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Liquor exports a record, but...

00. 24/11/75

WORCESTER — Liquor exports totalled a record figure of R6 255 000 last year, but as a result of large wine surpluses in Europe and other wine-producing countries, and the resultant drop in prices, export prospects were not good, said Mr Andre du Toit, chairman of K W V, at the annual conference of winegrowers here.

Sales would, however, be better than anticipated, and it was now expected that exports would only be R325 000 less than the 1974 total.

The demand on the local market was less than last year, and it was expected the

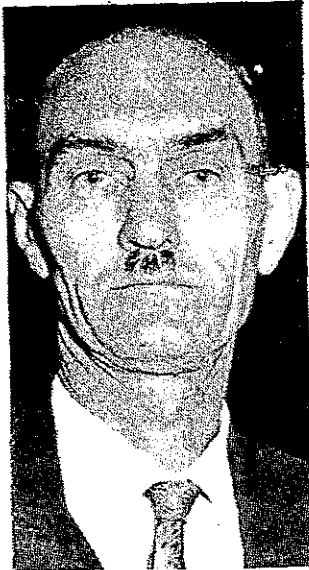
market would remain stagnant for a considerable period, he said. The immediate prospects for an improvement in sales were not rosy.

Mr Du Toit said brandy was one of the most important products of the industry, and the market for this was stable and firm.

"The market for brandy must, at all times, be protected and looked after, and should not be damaged due to shortage of stocks and provision", — SAPA.

Owerheid se optrede onverklaarbaar

Die BUKUR 24/12/79



MNR. ALBERT BASSON, voorsitter van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou-unie.

Vroue gaan ontspan

Verskeie van die afgevaardigdes na die jaarlikse kongres van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou-Unie het hul vroue saamgebring. Terwyl die mans vanoggend die probleme van die boerderybedryf sal probeer oplos, sal die vroue in Kirstenbosch gaan ontspan saam met die eggenote van mnr. Albert Basson, voorsitter van die S.A.L.U.

Die vroue vertrek vanoggend om tienuur per bus van hul hotel in Seepunt af Kirstenbosch toe.

DIE owerheid se houding en optrede ten opsigte van landbougrond met 'n hoë potensiaal is onverklaarbaar, tensy hy magteloos staan teen sekere ekonomiese kragte wat geen respek vir hierdie belangrike hulpbron en vir die langtermyn-welvaart van ons land toon nie.

Só het prof. dr. F. R. Tomlinson, bekende landbou-ekoloog, gisteraand in Seepunt gesê toe hy die jaarlikse kongres van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou-unie amptelik geopen het.

Prof. Tomlinson het gesê net 4 persent van Suid-Afrika se grond kan, gemeet aan wêreldstandaarde, beskou word as bewerkbare grond van 'n hoë potensiaal. Hierdie 4 persent lewer na raming reeds byna 40 persent van die totale waarde van ons landbouproduksie.

In die lig van die verwagte bevolkingstoename van 25 miljoen in 1975 tot 50 miljoen einde van die eeu sal die Suid-Afrikaanse landbou van 'n relatief surplus-toestand in die meeste produkte na 'n tekorttoestand beweeg.

CONSTANTIA

„Suid-Afrika kan eenvoudig nie bekostig dat daar verdere verliese van hoogstaande landbougrond plaasvind soos die waardevolle wingerdgrond in die Constantia-vallei vir residensiële doeleindes, waardevolle besproeiingsgrond by Brits vir nywerheidsdoeleindes en nou weer 'n groot lap aarde van die beste akkerbougrond by Babsfontein vir spoorwegwerke, om slegs 'n paar uit honderde gevalle te noem nie.”

Prof. Tomlinson het gesê die benutting van landbougrond met 'n hoë potensiaal vir ander doeleindes as die landbou, veral waar swakker grond met 'n bietjie meer moeite ewe goed die taak sou kon verrig, verteenwoordig geen ware ekonomiese groei nie. Op die lang termyn bluf ons net onself.

„Ek stel dit onomwonde dat landbougrond met 'n hoë potensiaal in Suid-Afrika die

gesê kredietverskaffing aan die landbou word so 'n belangrike saak dat die land se knapste mense daarby betrek moet word.

ERNSTIGE BEROEP OP BOERE

Begrawe strydbyl, vra Basson

HY wil 'n ernstige en dringende beroep op alle boere, en veral die mielieboere, doen om die strydbyl te begrawe, persoonlike geskille op te los en persoonlikhede wat in die weg van eenheid staan, uit te skakel.

Só het mnr. A. J. Basson, voorsitter van die S.A. Landbou-unie, gisteraand in Seepunt by die unie se jaarlikse kongres in sy voorsittersrede gesê.

Mnr. Basson het kragdadige optrede gevra. Hy het gesê ondanks al die probleme sien hy 'n goeie toekoms vir die landbou, maar dit sal afhang van die belangrikste bestanddeel van die landbou, nl. die mense self.

„Ons kan en moet net die regte manne trek, dan is alles wel. Maar as ons nie saamtrek nie, kan ons nie veel tot stand bring nie.”

Mnr. Basson het sy kommer uitgespreek oor die manier waarop die kunsmiskrisis in Suid-Afrika gehanteer word.

WAARSKUWING

„Ek is bevrees dat ons hier die blaam moet plaas op 'n semi-monopolistiese toestand wat geskep word deur private ondernemings wat alles vir hulself wil inpalm en mededinging wil uitskakel—presies dieselfde wanpraktyke waarvan hulle die koöperatiewe beweging en die beheerraadstelsel beskuldig.

„Ek wil waarsku dat indien die kunsmisbedryf versuim om sy huis aan kant te maak, die landbou-organisasie die Regering sal moet vra om die landbou, deur middel van sy koöperatiewe stelsels, toe te laat om 'n beheerende aandeel in die kunsmisbedryf te verkry.”

Mnr. Basson het ook na die energiekwessie verwys en gesê hy voel glad nie gelukkig oor wat in hierdie verband tot dusver gedoen en bereik is nie. Hy het gesê dit skyn of die rykdomme wat uit olie verkry word, chaos kan skep omdat dit in 'n klein groepie mense se hande beland.

„Maar die Weste het die kos en grondstowwe vir nywerhede wat die olieproducerende lande nodig het. As die Westerse lande saamstaan soos die Midde-Oosterse

lande en die landbou sonder boikotte as teenvoeter gebruik op dieselfde manier waarop laasgenoemde lande olie gebruik, kan die ewig herstel word. Nou is hulle egter besig om hulself na die afgrond te sleep.”

Mnr. Basson het gesê hy is nie onnodig pessimisties oor die arbeidsposisie nie, maar dink die landbou moet hom instel op die steeds beter benutting van arbeid.

„Met die ontwikkeling in en om Suid-Afrika kom die dag vinnig nader dat die landbou die beskikbare binnelandse arbeid met die mynbedryf sal moet deel ten einde

ons ekonomie minder kwesbaar te maak vir buitelandse strominge.”

Mnr. Basson het gesê dit veroorsaak dat ons met minder arbeid meer moet produseer en beteken ook beter opleiding vir die arbeider.

„Die landbou sal ook altyd mededingend moet wees ten opsigte van besoldiging en verskaffing van sekere geriewe. Maar dan sal die Staat moet toesien dat die boer dienoreenkomstig vir sy produk betaal word en ook gelijke behandeling kry ten opsigte van die dienste wat die werkgewer in die stad vir sy werkers kry.”

HOËR LONE

Prof. Tomlinson het baie pertinent na die arbeidsfaktor verwys. Hy het gesê die tyd vir volop arbeid in die landbousector is vir die oorgrote meerderheid van ons boerdery reeds iets van die verlede. Groter klem sal gelê moet word op hoër arbeidsproduktiwiteit, wat outomaties hoër geskoolde en beter arbeidsbestuur moet meebring en dus 'n nuwe opleidingspatroon vir plaasarbeid in die vooruitsig stel.

„Die toekomstaak van die landbou sal sonder twyfel met die minimum van arbeiders verrig moet word, maar met verhoogde produktiwiteit per arbeider. Hoër lone sal moet volg, soos reeds aan die gang is, maar ek verwag nie dat arbeid noodwendig 'n veel groter persentasie van die bruto inkomste sal bekom as tans nie.”

Prof. Tomlinson het gesê hy voorsien sterk loonkompetisie vir plaasarbeid tussen ondernemers self, maar ook tussen die landbou en die stedelike sektore. Loonaanbieding alleen gaan nie deurslaggewend wees nie.

„Ek wil die siening waag dat menswaardige behandeling en die hantering van die plaasarbeider en sy gesin steeds sterker op die voorgrond gaan tree en van deurslaggewende belang in die bedingingsstryd vir arbeid gaan wees.”

Prof. Tomlinson het ook

S.A.L.U. se kongres begin

hoogste sport in rangorde binne die kategorie van kosbaar en skaars hulpbronne beklee, met die gevolg dat elke morg daarvan in die belang van volkswelvaart vir landbouproduksie behoue behoort te bly indien die landbousector sy taak na vore moet verrig.

„Die houding en optrede van die owerheid t.o.v. hierdie aangeleentheid is onverklaarbaar, tensy hy magteloos staan teen sekere ekonomiese kragte wat geen respek vir hierdie belangrike hulpbron en vir die langtermyn-welvaart van ons land toon nie.

„Die gedagte van die instelling van 'n Grondbeskikingsraad, soos deur ons gestel in die Verslag oor die Gebruik van Landbougrond in Suid-Afrika in 1968, lyk glad nie so vergesog nie en daar kan gerus weer daaraan gedink word.”

Net 1 uitweg

die BURGER

vir S.A. se

dilemma

24/10/79

GROOTSKEEPSE ontwikkeling van die tuislande bly die enigste uitweg uit die dilemma waarin die totale bevolking van Suid-Afrika verkeer.

Só het prof. dr. F. R. Tomlinson, bekende landbou-ekoonoom, gewese Direkteur van die Transvaalse streek van die Departement van Landbou- en Landbou-ontwikkeling (die sg. Tomlinson-kommissie van 1956), gisteraand in Seepunt gesê.

Prof. Tomlinson het die S.A. Landbou-unie se jaarlikse kongres amptelik geopen. Hy het gepraat oor die Taak van die Landbou na Vore, met verwysing na die beleid van afsonderlike ontwikkeling.

„Ek is daarvan oortuig dat daar ten tyde van die verskynning van die verslag in 1956 geleentheid was om groot idealisme, entoesiasme en onderskraging by die blanke volksdeel aan te wakker met grootskeepse ambisieuse programme wat die verbeelding sou aangegryp het en waarin die bevolking in sy geheel met die steun van alle politieke groepe sou saamgewerk het,” het prof. Tomlinson gesê. „Pleks daarvan het ons tot 1970 belangrike maar fragmentariese en slegs relatief kleinskaalse pogings gekry.”

GELOOFSDAAD

Die kommissie het die hele taak soos deur hom gestel as 'n verwagte geloofsdaad van die blanke bevolking gesien.

„Maar ek het menige dag gewonder of die owerheid en die bevolking nie by mekaar verby gekyk het nie, of die owerheid die bevolking se wil om groot aksie te steun, nie onderskat en die blanke bevolking die poging van die owerheid nie oorskat en homself intussen maar met die insameling van rykdom besig gehou het nie. Blanke Suid-Afrika moet oppas dat toekomstige geslagte nie eendag verwyte teen hom slinger nie.”

Prof. Tomlinson het gesê grootskeepse ontwikkeling van die tuislande bly die enigste uitweg uit die dilemma waarin die totale bevolking van Suid-Afrika verkeer. Ontwikkeling kan egter nie net van een kant af kom nie. Die Bantoe het ook sy plig. Die blanke, hetsy stedelik of landelik, sal sy bydrae moet lewer, maar verwag ook 'n teenprestasie, 'n wil om self ook te ontwikkel van die kant van die Bantoe. By die Bantoe sal dit ook 'n geloofsdaad moet wees.

Volgens 'n ontleding van die noordelike tuislande se bodempotensiaal kan die tuislande genoeg kos vir tussen 30 en 35 miljoen mense produseer. Maar op 'n kaloriebasis is die huidige werklike produksie in die tuislande slegs genoeg vir uiters 2 miljoen mense.

MIKPUNT

„Die mikpunt met die ontwikkeling van die Bantoe-landbou behoort te wees om 10 miljoen mense teen die einde van die eeu te kan voed,” het prof. Tomlinson gesê. Die sosio-ekonomies-politieke struktuur is egter tans nog so dat so 'n fenomenale verandering deur die betrokke staatsdepartemente en die tuislandregerings alleen hierdie mikpunt moeilik sal verwesenlik. Daar moet

S.A.L.U. se kongres begin

'n verandering in die siening en benadering tot landbou-ontwikkeling by die tuislandelers kom.

„Ook moet die blanke boer help. Ek sien die hulp in doelbewuste opleiding deur die blanke boer van Bantoeboere uit die arbeidskorps op sy plaas. Selfs opleiding deur hom van Bantoeboere uit die tuislande is nie te vergesog nie. Alles sal 'n geweldige opoffering wees, maar in die lig van die geloofsdaad is dit nie te veel gevra nie.”

GRENSBOERE

Prof. Tomlinson het gesê die beleid van afsonderlike ontwikkeling, wat tot die skepping van onafhanklike swart state binne die huidige grense van Suid-Afrika lei, bring mee 'n uitbreiding van die grensboerbegrip. In hierdie stadium is daar reeds kontak met ons eie wordende swart state oor 'n addisionele grenslyn van sowat 10 300 km. Hierdie grenslyn gaan deur niemand anders uit die private sektor beman word nie as deur die boerende boer.

„Dit werp 'n geweldige addisionele taak op die skouers van die Suid-Afrikaanse landbou, want ons sal op groot skaal moet terugbeweeg na die grensboerbegrip met al die sosio-politieke eise wat dit aan daardie boeregesinne gaan stel.”

WALGOOI

Dit is op die boereplaas, om die boeregesin waar die stryd om die behoud van die blanke beskawing in Suid-Afrika grootliks gevoer sal word en van beslissende belang gaan wees. Hierin lê die boereplaas se grootste taak. Hierin lê sy onmeetbare betekenis. Die behoud daarvan is Suid-Afrika se hoop en sy verantwoordelikheid.

Prof. Tomlinson het ook verwys na die toenemende verskynsel van professionele stedelingboere — individue en korporasies wat uit die stede boer.

„Tegnologies sou dit seker moontlik wees om ons landbouproduksie deur middel van sê duisend of tweeduisend privaat baie groot ondernemings plus etlike duisende professionele stedelingboere te laat plaasvind en sonder die sowat 80 000 tradisionele boerdery-eenhede klaar te kom. Dit sal egter die grootste sosiale ineenstorting afgeewat enige Westerse demokrasie nog beleef het. Die tempo van omswaai in hierdie rigting neem egter tans so sterk toe dat 'n punt bereik sal word waar een of ander vorm van walgooi sal moet gebeur. Daarom voel ek dat die owerheid sowel as die hoogste liggaam van die georganiseerde landbou spesiale aandenkepende aandag aan hierdie aangeleentheid moet skenk.”

VAT VERKOPERS VAS!

VAN verkoopmanne wat op plase aankom om goed op huurkoop aan plaaswerkers te verkoop, moet vereis word om hul registrasie en lisensie as verkoopmanne te kan toon. As hulle dit nie kan doen nie, moet hulle vervolg word.

Dié plan is gister by die jaarlikse kongres van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou-Unie aan die hand gedoen in die bespreking van 'n beskrywingspunt waarin die voorgestelde wetgewing om plaaswerkers teen sekere handelswanpraktyke te beskerm verwelkom word. Die beskrywingspunt is aanvaar.

Adv. Paul de Villiers, sekretaris van die Kaaplandse Landbou-unie, het gesê dié saak het te doen met die Huurkoopwet en die Ordonnansie op die Registrasie van Besighede. Laasgenoemde vereis dat verkoopmanne gelisensieer en geregistreer moet wees.

In die meubelbedryf alleen,

het adv. De Villiers gesê, is daar vandag 30 000 verkoopmanne wat rondloop en meubels verkoop. Van hulle is waarskynlik nie eens 5 persent by die plaaslike owerheid geregistreer nie.

Gesien teen die agtergrond dat die meubelvervaardigingsbedryf en -kleinhandel jaarliks 'n omset van R800 miljoen het, sal besef word wat hier in die spel is.

Die bepalinge in verband met die registrasie en lisensiering van verkoopmanne behoort baie strenger toegepas te word. As verkoopmanne op 'n plaas kom, moet hulle daardie registrasiebewys kan toon. So nie, moet hulle vervolgt word, het adv. De Villiers gesê.

Ander sprekers het dit beklemtoon dat dit nie alle handelaars is wat plaaswerkers uitbuit nie, maar dat diegene wat dit wel doen, die verhoudinge tussen blank en nie-blank geweldig skade aandoen.

Invest in our farmers call

Farming Editor

A PLEA for businessmen to invest in the farming sector is made by the editor of the official journal of the Association of Chambers of Commerce in South Africa.

Writing in the September issue of Commerce, he says: "I believe we owe it to our farmers and our own long-term security to put our money in our mouths. It's got to come if we ever hope to feed the country's growing population at reasonable prices. If you're saddled with the masses you've got to mass-produce food."

CAPITAL

He continues. "Modern and efficient farming techniques demand far more capital — both in finance and, hence, equipment terms — than the average individual can lay his hands on and this with or without Land Bank loans.

"We are all dependent upon one another and we all have to eat. But the responsibility of feeding the entire country is too onerous a burden to place on the already strained financial shoulders of the individuals who comprise the bulk of our nation's farmers."

ESSENTIAL

State-run enterprises seldom match the efficiency of their private sector counterparts he says.

"And that's just what we need — a few more companies, syndicates or partnerships investing in and backing that most basic and essential of all business enterprises, farming."

He concludes: "If we're all going to eat the produce born of this country's soil, we should be prepared to provide the wherewithall for the production of that food."

Boland gaan blom soos in die ou dae

Van Ons Stellenbosse Verteenwoordiger

STELLENBOSCH.

VANJAAR sal die Winterreënstreek skaapvleis, koring, vrugte, groente, rooi wyn en selfs tabak produseer soos min in die verlede, indien al ooit. Dit het gereën soos ons die Boland ken uit die verlede en daarom word hierdie goeie reëns as normaal beskou. Op plekke was dit wel 'n bietjie bo die gemiddelde — maar miskien is dit deel van die agterstand van die laaste paar jaar wat ons nou kry.

Só sê mnr. Vivian White, skakelbeampte van die Winterreënstreek, in 'n oorsig.

Die landbouer is verheug oor die reëns. Dit kan met oortuiging gesê word. Die geheelbeeld in die streek is 'n mooi prentjie. Sporadiese skade het wel voorgekom, wat as normaal beskou word, maar daar kan geensins van storms en stortreën gepraat word nie, sê mnr. White in sy verslag.

Die reëns kan nie as buitengewoon beskou word nie. Dis maar die ou reëns van die Boland op sy beste.

Dit was regte, aanhoudende en deurdringende Bolandse reëns met 'n lae intensiteit. Damme is vol, ondergrondse watervoorrade is ruim aangevul en selfs die oostewind wat in Namakwaland so baie skade kan aanrig, kon dit nie nou weer doen nie, want daar was geen droë grond om mee te sleur nie.

Die graanstreke van die Rûens en die Swartland het pragtige reëns gehad. In die Swartland was dit op plekke miskien te veel, veral omdat die graan al in 'n gevorderde stadium is, maar in die Rûens is die reën nouliks in terme van geld te meet, want daar was dit droog en drinkwater vir vee was aangery.

„STIEFKIND”

Gras-, klawer- en lusernweidings gaan nou uitnemend baat vind by die goeie reëns en die boere wat met hierdie weidings volhard het, gaan nou die vrugte pluk.

Die hele Namakwaland en die Sandveld van die Weskus wat bekend is as die „stiefkind” van die streek wat reënval betref, het goeie reëns gehad.

S.A. HET BAIE

VAN WAT ^{Dre} ^{Burger}

AFRIKA KORT

Van Ons Politieke Beriggewer

SUID-AFRIKA se enorme potensiaal om voedsel te produseer, kan 'n sleutelrol speel in sy toekomstige betrekkinge met die res van die wêreld, en in besonder met Afrika.

As die pogings slaag om betrekkinge tussen Suid-Afrika en Afrika te normaliseer, kan hy die grootste voedselverskaffer aan 'n verhongerde en 'n deur droogte geteisterde Afrika word.

OORSKOTTE

Uit syfers wat mnr. Hendrik Schoeman, Minister van Landbou, op navraag aan Die Burger verstrek het, blyk dit dat Suid-Afrika groot oorskotte het van produkte waaraan Afrika 'n dringende tekort het.

Suid-Afrika verwag om vanjaar landbouprodukte ter waarde van R1 000 miljoen uit te voer. 'n Geringe persentasie van hierdie uitvoere gaan na Afrika. Dit sou tot groot voordeel van Suid-Afrika sowel as Afrika wees as die oorgrote meerderheid van die uitvoere na Afrika kon wees.

Afrika sukkel veral om genoeg graan te kry om sy honderde miljoene te voed. Met die groot bevolkingsontploffing wat aan die gang is, sal hierdie probleem steeds vererger.

Suid-Afrika kan veel daartoe bydra om Afrika se nood te verlig. Die land het vanjaar 'n rekord-mielie-oes van 120 miljoen sak gehad, waarvan hy sowat 60 miljoen self sal verbruik. Probleme met die vervoer van die mielies oor lang afstande na die kus en die gebrek aan skeepsruimte bring mee dat hy nie meer as 40 miljoen sak van sy oorskot sal kan uitvoer nie.

Min. Schoeman het gesê die goeie reën van verlede jaar en verbeterde produksiemetodes was vir die rekord-oes verantwoordelik.

OOK VRUGTE

Ook wat koring betref, kan Suid-Afrika help om in Afrika se behoeftes te voorsien. Sy koringoes was vanjaar op 22 miljoen sak, waarvan 16 miljoen plaaslik verbruik sal word. Ses miljoen sak is dus vir uitvoer beskikbaar.

Suid-Afrika het ook vrugte beskikbaar om na Afrika uit te voer. Hy voer tans 50 persent van sy sitrus en 50 persent van sy vars pere, druiwe en appels uit, terwyl 65 per-

sent van sy produksie aan ingemaakte vrugte ook vir uitvoer bestem is.

Wat vleis en suiwelprodukte betref, is Suid-Afrika van invoere afhanklik.

As Suid-Afrika die deurbraak in Afrika kan maak waarvoor die Eerste Minister hom beywer, kan voedselverskaffing deur Suid-Afrika nuwe vergesigte vir Afrika open.

18.11.74.

THE STAR JOHANNESBURG MONDAY NOVEMBER

SA could export more food

Ivan Philip

SOUTH AFRICA is in an excellent position to increase its exports of food products but "will have to work hard at it."

This was said by Mr C B Goedhart, managing director of Naarden, at a workshop on export marketing of processed foods organised by the SA Foreign Trade Organisation.

He advised the processor who had decided to export to move into new product ventures. Even successful products on the home market would have to be modified, he added, and went on to say that product development was "to say the least, underdeveloped."

There are great dif-

ferences in taste appreciation, he stressed, not only from country to country but even in distinct areas within countries.

Furthermore, exporters should pay particular attention to the food laws prevailing in export markets and to such considerations as shelf life limitations on the product.

Dr P van Twisk, director of the National Food Research Institute, said South Africa is being "laggard" in developing technology in certain important areas and is short of trained scientists and technologists.

He said the number of students being trained in this field is "pitifully small — and regrettably, industry has taken little interest in improving the position."

Industrial secrecy, he added, is a barrier in the path of technological co-operation. He wondered if the secrecy was not overdone and the "so-called secrets more fiction than fact."

At least 460-m people all over the world, he said, are not able to lead a normal life because they are constantly hungry — and world population was expected to double to 7.5-billion by the year 2000.

At present, South Africa exports agricultural products worth about R750-m a year.

CAUSES OF THE FOOD CRISIS

By Cheryl Payer

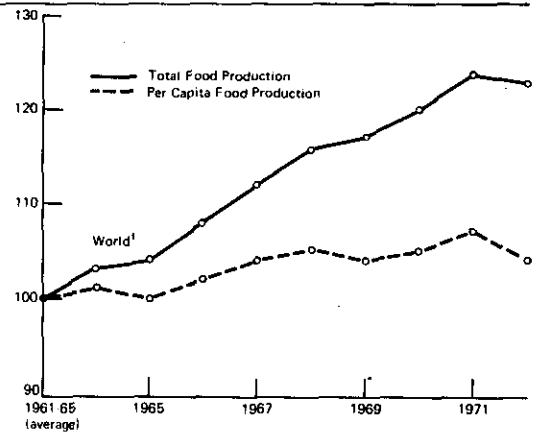
There are both chronic and acute aspects to the current world food crisis. For many years nutritionists and health workers have warned that protein/calorie malnutrition affects millions of people in the Third World, with particularly severe effects on babies and children whose physical and mental development is likely to be impaired. This chronic crisis is due chiefly to the fact that economic demand for food does not coincide with the human need for it. If all the poor people of the world were suddenly enabled to buy the food they need from a nutritional standpoint, the resulting economic dislocations in other parts of the world economy would show just how severe this crisis (as measured by human need) is.

Further, there has been a steady decline in per capita production of food throughout most of the Third World. This has resulted in increasingly large food deficits which have had to be filled by imports from surplus countries. For most of the postwar era the huge US and Canadian surplus stockpiles, accumulated as a byproduct of domestic price support programs and then sold below cost on the world market, have supplied a large part of these deficits. These surpluses were valuable as a reserve which could be tapped in the case of a famine threat, but it is firmly believed in India and probably elsewhere as well that emergency food supplies were used as a lever to extract policy concessions demanded by the US. It should also be noted that in the opinion of many, this 'dumping' of surplus products at concessional prices has retarded the development of agriculture in the Third World by encouraging governments to depend on cheap food imports, which in most cases actually provided a large slice of the government's revenue as 'counterpart funds'.

During the past two years the failure of wheat and rice crops in many different areas of the world has resulted in a temporary acute shortage in which there is not enough supply on the market to meet the economic demand, let alone human needs. The USSR has played the villain's role this time by concealing its own harvest failure in order to secure massive, relatively cheap purchases from exporting countries which drove up the price for subsequent buyers. The US surpluses have been successfully eliminated, and, belatedly, it is now realized what an important stabilizing role they had performed during their existence. The current acute crisis is now coinciding with and pointing up the chronic crisis, as well as intensifying its ill effects.

As an FAO release points out, 'For consumers in the more affluent industrialized countries the problem essentially is how to stretch the food budget. For the most part, it is not a question of having to reduce food consumption below satisfactory nutritional levels but rather of substituting relatively cheaper foods for meat and other items whose prices have soared particularly this year. For consumers in the developing countries — and for their governments — the question is incomparably more serious. In many cases, it is one of being able to obtain even the low level of basic foodstuffs that normally comprise their diet — or to be able to pay the high prices for them when they are available'. An American agricultural expert has predicted between 10 and 30 million incremental deaths in Third World countries will be attributable to starvation and malnutrition as a result of the current food shortage.

Total and Per Capita Food Production, 1961-72



¹Excludes Communist Asia.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

It is a commonplace that the population explosion and the food problem are intimately related. It is more important for us as Europeans, however, to realize that the affluent West is consuming resources, including food, at a much more alarming rate than the poor peoples of the world. For this reason I recommend the pamphlet written by Lester R. Brown and published by the (US) Overseas Development Council, **Population and Affluence: Growing Pressures on World Food Resources**, as excellent introductory reading matter on the food question. He makes the important point that while grain utilization of the average inhabitant of the poor countries averages 400 pounds per annum, nearly all directly consumed, while in the US and Canada per capita grain utilization is nearly one ton per year, 850 pounds of which is consumed indirectly in the form of the expensive proteins — milk, meat, eggs — which most Third World peoples cannot afford. 'The agricultural resources — land, water, fertilizer — required to support an average North American are nearly five times those of the average Indian, Nigerian, or Colombian'.

As a result of rising affluence in the US, Europe (East and West), the Soviet Union, and Japan, the animals grown to provide food for their populations are competing for both grains and protein supplies with the poor peoples of the Third World. Valuable protein foods including soyabeans, fishmeals, and peanuts are sold and utilized as animal feedstuffs when they could make a major contribution to remedying human protein deficiency. Fishmeal and peanuts are exported in large quantities from the Third World to the affluent countries, and many valuable animal protein foods for humans are also flowing in the same direction (beef from Latin America and Southern Africa, tinned fish from Asia, etc.)

As long as wealth and purchasing power remain so very unequally divided it is difficult to suggest what could be done about this great moral anomaly. Certainly Lester Brown's suggestion for simplifying diets in the Western nations seems inadequate to the size of the problem he portrays, but he has at least given us some food for thought.

Copies of his pamphlet are available at 40¢ from VCOAD.

Output target for farmers

RDM 12/2/75

Industrial Editor
THE OUTPUT from the agricultural sector must increase by an average 5,9 per cent a year if South Africa's real gross domestic product is to achieve the target growth rate of 6,4 per cent a year set by the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

This comment was made in Klerksdorp yesterday by Dr P. J. Riekert, chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, when he opened the annual congress of the South African Mealie Producers' Institute.

He said it was important to accept that the attainment of this target depended on there being an appreciable increase in the productive use of agricultural resources.

Dr Riekert warned that if farmers were unsuccessful in this task, there was a danger of South Africa's facing a serious food shortage or the agricultural sector's providing a smaller contribution to South Africa's export earnings.

Concomitant with this would be increases in food prices, giving a jolt to the inflation rate.

The alternative would be the importation of food on an increasing scale to make up the domestic shortfall.

SHORTAGE

Dr Riekert said, however, that because of the possibility of a world food shortage sending prices shooting up, other methods must be evolved to earn foreign exchange, or save it to pay for such imports.

Even over the short-term, agricultural production had an important effect on the course of various sectors of the economy, notwithstanding the fact that agriculture's contribution to the gross domestic product was only about 10 per cent.

Dr Riekert said this was illustrated in 1973 when the physical volume of

agricultural production dropped 16,3 per cent and then shot up 25 per cent over 1974.

The result was that the real GDP, in spite of a 6 per cent growth rate in the rest of the economy, grew only 4,1 per cent in 1973, and went up to 7 per cent in 1974, notwithstanding the depressed state of the other sectors of the economy, with the exception of agriculture.

Dr Riekert observed that in spite of the fact that the good rains had improved the prospects for this year, the country can scarcely expect to have as good an agricultural year as it enjoyed during 1974.

The slight decline in agricultural production which was likely to occur would show up the slower growth rate the rest of the economy is expected to experience.

Agri - General

HANSARD 3 Q. column 161
18 February 1975.

Value of agricultural production in 1973/74.

*9. Dr. F. VAN Z. SLABBERT asked the Minister of Statistics:

1. Agri-Genet
78A

- (1) What was the value of the Republic's agricultural production in 1973 and 1974, respectively;
- (2) what proportion of these amounts was earned from exports in each case.

†The MINISTER OF STATISTICS:

Statistics on the value of the Republic's agricultural production and the exports thereof are not compiled by this Department.

