

## Instructions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Spring Ploughing Production to Party Committees at All Levels (March 16, 1953)

The spring ploughing season has come, and spring ploughing production and preparation work should become the overriding tasks in the countryside center work. Party committees at all levels must not miss the farming season, organize and lead farmers to do a good job of spring ploughing, lay the foundation for this year's agricultural production, and strive to make this year another bumper harvest year after three consecutive bumper harvests, to ensure the needs of people's food and industrial development, in terms of agriculture, create a good start for the national five-year plan economic construction. For this purpose, the Central Committee specially issued the following instructions:

(1) On the basis of the successful completion of the land reform, the agricultural production in 1952 had recovered and exceeded the level before the War of Resistance Against Japan. This is a big achievement. However, in order to meet the needs of the continuous development of our country's industrial production, we must continue to further improve the level of agricultural production at the same time, we must not stop at the existing achievements and stop making progress. In the climax of industrial construction, any point of view that ignores agricultural production is one-sided and wrong. Some cadres working in rural areas are uneasy about their jobs, blindly waiting to change jobs, and not actively working hard to study how to lead farmers to improve agricultural production, which is a reflection of this one-sided view. To carry out the spring ploughing production campaign, we must first resolve the point of view in the cadres' minds that belittles agricultural work. When the leading organs deploy cadres, in addition to having to transfer a large number of cadres to industry, they should focus on retaining a certain proportion of leading cadres at the county, district, and township levels who are more experienced and have close ties with the masses, so that they can work with peace of mind. As the backbone of higher authorities leading rural work and cultivating new cadres. If there are too many deployments too quickly, it will inevitably hinder the leadership of rural work and agricultural production.

(2) At present there are a lot of work in the countryside, such as implementing the Marriage Law, building the Party, preparing for universal suffrage, reviewing the land reform in some areas, trying to build a militia cadre, etc. After reaching the counties, districts, and townships, "everyone is the superior, and everything is the center," "the chief is responsible for everything, and the party committee guarantees it," and the lower levels are not allowed to prioritize and make overall arrangements. If this situation does not change, it will inevitably lead to alienation from the masses and violation of farming hours, which will seriously affect spring ploughing production and cause irreparable losses. Therefore, the central government has decided that the overwhelming central work in the current rural areas is to intensify preparations for spring ploughing and start spring ploughing production. All other work must be carried out around and in conjunction with spring ploughing production. All work should be changed, postponed or reduced or even cancel the original plan. Party committees and people's governments at all levels above the county level shall arrange various tasks in a unified manner according to local conditions. Any business department assigning tasks to rural areas shall be approved by the central or local party committees at the same level or the chairmen, commissioners, and county heads of major administrative regions and provinces. Approval shall not be directly issued to districts and townships, so as to ensure the smooth progress of spring ploughing production. During the busy season of spring ploughing and farming, all meetings that hinder production should be stopped in the countryside, and rural cadres should not be randomly selected to attend meetings or training courses above, so as not to violate the farming season.

