

CHINA
AGRICULTURE
YEARBOOK

1996

CHINA AGRICULTURE PRESS

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1996

(English Edition)

CHINA AGRICULTURE PRESS

ISBN 7-109-04733-4



9 787109 047334 >

中国农业年鉴1996

(英文版)

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中国农业出版社出版发行

(北京市朝阳区农展馆北路2号 邮政编码:100026)

1997年2月第1版 1997年2月北京第1次印刷

定价: 300 元

ISBN 7-109-04733-4/Z·410

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EDITOR'S NOTES

1. Agriculture Yearbook is a reference book reflecting the conditions of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, township enterprises, land reclamation, farm machinery, water conservancy, meteorology, etc. It has published both in Chinese and English since 1985.

2. The English edition bases itself mainly on the Chinese edition of China Agriculture Yearbook 1996 and is supplemented by a few entries and special columns.

The English Edition of the Yearbook 1996 does not include the information from Taiwan Province unless specially stated.

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GENERAL SURVEYS

1

Crop Farming

1995 was a good year for all major farm crops, which contributed positively to stabilizing the economy and ensuring the market supply.

Grain output reached 466.62 million tons, 21.51 million tons more than in the previous year, exceeding that of 1993 to chalk up a historical record. The sown areas of grain crops increased by 516 950 hectares to 110 million hectares. The sown areas of high-yielding crops increased. These included a record 22.8 million hectares of corn, 1.62 million hectares more than in the previous year and 30.7 million hectares of rice, 573 380 hectares more than in the previous year. The sown areas of beans whose unit yield is low decreased by 1.50 million hectares. The sown area of soybeans was cut by 1.10 million hectares.

Both summer and autumn crops increased. The total output of summer grains was 106.94 million tons, 2.63 million tons more than in the previous year. The total output of early rice increased by 1.36 million tons to 42.22 million tons. The total output of autumn crops increased by 18.88 million tons to 359.68 million tons. All the three major crops of wheat, corn and rice increased, with wheat output rising by 2.92 million tons, rice, by 9.30 million tons and corn, by 12.71 million tons. Most provinces reported increased grain output, except

Northwest China and Inner Mongolia which reported slight decreases. The biggest increases were registered in North China, East China and Central-South China.

Cotton continued the rehabilitative growth, with total output reaching 4.77 million tons, up by 9.8 percent over the previous year. Biggest increases were recorded in Henan, Xinjiang, Jiangsu, Hubei and Sichuan.

Oil-bearing crops continued the momentum of growth on the basis of successive years of good harvests. The total sown areas and total output all chalked up historical records. The sown area reached 13 million hectares, 1.02 million hectares more than in the previous year and the total output reached 22.5 million tons, rising by 13.1 percent. The total output of peanuts rose by 5.7 percent to 10.23 million tons and rape seed sown area reached 1.12 million hectares and total output rose by 30.5 percent to 9.78 million tons.

A big increase was recorded in the summer oil-bearing crops. The sown area of summer rape seed was 6.91 million hectares, 1.12 million hectares more than in the previous year and its total output reached 9.78 million tons, rising by 30.5 percent. Autumn oil-bearing crops decreased, with the total output reaching 12.73 million tons.

The total output of sugar-bearing crops

reached 79.4 million tons, 5.95 million tons more than in the previous year, next only to 1991 and 1992. The sown area was 1.82 million hectares, 65 000 hectares more than in the previous year. The high-yielding sugar cane sown area increased by 68 800 hectares. The major sugar-bearing crops growing areas enjoyed good weather conditions and the natural disasters were not severe.

The sown areas and output of vegetables all increased, with the sown area increasing by 594 000 hectares to 9.51 million hectares and the total output growing by 91.21 million tons to 257.23 million tons.

The total output of fruits was 42.15 million tons, rising by 20.4 percent. Tea output dropped by 0.8 percent to 580 000 tons.