The division of Agricultural Marketing Research of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, however, published the following figures in the 1975 issue of its publication entitled "Abstracts of Agricultural Statistics".

- (1) Gross value of the Republic's agricultural production:
R1 717,9 million in 1972-'73 and
R2 341,7 million in 1973-'74.
- (2) The value of exports of agricultural production amounted to R785,6 million in 1973, of which R402,8 million and R382,8 million, respectively, were processed and unprocessed products. The value of the 1974 exports is not yet available.

HANDBARD 3 Q. column 162.
18 February 1975.

**Persons engaged in agriculture/in possession
of agricultural land**

*10. Dr. F. VAN Z. SLABBERT asked
the Minister of Statistics:

- (1) How many persons in each race
group were (a) engaged in agriculture
and (b) owned agricultural land in
the latest year for which statistics
are available;
- (2) in respect of what year is the
information given.

†The MINISTER OF STATISTICS:

- (1) (a) Whites: 93 966.
Coloureds: 109 935.
Asians: 6 999.
Bantu: 1 964 320.
- (b) Not available.
- (2) Population Census 6 May 1970, final
figures with exception of Bantu
which are sample tabulation figures.

(1) Agri-General
~~(2) 1970~~

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19 February 1975.

① Agri - maize

~~② 78A~~

Maize exports X

101. Mr. T. ARONSON asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What is the estimated value of the maize exports for the year ending 30 April 1975.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

R307 800 000.

3-Genaf

Bantustan danger

ARGUS 19/3/75

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Drakensberg plan

Newman
Robinson
reports
from

See also HOLLANDS - KwaZulu

a mistake

UP HERE in the Natal Drakensberg it is not only the precipitous scenery that makes you catch your breath. It is the Government's plans for the area. They not only imperil national interests. They conflict with the Government's own policies. Hundreds of sad and angry people here, Black as well as White, believe that the Government is about to make a grave mistake.

Mr M. C. Botha, Minister of Bantu Administration, proposes to reshuffle thousands of Zulu peasants and evict an appreciable number of White farmers in order to consolidate the century-old Drakensberg Bantu 'locations' that run down the Drakensberg foothills between Giant's Castle and Mont aux Sources.

His proposal has some superficial attractions. It would reduce the number of KwaZulu's fragments. It would compress the now separate Drakensberg locations into a neat bloc. It would move Whites as well as Blacks. It would thus have an air of racial justice. And it would skim Zulu peasants, with their regrettable farming practices, off the higher catchment zones and move them to lower ground where, theoretically they would do less damage to water resources.

But in spite of all this the plan would do nothing to consolidate KwaZulu as such. It would in fact en-

trench the principle of fragmentation by making one of the fragments larger and more likely to try for UDI, without making it economically viable in any way.

It would place a Zulu bloc in the middle of White Natal and frustrate any meaningful White consolidation or coherence. For instance the town of Estcourt, now an important border industry centre, is outside the affected area and is intended to remain White. But because of the well-known power of blocs to expand, the more far-seeing heads of Estcourt industry are preparing now for a Black take-over.

Meanwhile both in Estcourt and in the surrounding rural areas people are speculating on the risks to national security of creating a potentially independent state between Lesotho and Zululand.

It is being observed that this state would form a convenient staging post linking Mozambique, via KwaZulu proper, with Le-

sotho. True, this western KwaZulu would be separated from Lesotho by a corridor about 30km wide and owned and controlled by the South African Government for conservation purposes. But it is a corridor cut by hundreds of sheer kloofs, almost impossible to police and affording admirable cover for guerrillas.

But most significant of all, Mr Botha's plan would mount a potentially foreign state KwaZulu astride the main tributaries of the Tugela — South Africa's best river and the only good one still in reserve.

The plan would also place that potentially foreign power in command of the projected Mool-Bushmans-Tugela aquaduct which is intended to supplement the water the Rand is to get from Natal.

Moreover, the latest part of Mr Botha's proposal would merely scrape

African squatter farmers off one catchment zone (the Upper Tugela) and place them on another, the high, presently White-owned, country between the Bushmans and the Mool. It would thus undo all that the Government has itself done to protect the higher slopes of the Drakensberg because it would imperil the lower.

Today, for example, the Bushmans sparkle like silver as it hursts out of the flank of Giant's Castle. But after running for 15km alongside a fertile Zulu territory it is like railway coffee. Mr Botha's plan would ensure that it emerges at Estcourt like sump oil.

Whites, predictably, do not want to budge from their mountain country which has a ring and splendour excelled only, perhaps, by the better parts of Alpine Europe.

But they no longer persist in the conventional White South African demand to 'move the Blacks but don't move us.'

What they and their farmers' associations do

say, is that the Drakensberg's water is a national treasure. Its quality and quantity are imperilled by amounts to run off and by bad farming practices.

It would be best, say, if the Zulus, who comprise the majority of the farmers, were removed from this treasury of the altogether.

But this means the difficult task of and the relocation of Drakensberg Blacks work in industry should be settled and all in terms of their own interests. The migratory labour of the genuine farmers' labour of the rural areas more room to prosper properly.

This means the associations have conceded that the Black farmers' associations provided they constitute any rural state and that they by South African conform to their practices.

African do not surrender their homes. They are suspicious of the proposal. Natal is going to say that he would not share in the land. Mr Botha give KwaZulu to whom I've seen the violence and know would flow. factional groups who gets at a some declare the live without the neighbours. Her of associations and pendency.

21 February 1975.

Farming land in possession of Coloured farmers

*28. Mr. W. G. KINGWILL asked the Minister of Coloured, Rehoboth and Nama Relations:

- (1) What is the area of farming land, excluding land in township areas, in the possession of Coloured farmers in (a) the Cape Province, (b) the Orange Free State, (c) the Transvaal and (d) Natal;
 - (2) what is the number of Coloured farmers in (a) the Cape, (b) the Orange Free State, (c) the Transvaal and (d) Natal;
 - (3) what is the area of the farming land which has come into possession of Coloured farmers during the past five years;
-
- (4) whether his Department intends to purchase further land for Coloured farmers.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COLOURED, REHOBOTH AND NAMA RELATIONS:

- (1) The total area of farming land in possession of private Coloured farmers in the Republic of South Africa is unknown.
There are 20 rural Coloured areas in the Cape Province and 2 in the Orange Free State which are administered in terms of the Rural Coloured Areas Act, 1943 (Act 24 of 1963), and which extend over 1 681 497 ha and 36 259 ha respectively.
- (2) Unknown.
- (3) As far as rural Coloured Areas are concerned 60 389 ha of land has been reserved for the occupation and ownership of Coloured persons in terms of the Rural Coloured Areas Act, 1963 (Act 24 of 1963) over the past five years.
Particulars of privately owned land are unknown.
- (4) Yes--by the Administration of Coloured Affairs for extension of some of the existing rural Coloured areas in cases where land is offered and extension is justified.

Agriculture - General

HANSARD 5

Q - column 396

7 March 1975.

Agri-Genet

Locust outbreaks

*14. Mr. G. W. MILLS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether any locust outbreaks occurred in South Africa in 1974; if so, (a) how many and (b) in what areas;
- (2) (a) how many units are maintained for locust control, (b) what reserves can be called up and (c) what was the expenditure on locust control measures in 1974.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) Two.
 - (b) Eastern Cape Province, Cape Midlands, Central Karoo, North-Western Cape Province, Boesmanland, Namakwaland, Cape Province North of the Orange River, Southern and South-Western Orange Free State.
- (2) (a) None.
 - (b) Approximately 600 field units.
 - (c) R3 739 197-00.

Agri-General

Prices of agricultural products X

*7. Dr. F. VAN Z. SLABBERT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(a) What measures are being applied by his Departments to keep down the prices of agricultural products to the consumer and (b) what is the actual or estimated cost of each such measure.

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Reply laid upon Table with leave of House):

- (a) Subsidization of consumer prices.
Price control measures.
Subsidization of prices of certain farming requisites.
Subsidization of railway rates.
Financial aid to municipal markets.
Import and export control measures.
Research.
Subsidization of farm mortgage interest rates and of interest rates on loans granted to producers.
- (b) Subsidization of consumer prices.

The State subsidies provided for the current financial year in respect of the undermentioned products are as follows:

Bread	R56 300 000
Butter	R12 707 000
Maize	R39 894 000*
Grain sorghum	R653 000
Lucerne seed	R300 000
Cheese	R1 152 000

* Includes subsidy on railway rates for maize and maize products.

Price control measures

Maximum prices at which the under-mentioned products may be sold to consumers are promulgated:
Butter.

Fresh milk—in the areas where the Milk Scheme is applicable, maximum prices negotiated by the Milk Board and the distributors are applied and in certain areas maximum prices are promulgated by the Price Controller on my recommendation.

Cheese.
Bread.
Dried Fruit.
Oilcake.

Subsidization of prices of farming requisites

An amount of R15 000 000 has been provided during the current financial year to keep the price of fertilizer as low as possible.

Subsidization of railway rates

An amount of R2 500 000 has been provided during the current financial year to subsidize the railway rates on fertilizers.

Financial aid to municipal markets

An amount of R143 000 has been provided for the current financial year to render assistance to municipalities who erected new markets—this assistance is aimed at keeping market dues as low as possible.

Import and export control measures

Sufficient local stocks are ensured by import and export control measures.

Research

Large amounts of money are spent on research—although the advantage accruing to the consumer cannot be measured in money, it makes an important contribution towards the provision of food to consumers at reasonable prices.

Subsidization of farm mortgage interest rates and of interest rates on loans granted to producers.

A total amount of R10 609 000 has been provided for this purpose during 1974/75.

~~F.M. 21/3/75~~

F.M. 21/3/75

Agri - General

Farm policy posers

Minister of Agriculture Hendrik Schoeman explains how he resolves some tricky questions

FM: Last time we discussed the subject (in 1972) you said the over-riding objective of agricultural policy was to maximise production. Is this still so?

Schoeman: Yes. Is this being achieved?

Farmers are using much more fertiliser. This year we used over 2m tons. And the use of weed killers has doubled.

How is this being done?

Through the Department of Agricultural Technical Services — more research, better varieties of seed and soil analysis.

What key changes in policy have you made since you became Minister?

I won't say there are actual policy changes, but some things are more emphasised. I want the farmer to feel proud of his profession; he must have more courage to produce. I have said that all cost increases will be considered when we discuss the price of a product, so the farmer feels well protected against imported inflation and the like.

Consolidation into more economic units — is that important?

Yes. A very important change in policy is that we stopped the subdivision of land into uneconomic units. We consolidate to a very great extent.

How long do you propose to continue passing all cost increases on to the consumer?

I feel very sympathetic towards the consumer in the lower income groups, especially the Blacks, and we have discussed subsidies. But it's very difficult to implement a subsidy, for instance, on the price of fresh milk. Our control system doesn't operate in rural places like Sibasa.

A subsidy of 1c a litre on milk will cost the government R10m. And what difference does a cent make on 25c a litre? If the subsidy is effective it should be at least 5c, which would cost R50m.

I feel the consumer in SA, compared to other countries, can rest assured we consider his position.

The maize producers' fixed price includes a built-in profit element. This year there have been big export profits. If farmers expect an *agterskot* out of these in addition to their guaranteed profit, this should surely be taken into account when fixing next season's

prices?

You feel that the farmer should absorb some part of the increase in costs as government expects the businessmen to do?

Take, for instance, fishmeal. The world price of fishmeal went up to R400 a ton. We have an agreement with the fishmeal people that 150 000 tons are to be used in SA. We increased the producer price from R100 to R200 a ton.

In the same way, maize farmers are obliged to keep between 50m and 60m bags of maize in SA for local consumption at R47,50 a ton. The world price has risen to as much as R118 a ton, though it has come down to R78, but it is well above the price the local consumer is paying.

There is a R2,50 a ton subsidy on the

farmer a bigger price for his maize this year because diesel fuel has gone up 98%, fertiliser costs are up 50%, spare parts and implements are up, rail tariffs are up... Yet the consumer price must be stabilised.

How can we implement this? We give the farmer say, R60 a ton and keep the price for the consumer at R47,50 a ton.

The farmer sells all his maize at R60, then goes to the agent and buys back that maize for R47,50. Then he re-delivers it and gets R60. We have had this price gap in the past and farmers did just that.

I am all for subsidising but the problem is to find a practical way to get the subsidy working through to the consumer.

We are going to have long discussions in March before we fix a definite price of



"I think the farmers are entitled to have a payout on the export profits . . ."

latter, which means the farmer gets R50 a ton. Farmers say: "We are entitled to the export profits because we are prepared to sell a big portion of our crop at half the world price to the local consumer."

I think the farmers are entitled to have a payout on the export profits for various reasons. But I feel that they should not blow the whole lot in one year. Next year prices might be down, or we might have a crop failure.

Assuming that, whatever you do, another major increase in food prices is inevitable, don't you agree that it should be at least partially off-set by a substantial increase in food subsidies?

As I mentioned, it is difficult to implement food subsidies practically. Say, for instance, you feel we should give the

maize, but all these things will be gone into.

Do you see significant markets for food products opening up in the rest of Africa in the wake of détente?

With good crops and a better understanding amongst African States towards SA, there is a vast market for us on the rest of the continent of Africa. I feel we must exploit this. Why should Africa import maize from the US if we have got carry-overs?

Do you see Africa as an alternative market, or as an additional market?

It is an additional market because we cannot neglect our good customers overseas.

Won't that lead to scarcities in the home market and even higher prices to home consumers?

That is one of the problems. If you want to keep the price low in SA, you must sometimes look at where the better prices can be had.

In what respects have the Du Plessis Commission of Inquiry's recommendations been implemented?

One I have already mentioned that has been implemented is the prevention of further sub-division of agricultural land.

It's a very unpopular piece of legislation as we put a premium now on the price of the plot. Another recommendation is that we should stop farmers ploughing in marginal areas.

We have implemented that by strengthening the Soil Conservation Act. The Commission also asked for an investigation into the marketing system, with its 22 control boards; we've got a Parliamentary Commission working on this.

The Steenkamp Report on Co-operatives was published nearly eight years ago. Why has no decision on its recommendations been taken?

After the Parliamentary Commission investigated the whole thing under the chairmanship of Chris Heunis, I took it back to the Agricultural Union's co-operative council and they came up with certain recommendations.

They agree that co-ops should pay

taxes on certain of their activities, for instance when they go into the production side of certain products.

It is definite that this will be finished and finalised within the next three or four months. I think that everyone concerned will be happy with the outcome.

The approach is to make co-ops liable to tax rather than to restrict their areas of operation?

The Commission under Mr Heunis said throw the doors open; let the co-ops do what they want. They can go into the making of shoes and shirts and manufacture anything, even motor cars.

But the Co-operative Council is not agreeable to this. They say it is not the function of the co-ops. They must stick to making items for use in agriculture. The problem on tax is whether it should be levied before bonuses are paid to members.

After all, a co-op shouldn't be a profit-making undertaking. If there is a million rand profit and a thousand members, each one gets his thousand rand there is no profit.

But if that co-op decides to erect a silo and keeps back half of the million, it would be liable for tax on that if treated as an ordinary company. The co-ops, however, point out they ought to be classified as farmers.

If I erect a shed on my farm it's not

taxable. These are things that must be spelt out.

There has been a lot of criticism, some of it from farmers themselves, about the co-ops developing increasing monopolistic tendencies and thus becoming inefficient. Do you not agree that this is unhealthy for the agricultural industry?

It might happen that co-ops become monopolistic and we are keeping a watchful eye on this. It must be borne in mind, however, that a monopoly is not necessarily undesirable or inefficient.

When is the Committee of Inquiry into Marketing and the Control Boards going to report?

They are paying visits to various countries now to investigate. Some countries have only got eight control boards, whereas we have 22.

The best plan was to send these people overseas for two weeks. I asked them to give us a report before the end of September.

Is it possible to get more private enterprise represented on control boards? There is often criticism that the price-making power is too much in the hands of the producer.

The Commission is investigating this and there is also a suggestion that we must have Blacks on the Boards. You cannot decide the price of bread and only have the White consumer there.

F.M. 18/4/75

Agri - General

HOMELANDS CONSOLIDATION – WHAT IT MEANS

Virtually all outstanding land under the 1936 Bantu Trust and Land Act is now accounted for with the latest Homeland consolidation proposals, currently before a Parliamentary Select Committee.

The proposals make for a total 1,356m hectares of quota and compensatory land, leaving 59 150 hectares still to be allocated in terms of the Act.

The intention is to consolidate the nine Homelands (10 with South Ndebele) into 24 areas with, at this stage, only the very smallest — Basotho-Qwaqwa, Swazi and South Ndebele — being single entities. KwaZulu, on the other hand, will still be a sprawling 10 fragments, stretching from the Mozambique border to the Transkei.

Estimates are that 113 000 people will be moved, though KwaZulu's Chief Gatsina Buthelezi and the UP's veteran Homelands-watcher Douglas Mitchell, expect this figure to be more like 200 000. Moreover, there's no timetable for overall consolidation.

But on the basis of the R25m (R8m) set aside this year for buying land, and guesstimates that the total cost will be around R300m, it's going to take at least 12 years before even the basic framework for geographic separate development is complete.

That would make it a staggering 28 years since Dr Verwoerd first announced the concept; always remembering, of course, that Homeland leaders like Buthelezi, Chief Lucas Mangope (BophuthaTswana) and Cedric Phatudi (Lebowa) in any case reject the 1936 Act as being irrelevant and argue that Homelands should be larger and fully consolidated.

Total additions under the Act, in terms of the latest proposals, are: Transvaal, 456 000 hectares (with 22 000 outstanding), Natal, 295 000 hectares (20 000), Cape, 591 000 hectares (17 000) and OFS, 14 000 hectares (about 150).

Among existing White areas proposed to go Black are the Eastern Cape's Alice, Fort Hare and Seymour (destined for the Ciskei); Pondoland's Port St Johns; East Griqualand's farming area of Ongeluknek (to the Transkei); and Natal's Josini Dam (with the Makatini Flats) and farming areas near Estcourt.

However, there could be changes to those proposals by the Select Committee, which will only examine relationships between White and Black areas. Bantu Affairs has also still to decide to which Homeland certain Black areas are to go (such as

that in the Soekmeaar district, lying between Vendaland, Lebowa and Gazankulu).

Most outspoken reaction to the proposals so far has been from White Natal farmers who argue that serious strategic problems will arise through the creation of African blocs adjacent to Mozambique and close to Lesotho, the Johannesburg-Durban road and rail links.

However, Africans like former KwaZulu cabinet member Barney Dladla — still powerful in the Estcourt area — dismiss the farmers as acting out of self-interest.

When proposals were first mooted in 1973, Bantu Affairs suggested the 34 261 hectares of the Makatini Flats which can be irrigated by the Josini Dam should be half White-half Black. The Natal Agricultural Union, however, recommended it go all Black to help generate KwaZulu agriculture, which is what is now intended.

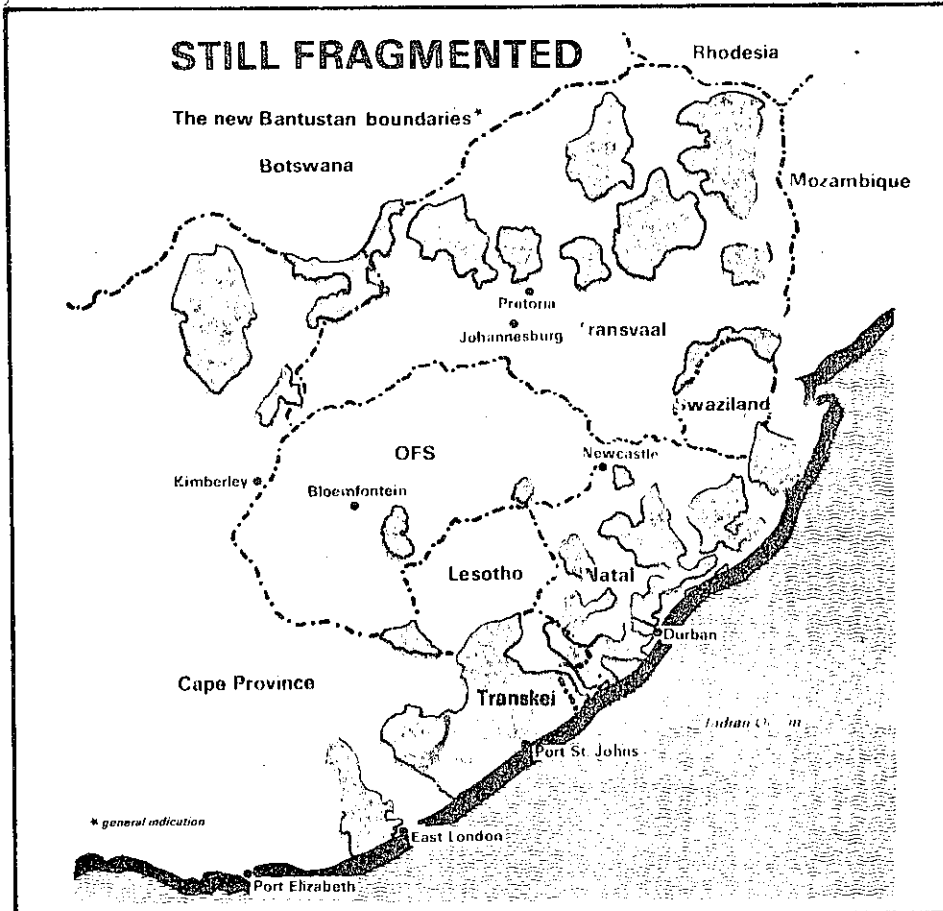
Indeed, the entire area from Josini Dam north of the Mozambique border is for KwaZulu, with the exception of Sordwana Bay scheduled to remain White (as is Richards Bay, despite Buthelezi's pressing argument that the new port is a natural corollary for an independent KwaZulu).

Meanwhile the NAU in 1973 also recommended all African reserves in the Drakensberg's Tugela catchment area should go White (in fairness to the NAU, it needs be stressed that this is a conservation argument it has hammered for about 50 years).

However Bantu Affairs has now recommended that the entire 146 000-hectare mountainous upper Tugela location should be for forestry or water conservation and that Locations 1 and 2, of 27 000 hectares each, should be consolidated by taking in White farms in the Frere and Lowlands areas, both highly prized agricultural areas.

Nat MP Val Volker (Klip River) has reacted by proposing that all Africans should be moved from the Tugela Basin to the Babanango-Ntonjaneni area, to create a Black area from Mkuze to near Ladysmith which, he claims, will be "politically and economically viable." Doubtlessly that argument is unlikely to be anything like persuasive to someone like Dladla, who has already shown he's not interested in moving.

Meanwhile the NAU has still to indicate whether it intends trying to take matters any further.



Unions launch appeal^{RJM}_{19/4/78} for food subsidies

Staff Reporter

THE country's two biggest trade union organisations yesterday appealed to the Government to spend more on food subsidies.

The president of the Trade Union Council of South Africa, Mr Tom Murray, said the expected rise in the price of mealies and milk, and the possibility later this year of another hike in the bread price, emphasised the urgent need for Government action to freeze the price of essential foods.

"There must be thousands of urban African families who are unable to afford enough foods for minimum health standards. These families are hungry and their plight will become desperate unless the prices of basic foods are lowered."

UNREST

A hungry population, Mr Murray said, was a discontented and dangerous population. Industrial unrest was never far from the surface in an economy with large numbers of lowly paid workers struggling to maintain minimum living standards.

The president of the SA Confederation of Labour, Mr A. I. Nieuwoudt, said the steep rise in prices of essential foodstuffs in the past year had bitten deeply into the buying power of the low income groups, Black and White families.

Food subsidies paid by the Government include: Bread, R56-million; butter, R12,7-million; maize, R39,9-million; and cheese R1,2-million.

Senate Hansard 9 column 2135.

22 April 1975.

Agri - General

FARMS IN S.A. SUPPLIED WITH MAINS
POWER

SENATOR HENDERSON asked the
Minister of Economic Affairs:

How many farms in South Africa does
the Electricity Supply Commission Supply
with mains power?

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL
EDUCATION, for the *Minister of
Economic Affairs, replied:*

29 303 as on 31 December 1974.

SUNDAY EXPRESS 27/4/75
3

SOUTH AFRICA'S lucrative R2.342-million agricultural industry is facing crisis — probably the worst the country's 80 000 farmers have had to contemplate.

Escalating costs of production and transport, loss of overseas markets and local consumers' resistance to price increases are combining to make farming a high-risk operation.

Experts predict that one bad season could make hundreds of farmers bankrupt. Already many small farmers have been forced off the land.

And for the man in the street there is the chilling news that a fresh spate of price increases on essential commodities is just around the corner.

The price of maize has just risen and price increases for beef, mutton, pork, grain sorghum, fresh milk, butter, cheese and condensed milk are expected soon.

Bread prices, which rose late last year, are expected to be increased again this year.

In addition there is the possibility of another hike in petrol prices — on top of the 2c a litre as a result of last month's budget — and a 20 per cent increase for coal.

Worst

One of the worst hit areas in the agricultural sector is exports, which earned South Africa R950-million last year.

Already:—

● The overseas market for South African citrus juice has collapsed because of oversupply by Brazil.

This represents between R1-million and R3-million of the R94-million citrus export industry.

The Citrus Board will do all possible to avoid dumping and consumers can expect lower prices when the extra supplies start reaching the domestic market next month.

● South African wine exports to Britain will take a knock as a result of the British budget, which added 50c

By NORMAN TAYLOR

to the price of a bottle of wine.

Despite suppliers' optimism that sales will build up quickly, less South African wine will be sold in Britain in the short term.

It is unlikely that South Africans will benefit from cheaper wines.

● A granadilla juice factory at has been forced to close because of oversupply on the European market.

About 200 farmers, who have geared production to the factory, may have avoided financial disaster by agreeing to sell granadillas at R50 a ton instead of R100.

They are discussing the possibility of buying the factory and running it as a co-operative to undercut European prices.

● In the R60-million canned fruit export industry sales are well down on last year's figures because of economic conditions overseas and buyers holding stock.

Hardship

The industry could lose about R12-million as a result but the SA Canned Fruit Export Board is hopeful of selling 75 per cent of last year's figure. It expects it may have to hold some stock.

● South Africa, like all wool producing countries, is suffering from low wool prices. More than a third of the country's farmers derive income from wool.

On the domestic side the increase in the maize price (up R6 to R56 a ton) has upset consumers and growers, both claiming it is unfair.

Consumer groups say the higher price will cause hardship among Africans and low-income Whites.

It will mean that animal and poultry feed will cost more and as a result beef, pork, poultry, eggs and dairy produce prices will rise.

It has already been announced the price of milk is expected to rise by between 2c and 3c a litre within a fortnight.

Not enough

Farmers claim the increase in the maize price is not nearly enough to offset the 21.6 per cent increase in production costs they have incurred during the last year.

Fertilisers alone rose by 38 per cent in January, adding about R60-million to the farming bill.

The row over the maize price has brought the Maize Board into direct conflict with the Government.

It is understood that this is the first time one of South Africa's 22 agricultural control boards has openly challenged the Minister of Agricultural — an indication of the seriousness of the position.

Productivity and

the farmer

Natalman 1/5/75

THE TIME has come for beef and dairy farmers to stop beefing about production costs and to get on with increasing productivity and efficiency.

Experts are predicting that there will be shortages of milk and red meat within the next 18 months. Farmers, on the other hand, are complaining that increasing production costs make it imperative that they receive higher prices for their meat and milk.

Although agricultural production costs have risen sharply over the past year and farmers do have reason for asking for higher prices for their produce, the question must be asked: are farmers justified in blaming high food prices on the rising cost of wages and raw materials? Is their level of production adequate?

Lowest growth

Various agricultural experts during the past few months have criticised the efficiency and productivity of South African dairy and beef farmers, and it is clear that production on our farms is dismally low when compared with other developed countries. Research stations throughout the country have proved beyond doubt that South African farms have the capability to produce more.

Since 1960 the population of South Africa has

risen from 16 million to 24 million people, yet during the same period, the cattle population has remained static, at approximately 13 million head.

Available statistics show that South Africa has one of the lowest cattle growth rates in the world. While countries like New Zealand, Australia and the U.S. all show increasing cattle populations, that of South Africa remains static with no growth at all. If the trend continues, a negative growth rate is forecast.

Addressing a meeting of beef farmers some weeks ago, Dr. H. C. Luitingh, chairman of the Fertiliser Society of South Africa, said that it appeared as if beef farmers were slaughtering their breeding stock. Addressing another meeting of farmers, Dr. W. A. Verbeek, secretary for the Department of Agricultural Technical Services, said that "a nation that has insufficient milk and dairy products and meat, cannot remain viable and such a country cannot be considered prosperous."

Mr. R. A. Taylor, president of the Beef Producers' Union of Natal, has said that it was not generally realised to what extent the Republic

was dependant on imports of beef.

As well as slaughtering more and more breeding stock, it appears that South African farmers are sending to market animals that have not realised their full growth potential and are, in fact, being sold too young or before they have reached the most effective mass.

These disclosures, made by responsible agriculturalists, in the light of growing meat and milk shortages, indicate that there is something seriously wrong with South African farming methods. Consumers

by Peter Sutton
Agricultural Reporter

have been complaining for some time that the price of red meat is reaching levels at which they can no longer afford to buy meat.

If the statistics quoted are correct, it would be reasonable to suppose that in order to survive beef farmers have been marketing animals that should have stayed on the farms. One is forced to the conclusion that beef farmers have been cashing in on the high

meat price in order to stay in business. This is not a healthy situation.

When he established the new price for maize, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hendrik Schoeman, was obviously under considerable pressure from the Cabinet to keep the price of food down. In all probability the request for a milk subsidy will be turned down. The reasons for these clamp-downs are obvious. The Government cannot allow high subsidies to flame the fires of inflation any further. Food, which has risen so sharply in the past year, cannot be allowed to rise much higher unless wage demands from all sectors of the economy, are made.

Farmers will argue: why pick on them? Why should the agricultural industry be expected to carry the baby in fighting inflation? My answer is that many farmers, especially dairy and beef farmers, are grossly inefficient and show very poor production figures. This is borne out by fact and not opinion.

In comparison with other countries, South Africa is lagging far behind when it comes to productivity. The natural resources and technology is available to farmers to more than treble their productivity and thereby, produce at a profit. Inflation has been defined as "too much money chasing too few goods."

As far as food prices are concerned, and especially those of meat and milk, it would appear that this is the case. Not enough meat or milk is being produced at a price that will satisfy the consumer. Only by increasing productivity and producing products that show an increased value per unit of production, will more meat or milk be produced at prices that will show a profit to the farmer.

To merely increase the price only adds to inflation and brings about consumer resistance. There is ample experimental evidence available to show that beef farming can be a profitable business in spite of rising production costs. Farmers will have to take the trouble to make improvements in the feeding and breeding of their animals. More attention will have to be paid to the lowering of the very high mortality rate of animals on South African farms.

In fairness to South African beef farmers, the incidence of disease is higher because of tick-borne diseases, but management can cure this problem. Science has provided the answer to most problems of disease, only management can provide the method by which these developments are applied on the farm.

