

LIAO LU-YEN

THE WHOLE PARTY  
AND THE WHOLE PEOPLE  
GO IN  
FOR AGRICULTURE  
IN A BIG WAY



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## AGRICULTURE — FOUNDATION OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

Agriculture is the foundation of the national economy. Taking agriculture as the foundation and industry as the dominant factor and integrating priority for the development of heavy industry with the speedy development of agriculture is a fundamental policy for socialist construction put forward by Comrade Mao Tse-tung on the basis of China's experience in construction. It is a highly important, creative development made by Comrade Mao Tse-tung in Marxist-Leninist political economy. This policy is playing a great guiding role in the practice of socialist construction in our country.

Socialist industry is undoubtedly the leading force in the national economy. But industry cannot develop in isolation. This is especially true in the case of such a socialist country as ours with a rural population of more than 500 million, which, in a sense, cannot possibly develop industry without developing agriculture. In 1945, Comrade Mao Tse-tung, in his *On Coalition Government*, already expounded in a comprehensive way the tremendous role played by agriculture in the development of industry and the close connection between industry and agriculture. After liberation, in the period of socialist revolution and socialist construction, he again repeatedly pointed out the importance of agriculture to the entire

national economy. In 1959, Comrade Mao Tse-tung, on the basis of summing up the experience of the all-round leap forward in China's national economy, further put forward the policy of taking agriculture as the foundation and industry as the dominant factor and integrating priority for the development of heavy industry with the speedy development of agriculture. The experience gained in the practice of our socialist construction fully testifies to the importance of this scientific thesis of Comrade Mao Tse-tung. It is only by rapidly developing agriculture that we can provide the necessary conditions for our industrial development, that we can bring about a high-speed and proportionate development of the socialist economy in our country.

The development of industry necessitates, first of all, an increase in the labour power engaged in industrial production. It also requires a corresponding increase in labour power in communications, transport and commerce. In 1957, the last year of the First Five-Year Plan, the number of workers and employees in the country was three times as many as in 1949; in 1958 and 1959, the first two years of the big leap forward, it again increased by more than 85 per cent as compared with 1957. Most of the new workers and employees came from the countryside. But for the rapid growth of agriculture and the rise in its labour productivity resulting from the realization of agricultural co-operation and, later, the establishment of the rural people's communes, it would be impossible to transfer such a huge labour power from the rural areas to industrial production.

Along with the development of industry and the population increase in the cities and industrial and min-

ing areas, the consumption of grain for industrial use and by the city inhabitants has increased and so has the demand for marketable grain. The amount of grain to be supplied to the cities in 1960 is estimated to be nearly twice as much as in 1953, the first year of the First Five-Year Plan for socialist economic construction. At the same time, in consequence of the increase in the production of industrial crops, the amount of grain supplied to the peasants of the areas which mainly grow such crops has also increased. It would be impossible to meet such a rapid and substantial increase in the demand for marketable grain if there were not a correspondingly large increase in agricultural production, particularly in grain production.

The constant expansion of industrial production calls for a constant increase in the supply of raw materials. Light industry mainly uses agricultural produce as its raw materials. In our country, industries using agricultural produce as their raw materials now roughly account for more than one-third of the gross value of industrial output and for more than four-fifths of the value of the output of industrial consumer goods. A rich or poor harvest in agriculture has a very great and direct effect on industrial production. Whenever agriculture enjoys a rich harvest, the rate of increase of industrial production in the same or the following year will be relatively greater. On the contrary, if the rate of increase of agricultural output is smaller, the rate of increase of industrial output in the same or the following year will also be smaller.