(3) In order to correctly organize and lead the peasants and bring into play their enthusiasm for production, it is necessary to effectively correct the growing tendency of impatience and aggressiveness in the mutual aid and cooperation movement in agricultural production. The concrete manifestations of this impetuous and aggressive tendency are mainly in the new areas and areas with a weak foundation of the mutual aid movement: cracking down on independent peasants, forcing them to form groups, and being satisfied with formalistic practices. In some places, right after the land reform was over, the working cadres did not fully carry out policy propaganda among the peasant masses to protect peasant ownership, relieve peasants' ideological concerns about "fear of returning to the public", and stabilize peasants' production emotions. Instead, they blindly demanded the development of a large number of mutual aid groups. The ideas and practices of land reform were transferred to the Mutual Aid and Cooperative Movement. In the Mutual Aid Group, the emphasis was on satisfying the interests of the poor and farm laborers, thus violating the interests of the middle peasants and damaging the production enthusiasm of the individual farmers who accounted for the vast majority of the population in the rural areas of the New Area. In the old areas and areas with a relatively wide range of organizations, the tendency of left-leaning and aggressive advancement is mainly: contempt for primary mutual aid groups, advocate public ownership of land, livestock and farm tools, blindly pursue advanced forms, and violate the guidelines of the central government to set up agricultural production cooperatives in a controlled manner, but greedy for more and greedy for big; unconventional in the management methods of the cooperatives within the group, the more complicated the better, and the more "socialized" the better; the issue of remuneration for the land, livestock and farm tools that join the cooperatives is ignored. The current agricultural production cooperatives are based on characteristics based on private property, while infringing upon peasants' private property and the interests of middle peasants, blindly demanding the addition of socialist factors without taking into account the experience level of the masses and the degree and needs of production development; excessive and hasty expansion of provident funds and public property, some even adopt the system of common consumption and so on. The peasant masses criticized the actions of these working cadres as "taking too many steps, and taking two steps as one step"; they described certain agricultural production cooperatives as "big stalls, empty foundations, large debts, high output, and low dividends." As a result, no one picks up dung all winter, no one engages in side-line production, sells livestock, cuts down trees and kills pigs, eats and drinks, and other serious phenomena that disrupt production. We must pay careful attention to all correct criticisms of the peasant masses and correct all leftist and adventurous mistakes. Comrades must be reminded that when organizing mutual aid groups and cooperatives, we must not forget to proceed from the level of consciousness and personal experience of the masses, proceed from the actual demands of the masses, proceed from the current production status of the small peasant economy, and correctly resolve the combination of the individual interests of the peasants and the public interests. The problem is to proceed steadily and sequentially. Any hasty and aggressive policy will frustrate the enthusiasm of the majority of farmers in production and will damage the production work of spring ploughing, so it is extremely harmful. Abolishing the freedom of employment, loan and trade in the countryside in an attempt to completely eliminate the possibility of the development of the rich peasants is not conducive to the development of production today, and it is not right. possible. Naturally, on the other hand, adopting a negative attitude towards the mutual aid and cooperation movement in agricultural production, allowing it to run its own course, allowing the spontaneous capitalist tendencies in the small-scale peasant economy to flourish, excluding poor peasants in mutual aid groups and cooperatives, and making poor peasants suffer, is not a good idea for all. The phenomenon of insufficient implementation of the policy of equal value and mutual benefit among members of the group, and the phenomenon that the proportion of land

dividends is too high, causing disadvantages to those with more labour, these must also be corrected.

(4) In carrying out the spring ploughing production campaign, the distribution of agricultural loans and the supply and marketing of rural commodities must be well organized. Agricultural loans must be distributed rationally between organized farmers and individual farmers, as stated in the Central Committee's Resolution on Mutual Aid and Cooperation in Agricultural Production. It would be wrong to concentrate agricultural loans only on a small number of mutual aid groups and agricultural production cooperatives instead of lending to independent farmers, so as to separate the few advanced groups from the general mutual aid groups and the majority of farmers. Agricultural loans must be issued in a timely manner according to the production seasons in various places. They must be given to farmers who have difficulties in production and require loans. They must not be forced to apportion, and do not overemphasize earmarking funds for use. The repayment period of the loan should not be stipulated in spring borrowing and autumn repayment, but should be stipulated separately according to the different purposes of the loan. Poor farmers who cannot repay their loans should also be granted a moratorium on repayments. In addition, free lending among farmers should be allowed, and credit cooperation should be developed to make up for the shortage of agricultural loans from the National Bank. During the War of Resistance Against Japan and the War of Liberation, due to the blockade of the liberated areas, the exchange of materials was inconvenient, and it was beneficial for farmers to adopt the method of lending in kind for agricultural loans. The situation is different now, and loans in kind are often not suitable for the specific needs of farmers. Therefore, in general areas, while lending cash, rural supply and marketing cooperatives should organize the supply of means of production and means of living to meet the needs of local farmers at that time. County, district and township supply and marketing cooperatives and state-owned commercial organizations above the county level should pay attention to improving the purchase of agricultural, side-line and native products, and vigorously increase the supply of agricultural tools, fertilizers and other means of production that farmers urgently need. Private handicraftsmen produced these means of production in large quantities, and helped them solve the difficulties in the supply of raw materials (such as pig iron), and improved the supply of food and agricultural medicine and equipment to the industrial raw material crop areas. Local state-owned industries should pay attention to the development of new and old agricultural implements and other means of production that meet the current needs of farmers, but they should prevent blind development and overcome the phenomenon of shoddy manufacturing. The promotion of new farm tools must be based on the specific local conditions and actual needs, and the style of coercion and order in the promotion of new farm tools and rural supply and purchase must be corrected. At the same time, leading trade freedom in the rural primary market should be guaranteed. It is wrong to prohibit private businessmen from going to the countryside in a disguised form, and it is also wrong to mechanically restrict the development of supply and marketing or consumer cooperatives regardless of the actual situation in the countryside. Both of these must be corrected to facilitate the development of rural production.