Sympathetic

Generally speaking, South African consumers have been sympathetic to the lot of the farmer with a fairly sound understanding of his problems in times of drought and other circumstances beyond his control. But this patience is beginning to wear a little thin. The public is showing growing signs of resisting increases in the price of milk and meat. Knowledgeable farmers are aware of this and are making every effort to produce more at a lower cost.

If the beef farmer is to survive, he must now make every effort to improve productivity and efficiency and make his product available to the consumer at prices he can afford.

Consumption of both pork and poultry is outstripping that of red meat and there is evidence of growing consumer resistance to increases in price. Likewise, the dairy farmer, whose management problems are very similar to those of the beef farmer, must also realise that an increase in the price of milk will ultimately do him more harm than good.

3

2 May 1975.

Land in Western Cape bought for prisons X

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE replied to Question *1, by Mr. S.A. van den Heever:

†Question:

- (1) What area of agricultural land was bought by the Department of Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure in the Western Cape for the Department of Prisons during the past four years;
- (2) (a) in which magisterial districts is the land situated, (b) who were the

Agri - General

owners of the land for each prison complex and (c) what was the area of the separate properties;

(3) (a) what was the purchase price of each property and (b) what is the date on which each was purchased;

(4) whether all the owners were willing to sell their land; if not, which owners were not willing;

(5) whether it was necessary to put into operation the machinery provided by the Expropriation Act.

†Reply (laid upon Table with leave of House):

- (1) 6 792,6637 hectares.
- (2) (a), (b) and (c) and (3) (a) and (b)

(i) Magisterial district of Worcester: Brandvlei Prison:

Name of owner	Area	Purchase price	Date purchased
T. G. Visser	51,0565 ha.	Not yet agreed upon.	Expropriated on 7th February 1975.
M. Louw	160,6497 ha.	do.	do.
P. J. Louw	233,1392 ha.	do.	do.
C. P. du Plessis	121,3715 ha.	do.	do.
Estate P. S. du Plessis	398,7157 ha.	do.	do.
M. J. van der Merwe	74,1056 ha.	do.	do.
A. Barnard	47,2644 ha.	do.	do.
P. S. Marais	121,3715 ha.	R65 349,00	do.
J. W. Groenewald	112,4996 ha.	Not yet agreed upon.	do.
P. G. Groenewald	83,2540 ha.	do.	do.
P. G. Groenewald	65,2089 ha.	do.	do.
J. J. D. van Schalkwyk	331,1660 ha.	do.	do.
D. R. Church Mission	0,4302 ha.	do.	do.
Educational Trustees	0,8565 ha.	do.	Offer made on 14th March 1975.

(ii) Magisterial district of Porterville: Porterville Prison:

Name of owner	Area	Purchase price	Date purchased
A. J. Toerien	114,6735 ha.	Not yet agreed upon.	Expropriated on 17th January 1975.
P. E. Toerien	582,2371 ha.	do.	do.
Bronberg Boerdery (Pty.) Ltd.	255,9670 ha.	do.	do.
J. P. C. Bester	157,8417 ha.	R116 132,00	do.
J. P. C. Bester	330,6214 ha.	R167 664,00	do.
J. P. C. Bester	118,1855 ha.	Not yet agreed upon.	do.
L. Toerien	267,8293 ha.	do.	do.
J. N. Toerien	100,3498 ha.	do.	do.
Jack Diamond Farm (Pty.) Ltd.	293,2354 ha.	R258 460,00	do.
Jack Diamond	223,2693 ha.	Not yet agreed upon.	do.
Jack Diamond	273,4357 ha.	do.	do.
Jack Diamond	434,2517 ha.	do.	do.
V. B. Diamond	79 3621 ha.	do.	do.

(iii) Magisterial district of Caledon: Helderstroom Prison:

Name of owner	Area	Purchase Price	Date Purchased
A. J. L. Landgoed	585,3289 ha.	Not yet agreed upon.	Expropriated on 28th November 1972.
F. J. de Kock	1 135,4782 ha.	R260 000,00	do.

(iv) Magisterial district of Paarl: Allandale Prison:

Name of owner	Area	Purchase Price	Date Purchased
S. G. Malherbe	39,5078 ha.	Not yet agreed upon.	Expropriated on 14th January 1975.

(4) Some of the owners approached the department, individually or in groups, with the request that there be proceeded with the purchase of their properties. From representations received it is deduced that some of the owners were not willing to sell. Individual cases were not checked in order to ascertain which owners were willing to sell.

(5) Yes.

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HANSARD, B. Q. columns 901-02
6 May 1975 -

Agriculture - General

Widespread consultation took place, and all alternative sites were thoroughly considered but found unsuitable. As the project could not be left to drag on any longer, final approval to proceed therewith was given on 15 November 1974.

Representations in connection with purchase of land for prisons

The MINISTER OF PRISONS replied to Question *2 by Mr. S. A. Van den Heever:

†Question:

- (1) Whether any representations have been made to him in connection with the purchase of agricultural land for prisons; if so, (a) by what bodies and persons and (b) what was (i) the nature of the representations and (ii) his reply thereto;
- (2) whether agricultural land has been purchased since the representations were received; if so, why.

†Reply:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) Porterville Boerevereniging.
Porterville Afrikaanse Sakekamer
and Municipal Council.
Landowners.
Porterville Koöperatiewe Landboumaatskappy.
24 Riviere Boerevereniging.
The South African Agricultural Union.
The Boland Agricultural Union.
 - (b) (i) Representations varied from in favour of as well as against the Porterville project. Objections were also made against the withdrawal of developed agricultural land from private ownership, as far as Brandvlei and Porterville are concerned.
 - (ii) This project has been going since the beginning of 1970.

- (2) Yes, in view of the explanation given on 1 (b) (ii) the purchase of the relative land was proceeded with.

†Mr. S. A. VAN DEN HEEVER: Mr. Speaker, arising from the reply of the hon. Minister, can he tell me whether he proceeded with this in spite of the fact that the S.A. Agricultural Union objected?

†The MINISTER: Mr. Speaker, I think it is clear from the reply that we have decided to proceed.

Replies standing over from Friday, 2 May 1975:

Heunis 'will discuss fish rights'

RDM 6/5/75

WINDHOEK — The Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. C. J. Heunis, had agreed that commercial fishing rights for South West African Coloureds would be discussed at talks in Cape Town in January, the chairman of the SWA Coloured Council executive, said in Windhoek yesterday.

Mr. A. J. F. Kloppers was commenting on talks he and two other members of the council, Mr. J. Julius and Mr. L. J. Barnes, had had with the South African Government in Cape Town last week.

Mr. Kloppers said fishing rights for Coloureds was "one of several matters" they had discussed but he considered it premature to comment on other aspects of the talks.

"Full fishing rights for our Coloured people has been a bone of contention for many years, and if we can achieve something positive in this direction it will be wonderful for all of us," Mr. Kloppers said.

He and his colleagues had talked with the Minister of Coloured, Rehoboth and Nama Relations, Dr. S. van der Merwe, and the Minister had indicated he was

agreeable.

"He strongly supported our request for fishing rights, and suggested we talk to the Minister of Economic Affairs about it," Mr. Kloppers said.

Mr. Heunis was also sympathetic. He said we would get together at the conference table in the Cape in January to discuss the entire matter.

Mr. Kloppers said he had also asked that, should the fishing rights be granted, the Government would ensure that any interests in Coloured fishing companies that might develop remained in the hands of the SWA Coloured population.

The Nasionale Onafhanklike Party (NOP), the unofficial opposition in the council, said yesterday it was essential that action be taken to improve the climate for constitutional talks of all South West African peoples.

In a statement issued at Keetmanshoop by Mr. C. A. Hartung and Mr. A. Krohne, the NOP said it was a tragedy that the shooting at the Katutura Owambo compound during a riot recently had to happen "just at this time when the eyes of the entire world rest on SWA".

At its recent sitting the SWA Elected Coloured Council had accepted the invitation to attend the proposed constitutional conference and had appointed six representatives for such talks.

But now it was worried about the political climate for such a conference.

"The right climate for such talks, which is a prerequisite for their success, is too easily and too often bedevilled by irresponsible and damaging action on the one hand, and the continued application of irritating practices and legislation on the other." — Sapa.

1-111
2. 2

How inflation hits farmers' pockets

9/5/75

EAST LONDON — How inflation was cutting deeply into the pocket of the South African farmer was explained by the agricultural adviser of Barclays National Bank when he addressed the annual meeting of the Farmers' Association at Nottingham Road, Natal, recently.

Taking a maize farmer as an example, Mr Vogel said that if he farmed 500 hectare of maize and averaged 30 bags per hectare, he could have made a net profit of R13 425 in 1973. After the

same physical crop with the same expenses at inflated prices, his net profit would have dropped to R7 610 in 1974.

Between July, 1973, and July, 1974, prices of fertilisers rose by 11 per cent; fuel 65 per cent; spray and dips 37 per cent; spares 22 per cent; tractors 15 per cent; and liabilities 14 per cent. And Mr Vogel contends that fertilisers will rise in price by 40 per cent this year.

"We have not seen the end of inflation and we can expect the position to be worse at the end of 1975," he added.

"To merely double the farmer's prices for his commodities will not solve the problem, as this would only accelerate the rate of inflation in the economy to such an extent that he will be worse off at the end.

"The farmer also cannot divert back to the old days

of ploughing with oxen and applying kraal manure in order to cut down on expenses, as today he is forced to maintain a high yield.

"The farmer is forced to operate within the climate of the economy and exposed to inflation, he will have to find a way to maintain his profit levels."

Mr Vogel added that the farmer is forced to farm scientifically, but like any businessman he will have to know exactly what input will provide him with the highest return on his investment.

He will have to know exactly at what levels to operate and also how much he can afford to spend on his crops in order to allow him the optimum profit and where he can expect this.

A farmer will have to introduce a budgeting system, which must allow him to implement budgetary control parallel to his costing system.

A properly prepared budget, containing a projected cash flow, will further provide the farmer's bank manager with information to allow him to evaluate whether he has a sound and viable enterprise.

"The advantages of financial management are, therefore, twofold. It firstly forms the basis of scientific farming methods, and further provides the farmer with an opportunity to gain the confidence of his bankers," said Mr Vogel.

— BUSINESS EDITOR.

Farmers are R150-m⁽³⁾ in debt to State

13.8.78

Farming Editor

South African farmers owe the State R136,9-million advanced by the Department of Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure for farming purposes only. South West African farmers owe R13,2-million.

In its annual report for the year ended March 31 1974 the department discloses that outstanding capital amounted to R20,7-million in South Africa and R1,2-million in South West Africa. Arrears interest was R6,9-million and R306 642 respectively.

The arrears position at the end of the year under report was slightly better than at the end of the previous year. In South Africa R32,9-million was recovered and in South West Africa R3,7-million.

REDUCED

In South Africa the number of outstanding loans was reduced from 31 600 to 27 487 during the year and the amounts outstanding from R159,5-million to R153,3-million. In South West Africa the number of outstanding loans dropped by 478 from 3 002 and the outstanding amount by R1,4-million from R13,5-million.

Demobilisation loans outstanding amounted to R42 221 in South West Africa after R9 825 was recovered. The loans were granted in 1945 and the recovery of the relatively large amount was "regarded as encouraging."

LAND HUNGER

In South Africa demobilisation loans still outstanding amounted to R659 724, about R75 000 less than the previous year.

Land hunger caused the biggest rush on the time, energy and finances of the department. Competition was fierce for any available piece of land.

In South Africa 1920 applications for long-term assistance were received in the year under report, and only one out of three applicants for land was successful.

'Era of cheap food is over'

13/5/74

Agri

SUNDAY TIMES

Reporter

SOUTH AFRICA could say goodbye to cheap foods, Mr. C. J. P. Cilliers, director of the South African Agricultural Union, said this week. He was commenting on the soaring cost of food and the shortage of certain essential food stuffs.

At the same time, consumers' and workers' representatives warned that the increases would precipitate widespread wage demands.

Mr. Cilliers said he endorsed the views of Mr. W. C. J. van Rensburg, manager of the Egg Board, who told the National Poultry Convention in Pretoria this week: "The time of cheap and plenti-

ful agricultural produce is passing rapidly."

Food stores predicted this week that households would be hard hit by shortages of milk, butter and meat. Rising prices of other basic foodstuffs added to the grim outlook for the public.

Convinced

Both Mr. Cilliers and Mr. Van Rensburg are convinced that food prices must increase to stimulate farmers' productivity.

Beef production, it was stated, had remained static for 40 years.

"Agriculture is just hanging on to the coat tails of inflation," said Dr. Claude van der Merwe, Secretary for Agricultural Economics and Marketing. "The vicious circle is in

full swing and everyone is suffering from the malady."

Mr. Arthur Grobbelaar, general secretary of the Trade Union Council of South Africa, predicts that the food price increases will precipitate new wage demands on an unprecedented scale.

"The real thing is that the Government are not succeeding in controlling inflation. They must introduce some fundamental changes in their policies," he said.

"The rising costs are becoming more and more alarming," Mrs. H. C. Hughes, national public relations officer, for the Housewives League. "Red meat prices are so astronomical that we will be forced to use white meat almost exclusively."

End seen to cheap farm produce

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The time for cheap and plentiful agricultural produce was passing rapidly, Mr W. C. J. van Rensburg, manager of the Egg Board, warned.

'Vicious circle' of price rises

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Dr Claude van der Merwe, Secretary for Agricultural Economics and Marketing warned that price increases of agricultural products started a vicious circle that would eventually swallow the advantages gained by the producers.

'This tendency of the advantages to slip away is cause for concern,' he told poultry farmers when he opened the 70th annual congress of the South African Poultry Association in Pretoria.

Dr van der Merwe said: 'We are faced with a grow-

ing need for State interference and aid but each measure should be carefully considered.'

Long-term advantages should not be sacrificed to gain short-term benefits and the costs to other industries should be carefully considered.

Dr van der Merwe said despite the efforts of the 22 agricultural control boards the achievements would appear to be disappointing.

As soon as producer prices were increased production increased to a level well above consumer demand 'and we have to start all over again.'

He added: 'Prices of food products must increase otherwise producers will have no incentive or desire to increase agricultural food products.'

Mr van Rensburg was addressing the National Poultry Convention in Pretoria on the marketing of eggs.

He said the poultry industry could take advantage of the position and at the same time 'make a considerable contribution towards ensuring sufficient high protein and nutritious food to consumers all over the world at comparatively low prices.'

ADVANCED

The poultry industry was probably the agricultural industry that had technologically advanced most during the past 15 years.

Unfortunately marketing had not kept pace with the increased production.

Mr van Rensburg said there was an overproduction of eggs throughout the world with large surpluses causing prices of both eggs and poultry meat to be reduced to 'uneconomic levels.'

SURPLUSES

He said in order to ensure a steady and adequate supply of eggs throughout the year surpluses during certain periods were unavoidable.

The country's egg consumption had increased sharply over the past 20 years in contrast with most other Western countries where consumption had dropped.

Egg exports accounted for between 5 and 10 percent of production.

This season ending on June 30 total exports would be about 8 000 tons. Heavy financial losses would be incurred but so far the industry itself shouldered that burden.

LEVIES

Levy payments ensured that consumers received a high protein food at 'extremely fair prices.'

Contracts for the disposal of surplus eggs must be signed well in advance. In September 1973 and January this year about 55 percent of the expected surplus for next season had been sold.

A chain of supermarkets recently used large eggs as a loss-leader with 'amazing' results. Their eggs sales rocketed by as much as 80 percent while their grocery sales increased by 30 to 40 percent.

There was no noticeable drop in egg sales at nearby food stores.

Mr van Rensburg said if every African in the country could be persuaded to eat only one egg a day more than at present there would be virtually no surplus.

Agri - Genard

THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUBSIDISING STAPLE FOODSTUFFS
IN SOUTH AFRICA - A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

*A Memorandum Prepared for the Associated Chambers
of Commerce of South Africa*

by

Charl Pienaar

Department of Economics
University of Natal
Durban

May 1975

Agri-Genl

Department of Prisons: Agricultural land expropriation in Western Cape

*10. Mr. S. A. VAN DEN HEEVER asked the Minister of Agriculture:†

- (1) Whether any amounts have been paid to the owners of agricultural land in the Western Cape since 2 May 1975 in connection with land expropriated for the Department of Prisons during January and February 1975 and in respect of which the purchase price has not been agreed upon; if so, (a) what amount has been paid to each such owner, (b) when was the payment made and (c) what does the payment represent;
- (2) whether any of the owners were unwilling to accept the amounts paid; if so, (a) which owners and (b) what were the amounts paid;

- (3) whether any of the properties expropriated were subsequently put out to lease by the Department; if so, (a) which properties, (b) at what rental, (c) how was the rental calculated and (d) to whom were they leased;
- (4) whether the leasing of such properties was advertised; if so, in what way;
- (5) whether the lease was put out to tender;
- (6) what area of the land in respect of each property leased is irrigation land.

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Reply laid upon Table with leave of House):

- (1) No.
- (2) Falls away.

(3) Yes.

(a), (b), (c) and (d)

(a) Property	(b) Rental	(c) Rent calculation	(d) Lessee
(i) Portion 1 of the Remainder of the farm DELUST No. 25	R11 999-00	(a) 8% on agricultural value (b) 5% on improvements	P. E. Toerien
(ii) Portion of Portion 2 and Portion 3 of the farm GELUK No. 26	R10 476-00	"	Brondberg Boerdery (Pty.) Ltd.
(iii) (a) Portion 4 ("Blikhuis") of the farm KLIPBANKSDRIFT No. 230; (b) Portion 1 of the farm STEENWERP No. 331; (c) Remainder of Portion 8 of the farm MIDDELPOST No. 231; (d) Portion 3 of the farm GELUK No. 26 and (e) Portion of Portion 1 of the farm STEENWERP No. 331	R15 452-00 ((a), (b), (c) and (e)) R4 000-00 (d)	Highest tender.	J. P. C. Bester.
(iv) Remainder of the farm GELUK No. 26	R5 600-00	Highest tender.	L. Toerien
(v) Portion 2 of the farm GELUK No. 26	R4 000-00	Highest tender.	J. J. Gouws
(vi) Remainder of the farm KLIPBANKSDRIFT No. 230; Portion 1 of the farm STEENWERP No. 28; Remainder of the farm STEENWERP No. 331; Remainder of the farm STEENWERP No. 28 and Portion 5 (REMHOOGTE) (REMHOOGTE) of the farm KLIPBANKSDRIFT No. 230	R24 000-00	8% on agricultural value.	Jack Diamond

(4) and (5) The department's policy is to minimize the inconvenience caused to expropriatees as far as possible. To this end the principle has been adopted that, in cases where expropriation takes place and ownership passes to the State before finality is reached in regard to the compensation payable, the expropriated property or parts thereof may be let to the expropriatee on a

temporary basis at a reasonable rental determined by the Minister in consultation with the Agricultural Credit Board. In the cases referred to all the leases were arranged in terms of this policy except in three cases where the expropriatees were not interested in renting the properties and tenders were invited.

(6)

Property	Area of irrigation land
(i) Remainder of the farm GELUK No. 26	59,0300 hectares
(ii) Portion 3 of the farm GELUK No. 26; Portion of Portion 2 of the farm GELUK No. 26 and Portion of Portion 1 of STEENWERP No. 331	47,2800 hectares
(iii) Portion 1 of the farm DELUST No. 25	14,0700 hectares
(iv) Remainder of the farm DELUST No. 25	73,4900 hectares
(v) Portion 2 of the farm GELUK No. 26	59,4400 hectares
(vi) Remainder of the farm KLIPBANKSDRIFT No. 230	None
(vii) Portion 5 of the farm KLIPBANKSDRIFT No. 230	None
(viii) Portion 1 of the farm STEENWERP No. 28	8,5700 hectares
(ix) Remainder of the farm STEENWERP No. 331	58,6200 hectares
(x) Portion 1 of the farm STEENWERP No. 331	60,0000 hectares
(xi) Remainder of the farm STEENWERP No. 28	39,0500 hectares
(xii) Remainder of Portion 8 of the farm MIDDELPOST No. 231	11,1300 hectares
(xiii) Portion 4 (BLIKHUIS) of the farm KLIPBANKSDRIFT No. 230	21,8500 hectares

Staff dearth annoys farmers

Mercury Reporter

LADYSMITH — Farmers in the Ladysmith area are annoyed at the shortage of staff in the town's Provincial Veterinary Department.

The vice-president of the Ladysmith and District Farmers' Association, Mr. B. J. de Lange blames the shortage on low salaries.

The Association has made representations to the assistant director of Veterinary Services Natal and to the Natal Agricultural Union, but they have been told that the position at Ladysmith is the same as in other parts of Natal.

Mr. de Lange has asked the Natal Agricultural Union to take up the matter with the South African Agricultural Union asking them to press for higher salaries.

"My association feels that if more adequate salaries were offered the department might obtain younger staff to work as stock inspectors," he said.

When the Ladysmith Veterinary Department personnel was decreased to "a skeleton staff" and the hours of the permit office were drastically reduced, the association felt that it was time to press for an improved service.

When the State Veterinarian retired here he was not replaced and there has been a reduction in the number of stock inspectors.

The association feels that the remaining men would not be able to cope with the work in this area. Several farmers also feared that lack of controlled immunisation against anthrax and contagious abortion could

pose a serious stock disease hazard in the future.

Dr. W. H. Buhr, the assistant director veterinary services Natal has written: "The tremendous industrial expansion in different parts of Natal has had a very telling effect on the recruitment of staff to the State service.

"It is extremely difficult to find suitable people to work as stock inspectors and there are a number of vacancies throughout Natal. I am sure you will appreciate that we are trying to make ends meet and to utilise staff to the best advantage."

Dr. Buhr says that because of the establishment of the KwaZulu Government Veterinary Service, existing veterinary areas had to be altered to meet with the changed conditions.

"I now have nine veterinary areas with headquarters at Vryheid, Dundee, Estcourt, Pietermaritzburg, Ixopo, Kokstad, Durban, Eshowe and Hluhluwe.

"This seems to me to be the best distribution of State Veterinarians in the province with the present establishment.

"At the moment Dundee and Kokstad are vacant and Dr. Liebenberg of Estcourt has resigned with effect from June 30. It is unpredictable when any of these posts will be filled.

"I do not think that representations to my head office will be of any avail as the issue is simply one of recruiting personnel."

27 MAY 1975

Agri - General

Land reserved for Coloured persons

*2. Mr. R. E. ENTHOVEN asked the Minister of Coloured, Rehoboth and Nama Relations:

What is the total area of land in each province which has been reserved for occupation and ownership by Coloured persons in terms of (a) the Rural Coloured Areas Act, 1963, and (b) other legislation.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COLOURED, REHOBOTH AND NAMA RELATIONS:

- (a) Cape Province: 1 681 497 ha.
Orange Free State: 36 259 ha.
Transvaal: Nil.
Natal: Nil.
- (b) This information should be obtained from the controlling Department concerned viz. the Department of Planning and the Environment.

DOGS DESTROY 20 000 SHEEP

(3)

Mercury Reporter 27/5/75

PIETERMARITZBURG—More than 20 000 sheep are killed in Natal every year by packs of marauding dogs and scores of cattle and other livestock are savaged.

The secretary of the Natal Agricultural Union, Mr. A. Bisschoff, said here yesterday that his union supported the Provincial Administration's "dog control" programme.

"I cannot comment on the alleged brutal killings of dogs by temporary provincial dog tax

collectors. But we are in full support of the Administration's efforts to control the rural dog population," Mr. Bisschoff said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ron Hardmann, the Under Secretary for Law Administration, said a full-scale investigation into the methods employed by the dog tax

collectors was under way.

Discussions had already been held with most of the men, but many were still unable to be contacted.

Mr. Hardman said the temporary dog tax collectors were, in fact, appointed to "control" the dog population in the province.

Midlands farmers urged to improve efficiency

Daily Star 29/5/75

CRADOCK — Agriculture in South Africa had entered a new phase in which more responsibility and greater efficiency would be expected from farmers.

This was said by the president of the Midlands Agricultural Union, Mr Thys Louw, at the opening of the union's congress here.

Mr Louw said most farmers were aware of their responsibilities as was seen in the enormous increase in the volume of agricultural production over the past few years.

The new approach to agriculture and the higher prices received for most commodities had resulted in the gross value of agricultural production attaining a record figure of more than R2 000 million in 1973/74. The total value of capital assets in agriculture was more than R11 000

million.

He said it was impossible to forecast what the future held for the wool industry.

He was convinced that the present wool scheme had given producers as well as manufacturers more confidence in wool. However, farmers should do everything possible to produce only a high quality product and should manage more efficiently in order to curtail expenses. The same applied to mohair.

Mr Louw said it was estimated that there would be a shortage of about two million head of cattle and six million head of sheep for slaughtering by 1980 if the present trend of production and consumption was maintained.

Farmers must therefore

face the challenge of producing more meat per morgen. This would require intensification of production but would result in a higher price level for red meat.

On farm labour, he said the wages compared favourably with those of other sectors in the platteland. Farmers must invest in good labour and make the advantages of life on the farm known to the labourers. — DDC.

Railway sparks under fire

*Daily
depart
6/6/12*

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EAST LONDON — The Railways came under fire at the congress of the Eastern Agricultural Union yesterday, as farmers complained of fires started by trains at high costs of transporting goods and of unnecessary delays.

On hand to answer the farmers' questions was East London's new system manager, Mr C. E. Lubbe.

Mr Lubbe pointed out that the most modern spark preventors in the world were used by the Railways. He promised to investigate the complaints.

Farmers' grievances ranged from the fires to cleanliness of trucks used to transport livestock. — DDR.

HANSARD

19

Q. 1178

17 June 1975.

① Agri - General

**Betterment/development schemes in
Coloured rural areas** ✓

*23. Mr. W. G. KINGWILL asked the
Minister of Coloured, Rehoboth and Nama
Relations:

- (1) What amounts did his Department or its agencies spend from (a) revenue and (b) loan funds on betterment and development schemes in Coloured rural areas during the latest year for which figures are available;
- (2) what amounts did boards of management themselves contribute to betterment and development schemes;
- (3) in respect of what year are these figures given.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CO-
LOURED, REHOBOTH AND NAMA
RELATIONS:

- (1) (a) R310 768.
(b) Nil.
- (2) R107 511.
- (3) 1973-'74 financial year.

Sowing seeds for new co-operation

Natal Mercury Correspondent 19/6/75

NEW YORK — The United States and South Africa will increase their agricultural co-operation, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hendrik Schoeman, said after meeting the U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Mr. Earl Butz.

Mr. Schoeman described the discussions as "very, very friendly."

The meeting is believed to be South Africa's first with a member of the Ford Cabinet.

More than a year ago, the Information Minister, Dr. Connie Mulder, met Mr. Ford (then Vice-President) but Dr. Mulder saw no U.S. Government leader in his recent American tour, which ended on Sunday.

Mr. Schoeman and Mr. Butz discussed the potential of South African farm surpluses to help feed other countries.

"If a man is hungry, no one is asking the colour of his skin — that's what we were talking about," said the Minister.

He indicated that U.S.-S.A. co-operation would be expanded on a broad front, including the exchange of information, new techniques and more two-way visits.

"There's no politics in agriculture," stressed Mr. Schoeman.

Mr. Schoeman will spend one more week touring the United States as a guest of the John Deere Agricultural Equipment Company.

He will visit factories and institutions in the mid-west, visit New Orleans and examine new techniques in fields ranging from maize production to crop-spraying and insecticides.

(3) Gen

Big price shocks

loom

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — A new wave of price shocks is about to break in the wake of those which followed the autumn crop harvest and the Budget.

These threaten to be bigger than those the country has just faced, and will almost certainly involve price rises in a wide range of basic foods — eggs, sugar, bread and wheat products.

Egg producers, it was confirmed this week, have asked for an undisclosed increase, and, following the big rises in the price of other agricultural products recently — milk for instance, went up by 21.9 percent a litre — they are likely to get it.

SIGNIFICANT

Some producers estimate that the retail price of eggs could go up 2c a dozen—a significant rise for many who regard eggs as being an important source of inexpensive protein.

A warning was also given this week that sugar producers were selling almost 60 percent of their output at the controlled price in South Africa—a price which currently does not cover much more than 60 percent of production costs.

On top of this, it was established this week that the Wheat Board is to decide on October 1 what the new price of wheat should be.

INCREASE

A higher wheat price will definitely mean that bread will either go up as well, or that the Government will have to increase the bread subsidy and that practically everything containing wheat or flour — from canned soups to biscuits — will be affected.

At the beginning of this month, there was a Government approved increase of 10 percent for glass containers. Leading users of glass containers said this week that the result would inevitably mean adjustments in the prices of literally everything bought in glass.

Shoes are to go up in price by an average of about 10 percent within the next few weeks, and

Rise in STAR 20/6/75 prices spiral

(From Page 1)

sents the vast majority of industrial users of steel, says the increase was inevitable and expected — but will not have a dramatic effect.

The ultimate effect will be long-term and diffused. Steel is not an ordinary consumer product: It is not used up constantly by the ordinary householder.

The director of the Federated Chamber of Industries, Dr H J J Reynders, said that the increase will push up the cost structure but industry had been expecting it.

It was pointed out by several authorities that the subsidisation of imported steel by the Government — in the final instance by the taxpayer — had in recent years cost the country more than R200-million.

This would be a recurring and steeply rising burden unless the local steel industry is made viable enough to meet the country's needs at prices much lower than the international level.

(See Page 27)

Bikitsha: Fight illness with food

DA 27-670

UMTATA — Agriculture should be treated as a branch of medicine, the medical superintendent of the Butterworth Hospital, Dr C. L. Bikitsha, told students at the Tsolo College of Agriculture yesterday.

"With antibiotics and drugs I can only patch up sick people," Dr Bikitsha said. "But if you give me milk and meat I will wipe out tuberculosis in the Transkei."

Dr Bikitsha, who was guest speaker at the college diploma day, said he looked forward to the day when the beds in his hospital would be empty because diseases like tuberculosis, kwashiorkor, malnutrition and sepsis had been wiped out not by drugs but by good food.

He mentioned one disease, cancer of the gullet, of which the Transkei had the highest incidence in the world. It had been shown that the cause was deficiency in certain trace elements, which resulted in diseased crops.

"Using fertiliser laced with trace elements we shall be able to produce maize which will not poison us."

Dr Bikitsha, himself a farmer, said land in the Transkei was static and unproductive, while the population was growing, although

the Transkei had a wonderful climate and plentiful water. It should become the granary of Africa, exporting a massive surplus every year.

"The concept of an agricultural country which works three months of the year during the rainy season and sits back for the rest is so ludicrous I cannot imagine why we have allowed it to go on so long.

"This pattern will have to be changed. We will have to train agriculturists who will go out and motivate people to see the importance of agriculture."

The 31 final-year students at the college were all given their diplomas yesterday. Not one had failed the principal, Mr John Parmiter said.

Mr Parmiter said in his address, plans were afoot for expansion and complete rebuilding of the college. New classrooms were to be built soon, as well as a workshop.

The college would also have a soil-testing laboratory which would serve the whole Transkei.

Rainfall for the past season had been low, Mr Parmiter said, and Tsolo had had only 385mm, compared with the average 600mm. As a result the maize crop was down by about a third and grazing was scarce. — DDR.

