

The FAO at its founding conference at Quebec City in 1945 started with 34 members; in 1957 there were 74 members. As new nations are born they may join the FAO. For example, Tunisia was admitted at the 1955 Conference and Morocco and Sudan joined at a special session of the 1956 Conference. The first Director-General of the FAO was Lord John Boyd Orr of the United Kingdom and the fourth and present incumbent is B. R. Sen of India who was elected in 1956.

The budget voted in 1945 for the first nine months of the new Organization's working year was \$2,000,000 and the 1957 budget was \$6,800,000. In addition to the latter amount, technical assistance funds (ETAP) totalled approximately \$9,144,000. Currently the staff of the Organization numbers about 1,600 persons, 600 of whom are working in over 40 country missions mostly as technicians.

FAO activities cover a wide field including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, nutrition, home economics, agricultural statistics, marketing and economics. A number of regional bodies have been created to facilitate work in special fields. About 85 p.c. of FAO activities represent direct assistance to individual governments, the remainder being composed of regional projects and services. The FAO arranges specialized training abroad for professional, technical and administrative officials from under-developed countries, and assists governments to organize in-service training institutes within their own countries. Since 1951, FAO has trained over 1,000 Fellows abroad and another 3,000 professional workers in regional and national training centres.

Commodity Review.—Progress in production of food and agriculture has been made since World War II, although it may not have been as great as desired nor equal among all countries. Production during 1956 rose sharply in North America and Oceania, the regions already most troubled by surpluses, but otherwise, apart from a substantial gain in the Far East, production showed little change and in some cases declined.

The disposal of agricultural surpluses remains one of the most pressing commodity problems facing the FAO and the scale of special disposal programs has been stepped up. The agency within the FAO directly responsible for a review of the commodity situation is the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) which carries out FAO responsibilities of analysis and interpretation of the international commodity situation and advises on suitable action when appropriate.

Over the past two years the Committee has more intensively applied the policy of setting up commodity study groups such as those on wheat and other grains, cocoa, coffee, dairy products, coconut, olive oil, and hard fibres. The CCP also convened an expert working group on agricultural support measures. Canada has been represented on the working parties dealing with grains, dairy products and price supports, and has been following closely the developments in the other commodity working groups.

In addition, the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal, located at Washington, U.S.A., is holding a watching brief in connection with programs having to do with the disposal internationally of surplus agricultural commodities. The Sub-Committee provides a forum for discussing complaints and problems. Principles governing the disposal of surpluses are: to increase consumption rather than to restrict supplies; to dispose of excess stocks in an orderly manner so as to avoid any undue pressure resulting in sharp falls of prices on world markets, particularly when prices of agricultural products are generally low; where surpluses are disposed of under special terms, to undertake that such arrangements be made without harmful interference with normal patterns of production and international trade.

Another consultative sub-committee deals with the economic aspects of rice, paying particular attention to trade matters and to any special difficulties which exist or are likely to arise in the international trade in rice.

The CCP and its Washington Sub-Committee have had under consideration such matters as the establishment of national food reserves and the use of surpluses for economic development. Progress has been slow but a number of nations did get together and