

## **Instruction of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party on Reducing the Figures for the Five-Year Plans of Agricultural Production Increase and the Development of Mutual Aid and Cooperation**

**Date:** March 8, 1953

To all Central Bureaus, with copies to the Rural Work Departments and Party Groups of the Agricultural and Forestry Bureaus under the Administrative Committees:

The five-year plan figures that have been proposed by the large regions regarding agricultural production increases and the development of mutual aid and cooperation, as well as the targets set for 1953 in these two areas, now appear to be set too high.

In terms of agricultural production increases, it is not appropriate to base the five-year plan targets on the annual growth rates achieved during the three years of recovery. Growth during the developmental stage is far more difficult than during the recovery stage. The experience of the Soviet Union's First Five-Year Plan also demonstrates that agricultural growth targets cannot be set excessively high. Moreover, in our own First Five-Year Plan, it can be said that there will be no substantial introduction of machinery into agriculture. Agricultural growth will still rely mainly on mobilizing the enthusiasm of the peasant masses and on mutual aid and cooperation, on water conservancy projects, some new tools, and initial technical improvements. If the plan begins with targets set too high and they cannot be achieved, it will severely damage the enthusiasm of both cadres and the masses.

Therefore, the Central Committee is now considering reducing the five-year agricultural production growth target to **30 percent over the 1952 actual output as a baseline**. For 1953, the target would be an **increase of about 7 percent**.

As for mutual aid and cooperation, if the plans are set too high, this will inevitably lead to rash advances, excessive pursuit of scale and quantity, blind pursuit of advanced forms, and coercive formalism. At present, whether in old base areas (such as North China) or in new areas (such as Sichuan), serious leftist, adventurist tendencies have already emerged. If these are not immediately and effectively curbed, production will suffer damage.

Therefore, the Central Committee is now considering revising the development plan for mutual aid and cooperation so that within five years:

- In the old areas, organized farm households should be **controlled at around 80 percent of total rural households**;
- In the new areas, **controlled at around 70 percent**.

Within these, agricultural producers' cooperatives should be:

- In old areas, **about 45 percent of total rural households**;
- In new areas, **about 12 percent**.

For permanent mutual-aid teams:

- In new areas, **about 30 percent of rural households**.

The above figures are preliminary averages. All large regions are requested to **revise downward your originally planned figures in accordance with local conditions** and submit new plan figures to the Central Committee by **March 20**, so that a new unified plan can be compiled.

**Central Committee, March 8, 1953**