World's hungry will not be 'fed' in decade

ARGUS
27/6/75

ROME. — Dr Oddeke Boerma, the director-general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, shook the World Food Council here by declaring that its aim — to eradicate world hunger within 10 years — cannot be achieved.

Dr Boerma's warning came in the middle of the inaugural session of the World Food Council set up by the World Food Conference last year to put into action its strategy to feed 500-million starving or undernourished people and produce sufficient food for the world's future population.

The conference's aim, that "within a decade no child will go to bed hungry, no family will fear for its next day's bread and no human being's future will be stunted by malnutrition," sounds beautiful," Dr Boerma said.

But the problem is not just of food production, but of purchasing power, he said.

Shock for delegates at food conference

There are so many people, the population increase is still going on, there will be more unemployment and under-employment; and if the social and economic problems are not tackled equally vigor-

ously, our council will be out on a limb."

Dr Boerma's warning may come as a cold shower to delegates of 36 countries assembled in Rome to discuss immediate food aid to the starving and how to produce and distribute cheaper fertilisers and increase the world's food output.

TARGET

Dr Boerma recalled that he had addressed the World Food Conference before he was aware it was going to set such a target.

"But I warned them over and over again never to forget that the problem of hunger cannot be solved just with food production and distribution," he said. — Times News Service.

3

Farmers earn record income

THE total gross income of farmers in South Africa reached the record figure of R1 924m last year; total consumer spending on food rose by 15 percent and the nation's eating pattern showed signs of gradual change.

These are among the statistics in the annual report of the Secretary for Agricultural Economics and Marketing for the year ended on June 30, 1974, which has been tabled in Parliament.

The report said that the change taking place in the food-consumption pattern is attributable chiefly to the changed composition of the population of the Republic, as well as to urbanization and the increase in earnings.

Total consumer spending on food during the year amounted to R3 314 and the report said that the 15 percent increase

that this represented over the previous year is largely the result of rising food prices.

- Meat prices rose sharply again, by nearly 25 percent;

- Milk and dairy products cost about 12 percent more;

- Cereals went up by 17 percent; and

- Margarine and oils showed a nine percent increase.

Rising food prices are a world phenomenon, the report adds, "and the South African consumer is generally not in a worse position than his counterpart in most other countries".

The report showed that the total capital investment in agriculture in South Africa in January last year was nearly R11 000m. Commenting on farmers' income, it says the increase in the volume of production and the rise in producer prices contributed to the gross earnings figure rising from R1 739 to R1 924 — an increase of R185m over the previous year.

The report stated that stock farmers' gross income increased by R30m to R848m and that income from the marketing of slaughter stock was responsible for most of this amount.

And although slaughterings dropped, gross income increased by about R14m to an estimated R420m.

By Vic Hanna
Financial Editor

1)3
2)106
Sun Trib (Fin) 15/6/75

Rising costs and capital requirements put industry on the spot

CAUGHT between rapidly escalating costs and vast capital requirements during the years ahead South Africa's sugar industry faces the most critical period in its 124-year history.

For it is an industry that will need capital generation to the order of R700 million over the next 10 to 20 years merely to keep pace with demand and to keep it as the largest agricultural earner of foreign exchange.

But it is an industry that has become a political pawn in recent years by having to supply the domestic market with sugar at a price below the cost of production.

In fact, according to sugarman Anson Lloyd, speaking this week at the Sugar Millers' AGM, it will actually cost the industry R72 million this year just to supply sugar to the local market.

This deficit should be offset by export earnings but the very valid point made by Mr Lloyd is that, in terms of the present agreement with the Government on the dis-

tribution of sugar revenues, there is little incentive for the industry to generate the capital it will require in the years ahead.

Growth

Essentially, it is the pegging of fixed assets values since 1969/70 that has hampered any growth in the industry and for all concerned, including consumers — who could possibly pay dearly for the sugar price holiday in recent years — it is hoped the special committee of the Board of Trade resolves the problem when it meets with representatives of the industry later this year.

In preparation for this meeting the country's millers have instituted a revaluation pro-

gramme of all land, buildings, plant and machinery by a national firm of professional valuers.

And it is expected that this valuation will show a considerable increase in values since 1969/70 when they were pegged — especially considering that money has eroded in value by 30 percent since that period.

Planning

Of particular concern to the industry is its long term planning. Mr Lloyd has estimated that within 12 years increases in domestic consumption will eliminate any surplus available for export. With the current season expected to generate well over R200 million in

foreign exchange it is obvious how important it is for the industry to expand.

The newly elected chairman of the Millers' Association, Frank Jones feels that under the present system of revenue distribution the capital required to set up a new sugar mill will not come from the private sector. Understandably so, for no investor would wish to have capital restricted as in the sugar industry.

So for the industry to expand there must be some major adjustments made. Not only are these adjustments necessary for the long term benefit and continuation of the industry but they would appear necessary as a fundamental of a free enterprise economic system.

Expert says

AR645
27/6/75

unrefined product best

THE consumption of refined wheat and maize products in preference to unrefined should be discouraged, a researcher at the nutrition conference at Tygerberg Hospital said yesterday.

Mr A. S. Wehmeyer, of the Food Chemistry Division of the CSIR, in Pretoria, presented a paper on the Nutrient Content of South African Unrefined and Refined Wheat and Maize Products.

He said there seemed to be an increasing tendency to use more refined maize and wheat products, even though — with the exception of protein and carbohydrates — the nutrient content of these cereals has 'definitely reduced' in the process of refining.

DEFICIENT

The riboflavin and nicotinic acid content of maize is lower than in wheat and the diet of people whose staple food is mainly maize, could be deficient in these two vitamins — especially if the refined products are used for the preparation of food, he went on.

He also said special sifted maize meal showed a significant loss in nutrients compared to unsifted meal, whereas roughly two-thirds of the nutrients present in unsifted meal was taken away during refining to baker's cones.

The exception is the protein content, which is much less affected by refining than the other nutrients, he said.

In the case of bread, he said, the housewife could not buy at a higher price a sliced, wrapped, enriched whole-wheat bread and a super white bread, also sliced and wrapped.

While the latter may have a price advantage, there is no doubt that the former is by far superior from the point of view of nutrition.

Farming is facing test — Minister

STAR 2/9/75

BLYDERIVIER — It is abundantly clear South Africa's agricultural potential will be put to the test in the near future, the Deputy Minister of Bantu Development, Mr Raubenheimer, said here today.

Opening the sixth congress of the Soil Science Society of Southern Africa, the Deputy Minister said man's ingenuity as well as South Africa's agricultural resources would have to measure up to future demands.

South Africa, with about 12m hectares of arable land and potentially 40m people to feed, would have to maintain average yields of 5,000 ki-

lograms for every hectare to ensure Western nutritional standards for all.

The present average yield in South Africa was 1 045 kilograms for every hectare.

The Deputy Minister said the Transkei had a potential to produce more than 3m tons of maize whereas the production during 1972-73 was 0,1m tons, or less than three percent of the potential. The Bophuthatswana homeland produced 7,7 percent of its cash crop potential.

"I am, however, proud to be able to state that soil conservation in the homelands has reached the stage where deterioration has stopped and the steep hill to higher productivity has commenced," he said. — Sapa.

Black expert on peace efforts

ARGUS 4/7/75

3

A BLACK agricultural expert said in Bellville yesterday that effective and meaningful interdependence between states could be brought about only if there was 'political will' on the part of all those concerned.

This view was expressed by Dr. N. N. Raditapole, OBE, of Lesotho, in a paper presented to the congress on economic interdependence between countries in Southern and Equatorial Africa.

Dr Raditapole, who has represented Lesotho at international food and agricultural conferences abroad, is head of the agricultural department of the Corporation for Economic Development of Equatorial and Southern Africa (EDESA).

He said interdependence between states in Southern Africa had to be part and parcel of the striving for peace and stability in this region.

'It must not have even a grey shade of "neo-colonialism" or "economic imperialism", he said. 'It must be based on, and evolved in, a spirit of mutual respect and trust, for, after all is said and done, our countries all have the same ultimate goal of improving the quality of life of our inhabitants.'

LIMITLESS

The scope for co-operation in agricultural development in the sub-continent was limitless.

'Let all our countries therefore rise to the challenge of realising the full potential of our resources, not only for our own benefit, but for the benefit of future generations so that they may not curse our graves,' Dr Raditapole said.

Over 60 farmers for management course

GRAHAMSTOWN — More than 60 farmers are expected to attend a Farm Management course here in September.

The course will be conducted by the Rhodes agricultural economist, Mr Geoff Antrobus, and will be held at the 1820 Settler's Monument on 9th and 10th September.

The course, which will be conducted under the auspices of the departments of economics and extra-mural studies at Rhodes, will dovetail with previous courses arranged for farmers by Mr Antrobus.

Last year's course on farm tax management was attended by 105 farmers, not only from Albany and Bathurst, but also from as far afield as Queenstown, Cathcart, Fort Beaufort, Aberdeen and East Griqualand.

Mr Antrobus said: "This year's course will examine in more detail the various points touched on in the course on farm business management and farm labour management, and is in many respects complementary to last year's course in farm tax management."

All the speakers were not yet finalised, but they would include the senior lecturer in agricultural economics at Fort Hare University, Mr S.J. de Swardt, Mr Antrobus himself, and other Rhodes experts.

Mr Antrobus said he also hoped to include a talk on

co-operative farming by a farmer who had first-hand knowledge of the sharing of machinery and farm decision-making and management.

Topics covered will include financial analysis and problem diagnosed courses of farm credit, types of credit, the cost of capital replacement of machinery, the problem of buying land and personal financial planning.

Mr Antrobus said he expected a good turn-out of farmers, as several farmers who had attended previous courses had shown interest in implementing suggestions. Since the previous farm labour management course some farmers had made use of incentive schemes, and recently there had been indications that farmers were revising wages. — DDC

Rhodesian crisis

'has to end'

Cape Times 16/7/75

THE settlement of Rhodesia's constitutional crisis was essential for the economic progress of Southern Africa and Rhodesians appreciated Mr Vorster's efforts to bring about this settlement, Mr P Millar, president of Rhodesia's Agricultural Union, said last night.

Plea on

farmers'

tax

Cape Times

16/7/75

Speaking to the delegates at the annual congress of the Boland Agricultural Union, Mr Millar said that political differences prevented economic co-operation between countries in Southern Africa.

These countries had all the natural resources needed for an immense economic power bloc, Mr Millar said.

"In Rhodesia we are trying to grow grapes and produce wine. This should not be so. We should be buying Cape wines and exporting our beef to South Africa. So each Southern African country should concentrate on its agricultural speciality and sell to its neighbours," Mr Millar said. "If we could bury political issues this could come about."

Increased costs and a dwindling foreign market had severely undermined the profits of Rhodesian farmers. Southern African states, Black and White, had a large enough internal consumer market to restore the profitability of farming if economic co-operation could be established.

Discussing the effects of sanctions against Rhodesia since UDI, Mr Millar said imposed shortages had resulted in novel ideas and techniques which were revolutionizing farming methods. "Less fuel is used to plough more land than before and novel ideas are surfacing all the time," he said.

During a detailed discussion of the growing terrorist threat on Rhodesia's northern farms and the concerted efforts by farmers to combat it, Mr Millar turned to the press benches and told reporters to put down their pens.

"What I am discussing with you now is not for publication," he said.

THE president of the Boland Agricultural Union, Mr G J van Zyl, last night made an urgent appeal to the Minister of Finance not to tax the reserve funds of farming co-operatives.

Speaking at the opening of the union's three-day congress at a City hotel, Mr Van Zyl said that a strong farming community was a support to any stable government and this in turn was dependent on the health of the farmers' co-operative movement.

"For these reasons I make a very urgent appeal to the Minister of Finance never to allow the pressures from other sectors to disadvantage our agricultural co-operatives through a tax on the funds which the co-operatives place in reserve," Mr Van Zyl said.

He said the good agricultural land should be "safeguarded and preserved at all costs". Land was lost in two ways, by "authorities who exercise poor judgment in applying their powers of expropriation" and fellow farmers "willing to barter away the heritage of their ancestors to the highest bidder".

Land Bank loans wanted

ARGUS 17/7/75 (3)

SUBSTANTIAL increases in the amounts voted to the Land Bank for long-term loans to farmers were called for yesterday at the Boland Agricultural Union congress.

Mr A. Hoekstra of the Berg River Table Grape Producers' Union told the congress the demand for development and production capital in agriculture had increased sharply in recent years and the Land Bank had been unable to satisfy its requirement for loan capital.

Not all applications by farmers for assistance could be met and with inflation, it was almost impossible to farm without loans from the Land Bank, Mr Hoekstra said.

INVESTMENT

Mr J. le Roux of Villiersdorp suggested that all co-operatives invest their cash with the Land Bank.

'Funds belonging to the farmers should go into the Land Bank which could then make loans available to the farmer,' he said.

Congress agreed to ask the Government for an increase in the Vote to the Land Bank and that the financing of farmers in the Western Cape be extended considerably with the provision of capital adjusted to the particular circumstances of the area.

WHEAT PRICE

● Objections to the way the wheat price was fixed for the 1974/1975 crop were expressed at the congress by Mr C. A. Liebenberg of Piketberg.

The congress was told that producers were not remunerated for their production costs as determined by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing.

Mr Liebenberg said the department had put forward a price of R9,12 for 90kg of wheat. However the Minister of Agriculture had decided on R8,56 for 90kg of wheat.

'KEPT SECRET'

This was accepted by the Wheat Board but 'was kept secret from the producers,' Mr Liebenberg said.

He also objected to what he called the indirect subsidisation of the consumer through the use of the Stabilisation Fund — producers had contributed five percent of this fund, he said.

Farmers hit at Ovenstone township

3
Cape Times
18/7/75

FISHING millionaire Doug Ovenstone's plan to build a township on the slopes of the Elandskloof Dam near Villiersdorp came in for heavy criticism at yesterday's closing session of the Boland Agricultural Union.

A proposal by two Villiersdorp bodies, the farming association and the co-operative, expressing "alarm and dissatisfaction" that the development had been granted approval in principle by the Cape Provincial Administration, was accepted by the congress.

Mr J P le Roux said that this had been done in spite of a previous resolution by the union which had rejected the entire development.

The congress reaffirmed its stand and appealed "very seriously" to the authorities that this type of development be prohibited on the grounds that it would involve farmers in the expense of purifying water contaminated by sewage.

PROBLEMS

Other problems caused by the establishment of a township so close to the dam would be the clogging of micro-irrigation systems by the higher silt content of the water — due to the denudation of the catchment area by roads and buildings.

A point noted was that such projects were undertaken "largely only to the benefit of the developer".

The Wellington Farmers' Association called for consultation with the Department of Soil Protection in cases where land

was involved in the planning of Government and other public projects.

The Porterville FA asked the Department of Agricultural Technical Services "to promote actively soil classification and mapping in order to stimulate production."

CONSULTED

The Paarl FA asked that where land was required by any authority for objects other than agricultural, the owner and the community concerned be consulted, and that final approval be given only by the Minister of Planning.

Expansion of agricultural training at school level was called for by the Philadelphia FA.

Other proposals accepted by congress were:

- A call from the Clanwilliam FA to make boarding-school fees uniform at all provincial school hostels;

- The re-introduction of a rebate on railage for show animals and concession tickets for attendants (an SAR spokesman said later than the concession for attendants had already been granted);

- A request for "drastic steps" to be taken by the Government to restrict the selling of methylated spirits to the public in circumstances where this could be used as liquor.

South Africa 'is running out of food'

RDM
19/7/75

(3)

SOUTH AFRICA could be faced with widespread starvation within the present generation. Prof Brian Downing, head of the Department of Botany at Fort Hare University, warned last night.

Delivering his inaugural lecture, Prof Downing said that if the present rate of population increase was maintained it was unlikely there would be sufficient food to meet the demands.

The professor, who spoke

on plants in civilisation, said the problem could only be overcome if politicians and other community leaders accepted the need for limiting the increase of humans.

He said the Botany Department of Fort Hare had an important function to perform in investigating the vegetation of the Ciskei and Transkei.

It should be the department's responsibility to determine its composition

and relationships to climate the soil as a means for planning agricultural production and for purposes of soil and water conservation.

The uses of the indigenous vegetation for domestic, medicinal and industrial purposes would also require investigation.

Prof Downing completed a BSc degree at Rhodes University and a PhD at the University of Natal. — Sapa.

STAR 25/7/75

nut prices

The high price of South Africa's groundnuts will push up the cost of more foodstuffs next week, but manufacturers cannot import nuts from the US where a world glut has cut prices by 30 per-

cent.

South African farmers are being paid more than last season's high export price, in spite of the general drop in world prices. The Oil Seeds Control Board is the sole buyer of groundnuts from farmers, and fixes the price.

South Africa's groundnuts are the most expensive in the world, making the cost of groundnut oil a substantial factor in the rising prices of basic household goods such as margarine, chips, snacks, cooking oils, all peanut products and even mayonnaise. Next week, chips are expected to rise for a second time this year. They are cooked in groundnut oil.

Many peanut based products have gone up by more than 25 percent this year.

The only major company which has not increased its prices this year, imports its peanuts from Malawi.

A spokesman for the Oil Seeds Control Board in Pretoria, confirmed that the new crop of peanuts is smaller than last year's, and is of a lower quality.

EXPORTS

However, prices being paid to farmers are 30 percent higher than last season, when South Africa produced enough groundnuts to supply the local market cheaply, with a large surplus for export.

The control board spokesman said about 20 percent of the increased price was because of farmers' increased production costs.

The other 10 percent was to the high cost of transport and administration. This increase was in turn passed on to buyers.

price plan

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The agricultural adviser of a major bank has called for a thorough investigation of the entire meat marketing system to find ways of streamlining and improving it.

Mr Philip Vogel, agricultural adviser at Barclays National Bank, said that if something was not done he foresaw further chaos, rising prices and continued anomalies between meat prices paid by consumers and those received by farmers.

In an interview he said the present system could "hardly be called a marketing system at all."

Although the inefficiency of some farmers undoubtedly contributed to high meat prices it should be remembered that farmers were caught in a system that made it almost impossible to plan ahead.



MR PHILIP VOGEL

UNCERTAINTY

"A farmer finds it almost impossible to decide to invest money to improve his productivity because he has no way of knowing what prices will be ruling when his new facilities come into production," Mr Vogel said.

What was needed was some way of achieving price stability so that neither producers nor consumers were subjected to the wild fluctuations in price that took place under the present system.

In particular, circumstances in which the producers' price went down but the price to consumers stayed high, should be avoided.

PLANNING

Mr Vogel suggested that one possible way of doing this was to allow farmers, consortia of farmers, or co-operatives to sell directly to butchers, retailing chains or wholesalers on long term contracts at fixed prices.

This would avoid the price fluctuations introduced by the auction system and enable both producers and retailers to plan ahead with knowledge of both their costs and their returns.

In addition the competition for contracts between producing groups would introduce the necessary competitive element to help keep prices down.

Maize export target for year 3,9m tons

EAST LONDON — The Maize Board has set a target of 3 965 000 tons of maize

and grain sorghum to be exported for the year May 1975 to April 1976. This is about 330 000 tons per month.

In a statement issued yesterday the board said it hoped to make up for lost time in April and May this year when vessels shipped below normal cargoes while others failed to arrive in time to take their cargoes. Grain silos in export harbours were filled and railrage had to be curtailed.

When shipment accelerated again during the second half of May, the decline in railrage over the 'slack' period caused stocks not to reach the port in time. In addition the South African Railways were unable to supply the Board with the agreed number of trucks each month.

In order to limit expenses caused by ships waiting in port the Maize Board was forced to curtail its export programme for July and subsequent months. At the moment it will only be possible to export 42 per cent instead of 50 per cent of the year's target during the first six months.

The Maize Board, in an interview with the Railways in July, were told that they could not have more trucks until the summer months when they hoped to make up the backlog. The Railways believed the Maize Board should not abandon its export target. — DDR

By DEREK TAYLOR

CONSUMER crusader Eugene Roelofse yesterday challenged members of the Cabinet and the Consumer Council to live on the amount of money the average Black housewife has to spend on food for a family of five.

And he called on all trade unions to intervene on behalf of the average housewife, now fighting "a last-ditch stand" against uncontrolled inflation of food prices.

"The plight of the White pensioner and the Black housewives of our sprawling townships has now become a matter of great concern," said Mr Roelofse.

"No matter how they try, they simply cannot make ends meet. This bodes ill for the future of our country.

"The authorities can no longer get away with the traditional story that the consumer is responsible for inflation and can control it by buying more judiciously."

"The housewife cannot even seek substitutes because as the price of one commodity rockets its substitutes follow."

Mr Roelofse said the average housewife, who disposes of an estimated 80 per cent of family income, could no longer clothe and feed her family as she wished.

"It is therefore

'TRY LIVING LIKE A BLACK'

Friday Tribune 27/7/68

duty to members and the public at large if they did not take a hand in the matter.

"When people's stomachs are empty it is time for everybody to show enough public concern to debate the matter fully and in public," he said.

Mr Roelofse, who resigned earlier this year as Director of the Consumer Council in protest against official obstruction to the consumers' interests, said that a national congress on food prices was urgently required.

Soaring

"That is how the ordinary housewife can be properly represented while the control boards, the producers and distributors are called on to offer whatever explanations they can find," he said.

Mr Roelofse was commenting on Natal University's survey which disclosed this week that South Africa's soaring food prices were

See also Prices - Consumer Protection Notes

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FRAGILE PEACE

By CHRISTOPHER MORRIS

Sun Trib (Am) 27/7/75

THE bombshell dropped by Assocom this week in the shape of a Natal University survey done for the association indicating that Blacks are losing out hand over fist in the fight against a rocketing Consumer Price Index highlights the fragility of industrial peace.

For it showed to what extent Black real incomes are being eaten away by inflation — and especially the soaring cost of food.

Raymond Parsons, executive director of Assocom, said the results of the survey were being carefully studied as they have important implications for wage policy as well as general economic policy.

Efforts to close the wage gap through increased wages or bigger food subsidies can now be analysed objectively within the framework of the university's study.

"This survey has shown that the challenge to provide cheap food is a formidable one and there is no simple solution."

See Page 4.

The golden age of sugar research

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By **PETER SUTTON**
Agricultural Reporter

THE EXPERIMENT
station of the South African Sugar Association celebrates its Golden Jubilee early in August, after 50 years of service to the sugar industry.

The Experiment Station at Mount Edgecombe today comprises a modern complex of research and agricultural facilities which is the largest institution in Africa devoted entirely to the needs of sugar-cane growers. Research work undertaken by the station has met with international success and recognition — especially in the field of plant breeding — with one variety of its sugar-cane, NCo 310, still being grown throughout the world.

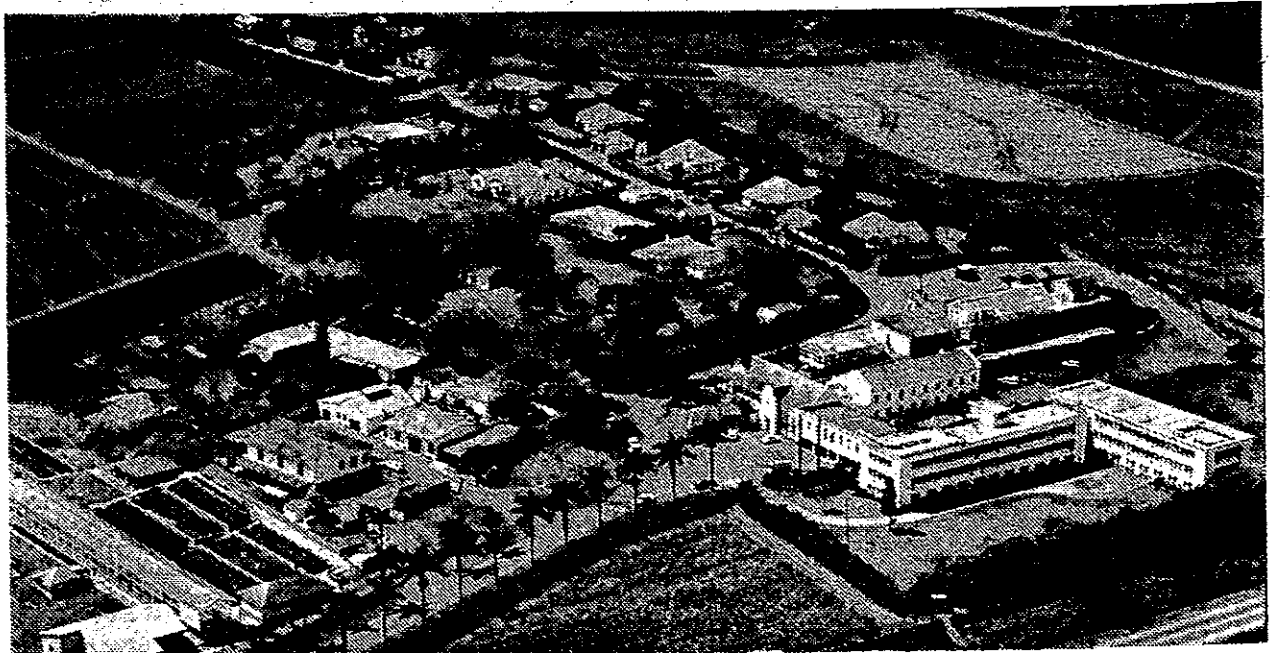
NEED

Because of a pressing need to replace the first cane variety — Uba, imported into South Africa in 1883 — early sugar-cane growers decided that their future could not be dependant on one variety and it was decided in 1923 that the industry should have its own experiment station.

A beginning was made with the appointment of the first director, Mr. H. H. Dodds, formerly a chemist at the Kynoch factory at Umbogintwini.

Progress was in the early stages slow and difficulties arose over the selection of a site. About two years later, in 1925, the present site at Mount Edgecombe was finally agreed upon and a camp established to accommodate a field manager, seven labourers and nine mules.

In the early days of the sugar industry, all cane varieties for commercial use were imported from other sugar growing countries. These had to be screened to ensure that they were disease free. In 1926 a quarantine glasshouse, situated at the Botanic Gardens in Durban, was donated to the Sugar Association and all imported canes were disinfected and fumigated before being planted out at the Experiment Station for further study.



Although the testing of new varieties suitable for local conditions was of prime importance, work was also carried out on how to advise growers on the best methods. Experimental work was carried out on different farms for the purpose of evaluating varieties on representative soils and under different environmental conditions. These consultancy services provided by the station provided an invaluable aid to farmers in promoting the yields of their crops.

TRIALS

In addition to the work being done on varieties, the small staff conducted fertiliser trials on different soil types and slowly a knowledge of fertiliser requirements and cultural practices was built up. Visitors to the station were encouraged and many successful Field Days were held for the benefit of growers.

In 1937 a new glasshouse was erected at the Experiment Station and vital new experiments were begun with seed imported from Mauritius. At this stage it was impossible to get fertile seed from sugar-cane grown in South Africa because, although cane flowers freely in certain seasons, it does not shed pollen and therefore fertilisation does not take place. Developments in cane breeding techniques were made and for the first time in South Africa, experiments were begun on hybridising cane varieties. This led to the crossing of two varieties from which came the spectacular new variety,

NCo 310.

This variety was released in 1945 and achieved great international repute. The tremendous impact of this cane on the sugar industry in Taiwan was acknowledged in 1953 when that country decided to commemorate NCo 310 with the erection of a statue.

Today, the station serves as the headquarters for the industry's agricultural research, advisory and extension services. Investigations are carried out in fully equipped laboratories and glasshouses. Field studies are conducted at subsidiary stations on sites representative of the whole sugar-cane growing areas. These widely dispersed

trial areas, provide therefore, information on a representative range of soils and climate.

Information on how to improve production has been accumulated by research workers more quickly than it can be adopted by farmers. The current policy emphasises that trained Extension Officers provide growers with the benefits of the knowledge acquired by research workers. As a result, the station is looked upon by the industry as the most important weapon in its drive for increased yield per unit area.

To achieve this 14 district-based Extension Officers provide technical advice for cane producers. On average, approximately 160

farmers are served by one man. These men are primarily consultants who help individual farmers to work out their problems. Their services are backed by the Experiment Station itself and they are able to call on specialist advisers from the station to help deal with specific problems.

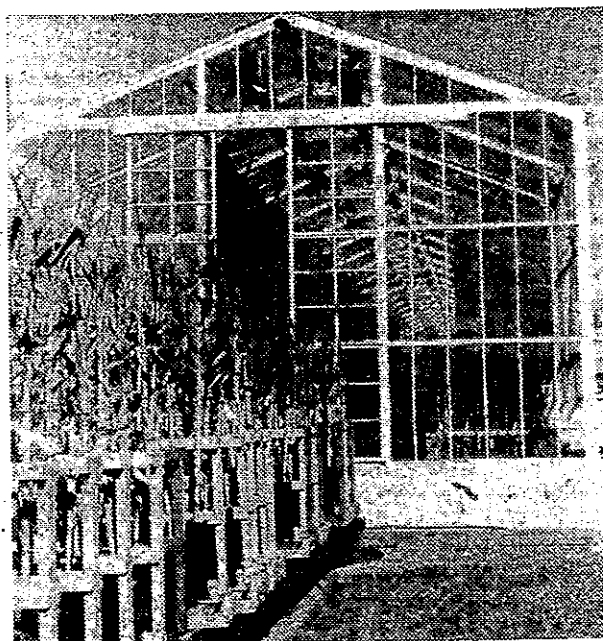
Mechanisation of cane production in South Africa is not as advanced as it is in other parts of the world, but because of rising wage costs, farmers are now having to look at ways of introducing mechanical harvesting machines. The station's agricultural engineering department tests imported machines and designs harvesters that can be built locally.

The Experiment Station considers that training is an important function and to this end runs an education service for cane farmers, their staff and staff from sugar estates. Special courses in sugar-cane agriculture are prepared for advanced students and, on request, for estate staff or agricultural extension officers of the KwaZulu Government Service.

LIBRARY

The library, which is the focal point of any research institution, contains a comprehensive collection of books.

To ensure that research, advisory and extension staff are able to keep abreast of international trends and developments, information is exchanged with nearly 50 research organisations in South Africa and overseas.



THIS massive glasshouse at the Experiment Station is used for breeding new varieties of sugar-cane. At night trolleys about to be wheeled inside.

Natal 12/07 30/1/75
BLOEMFONTEIN—The Minister of Finance, Senator O. P. F. Horwood, last night called on the farming community to help fight inflation by exercising moderation when it came to setting agricultural prices.

A lead from food prices would have a considerable psychological impact in containing the rate of inflation, he told the annual congress of the National Woolgrowers Association here.

And at the same meeting the Minister gave a cheerful forecast that the gold price should resume its upward trend once large Russian gold sales were no longer considered likely.

In his appeal to the farmers the Minister said that although the inflation rate had dropped, it remained unacceptably high. The country had to put everything into the battle against inflation, which could be won with determination, perseverance and whole-hearted co-operation.

All sectors of the community will have to make sacrifices if we want to win the fight against inflation," he said.

The Government had already shown its earnest intentions by its support for the principles of the joint action programme against inflation.

"From a psychological point of view, it would have considerable impact if food prices—which have shown rapid increases in the past few months—could give the lead in restraining our inflation rate.

"I would therefore like to make an earnest appeal to the farming community to act with moderation in setting agricultural prices."