Compared with previous years, there were the following characteristics in China's agricultural and rural work:

1. Agricultural production gained momentum as it received greater attention from the leaderships at all levels and the measures adopted were correct. The central and local governments all produced a series of preferential policies to support agricultural development and strengthened their guidance, support, protection and regulation, thus providing a good external environment for the development of agriculture. Zhejiang Province introduced the level-by-level responsibility system for grain work and demanded that all localities must achieve stability in sown area, output and inventories and the balance in aggregates and among different areas and introduce the local administrators assuming the sole responsibility for grain production. The province continued the

policy of additional prices in the purchase of grain by the state and tying the supply of chemical fertilizer to grain production and the policies for supporting grain production and for appropriation of grain supplies. Guangdong Province did not relax its efforts on grain production following the good harvest wrested from severe natural disasters in the previous year. It strove to raise the unit output and total output and the self-sufficiency rate in grain supply. It carried out the assessment system for the grain responsibility system and introduced the protective prices for grain (20 yuan per 50 kilograms for the third grade rice) and adopted a series of measures to build provincial commodity grain bases. Many other provinces dispatched a large number of cadres to the countryside to help local farmers with production plans.

2. Input in farm production increased. The mechanism of increasing agricultural input through multiple channels was taking shape. The investment in agricultural capital construction in 1995 was 14.51 billion yuan, 1.85 billion more than in the previous year. This was rare in history. The State Development Bank put more than 3 billion yuan into grain production, irrigation projects, farm production materials and the "vegetable basket" project. The application of chemical fertilizer increased, rising by at least 10 percent in the application of chemical fertilizer in grain crops alone. Besides, governments at all levels and departments concerned also increased input in the construction of basic farming facilities. Anhui Province, for instance, invested 500 million yuan more in agricultural capital construction and increased agricultural loans by at least 10 per-

cent over the previous year. Jilin Province budgeted 11 percent more funds for supporting agriculture and stressed that the funds earmarked for agriculture must be secured and that leaders would be held responsible for intercepting, diverting and delaying the payment funds earmarked for agriculture.

3. New breakthroughs were made in the popularization of science and technology. In 1995, all places strengthened the popularization of research achievements in agriculture. Fine strains of seeds were popularized on 74.6 million hectares, 1.33 million hectares more than in the previous year. This included hybrid rice which was popularized on 16 million hectares, 300 000 hectares more than in the previous year, and hybrid corn, which was popularized on 20.7 million hectares, 1.3 million hectares more than in the previous year. The areas with a yield of 15 tons per hectares reached 5.93 million hectares, 860 000 hectares more than in the previous year. The areas transplanted with rice seedling nursed in dry conditions came to 5.13 million hectares, 2.2 million hectares more. The areas where the technique of transplantation by throwing the seedlings came to 860 000 hectares, 330 000 hectares more than in the previous year. The areas sown by the precision or semi-precision methods reached 10.7 million hectares, 1.33 million hectares more than in the previous year. The areas where the formula fertilizer application reached 52.7 million hectares, 1.33 million hectares more. The total amount of organic fertilizer came to 2.17 billion cubic metres, 170 million cubic metres more. The areas where the comprehensive control of pests was applied came to 58 mil-

lion hectares, 4 million more than in the previous year.

The strategy of developing cotton production by relying on science and technology began to be implemented and initial results were made in accelerating the use of new varieties and new technologies. The areas where plastic film was used in the early cotton growing period came to 4.27 million hectares, accounting for 78 percent of the total sown areas of cotton, 7 percentage points higher than in the previous year. The implementation of the strategy helped increase the technology contents of cotton production and raise the level of cotton culture.



Another bumper harvest of Cotton

photo by Yang Hua

4. The anti-disaster capabilities were enhanced and the disaster prevention, control and reduction were gradually standardized. In 1995, the central and local governments paid full attention to the prevention, control and reduction of natural disasters. The State Council called national teleconferences in May and July to put various localities on the alert against natural disasters. All localities concentrated manpower, materials and financial resources on the work. Although many natural disasters occurred in the year, the