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DIRECTIVE OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL
ON WINTER AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN CHINA

Ta Kung Pao, Tientsin,
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In South China, winter production is the most important matter for all cadres to give attention to, and any other program that might interfere with it should be suspended.

In 1954, a new increase in production must be attained by building on the steady progress of the past few years. Only by continued production increases can the national economy be kept in balance. Though certain temporary difficulties are still apparent, they are not insurmountable.

Promotion of the organization of mutual aid teams and agricultural production cooperatives is a matter of primary importance in socializing the rural economy. It is the main factor in easing peasants problems, raising the standard of living, and increasing production. The winter season should be used to improve the quality and functioning of the organizations. In areas where land reform has only recently been carried out, agricultural production cooperatives may be organized experimentally on the hsien level and in more advanced areas on the ch'u level. Success with agricultural production cooperatives will encourage enrollment in mutual aid teams. Special plans must be laid and particular persons charged with responsibility for the success of the program. Continual improvement in the internal organization and activities of mutual aid teams and agricultural cooperatives must be effected to insure satisfaction and enthusiasm of members.

The most important details of winter production activities are:

1. In areas where all-year cultivation is possible, plant winter wheat and vegetables which mature in the spring. The masses should be organized in activities to conserve soil moisture and to eliminate insect larvae.
2. Promote a greater interest among peasants in a more widespread and generous use of fertilizers. Since commercial fertilizers are currently in short supply, the advantages of natural fertilizers should be stressed.
3. Promote repair of existing projects and development of new small-scale irrigation projects. Where practicability and existence of technical talent indicate, small-scale water reservoirs may be constructed. The labor force for these projects should be recruited from surplus labor created by the mutual aid cooperative program.
4. During 1953, epidemics caused serious losses among farm animals. Insist on better handling and inoculation of animals to reduce such losses. Veterinarians should be mobilized to aid the farmers.
5. Aid peasants in repairing and acquiring implements. Promote new implement sales in accord with the requirements of local communities. Provide better instruction and demonstrations in the use of new implements and make organized provision for repairs. Provision of materials and artisans for repair of old implements is important.
6. Organize winter-type supplementary activities to increase peasant incomes.

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7. Carry out the winter farm loan and loan collection program. While there are, no doubt, some needy families to whom loans may be advanced, in general, because of the increased crop purchasing program of 1953, farmers have more money than heretofore, hence the loan collection program should be strongly pushed. This is important so that fluid capital may be on hand for 1954 loans.

Supply and marketing cooperatives must try to meet the needs of the farmers for implements and production materials. Farmers have sold more grain in 1953 than usual and have more money to spend for these things. When goods cannot be supplied immediately, farmers should deposit their funds in the People's Bank, the Trust Cooperatives, or with the marketing cooperatives as advance payment on orders for goods. They may also be encouraged to invest surplus funds or savings in government bonds. Farmers should not waste their money on non-essentials.

Strenuous efforts should be made to carry out the production-for-relief program. During 1952, gains in agricultural production were made in areas free from calamity, but because of calamities in some areas the total national production fell below that of 1952. Failure to get calamity areas back to normal will result in inability to meet 1954 goals. Supplementary industries, drainage projects, attention to health of both people and animals should all be used to restore normal conditions so that 1954 surpluses can make up for 1952 shortages.

Among minority nationalities, the general principle of increased production for 1954 should be promoted, but the many varying local conditions must be taken into account and allowed for in promotion activities.

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