

The actual day-to-day work of the Organization is carried out by five technical divisions located in Rome: Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Nutrition and Economics. FAO has regional offices in each of five broadly defined regions. There is a Latin American region with headquarters at Santiago, Chile, serving the needs of the whole of the Central and South American Continent; a Far Eastern region centred at Bangkok; a Near Eastern region with headquarters at Cairo; and a North American region, for Canada and the United States, centred at Washington. The fifth regional office, set up in 1958 to service the African Continent, has headquarters in Accra, Ghana. There are also a number of committees consisting of technicians from member nations who are interested in specific problems. These include a Committee on Commodity Problems, a Committee on Land and Water Utilization, a European Forestry Commission, a Committee on Locust Control, Fisheries Councils and an International Rice Commission. From time to time working parties are convened to deal with problems of immediate interest.

FAO's current operating resources are approximately \$16,500,000 a year, including about \$8,000,000 allocated to FAO from the United Nations technical assistance fund. The staff numbers 1,750; of the 800 professional personnel, 475 work in the field in over 50 countries and territories and in the regional offices and sub-offices.

Technical Activities.—FAO acts as an instrument of collaboration in the effort to control pest and disease. Throughout the Near and Middle East, international control and prevention measures, co-ordinated by FAO, are aimed at controlling locusts. The European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, created in 1952 under FAO auspices, is working toward the complete eradication of the disease. Another field for greater international action is in the development of river basins and watersheds affecting several countries. Along with other UN agencies FAO is studying the Mekong Valley's land and water development potentialities, at the request of the Governments of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand.

FAO's direct action consists largely of technical assistance through supplying experts and training activities. Funds for technical assistance are contributed by governments and allocated to FAO and other specialized agencies from a Central United Nations Fund. Fellowships are provided for the training of officials and technicians from the under-developed countries so that they may assume more responsibility for their own programs; more than 1,400 fellowships have been provided since 1951 and a series of regional centres have provided training for nearly 3,000 persons on specialized subjects.

Commodity Review.—The work of the FAO Conference, the Council and the Committee on Commodity Problems in the commodity field may be summarized as follows: (1) making a periodic review of the commodity situation; (2) providing a forum for discussing problems, exchanging views, and studying national policies; (3) sponsoring specialized commodity study groups; (4) reviewing proposals for action and making recommendations; (5) publishing reports on commodity policies and developments; (6) co-operating with other international commodity agencies in the preparation and review of commodity situation reports and in considering proposals for action programs.

A major activity is the study of the problem of commodity surpluses by the Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal located in Washington which is concerned with ways and means of using surpluses to establish national food reserves and/or to finance economic development in under-developed countries. Special aspects of the surplus problem are also the concern of other FAO commodity groups such as the Group on Grains which has undertaken study of the causes of the present imbalance in the wheat and coarse grains situation and the commodity groups concerned with rice, copra, cocoa and dairy products.

Canada and the FAO.—Canada's interest in the FAO goes back to the days of the Hot Springs Conference. The United Nations Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture was established by this Conference and was headed by a Canadian. It laid the groundwork for the first FAO Conference which was held at Quebec City in 1945. In