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PARTY SECRETARY REPORTS ON LATVIAN SSR AGRICULTURESovetskaya Latvija  
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The following is Sovetskaya Latvija's recapitulation of a report by Ya. E. Kalnberzin, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Latvian SSR, to the Eighth Plenum of the committee in session 1-3 October 1953 pursuant to the decree of the September 1953 Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU "On Measures for the Further Development of Agriculture in the USSR."

The mistakes and shortcomings in supervising agriculture, recited in the decree of the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU apply in full measure to the Latvian SSR party organization.

Animal husbandry is the leading agricultural occupation in the republic; it accounts for 60.7 percent of the entire income earned by kolkhozes of the republic. But animal husbandry is in a neglected state in many rayons; in the republic as a whole the prewar level has been attained either in the number of livestock or in animal productivity. The main reason is that kolkhozes and sovkhozes have failed to fulfill their assigned plans. Cows represent only 42.7 percent of the total number of cattle in kolkhozes and 36.3 percent, in sovkhozes.

In many kolkhozes, animal husbandry has not yet become a highly productive or remunerative part of agriculture; the average milk yield as of 1 September 1953 was only 1,114 liters per cow, instead of the 2,200 liters planned. Enormous losses in animal husbandry are due to barren cows. A 50-percent decrease in barrenness would provide an additional 39,000 metric tons of milk or 1,600 metric tons of butter by 1954.

While the development of animal husbandry depends on the creation of a stable fodder base, the following situations prevail in kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the republic: meadow and pasture improvement plans are not fulfilled; MTS machines are not used to cut bushes or level hillocks in meadows and pastures; growing of perennial grasses and meadow and pasture grasses for seed is held in low esteem; growing of maize, sunflowers, Jerusalem artichokes, fodder potatoes, beets, pumpkins, squashes, and carrots is pursued without enthusiasm. All of these situations must be corrected. In 1954, 15-20 hectares of maize, sunflowers, and Jerusalem artichokes must be planted for ensilage purposes in every kolkhoz. It is necessary to assure that every kolkhoz and sovkhoz have at least 5-6 metric tons of ensilage per cow and to construct silos of sufficient capacity to hold the planned quantities. The areas devoted to potatoes for fodder purposes must be expanded considerably and the check-row method must be mastered.

The 1953 plan for constructing animal shelters was not fulfilled. It is necessary to take measures to complete all unfinished construction. It is also highly important to utilize new types of cow sheds and pigsties in which a large part of the work is mechanized.

Hog raising is a potential source of great income for kolkhozes, but it is not sufficiently developed; nor are poultry husbandry and sheep breeding developed as they should be in kolkhozes of the republic.

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It is necessary to develop the training of personnel and to develop all divisions of animal husbandry. The animal-husbandry branch of agriculture is of vital importance to the USSR and is the most urgent problem confronting the state and party organizations of the Latvian SSR.

In the near future, potato and vegetable production must fully satisfy the demands of the city population, the processing industry, and animal husbandry. In 1953, 38 rayons of the republic failed to fulfill the potato-planting plan. In 1954, the vegetable yield in kolkhozes and sovkhoses must rise to not less than 200 quintals per hectare and the potato yield to 170 quintals per hectare.

Particular attention must be paid to production of winter wheat, to higher sugar-beet yields, and to more extensive sowing of flax.

There are now 107 MTS and specialized stations in the republic. In 1953, basic agricultural operations were 64 percent mechanized.

Gradual liquidation of the separate farm-home system and creation of collective kolkhoz villages assures more favorable conditions for kolkhoz production development, permits better cultural and living conditions for the kolkhoz worker, and creates the possibility of building good schools, hospitals, maternity homes, and kindergartens. Aid must be given to those wishing to leave their separate farm homes. It is necessary to study past experience and problems connected with such migration, such as selection of sites for kolkhoz centers, planning of villages, and production of building materials.

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