

**THE DRAFT PROGRAMME  
FOR  
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
1956-1967**



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## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

On January 25, 1956 Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the People's Republic of China, called a meeting of the Supreme State Conference to discuss the Draft National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-1967) which had been submitted by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

In his address at the meeting Chairman Mao said that the country was at that moment witnessing the flood tide of the great socialist revolution. With the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese revolution had passed from the stage of bourgeois-democratic revolution to that of socialist revolution. In other words, it had started the period of transition from capitalism to socialism. The work of the first three of the past six years had been concentrated mainly on restoring the national economy and carrying out various social reforms — first and foremost land reform — left incomplete in the first stage of the revolution. Since last summer socialist transformation, that is, socialist revolution, had developed on a vast scale with far-reaching results. This socialist revolution, he said, could be completed in the main and on a national scale in about three more years.

The object of socialist revolution, said Chairman Mao, was to set free the productive forces of society. It was quite certain that the change-over from individual to socialist, collective ownership in agriculture and handicrafts, and from capitalist to socialist ownership in private industry and commerce would lead to an ever greater release of productive forces; this laid

the social basis for an enormous expansion of industrial and agricultural output.

Our method of carrying out the socialist revolution, continued Chairman Mao, was a peaceful one. In the past many people, both inside and outside the Communist Party, doubted if that was possible. But since the great upsurge of the co-operative movement in the countryside last summer, and the swelling tide of socialist transformation in the towns and cities in the past few months, there was no longer much room for doubt.

Conditions in China were such that it was not only possible, by using peaceful methods, methods of persuasion and education, to turn individual into socialist, collective ownership, but also to change capitalist into socialist ownership. The speed of socialist transformation in the past few months had been far more rapid than anyone expected. There were people who had worried that it would not be easy to get through the "difficult pass" to socialism. It now looked, said Chairman Mao, as if this "difficult pass" would not be so difficult to get through after all.

A fundamental change had taken place in the political situation in China, he went on. Up to last summer there had been many difficulties in agriculture, but things were quite different now. Many things that had seemed impracticable were now quite feasible. It was possible to fulfil ahead of time and overfulfil the country's First Five-Year Plan. Now this National Programme for Agricultural Development for 1956-1967, based on the realities of the great upsurge in socialist transformation and socialist construction, was intended to outline the prospects for agricultural production and rural work and set a clear-cut goal before China's peasants and all who work in agriculture. A spurt must be made in other kinds

of work besides agriculture to keep in step with the situation arising from this upsurge of socialist revolution.

In conclusion, Chairman Mao said that the nation must have a far-reaching, comprehensive plan of work for the next few decades to wipe out its economic, scientific and cultural backwardness and get abreast of the most advanced nations in the world. To reach this great goal the decisive thing was trained personnel—to have plenty of capable scientists and technicians. At the same time they had to go on strengthening and extending the people's democratic united front, by uniting all forces that could be united. The Chinese people would ally themselves with people anywhere in the world to work for the preservation of world peace.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung was followed by Liao Lu-yen, Deputy Head of the Department of Rural Work of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee, who made a speech explaining the Draft National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-1967).

Then representatives of science, education, industry and commerce and of the various democratic parties made speeches, all expressing their warm support of the Draft National Programme for Agricultural Development. Included in this pamphlet are the full text of the Draft National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-1967) and the explanations on the programme given by Liao Lu-yen.



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## THE DRAFT NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT 1956—1967

(Submitted by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee  
of the Communist Party of China on January 23, 1956)

The great tide of agricultural co-operation that has swept China is bringing forth an immense, nationwide growth of agricultural production, and this in turn is stimulating the development of the whole national economy and all branches of science, culture, education and public health.

To give the leading Party and government bodies at all levels and the people of China, particularly the peasants, a long-term programme of agricultural development, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, after consulting comrades holding responsible positions on Party committees in the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, has drawn up a draft national programme outlining the scale of agricultural development during the period 1956-1967 (the last year of the third Five-Year Plan). On a certain number of related questions this draft programme also touches upon work in the urban areas. It sets a number of important targets for agricultural production. Others will be specified in each of the five-year plans and in the annual plans.

This draft is now distributed so that it can be studied by the Party committees of all provinces (municipalities or autonomous regions), administrative regions (autonomous *chou*), counties (autonomous counties), districts and *hsiang* (nationality *hsiang*),

as well as by all departments concerned, all of whom are asked to submit their views on it. At the same time workers, peasants, scientists and people from all walks of life who love their country should also be widely consulted. These views should be collected before April 1, 1956, so that the programme can be submitted for discussion and adoption by the seventh plenary session (enlarged) of the seventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China which will be held some time after that date. It will then be presented to the state bodies and the people of the whole country, first and foremost the peasants, as a recommendation.

