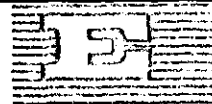


UNITED NATIONS



ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL
E/CN.12/AC.33/SR.1
7 September 1955
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Sixth Session
Bogotá, Colombia
29 August 1955

JOINT MEETING OF COMMITTEES II AND IV
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at Bogotá on
Wednesday, 7 September 1955
at 3.25 p.m.

CONTENTS:

Programming of agricultural development

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. MULLER	Venezuela
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. MALATESTA	Argentina
	Mr. CORREIA LIMA	Brazil
	Mr. JARA	Colombia
	Mr. HESS	Costa Rica
	Mr. DIAZ MASVIDAL	Cuba
	Mr. SCHATAN	Chile
	Mr. SALGADO	Ecuador
	Mr. HUEZO SELVA	El Salvador
	Mr. ROSS	United States of America
	Mr. BRUNET)	
	Mr. DU PAVILLON)	France
	Mr. HUDICOURT)	
	Mr. JEAN-MICHEL)	Haiti
	Mr. BUESO ARIAS	Honduras
	Mr. ZAMORA	Mexico
	Mr. GJERRERO	Nicaragua
	Mr. VAREKAMP	Netherlands
	Mr. McCULLOUGH	Panama
	Mr. BAKULA PATIÑO	Peru
	Mr. SCOTT-FOX	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. BROTOS	Uruguay
	Mr. ALAMO BLANCO	Venezuela

Also present:Observers from Member States:

Mr. KAREN	Czechoslovakia
Mr. PAWEL KOT	Poland
Mr. BJORK	Sweden

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. BOERMA)	Food and Agriculture
Mr. ORTIZ)	Organization

/Mr. LARSEN

Representatives of specialized agencies (continued)

Mr. LARSEN	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Mr. LASO) Mr. VERA)	International Monetary Fund

Representative of non-governmental organizations:

Category A:

Mr. CARDENAS	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
--------------	--

Secretariat:

Mr. SWENSON	Deputy Director
Mr. FURTADO) Mr. GANZ)	Secretaries of Committee II
Mr. TRIVELLI	ECLA Secretary of Committee IV
Mr. SACO	FAO Secretary of Committee IV

PROGRAMMING OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The CHAIRMAN announced the holding of a joint meeting of Committees II and IV, to discuss problems of the programming of economic development in agriculture.

Mr. SCHATAN (Chile) drew attention to the dangerously low scale of investment in agriculture in Latin America, as outlined in the study on the Selective Expansion of Agricultural Production (E/CN.12/378), and introduced his draft resolution (Conference Room Paper No. 10) which was designed to promote research into the possibilities of raising the rate of investment and of making better use of available investment resources.

Investment in the storing, marketing, processing and transporting of agricultural produce was on an even lower scale. There was little point in increasing agricultural output if the produce did not reach the consumer and export markets easily and quickly.

/During the

During the short period of operation of the Chillán Plan it had been noticed that farmers were loath to invest in agriculture simply because they were unaware of modern techniques or because they lacked the necessary investment facilities. There were great possibilities of expanding investment if Governments publicized the advantages of modern techniques. At the last Conference of FAO he had stressed that the funds which the Latin American countries set aside for such publicity were extremely small. A sound credit policy was also necessary to increase the volume of investment.

Improvement in the distribution and marketing of agricultural produce would also encourage investment and reduce the wide margin between the prices paid by consumers and those paid to producers. The initiative taken by FAO to set up centres in Santiago and Buenos Aires for studying distribution problems was an important step in the right direction.

Another major obstacle in the way of large-scale investment was the system of land tenure in Latin America. It was essential to redistribute the land into medium-sized holdings, for which purpose a rational and efficient administration would have to be established. Agricultural workers would also have to be trained in modern techniques so that the capital invested could be put to the greatest possible advantage. It was well known that one of the greatest impediments to agricultural development was the shortage of skilled labour.

In the coming years agricultural surpluses could prove to be an effective means of encouraging investment. The credit in local currency extended by the United States to countries importing agricultural surpluses was an important stimulus to domestic investment.

Investment should not be made indiscriminately but should be properly planned. The inter-relationship of all economic branches was so close that each sector had a direct influence on all the others.

In conclusion, he expressed the gratitude of the Chilean Government for the valuable co-operation extended to it by the
/various international

various international technical assistance organizations, and offered to the other countries of Latin America the experience which Chile had gained in its national agricultural development programmes.

The CHAIRMAN stated that, if it were considered opportune to hold an additional joint meeting of Committees II and IV, to consider the resolution presented, such a meeting would be called and delegations would be duly notified.

The meeting rose at 3:50 p.m.