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► PARTY DECREE ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN LITHUANIAN SSR

Sovetskaia Litva
Vil'nyus, 14-15 Nov 1953

[This report contains information on the decree adopted at the Seventh Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Lithuanian SSR, in session 15-17 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."]

On the Present State of Agriculture in the Republic

While agriculture in the republic has been equipped with great quantities of modern machinery due to the solicitude of party and state, all the shortcomings noted at the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU apply fully to the Lithuanian SSR. In many kolkhozes and rayons, yields of grain crops, flax, sugar beets, potatoes, grasses, and other crops remain low. Production of these crops does not meet the demands of the national economy.

Shortcomings in the development of animal husbandry are particularly great. The number of head of livestock, especially of cows, is growing slowly in kolkhozes of the republic. Livestock productivity is low, barrenness is extensive, and losses from plague are great. The fodder base in kolkhozes is inadequate; too little hay and ensilage and too few fodder roots and potatoes are produced. Livestock shelters are lacking, labor-consuming processes remain unmechanized, and care of livestock is poor.

Conditions in sovkhoses are similar to those prevailing in kolkhozes. Actual cost of production in sovkhoses is extremely high.

On Measures for the Further Development of Animal Husbandry in the Republic

From 1 January 1951 to 1 September 1953, the number of head of livestock in kolkhozes of the republic increased as follows: cattle, 2.3-fold; hogs, 2.6-fold; and sheep, 2.5-fold. Progress was also made in poultry raising.

For the republic as a whole, kolkhoz herds contain only 34.3 cows per 100 head of cattle, an unsatisfactory ratio. In 1952, kolkhoz herds of the republic contained only 8.8 head of cattle per 100 hectares of arable land, meadows, and pastures, from which yields of 31.4 metric quintals of milk and 5.4 metric quintals of meat were obtained.

To fulfill the task set by the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU for the rapid development of animal husbandry, particularly collectivized animal husbandry, the plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Lithuanian SSR decrees and instructs the appropriate party, state, and agricultural organs of the republic and its rayons:

1. To increase in 1954 the number of head of livestock in all agricultural sectors of the republic to the following: cows, 561,000; total number of cattle, 975,000; hogs, 1,305,000; sheep and goats, 750,000. To increase the number of head of livestock in kolkhozes (included in the foregoing figures) to the following: cows, 155,000; total number of cattle, 415,000; hogs, 400,000; sheep and goats, 220,000.

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2. To increase the number of cows in kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the republic to that required to bring the ratio to 60 cows per 100 head of cattle.
3. To produce minimum milk yields of 1,500 liters per kolkhoz cow and 3,650 liters per sovkhos cow.
4. To develop poultry raising in kolkhozes so that in 1954-1955 each kolkhoz will contain no less than 140 head of poultry per 100 hectares sown to grain.
5. To make advance payments to kolkhoz workers as outlined by the September Plenum.
6. In 1954, to increase as follows the areas sown to fodder crops in kolkhozes: perennial grasses under nurse crops to 280,000 hectares; annual grasses to 124,000 hectares; perennial grasses of former years to 300,000 hectares; ensilage crops (including maize and sunflowers) to 22,000 hectares; and fodder root crops to 33,000 hectares.
7. To insure in 1954 the following meadow and pasture improvements on the indicated number of hectares, for the purpose of raising the yield of natural hay meadows in kolkhozes: drainage of meadows and pastures, 30,000; removal of stumps and bushes, 13,000; sowing of fodder crops on only slightly productive meadows and pastures, 15,000; and care of meadows and pastures, 150,000.
8. To increase considerably production of fodder and especially ensilage, expand the area sown to maize and sunflowers for ensilage purposes, and insure each kolkhoz and sovkhos store at least 5-6 metric tons of ensilage per cow.
9. To take measures to insure that in every kolkhoz and sovkhos silos are built of sufficient capacity to make possible fulfillment of the plan for ensilage storage.
10. To increase considerably production of potatoes in kolkhozes and sovkhoses for fodder purposes; to increase the area sown to mangel-wurzel, turnips, rape, fodder carrots, serradella, lupine, winter vetch, and fodder cabbage; and to introduce in kolkhozes and sovkhoses the sowing of sugar beets, Jerusalem artichokes, and winter rye for green livestock fodder.
11. To achieve a considerable increase in the mechanization level of hay mowing, raking, and ricking, ensilage cutting, sowing and inter-row cultivation of ensilage crops and fodder root crops, and straw collecting and stacking.
12. To build, in 1954, animal shelters in kolkhozes of the republic to quarter the following number of head of livestock: cattle, 50,000; calves, 15,000; hogs, 65,000; sheep, 40,000; poultry, 250,000; and chicks, 300,000.
13. To expand animal husbandry in sovkhoses of the republic.

On Increasing Production of Potatoes and Vegetables in Kolkhozes and Sovkhoses

Climatic and soil conditions are most favorable for growing potatoes and vegetables in the republic. Production of these crops should be sharply increased.