Except in some remote areas where democratic social reforms have not yet been introduced, every leading Party and government body of provinces (municipalities, autonomous regions), administrative regions (autonomous *chou*), counties (autonomous counties), districts and *hsiang* (nationality *hsiang*) should draw up specific plans, based on the present draft national programme and taking into account conditions peculiar to each locality. These plans should specify the successive stages of development of every aspect of their local work. At the same time all state departments concerned with economic affairs, with science, culture, education, public health, civic affairs or the judiciary should also review and revise their plans of work in accordance with the present national programme.

(1) Seeing that in 1955 more than 60 per cent of all peasant households were in agricultural producers' co-operatives, all provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions should, in the main, complete agricultural co-operation in its elementary form and set themselves the goal of getting about 85 per cent of all peasant households into agricultural producers' co-operatives in 1956.

(2) Areas where co-operation is on better foundations and where a number of co-operatives of advanced form are already functioning should, in the main, complete the change-over to co-operation of advanced form by 1957. Each district of the remaining areas should, in 1956, set up and run one or more large co-operatives of advanced form (each with a hundred or more peasant households) to serve as examples; and by 1958 they too should practically complete co-operation of advanced form.

In going forward to the advanced form of co-operation certain conditions must be observed: the change must be of the free will and choice of the members; the co-operative must have people capable of giving proper leadership; and it must be possible for over 90 per cent of the members to earn more after the change. When all such conditions in the elementary form of co-operatives are ripe, they should at different times, group by group, go over to the advanced form of co-operation, otherwise the growth of their productive forces will be hampered.

(3) Every agricultural producers' co-operative must make suitable arrangements to see that those of its members who lack manpower, are widows or widowers, who have no close relations to depend on, or who are disabled ex-service men, are given productive work and a livelihood, so that they have enough food, clothing and fuel, can bring up their children properly, and see that the dead are decently buried, so that they are assured of help during their lifetime and decent burial thereafter.

(4) During 1956 attempts should be made to settle the question of admitting to the co-operatives former landlords and rich peasants who have given up exploitation and who have asked to join. This can be done on the following lines: (a) Those who have

behaved well and worked well may be allowed to join co-operatives as members and change their status to that of peasants. (b) Those who have conducted themselves neither well nor badly, but have behaved fairly well, may be allowed to join as candidate members, with their status for the time being unchanged. (c) Those who have behaved badly the *Hsiang* People's Council should allow them to work in the co-operatives under supervision; those who have committed sabotage should be brought to trial as the law directs. (d) Whether they acquire the status of co-operative member or not, former landlords or rich peasants shall not, for a specified time after joining a co-operative, be allowed to hold any important post in it. (e) Co-operatives must work on the principle of equal pay for equal work, and pay former landlords or rich peasants in the co-operative the proper rate for the work they put in. (f) Sons and daughters of landlords or rich peasants who were under eighteen at the time of the land reform, or who were still at school, or who had taken part in work before the land reform and had been under the thumb of other members of the family, should not be treated as landlords or rich peasants, but should be allowed to join the co-operatives as members, be reckoned as of peasant status, and given work suited to their abilities.

(5) Counter-revolutionaries in the rural areas should be dealt with as follows: (a) Those who have committed sabotage or had committed other serious crimes in the past, and against whom there is great public feeling, should be put under arrest and dealt with in accordance with law. (b) Those who committed crimes which were commonplace in the past, but have not committed sabotage since liberation, and against whom public feeling is not great, should be

allowed by the *Hsiang* People's Council to work in the co-operative under supervision, to be reformed by work. (c) Those who have committed minor crimes and since made amends, those who have served their sentence, been released and behaved well, and those who committed crimes but did deserving work in the campaign to suppress counter-revolutionaries, may be allowed to join the co-operative—some as members, no longer regarded as counter-revolutionaries but as peasants, and others for the time being as candidate members, not classified as peasants—depending on what they have done to make amends and what merit they have earned. In no case, however, whether they are admitted as members or not, must they be allowed to take on important posts in the co-operative for a specified time after joining. (d) Such counter-revolutionaries as have been allowed to work in the co-operatives under supervision should be paid for their work by the co-operative on the principle of equal pay for equal work. (e) Other members of the families of counter-revolutionaries should be allowed to join co-operatives, and enjoy the same treatment as anyone else without being discriminated against, provided they took no part in crimes committed by the counter-revolutionaries.