The Minister said it was gratifying that a slower inflation rate had become apparent in recent months. Between the second and third quarters of 1974 the consumer price index, on a seasonally adjusted annual basis, had risen by 18,2 percent.

"But between December, 1974, and May, 1975, the comparable figure was 12,2 percent. This is a great improvement, but it still remains unacceptably high."

While inflation remained a serious problem, the Minister said it was important to keep the matter in perspective.

Incomes in South Africa had, in most cases, risen more than prices.

On the gold price the Minister said Russian gold sales had been the most important factor affecting the market.

The Soviet sales, presumably in order to acquire foreign currency to buy grain, had been substantial.

"It is actually a tribute to the strength of the gold market that the price has remained relatively stable in the range 160 dollars to 170 dollars per fine ounce.

"It is true that the Russians nowadays arrange their sales carefully so as not to disturb the market unduly, but nevertheless my information is that, if these sales had not taken place, the price would have been considerably higher," he said.

The Minister said that recent factors working against gold had in fact boomeranged in favour of the metal.

He said the gold price was an important factor in South Africa's balance of payments, and here he believed there were good grounds for optimism. — (Sapa.)

Dr. D. denies market-grab rumours

Municipal Reporter *MRCM 3/7/75*

MUNICIPAL markets would remain in the hands of local authorities unless something quite unforeseen happened in the field of local government, the State President, Dr. N. Diederichs, said yesterday when he officially opened Durban's new R10 000 000 market.

At a lavish function followed by a civic reception in the gigantic market hall about 500 guests watched as Dr. Diederichs pressed a button to open a steel door and allow several 16-ton trucks on to the market floor.

He also unveiled a plaque inside the hall and was presented with a tamboti wood writing bureau by the City Council.

Dr. Diederichs was thanked for officially opening the market by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hendrik Schoeman, who said Dr. Diederichs was enough of a farmer to farm with milk and beef, and enough of an economist not to farm with fruit and vegetables as the profits were too low.

RUMOURS

When opening the market, Dr. Diederichs said local authorities were reluctant to build new markets "possibly because too much importance has been attached to rumours that the Government intended depriving local authorities of their rights to own and operate markets."

He added: "You have my Government's assurance that municipal markets will remain in the hands of local authorities unless something quite unforeseen happens in the field of local government."

The Government had not appointed various committees to inquire into every aspect of marketing with the intention of taking the markets over, Dr. Diederichs said, but to provide the desired economic facilities in a co-ordinated way.

CLIMATE

Municipal markets had developed into gigantic business battling in a highly competitive economic climate and local authorities would find it difficult, if not impossible, to operate in an unco-ordinated way.

The Government would continue to give city councils money for markets but expected in

return that the markets would be ably managed and that the councils would continue to co-operate with the Government.

The total turnover of

the 14 declared national fresh produce markets was R125,4-million in 1974, and was expected to top the R300 million mark in 1985, Dr. Diederichs added.

Fertiliser front broken

up by Fedmis

*Rana Daily Mail
31/7/75*

By CHRIS CAIRNCROSS
Industrial Editor

THE UNITED front presented by the price-controlled fertiliser industry was torn apart yesterday with the announcement by Federale Kunsmis that it will drop the price of fertiliser by an average 2 per cent a ton from tomorrow.

The announcement was made with the release of the Fedmis interim results which show that the group's earnings for the six months to June 30 last, shot up 83 per cent on the corresponding period in 1974.

It drew strong reaction from Mr Louis Luyt, chairman of the other main fertiliser manufacturer, Triomf Fertilizer, who said it made a mockery of the case the industry put to the Price Controller at the beginning of the year and which resulted in a 38 per cent increase in prices being granted from February 14.

Mr Luyt said Triomf would not follow suit as it would not be in the best interests of either the Triomf shareholders or the fertiliser industry.

He said that to make any concession defeated the objective of giving the fertiliser industry the opportunity to recover the low returns it had to absorb before the 38 per cent price increase was granted.

The view expressed by the industry when the increase was granted was that it allowed only for the recovery of income lost in 1974 and the early part of 1975.

The directors of Fedmis say the reduction in fertiliser prices, which amounts to a little over R2 a ton, was made possible by a price drop in raw materials, which it was able to buy on a forward basis.

The company was thus able to build up stocks at a time when demand had slackened.

Mr Luyt said Triomf had not been in the same position to build up stocks as the company was forced in 1974 to supply the domestic market with 62 000 t of fertiliser more than its required market share agreement with Fedmis.

This was because Fedmis was unable to supply the goods.

The position was aggravated in January and the first half of February when 14 000 t more than Triomf's agreed quota had to be supplied.

BRUNT

Mr Luyt said this tonnage was sold at the old prices, which meant Triomf has had to bear the brunt of the low recovery.

Fedmis backlog, which amounts to 76 000 t, and which it will have to make up in the current year, will be sold at the new price.

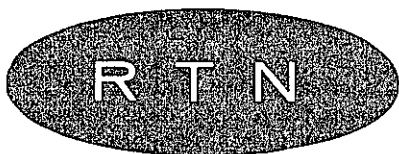
Mr Luyt estimated that by this arrangement Fedmis now had the opportunity to recover an additional R2-million.

He said the cost to Triomf of Fedmis discount was expected to be about R1-million, of which only half compensated for Triomf's disadvantage in supplying the market to the limit of its capacity in a time of low sales realisation.

Mr Luyt scoffed at an undertaking he received from the Fedmis managing director, Mr G. Mrkusic, that every attempt would be made to prevent the Fedmis lower price from upsetting the stability of the market.

According to the Fedmis interim statement, net profits attributable to shareholders amounted to R2 390 000 (R1 457 000). This excludes the increased earnings resulting from the step-up in fertiliser prices in February. Listed as extraordinary income net after this amounted to R1 003 000.

Earnings a share for the six months were boosted to 7,5c from 4,6c. The company has decided to peg the interim dividend to 4c.



3 - General

July 1975

Research and
Training Network

a seminar report

Marketing Institutions and Services for Developing Agriculture

REPORT ON AN ADC/RTN SEMINAR
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEPTEMBER 10-12, 1974

Foreword

To provide better knowledge for planning and implementing development programs in developing countries, The Agricultural Development Council invited discussants world-wide to participate in a seminar on Marketing Institutions and Services for Developing Agriculture.

Brief summaries of the discussion papers presented during the seminar follow to give the reader an indication of the nature of the papers. Copies of complete papers may be obtained by writing directly to the authors listed at the end of the report.

Special appreciation is extended to Harry C. Trelogan, Clarence A. Dunkerley, Haven D. Umstott and David P. Winkelmann of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for their work in preparing this report.

Marketing is identified as part of the production process that assures market outlets for farm products and makes readily available supplies of production inputs which reduce price uncertainty and risk. Transportation, local market centers, storage, processing, exporting services, credit, price and income incentives, marketing facilities and activities resulting in a favorable marketing efficiency measured by the farmer's share of the retail or export prices received for individual commodities are all subject to serious consideration by managers of a country's resources. Problem-solving for marketing institutions and services is a dynamic process influenced by socio-economic factors such as dominant political power, cultures and customs that must be considered by managers in utilizing marketing as a development tool.

A. M. Weisblat
Director
Research and Training Network

The Agricultural Development Council sponsored a "Seminar on Marketing Institutions and Services for Developing Agriculture" in Washington, D. C., September 10-12, 1974, under the chairmanship of Dr. Harry C. Trelogan, Administrator, Statistical Reporting Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Participants for the most part were agricultural economists with broad experience in both developed and developing countries. They discussed marketing institutions and services for developing countries. The seminar discussants treated aspects of marketing in basically nontechnical language for consideration by decision-makers in agriculture and in governing agencies of developing countries.

Dr. Herman Southworth, the keynote speaker on "How Awareness of Marketing Problems Evolve," Topic I, pointed out that just about everybody is concerned with agricultural marketing including those concerned with the marketing of agricultural inputs. The concept is basically one of how the marketing opportunity evolves and how to use marketing institutions and services to accelerate development and encourage agricultural production. Since every country has institutions, the challenge is how to create an awareness of the absence of or underachieving or need for redirection of marketing institutions and services in a country's economy. A further challenge is to become aware of other countries' experiences to help avoid mistakes rather than to identify ready-made solutions. Finely tuned marketing institutions play many roles—they provide incentives to producers, move an adequate volume of food and fiber to consumers, domestic and export, at reasonable prices and in wholesome condition. When some awareness has evolved that the developing country has a marketing problem

few specialists are likely to be found in this country that understand what to do about the problem in the context of the country's total economy. The country's decision-makers can draw on technical assistance through short-term foreign specialists, sending some of their own people to study other countries' solutions to marketing problems, and send students abroad to developed countries to study the economies and methods of agricultural marketing. The problem is dynamic and calls for constantly changing solutions as population grows, urban incomes increase, centers of population enlarge, and production resources are found farther from the points of consumption. In view of the widespread existence of subsistence marketeers one might anticipate a basic dilemma: namely, that marketing costs need to be reduced to foster development. But the biggest cost is labor; so, unless development moves ahead fast enough to provide more productive work for the displaced labor, there is no gain in saving it. (See Herman Southworth's talk *Some Problems in Agricultural Development*.)

Topic II, "Marketing Institutions and Services in the Matrix of Decision-Making—A Conceptual Framework," is discussed by Professor Eldon D. Smith and Dr. Louis F. Herrmann.

Professor Smith treats "The Role of Market Institutions—Defining the Rules of the Game in Agricultural Markets" by probing into the fundamental underpinning of market regulation. For example, he observes: "Collective action is always articulated through rules and sanctions as means. They are the very stuff which makes institutions function or fail to function. . . ." And:

. . . the issue of free versus controlled market economies is a false one. The real issues . . . are (how) market behaviors (are) to be controlled through collective imposition of market rules, in order to liberate and expand the scope of individual market action, i.e., to develop agricultural markets.

Also:

. . . all public policy relating to markets is articulated through and by institutions, including institutions relating to nominally private transactions. Adam Smith's 'invisible hand' . . . 'works' or fails to work because men have or have not through their customary and formal institutions structured ('controlled') relations among market participants in ways that allow competition to effect a publically satisfactory result.

From his provoking analysis he draws a conclusion:

The specific design of appropriate market institutions must recognize the great differences in political institutions, both formal and customary which delimit available options with respect to workable market institutions. Exceptions notwithstanding, I would concur with the generally held view that human kind is fairly uniformly responsive to genuine economic opportunity. But this is not to say that they will respond similarly to opportunities for various forms of collective action which may be differentially consistent with existing political and social institutions. And herein lies a major problem, a stumbling block

for many foreign technical assistance analysts. We have had developed institutions for so long that we scarcely know how to analyze them or to even recognize the need for analysis!

Professor Smith continues his paper with a discussion of "Direct Regulation of Private Transactions and Public Performance of Agricultural Market Functions," and closes with a discussion of "Institutions and the Public Interest."

Comments on Professor Smith's paper, Discussion of "The Role of Marketing Institutions—Defining the Rules of the Game in Agricultural Markets" were given by Dr. William E. Hendrix. Examples were drawn from Dr. Hendrix's service in India.

The second part of Topic II, "Trading and Access to Exchange Facilities: Monopolistic and Competitive Practices and What to Do About Them," was discussed by Dr. Louis F. Herrmann in a paper by that title. Dr. Herrmann summarized his paper as follows:

This paper covers problems of market access in three kinds of market: the commodity exchange, the unorganized and off-the-exchange channels, and the Government-controlled Marketing Board. These are Big Business, and an enterprise big enough to be directly concerned may not often go outside its own ranks for recommendations on what to do about its market access problems. The marketing economist assigned to a development program will, however, certainly be aware of peripheral problems of this nature. He is more apt to be providing inputs to decision-makers at the public policy level. Government officials and politicians in developing countries frequently are badly in need of up-to-date information about the state of their country's agricultural marketing system. If marketing access is a problem, the first step to a solution is to obtain an accurate understanding of the situation.

Citing his experiences, Dr. Herrmann appeals for greater objectivity in assessing or judging the conditions conducive to the commodity exchange performing its principal purpose and also the consequences of government intervention that limits access to exchanges and exploits primary producers quite as effectively as private traders ever did. Such public institutions may preclude the performance of the economic functions that could be expected from a market exchange.

Two discussants gave comments on Dr. Herrmann's paper. Abdur Rashid, UNDP/FAO/Iran, presented comments drawing on his Iranian experiences and Alvaro Silva, National University of Colombia, presented comments drawing on his experience in South America.

Topic III, "Priorities and Sequences in Institutional and Service Development" was discussed by M. K. Kambe in his paper "Standardization on Marketing of Vegetables," with comments by V. James Rhodes; and, in a paper by John Fliginger on "The Marketing Intelligence System, Key to Wise Decision-Making," with comments by C. Kyle Randall and Leonardo A. Paulino. Dr. Kambe draws on his experience in Japan

dealing mainly with the standardization of marketing of fresh vegetables at the following stages: Producers, Merchants, and Consumers, and with the stages of marketing innovation evolution in Japan marked by greatly improved communication and transportation facilities. Dr. Kambe's discussion spans a period of about 40 years from underdeveloped to highly developed status in marketing of vegetables. The problems, successes and infrastructure are clearly revealed in his discussion. Dr. Kambe summarized: It is important to standardize vegetables concerning the quality, size and unit of weight in order to realize exact transactions between buyers and sellers. Therefore, simplified and unified standards should be established for produce moving through the huge central wholesale markets in Tokyo Megalopolitan area. The use of established standards for vegetables occurs gradually within a regional area. Vegetable marketing in Japan is different from the highly networked country-wide marketing channels in the United States. There are differences and similarities between countries in the problems of standardization. We need to collect more actual survey data to identify these differences and similarities and to identify the response to the marketing system in different regions and countries to standardization.

Finally, both farmers and consumers need to become aware of the benefits of both quality and good appearing vegetables that result in compensation to the farmer according to the grade of product he produces making available to consumers a choice of standardized grades, priced by grade, to meet personal tastes.

Professor V. James Rhodes describes Dr. Kambe's paper as an interesting and useful exposition of some developments in fruit and vegetable marketing in an area adjacent to one of the world's largest metropolitan areas. Dr. Rhodes makes some generalizations about the subject area and summarizes his remarks as follows:

Grade standardization is a communications device which becomes useful as a market economy develops. Its usefulness depends not only upon the degree of commercialization of the market place but also upon the willingness of market participants to use it. That willingness cannot be taken for granted. Rejection of grading by marketing participants may indicate that economic development has not proceeded far enough to make such standardization useful. On the other hand, such rejection may indicate that some powerful participants oppose it as a threat to their market power. Policy makers need to have the objectives of a proposed grading program clearly in mind and they need to understand how various market participants will perceive it as a help or a hinderance to their market position.

C. John Fliginger in the second part of Topic III discusses agricultural data systems and reinforces the statements of prior discussants in the need for timely, relevant and reliable information about commodities, supply, prices, location, quality and the like. Specific

projects of technical assistance by the USDA's Statistical Reporting Service are discussed with particular reference to the Dominican Republic, Panama, Nicaragua, and Tunisia.

C. Kyle Randall, Outlook and Situation Officer of the Economic Research Service, USDA, comments on Mr. Fliginger's paper:

Market Intelligence and Agriculture Data Systems are not the same thing. They have common elements and it would be difficult to conceive of a useful market intelligence system that didn't include an agricultural data system. But you can't stop with the data. To have a market intelligence system you have to analyze the data and reach some conclusions about what these data mean.

I wholeheartedly agree with John Fliginger's remarks about the need to establish priorities. I also endorse with emphasis his statement that basic crop and livestock estimates should be a major priority in any country. I certainly would rather have data without analysis than analysis without data . . . a market intelligence system includes interpretation and analysis of the data as well as the data itself. The interpretation and analysis must be built on the data. There is often a temptation to try to apply more sophisticated methods of analysis than can be justified by the data . . . what I'm trying to say is statisticians who are responsible for collecting the data, the analysts who interpret and analyze the data and the decision makers who use the results all need to participate in developing the priorities as to how the resources will be used in developing a marketing intelligence system.

It is also necessary to establish methods to ensure that the marketing intelligence developed by the system reaches the decision makers for whom it is intended in time to be useful in the decision making process. Informal methods of communication may suffice within the government but some formalized method of communication will usually be necessary to service nongovernment users of the marketing intelligence.

Leonardo A. Paulino discusses "The Agricultural Marketing News Service of the Philippines" as an element in the agricultural data system of a developing country. Professor Paulino traces the growth of the Agricultural Marketing News Service from the 1964 enabling legislation to the present. Discussed are the activities of the News Service, problems encountered in establishing and operating the system, benefits derived by producers, traders, and consumers, and plans for the future. Professor Paulino concludes his paper by stating:

The Agricultural Marketing News Service, as a relatively young market intelligence system, still leaves much to be desired. The system meets with the usual problems of developing economies on communications, grades and standards, etc. Improvement, however, continues and it is hoped that in time it will have significantly achieved its indicated objectives.

Section III C treats the "Physical Handling of Commodities: Markets, Transportation and Storage Facilities."

Dr. James E. Wimberly discussed the "Physical Handling of Paddy-Rice in Sri Lanka." Dr. Wimberly

has chosen Sri Lanka to discuss the experience of that nation as a small country making it easier to identify problems and needs. Examples of problems and solutions may be relevant to solving similar problems being faced by Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and other Asian countries. Dr. Wimberly places paddy-rice handling in a past, present and future framework. The present procedures for handling paddy-rice began in late 1970 with the Government decision to place the functions of paddy procurement, its storage and processing in a specially constituted government institution, established as the Paddy Marketing Board in 1971. The problems faced by the PMB and the solutions undertaken are detailed by Dr. Wimberly.

The PMB carries out these functions through: 4,000 paddy purchase centers, 365 stores in 260 locations, 20 PMB and 500 private rice mills, and transport of paddy between each of these operations. These facilities, regardless of conditions, are hardly adequate to handle the present paddy production in the country (approximately 75 million bushels).

With the new production target of 100 million bushels, the PMB is now faced with the most difficult problem of creating an additional storage, processing, handling and transport facilities to take care of the expected increase of 25 million bushels. Processing and transport to handle all this 25 million bushels are required. However, due to the procurement pattern (based on the cropping pattern) only 200,000 tons of storage is needed.

As self-sufficiency in paddy production is reached, then the country faces even more problems . . . as it looks to wheat substitutes—in order to be self-sufficient in all food grains. This will present new challenges with the storage, transport and processing of grains such as sorghum, soybeans and maize. Wheat cannot be grown in the country (present level of consumption is approximately 400,000 tons per year) and these crops appear as very good substitutes.

In summary, Sri Lanka, like many other countries, not only faces serious problems in food grains production but also serious problems in the handling, transport, storage and processing of these food grains. It is a country which has studied the industry, made definite plans to improve the industry and begun implementation of these programs.

Dr. John C. Abbott continues the discussion of Marketing Institutions and Services for Developing Countries through his paper "Physical Handling of Perishables: Markets, Transportation and Storage Facilities." Dr. Abbott starts his paper by stating:

The scope for improving the marketing of agricultural perishables in the developing countries is wide ranging and deep. There are limits, however, to the introduction of new methods and equipment set by the extension of local know-how and organizational development, by costs of operation in relation to scale of enterprise and consumer incomes, and sometimes by considerations of a social nature.

The effect on wholesale markets and distribution by the great changes that have taken place in modern transport, communications and ordering sales tech-

niques are discussed. The use of packaging in marketing, storage facilities, and social aspects of marketing are discussed in broad aspects, including the relevance of change to a given country or area. Dr. Abbott concludes with:

Some years ago we began an attempt to classify countries by their stage of development in marketing and from this drew inferences on the need for particular techniques and institutions. Some of the lines of classification are fairly clear, e.g., level and distribution of consumer incomes, degree of concentration of population in large cities, dependence on agricultural export earnings, extent to which labor is in surplus. It would be interesting to carry this approach further and see how far it could be useful in formalizing policy criteria.

Dr. James Snitzler, discussant of Dr. Abbott's paper, stressed the use of transportation studies to review the entire transportation system of a country or region and seek means to improve it so that the system may serve the total needs of the geographical area. Dr. Snitzler used the Central American Transportation Study as a case study having an objective to develop a ten-year transportation development program assuming economic integration of the five countries of Central America and economic and social development plans of the region. Prior to the development of the Central American Common Market, little attention had been given to transportation connections with neighboring countries since the transportation systems were developed to serve the capital and urban centers, and banana production areas with ports on the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans.

The Regional Plan for transportation in the five Central American countries is aiding in expansion of the Central American Common Market both internally and externally and has identified current needs and priorities. As transportation systems improve, the need for improvement in supporting marketing institutions becomes evident—such as the need to relocate and update market handling facilities for easy access by producers and consumer, refrigeration and facilities for preserving the freshness of fruits, vegetables and meats and to improving the efficiency of handling commodities.

Overall Dr. Snitzler thinks the record for transportation planning and investment in developing countries has been quite good but can be improved by better balance between investment to improve or construct primary, secondary and tertiary roads to permit further penetration from production areas to markets; by concentrating on integrated transportation networks rather than individual projects; and, by considering need for additional supplementary investment in irrigation, production supplies and seeds, technical assistance, credit, marketing and storage facilities.

Dr. Milton L. Barnett presented a paper on Topic III-D "Changing the Institutions to Meet Developing Needs of Smallholders."

Dr. Barnett reminds us of the need to take into consideration indigenous social systems, the interacting institutions, in planning programs of change. He points out, however, that doing so is far from a common practice. Great depth of the "cultural field" is required in planning programs of change as enunciated by M. L. Wilson three decades ago on the importance of traditional values, beliefs and modes of social organizations in the shaping of programs of planned change. The emergence of the so-called second generation problems of the Green Revolution has reinforced the acceptance of Wilson's position. The development economist is reminded of the general works of economic anthropology in "which there is a growing body of materials drawn from field investigations focusing on marketing and market places." World-wide, the market place in remote areas is at the core of the community and the surrounding region and is a reflection of local economic behavior and linkages. The patterns of social obligations and rights and patterns of behavior linking the agricultural producer/seller with the transporter/trader must be understood and the contractual inferior status of the small-holder in market relations is obvious.

The staple food psychology is pervasive among subsistence farmers, and farmers are unlikely to take the risk of switching much of their land to a new crop without first providing for the staple foods for the family. Farmers are aware of vagueness in policy of government and past experience counsels caution. Changing institutions to meet developing needs in a predominantly agricultural society will occur successfully when an integrated approach to rural populations and their problems is formulated and implemented at the rural level. Farmers need a unified agency where most of their needs can be satisfied—production inputs, credit, extension services, marketing services—available on a timely basis at reasonable cost. Social needs also need to be met including the opportunity to feel some sense of dignity as a farmer and as a rural person, and a feeling that government personnel work for them. Not to consider the producer level of organization is self-defeating for a program, its formulators and political sponsors. Development involves people, and modes of behavior, newly emerging senses of identity and loyalty to a broader group.

Dr. William C. Merrill comments on Dr. Milton L. Barnett's paper "Changing the Institutions to Meet Developing Needs of Smallholders." Dr. Merrill identifies the major goals of rural development as:

1. increase agricultural output
2. increase rural employment
3. reduce income differences
4. improve health and nutrition levels
5. expand educational opportunities
6. improve the capacity of national and interna-

tional agencies to plan, organize, and manage modern technological packages.

Dr. Merrill proceeds to give examples of technological and institutional innovations required to achieve these goals.

Topic III-E, "Special Needs of Export Development," was discussed by five participants: Dr. William S. Hoofnagle, Dr. Wen-fu Hsu, Clarence Dunkerley, Michael Moran, and Sopin Tongpan.

Dr. William S. Hoofnagle presented a paper on Topic III-E, "Special Needs of Export Development in Vietnam—A Case Study." Over the past two years (1972-1974) studies have been conducted to evaluate the export potential for Vietnam's forestry, fishery, and selected agricultural products in international markets. Of these three categories of resources, forestry likely holds the most immediate and greatest promise for export trade. Dr. Hoofnagle discusses the potential of Vietnam's forest resources, outlook for domestic use and export opportunities. He summarizes the study:

Vietnam has a sizable area of productive forest—apparently totaling about 6.4 million hectares. This forest can contribute substantially to the development of South Vietnam if it is properly used and managed. If, in addition, the timber productivity of the rest of the land suited for timber growing is restored, the total contribution of the forest can be remarkably high. The annual output of timber products in South Vietnam is presently worth about \$100 million. It could be raised to \$1 billion or more by the end of the century. In pondering the decision as to what priority should be given to forestry and timber industry development on a national scale, several realities are of exceptional importance. The population of South Vietnam is likely to double by the end of the present century, creating a great additional burden on economic development. Barring the discovery of great new mineral wealth, the forest land is the principal non-agricultural resource upon which economic growth can be based.

Although the forestry potential is excitingly large, there is a question as to how much of that opportunity can be captured under the circumstances surrounding South Vietnam today. It requires establishing a control over the forest (nonexistent at present) and the institution of highly disciplined timber management. It requires forbearance in the use of the existing sawtimber to spread it over the next several decades, along with a large tree planting program to more quickly harness the enormous production potential of the forest. Timber industry expansion must be carefully designed if it is to do the most good.

What it boils down to is that, although South Vietnam can make some big economic gains by developing the forest resource; the task will not be easy. An aggressive, continuing, and consistent public effort will be required. Five issues should have top priority at this time:

1. An official policy decision is needed specifying the reliance that will be put on timber development in South Vietnam's effort to gain economic muscle.
2. Land-use commitments must be made soon to minimize misuse, destruction, and wasted effort. Land classification based on soil and hydrologic character-

istics, community needs, and other factors is necessary to definitely establish which areas are to be used for timber growing and which for other purposes.

3. The governmental structure for forestry and timber industry development should be overhauled to handle greatly increased responsibilities.
4. Effort to attract and coordinate assistance from international agencies and developed countries should be increased.
5. A crash effort should be made to restock lands deforested by centuries of neglect and abuse and decades of war.

Dr. Wen-fu Hsu presented a paper on Topic III-E, "Development of Integrated Cooperative Export Marketing System of Bananas in Taiwan."

Dr. Hsu examines some of the evolutionary development processes and the roles played by the Fruit Marketing Cooperatives in export marketing of Taiwan's bananas. The fruit marketing cooperative in Taiwan is organized by growers of bananas, citrus, pineapples and other marketable fruits. The main functions of the marketing cooperative are primarily in providing a wide range of services for marketing growers' production, with emphasis on export marketing of fruits of which bananas are dominant. In addition to rendering a wide range of marketing services to growers, fruit marketing cooperatives also extend their services to production to improve the product quality and volume to meet export demands. Production services include supplying improved banana seedlings and providing production loans; cooperating in research to improve production and plant protection; conducting production extension education; and performing air spraying for disease control.

Dr. Hsu discusses the marketing institutions for bananas at different states of economic development. Presently, Taiwan's export marketing of bananas is handled entirely by the Taiwan Fruit Marketing Cooperative after passing through a long evolutionary process during the past 30 years.

Dr. Hsu concludes:

Marketing institutions for agricultural products in the less developed countries are generally weak and inefficient. Very often, the services performed are poor and less productive. But the innovations and changes of a marketing institution, as experienced in Taiwan, are not easy. They always take a long evolutionary process before some improved systems may be formed. In the case of fruit marketing cooperatives in Taiwan, the evolution took almost 30 years to become the present status. But this may not necessarily be the end of evolution. Its organizational characters and functions performed may need to be improved further in the process of economic development.

It is also realized that the development of marketing institutions is related closely to the stage of economic development of a nation. In the early stage of development, the priority of development is usually placed on the production side because it is the basic problem to be solved in any society. Naturally, lack of capital to invest in the

improvement of marketing facilities and services through reorganization of the existing institution is also the key problem currently seen in the earlier state of development.

It is generally an ideal case that the development of marketing institutions could always keep the same pace with that in agricultural production. Otherwise producers and consumers could not get the real benefits from the increase in efficiency of farm production. But it is usually not the case due to some internal and external barriers. In this connection, wise decision-making and actions should be taken by government authorities at proper time in order to guide toward a more efficient marketing institution.

Clarence Dunkerley presented a paper on Topic III-E, "Special Needs of Export Development—Reliable Information—The Development of an Information System in the Dominican Republic."

Mr. Dunkerley presented a brief resumé of some of the factors entering into the development of an information system to provide reliable information for decision-makers in the Dominican Republic. The information system was developed in 1972 initially for coffee and cocoa, important export crops for the Dominican Republic. The statistical system is flexible and responsive to the need of information on a timely and current basis. Additional studies have been completed in the areas of farm credit, per capita food consumption, population characteristics, labor force make-up and unemployment, prices received by farmers and national health, nutrition and education.

Michael J. Moran presented a paper on Topic III-E, "Internal Marketing Structure Requirements for Fruit and Vegetable Exports: A New Industry for Costa Rica."

Dr. Moran directs his paper to Costa Rican exports of fruits and vegetables other than bananas and plantains. The export marketing system for bananas is highly developed by a few large international companies.

In recent years a variety of fruits and vegetables have been exported on an experimental basis in relatively small quantities. No apparent steady pattern of supplies has yet emerged although an export opportunity exists resulting in large part from favorable climatological conditions, availability of relatively low cost land and labor and proximity to potential markets.

Dr. Moran discusses the transformation of the processing industry for fruits and vegetables in Costa Rica, farm size and area cultivated by commodity. The average number of hectares cultivated per farm ranges from a high of 2.0 hectares for potatoes to a low of 0.12 hectares for sweet corn. The export market patterns suggests small scale operations in absolute volumes. This leads to the basic question of minimum size firm or industry for optimum efficiency in meeting requirements of importers.

Key structural problems discussed by Dr. Moran include for the private sector, lack of commercial producers; availability of farm production inputs; knowledge of export market requirements; development of domestic markets; transportation; and research and promotion. The government sector has an important influence in the marketing of agricultural products in Costa Rica and its role in relation to the development of non-traditional agricultural commodity export is discussed by Dr. Moran. Several important government incentives are available such as the Export Promotion and Investment Center; the Export Promotion Law that provides tax incentives to exporters of non-traditional commodities; the banking system providing financial assistance; and the establishment of CITA, a technological research center. Areas for improvement include coordination of government market functions with those of the private export sector; identifying export capabilities and relating capabilities to development objectives such as small farmer participation in new endeavors.

A discussion of critical factors for export development includes development of quality standards, and quantity necessary to attract buyers on a continuing basis. A critical factor is to create a quality consciousness among producers and laborers.

Some of the most crucial export development factors are: awareness of greater planning and coordination to enter an export market as compared to the domestic market; commercial orientation of farm production; development of the domestic market; improvement of infrastructure such as irrigation; efficient internal transportation; financing capital needs of producer-exporters; services of extension, market information, grades, standards and packing, research; and meeting training and educational needs.

Sopin Tongpan presented a paper on Topic III-E, "Marketing Control for Implementing Government Policy on Supply Management."

Professor Tongpan defines supply management to cover the broad area of production promotion. He addresses the question of what kinds of marketing controls can governments use to give impetus to programs and policies promoting production.

