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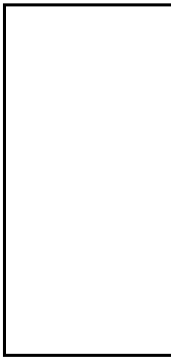
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REVIEW OF UKRAINIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS  
 AT 17TH REPUBLIC PARTY CONGRESS

The following information on the progress of agriculture in Ukrainian SSR is from a report given on 24 September 1952 by L. G. Mel'nikov, secretary of the TsK KP(b) of the Ukraine, to the 17th Congress of the KP(b) of the Ukraine.]

During the period covered by this report [apparently 1 January 1949 to mid-1952], kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the republic have fully utilized all plowable land, extended the sown area, exceeded prewar yields for the most important agricultural crops, and considerably increased the number of collectivized livestock. Kolkhoz organization has been further strengthened, and the material well being and cultural level of the kolkhoz peasantry has been increased. This year's crop in the Ukraine is a good one.

Crops

The total sown area in the republic in 1952 was 1,676,000 hectares larger than in 1948. The area sown to industrial crops increased by 445,000 hectares in this period, and plantings of cotton and sugar beets now exceed the area devoted to these crops in the prewar period. The area sown to fodder crops increased by 2,500,000 hectares in this period, and also exceeds the prewar level. [The apparent inconsistency of these figures may be explained by the fact that the Soviets often omit perennial grass acreages in presenting total sown area data. If this is true in this case, perennial grasses would account for a large portion of the 2.6-million-hectare increase in the area sown to fodder crops since 1948.] The area sown to winter wheat in 1952 was 2,300,000 hectares larger than in 1948, and almost 2 million hectares larger than in 1940. [Here, the apparent inconsistency with data cited above may be explained by expansion of the area sown to winter wheat at the expense of area sown to other grains.] The gross grain crop has thereby considerably increased. In fall 1952, kolkhozes or the republic further extended the area sown to winter wheat by one million hectares.



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Only about 40 percent of the wheat is sown on clean fallow, and the rest on stubble fields, etc. Whether clean or black fallow is used, kolkhozes as a rule obtain a good wheat harvest, although yields could be increased considerably. Raising the yield of winter wheat to 20 quintals per hectare is one of the most important tasks of party organizations and agricultural organs.

In recent years kolkhozes have been obtaining small harvests of coarse grains. The buckwheat harvest has been particularly poor in Chernigovskaya, Zhitomirskaya, and Sumskaya oblasts. Maize occupies a large area in the republic. Many kolkhozes and even whole rayons obtain good harvests of this crop from year to year. However, maize yields are still low in the republic as a whole. Pulses are also important crops, particularly in the western oblasts. These crops are not only edible, but are natural gatherers of nitrogen which enriches the soil.

The area planted to sugar beets in the republic has increased by 84,000 hectares, or 10 percent, since 1940, and yields have improved considerably. The 1951 beet harvest was processed to obtain 45,500,000 more pud of sugar than that obtained from the 1940 harvest. The 1952 sugar beet harvest should be as large as the 1951 harvest. Prospects for further development of this crop are good. For example, Kievskaya Oblast has not once fulfilled annual plans for delivery of sugar beets to the state in the postwar period. Many kolkhozes of Vinnitskaya, Poltavskaya, and Kirovogradskaya oblasts produce small harvests of sugar beets. In 1951, 2,077 kolkhozes of the republic gave the sugar plants less than 150 quintals of beets per hectare planted. The same year, 1,136 kolkhozes delivered over 250 quintals of beets per hectare planted, i.e., attained the yield set for the end of the Fifth Five-Year Plan. In the Fifth Five-Year Plan the area planted to sugar beets is to be extended, and yields brought up to 255-265 quintals per hectare. To do this mechanization and agricultural techniques must be further developed.

