

CHINA
AGRICULTURE
YEARBOOK

1994

CHINA AGRICULTURE PRESS

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1994

(English Edition)

CHINA AGRICULTURE PRESS

(京)新登字 060 号

中国农业年鉴 1994

(英文版)

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中国农业出版社出版发行

(北京朝阳区农展馆北路 2 号 邮政编码: 100026)

1995 年 2 月第 1 版 1995 年 2 月北京第 1 次印刷

定价: 90.00 元

ISBN 7-109-03750-9/Z · 375

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1. China 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 been published both in Chinese and English since 1985.

2. The English edition bases itself mainly on the Chinese edition of China Agriculture Yearbook 1994 and is supplemented by a few entries and special columns.

3. The English edition of the Yearbook 1994 does not include the information from Taiwan Province unless specially stated.

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GENERAL SURVEYS

1

Crop Farming

Chinese agriculture and rural economy maintained the momentum of growth in 1993 thanks to a series of policies and measures to support agricultural production and protect the interests of the peasants. The output value of agriculture in the whole year reached 665 billion yuan, increasing by 4 percent over the previous year.

1. Crop farming was good, with total output of grain and edible oil reaching historical high.

Production of all crops, except cotton, sugar-bearing crops and flue-cured tobacco, increased by a big margin over the previous year. The actual sown areas of grain reached 110 million hectares, only 50 500 hectares less than in the previous year. The total output of grain reached 456.488 million tons, for the first time exceeding the 450 million ton mark, increasing by 3.1 percent or 13.83 million tons over the previous year, the best historical level.

The increase in the total output was attributable to the increase in the per unit yield. In 1993, the average output of grain crops per hectare reached 4 131 kg, 130.5 kg more than in 1992, the highest per unit output since the founding of New China. Another factor contributing to the increase in total output is that both the summer and autumn crops were good. The total output of summer crops reached 108.41 million tons, 5.143 million tons more than the summer crops of 1992. The total output of autumn crops reached 307.3 million tons, in-

creasing by 14.41 million tons over the previous year. Only early rice showed decreases. Another feature of 1993 crop production was that all the 15 provinces, autonomous regions and centrally administered municipalities in northern China reported a grain increase of 17.91 million tons while the 15 provinces, autonomous regions and centrally administered municipalities reported a total decrease of four million tons.

The output of oil-bearing crops reached 18.0477 million tons, an increase of 10 percent over the previous year. But the output of rape seeds dropped by 9.3 percent due to the drop in sown areas. However, the total output of peanuts reached 8.421 million tons, increasing by 41.5 percent over the previous year, thus offsetting the output drop in rape seeds.

The achievements were made in a stern situation in agricultural production. From the latter half of 1992, many places showed the tendency of ignoring or relaxing the grip on agricultural production. Some places went in for real estate industry and development zones, thus occupying large tracts of farmland. There appeared a serious outflow of funds for agricultural production. Even the funds for purchasing agricultural produce were used for other purposes. The peasants received IOUs in selling their farm produce. This, plus the heavier burdens on the peasants and the drop of comparative results in growing grain and cotton, dampened the enthusiasm of peasants for production.

The central authorities promptly adopted measures to check the development of such situation. Chinese President Jiang Zemin called a meeting on agriculture and rural work of six provinces in Wuhan and Premier Li Peng called a TV conference on rural work in Beijing. After that, the State Council produced a series of policies and measures designed to stabilize agricultural production. In the whole year, the central authorities called six conferences on agriculture and rural work and issued 17 policy documents. Local governments did a lot of hard work to implement these policies and measures. Thanks to the concerted efforts from above down to grassroots, some prominent problems in agricultural production were solved or eased. The momentum of big drops in the sown areas for grain and cotton was checked. Such problems as IOUs in purchasing agricultural produce, occupation of farmland and heavy burdens on peasants were solved, thus arousing the initiatives of the peasants in agricultural production.

2. Greater efforts were made to readjust the crop structure, with the high-efficiency crops developing rapidly.

Thanks to the implementation of the guidelines for establishing a socialist market economy, various places exerted themselves to optimize their crop structure and made much greater efforts to develop crops that promised good market potential and had greater economic results. This helped raise the total efficiency of crop farming, increase the income of peasants and meet the demand of the market.

Firstly, the improved varieties of crops increased. The sown area of marketable soy-

bean increased by 2.233 million hectares to reach 9.454 million hectares and the total output increased by 50 percent to reach 15.307 million tons. Big increases were also registered in some other beans, millet and buckwheat, which were in high demand on the market. The development of some special purpose wheat varieties was also fast. The sown area of wheat of fine quality in the country increased by 200 000 hectares to reach 1.067 million hectares. The areas sown to fine quality rice and native rice varieties increased by a big margin while the areas sown to early indica rice, which is of inferior quality, were much less.

Secondly, the production of some high-efficiency crops developed fast, with output value and efficiency increasing simultaneously. In 1993, the output of such crops as fruit, silkworm cocoons and tea, which have a high comparative results, reached a historical high. The total output of fruit increased by 25.4 percent to reach 30.112 million tons. The production of famous and rare fruit developed especially fast while the fruit other than apple and orange and peach increased from 31 percent in early 80s to 39 percent. The acreage of quality red Fuji apple, which ripens late and is good for storage reached 373 000 hectares, with the output reaching more than 800 000 tons, accounting for 19 percent of the total acreage devoted to apple and 12 percent of the total apple output. The output of silkworm cocoons increased by 9.2 percent to reach 755 800 tons and the total output of tea increased by 6.8 percent to reach 600 000 tons. The proportion of high and medium grade tea increased and the output and output value of famous brand tea increased by a big margin.