The existence of a home market is a most important condition for the growth of socialist industry. Socialist

industry takes the home market as the prerequisite for its growth. But saying this, of course, does not mean that there is no need for foreign trade. With the rural population constituting 80 per cent of the nation's population, the vast countryside provides the main, and an extremely broad market for the growth of light and heavy industry. In his article *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People* written in 1957, Comrade Mao Tse-tung said: "Everyone knows that light industry is closely related to agriculture. Without agriculture there can be no light industry. But it is not so clearly understood that agriculture provides heavy industry with an important market. This fact, however, will be more readily appreciated as the gradual progress of technological improvement and modernization of agriculture calls for more and more machinery, fertilizers, water conservancy and electric power projects and transport facilities for the farms, as well as fuel and building materials for the rural consumers."<sup>1</sup>

At present, in our country, about two-thirds of the industrial goods used as consumer goods go to the countryside. In 1958 the total amount of the supply of agricultural means of production which are heavy industrial goods increased six and a half times compared with 1952; in 1960 it is expected that there will be another 100 per cent increase or so over that of 1958, that is, there will be available more than ten times as much as the total amount supplied in 1952. It becomes more and more obvious that the countryside is the important mar-

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<sup>1</sup> Mao Tse-tung: *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People*, Foreign Languages Press, Peking, 1960, pp. 67-8.

ket of heavy industry too. The facts of the last few years also show that the purchasing power of the countryside for industrial goods, especially light industrial goods which are used as consumer goods, is directly affected by a rich or poor harvest in agricultural production. When there is a rich harvest in agricultural production, there is also a relatively higher rate of increase in the amount of industrial goods sold in the countryside.

To develop industry, heavy industry in particular, huge amounts of funds must be accumulated. Agriculture is one of the main sources of accumulation of funds by the state. Funds directly accumulated in the form of agricultural tax constitute a very small part of the financial revenues of this country. But of the state income derived from the industrial, communications and trade departments in the forms of tax and profit quite a large sum is derived from the processing, transport and sale of farm produce. At present, about half of the nation's financial revenue is related, directly or indirectly, to farm produce. Light industry is an important source of the accumulation of funds and the raw materials it needs are provided mainly by agriculture. The rate of growth of agriculture, therefore, has an important bearing on the rate of increase in the financial revenue of the state and on the scale of capital construction. This has been fully borne out by the practice of socialist construction in our country in the last few years.

Ours is a country where industry is not well developed; during its socialist construction, it needs to import a certain amount of machinery and equipment which it cannot produce as yet or its output of which still fails to

meet the demand. In order to import we have to export. In 1959, China's total exports nearly quadrupled compared with 1950. Of the exports more than 70 per cent were farm produce or processed farm produce. From this we can see the important part played by agriculture in speeding up the socialist industrialization of our country through foreign trade.

In short, whether from the angle of labour power, food grains, raw materials, markets, funds or foreign trade, without a high-speed development of agriculture in our country, there can be no high-speed industrial development.

The policy of making agriculture the foundation fully conforms to the policy of making industry the dominant factor. The high-speed development of agriculture calls for a large amount of agricultural machinery, chemical fertilizer and other industrial goods to be provided by industry. Only when industry develops with steel as the key lever is it possible to lay the material foundation for the technical transformation of agriculture. When the whole Party and people go in for agriculture in a big way and when agriculture grows rapidly, the industrialization of the country can be accelerated. As Comrade Mao Tse-tung has said: "The entire national economy will benefit if we can achieve an even greater growth in our agriculture and thus induce a correspondingly greater development of light industry during the period of the Second and Third Five-Year Plans. With the development of agriculture and light industry, heavy industry will be assured of its market and funds, and thus grow faster. Hence what may seem to be a slower pace of industrialization

is actually not so, and indeed the tempo may even be speeded up."<sup>1</sup>

## **GRAIN — KEY LEVER IN AGRICULTURAL GROWTH**

While agriculture is the foundation of the national economy, grain must be made the key lever in agricultural development. "Food is the first necessity of the people," as a common saying goes, and grain is a treasure of treasures. It is the basis of the growth of the various branches of agriculture. The livelihood of the people is in the main secured if grain production grows. The average annual rate of increase in China's grain output for the last ten years has reached 9.6 per cent, surpassing that in all capitalist countries; as far as the total amount of grain output is concerned, China has the biggest grain output of any country in the world. But the amount of grain for each person is still comparatively low. At the same time, as the national economy grows and the people's living standard goes up, the need in both city and countryside for grain will increase constantly. If we can raise our grain output by another 100 per cent or so in the next ten years, then there will be a radical change in the comparatively low amount of grain for each person. We must do our best to achieve this end.

