards, to replace old vines, and to plant additional vines and young fruit trees. Measures must be taken to increase the production of grapes at state farms and to encourage the cultivation of vineyards and orchards at collectives and TOZ.

Animal Husbandry

An increase in animal raising in the future depends upon greater grain and fodder production. Attention must be devoted to the expansion and improvement of fodder areas and pastures, the gradual increase of livestock inventories, and the improvement of present types of livestock.

The second Five-Year Plan, based on the accomplishment of these aims, provides for 5.5 million bovines, 15-16 million sheep (including 6.5-7 million with fine and semifine wool), and 4.6 million hogs.

Special attention should be devoted to the creation and consolidation of state stock farms, so that these farms may become large producers of meat, leather, wool, milk, and dairy products. Sheep flocks must be increased and the quality of wool improved. The number of sheep with fine and semifine wool thus will be increased from 2 million in 1953 to about 6.5-7 million in the next few years. The annual yield of fine wool will increase to 2.5-3 kilograms per sheep, and of semifine wool to 1.8-2 kilograms per sheep. This objective can be attained if state farms and collectives retain all lambs with fine and semifine wool for reproduction or as wethers. State farms can give lambs with fine and semifine wool to sheep-raising collectives and TOZ in exchange for meat animals. The state will grant collectives credits to build sheds and stables, and will give special advantages in the form of higher prices and a supply of industrial wool products to aid working peasants who raise sheep with fine and semifine wool. Individual peasants growing sheep with coarse wool should be encouraged to improve the quality of the wool through breeding. Exemptions from milk quota deliveries should be granted to peasants who raise sheep with fine wool and who deliver their full quotas of wool.

Fodder-growing areas must be increased to 1.3 million hectares, including 1.2 million hectares of perennial and annual grasses, as against 30,000 hectares in 1952, to ensure the necessary fodder for the increased number of animals planned for 1958-1960. The annual yield of fodder plants must be raised to at least 4,500 kilograms per hectare for perennial grasses, 3,000 kilograms per hectare for annual grasses, and 23,000-24,000 kilograms per hectare for root fodder.

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The fulfillment of this plan in animal raising will enable us to increase the supply of meat and meat products, milk, and dairy products for the working people. The expansion of fodder area also will enable us to increase the present inventory of horses by 30 percent.

Aims

Rumanian agriculture has the following four aims for the next few years:

1. Mechanization of Agriculture

Existing MTS must be further consolidated and new MTS must be created. Production per hectare and animal productivity must be increased. Labor in collectives must be gradually mechanized; MTS will be equipped with new tractors and machines for this purpose. An additional 250 MTS will be created by the fall of 1954, adding to their inventory 12,500 tractors and tractor-driven machines. MTS will have a total of 35,000-40,000 tractors and other agricultural machines; which will ensure fully mechanized work in the socialist sector.

Our industry must increase its manufacture of spare parts and motors through the expansion of existing plants and the creation of new factories to keep the growing tractor and machine fleet in constant operation. The Ministry of Agriculture must also take measures to expand and complete existing repair shops and to create new shops that will ensure the repair and maintenance of tractors and machines of MTS and state farms. State farms will be equipped with machines and combines for heavy agricultural field work.

The Ministry of Agriculture will provide the Institute of Agricultural Mechanization and Electrification with machines, laboratories, and prototype shops to correlate its activities with the needs of state farms, collectives, and TOZ. The Institute of Agricultural Mechanization and Electrification must assist MTS and state farms in the introduction of machines and electricity in agriculture, and issue instructions for the best use of tractors and combines.

The Ministry of Agriculture will take measures to strengthen the organizational role of MTS in production at collectives and TOZ. Executive committees of people's councils, the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, and the Ministry of Agriculture will draw up plans and recommendations for the development of agriculture and submit them for approval to the Council of Ministry by 1 March 1954.

2. Intensification of Agitation to Recruit and Train Personnel for Socialist Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Higher Education must see that technical, intermediate, and higher cadres are trained at a higher level. Not only agricultural technicians, veterinarians, and animal-raising experts are needed, but also mechanics, viticulturists, pomiculturists, vegetable experts, and forestry experts, with intermediate and higher training. We must prepare an increasingly larger number of tractor operators, combine operators, agricultural mechanics, brigade leaders, bookkeepers, and chairmen of collectives, who must be given a much higher professional and practical education. Collectives must enjoy the services of experts in agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture must provide its higher educational institutions and its intermediate schools with basic and practical agricultural information, so that graduates from such schools may be thoroughly prepared technically and professionally in accordance with the needs for guidance and organization in agricultural production.