(5) Since 1950, although there have been three consecutive years of bumper harvests, we are required to be vigilant against the possibility of famines. In the past three years, our country has made great achievements in flood control, but it has not been completely exempted from natural disasters such as floods, droughts, diseases and insect pests. We cannot be overly optimistic because of three years of bumper harvests. This year, we must especially strengthen the work of drought prevention and control of diseases and insect pests. In areas where rivers are infested and rainy in the south, attention should also be paid to flood and waterlogging prevention. In particular, efforts should be made to help solve the difficulties in spring ploughing in individual disaster-stricken areas

last year, mountainous areas, old base areas, and ethnic minority areas. In addition, during the patriotic production increase movement, in some places, only a small number of high-yield farmers were paid attention to, and the help and guidance for the production of ordinary farmers were neglected. This problem should be corrected. Efforts should be made to improve agricultural technology. However, it is necessary to have a deep understanding of the regional nature of agriculture and the decentralized nature of the small-scale peasant economy, and avoid the mechanical transfer of so-called "science and technology" that is not suitable for local conditions and the general implementation of certain technological improvement plans that are not suitable for regional characteristics. Agricultural scientific research institutions and technical guidance stations must go deep among the peasant masses, learn from them, find out existing or newly created advanced technical experiences suitable for local conditions, and then summarize and improve them in combination with agricultural scientific and technological theories, and gradually promote. Advanced agricultural technology experience from other places and foreign countries must be tested first by agricultural scientific research institutions, state-owned farms and county agricultural testing grounds, and farmers who demonstrate excellent experimental results voluntarily follow suit, and farmers must not be forced to experiment and popularize. The generalized and formulaic working methods adopted in recent years in improving agricultural technology, popularizing fine varieties, and developing water conservancy irrigation, etc., and the serious phenomenon of coercive orders brought about by this, should be stopped immediately. The local party committees should strengthen their leadership over the state farms and run them well, so that the state farms can really play their exemplary role among the peasants.

(6) In order to ensure the smooth progress of spring ploughing and widely launch patriotic production increase campaigns, the central government requires comrades of each prefectural, county and district committee to study the central resolution on mutual assistance and cooperation, and to learn common agricultural techniques, in accordance with Comrade Mao Zedong's "Come from the masses, go to the masses" instructions, summarize and improve the good production experience of the peasant masses, and then promote them. Every member of the prefectural, county and district committees must start from leading this year's spring ploughing production, continue to learn and improve themselves, so that they can gradually master the theoretical policies of mutual assistance and cooperation, understand ordinary agricultural production techniques and be good at contacting the peasant masses, leading an expert in agricultural production. In this way, the continuous development and improvement of agricultural production will be guaranteed, and the industrialization of our country will be able to receive cooperation and support from the agricultural side. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China calls on the Party's rural work departments at all levels, prefectural committees, county committees, district committees, and rural party organizations and party members, and calls on the staff of the agricultural departments of the people's governments at all levels to seize the time to complete the first five-year plan for economic construction. Struggling for a year of spring ploughing and production work.