

1951

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

14-02-1951 – 24-02-1951

Type of Meeting:

National Forestry Conference

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

convened by the Ministry of Forestry and Reclamation.

More than 120 forestry administrative and technical cadres, forestry educators and representatives of relevant central departments attended the meeting

Major Agenda Items:

to sum up the experience of forestry work in the country in 1950 and to discuss issues related to forest protection, afforestation, rational felling and use of trees, and unified timber production.

Speeches/Reports:

Liang Xi: According to incomplete statistics, in 1950, 44.6 billion trees were planted in the spring and rainy seasons alone, exceeding the original target of 40.6 billion trees. In terms of mountain closure and afforestation, according to the statistics of 17 provinces, more than 3.28 million mu of mountain closure was completed in 1950; In early March 1950, more than 4.5 million cubic meters of felling were completed in the two main forest harvesting areas of Northeast China and Inner Mongolia. The Northeast learned from the advanced logging experience of the Soviet Union and saved about 300,000 cubic meters of timber compared with 1949; The forest protection work has begun to attract the general attention of party and government cadres and people in forest areas. Preliminary forest surveys have begun throughout the country.

The shortcomings of forestry work in 1950 were:

First, in terms of forest protection, in 1950, there were 2,700 forest fires in the country, and the loss of forest trees amounted to 2.6 million cubic meters, accounting for 98% of the total forest losses.

Secondly, the afforestation work in some areas does not pay enough attention to the afforestation of key areas, so it has little effect on the eradication of mountain and sand famines. In some places, the plan is set too high and the technical guidance is poor, which makes the plan fail or cause losses.

Forest harvesting plans are also inadequate, deforestation is still quite serious, and there is a lot of waste in the use of timber.

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

cooperative afforestation is the main direction of afforestation work in the future, and at the same time, it is necessary to do everything possible to implement the policy of rational felling and rational use of timber, do a good job in the unified deployment of timber, and strive to take the initiative to supply public and private timber

Remarks:

A Joint Meeting of the National Conference on Finance, Industry, Agriculture, and Forestry-Reclamation Was Held to Hear Chen Yun's Report on the Fiscal Policy and Key Points of Financial and Economic Work for 1951.

The main contents of Chen Yun's report were as follows:

1. On the Fiscal Policy for 1951:

"At present, we only have a limited amount of money, and every expenditure bears political responsibility. After discussion by the Central People's Government, it was decided that the state must prioritize the use of financial resources in 1951—what is ranked first must not be placed second, and what is ranked second must not be arranged third. We have now made the decision:

- o National defense comes first,
- o Market stabilization comes second,
- o All other expenditures must come third.

The rationale behind this decision is clear:

First, national defense—if we do not handle this matter well, everything else will be difficult to accomplish.

Second, market stabilization—experience over the past year has proven that stabilizing the market is extremely correct, so in 1951, we should continue to strive for stability. Regarding market stabilization, we have taken into account the U.S. blockade and bombings. The conditions for market stabilization include, on one hand, avoiding excessive issuance of currency, and on the other, the state must control key materials—grain and cotton play a decisive role in market stabilization. In 1951, we have even greater control over these materials than in 1950.

Third, other expenditures, including administrative expenses and staff living costs, can only remain at current levels and must not be increased in 1951.

2. Key Points of the State Financial and Economic Committee's Work for 1951:

After research by the Chairman of the State Financial and Economic Committee and the Director of the Planning Bureau, five main priorities were identified:

- o First, promoting urban-rural exchange;
- o Second, increasing agricultural production;
- o Third, implementing economic accounting systems;
- o Fourth, enforcing fiscal discipline;
- o Fifth, preparing for economic construction.

On the same day, after receiving telegrams from the Southwest Bureau (dated January 28) and the East China Bureau (dated January 29) forwarded by the Central Government, regarding the 1950 fiscal revenue, expenditures, and the 1951 budget, the State Financial and Economic Committee affirmed that significant achievements had been made in all regions in implementing the central government's unified financial and economic management and budget plans in 1950. At the same time, it tentatively set out the fiscal and economic policy guidelines for 1951:

1. Vigorously promote material exchange between urban and rural areas;
2. Increase agricultural production;
3. Implement economic accounting systems with a focus on key enterprises;
4. Enforce fiscal discipline—strict adherence to budgeting and final accounting, construction blueprints, and financial planning;
5. Make necessary preparations for planned economic development.