Professor Tongpan indirectly addresses the questions raised by discussing a few examples that involve marketing controls for supply management. One example involves the problem of organizing production to supply the right quantities of bananas of the right quality and the right state of maturity to the ship. Banana export requires very precise supply management. Services and institutions must be developed to support the explicit policy objectives of promoting agricultural production, increasing rural incomes and expanding agricultural exports.

Another example involves the shift of pineapple processing from one country to another. Processing

capacity is over expanded. Local fresh market price increases and producers deliver the product to the fresh market rather than to the canneries. What happened? Existing institutions and services were not adequate to manage supplies.

It is clear that certain priorities and sequences are crucial in institutional and service development of marketing controls for supply management. Experience in developing countries with marketing controls, particularly for supply management, is meager. Supply management or production promotion activities covers a wide range, from programs affecting production at the farm level to the improvement of marketing infrastructure both domestic and foreign market. In most cases the government has to take strong action to both initiate and implement the programs.

Topic III-F, Price Stabilization, was discussed by Dr. William T. Manley and Walter J. Armbruster—"Marketing Controls for Implementing Government Policy Through Price Stabilization."

Using the three stages of development in agriculture described by Schultz—traditional, transitional, and modern—government-sponsored price stabilization programs may be desirable to encourage the adoption of new methods once agriculture begins to move away from the traditional stage. Simultaneously with encouraging the production sector, price stability can also stimulate expansion of market facilities and make possible the further development of markets. Thus, price stability programs may be used to protect and hasten economic growth in the entire agricultural industry in the early transitional period.

As the market develops, institutional arrangements such as contract production of fruits and vegetables may be used to provide a form of price stabilization directly rather than through a government program. As a country's production and marketing system becomes more sophisticated, continued price stability to maintain growth may be achieved through government sanctioned programs operated by industry representatives or marketing boards. Marketing boards may participate actively in marketing or play a less directly involved role. The latter approach is normally the case in an economy with a sophisticated private sector marketing system. Forms of direct market involvement include:

1. domestic monopoly of trading and processing;
2. export marketing and price stabilizations;
3. buffer stocks of basic food grains.

The price stabilization programs may be used individually or in combination. Many of the U.S. marketing orders combine elements of functions attributed to all three types of market boards which exclude direct sales involvement, while being used in conjunction with the private sector contract production and bar-

gaining efforts which help stabilize price. These functions take various forms or combinations: establish minimum marketable quality standards which by law also apply to imported quantities, research to improve production and marketing processes, and market development authorities.

In summary, the purpose to be served, the organization and economic capability of production units, the stage of development of the market system, trade relationships, and the political climate interact to determine the appropriate price stabilization program to be employed.

Appendix I

ADC/RTN Seminar on Marketing Institutions and Services for Developing Agriculture

Summaries of the discussion papers were prepared by Haven D. Umstott, Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service, USDA.

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INSIDE MAIL — Comment

Bread price likely to go up again

The fact that virtually 40 per cent in food prices, since the 1970s will

In defence of the farmers

SOUTH AFRICA'S White farmers are leaving the land at a rate of 4 000 a year; nearly 60 000 of the country's 80 000 farmers are said to have a lower standard of living than White workers in the cities.

So where is the political pull which they are popularly supposed to have?

One might pose the same question about our massive army of White civil servants, mainly Afrikaans-speaking, mainly Nationalist supporting, and yet among the lowest paid Government employees in the Western world. Never mind the Blacks, who have only indirect political influence (though the positive response to Black labour unrest has shown this to be quite considerable — at least their wages have shot up and communication is now a must in industry). These faithful Whites have not, I believe, generally received the economic rewards one might have expected them to get for their political loyalty.

and better organised than their country cousins.

And yet the myth, for that is what I believe it is, persists (especially among the urban-based English-speakers) that the farmers have been mollycoddled and featherbedded by successive Nationalist Governments returned to power in large measure by a political delimitation system which favours the rural voters.

Suggestions are now being made that our "high" food prices can be blamed to some extent at least on this "political pull" of the farmers.

Of course, when they are fixed, produce prices must ultimately be based on a political judgment. But the record, I think, shows that overall South Africa has had just about the cheapest food in the world, and at the expense of the majority of its farmers.

This majority, let it be said straight away, is a majority of uneconomic farmers, which the Government has recognised and is in one way or another busy weaning from the land, but particularly through produce price-fixing which, in the case of some major items like maize, sets the price on the basis of average production costs, to which is added a percentage (in the region of about 20 per

cent) for profit.

So the average farmer might make out, but the below-average farmer, the less efficient man, does not, and he drops out. And as these farmers drop out so the general level of efficiency rises, because the average the next year is based on a higher level of viability.

One obvious consequence is that the efficient rich farmers get richer while the inefficient poor ones get poorer.

Cheaper

In socialist lights this might call for revolution, but in practical economic terms it should, and undoubtedly does, mean cheaper food for the mass of the populace, as the huge mechanised farming enterprises in the United States, for example, have proved.

Of course, this is not universally true of South African agriculture. In some cases pricing policies may well help to perpetuate inefficient farming, though no evidence has been produced to prove that this has happened on any serious scale.

Milk, for example. Dairy farming involves difficult hours, health problems with livestock, labour shortages, boundary res-

trictions on the marketing of milk and a host of other factors. The producers' price was low and a lot of farmers, according to the Department of Agriculture, were plainly inefficient.

So many quit dairying, some going into beef where producer price rises made this a more attractive proposition. To tempt the dairymen back into producing what is an essential product, they were given a price rise of nearly 25 per cent for fresh milk.

Well, perhaps in the process some inefficient farmers will survive. So what? So long as they do not form too significant a proportion of our dairy farmers we can afford this.

After all, not every commercial or industrial business venture is absolutely efficient, and we do not consider State action against the inefficient entrepreneur in the city.

All this is not to suggest there is no room for improvement in our agriculture and its pricing and marketing arrangements. On the contrary, there are some obvious areas which could be tackled, and not surprisingly some of these have been mentioned in the Assocom-University of Natal report published a week or so ago.

● Nothing ever satisfies the farmers — and in these times of rising food prices nobody loves them. JOHN IMRIE presents his simplified and probably minority, view on a complex issue — he's sorry for the farmers.

Findings on food prices shock unions

Women call for cheaper skim milk

Own Correspondent BLOEMFONTEIN. Skimmed milk was sold at the same price as full cream milk. She said the committee started the action taken for

One of the report's not entirely novel suggestions is that there may be too many agricultural control boards (currently about 22), with which the South African Agricultural Union itself entirely agrees.

Yet the total cost of the boards amounts to just over R10-million a year, or about 50c per person a year if spread over the entire population, which is very little to achieve food price stability.

And by food price stability is meant not necessarily the prevention of rising prices, which in inflationary conditions are inevitable, but the wild fluctuations which take place in prices in the absence of controls, fluctuations which harm both the producer and consumer but invariably line the pockets of speculators and middlemen.

Season

This, as any housewife will know, applies to vegetables, which are not subject to controls and whose prices vary widely according to season and climatic conditions and, let it be said, also according to how markets are manipulated. Probably the most highly publicised finding of

the Assocom-University of Natal report was the discovery that South Africa had the "second highest food price inflation rate" among major Western countries.

The report found that South Africa's food price inflation grew at a rate of 8.89 per cent between 1970-73, compared with 6.7 per cent for the US, 7.5 for France, 0.3 for Germany, 11.51 for the United Kingdom, 6.64 for Australia and 8.1 for Sweden and 6.96 for Japan.

On the other hand, consider the food price increase figures produced by the Department of Agriculture for 1973-74, which show that South Africa's increase was 9 per cent, the US's 18.3, Denmark's 16.2, Japan's 27, Britain's 19, Italy's 14.4 and France's 12.7.

This would indicate the opposite, although in an admittedly slightly different period (after the oil price increases) to the findings of the University of Natal.

Then again, the SA Agricultural Union will produce a study made by the Union Bank of Switzerland last year showing that in relation to earnings South Africans spend less (24.7 per cent) on food than six major European countries, namely Britain (nearest to SA at

24.8 per cent of income), Norway (30 per cent), France (31 per cent), Holland (35 per cent), West Germany (40 per cent) and Portugal (53 per cent).

The trouble about statistics, of course, is that unless they are very clear cut and can be seen fully in perspective, they can be extremely misleading.

Income

The Swiss survey may show that we spend a smaller proportion of income on food than six other Western countries but the figures are not true of South Africa's Blacks as a group.

The University of Natal statistics may show South Africa as having the second highest food inflation rate over a particular period, but what it does not show is that, excepting for food from specialist producing countries, such as mutton from New Zealand, dairy products from Denmark and Holland and beef from the Argentine, South Africa's food prices, though rising rapidly, generally still remain lower than in most countries in the West.

And, as has been pointed out often enough, this is a country not ideally suited to agriculture.

The men who fix food prices

"We are completely objective. There is no doubt about it. All increases we sanction have to be fully justified."

THE quotation above is the subjective but quite obviously honestly held conviction of Mr Henry van Rensburg and Dr J. J. Gregory, chairman and deputy chairman of the National Marketing Council.

This is the body which vets price proposals submitted to it by most of the agricultural control boards and then advises the Minister of Agriculture, who makes the final decision.

"When we consider prices," says Mr Van Rensburg, "we look at the supply and demand position of the item concerned, the cost of production, the export prices, the prices of other commodities, the prices of agricultural products in relation to one another and the general economic policy of the Government."

Mr Van Rensburg and Dr Gregory (D Sc in agricultural economics from the University of Pretoria and MA in economics from the University of Chicago) can talk convincingly and at length in justification of farm produce prices ranging from oilseeds to eggs, maize to milk.

Feeling

Yet the feeling persists among the public at large, among trade unionists and the business sector, that something is wrong with South Africa's produce pricing arrangements in spite of the control boards and the council and its backup of a full-time staff of 15 economists.

Which is why a commission of inquiry has been investigating the whole Marketing Act under which 80 per cent of South Africa's agricultural output is marketed.

Various criticisms have been levelled at the system, such as "the boards are dominated by the farmers" or "the boards operate in a vacuum and don't take account of the effects of their actions on other agricultural sectors" or "there is too much duplication of functions which is costly and pushes up the price of food".

Some of these criticisms may be valid and others not; that farmers should control the control boards seems reasonable, after all steel producers, for ex-

ample, decide what steel price from the Government and have their own marketing arrangements — not the farmers?

Instead, farmers are saddled with one or two token effectual representatives of the sector and consumers.

More logical, it would seem, to give more formidable representation to the private sector and to call on the National Marketing Council, which, besides vetting the proposals, is also in a position to have an overview of all the sectors in

Council

At present the council consists of Mr Van Rensburg (previously with the Department of Defence and Arms and Ammunition) and Dr Gregory (formerly Department of Agriculture and Deputy Economic Affairs Minister), Mr W. J. van Niekerk (formerly Division of Agricultural Economics and Marketing), Mr J. Geldenhuys (previously head of section Agricultural Market Research), Mr P. A. C. Raath (farmer from Britstown who has been in agriculture) and Mr J. S. Bethal (farmer).

All have farming or government backgrounds. The mass of consumers in the private sector is represented on this important council by commerce and industry.

The South African Agricultural Union in its memorandum of mission of inquiry has presented its presentation on the council and seems logical to grant a similar role to the public and business.

Not in order to dominate the but so that its decisions can be tested — and not by government nominees either but by truly competent economists who properly and independently represent the interests of the non-government agricultural sector.

This way justice may not be done, but it can then also be done, and the objectivity of Van Rensburg, Gregory and will not have to be taken into trust.

Sugar scheme takes off

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SHOT IN THE ARM FOR FARMERS IN KWAZULU



By
**CHRISTOPHER
MORRIS**



KWAZULU sugar farmers are being given the chance to reap larger benefits from South Africa's sugar earnings as new plans of the Sugar Association's small cane growers' affairs department reach fruition.

For the department, which administers the financial aid fund, is planning a new phase in the development of sugar growing in KwaZulu which will have important implications for the homeland.

Already the scheme has received the blessing of the KwaZulu Government.

The department proposes that the Sugar Association develops and plants sizeable blocks of land in KwaZulu — in the region of 2 000 hectares — which currently belong to the KwaZulu Government.

The association will finance the development from proceeds from the first year's crop, handing over any profit to KwaZulu.

Subsequently, the land will be divided into viable sub-units and then allocated to individual Zulu farmers, who will continue to farm the land under the guidance of extension officers of the KwaZulu Government.

The spin-offs from such a scheme will be many. Not only will it help the economy of the homeland, but it will mean more cane for the sugar industry,

currently losing valuable export earnings due to the increase in the local market.

But it will have one other effect vital to the Sugar Association: it will give farmers in KwaZulu the opportunity to become self sufficient and independent, one of the objectives behind the financial aid fund.

The new phase is the brainchild of the association. According to Alfred Schaffer, the fund's manager, the plan is an attempt to help Zulu growers. He is emphatic it is not governed by the in-

dustry's self interest.

The small cane growers' financial aid fund was first conceived in 1972, brainchild of Anson Lloyd, chairman of the Sugar Association. The idea was discussed with the Department of Industries and favourably received. The industry had experienced some profitable years and it was thought small growers should be given assistance to share the prosperity.

The fund was established the next year and Mr Schaffer was called in to manage it.

"I came in on the basis

that the fund was to be a non-profit-making trust which contributed to the development of KwaZulu and was directed to establishing smaller growers as full time self-reliant farmers who could make a good living from the soil.

"By this, I mean that the farmer earns an income that is at least equal to, and hopefully, better than the equivalent income he could earn if he took a job in the town or city."

Trust

For the first year, the groundwork was done. An accounting procedure was developed and the principles of the fund, into which the association injected an initial R5 million, were thrashed out.

• The fund is a non-profit-making trust that aims at making revolving credit available to African, Indian and Mangete (members of the Dunn family) small farmers at low rates of interest, set at 3 percent for the first four years and at 5 percent for the remainder of the loan's life. Loans must be redeemed within 10 years.

• The fund should be administered on a decentralised basis, with local committees acting as fund agents within each milling area to consider requests for financial assistance.

• Interest and loan redemptions should be ploughed back into the fund.

• Involve the local people in the fund.

The concept was discussed with the KwaZulu Government, the Natal Indian and Mangete Cane Growers' Associations, all of whom responded enthusiastically.

The fund got off the ground a year ago and more than R627 000 has been granted to more than 400 small growers.

The fund has been put to other equally important ventures. "Financial aid alone is worthless unless it is backed up by agricultural and technical training," says Mr Schaffer. The fund has built three farmers' centres — at R200 000 each — which will be donated to the KwaZulu Government on completion.

Each centre will concentrate mainly on giving local farmers a better understanding of the growing of cane.

Aspects

There will be lectures and seminars on the various aspects of sugar farming, including a course in mechanics so that farmers can service their tractors.

But there will be other courses — including courses for wives — which will be run under the

direction of the KwaZulu Government.

Lectures will be given by members of the industry, experts from the experiment station and by extension officers from the KwaZulu Government, of whom 50 have been appointed to help supervise cane growing in the homeland.

The fund has also financed a mobile training unit for the Indian and Mangete growers. One Indian and one White extension officer are on hand to give on-the-spot training and guidance.

Views

The fund has also sent leading Zulu, Indian and Mangete sugar men to other countries for first hand views of operations and the development of rural communities.

This month Chief Sithole, Chief Executive Councillor for Agriculture and Forestry, and three KwaZulu senior civil servants are visiting the US, England and Italy.

Although essentially altruistic in concept, the fund will also help the industry.

It will provide extra cane to supply a fast growing domestic market. At present there are roughly 14 000 hectares under cane in the homelands; projections imply this could be raised to 52 000 hectares and that production per hectare can be doubled. Thus in terms of tons of cane, the potential is large.

Obstacles

There are obstacles, however — infrastructure is lacking in many areas in the homeland.

Access roads are lacking and there is a shortage of contractual services to help growers who have not the machinery to do everything themselves.

But these problems will be overcome eventually.

The other remaining problem is the shortage of working capital, and that is precisely what the fund is trying to rectify now.

And according to Mr Schaffer it is succeeding.

"Ultimately, we can only judge our success by the number of growers who have become self-sufficient. But the fund is building up impetus and that implies that our success is only beginning."

1/246
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Wine system protects consumers

Cape Times 4/21/75 — **Research chief**

THE SYSTEM of classifying wines according to their places of origin had been devised to guarantee consumer satisfaction and not as a system for price manipulation, Dr J Burger, director of the Research Institute for Viticulture said at the weekend.

Speaking at the first wine show to be held in Stellenbosch, Dr Burger said that one of the greatest disadvantages of the system was that the price of certified wines could rise disproportionately to their quality. The system should not be used as a lever to manipulate prices but to ensure that the

consumer obtained the desired quality, unique to the wine of a particular region, Dr Burger said.

Because wine was an entirely natural product, factors such as climate, soil and geographical locality affected the quality of the wine. Origin would in time become the over-riding factor in wine production.

He warned all those connected with the system to guard against "unjustified assumptions".

"It is not enough to believe that wine of a particular area has a rarer or higher quality than that of another. Such an assumption would have to be proved over a reasonable period of time. One could not assume that uncertified wines were of a lower quality than certified wines."

The prize for the most outstanding wine on the show went to Dr A Schicklerling of Bertrams Wines Limited.

Sappi profits

R6,8m for

six months

Cape Times 7/8/75

JOHANNESBURG.—In spite of a reported weakening demand for Sappi's products in the early part of this year their after-tax profits for the half year ended June 30 rose to R5 861 000 compared with R6 496 000 for the same period last year, according to an interim report published yesterday.

Earnings per share rose from 23,9c for the first half of last year to 25,2c.

The directors reported that the strong demand for the company's products experienced in 1974 dropped off and by the second quarter of this year the sale of fine papers were sharply down with kraft and newsprint also slackening.

The directors attributed the improvement in profits to the higher prices of paper and, in particular, newsprint.

As regards future prospects, the fine paper market had improved but was still below last year's level while the Newspaper Press Union had indicated that there would be a 23 per cent cut in newsprint requirements for its members for the second half of the year.

The directors reported that in spite of company savings it was not expected that the second half earnings would match those now reported.—Sapa

ILLOVO TO SPEND R3m ON MILLS

MERCURY 7/8/75

Financial Reporter

ILLOVO Sugar has decided to spend at least R3m on its Illovo and Noodsberg mills even though the outcome of the sugar industry's talks with the Board of Trade on a new price formula for sugar is not known.

This was the burden of the chairman's address yesterday at the company's annual meeting. Mr. J. E. Hobbs said Illovo would embark on a

three-year expansion programme at both mills.

This was being done to ensure the ongoing performance of the group in the industry and in the interests of KwaZulu and the South African economy.

Mr. Hobbs stressed that an adequate investment return was necessary. Because the company believe that the Government would recognise this, the expansion programme would go ahead.

He endorsed the

remarks of industry spokesmen on the need for expansion in the industry and described the policy whereby local sugar was sold substantially below the cost of production, as "unrealistic."

Mr. Hobbs expects that the Illovo sugar crop will be slightly less than 191 200 tons but, that the share in total production will be unchanged at 9,8 percent. Rain fell on the cane fields at the end of July after a long dry spell.

The financial results of the group have enabled a reduction in the ratio of borrowings to capital employed. The ratio now stands at 25 percent after falling from 49 percent in April 1973.

Jon Beverley.

'Attack is unfair' says union man

STAR 8/175

Farming Editor

About 20 percent of the country's 80 000 farmers earned less than the annual salary of an average city typist, Mr Chris Cilliers, director of the South African Agricultural Union, said today.

Another 40 percent had to be satisfied with a lower standard of living than the average worker in commerce and industry, he added.

Mr Cilliers was replying to a reader's letter in The

Star, blaming farmers for high food prices.

Mr Cilliers denied that most farmers were inefficient. They had to cope with just about the most adverse natural and climatic conditions in the world.

SUBSIDIES

He said food prices in South Africa were the lowest in the Western world. The average wage earner paid about a quarter of his salary for food compared with up to half in some other Western countries.

Food subsidies were paid to keep prices low for consumers. Nothing went to the farmer.

The Land Bank, he said, obtained most of its funds on the open market and was able to charge lower interest rates because of the efficient way of channelling funds to farmers.

By comparison, he said, repair charges to farmers had rocketed by 205,6 percent in 16 years — 107,4 percent in the past four years. "That is inefficiency," he said.

Crops hit by dry spell

MERKUR
8/8/75

3

Agricultural Correspondent

THE drought on the South Coast is reaching serious proportions — some farmers say it is the worst for 40 years.

Farmers spoken to yesterday said that sugar-cane and banana crops in the Port Edward, Margate, and Port Shepstone areas were very dry and rain was desperately needed. On some farms wells and streams are drying up and drinking water is becoming scarce.

Mr. Roy Brand, a sugar-cane and banana farmer at Voortrekkerstrand on the South Coast said that "unless it rains soon, we're in for a very tough time. Bananas are shrivelling up and are being burnt by the sun. Cane is wilting badly."

Another farmer, Mr. Eric Peckham, said that he was fortunate to have some water left to irrigate his bananas. "Other farmers," he said, "could do nothing but watch their crops wilt and die."

To add to their problems, cane fires are becoming more numerous in the tinder-dry cane fields where, in some places, no rain has fallen since March this year.

The incomes of these farmers will be seriously affected by the crop failure.

Farmers on the South Coast say that they suffered ruinous losses in 1973 when the area was in the grip of another drought.

EUROPEAN FRUIT TRIUMPH

FOR SA

By BRENDAN RYAN ^{W/E ARGUS}
(Bus Arg) 9/8/75

SOUTH AFRICA has become the largest supplier of deciduous fruit to Europe in the southern hemisphere, providing more than all the other southern exporting countries combined.

Commenting on the record sales achieved by deciduous fruit exports in the 1974-75 season, the chairman of the Deciduous Fruit Board, Mr P. G. van Breda said South Africa supplied half the apples exported from the southern hemisphere to Europe and more than half the pears.

Gross revenue from deciduous fruit sales in Europe for the 1974-75 season is provisionally estimated at R110-million compared with R84-million the previous season.

But it is still not known how much the fruit growers will receive of this figure because of the rapidly rising costs of exporting the fruit.

All costs, of shipping, marketing and producing have shot up over the last year, said Mr van Breda. Farmers received R43.2-million from the 1973-74 season.

The good sales were attributed to very good crops locally coinciding with a shortage of fruit in Europe. High prices for the exported fruit were also achieved and maintained.

The estimated total intake of apples by the Deciduous Fruit Board for 1974-75 was 9,536,000 cartons of which 8,547,000 cartons were exported to Europe. In the 1973-74 season 1,577,000 cartons were sent to Europe.

The estimated grape intake by the board for 1975 was 6,259,000 cartons of which 5,720,000 were exported to Europe. In 1974, 5,300,000 cartons were exported.

Other fruit exports are provisionally estimated for 1975 at 1,904,000 cartons of pears (previous season 1,382,000), 217,000 cartons of peaches (271,000), 464,000 cartons of plums (404,000) and 10,000 cartons of apricots (14,000).

The drop in exports of peaches and apricots is believed to have been caused by the high import duties on stone fruit in the European Economic Community. The import duty on peaches was 22 percent and on apricots 25 percent.

A major development of the 1975 season was that more fruit was sold on the Continent than in Britain — with the German market in particular showing great expansion, said Mr van Breda.

This year 2.1-million cartons of apples were sold in Germany compared with 1.4-million the previous year and 2.35-million cartons of grapes were sold compared with 1.8-million the previous season.

In Britain 2.95-million cartons of apples were sold compared with the previous season's 3.25-million and 1.65-million cartons of grapes were sold compared with 2.28-million previously.

Mr van Breda said the declining value of sterling was the main reason for this. The DFB tried to keep uniform prices for fruit throughout Europe and the falling pound was forcing down prices in Britain. Large quantities of fruit could not be sold at lower prices in Britain as speculators would move in and buy to resell it on the Continent. Consequently fruit sales in Britain were restricted.

The Deciduous Fruit Board was also opening up other markets — although the main market was Europe. This season fruit was exported to the Persian Gulf for the first time and 250,000 cartons of apples were sold to Iran.

"We are trying to expand sales as the markets will bear it," said Mr van Breda.

FOOD PRICE LEVELS ARE LIKELY TO RISE AGAIN

Mercury Correspondent

PRETORIA — The producer prices of all basic foods are likely to rise again this year, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hendrik Schoeman, said in an interview yesterday.

They will include maize, wheat, dairy products, including fresh milk — in fact all the foods which are staple to the diets of the lower income groups.

Asked if the Government would consider higher food subsidies to keep consumer prices down, the Minister said: "We will be considering the new season's prices next month, and the possibility of higher subsidies will be looked at."

However, Mr. Schoeman said, a major problem was the Treasury might not have the necessary funds.

Frankly, he said, it would be very difficult to meet demands for additional food subsidies.

Farmers' production costs continued to escalate. During the past 12 months with steep increases in the fertiliser price, in the prices of vehicles, vehicle spares, wages and others, the overall increase in farming costs would be close to 30 percent.

"Against this background it is unreasonable to expect farmers to produce at the same prices they got last year. It appears inevitable therefore that their prices will have to be raised."

In terms of the Anti-Inflation Manifesto, farmers are entitled to 70 percent of production cost increases.

During the current financial year the Government subsidised food to the extent of R174 million. In this amount is included R55,9 million for maize, and R70 million for wheat.

The total is nearly double the R97,5 million paid in food subsidies in the 1973/74 financial year.

Other farming authorities pointed out that in addition to the steep rise in production costs the smaller crops, because of floods in some of the major producing areas, would also have to be taken into account.

The Trade Union Council of South Africa and the S.A. Institute of Race Relations have both pleaded for bigger food subsidies.

They have warned of the spread of hunger in the townships, and of the threat of serious unrest unless basic food prices are kept down.

Huge³ fires rage through Natal

15/8/75 Mercury Reporter

LARGE tracts of Natal were blazing last night and at least one person had been burnt to death as winds gusting up to 90km/h and tinder dry conditions spread fires in every region of the province.

A fire which started in Empangeni had last night raged the 30km to Richard's Bay and was burning on a three-kilometre front. By late last night it had passed the Alusaf aluminium smelter and was still burning fiercely.

A full-scale fire alert was declared as reports of uncontrollable fires poured in from Bergville, Winterton, Colenso, Elandskop, Kwambonambi, Mtubatuba, Ballitoville and Estcourt.

And in Durban a spokesman for the Fire Department said that every fire engine in the city had been involved in fighting fires the whole day.

In Durban North the situation was so bad the fires were being "stacked." There were not enough engines to cope with the calls which were being attended to on a priority basis.

The man who died was a 60-year-old African, Mr. Nongai Zuma, of Ladysmith, who was killed when the shack in which he lived caught fire.

At least 22 African kraals were reported totally destroyed by the fires.

In the Bergville-Winterton area, the fires destroyed about 150 square kilometres and disrupted telephone links. About 160 army volunteers from Ladysmith and the Ladysmith Fire Brigade were fighting the fires.

A fire raged through the Natal Parks Board's Spioenkop nature reserve, causing extensive damage. An NPB caravan park at Mtunzini was threatened by a fire which destroyed 20ha of the Umlalazi nature reserve.

At Ballitoville a runaway fire completely destroyed a creosoting plant belonging to Coastal Timbers. Damage estimated at R30 000 was caused.

At Bergville a fire which broke out on the farm of Mr. A. Wartman burnt through another six neighbouring farms.

On a farm belonging to Mr. Jimmie Mann, the fire caused damage estimated at R30 000 when it burnt through about 40 hectares of unripened mielies, and four ha of poplar trees.

The fire jumped 10 metres across the Sterkspruit River before it was put out.

Still burning last night was a fire which ravaged the NPB reserve near the Spioenkop Dam.

The fire which started on a farm belonging to Mr. John Fyvie, swept through 35km of farm land and destroyed 25 African kraals.



A FIRE fighter at Ballitoville tries to halt a blaze which destroyed a creosoting plant yesterday causing damage estimated at R30 000.

Fanned by the strong wind, the flames jumped the main Winterton-Ladysmith national road. On a farm belonging to Mr. Andries Pretorius, fire destroyed dam building equipment.

Farmers were still fighting the fire late last night as it burned in the direction of Colenso.

A third fire in the area threatened 300 head of cattle before being extinguished.

At Mtubatuba in Zululand, a fire broke out on a farm of Mr. Harry Harrison destroying 40ha of grazing land and three hectares of trees. It is believed to have been started by a cigarette thrown from a passing motor car.

From Donnybrook came reports of a fire raging in a timber plantation. Elandskop Impendle reported a fiercely burning grass fire.

A runaway fire last night destroyed a large portion of the homestead on the farm Inungi in the Kokstad area. No-one was injured.

Farmers in East Griqualand were yesterday called upon to fight fires which were threatening farms.

A second fire that raged in the area was caused by a ceremonial rite. At the conclusion of a Xhosa circumcision ceremony a hut was traditionally set alight.

Fires cut a swathe of ruin across Natal

16/8/75
Mercury Reporters

DAMAGE caused by the spate of fires which raged through Natal was still being assessed yesterday.

Hardest hit was the Ladysmith-Colenso area where Army fire units were called in to help with run-away bush fires.

By late yesterday most were under control, but firemen were standing by in case of further outbreaks.

Fires in the Natal Midlands and the Winterton-Bergville areas destroyed and damaged numerous African kraals causing the death of one man, Mr. N. Zuma, who lived near Ladysmith.

The fires were fanned by high winds of up to 90km/h on Thursday, but a moderate south-westerly eased conditions.

It is expected that damage will run into millions of rands.

In Durban there were many grass fires yesterday. Firemen were also standing by at the burnt-out Beena Waste Merchant's warehouse in Milne Street, which was destroyed on Thursday night.

At Mtunzini holiday-makers camping near the lagoon were evacuated when flames tore through the area.

At Compensation a R30 000 creosoting plant was burnt out and near Shaka's Kraal five farms were damaged.

A spokesman for Sappi said yesterday that about 1 000ha of timber worth some R500 000 had been destroyed at Comrie near Donnybrook.

A spokesman for the Natal Parks Board said that "it was extremely fortunate" that buildings at Spionkop Dam had escaped damage.

Meanwhile, scaffolding to reinforce the concrete roof of the Amanzimtoti Checkers supermarket was installed yesterday after fears of a collapse, following the fire which gutted the rooftop storeroom early yesterday morning.

Sections of the walls and the entire ceiling of the storeroom collapsed onto the roof of the supermarket below.

Police have launched an extensive investigation to find the would-be thieves who are believed to have started the fire when they used oxyacetylene torches to try and break into an adjacent petrol station, also damaged by the fire.

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Farms had their ups and downs

3 - General

Natal Mercury 21/8/73

Agricultural Correspondent

ACCORDING to the annual report of the council of the Natal Agricultural Union, the past year has been one of mixed blessings for farmers in Natal.

The report, published earlier this week in Naulu, official organ of the NAU, says: "In contrast with many countries, exceptionally favourable conditions for agriculture were experienced during the year.

"As a result, physical production rose to record levels and producers' net income rose to R996 million compared with R892 million the previous year."

However, the report says the year was one of mixed blessings and "it is probably too early to strike a balance between the favourable and unfavourable."

The farmers' worst problem has been rising costs and shortages of many essential items.

The report says that there has been only temporary relief from inflationary pressures, and that "this destructive

force in our midst has not yet been tamed."

