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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
ANNUAL REPORT

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS : SIXTEENTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 3

NEW YORK

(b) The difficulties of shipping certain finished chemical products, such as acids, and

(c) The fact that raw materials, which can be utilized in various chemical industries, exist in many Latin-American countries, but, owing to their characteristics, often require the study of special processing methods,

Reaffirms resolution 10 (IV), adopted in Mexico in 1951, concerning the study of the chemical industry;

Recommends that the secretariat

(a) Initiate as soon as possible technical and economic studies relating to various chemical industries, along the lines of the iron and steel studies, and, with respect to the transport of chemicals, taking into account the studies of other United Nations bodies; and

(b) Give priority to the studies relating to basic chemical products (acids and alkalis) and to the other products which show the largest import figures in the region as a whole.

INVENTORY OF NON-AGRICULTURAL NATURAL RESOURCES

Resolution 60 (V) adopted on 24 April 1953
(E/CN.12/345)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Taking into account resolution 5 (IV) relative to the conservation of non-agricultural resources which was adopted by the Commission in June 1951 and which was based in turn on resolution 345 (XII) of the Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the study on the utilization of such resources requires that the Commission have at its disposal the best possible data concerning the availability of the resources which can be used as industrial raw materials, and

Considering further that it is of great importance that the Latin-American countries have knowledge of their own resources,

Recommends that the Executive Secretary compile and classify existing data concerning non-agricultural natural resources, giving preferential attention to hydro-electric resources and to raw materials for those industries which the Commission is already studying under its programme of work; and

Recommends that member Governments carry out a systematic study of their non-agricultural resources, drawing on the services that the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration can place at their disposal.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUES AND THEIR USE IN THE STUDY OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURE

Resolution 61 (V) adopted on 24 April 1953
(E/CN.12/346)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that it is becoming increasingly necessary to improve the means employed for analysing the economy of Latin America, and

Considering the satisfactory results obtained by the

secretariat in analysing economic problems in the agricultural field through the sampling technique and the fact that, as compared with other statistical methods, results can be obtained by this technique at less cost and with greater speed,

Notes with satisfaction the study of a Chilean region, entitled "Analysis of some Factors which act as an Obstacle to the Increase of Agricultural Production" (E/CN.12/306), and

Resolves

1. To suggest that the Latin-American governments which have not yet been able to carry out agricultural censuses employ the sampling technique for the purpose of carrying out statistical surveys;

2. To recommend to the United Nations Technical Assistance Board and the Food and Agriculture Organization that they provide whatever assistance may be requested by the Latin-American countries for the conduct of such surveys and accord these requests due attention and priority; and

3. To recommend that the secretariat continue, in conjunction with FAO, studies of questions relating to agricultural production along the lines of the study referred to in document E/CN.12/306.

COUNTRY STUDIES ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 62 (V) adopted on 24 April 1953
(E/CN.12/347)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Noting with satisfaction the secretariat's growing interest in the fundamental aspects of Latin-American agrarian economy, which had not hitherto been sufficiently analysed owing to the priority understandably given to industrialization problems,

Considering that broader research in agrarian economy, in its many forms, is needed before programmes for the balanced development of Latin-American economies can be formulated,

Considering that most Latin-American countries depend largely on the export of raw agricultural products to cover their imports, including capital goods required for the development of their industries, and

Considering that the technical improvement of agriculture in Latin America cannot be achieved solely through imports of capital goods, but also requires the expansion of the industries necessary for this advance,

Recommends that the secretariat

1. Continue, in collaboration with FAO, its studies of the agrarian economy of each Latin-American country;

2. In all its research into agrarian economy, proceed on the basis that the essential objects of economic development are to raise the standard of living of the rural workers and their families and to improve their institutions;

3. In these studies, specifically analyse the level of income derived from the various forms of agrarian activities particularly those in which an adequate level of technical improvement has been reached;

4. At the same time consider the potentialities

which exist in Latin America for developing industries likely to ensure higher productivity in agriculture; and

5. In accordance with the resources and facilities which each Latin-American country can offer, study the possibility of setting up or expanding such industries within a plan for increasing intra-regional and international trade.

STUDIES OF THE COFFEE INDUSTRY IN RELATION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 63 (V) adopted on 24 April 1953
(E/CN.12/348)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the production of, and trade in, coffee are of great importance to the economy of several Latin-American countries,

Considering that, with the present technical levels of cultivation and processing of coffee, the efficiency of labour is very low because it is impossible to mechanize important phases of the productive process, and

Considering that the aforesaid characteristics of coffee cultivation tend to keep large sections of the population at low income levels,

Recommends that the secretariat study, in collaboration with FAO and other inter-governmental bodies, in specified areas where coffee is the main source of income, those economic and technical aspects of coffee production which exert the greatest influence on economic development.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Resolution 64 (V) adopted on 24 April 1953
(E/CN.12/349)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that in many cases the agricultural statistics of the countries of Latin America are not sufficiently broad, comparable or systematic for the adequate compilation and analysis of the data needed for studies of economic development in agriculture, and

Considering further that these shortcomings may impair the validity of the conclusions reached concerning problems of agricultural economy,

Requests the secretariat

1. When appropriate, to point out with the necessary clarity in its economic studies what the statistical deficiencies are, indicating the sources and, in the case of estimates prepared by the secretariat, the methods followed in the preparation of the data;

2. To undertake, in co-operation with FAO and the Inter-American Statistical Institute, an investigation into the structure of the system of agricultural statistics of the Latin-American countries and of the techniques used by them, for the purpose of indicating where the greatest deficiencies occur and determining in what cases the existing statistics may be accepted and in what cases they should be broader or more thorough so as to conform to specified standards and so as not to impair the validity of the conclusions in the economic studies based upon them; and

3. To endeavour, in co-operation with FAO, to

devise speedy and adequate methods for collecting the available data and information.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

Resolution 65 (V) adopted on 24 April 1953
(E/CN.12/350)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that, pursuant to resolution 14 (IV) adopted at the fourth session, an Agricultural Credit Seminar in Central America was held in Guatemala during September and October 1952, under the aegis of the Government of Guatemala, the Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization, the preliminary report of which was submitted to this fifth session for study (E/CN.12/305),

Notes with satisfaction the report submitted by the secretariat, FAO and the Government of Guatemala, on the results of the said seminar in Central America; and

Recommends that the secretariat, jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization, enlisting the co-operation of other United Nations specialized agencies and in consultation with governments, continue the study of agricultural credit problems and arrange for the calling, if and when appropriate, of regional seminars to deal with this subject.

LAND REFORM

Resolution 66 (V) adopted on 24 April 1953
(E/CN.12/351)

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Having noted with satisfaction the interest of the United Nations in the study of land reform problems, and General Assembly resolution 625 (VII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 370 (XIII), which deal specifically with this matter and which suggest that the United Nations and the specialized agencies should carry out studies in this field,

Considering that the system of agrarian structures is an element of fundamental importance in an adequate analysis of the problems involved in the economic development of the Latin-American countries,

Considering that, within such structures, the methods of tenure and land use are of vital importance and should be considered, in Latin America, from the point of view of ensuring a better life for the farmer as a necessary step towards the economic emancipation of the peoples,

Considering that any system of cultivation should tend towards improving the living conditions of the rural population,

Considering that a Latin-American seminar on land problems will be held in Brazil (Campinas, State of São Paulo) in May 1953, at which all questions relating to land reform will be studied by experts, and

Considering that the Commission will collaborate in this seminar, which is sponsored by FAO and the Government of Brazil in pursuance of the aforesaid resolutions,

Recommends

1. That land reform be considered as a basic ele-