Grain production plays an important part in the development of animal husbandry. Agriculture and animal husbandry are interdependent and promote each other.

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 68.

By raising large numbers of livestock, including pigs, and collecting more manure, we will be able to bring in a bigger harvest of grain. Conversely, when there is an abundance of grain and fodder, we will be able to feed more pigs and raise more other livestock and develop animal husbandry more quickly. All livestock — pigs, horses, cattle and sheep, not only require grain feed but also a large amount of coarse and green fodder. Take pigs for instance. A pig, on the average, consumes 100 to 200 *jin* of grain and over 3,000 *jin* of coarse and green fodder in the 10-12 months it takes to reach a gross weight of 150 *jin* or more, or the standard slaughtering weight of 100 *jin* or more (dressed). With a substantial increase in the number of pigs, farm by-products like straw, and fodder made from wild plants alone will not be sufficient to meet the need for coarse and green fodder; it will also be necessary to set aside land to grow fodder crops. If grain yields make no bigger progress, it will be impossible to increase substantially the amount of grain for feeding animals and it will also be difficult to grow fodder crops on a greater acreage of land. Animal husbandry, therefore, grows only with the growth of grain production. In this sense, grain is the foundation of the development of animal husbandry.

A steady growth of grain output, and this alone, provides conditions for expanding the area sown to industrial crops and thus solves step by step such a contradiction as the struggle for land between food crops and industrial crops. This is fully borne out by the experience gained in arranging the areas sown to various farm crops in the last few years. It is not difficult to

solve the question of providing the productive equipment for the development of light industry; the question is where to get the necessary raw materials, especially a supply of farm products which are the main raw materials for light industry. For instance, according to the present industrial level of our country, there is no difficulty in building in a year ten or even more textile mills each with 100,000 spindles. But to provide the raw materials needed by ten such mills in a year, judging from our present level of cotton output per unit area of land and taking into account the varying chances of the harvest, we will probably have to build up cotton growing bases with an area of several million or even up to ten million *mu*. This will not be an easy task. The rapid development of light industry calls for a large-scale expansion of the area used to cultivate various kinds of industrial crops. This again calls for a further growth of grain production. Before there is a bigger increase in grain production, it is improper to expand the area of industrial crops by reducing the area of food crops. This is why we say that the steady increase of grain output is the precondition for the gradual expansion of the area of industrial crops.

Moreover, the rate of growth and scope of forestry, fishery and subsidiary occupations run by the people's communes as well as the commune-run industries are, in the final analysis, determined by the development of agricultural production, primarily by grain production. Only when there is a steady growth in grain production can fairly large amounts of labour power be channelled into gradual and appropriate expansion of forestry, fishery, and subsidiary occupations and commune-run industries.

In short, food grain is the foundation of all branches of agriculture. To achieve a more rapid development of agricultural production, we must, in the first place, produce more and more food grains. The Party's Central Committee and Comrade Mao Tse-tung have time and again told us that the policy of agricultural production is to give priority to the development of grain production and simultaneously develop the production of various kinds of industrial crops. We must firmly adhere to the policy of taking food grains as the key lever in agriculture and bring about an all-round development of a diversified rural economy. We must put emphasis on grain production and place it in a position of primary importance.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION**

In order the better to implement the policy of taking agriculture as the foundation and rapidly develop grain production and a diversified rural economy, we must fully comprehend the characteristics of agricultural production, have a firm grasp of the laws of agricultural production and adopt various effective measures for increasing output.