The council of the NAU says that it is bitterly disappointed that the Government has refused to recognise the importance of the Upper Tugela locations, and the union's attempts to safeguard the catchment area.

Referring to the establishment of KwaZulu, the NAU report says: "It is neither the task, nor in the interest, of the union to indulge in speculation or evaluation of the wisdom or folly of what is now a geographical reality."

It says that it is the union's task and responsibility to protect the interests of its members whose land is affected, and to seek the support and co-operation of all farmers.

The report says that its wish is to establish sound relationships with Black neighbours along the borders.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE

- The next big drought could find South Africans queueing for food.
- The Transkei could produce 3-million tons of grain a year — instead it produces only 100 000 tons.
- Five percent of South Africa's 80 000 farms produce 75 percent of the country's food output.

Since 1941 I have occupied a rather specialised niche in the South African conservation scene. It was my task to scour the laboratories and test plots of agricultural scientists; to tramp veld, berg and vlei with naturalists on field expeditions; to follow the winding course of our rivers with hydrologists as they prepared their hydrographs and searched for dam sites; and to sit out numerous earnest conferences and symposia.

This scavenging for ideas was more than the mere gathering of raw material for soil, water and nature conservation propaganda. It was intended to establish communication links — bridges of words between the mumbo jumbo, the shorthand of science, and the vocabulary of the masses. But it was not mere science writing, designed to capture popular interest and sell books or newspapers.

When you look back for 30 years along the road which European man has followed in South Africa as he shaped the environment to satisfy his economic needs, there are a number of prominent landmarks beside the vanishing spools of the conservation trek. The first of these was the dusty spectre of the drought years and the relief that the climate of the country had changed.

most of the inland parts of the country uninhabitable."

His phrase was echoed by another civil engineer, Reenen J van Reenen, who wrote this warning in the report of the 1923 Drought Investigation Commission:

Great desert

"Unless destructive farming methods are halted a gloomy and ghastly future lies before the country. The logical outcome of it all is 'The Great South African Desert' uninhabitable by man."

The civil engineer was again in the lead when the counter-attack on soil erosion began in Vlekpoort Valley and at the historic scenes of Voortrekker suffering and battles along the Bloukrans River and Moordspruit.

But he realised that contours, drainage channels, and dams and weirs were not a panacea even when the arrival of the big mechanical earth diggers took the place of pick and shovel. Attempts to fill up dongas, which could be achieved effectively only by carting the silt back from the sea, gave place to stabilisation on the gradeline with the aid of vegetation.

When the Soil Conservation Act was passed in 1946, engineering structures were still of great importance in planning the first conservation districts along the slopes of the Maluti Mountains. But biological methods also evolved and soon combined rotational grazing, grass strips and leys, crop rotation and mixed farming to include the animal factor in practice.

ing on the land there would be agricultural engineers employing as little as five percent of the population.

According to Dr S J du Plessis, the Prime Minister's agricultural adviser, there is already a situation in which five percent of South Africa's farming units are responsible for 75 percent of the country's total agricultural production.

Such a future pattern of land ownership and use, scientifically planned to satisfy our food needs, would impose on the natural landscape of veld and bush a new design and the colours of a different palette. There would be the massive walls of dams in the valleys; the contour lines of the surveyor; the crops of the green revolution; planted pastures where once the red *Themeda* swayed heavy with seed; and the cubist composition of forests of tall conifers along the mountain slopes.

The theoretical ideal became the planned conservation farm which would make use of all these methods to ensure optimum production without doing harm to the innate fertility of the soil.

The engineer moved backstage and watched the new turn in the conservation drama.

He returned to the scene when farm plans were extended to include catchment areas as a whole. But he could often not conceal his anxiety that the new farming might reduce runoff to the detriment of water storage schemes even if the lush swards reduced the siltation rate. It was not so much a conflict situation as a different sense of values.

Main horror

Half a century later, when the famous Senate Select Committee of the first Union Parliament was appointed in 1914, it was specifically instructed to study "the disastrous effects and steadily increasing severity of the annual droughts."

It reported that all the evidence was against a definite diminution of rainfall in historic times.

That report is a monument to the pioneering members of your profession, for it was the evidence of a number of land surveyors and civil engineers that supplied the data on which a conclusion was based.

Unlike the farmer, who looked at the condition of his veld, his stock and his crops, these men were beginning to take a quantitative view of the environment, and could, for instance, assert that the gauge did not explain why the fountains were drying up, and they could measure, where the veld was bare, the increased run-off which was the cause of the dongas — the main horror symbol of erosion.

The engineers who testified before the Senators were also evolving a scientific theory about man's relationship to his natural environment. F E Kanthack, for instance, saw it as a process of destructive farming which was going from bad to worse and "unless it is arrested," he maintained, "the result will be to make

These are some of the warnings in a speech made by the ecologist Mr T C Robertson, at the annual banquet in Johannesburg of the Institution of Civil Engineers — a body which recently helped establish an environmental standards disciplinary committee for professional planners and engineers.

CARE presents this abbreviated version of Mr Robertson's address.

Twenty years ago soil and water conservationists regarded this as the last outspan of their trek. It would be the better world in which their dreams of optimum production had come true.

But in the situation where we are today the trek is up against a formidable obstacle. Conservationists have come to realise that they are not pouring from the horn of plenty and slaking their thirst at an ever-flowing fountain. They are at best scooping out of a grain bag and tilting a water bucket which will not be filled every season if the rains fail.

At the very highest level of planning in South Africa there is already the fear, concealed from the public, that if we have another series of drought years there will soon be food queues and water rationing.

The knowledge that the resources of our land are finite and limited has

replaced the cornucopia syndrome.

The grim meaning of demographic surveys, which have not been given as much publicity as in the United States, has not yet filtered down to influence mass opinion and political policy, but informed planners are undoubtedly awed by the extent and force of the population explosion which is taking place in South Africa.

Recent statistics have revealed that no matter how well we use our topsoil there may not be enough to keep pace with the population increase. We have ploughed far into the

arable land of our country and are already cropping more of the available supply than Europe, Russia or North America.

And did not Water Year reveal unashamedly that even if the supply system is optimised the limits are already in sight?

The overall situation is complicated by the possibility that nine independent nation states may come to share the resources of the Blue Triangle, where South Africa has its best soils and highest rainfall.

The Black areas have the potential to feed 30-million people if they are farmed

fairly efficiently, but at present they cannot provide for the existing homeland populations. For instance, the Transkei could produce 3-million tons of maize. During the 1972-73 season the crop was 0.1-million tons — less than three percent of the potential. The difficulty of achieving the potential within the present tradition of land ownership is another major limiting factor.

South Africa today is as much in need of a biological balance sheet as it is of the economist's estimates of national income and growth rate.



Low cost food 'not from us'

STAR 27/8/25

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Pretoria Bureau

Farmers should no longer be regarded as the suppliers of cheap food to boost the living standards of other sectors at their expense, Mr A J Basson, president of the South African Agricultural Union, said today.

Opening the annual congress of the Transvaal Agricultural Union in Silverton, he said agriculture was the cornerstone of a sound economy of any developed country.

No developing country could make progress without a sound agricultural economy and any government should see to the balanced welfare of its agriculture.

ABSORB

Costs in agriculture had mounted substantially and the farmer could not be expected to absorb the increases, reducing the standard of living of himself and his labour force.

Mr Jaap Wilkens, president of the Transvaal union, said the farmer was an integral part of the national economy and not a favoured individual.

Dealing with labour problems, he said the union should keep in touch with Black homelands in view of their forthcoming independence.

Mr Wilkens said farmers played an important part in the consolidation of the Black homelands, but they were deeply disappointed that consolidation did not take place in the true sense of the word.

They realised the problems which gave rise to the chequered pattern of consolidation.

It still remained the standpoint of the agricultural union that consolidation should be more complete. He appealed that the purchase of land for homelands consolidation should be expedited.

State to increase bread subsidy

Daily Dispatch
29/8/75

PRETORIA — The Government will increase the bread subsidy by R20 million to R90 million to support the present bread price, according to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman.

He announced here yesterday that the price of wheat had been increased for the 1975-76 season from R95,16 a ton to R106,80 a ton.

The increase of R11,64 cents a ton is more than a ten per cent hike.

Mr Schoeman said the new price was lower than that asked for by the Wheat Board.

"The Government is prepared to allow fully the production cost rises since last year but under current economic conditions, could not see its way clear to accepting fully the further increases proposed by the Wheat Board."

The increase in the wheat price plus the higher costs of millers and bakers would be met with an increased Government subsidy.

"The price of the standard white and brown loaves will not be increased. The subsidy on bread is now about R90 million, the minister said.

The subsidy was increased in an attempt to combat rising living costs.

The wheat board had also decided to pay producers R550 a ton from its profits on exports. This would be for wheat delivered to the board between October 1, 1974 and September 30 this year.

The minister announced increases in the prices of barley, oats and rye—barley by R11,74 a ton to R102,03, oats by R4,36 to R76,36, and rye by R8,69 a ton to R95,00.

— DDC.

(1) ~~Home - wheat~~

(2) Agri - Marketing Co. B.

(3) ~~200~~

Farmers' income

THE Department of Agricultural Economics & Marketing reports that the gross income of farmers during the 1974-75 season at R2,3-billion is 10 per cent up on the previous season. The estimated net income at R1,1-billion is up by 5,4 per cent, while costs rose by 5 per cent.

SAPM

29/8/75

FIN. GAZETTE

Agri - general

Homelands fence plea by farmers

Farming Editor

STAR 30/8/76

Transvaal farmers, up in arms against alleged wanton destruction on fauna and flora on homeland borders, have demanded that homelands be fenced.

Mr B J Vorster, of Letaba, who introduced a motion to this effect at the Transvaal Agricultural Union congress said: "We farmers have reached the point that something drastic will have to be done if we are not to commit murder."

His seconder, Mr P F Human, MPC for Lichtenburg, said: "It is expected of us to organise things in such a way that the different nations in this country never hate each other; that we shall never shoot such trespassers ourselves."

It was recommended that sentences for the setting of snares should be increased and that minimum sentences be imposed.

Mr Vorster said that on his farm 336 snares were collected on two successive days. A farmer in Phalaborwa collected 213 in one camp before he could move his animals into the camp.

In the Letaba area 91 head of cattle were snared in six months and in the Klaserie district 56 in three months — a total of 147 head of cattle valued at R22 000.

80 HEAD

In the Soutpansberg district a big cattle farmer has lost 80 head of cattle in the past five years.

One thief, when caught, showed the farm-owner snares in which 17 impala and three cattle carcasses were found. When asked how many impala he had caught, he replied "over hundred."

Mr Vorster said dogs were being used to chase cattle into snares.

Mr Vorster quoted sentences imposed in the magistrates court of Letaba which, he said, were "totally inadequate."

Mr Vorster said in one instance a school teacher in the homelands had used his pupils to collect firewood for sale on neighbouring White farms.

RING BARKING

Many trees on neighbouring White farms were ring barked to kill them for later felling as firewood for sale.

Mr Human said: "Do we ask too much if we ask that this type of person ... be removed from the community, if necessary indeterminately?"

Mr Vorster asked that Black nature conservation officers be trained and stationed in the worst affected areas and that the Black and White governments meet in an effort to put a stop to these acts of destruction.

Spend with care, urges Minister

AGRIC - General

30/8/75

Cape Times Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, yesterday appealed for a "more understanding" consumer public, spending its money correctly.

Addressing the 78th annual congress of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, he said only 22 percent of a housewife's budget was spent on food. The rest went on mainly unnecessary articles.

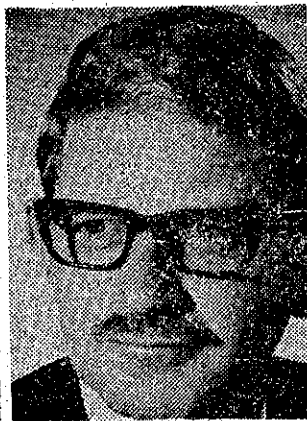
People must learn to live in a less inflationary manner, he said. "We must learn to pull our belts a little tighter."

Dr Frans Cronje, chairman of South African Breweries and Nedbank, told congress that farmers were not responsible for South Africa's high cost of living.

He said city dwellers felt the farmers to be favourites of the Government and accused them of being responsible for the high cost of living.

Agriculture was not inefficient, Dr Cronje said. It competed successfully on the world market.

Meanwhile the Govern-



Mr Schoeman

ment is believed to have tougher anti-inflation measures in reserve in case the Prime Minister's appeal to workers and employers to make sacrifices fails.

Some economists see a mailed fist in Mr Vorster's velvet glove. His call for voluntary sacrifices earlier this week was underscored by the warning that the country's security was threatened by inflation. It is reasoned that if the appeal for sacrifices fails, tougher measures will almost certainly be adopted.

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Sunday Times **extra**

Boycotts are fine for with plushy jobs, fat

MR GEORGE FORTUIN, CRC executive member for rural areas and Coloured settlements telephoned me this week to "make it clear, with the full support of the other members of the CRC executive" that they "disassociate" themselves from Mr Solly Essop's call on British trade unions not to buy South African fruit and canned goods.

Mr Essop said last week that he will be going to London to explain that such a boycott will hit the farm labourers hard and as these workers were the poorest section of the Black community, they could ill-afford the effects of a boycott.

Mr Fortuin told me that the Labour Party have written to the Trade Union Council of Great Britain "to warn them against Mr Essop".

"The Labour Party asked for a boycott and we are not prepared to go against that call. It is not a matter of who is right and who is wrong. It is a matter of who is right in South Africa."

Manner

Mr Fortuin is wrong. Much has changed, especially the manner in which apartheid is being fought.

In previous years, opponents of apartheid were dedicated people who opposed apartheid without "protection" from the Government.

They were not paid a

salary of R1 000 a month by the Government to "fight apartheid". They did not reject apartheid by participating in apartheid institutions. They were totally opposed to apartheid. And they still are.

That has changed.

In previous years, farmers and the Government were dead to calls for a better deal for farm labourers. The Government refused to abolish the Master and Servants Act and farmers refused to pay farm workers a decent wage, or build decent homes for them or establish amenities.

Now the Government have done away with the Master and Servants Act. The farmers have acknowledged the plight of the farm workers and have decided to do some-

**STRAIGHT
TALK**
By
**Howard
Lawrence**



thing about it.

That has changed.

And this is a beginning which Mr Fortuin, who has so often claimed to be a champion of the farm workers cause, should build on.

He and his Labour Party CRC executive, and all the other CRC members who want a boycott

of South African fruit and canned goods, should ask themselves just what do they think they are doing.

They are asking for more poverty on the plateau. They are asking the British to increase and intensify the suffering of the farm workers. They are asking for

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St Lucia

potato

patch

may be

permanent

Sunday TRIBUNE

31/8/75

(3) - General

Tribune Reporter

THE CONTROVERSIAL

St Lucia potato patch could become a permanent fixture if the experiments there are a success.

And conservationists are worried that insecticides being used on the patch could have dangerous effects on life in the Lake Bengazi area.

Potato Board manager P. L. Steyn said this week that if the board's experiments are successful they would apply to use the area permanently.

The area is being tested as a site for producing basic seed material which can then be bulk grown by growers registered with the Potato Board.

"We are looking for a suitable site for winter multiplication of foundation seed — seed we need to inject new blood into potato production every year — and if we reach a decision to use this site we will start negotiating with the authorities," said Mr Steyn.

The board is also investigating a site on the other side of Lake St

Lucia.

Conservationists say this latest announcement poses a greater threat to the wilderness area around Lake Bengazi than they have been led to believe.

They were shocked at the possibility of a permanent farm in the middle of an area which a parliamentary commission had recommended be kept as a wildlife area.

Mr Ian Player, chairman of the Wilderness Foundation, said this week: "A potato patch is incompatible with a wildlife area. The latter has specific connotations. You cannot dig, you cannot remove things."

"If the Potato Board is allowed to disregard this, then anyone else might as well do the same."

Conservationists are also worried by the use of insecticides.

Mr Steyn says there is no danger to wildlife from the chemicals provided they are applied correctly — "and they can only be applied by a registered expert."

FARMERS HIT LICENCE LAW ³

Agricultural Correspondent

MERCURY
9/19/75

POULTRY farmers and the Natal Agricultural Union are upset about the implications of poultry licensing and are to ask the Province to review the licensing ordinance.

Attention will be given to this issue in the Howick Magistrate's Court today when a subsidiary company of the Rainbow Chickens organisation reappplies for a licence to operate in the Mount West Nottingham Road area. Rainbow's application is

again being opposed by local farmers and the licensee of a motel.

In terms of a provincial ordinance — which farmers claim applies only to Natal — any poultry producer who has more than 1 000 chickens has to have a licence to operate, and

this must be reapplied for every year. Producers point out that there are some 180 poultry farms in Natal.

A spokesman said: "If every farmer has to apply for a licence every year, and has to fight his case in court, it is going to waste an awful lot of time and money."

Farmers claim that this is "an iniquitous situation" and say that their livelihood is at stake. A spokesman for the Natal Commercial Poultry Producers' Association said yesterday that poultry farmers were "totally opposed to licensing although they were not against reasonable regulations being imposed for health reasons."

① 3-Genel

~~107~~

Keeping the Natal

'cake'

Natal Monday 11/9/75
Agricultural
Correspondent

NATAL of the future — after KwaZulu had been excised—would resemble a "moth-eaten doughnut" and have internal boundaries with KwaZulu of 2500km in extent says the president of the Natal Agricultural Union.

Delivering his presidential address to the annual congress of the union in Durban yesterday, Mr. Donald Sinclair said: "While this must surely be a unique situation, it becomes almost bizarre when we learn that citizens of the separate areas of KwaZulu will be guaranteed transit rights through White Natal while presumably we may expect reciprocal rights through KwaZulu."

The reality of this situation could only be visualised if it was believed that relations between White and Black areas would remain "of the highest order."

"There need not be despondency but we have very little time in which to build bridges of contact, of mutual upliftment, trust and confidence. To secure our future we must rapidly move from complacent self-sufficiency to involvement with new, lesser privileged neighbours."

GERMAN

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ORANGE-FISH PROJECT

Day of reckoning *3 Genes*
Fm. 12/9/75

With the official opening of the R160m Orange-Fish tunnel over, the burning questions are:

- Will surrounding agricultural production indeed double to justify its hugely increased cost, and
- What must riparian farmers pay for water?

The Department of Water Affairs' tariff decision is likely within three months and the annual rate will probably be more than the R40/ha estimated in the 1971 White Paper. It will also vary according to region and expected crop yields.

About 10 000 ha in the Great Fish River area will benefit immediately from irrigation. By the end of next year, when the Fish-Sundays linking canals are completed, another 10 000 ha in the Little Fish and Sundays area will benefit.

Besides the need to recover as much capital outlay as possible, the rate is also likely to be high to encourage only productive use of the facility. At least the

operating costs — about R20/ha — will initially be recoverable plus some of the cost of debt servicing. Accurate revenue calculations await the tariff decision.

Potential agricultural benefits from the first phase of the Orange River project are immense. Nearly 68 000 ha (including 14 000 ha in the Fish/Sundays river valleys) are being irrigated. With higher prices the annual value of agricultural production should eventually double the R18m projected in the 1969 White Paper. Of course, this big addition to national income is still several years away. Government has yet to sell nearly 5 000 ha of re-scheduled land in the Fish River valley, although some of this (on about 90 new farms) will go on the market within the year. Even now detailed soil studies of the Great and Little Fish areas are not complete.

Government has prepared a full development plan for the regions directly affected but it will not be released for several months. However, it is known that the 25 000 ha along the middle Orange will be for the production of lucerne hay, cotton and potatoes. Along the Great Fish there will be nearly 12 000 ha of lucerne as well as another 12 000 ha of cotton and fruit.

The lower Sundays is potentially the richest area as that valley will support about 10 000 ha of citrus which, at current prices, should yield the grower in excess of R500/ha per year.

In addition, about 25% of the project's water is reserved for industrial and urban use. Completion of the Orange-Fish tunnel now makes possible the direct passage of water to the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage industrial area. This could be available within 18 months although resource studies indicate that the urban area will not need more water for 10 to 15 years.

Even though the first phase is nearly finished another R30m will be needed to develop the full agricultural potential of the region. Parliament will probably be asked for this during the next session.

The massive boost in agricultural pro-

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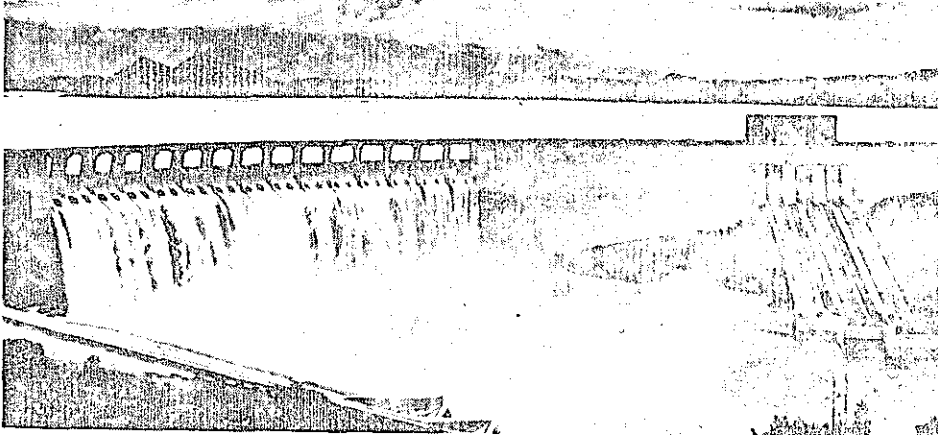
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Plenty water . . . but at what price?

1) 246

2) Agric - Genard

Natal Mercury 12/19/75

FOOD SURVEY 'NOT TRUE'

Agricultural
Correspondent

A FOOD price survey — prepared by a University of Natal economist — was inaccurate and had caused confusion says an official of the South African Agricultural Union.

Mr. Piet Swart, deputy director of the union, told delegates of the Natal union's annual congress yesterday that agriculture was not the scapegoat for causing high food prices in this country.

He said SAAU disputed the conclusions arrived at by the survey and said "this survey has been dismissed by higher authority."

Quoting from figures prepared by the Union Bank of Switzerland, Mr. Swart said the bank had carried out a cost of living survey in all the major cities of the world and had determined the price of a "food basket."

Against prices in Zurich which had been taken as 100, comparative prices in London were 60, and in Johannesburg they were 42.

Referring to the number of hours that had to be worked to pay for this food, Mr. Swart gave figures to show that in most countries people had to work longer hours to earn their wages. These were: Bombay 94 hours, Copenhagen 26 hours, London 20 hours, San Francisco 13 hours, New York 10 hours. Johannesburg was the lowest in the world with only 8 1/3 hours' work needed to buy food.

'Immediate' equal pay call by CRC

5-11-75 12/9/75

① Agri - Gewa
~~2 221~~
~~3 624~~
~~4 123~~
~~5 286~~

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Coloured Representative Council decided unanimously yesterday to ask the Government again for the immediate introduction of equal pay for equal work.

Introducing the motion, a Government-nominated member, Mr W S Africa (Fed Party) said it was sad that nothing had so far been done to meet the council's previous repeated requests.

The Government had said it accepted the principle of equal pay for equal work, but nothing had been done.

"Our people cannot eat principles, slogans and promises," he said.

Other motions adopted by the council yesterday included:

- The immediate removal of all statutory and non-statutory discrimination based on colour;

- Equal old age pensions for Whites and Coloured people without a means test or adjustment to the cost of living index;

- The lifting of the present income limit of Coloured people who wanted a loan from Housing Commission funds;

- Freedom for Coloured people to buy farms anywhere in South Africa without being subjected to permits.

All races... except South African Blacks

RDM 16/9/75

By CHRIS SMITH

THE amended constitution of the Witwatersrand Agricultural Society allows membership to all races . . . except South African Blacks.

This was spelled out by the general manager of the society, Mr Ernie Viljoen yesterday. The society, which organises the Rand Show, recently removed a clause in the constitution which limited membership to "Europeans".

When Mr Viljoen was asked if any Blacks had applied for membership he replied: "No, because

we would not be able to accept them if they did.

"Membership means that the person is entitled to use the clubhouse — which is a licensed premises — and in terms of the law we would not be allowed to admit a Black."

Asked if that was the only barrier to Black membership he said: "At this stage, yes."

Mr Viljoen said the amendment to the constitution had been to allow Chinese and Japanese who are now classified as White to become eligible as well as allowing foreign Blacks temporary membership.

~~(1) 153~~ Agric - General
~~5, 268~~
② Agric - General

World 'on the edge of famine'

Food

Agric STAR 19/9/74

19/9/74

The Star Bureau
New York — During the last few months the world food crisis has developed from what once seemed an exaggerated Doomsday forecast to a reality that is gnawing at the bellies of thousands and threatening the lives of millions.

Early this year agricultural experts began reporting the first signs of an imminent crisis that could reach disastrous proportions before the year was out.

Now, after a major investigation there is virtually unanimous agreement that a serious world food crisis has indeed begun. There is even agreement on this point by some government leaders, the New York Times reports.

President Ford acknowledged as much in his address to the United Nations on Wednesday. He called the situation a crisis and said a "global

strategy" to deal with it was urgently needed.

There is, however, disagreement among world food specialists on how long the crisis may persist. Many say it is only a temporary phenomenon, brought on chiefly by a fertilizer shortage that will be over within four to six years. Others contend it is the beginning of decades of unrelenting misery for much of the world.

There has been almost total agreement that the most severe impact in the immediate future will be in India where millions may face starvation in the next few months. The latest wheat harvest has fallen below expectations by an amount equivalent to the food needs of 50 million people for a full year.

Because of the increasingly intertwined economies of all countries, and because of global scarcities, many feel that repercussions from an Indian famine would be felt throughout the world.

Farming land shrinks

SC2

STAR 27/9/74

27.9/74

Farming Editor

AGRICULTURE land is being frittered away at an alarming rate despite the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act of 1971.

At the current rate, land equal in size to a small magisterial district will be lost for agricultural production every three years, says Mr J. L. Vosloo of the Division of Soil Protection of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services.

In the first three years since the Act came into operation, 34 000 ha of good agricultural land was withdrawn from agricultural production, but 28 000 ha had been saved from the same fate, Mr Vosloo pointed out.

The picture is actually darker than that, he says. These figures only refer to applications for subdivision. In many instances, no subdivision takes place but the land is withdrawn from agricultural use and put to some other use.

The railways and Provincial Administrations acquire land for roads, railways and similar public facilities.

The compensatory factor is the fact that agricultural land is no longer subdivided into uneconomic agricultural holdings.

Delegation to see Prime Minister

FARMERS

① 3
② 105

Tribune Reporter

ANGRY farmers from the Peddie district are to seek an urgent interview with the Prime Minister and two of his Cabinet about the sudden non-availability of Government funds to pay them out before the end of the year for farms declared Black by the Department of Bantu Affairs and Development.

DEMAND:

Sixty affected

At least 60 farmers are affected by the declaration which incorporates their farms into the Ciskei homeland. Many of the farmers took options on farms in other areas and while waiting for the Government to pay them out the options have expired. Last month the Deputy Minister of Bantu Affairs and Development, Mr A. J. Raubenheimer, told Mr L. A. Lloyd, chairman of the Peddie Farmers Association that offers could be expected for the farms in three weeks.

PAY US NOW

When the offers were not received Mr Lloyd and three prominent Peddie farmers chartered an aircraft and flew to Pretoria where they confronted the Deputy Minister.

In the interview Mr Raubenheimer said he was withholding all offers to Peddie farmers. He said there were no available funds for the purchase of the farms and he would only make the offers when he had the money in hand.

The southern section of the Peddie district was valued early this year and owners were told to expect payment by the end of the year. They now foresee matters taking many more months until they can have certainty about their future.

Disgusted

Crop-planting is grinding to a halt and farmers cannot plan stock production without knowledge of the period in which they will still be able to farm. This is having a serious effect on their income and could also lead to deterioration of the farms themselves.

Commenting on the position, Mr R. L. Wesson of the farm Stanway said he was disgusted. "They tell us one thing and then do something else."

Mr N. Landsell, another farmer, said: "I have a deed of sale which expires by which time I have to prove I have the money to buy another property. I committed myself only recently when we were told that our offers were definitely forthcoming at the beginning of August."

On Friday a meeting of 60 farmers resolved to seek an interview within the next 10 days with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Bantu Administration.

3 General

Farmers blamed for overgrazing

EAST LONDON — The greatest single factor responsible for the degradation of the vegetation in Southern Africa was, without doubt, the overgrazing by domestic stock.

So said the Director of the East Cape Region, Dr P. W. Roux, at the opening of the fifth meeting of the Standing Committee for Conservation and Land Use Planning here yesterday.

"This, in simple terms means that stock numbers are excessive in relation to the source of fodder," Dr Roux said.

"The longer uncontrolled and overgrazing takes place on the natural vegetation, the more extensive and irreversible will be the damage to the natural resources and the more time and money it will require to improve or reclaim such areas."

Dr Roux said the modern stock farmer and his grazing animal were by far the greatest cause of the alteration of the vegetation and the processes associated with it

such as soil erosion and water losses.

Seasonal climatic shift also contributed significantly to vegetation change, however, he said.

In order to arrest the further degradation of natural resources, it was imperative that stock numbers be reduced where they were excessive.

"It must be emphasised that destocking of overgrazed land does not necessarily lead to a decline in stock production," Dr Roux said. "In fact, numerous instances are known where production per animal rises, reproduction is at a higher level, growth rates are more favourable and the animals more healthy."

Dr Roux said in order to tackle the problem of deteriorating grazing lands in Southern Africa, and to make considerable headway in the improvement and conservation of the lands, he suggested that:

The reduction of stock numbers wherever overgrazing was taking place

be enforced. This was the number one priority.

Every endeavour should be made to reduce or remove stock off range-land after effective rain had fallen during the growing season.

The range be rested. "Resting is a principle basic to all grazing systems. A rest during the growing season is usually the most effective. Veld that has rested also provides a valuable source of extra feed in case of drought."

Every attempt should be made to encourage the establishment of extra sources of fodder.

Dr Roux suggested that a carrying capacity may be drawn up for all grazing land in Southern Africa.

He said those range conservation practices, known to be successful, should be implemented at the earliest possible stage. "Let us do it on a large scale — and let us do it soon," Dr Roux said.

The meeting, which started yesterday and will

end on Friday, is being attended by delegates from Malawi, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, South West Africa, Rhodesia and South Africa. — DDR.

RDM 24/9/75
**Homeland
potential
'not used'**

3 - General

Staff Reporter

POINTS made by speakers at the international conference on Southern Africa's human resources:

Dr. W. A. Verbeek, Secretary for Agricultural Technical Services: About 76 per cent of homelands are situated in areas with a rainfall higher than 500 mm; 33 per cent of arable land in the homelands has a higher potential.

However, the homelands contribute only between one seventh and one sixth of the yields produced on comparable land in the rest of South Africa.

The Transkei has the potential to produce more than 3-million tons of maize. Its production in 1972/73 was only 100 000 tons, a thirtieth of its potential.

BophuthaTswana supplies barely eight per cent of the cash crop products which it is naturally in a position to produce.