Next to Uzbek SSR, more cotton is planted in the Ukraine than in any other USSR republic, and this is the principal area of nonirrigated cotton. Sown areas and yields have increased considerably in recent years, but the annual state plans for cotton procurement have not been fulfilled. Party organizations in Odeskaya and Nikolayevskaya oblasts have done a particularly poor job in developing cotton cultivation. The Fifth Five-Year Plan calls for an average yield of from 5 to 7 quintals per hectare on nonirrigated areas and from 11 to 13 quintals per hectare on irrigated areas. Mechanization and agricultural technique levels must be improved, and scientific-research establishments and agricultural specialists must develop new quick-ripening, long-fiber, strong boll varieties of cotton to accomplish this task.

Yields and gross production of all industrial, oleaginous, and vegetable-cucurbit crops and potatoes must be raised.

To accomplish these goals, land utilization must be improved, crop rotation and sowings of grasses expanded, plowing of winter and summer fallow carefully observed, application of manure and other fertilizers increased, use of selected and adapted seed insured, and extensive work on shelter belts carried out.

#### Animal Husbandry

The Three-Year Plan for the Development of Collectivized Animal Husbandry was fulfilled by kolkhozes of the republic, and livestock numbers now exceed prewar levels. During the past 3 years (1949 - 1951), collectivized livestock on kolkhozes of the Ukrainian SSR have increased as follows: cattle 80 percent, including cows 198 percent; hogs 215 percent; sheep and goats 159 percent; and mature fowl 342 percent. Collectivized animal husbandry on kolkhozes and sovkhoses became predominant in the republic [apparently over privately conducted animal husbandry] as to both livestock numbers and animal productivity. However,

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some oblasts, particularly Nikolayevskaya, Khersonskaya, and Zaporozhskaya oblasts, failed to fulfill the Three-Year Plan for cattle, hogs, and fowl. The basic shortcoming in animal husbandry is low animal productivity. Milk yields are particularly low in kolkhozes of Zhitomirskaya, Kamenets-Podol'skaya, Chernigovskaya, Volynskaya, and Ternopol'skaya oblasts. By the end of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, milk yields must be increased 50 percent, fattening of hogs and cattle must be improved, and the average wool clip must be increased. To achieve these goals, the fodder base must be enlarged, breeding techniques improved, the number of mature females, especially cows, increased, sterility abolished, the number of fine-wool sheep increased, and commercial poultry farming further developed on kolkhozes.

Mechanization

During the last 3 years (1949 - 1951), the number of tractors available for agriculture in Ukrainian SSR has increased 42 percent, the capacity of the republic tractor park has increased 53 percent, the number of grain combines has increased 124 percent, etc. The number of trucks in MTS, kolkhozes, and sovkhoses -- taking the 2-ton truck as the basis of computation -- has increased 36 percent, and the number of trucks available to Ukrglavsakhar (Main Administration of Sugar Industry, Ministry of Food Industry Ukrainian SSR), Zagottrans (All-Union Office for Procurement Transport?), and Sovkhoztrans (All-Union Office for Sovkhoz Transport?) has increased 104 percent. The number of plows, cultivators, seeders, threshers, and other machines has increased considerably. At present, there are 1,386 MTS and other specialized stations in the republic. MTS perform approximately 80 percent of all field work in the republic.

However, some MTS are not fulfilling their contracts with kolkhozes; some shortcomings which characterize their work are delay and poor-quality work, inadequate interrow working of cultivated crops, insufficient combine harvesting of grains, and not enough plowing of winter and black summer fallow. Mechanization of labor-consuming work on livestock farms is inadequate.

The following tasks have been assigned Ukrainian MTS for the Fifth Five-Year Plan: to increase tractor work norms 50 percent and to lower the cost of tractor work 25 percent; to adopt the hourly work graph in every MTS; to improve the utilization of tractors, especially diesel tractors; to reduce fuel consumption, the use of spare parts, and monetary expenditures; to mechanize further work in animal husbandry, oleiculture, and pomiculture; to improve transport, loading, and unloading of agricultural crops; to improve irrigation and drainage work; to raise crop yields and animal productivity; and to improve cadres at all levels.

During the last 3 years (1949 - 1951), 1,211 rural electric power stations have been put in operation. Construction of GES and TES operating on local fuels must be speeded up.

Sovkhoses must increase the proportion of wheat, fine and semi-fine wool, and meat that they market; mechanization must be increased, and production costs lowered.