Agricultural production is different from industrial production. In the growing of crops we are dealing with plants and in livestock breeding we are dealing with animals. Plants and animals are animate. This is a characteristic which marks the fundamental difference between agriculture and industry. People can and should

take positive and appropriate measures to promote the growth and development of crops and livestock in accordance with the laws of their growth and development. But the factors affecting their growth and development are complicated and many-sided. Some still cannot be controlled, or fully controlled, by man; others have not yet been understood or fully understood. Engaging in agricultural production is therefore a complicated and arduous task.

Agricultural production is to a large degree subject to natural conditions and this brings instability to it. Of course, natural conditions can be transformed. The building of water conservancy works, soil amelioration, afforestation, etc., are all effective means for transforming natural conditions. In the ten years since the founding of the People's Republic of China we have achieved tremendous successes in this regard. However, to effect complete control over nature is, after all, not something that can be accomplished in a short space of time. The power of the people's communes to transform nature and resist natural calamities is great indeed. In the battle against serious droughts and other natural calamities on large tracts of land in 1959 and 1960, for instance, they demonstrated a heroic spirit which in refusing to bow to the heavens, created countless miracles, thereby greatly reducing the losses caused by natural calamities. Nevertheless we are still unable to completely avoid natural calamities. In the past ten years, agricultural production in our country has increased from year to year. The average annual rate of growth has no parallel in history. But the rate of growth fluctuated, thus showing an instability in agricultural production.

Agricultural production in our country is still done almost entirely by manual labour. Most of the semi-mechanized farm implements are also operated by animal traction and manpower. The socialist transformation of our agriculture has been in the main accomplished, and on the basis of the advanced agricultural producers' co-operatives we have gone a step further and established the people's communes. The present task is to equip the people's communes with modern farm machines so as to carry through the mechanization and modernization of our agriculture. This is the fundamental way out for agriculture.

The switch over to the people's communes and the level already attained in our country's industrialization have prepared the necessary conditions for the mechanization of agriculture. We are now striving to bring about the mechanization of agriculture in accordance with the policy put forward by Comrade Mao Tse-tung to "achieve a minor solution in four years, an intermediate solution in seven years and a major solution in ten years." This task will certainly be fulfilled and can be fulfilled ahead of schedule. At present, however, our country's agricultural production is in the main done by manual labour. The areas cultivated by farm machines in 1959 constituted only about 5 per cent of the country's cultivated land. We still have only a very small amount of chemical fertilizers; reliance has to be placed mainly on farm manure and the accumulation and transportation of manure is still done by manual labour. This places certain limitations on the rapid rise of labour productivity in agriculture.

In agriculture, the popularization of advanced experience is a complicated thing. Since the big leap forward, a great deal of advanced experience and typical examples of high yields have been created on the agricultural front and these must be popularized energetically. Nevertheless, popularization of advanced experience on an extensive scale, and raising the output of ordinary fields to that of high-yield fields invariably demands a whole process of work. The transition from the typical to the general must go through a process — this is the general rule of the development of objective things. In agriculture, the process of proceeding from the typical to the general usually takes a longer time. This is because farm crops are animate things, and the characteristics of their different varieties differ from one another. Besides, agricultural production is still controlled to a large extent by natural conditions, which vary from season to season and from place to place. There are great differences in the nature of soil and various agricultural regions also differ vastly from one another. Agricultural production is now in the main done by manual labour; even under the same conditions, it is difficult to lay down completely identical rules of operation. All advanced experience must be experimented with successfully before it is popularized for use. Experimentation and popularization of advanced experiences in agriculture is even more complicated, and takes longer time. The experience of cotton growing in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region, for instance, cannot be mechanically applied in the Yangtse River valley. The successful experience gained in the cultiva-

tion of early rice is not necessarily applicable to late rice, etc.

By comprehending the characteristics of agricultural production and understanding its complexity and difficulty, we can all the more effectively summon up our revolutionary energy, adopt the necessary measures, work in a down-to-earth spirit and devise every possible means to overcome difficulties, so as to realize a greater leap forward in our agricultural production.

