

**Dates of Meeting:**

14-02-1951 – 26-02-1951

**Type of Meeting:**

National Agricultural Work Conference

**Place of Meeting:**

Beijing

**Attendance:**

convened by the Ministry of Agriculture

114 representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the major administrative regions, the agriculture and forestry departments of the provinces and the relevant departments of the Central People's Government attended the meeting

**Major Agenda Items:**

to sum up and exchange work experience in 1950, to study various measures for launching a large-scale production campaign and to restore and develop agricultural production, and to make concrete arrangements for the 1951 national agricultural production plan.

**Speeches/Reports:**

**Li Shucheng:** the trend of declining agricultural production in the whole country has been reversed, laying the foundation for the development and improvement of China's agriculture.

Specific plans have also been drawn up for increasing the production of tea and tobacco leaves. This conference must study and resolve several issues: first, mobilize the broad masses of peasants to launch a large-scale production campaign; Implement the production policy, organize themselves, and carry out a mass campaign to improve technology; Publicize model workers, conduct competitions, etc.

Second, it is necessary to develop various measures for agricultural production, such as water conservancy on farmland, prevention and control of pests and diseases, animal husbandry and veterinary medicine, popularization of improved varieties, and popularization of agricultural tools.

Finally, it is necessary to solve the problems of organization and leadership in agricultural production, including leadership ideology, organizational structure and leadership relationship.

**Summary of the National Agricultural Work Conference**

Ministry of Agriculture of the Central People's Government

The conference summarized the work of 1950, exchanged experiences from various regions, and thoroughly discussed the decision of the State Council of the Central People's Government regarding agricultural and forestry production in 1951. It also clarified the specific approaches to various tasks. The delegates unanimously agreed that the decision of the State Council was completely correct. They all expressed full confidence and determination to complete the great and glorious task in agriculture entrusted to us by the Central Government.

The Congress unanimously agreed that in order to restore and develop agricultural production, every effort must be made to achieve a bumper harvest this year and next, ensure the supply of industrial raw materials, and lay a solid foundation for the nation's economic development. In the current situation of victory in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, the Congress unanimously agreed that launching a nationwide patriotic production campaign is essential. (In the old revolutionary base areas, due to the growth of production, a patriotic high-yield campaign should be launched.) This campaign should be based on the effective and popular initiatives of the past year, such as mutual aid in labor, household plans (village and group plans), technological improvements, competitions, and model workers. This campaign will not only align individual interests with national interests and strengthen solidarity and mutual assistance among farmers, but also unleash individual enthusiasm for production (higher harvests, less burdens) and motivate those lagging behind in production. This will galvanize the production movement of nearly 400 million farmers. To ensure the widespread and in-depth development of the campaign and the successful completion of the 1951 production plan, it is necessary to mobilize all forces and focus on the following key aspects of the work:

1. Implementing Production Policies: Over the past year, various regions have implemented various agricultural production policies, stabilizing and enhancing production sentiment among all classes and promoting a bumper harvest nationwide. To achieve an even greater harvest in 1951, the State Council's ten major policies for developing agricultural and forestry production must be firmly implemented. In addition to continuing to stabilize and enhance farmers' production sentiment, particular emphasis should be placed on encouraging production development, particularly in the old revolutionary base areas. Regarding the implementation of price policies for cotton and other industrial raw materials, the Central Finance and Economic Commission has established reasonable price ratios

for cotton, tobacco, and hemp. These ratios are clearly defined as the minimum price guaranteed for farmers to sell directly in village markets and through cooperatives. Seasonal and regional price differences are acceptable, but the minimum must not fall below the ratio. Furthermore, it has been decided that state-owned trading companies in specialty production areas will strongly support cooperatives in establishing pre-purchase and credit contracts with farmers, providing timely supplies of daily necessities and production materials to stimulate farmers' development of cotton and other industrial raw materials. The meeting also discussed production in areas with limited transportation, livestock breeding areas, and minority ethnic areas, and provided considerable information. However, for the sake of caution, further investigation and research are still needed in various regions. At present, in order to help the development of animal husbandry in these areas, some loans can be increased.

2. Organize: Chairman Mao instructed us that organization is "the only way to move from poverty to prosperity," that organization is the "second revolution" in production, and that organization is "the direction of development in agricultural production." We must fully understand this. The idea of lax leadership over organization in both old and new areas, or the view that organization is solely for solving labor shortages, is incorrect. To avoid formalism and coercion, we should allow individual action while also starting with typical cases to gain experience before expanding to a fuller scale. The development of mutual aid organizations should proceed from the lower levels to the higher levels; haste is a mistake. Currently, due to the development of production, mutual aid groups in old areas have developed new aspects, such as integrating organization with technological advancement, integrating with cooperatives, storing grain in public granaries, and jointly manufacturing farm tools. Good experiences have already been developed, and local areas should study and adopt them based on their specific circumstances.