More work must be done on construction of buildings and installations used both in production and for residential and cultural purposes in MTS, kolkhozes, and sovkhoses. The process of creating vegetable-potato gardens and animal husbandry bases around large towns and industrial enterprises must also be speeded up.

Land Improvement

Twenty of the last 60 years in the Ukraine have been dry years. Several irrigation projects have been begun in the republic in recent years. The first section of the Kamenskiy Irrigation System was finished this year. Construction

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work on the Verkhne-Inguletskiy Irrigation System is now under way, and next year construction will begin on the Nizhne-Inguletskiy Irrigation System, which must be completed by the end of the Fifth Five-Year Plan. For proper utilization of irrigated land in the vicinity of the Kakhovka GES and the South Ukrainian Canal, it will be necessary to instruct tens of thousands of people in the principles of conducting agriculture on irrigated land.

The Poles'ye region makes up about one fifth of the entire territory of the Ukraine, and the further development of agriculture in this region is very important. Many kolkhozes of the Poles'ye region obtain low crop and animal product yields due to the low level of agricultural techniques here. The leaders of some kolkhozes and rayons try to explain this state of affairs by citing the poor quality of the soil in the Poles'ye region. The soil is indeed poor, but this difficulty can be overcome by the application of better agricultural techniques such as use of peat and manure for fertilizer, liming the soil, deep plowing, and cultivation of lupine. Land improvement work such as swamp drainage is planned in the Poles'ye region during the Fifth Five-Year Plan.

#### Collectivization and Consolidation of Kolkhozes

Full collectivization in the western oblasts will liquidate the kulaks and wipe out the last vestiges of Ukrainian bourgeois nationalism. Kolkhoz production in the Carpathian mountains area of the republic must be increased, particularly production of animal products and sheep raising.

In 1950, before the consolidation drive, there were 33,653 kolkhozes in the republic. Now there are 16,015. During the past 3 years (1949 - 1951), kolkhoz indivisible funds have increased by 4 billion rubles, or 48 percent as compared with 1940. The monetary income of the kolkhozes has increased by 4.2 billion rubles during these same 3 years, and exceeds the prewar level by 76 percent.

Almost, 5,000 kolkhozes in the republic do not have orchards, berry patches, or vineyards, 2,130 kolkhozes do not have beehives, and almost half of all republic kolkhozes do not have ponds or water reservoirs and therefore do not engage in pisciculture.

Many kolkhozes and whole rayons consistently report low crop yields and poor animal productivity norms, particularly those in Chernigovskaya, Zhitomirskaya, Sumskaya, Volynskaya, and L'vovskaya oblasts. During the Fifth Five-Year Plan, kolkhoz labor productivity must rise together with agricultural production to the extent that the monetary income of kolkhoz workers will increase at least 40 percent.

#### Violations of the Kolkhoz Charter

Violations of the Kolkhoz Charter have been particularly numerous in Ternopol'skaya Oblast. Profatilov, secretary of the Oblast Committee, has done nothing to stop these violations, and has himself violated the charter. During construction work on the House of Popular Creativeness in the city of Ternopol', he ordered that work be performed by kolkhoz workers, that kolkhoz transport facilities be used, and that the costs of such participation be borne by the kolkhozes. Profatilov was severely punished by the party. Violations of the Kolkhoz Charter have likewise occurred in several rayons of Odesskaya, Poltavskaya, L'vovskaya, and Stanislavskaya oblasts. It is the duty of party and soviet organs to guarantee observance of the democratic bases of kolkhoz administration, to insure regular convocation of the kolkhoz assembly, and to provide for reports by the chairman to the kolkhoz assembly.

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The further development of agriculture in the republic hinges on the liquidation of serious shortcomings in the Ministry of Agriculture Ukrainian SSR and in the Ministry of Cotton Growing Ukrainian SSR. Their local organs spend little effort on basic agricultural problems, and often the central organs are not aware of actual conditions in various localities. There are 64,000 agronomists, zootechnicians, and other agricultural specialists in the republic. However, the two ministries do not work for the improvement of the qualifications of these cadres or for the elaboration of their role and authority in the kolkhozes.

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