### **THE WHOLE PARTY AND THE WHOLE PEOPLE TO GO IN FOR AGRICULTURE AND GRAIN PRODUCTION IN A BIG WAY**

The Central Committee of the Communist Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung have always attached great importance to agriculture, and constantly and repeatedly taught us that with a rural population of more than 500 million, the condition of agriculture has a tremendous bearing on the economic development of our country. All the social changes in the Chinese countryside, from the land reform to agricultural co-operation and the establishment of people's communes, were carried out under the direct leadership of Comrade Mao Tse-tung; great victories have been won and a broad way has thus been paved for the development of the agricultural productive forces. To bring the advantages of the people's communes into full play, to develop agricultural production, and first of all, grain production, still more rapidly—this is a long-term task of primary importance for the whole Party and the whole people.

Firstly, since agricultural production in our country is at present still done mainly by manual labour, the key to bringing about a continuous leap forward in agricultural production is to see to it that agricultural production, and first of all grain production, gets the manpower it needs. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, and following the development of socialist construction, it has been necessary and rational to transfer labour power from the agricultural front to work in the industrial and communications fields. With the establishment of the rural people's communes, an adequate labour force became necessary for the development of a diversified economy—forestry, animal husbandry, side occupations, fishery and commune-run industries. However, when manpower is drawn from the agricultural front, consideration must be given to the existing level of labour productivity in agriculture so that not too much labour power is drawn off. If too much labour power is transferred from the grain production front, grain production itself will be affected.

We must muster all those who can possibly be spared both inside and outside the people's communes to strengthen the agricultural front and reinforce the manpower engaged in field work. We should first muster all those who can possibly be spared in the counties and people's communes to reinforce work in the fields. All other undertakings, with the exception of the few where production has to be maintained all the year round, must be geared in with the farming seasons—do more work in the slack seasons, and less in the busy seasons, suspend work in the busiest season, do farm work when there is plenty of such work, and do other kinds of work when

there is not much farm work — so as to make fuller use of the labour power in the countryside. There is a production brigade of the Shaoshan People's Commune in Hsiangtan County, Hunan Province, which worked according to these rules with the result that the amount of labour power available for field work increased by 54 per cent. This shows that there are fairly big potentialities in this field. All people's communes should follow the example of the Shaoshan People's Commune and see to it that in busy farming seasons, over 80 per cent of the labour power in the countryside is engaged in agricultural production. Even in winter time, enough manpower should be devoted to collecting manure and looking after the winter crops.

Secondly, we must continue to carry out the "Eight-Point Charter" in agricultural production. Implementation of the Charter is expressed in the most concentrated way by introducing intensive and meticulous cultivation in farming just as in market gardening. All high-yield plots should meet, step by step, the requirements of intensive and meticulous cultivation. Now is the time when the autumn crops are in vigorous growth, so special attention must be paid to field management and plant protection. Whether the field management is successful or poor is an important factor in ensuring a good autumn harvest. It is now an excellent time to accumulate compost and green manure. It is therefore necessary to launch a drive for the accumulation of fertilizer by arranging for the necessary labour power to prepare additional fertilizer for the late autumn crops and basic fertilizer for the autumn and winter sowing. It is now also time for the autumn breeding of livestock and hatching

of chickens and other poultry. Every chance should be seized to go ahead with this kind of work. Because the busy season of autumn harvesting, ploughing and sowing is approaching, immediate preparations should be made to get implements ready for harvesting and sowing as well as seeds and basic fertilizer. Labour power should be suitably arranged so that harvesting, ploughing and sowing can be done in rapid succession. Sowing should be done at the right time and it should be done well and over a bigger area. Early arrangements should be made to reclaim as much land as possible during the autumn and winter. The average yield per *mu* should be raised simultaneously with the expansion of the cultivated area. In short, we should guarantee to do a good job in the management of the autumn fields and strive for a rich autumn harvest and a greater output of grain. While seeing to it that we get a bumper autumn harvest we must also see to it that an excellent job is done in autumn and winter sowing, so that there will be a bumper summer harvest next year and more grain will be brought in.

