



**UNITED NATIONS**

# **REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA**

**(FOURTH SESSION)**

**(28 MAY 1951 — 16 JUNE 1951)**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS : THIRTEENTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 8**

**NEW YORK**

### III. AGRICULTURE

#### PROGRESS REPORT ON THE JOINT WORK PROGRAMME OF ECLA AND FAO

14 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 7 June 1951*  
(E/CN.12/249)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Having studied* the progress report of the joint work programme of the Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization; and

*Considering* the importance of co-operation between the Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization in all the respects in which the two organizations have joint responsibilities and common interests; and

*Considering* the need to make the most effective use of limited budgets and personnel :

*Takes note* of the progress report;

*Expresses* its satisfaction with the agreement between the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

*Suggests* to member Governments which have not yet replied to the questionnaire requesting information concerning agricultural credit in their countries, that they reply to the questionnaire at their earliest convenience; and

*Requests* the Executive Secretary that he consult with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization with regard to convening, jointly and in co-operation with the Governments concerned, the proposed meeting of agricultural credit experts in one of the Central American countries, at such time as they are satisfied that all the necessary preparatory work has been completed.

#### AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

15 (IV). *Resolution adopted on 16 June 1951*  
(E/CN.12/277)

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,*

*Having considered* the section of the Economic Survey of Latin America 1950 (E/CN.12/217) dealing with agriculture;

*Considering* that, during the agricultural year 1949-1950, the *per capita* quantum of production of the region's principal crops was only 87 per cent of the pre-war levels and that the ratio between the total area harvested and the population does not show any improvement in the majority of countries;

*Considering* that although some progress in the total agricultural production of the Latin-American countries over the pre-war period can be noted, this progress is still very slow because greater attention was paid during the war and is still being paid to other sectors of the economy;

*Considering* that it is important that the agricultural development of the region should be stimulated by devoting the greatest possible attention to such develop-

ment and by making available modern technical skills in order to obviate any lack of balance with the growing industrialization to be observed in Latin America;

*Considering* that industrial development tends to increase the urban population which, through its greater earnings, increases the pressure of demand, and that this demand, if it is not satisfied by greater production, not only causes a rise in prices—as has occurred in many countries—but also creates an atmosphere in which social disturbances might arise;

*Considering* that standards for general application cannot be recommended because the factors affecting agricultural and stock raising development are varied and differ from one country to another, in accordance with their specific ecological characteristics;

*Considering* that it is a primary and immediately essential obligation to supply the people with food; and

*Considering* that the Governments of member States should pay increasing attention to agricultural problems and to all those factors which exercise a direct and decisive influence upon the improvement of agriculture;

1. *Takes note* of the section of the Economic Survey of Latin America 1950 (E/CN.12/217) dealing with agriculture;

2. *Recommends* that member Governments should take *inter alia* the following measures in the technical field :

(a) Perfect the methods of professional training of agronomists, who are responsible for applying technical knowledge to farming;

(b) Make a soil survey of their countries in order to obtain full knowledge of their soils and thus to be in a position to determine their special usefulness in accordance with their principal characteristics, since without such surveys, programmes of improvement, studies of production targets and similar subjects are unreliable;

(c) Co-operate with existing or projected experimental stations;

(d) Expand and improve State agricultural extension services;

(e) Create soil and water conservation services;

(f) Expand entomological and botanical plant treatment services and enact plant health legislation in such a way that application may be effective, and even drastic if the general interest of the country so requires;

(g) Encourage farm mechanization, and co-operative methods designed to facilitate it;

(h) Spread knowledge of the correct use of fertilizers and study the best methods of enabling the farmer to obtain them in due time and as cheaply as possible;

(i) Enact legislation to protect the farmer by ensuring that the fertilizers or preparations he acquires in fact contain the guaranteed minimum content of nutritive elements and that their price is in conformity with the accepted values of plant foods;

(j) Stimulate irrigation and communications; and

(k) Give technical and economic assistance to stock raising generally;