3. Fighting Natural Disasters: Over the past year, leaders at all levels have mobilized the masses to overcome various disasters, including floods, droughts, diseases, and pests, both minor and major. They have implemented numerous disaster-fighting measures, educated the masses, promoted cadre development, strengthened the relationship between the government and the masses, and ensured a nationwide bumper harvest. In disaster prevention and control, we must oppose laxity, complacency, and neglecting one thing while focusing on another. We must focus on drought prevention, flood control, and pest control, mobilizing and organizing the masses. Building on the existing organizational foundation of the masses, we must foster a long-term approach and gradually seek a thorough and complete solution to certain natural disasters from the root causes. Overcoming the threat posed by natural disasters to agricultural production and establishing the concept of "man conquering nature" is our grave and formidable task. Currently, livestock diseases are rampant and have spread to several provinces. Researching and developing urgent solutions requires our deep attention.

4. Launch a Movement to Improve Techniques. Following land reform, the growth of production has led to widespread public demand for improved agricultural production techniques. To successfully complete the 1951 production targets, a mass movement to improve techniques is essential. Systematically ensuring that county, district, and village cadres master agricultural production techniques is a crucial step in improving agricultural techniques. The successful technical symposiums, technical research conferences, and technology promotion networks in established areas are excellent organizational forms for disseminating improved agricultural techniques to the masses and should be promoted. For long-term development, we must strengthen experimental research, offer a large number of training courses, cooperate with educational departments to run agricultural schools, and systematically train a large number of technical personnel. In integrating agricultural technology with the masses, the task of technical workers is to integrate their knowledge and experience with the demands and experiences of the masses. Whether agricultural technology can be disseminated to the masses depends on how effectively this integration is achieved. Technical cadres are both scarce and valuable in agriculture. It is essential to effectively unite them, help them overcome their shortcomings, and point them in the right direction for development.

5. Strengthening Organizational Leadership: First, leading bodies at all levels should establish the guiding ideology that leadership in agricultural production is the overriding central task in rural work. The attention paid by Party and government leaders at all levels is crucial to ensuring successful agricultural production. Agricultural departments must accurately grasp the seasonality of agricultural production, promptly arrange production steps, and avoid the tendency to act after the fact. They must pay attention to regional characteristics and formulate specific plans tailored to local conditions based on public awareness, the natural environment, and economic conditions, avoiding the tendency to generalize. They must deeply understand the technical nature of agricultural production, effectively overcome natural disasters, improve agricultural technology, and advance agricultural production even further. Last year's bumper harvest laid a good foundation for this year's production, but we must remain vigilant and mentally prepared for the possibility of serious disasters and specific difficulties in production.

In order to successfully complete the 1951 production plan and achieve an even greater harvest, in implementing all specific measures, based on the experience of the past year, we must pay attention to the following aspects: (1) All measures proven effective by experience must be resolutely implemented to push agricultural production forward. (2) The agricultural production foundation inherited by New China is in a state of disrepair. However, when carrying out various specific projects, we must be good at grasping the major issues that the masses urgently need to be resolved and solving them. This will facilitate mobilizing the masses and achieving results. (3) In all specific projects involving new methods, we must adopt a steady and progressive approach, starting with typical cases, gaining experience, and then widely disseminating them. Even when citing proven experiences from other regions, we must use typical cases as examples, train cadres, educate the masses, and then fully implement them. (4) In implementing various specific measures, due to the lack of experience, we must be good at summarizing and exchanging experiences, raising issues for discussion, and only in this way can we guide the timely advancement of work. (5) We must do a good job in financial work, establish the concept of economic accounting, strengthen financial management and the inspection and reporting system, and enforce fiscal discipline.

The conference recommended to the State Council that appropriate stabilization of agricultural and forestry cadres be implemented. Upon completion of land reform in new areas, some land reform cadres should be transferred to the agricultural and forestry departments. Prefectures and counties should split their existing construction departments into two: agriculture and forestry, and construction. (In animal husbandry areas, this should be the animal husbandry department, and in semi-agricultural and semi-pastoral areas, the agriculture and animal husbandry department.) The number of production assistants in prefecture and county agricultural and forestry departments, as well as in districts, should be increased. Agricultural and forestry organizations should be established promptly where they do not exist. Production committees should be organized in all counties and villages, and personnel should be added as needed, each with specific responsibilities.

Branches of specialized technical organizations in prefectures and counties should be led by the local agricultural and forestry departments, maintaining operational guidance from higher-level authorities. If necessary, some organizations may be merged while maintaining their original division of labor. Independent farms established in prefectures and counties should work closely with extension organizations.

Throughout the year we must strengthen supervision and inspection, conduct investigations and research, successfully complete this year's production tasks, and make the necessary preparations for the large-scale agricultural construction that is about to begin.

#### **Other Decisions and/or Actions:**

launch a nationwide patriotic production campaign

1. Correctly implement the agricultural production policy
2. Continue to implement the principle of organizing and developing production
3. Vigorously mobilize and organize the masses to struggle against natural disasters
4. it is necessary to carry out a mass campaign to improve technology
5. quickly establish agriculture and forestry institutions at all levels

#### **Remarks:**