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The teaching body in higher and intermediate technical agricultural schools must relate its scientific activity to research done at experimental and research stations and to actual agricultural experience at state farms and collectives. Teachers thereby can permanently raise their professional qualifications and contribute to the increase in production in our socialist agriculture.

3. Constant Improvement of Scientific Activity in the Agricultural Domain

As regards the activity of scientific research institutes in agriculture, Traian Savulescu, chairman of the Academy of the Rumanian People's Republic and director of the Agricultural Research Institute, has reported extensively to the Congress of Leaders of Collectives.

Actually, agricultural scientists who have had considerable success in their scientific research relate their activity to practical requirements more and more closely. Of course, in this respect scientists still have a long way to go to make their assistance more effective in the solution of all major problems of socialist agriculture. New and able people have been trained in the field of agricultural science. Valuable scientists who formerly were unknown to our people have come to the forefront. Rudolf Palocsay, for example, has created new types of fruit, vegetables, flowers, and other plants.

Young, capable, deserving persons must be encouraged to enter scientific agricultural research to best serve our country. The party and the government devotes constant attention to scientists and to scientific research as applied to the socialist transformation of agriculture. This attention will be increased even more in the future. To make the best use of the results obtained by the institutes of scientific agricultural research and to ensure improved conditions for scientists in agricultural research, the Ministry of Agriculture will take measures to provide these institutions with personnel, machines, and laboratories.

The Ministry of Agriculture must include in its plan of action for the coming years the problem of creating and endowing new agricultural research institutes for cotton, viticulture, pomiculture, and vegetable gardening. The Institute of Pastures and Hay will be created to study the use of marshes and pastures, especially in steppes and semisteppes, for fodder raising. The creation of an Academy of Agricultural Science must be studied in connection with the directing and guiding of scientific research. Scientists in research institutes, at experimental stations, and in the future academy must concentrate their activity on the actual problems of work at collectives, state farms, and TOZ. They must be able to answer the problems raised by practical agriculture and must devote all their skill to the scientific solution of problems arising from the socialist transformation of agriculture. They must teach field laborers new and advanced agricultural methods to obtain the largest and best yields.

4. The Strengthening and Expansion of Collectives and TOZ

Every collectivist must take care of common property -- the soil, animals, building, plants, and products; he must work with diligence for their constant improvement. Nobody has the right to damage collective property. All collectives must create and develop branches of agricultural production for the full utilization of natural resources, through the wise and rational use of manpower.

Collectives located close to cities and industrial centers must specialize in growing vegetables, potatoes, fruit trees, strawberries, and raspberries, and must concentrate on raising cows, poultry, and hogs, to increase the income of the collective and to supply the working population.

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Collectives must devote special attention to good labor organization. The permanent brigade must become the basic unit in labor organization in every collective. Collectives must eliminate waste and cut down administrative red tape.

Reduction in production costs is an important condition for the betterment and expansion of collectives and TOZ. This will lead directly to higher income for every member of the collective and TOZ.

Inspection committees must be strengthened. These committees are responsible for the supervision and protection of collective property, good administration, observance of collectivists' rights, and fulfillment by collectivists of their obligations to the state. Each collectivist must assume responsibility for the common property entrusted to him and perform his economic duties in the collective.

Leaders of collectives and all party and state agents who come in contact with collectives must observe the principles of democratic leadership in collective problems. Technicians and engineers at kind and agricultural committees of people's councils must assist collectives in drawing up their plans of organization and their production plans.

The Ministry of Agriculture, using the advanced experience of Soviet kolkhozes, must assist in the preparation of the soil, in the introduction of crop rotation, and in the creation of protective belts for fields.

Prosperity in collectives depends on the increase of production per hectare and on high labor productivity. To attain these goals, party organizations and management councils of collectives must devote greater attention to the organization and development of socialist competition among members, teams, brigades, and collectives.

The Ministry of Agriculture will draw up regulations regarding the designation of leading workers and Stakhanovites in collectives, and will establish procedures for the presentation of insignia and certificates. It will institute a Red Banner of Production for the best collectives in regions, and a yearly production banner which is to be awarded by the Ministry of Agriculture to the leading collective in the country.

Collectives must become centers for the dissemination of education among the working peasant masses. Executive committees of people's councils and collective management councils must raise the cultural and technical level of all collectivists, so that collectivists will know how to apply advanced labor methods and how to specialize in certain branches.

Party agents, executive committees of people's councils, and members of collectives must not forget that the existing collectives are the best means for convincing working peasants of the superiority of socialist agriculture.

The region and union party committees and the executive committees of people's councils must aid initiative committees of peasants who want to form new TOZ or collectives and must encourage the formation of such committees.