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The 1953 plan for planting of potatoes in kolkhozes of the republic was fulfilled 78.4 percent and that for planting of vegetables 88.3 percent. In many kolkhozes, agrotechniques in growing these crops are very unsatisfactory. In spring 1953, only 2,800 hectares of potatoes were planted by the checkrow method. Growing of vegetable seedlings in peat-humus pots is not practiced in kolkhozes of the republic. The 1953 plan for machine planting of potatoes by MTS was fulfilled only 20 percent.

The plans for planting new orchards and berry patches are not fulfilled year after year.

For the purpose of increasing potato and vegetable production, the plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Lithuanian SSR decrees and instructs the appropriate party, state, and agricultural organs of the republic and its rayons:

1. In 1954, to increase the areas planted to potatoes and vegetables as follows:

In kolkhozes: potatoes, to 83,000 hectares; and vegetables, to 7,000 hectares.

In sovkhoses of the Ministry of State Farms: potatoes, to 7,120 hectares; and vegetables, to 990 hectares.

2. In 1954, to obtain the following minimum metric quintal-per-hectare yields:

In kolkhozes: potatoes, 150; cabbage, 210; cucumbers, 100; tomatoes, 120; onions, 90; carrots, 130; and beets, 150.

In sovkhoses of the Ministry of State Farms: potatoes, 165; cabbage, 210; cucumbers, 130; tomatoes, 130; onions, 90; carrots, 150; and beets, 150.

3. In 1954, to plant and construct new hotbeds and hothouses as follows:

In kolkhozes: to plant 52,000 hotbed frames and 7,000 square meters of hothouses; and to construct 15,000 new hotbed frames and 3,000 square meters of new hothouses.

In sovkhoses: to plant 15,500 hotbed frames and 4,000 square meters of hothouses.

On Raising the Yield of Grain and Industrial Crops

Kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the republic have achieved some successes in grain growing. In 1953, the area sown to wheat was 98,300 hectares greater than in 1940. Many kolkhozes and sovkhoses obtain yields of 18-20 metric quintals per hectare.

In 1953, the area devoted to sugar beets was 2.5 times as great as in 1940.

Despite favorable climatic and soil conditions, the growing of fiber flax is unsatisfactory in many rayons of the republic.

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For the purpose of increasing yield, gross production, and production for the market of grain and industrial crops, the plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Lithuanian SSR decrees and instructs the appropriate party, state, and agricultural organs of the republic and its rayons:

1. To expand the area devoted to peas, beans, buckwheat, barley and oats.
2. To increase production of sugar beets.
3. To increase the area devoted to flax.
4. To take measures to insure that each kolkhoz and sovkhos fully supplies itself with perennial and annual grass seed of its own growing; in addition, to organize grass-seed growing for the market; to insure a perennial grass-seed harvest of 81,000 metric quintals for sowing in 1954, consisting of 58,000 metric quintals of clover seed and 23,000 metric quintals of gramineous seed.

On Further Improvement in the Operation of MTS

In recent years, the number of MTS in the republic and the amount of machinery in them has increased so as to permit a rise in the level of mechanization of field work in kolkhozes from 18.1 percent in 1950 to 56 percent in 1953.

In 1953, various MTS plans were only fulfilled as follows: sowing with tractor-drawn seeders, 69.7 percent; harvesting by combine, 58.9 percent; planting of potatoes by machine, 21 percent; cultivation of row crops, 0.6 percent; hay mowing 22.7 percent; and ensilage storage, 57.7 percent.

For the purpose of improving the operation of MTS and strengthening their role in mechanization of all branches of kolkhoz production, the plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Lithuanian SSR decrees and instructs the appropriate party, state, and agricultural organs of the republic and its rayons:

1. To reorganize the 11 schools of mechanization of the Ministries of Agriculture and Procurement and State Farms Lithuanian SSR.
2. In the 1953-1954 fall-winter period, to insure training and retraining of at least 6,000 tractor drivers, combine operators, and other machine operators.

On Improving Supervision of Agriculture

The plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Lithuanian SSR decrees and instructs the appropriate party, state, and agricultural organs of the republic and its rayons:

1. In 1953, to select from industry and send to MTS 100 engineers and mechanics to serve as MTS directors, chief engineers, and repair-shop chiefs and 150 other mechanics and technicians to aid in the mechanization of agriculture.
2. To return former MTS workers, now working in industry, to MTS.

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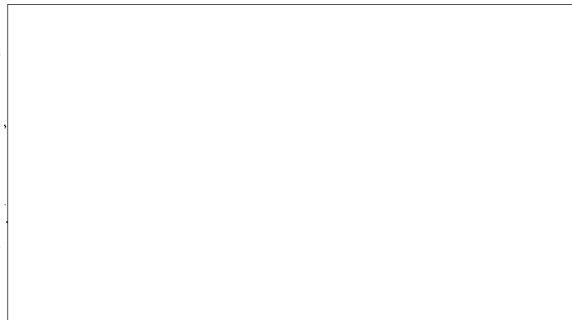
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3. By the end of 1953, to send to MTS for the purpose of serving kolkhozes 700 agronomists and zootechnicians with higher or secondary education and 700 practical (without secondary education) agronomists and zootechnicians, freed as a result of reorganization of the Ministry of Agriculture and Procurement and its local organs.

4. In 1954-1955, to train 1,600 agricultural specialists in agricultural tekhnikums.



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