(6) In the twelve years starting with 1956, in areas north of the Yellow River, the Tsinling Mountains, the River Pailung, and the Yellow River in Chinghai Province, the average annual yield of grain should be raised from the 1955 figure of over 150 catties to the *mou* to 400 catties.<sup>1</sup> South of the Yellow River and north of the Huai the yield should be raised from the 1955 figure of 208 catties to 500 catties. South of the Huai, the Tsinling Mountains and

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<sup>1</sup>One catty=1.1023 lb. One *mou*=0.1647 acre.

the River Pailung it should rise from the 1955 figure of 400 catties to 800 catties per *mou*.

In the same twelve years the average annual yield of ginned cotton should be raised from the 1955 figure of 35 catties to the *mou* (the average for the whole of China) to 60, 80 or 100 catties depending on local conditions.

Everywhere vigorous steps should be taken to see that output targets set in state plans for grain, cotton, soya, peanuts, rape, sesame, hemp, cured tobacco, silk, tea, sugar-cane, sugar-beet, fruit, tea-oil and tung-oil trees, are reached. Besides this, all areas must take more energetic measures to develop all other marketable industrial crops. In large mountainous areas vigorous efforts should be made to grow all possible marketable industrial crops, provided that they not only produce enough food to make themselves self-sufficient, but also to build up a surplus against times of natural calamities. In those parts of South China where conditions permit, vigorous efforts should be made to develop tropical crops.

Agricultural producers' co-operatives should encourage their members to grow vegetables on their own private plots by way of improving their standard of living. Peasants who live on the outskirts of cities or near industrial or mining districts should go in for market gardening in a planned way so that the supply of vegetables to these places can be ensured.

More medicinal herbs should be grown. Those which grow wild should be protected and, wherever possible, gradually brought under cultivation.

(7) All agricultural producers' co-operatives, besides producing enough food for their own consumption and to meet the requirements of the state, should, within 12 years starting from 1956, store enough

grain for emergency use for a year, a year and a half or two years, according to local conditions. All provinces (municipalities or autonomous regions), administrative regions (autonomous *chou*), counties (autonomous counties), districts, *hsiang* (nationality *hsiang*) and all agricultural producers' co-operatives, should draw up detailed plans to meet this requirement. During the same period, the state too should store sufficient reserve grain for one to two years for use in any emergency.

(8) Live-stock breeding should be encouraged. Cattle, horses, donkeys, mules, camels, pigs, sheep and all kinds of poultry should be protected and bred. Special care should be taken to protect the females and young and improve breeds. State live-stock farms should be extended.

The prevention and cure of animal diseases is an important part of live-stock breeding. As far as possible, all areas should, within a period varying from 7 to 12 years, practically eliminate the most serious animal diseases such as rinderpest, hog cholera, Newcastle disease, pork measles (cysticercosis), contagious pleuro-pneumonia of cattle, foot and mouth disease, lamb dysentery, sheep mange, and glanders. For this purpose, within seven years starting from 1956, veterinary stations should be set up in all counties in agricultural areas and all districts in pasture areas. Veterinary work should be improved and extended. The co-operatives should have personnel with basic training in the prevention and cure of animal diseases.

Care should be taken to protect pastures, improve and grow grass for cattle fodder and encourage silage. Agricultural producers' co-operatives and live-stock breeding co-operatives should see that they have their own supplies of fodder and grass.

(9) There are two main ways of increasing the



yield of crops: taking steps to increase production, and imparting better techniques.

(A) The chief steps to increase production are: (a) water conservancy projects and water and soil conservation; (b) use of improved farm tools, and gradual introduction of mechanized farming; (c) efforts to discover every possible source of manure and improve methods of fertilizing; (d) extension of the use of the best and most suitable strains; (e) soil improvement; (f) extension of multiple cropping areas; (g) planting more high-yielding crops; (h) improving farming methods; (i) wiping out insect pests and plant diseases; and (j) opening up virgin and idle land and extending cultivated areas.

(B) The chief steps to impart better techniques include the following: (a) provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions should collect data on the experience of the best co-operatives in their own areas in increasing yields, compile and publish at least one book a year, so as to spread this knowledge as widely and rapidly as possible; (b) agricultural exhibitions; (c) conferences of model peasants called at regular intervals by provinces (municipalities or autonomous regions), administrative regions (autonomous *chou*), counties (autonomous counties), districts, *hsiang* (nationality *hsiang*), with awards and citations to peasants who distinguish themselves in increasing production; (d) visits and emulation campaigns, the exchange of experience; and (e) imparting technical knowledge and encouraging peasants and cadres to take an active part in learning better techniques.

(10) Water conservancy projects and water and soil conservation. All small-scale water conservancy projects (for example, the digging of wells and ponds and the building of irrigation canals and dams), the harnessing of small rivers and water and soil