State and party agents must guide initiative committees; they must not leave these committees to struggle alone, but must support them effectively in the organization and creation of TOZ and collectives.

In regions where animal raising is the main occupation of working peasants, the state and party agents must encourage the creation of animal-raising collectives and TOZ through the creation of adequate conditions for the development of fodder crops. State party agents must offer technical guidance and sanitary and veterinary help. They also must grant such collectives and TOZ long-term credits for the purchase of animals and the construction of stables, sheds, and stalls.


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The executive committees of people's councils must endow newly wed collectivists with land from available lots in villages, so that they may build their own homes.

Persuasion

The persuasion of working peasants of the advantages of collective agriculture must be carried on continuously.

One of the most important methods of convincing peasants is to speak to them man to man, with understanding and patience. Some party activists make the mistake of starting their persuasion without preparation. They utter meaningless phrases which cannot convince anyone. To convince a peasant you must have the support of facts that you yourself have seen and studied on the spot; you must be well acquainted with the experience of collectives and TOZ to explain to peasants clearly and to prove with well-known facts how collectives and TOZ organize their work. You must make a practical calculation, showing with figures and facts how great is the difference between the income of a collectivist and the small income of individual peasants. You must talk with the individual peasant and with his wife; you must not lose patience if you do not succeed the first time; you must not call them "reactionary elements" because they are not convinced; you must first gain their confidence.

If party activists have convinced the members of a family of poor or medium peasants of the advantages of TOZ and collectives, it is proper to start talks with a group of families to explain the facts even better. Individual and group explanation must be coupled with visits by those peasants and their wives to prosperous TOZ and collectives. Nothing will convince a poor or medium peasant more effectively than what he sees for himself. This experience will induce him to go wholeheartedly into a collective or TOZ. The peasant is a practical man. If he sees the results obtained by a collective and the good life of collectivists, then ruses employed by kulaks will not alter the peasant's determination to join a collective. Kulaks and their stooges ask why the peasants are taken to prosperous collectives and not to poor ones. We are taking peasants to prosperous collectives so that they may follow their good example and see the road to plenty and happiness. We can also take them to see weak collectives. The peasants will see for themselves that wherever people work for the common welfare, things go well. When people say, "Let someone else work for me," or when they distribute the entire income without setting aside reserves, things will not go well.

For example, at the Santaul-Mare Collective, Oradea Raion, the average earnings per collectivist in 1952 amounted to 6,560 kilograms of grain, 900 kilograms of fodder, and 400 lei. Carol Zahuli, a medium peasant of the village of Santaul-Mare, owning 6 hectares of land, obtained only 3,850 kilograms of grain and 800 kilograms of fodder in 1952. It must also be borne in mind that the income earned by the collectivist is his alone, because the grain quotas due the state are delivered by the entire collective, which withholds the necessary fodder for animals and seeds for the next year.

It is one thing when peasants unite their forces in one large socialist farm, working in the collective according to a plan, with tractors and powerful machines; and it is another when they work alone on individual farms, powerless against drought and other inclemencies of nature and against the robbery of kulaks. A collective produces more at less cost. The collectivist does not have to buy seeds, he does not have to buy and feed draft animals. After collecting his income, the collectivist no longer has the worries of the individual peasant.

Even with the aid granted by the state, the individual farmer will never be able to obtain the same results as the collectivist. In a collective, everybody must work. Whoever does not work, does not eat. The individual peasant knows

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from his own experience that if he does not work, the soil does not give fruit. Harvests do not fall from the skies; they must be obtained through labor.

To make the consolidation of land easier for the creation of new TOZ or collectives, persuasion must be carried on among peasants with adjoining plots. Kulak property that may be situated in an area intended for a collective or a TOZ will be appropriated, and the kulak will be given another piece of land elsewhere. The central and local press, the radio, the theatre, and motion pictures are important in explaining and persuading peasants of the superiority of socialist agriculture and in popularizing the successes obtained by TOZ and collectives. The fulfillment of these duties will lead to powerful advancement in the agriculture of the country.

The agricultural policy of the party is guided by Stalin's precept that a socialist society is a producer and consumer association for workers in industry and agriculture. "If industry and agriculture do not form a single economic unit, we will not have socialism," he stated.

The socialist transformation of agriculture requires perseverance, patience, and insistence without haste. We must direct every effort toward achieving our goals, calling upon all men in towns and villages, under the leadership of the Rumanian Workers Party. We are relying on the brotherly unity between the working class and the peasant, and on the social force which has driven from power the landowners and the capitalists, and which will achieve the masterwork of socialist construction in towns and villages.

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