

**CCP Central Committee's Instruction Forwarding the East China Bureau's Comments on the East China Finance Committee's Views on the Current Grain Situation and Strengthening Unified Sale and Advance Purchase Work**

**Date:** June 4, 1954

**To:** All Central Bureaus, Sub-Bureaus, and Provincial (Municipal) Party Committees

When forwarding the East China Finance Committee's views on the current grain situation and on strengthening the unified sale and advance purchase of grain, the East China Bureau provided important guidance for current rural work.

This directive is excellent, and we are now transmitting it to you. It emphasizes that rural work must be concentrated on the agricultural production increase campaign with mutual aid and cooperation at its center, in order to prevent drift and fragmentation. It also proposes methods to unify county- and district-level Party committee leadership and improve the system of "sectoral" management.

These points are very important and timely. We ask all Central Bureaus, Sub-Bureaus, and Provincial Party Committees to give them serious attention.

*(The East China Bureau's directive is attached. The original report of the East China Finance Committee is not re-transmitted.)*

**Central Committee, June 4, 1954**

**To:** Shandong Sub-Bureau, all Provincial Party Committees, and copied to the Central Committee and the Central Finance Committee

We agree with the East China Finance Committee's views on the current grain situation and on strengthening unified sale and advance purchase work, and request all localities to study and implement them.

Regarding the proposed increase of 1.5 billion jin in grain sales, and the plan to transfer 400 million jin of miscellaneous grains and 700 million jin of indica rice from other regions, we request the Central Finance Committee's approval.

The situation reflected in the report shows that although our region's unified grain purchase task has basically been completed, the situation on the grain front remains very tense. Since March, rural grain sales exceeding the original plan have not only failed to subside, but have continued to grow. In addition, speculative grain traders and counterrevolutionaries have taken advantage of the situation to create disruptions; in some areas there have been cases of mass flight, panic buying, and disturbances.

The emergence of this situation is partly due to seasonal patterns in grain sales and certain side effects of the unified purchase campaign — above all, that some households with little or no surplus grain oversold, while some with substantial surpluses did not sell enough. But more importantly, it reflects that the work of unified grain sale has not been carried out thoroughly or seriously, and in some areas the situation remains very serious.

It is understood that, although roughly 80 percent of the townships in our region are carrying out grain rationing (planned supply), a significant number have not seriously mobilized the masses, and their work remains formalistic. In some areas, local leadership has even lost control of the situation.

If this is not immediately and effectively corrected, not only will the achievements of the unified purchase be undermined, but widespread discontent will inevitably be aroused, discouraging

production and participation in mutual aid and cooperatives, and making future grain rationing work even more difficult.

Particularly during the lean season — April, May, and June (or July to September in late-rice areas) — failure to properly manage the grain problem could throw the entire year's work into a passive and reactive position. All local Party committees must give this their full attention.

At the same time, spring plowing and production are entering a crucial and intense phase, and there remain many urgent issues to resolve. For example:

- In many areas, leadership of agricultural production is still superficial, failing to go deep enough to help the masses identify and act on the key factors in raising output.
- In some regions hit by disaster last year, conditions are still worsening, and the difficulties of poor households have not been adequately resolved.
- The mutual-aid and cooperative movement has expanded rapidly — over 20,000 new agricultural production cooperatives have been established — yet county and district Party committees often lack sufficient experience, methods, and even basic understanding of their situation.

Thus, consolidating these 20,000 cooperatives and enabling them to fully demonstrate their advantages in production is a major challenge. Success or failure will have a direct bearing on the completion of this year's agricultural output targets, on the development of the post-harvest cooperative movement, and on future implementation of unified grain purchase and sale.