Thirdly, we must further check up on and consolidate the people's communes to bring into full play the initiative of the cadres of the people's communes and their production brigades and teams, and of all commune members. We must stick to three-level ownership based on ownership vested in the production brigade, and prepare conditions for the transition from ownership mainly vested in the brigade to ownership mainly vested in the people's commune by developing commune-owned economy in the course of the common development of the economy of the organizational units of the people's com-

muné at all three levels. As to when the transition will take place, it will be decided after 1965 in the light of the conditions then prevailing. We must strengthen the management and administration of the people's communes, especially in the fields of finance and labour. Financial management system should be established and perfected, business accounting should be introduced, the people's communes should be run industriously and thriftily at all times while all extravagance and waste should be rejected. We must make an earnest effort to set up a system for the management of labour, work out proper plans for the use of labour power, use labour power in a rational way to make better use of it and further raise the labour productivity. Arrangements for the everyday living of the members should be properly made, with the consumption of grain and the production of vegetables and other non-staple foods taking priority.

Fourthly, we must strengthen industry's support for agriculture and speed up the technical transformation of agriculture. Industrial departments should do their best to increase the output of agricultural means of production such as agricultural machinery, chemical fertilizers, insecticides and other farm chemicals. They should also help the rural people's communes set up networks for repairing agricultural machinery and help the peasants learn to use and repair these machines. Capital construction should occupy as little of the cultivated land as possible, and none of the better land — this is also support to agriculture. There must be general understanding that to ensure agricultural production is not the responsibility of the agricultural branches alone but the common responsibility of all departments and of the whole Party

and the whole people. Industry, communications, finance and trade, culture and education — all these fields should give support to agricultural production. Especially in the arrangement of labour power, no obstruction should be put in the way of agricultural production and the production of grain. Agriculture is the foundation of the national economy and grain is the key lever in the development of agriculture. This should be the common knowledge of the whole Party and the entire people, and should be thoroughly carried out in all fields of practical work.

Fifthly, we must oppose bureaucracy and improve our style of work. In order to ensure a continued leap forward in agricultural production, it is necessary to improve the cadres' style of work. Cadres at all levels should go deep to the fields, to the frontline of production; they should eat, live, work together with the peasants, consult them when problems crop up, take part in production while leading production; this is a very good experience; it must be consistently applied and carried further. In key areas producing grain and other main farm crops, it is especially necessary to strengthen the leadership, to have a deeper understanding of conditions, and to help the cadres at the basic level solve problems, overcome difficulties and do well their work of production. We must further develop the Party's traditional style of work — the mass line — and rely on the masses; this is the important guarantee for the continuous leap forward in agricultural production.

In our country, the present political and economic situation is very good. The three red banners — the Party's general line for building socialism, the big leap

forward and the people's commune — are demonstrating more and more clearly their great and boundless vitality; work in various fields, illumined by the light of the Party's general line for building socialism, continues to leap forward. The rural people's commune is already on the way to consolidation and healthy development, its unrivalled superiority is being displayed in an ever more forceful way. On the agricultural front, thanks to the efforts made by the cadres in the countryside and the peasant masses as well as the support given to agriculture from all sides, victory in the spring sowing, in the fight against drought and in timely planting has been won in a fierce battle against serious drought and other natural calamities that have affected vast areas of land. The yield of summer crops this year is in the main on a par with last year's production level; the autumn crops this year, with the exception of some areas hit by natural calamities, are growing quite well and a bumper harvest is in sight. The situation is extremely favourable. Under the leadership of the Party's Central Committee and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, we are fully confident that we shall carry on agricultural production still more satisfactorily, ensure the continued leap forward in agricultural production, and ensure a better and more comprehensive, continued leap forward of the national economy.

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