Since the end of the unified purchase, provincial committees have been preoccupied with summarizing work, arranging new tasks, and transmitting the Fourth Plenary Session's resolutions. For two months, most county and district leaders have spent nearly all their time attending meetings. On top of this, after the unified purchase campaign, various departments have been assigning new tasks downward, leaving county and district committees overwhelmed and unable to concentrate on production, mutual aid, and grain work. This is one of the main reasons why rural work is currently passive and chaotic.

**To quickly and effectively change the situation** and enable Party committees — especially district and county committees — to concentrate on an agricultural production campaign centered on mutual aid and cooperatives while also completing the unified sale and advance purchase tasks, the East China Bureau proposes the following measures:

### **1. Temporarily Wind Down Work on the Fourth Plenary Session Resolutions**

Once provincial and municipal Party committee meetings for transmitting and discussing the resolutions are concluded, this work should be temporarily set aside. District and county committees should limit themselves to basic transmission and study of the resolutions, postponing detailed inspections and reviews, so as to focus on immediate tasks.

### **2. Implement the Spirit of the Second National Rural Work Conference**

Provincial Party committees should quickly transmit the spirit of the Second National Rural Work Conference, review the current state of spring plowing and the mutual-aid movement, and make corresponding plans.

The transmission should focus on helping rural Party committees and relevant departments solve the problem of “unifying the center” — making the agricultural production campaign with mutual aid

and cooperation at its core the long-term and unified central task of rural work. All other rural work must serve and revolve around this central task.

Only in this way can Party committees — especially district and county committees — concentrate their main efforts on this central task and provide strong leadership for the 20,000-plus cooperatives, achieving the goal of “only allowed to succeed, not allowed to fail.”

Given the seriousness of the grain problem, however, Party committees must also devote sufficient energy to the “make-up lessons” of unified sale work and to advance purchase. Treating grain work as a major crash campaign would be inappropriate and impractical, but failing to give it adequate priority risks drift and collapse.

The lessons of unified purchase and sale must be thoroughly absorbed: its long-term, difficult nature must be recognized, and not just for this year but for a considerable period ahead it must remain a key focus of work. Any tendency toward oversimplification or complacency must be firmly corrected.

### **3. Prioritize and Sequence Work According to Local Conditions**

Local Party committees should arrange current tasks appropriately based on local conditions, differentiating priorities.

- Where unified purchase left few unresolved problems and unified sale is already well implemented, concentrate forces on production and mutual aid work, while also consolidating grain work.
- Where unified purchase left many problems and unified sale has not been effectively carried out, allocate suitable forces to intensify make-up work.
- Where unified purchase problems are serious, unified sale has barely begun, and grain conditions are extremely grave, treat this as a priority area: strengthen leadership, organize sufficient forces, and — without hindering production — complete grain work as soon as possible before shifting fully to production and mutual aid work.

Advance purchase work for the new harvest should also be carried out in a timely manner according to local conditions and assignments from higher levels. Other secondary work should be postponed or suspended where possible, and even necessary work should have its demands suitably lowered.

Meetings, documents, and other administrative burdens must be strictly controlled to prevent a recurrence of the “five excesses” and ensure the implementation of central tasks.

### **4. Strengthen Rural Party Leadership and Organization**

To guarantee implementation of the above measures, rural Party leadership must be rapidly strengthened.

- District and county committees must immediately improve collective leadership, adjust existing structures, and set up necessary bodies within current staffing to manage agriculture, mutual aid and cooperatives, political and legal work, education, finance and economics, and industry.
- This will allow Party committees to concentrate their main forces on production, cooperation, and grain work.
- At the district and township levels, leadership responsibilities should also be appropriately divided so that grain work remains under firm control while the main forces work on production and cooperation.

Local Party committees should act quickly to adjust and organize their forces, dispatch large numbers of capable cadres deep into the countryside to supervise and inspect, and help districts and townships solve urgent problems in production, cooperation, and grain work — bringing rural work into an active, organized state in the shortest possible time.

If there is anything inappropriate in the above, please advise the Central Committee.

**East China Bureau, May 18, 1954**