Dr D. M. Joubert, director Transvaal region, Department of Agricultural Technical Services: Recent events in Southern Africa have demonstrated the vulnerability of our food supplies in times of sudden confrontation.

The world's grain reserves have reached an all-time low equal to about 26 days' supply.

Mrs Margaret Biswas, UN environmental consultant in Canada: The best indication that we are overpopulated is world hunger. If we are to feed the world by 1985 we will need an additional 100-billion dollars. Where is the capital coming from?

The decision to have a child is no longer a personal decision, but one with global implications for the present and the future.

3 Genor

SA food prices 'among lowest'

① 2 ② 246

Cape Times
25/9/75

SOUTH AFRICAN food prices were among the lowest in the world, Dr C J P Cilliers, director of the SA Agricultural Union, told the Tucsa conference yesterday.

Addressing delegates as guest speaker at the third session of the five-day conference, Dr Cilliers said that South Africa's only serious shortage in the food sector was red meat.

The country had always imported about 25 percent from neighbouring territories; it was the only commodity that South Africa was unable to

produce in sufficient quantities to meet the needs of the increasing population.

The future was bright: the Black homelands could achieve about 25 percent of the production of White farms, or sufficient food for 30 to 35m people. White farms could provide four times this, giving the country sufficient food until well into the 21st century.

Nowhere in the world were shorter working hours needed to buy a food basket than in Johannesburg, said Dr Cilliers.

Co-operatives had become a necessity for farmers who previously had been "grossly exploited by heartless merchants and

speculators". Consumers could do the same if they felt that the middleman was taking too large a profit. A consumer co-operative could then buy direct from the farmers' co-operatives, Dr Cilliers said.

UPWARD

Questioned from the floor about the wage basis of his food index, Dr Cilliers said this would have to be adjusted upward if the lower paid manual worker's income were considered.

Asked why farmers dumped food when they could not get a high enough price while others starved, Dr Cilliers said this was a problem for Government action.

Land sale may be regulated

Mercury 26/9/75

(3)

3-General

Agricultural Correspondent

LEGISLATION to prevent highly productive arable land being lost to developers is likely to be introduced by Parliament.

Speaking at the 14th conference of the South African Society of Agricultural Economists being held in Durban yesterday, delegates drew attention to the fact that large areas of highly productive farm land were being lost and that it was imperative to introduce legislation to stop this.

Delegates also warned that unless South African food prices went up, farmers would not be able to develop their potentially high producing land to feed a growing population.

They pointed out that rocketing production costs, over which farmers have no control, are pushing up food prices.

Speakers were optimistic about the future of South African agriculture and said that the country has both the potential and the technical knowledge to feed the country.

South Africa's potential to produce food would play an important strategic role in the future.

Farmer, consumer must co-operate

AGRIC - Genl

- ① Agri - Genl
- ② 248
- ③ 150A

Mercury 30/9/75

SIR, — In your newspaper of August 18, 1975, on page 5 in "Hers," Mrs. Dorothy "Watchdog" Perkins calls farmers to put their point of view in the cost of living war that is raging between producers and consumers and, on behalf of the Dundee Farmers' Union I wish to make a few comments.

May I, right at the outset, stress that it is a great pity that consumers should think in terms of a "war" between two groups who vitally need each other. The producer must have a market for his products, he must have a consumer to take up what he produces. On the other hand, the consumer must have somebody to produce the products which they must have to survive. This then is an absolute partnership which reaches its perfect balance when the producer and consumer are directly linked together.

I think all further arguments must be based on this ultimate objective and we, from the producers' side, must do all in our power to start building the bridge over the very deep gap at present existing between producer and consumer; but I honestly believe it is also of vital importance that the consumers must also start building operations from their side, and Dorothy Perkins now has the organisation for doing this, while organised agriculture has all the tools to build such a bridge.

STOP ACCUSING

I therefore plead that producers and consumers should stop accusing one another, and should rather use those energies to come closer to one another, because I believe that our solution lies in shortening the distance between these two groups.

The second comment is that, from time to time, we publish factual figures to indicate to our consumers that the producer is not making all the profits which are fabricated in minds of people who wish to wage a war.

In 1973 I personally wrote an article indicating that, from 1950 to 1973, all consumer prices rose by 119 percent, while producer prices rose by only 92 percent

and, together with this information, I submitted that the salaries from 1960 to 1973 increased by 207 percent for mine workers, 237 percent for factory workers and 258 percent for public service workers. I further proved that where farm produce was sold on open auction, in other words, where supply and demand was the only factor, prices had risen far higher than the controlled produce prices, which indicated that our consumers' buying power had played a very important role in increasing prices, and surely the producer could not be blamed for this.

FIGURES

In 1974 we again made an investigation and published the following information. In 1960 factory workers were able to buy 11,71 bags of mealies and 155,1kg of meat with one week's salary, and in 1972 the same worker could buy 22,78 bags of mealies and 185,7kg of meat also with one week's salary.

On August 2, 1975 we made a statement at our mealie congress that the percentage of a man's salary spent on buying basic food like mealie meal compares very favourably with overseas countries, in spite of the fact that the South African producers have to contend with production factors unknown to overseas producing areas.

And finally, at the Natal Agricultural Union Congress on September 10 and 11 in Durban, up-to-date statistics were again made available.

I am trying to say that we, as producers, are not ashamed of giving our consumer friends the factual information, to prove to them that we are serious in our attempts never to exploit them, and I seriously hope that Mrs. Perkins will accept my word for this; but at the same time, she must also be prepared to accept that the producer also has a

right to expect a livable return on his efforts, with all the hazards nature has in store for him.

BUYING PATTERNS

Now lastly, I am very glad that Mrs. Perkins is called a "Watchdog" in the article that appeared in your newspaper. May I now respectfully submit that she also challenges the buying pattern of the people she represents, to satisfy herself that her people buy at the most advantageous prices. I have not the time to get the information to prove how important this matter is, but Mrs. Perkins might be interested to know that our vegetable farmers received the following prices on the Durban market during the week of her letter appearing in the newspaper:

Cabbages at 5c per head, cauliflower at 16c per head, carrots at 2c per 1kg, beetroot at 10c per 1kg, potatoes at R2 per 15kg and onions at 35c per kg.

Now I suggest she asks her people what they paid for these vegetables during that week. I am confident that she will be shocked, and will then accept my further suggestion, and that is, that it is high time that organised consumers and organised producers came together to combine their efforts in looking for a narrowing of the gap at present separating these two groups, and I assure her she will, in this way, achieve much more positive results than merely talking about the problem.

My last word to Mrs. Perkins is a quotation I have used before: "Burn down your cities and leave our farms and your cities will spring up again as if by magic, but destroy our farms and grass will grow in the streets of every city."

I. M. VAN ROOYEN,
General Manager,
Natal Agricultural
Union.

RDM 1/10/75

I'd rather be Black, says rapist farmer

Staff Reporter

A 47-YEAR-OLD White farmer who told a Rustenburg Circuit Court that he had "no sympathy with Whites" and would rather be Black, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday for raping an African woman.

John Kruger, a farmer in the Groot Marico district, was found guilty — with Hendrick Odendaal, 20 — in the Rustenburg Circuit Court earlier this year of raping a 20-year-old farm labourer.

Odendaal was senten-

ced to two to four years' corrective training. One year of Kruger's six years' sentence was suspended.

According to evidence led in their trial, the two men picked up the woman on a road in Groot Marico and took her to a nearby farm and raped her.

During the trial, Kruger told the court that he had had relations with African women before.

"I have no sympathy with Whites, and would choose to be Black if I could", he said.

Leave to appeal was refused.

① 4
② 239
③ 38

④ 4

'Staggering' price leaps face farmers

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — South African farmers have been warned to prepare for 'rather staggering' price increases on farm machinery in 1976 — soaring as high as 28 percent on many tractors and perhaps even higher.

The warning has been delivered by Mr F. N. Gilchrist, managing director of the John Deere network in Southern Africa:

Mr Gilchrist has already laid plans to seek approval from the price controller for price increases of at least 27.9 percent on all John Deere tractors and combine harvesters imported from West-Germany.

The argument will be used that prices must be raised a minimum of 17.9 percent as a result of the land devaluation, and by an additional 10 percent to meet higher production costs in West Germany and sharp increases in transportation costs.

ABSORB

The price increases are intended to apply to the whole John Deere tractor range imported from its factories in Mannheim and Sweibrucken, which covers all models powered up to 100 hp.

Also, application will be made to add 10 percent to the price on larger tractors over 100 hp, which are all imported from the United States.

Price rises here would be less steep because the U.S. plants could absorb more cost pressures by advances in production techniques and productivity.

'There is no way we can escape the increases,' Mr Gilchrist told dealers

when he unveiled the new 1976 range of farm equipment at Golden Gate in the Orange Free State.

'Our tractors and combined harvesters are all imported and we have already pushed economies as far as they can go in costs of production and transportation and marketing.'

LABOUR

John Deere also produces a wide range of farm equipment in South Africa — such as ploughs and rotary cutters — but even items made on the home market face new price rises, although perhaps not as steep.

'We have more control over our own production costs,' Mr Gilchrist said. 'Even so, we must keep pace with rising costs of labour, materials and services.'

'The consolation for the farmer is that modern farm equipment has the benefit of really enormous technological advances that promise much better productivity. And in South Africa there is still much scope for improvements in land productivity — by mechanisation and new methods — to hold down the impact on rising costs when it comes to final food prices.'

John Deere aimed to treble the volume of production at its Nigel plant by 1979, Mr Gilchrist said.

Horwood (chairman), Economic Affairs Minister Chris Heunis, Transport Minister Louwrens Muller, Planning Minister Jannie Loots and Agriculture Minister Hendrik Schoeman. The committee is expected to report shortly.

Meanwhile the bitter denunciation of co-operative power and its threat to private enterprise continues. Grain merchant Kahn & Kahn's MD Ernest Kahn describes the co-ops as "indestructible Frankenstein monsters". And indeed the co-operatives grow unabated. Since Steenkamp, the turnover of all co-operatives has almost doubled and had reached R2 000m by 1972-73.

This phenomenal growth is nevertheless welcomed by SAAU director Chris Cilliers: "The idea is that the co-operatives will in the end take over the whole business of supplying products to the farmers, and to return any surplus to the farmers at the end of the year."

The Report attacks the co-operatives over a broad front. But, in Professor Steenkamp's view, the weightiest recommendations relate to taxation. It is recommended that co-operatives should be taxed as public companies if trade with non-members exceeds 5%, and be subject to half the income tax on public companies if non-members' trade is not more than 5%.

Interested parties from private enterprise are confident that these recommendations will be implemented. One minister on the committee is said to be firmly in favour of accepting them. Cilliers is not worried about this prospect. "If they impose income tax on the co-operatives, they won't get a cent out of it. Co-operatives can arrange their affairs in such a way that they make a loss."

The Report also recommends a "transformation of the Land Bank". Current Land Bank interest rates are 7,5% for fixed loans and 8,5% for short-term loans.

The co-operatives approach the Land Bank directly for fixed loans, whilst short-term loans to farmers are financed through the co-ops. But the co-operatives' unfair competitive advantage in having access to cheap finance is likely to be allowed to continue.

CO-OPERATIVES F.M.
10/10/75
Steenkamp dusted

Agric - General
The Steenkamp Report on co-operatives saw the light of day eight years ago. Since then it has been gathering dust in ministerial drawers. Have its 65 recommendations been forgotten?

Far from it. Following representations from private enterprise, the "Heunis Committee" was formed a year ago. Members are: Finance Minister Owen

RDM 10/10/75

Marketing gaps worry farmers ³

Western Transvaal
Johann Stoltz

THERE ARE a few large gaps in the country's marketing system, said Mr C. J. P. Cilliers, director of the South African Agricultural Union, at the University of Potchefstroom yesterday.

Speaking at a symposium on farming management, he said: "The State has too much say and the farmer too little."

Mr Cilliers said it was clear what dangers a system held if a totally unsympathetic Government should rule. Farmers in England, Australia and New Zealand had already experienced it.

It could happen in South Africa that a future Minister of Agriculture and the Government would keep food prices low and ignore the interests of the farmer.

"We must now, while having a sympathetic Minister, make the necessary preparations," he said.

Mr Cilliers said it was strange but an idea existed that farmers had too much say in matters because of their majority on the boards.

In reality, the decisions of the boards were only recommendations to the Government which had the final say. This also happened with other controlled products including fuel, coal, steel and fertiliser.

But the producers of these products were alone responsible for price recommendations. On agricultural control boards, there were consumers and dealers who might influence the recommendations.

Stop exporting food we need Ackerman

Cape Times 14/10/75
① 28
② Agri-General
③ 207

Agri-General

MR. RAYMOND ACKERMAN, chairman of Pick n Pay last night appealed to the Government to step in and curb the export of food which is needed in South Africa.

Although devaluation is meant to improve the country's export situation, he hoped that the authorities would move quickly to prevent local scarcities and the price rises which would inevitably follow.

He told a press conference in Cape Town: "In other words we should only export food that is not required in South Africa, otherwise we will have a huge bout of inflation which no-one will be able to stop."

TAIL THEM

Pick n Pay was completely behind the Government's anti-inflation drive, but would like to see the Government put teeth into its manifesto.

"Resale Price Maintenance is still being abused and is causing terrible inflation." He hoped that the Government would jail some of the offenders.

"There are still firms who refuse to supply us because we are price-cutters."

A R9000 consignment of kitchenware had been embargoed in Durban by the agents for this brand as it had not been ordered through them but via a third party.

KITCHENWARE

"We would have sold this kitchenware at 20 percent below normal retail mark-ups."

Price rises from suppliers due to higher raw material import costs were expected to be felt in the months ahead. On the whole suppliers were taking a responsible attitude following the anti-inflation manifesto and prices were not being raised willy-nilly.

Turning to the higher fuel prices which South Africa is facing through the Opec increase and devaluation of the rand, he called on the Government to force the oil companies to allow garages that wanted to cut petrol and oil prices to do so. This was allowed in most European countries, Australasia and the United States.

Other points he made were:

● Shopping hours must be extended nationally to curb inflation but firms would have to provide transport and security for staff.

● The introduction of a sales tax at the retail level would be the most disastrous inflationary step and would cost tens of millions of rands in new equipment.

Common Market

food surpluses

will continue

Agri - General

Meary 14/10/75

THE European Economic Community's Common Agricultural Policy is going through one of its periodic convulsions as a result of surplus production, following the abortive and prolonged negotiations in which the French and Italians failed to solve their differences about how the EEC should deal with the so-called "wine lake."

There is also a surplus of skim milk powder in the EEC, which is much needed by the world's under-developed nations. The Community has too much butter and beef as well.

At a time when EEC member governments are applying themselves to the problem of how such politically embarrassing surpluses can be controlled, it seems odd that a leading West German politician should call for vastly greater farm production surpluses in the EEC.

Over-production

But the Minister of Agriculture for the State of Hessen, Willi Goriach, has done just that. He wants to see what he calls an "active over-production" across the whole range of European food crops.

Goriach believes EEC farmers should have "no compunction" about producing far more than domestic demand requires. The reason? The surpluses thus produced should be exported to the Third World as a European contribution to the alleviation of the world's growing food shortages.

He thinks that because the EEC guarantees high prices to its farmers to keep the smaller producers in business, the Community's own social problems are merely being exported to the Third World.

Little chance

Well-intentioned though Goriach might be, his ideas have little chance of being adopted by the EEC's Council of Agriculture Ministers. Such over-production would unbalance even more the delicate and complicated mechanisms of the Common Farm Policy.

Moreover, as food produced in Western Europe costs on average between 50 and 100 percent more than growing comparable crops in the Third World, all EEC exports have to be heavily subsidised by Community funds if they are to have any prospect of being sold at all.

The EEC has a further reservation about the German Minister's idea: that the developing countries themselves prefer, on the whole, to get aid from the EEC in the form of assistance in building up their agricultural industries rather than handouts of cash and food which are only of short-term benefit.

Agricultural experts here point out that even if the EEC followed a policy of over-production it could not hope to match the demands for food which the Third World will need in the coming years.

Forecasts show that between now and 1985 there will be an increase in demand for food in developing countries of at least 70 percent more than their current needs. Over the same period world food production will not go up by more than 46 percent, if present trends are continued.

By the early 80s, say officials, the developing countries' grain deficit, for example, could be at least 100 million tons a year. There is no possible way those countries could afford to make up this difference by using their foreign currency reserves.

The only feasible method of filling this gap will be for these countries to

WEST European farmers are producing more food than the Common Market countries can consume. There was the "butter mountain," the "beef mountain" and, more recently, the "wine lake." These surpluses could be exported to meet the growing needs of undernourished and underproductive Third World countries. DAVID HAWORTH explains why a West German Minister's suggestion to do that does not find favour with EEC Agricultural Ministers.

increase their own food production rather than rely on exports from wealthy Western Europe.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation believes that if new agriculture technologies were exported to developing countries, by 1985 an increase of 27 percent in those countries' food demands could be met by a 51 percent increase in their food production.

In the foreseeable future, therefore, no major structural changes are expected in the EEC Common Farm Policy — that is, the surpluses will continue and cannot be used to benefit directly the under-developed countries.

This is not to say, of course, that the EEC will not increase its aid to the Third World either on a national or community basis.

But the simple transfer of surplus to fulfil need seems an unrealistic ambition. Certainly it is an idea which the EEC authorities are anxious to play down as much as they can, fearing that Community farmers might get the wrong idea and produce more and greater surpluses than there are at the moment.

Tribal land anger

17/10/78
2 Agri - Genral

The Government has put its foot in a hornet's nest by its decision to cut off funds for the purchase of tribal lands.

Angry farmers say they will not accept the decision but politicians are calling for even more drastic cut-backs.

Senator J L Horak, the United Party's national secretary and a spokesman on race relations, said the decision to shelve consolidation meant the Government's separate development policy had collapsed "like a pack of cards."

He said the Government's offer of sovereign independence to the homelands was "going by the board." The purchase of lands should be an absolute priority in terms of Government policy, he said.

The decision to halt all homelands consolidation was announced yesterday by the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, Mr M C Botha.

FURIOUS

Later Mr Botha told The Star the Government's costly Black resettlement programme was going ahead on money allocated for this year, but amounts for next year had not yet been determined.

Mrs Helen Suzman, the Progressive Reform MP for Houghton, made an urgent call today for the Government to halt all Black resettlement schemes.

Homeland leaders are furious with the Government for not informing them of the freezing of the consolidation programme.

They and the White farmers whose lands were scheduled for purchase want spending to go on.

Mr Chris Cilliers, director of the South African Agricultural Union, said today:

"We are not going to accept the decision. We have already requested an interview with the Minis-

Homeland 'hornet nest'

From Page 1

ter, Mr Botha, and the Minister of Finance.

"They have even gone so far as to withdraw offers for farms they have already valued.

"They must get their priorities right, and this is priority number one."

Mr Cilliers said many farmers had bought other properties in the knowledge that their farms would be purchased by the Government.

They were now faced with "serious problems."

He said the hardest hit in this respect were farmers in the Queenstown and Peddie areas of the Eastern Cape.

Mr Lennox Sebe, chief adviser to the Ciskei Government, said today it was "embarrassing" to hear of Government decisions through newspapers.

He added it was a tragedy funds should be cut off right now for such important purposes.

Mr Kenneth Mopeli, Chief Minister of the tiny Qwaqwa homeland, said: "This move is a great shock because our homeland is so tiny — only 48 000 ha."

Agri - Genral

Land deals: farmers angry

Daily Disp. 20/10/75

EAST LONDON — Border farmers who accepted Government offers for their farms are up in arms because the offers have been withdrawn.

The Government had intended buying the farms in terms of its homelands consolidation plan.

Farmers in the Braunschweig, Franfort and Stutterheim areas, who were told their land would be bought up last year, met their Member of Parliament, Mr S. A. van den Heever, at the weekend to air their grievances.

Mr Van den Heever said after eight hours of interviewing Franfort farmers: "I'm absolutely shocked at what I have learned. If private people have to honour agreements, then surely it applies to the Government, too?"

"The picture is one of complete misery. The position is absolutely chaotic," he said.

Farmers in the area had committed themselves to buying other properties on the strength of offers made to them by the Department of Bantu Administration.

Those farmers, unlike the Government, could not simply pull out of their

commitments. Some of the farmers had not only lost a year's crop (on the offer forms they were told not to plant another crop), but had entered into agreements to buy other property.

In addition, because of the Government's about-face, the farmers were having to spend more money in legal fees to establish their position.

One of the affected farmers received his offer — valid for 60 days — on August 7 this year. He signed his acceptance on August 14.

On September 11, just over a month later, he received a telegram from the Department of Bantu Administration notifying him the offer had been withdrawn. In the meantime, he had agreed to buy another property.

Mr Van den Heever said: "It is absolutely unbelievable the Government can withdraw an offer before its expiry date. The Government must honour its obligations."

"Surely the Government could not have ventured on such a scheme without having planned for the financing of it. To say they have run out of money is no excuse."

Mr Van den Heever said if a private person entered into a commitment, he was liable — "so is the Government and they will have to find the money," he said.

Mr Van den Heever said if the Government could lend R10 million to Paraguay "surely they can meet these commitments?"

The Minister of Bantu Administration, Mr M. C. Botha, said last week the Government would not be buying up any more land this year because of the financial crisis.

The farmers say the financial situation in South Africa is not of their making and feel the Government is obliged to honour its commitments.

Mr Van den Heever is to seek an interview with Mr Botha this week to inform him of the financial and other implications facing the farmers.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Peddie Farmers' Association, Mr Ian Lloyd, has urged all farmers in the Peddie district whose properties had already been valued to renew their farming activities immediately.

Mr Lloyd was reporting back after an interview he and the president of the Eastern Agricultural Union, Mr John Matthews, and his secretary, Mr K. P. Odendaal had in Pretoria with the Minister of Agriculture, Mr H. K. Schoeman.

Mr Lloyd advised farmers to carry on as usual because no assurance as to when the farms would be bought by the Bantu Trust was forthcoming. — DDD-DDC.

Agric - General

Daily Disp. 2/1/10/75

Republic is seen as Africa's breadbasket

UMTATA — There was only one acre of farming land for each of the world's nearly 4,000 million people, Mr H. Lilley of the Department of Bantu Administration (agricultural division) said here yesterday.

Speaking to about 70 senior agriculturists from the Transkei, Ciskei and Kwazulu on the first day of a top-level conference and workshop here, Mr Lilley said agriculture in the Transkei had to be considered on a global basis.

In 1964, he said, for the first time in human history, population growth

had outstripped food production and the world started dying of starvation.

But there would be no need for starvation in the world if cultivation of the available land was improved. There were only nine years left to solve the world's food situation and South Africa had the climate and land to become the breadbasket for the rest of Africa.

But in the homelands, the departments of agriculture were not reaching their objective of increasing food production. Agricultural behaviour had to be changed; people had to be made aware and concerned.

Extension had to be based on community development — helping people to help themselves. Rural communities would not adopt anything as their own if it was forced on them, he said.

Much of the discussion yesterday centred around the communications gap between extension officers and farmers and Mr Lilley asked whether the department should not go to the people and ask them which man they wanted trained as an extension officer.

Mr A. Kakana, a senior agricultural officer from the Ciskei, said the greatest barrier was lack of understanding of the community — its language, customs and traditions. Educated men often found it difficult to understand the illiterate peasants they were trying to help.

A report will be drawn up after the week-long workshop and will be sent to homeland governments as a guide for future policy-making.—DDR.



Inflation is a major blow

Agri - General

ALTHOUGH the past year appears to have been an exceptionally good one for the agricultural sector, a closer analysis shows that this is not the case. Inflation has made unprecedented inroads into farmers' incomes.

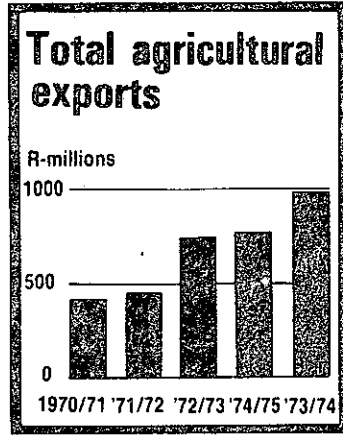
According to the most recent survey by the Department of Agriculture, gross income of farmers rose a mere 0.32 per cent to R2,29-billion during the 1974-75 financial year. A breakdown shows:

- Earnings from field crops jumped by 22 per cent to 966-million.
- Earnings from horticulture rose by 10 per cent to R354-million.
- Poultry income increased by 9 per cent to R130-million.
- Livestock income remained constant at R739-million.
- And wool income dropped by 26 per cent to R107-million.

My own belief is that the livestock figure is incorrect. The Department of Statistics reports that total consumer expenditure on red meat jumped by 18 per cent during 1974 to R1,05-billion, while the price of meat rose 17 per cent. The alarming possibility is that the meat trade has fleeced the local market.

The net income of farmers rose by 5 per cent to R1,06-billion. On the basis of the official estimate of total capital employed in the agricultural sector of R12,0-billion on January 1 this year, their net return works out at 8.8 per cent.

Now in the light of the 14.8 per cent rate of inflation in the year to March, this means that in real terms, the agricultural sector actually suffered a 5.2 per cent loss. One of the great anomalies of the aforementioned is that the official food price index of the Department of Statistics rose by a whopping 14.8 per cent during the year. One is sorely tempted to



ask: where has the money gone? The answer may well lie with the processing industries and distributive trade.

There are two other factors that might confirm this:

Firstly, there have been very marginal price changes in the price-controlled commodities such as bread, milk, sugar and maize.

Secondly, much of the additional income to farmers in the period under review arose from exports, which shot up 27 per cent to R995-million. Of this, sugar earnings jumped by 106 per cent to R233-million; maize rose by 49 per cent to R204-million; and fruit increased by 42 per cent to R119-million.

The seriousness of the inflationary factor in agriculture is generally underestimated. The Department of Agricultural Economics & Marketing's index for all farming requisites has risen from 117.1 in 1970 to 19.3 in March this year. This reflects an increase of 64 per cent.

However, farmers claim that these statistics do not include the two latest price increases for fuel and the hike in fertilizer costs (though these were marginally reduced two months ago). Nor do they include labour costs, and one has to consider the effects of devaluation.

A breakdown of the official cost increases in the five

years to March shows: tractors, 66 per cent; spares, 56 per cent; fuel, 115 per cent; feeds, 46 per cent; and repairs, 68 per cent.

It is estimated by bank economists that labour costs in the agricultural sector have risen by at least 150 per cent during the past five years.

What about the coming year? Naturally, it is impossible to forecast climatic and other environmental conditions. Anything can happen in agriculture.

It is furthermore difficult to forecast trends on world market. Prices are presently low to moderate, and there is no certainty as to when and how much they may firm, if at all. However, devaluation should have a marginal cushioning effect.

Turning to the long term, the agricultural sector will have to change out of all recognition in the decades to come for these reasons:

- Within the next 50 years, our population is likely to jump from 25-million to 80-million plus. This means that the domestic food supply will have to be more than trebled. With this is a moral commitment to raise, not lower, the overall standard of living.

The Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration, Mr Braam Raubenheimer, says that if our population rises to 40-million within the next decade or two, we will have to achieve an average grain yield of 5 000 kg per hectare to ensure Western nutritional standards for all. The present average yield is 1 054 kg.

Agricultural experts have of ground is needed to provide food for one person. And bearing in mind the expected South African population growth, it is estimated that 0.54 hectare of arable land per person will be available in 1980 (calculated at the soil's full potential). By 1990 there will be 0.41 per person and by the turn of the cen-

THIS survey has been researched compiled and written by LEON KOK

tury only 0,32 — which is below the accepted level of 0,4.

- Farmers will have to raise substantially the supply of raw materials to local industry — efficiently and sufficiently cheaply to keep rampant inflation at bay.
- Agriculture will have to play a bigger role in foreign trade because of the inevitable decline in gold production.

To maintain our economic progress and standard of living, it is estimated that the country will have to increase

merchandise exports from last year's level of approximately R3,8-billion to about R18-billion in the year 2 000.

On this assumption, if agriculture merely maintains its present share of total merchandise exports, it will have to step up the figure from, say, last year's R995-million to just over R4-billion in the year 2 000.

What will this all involve? To start with, the approach to farming will have to be revolutionized (not that this hasn't been the case in the

past 25 years). More specialized expertise and more advanced technology are two requirements.

Productivity will have to be vastly improved. This is primarily because demands on the soil will increase while supplies of labour and capital will decline.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, recently told an agricultural congress that in the Western Transvaal, 65 man-hours are required per hectare for maize production; the figure in the US is 15. He added that of the 230 000 tractor drivers in South Africa, only 13 000 have been formally trained.

The Senior Deputy Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services, Dr D. W. Immelman,

argues that more efficient use will have to be made of the natural resources. He points out that of the total area available for agriculture in South Africa, only 4 per cent consists of good soils. Moreover, a substantial proportion of this is in the homelands.

Dr Immelman says that existing water resources will be sufficient to meet overall needs up to the turn of the century. However, agriculture, which already uses 88 per cent of available water, will have little claim to more. This means that any increase in production under irrigation will have to be based on the more effective use of available water.

Similarly, the best possible use will have to be made of the veld. Although it covers

80 per cent of the total agricultural area, its potential is very low.

Finally, it is imperative that greater emphasis should be placed on food production in the homelands. In spite of 33 per cent of the arable land in the homelands being high potential, production returns are only between 14 and 16 per cent of those in White areas.

Mr Raubenheimer points out that in the Transkei, for example, there is the potential to produce more than 3 million tons of maize a year; but during the 1972-73 season, only 100 000 tons were produced — which is less than 3 per cent of the potential. Meanwhile, Bophuthatswana produces a mere 7,7 per cent of its cash crop potential.

Comment

Tests? Essays and

Farmers to benefit

WHAT are the prospects for industry in the agricultural market during the next year to 18 months?

The Managing Director of Massey-Ferguson, Dr Leon Knoll, says this depends on:

- The potential purchasing power of farmers.
- Their needs, particularly for capital goods.

Referring to the first factor, Dr Knoll says the agricultural sector will not be too seriously affected by devaluation in those categories in which production is predominantly export-oriented.

He furthermore points out that agriculture as a whole exports more than it imports, and the boost from devaluation should result in a net benefit to farmers.

On the other hand, Dr Knoll does concede that the unit volumes of agricultural machinery are bound to be reduced because of higher costs, and particularly in the

case of imported goods.

But this may be largely offset by the second factor, agriculture's immediate needs. Stocks are very low at present. Tractors, for example, have been in short supply for some time.

Another point is that in the immediate future, as in the motor business, there will be a concerted effort by farmers to mop up the available imported machinery at pre-devaluation prices. This should be reflected in a temporary upsurge in sales manufacturers.

Also, local manufacturers of agricultural machinery are becoming increasingly competitive, both among themselves and against imported goods — and the latter factor will be enhanced by altered exchange rates. So this should cushion inflation to some extent.

Lastly, Dr Knoll points out that farm equipment is largely subject to price control,

and increases will therefore not be excessive.

However, the Managing Director of John Deere, Mr F. N. Gilchrist, takes a somewhat harder line. He plans to seek approval from the Price Controller for price increases of at least 27,9 per cent on all John Deere tractors and combine harvesters imported from West Germany.

Mr Gilchrist argues that prices must be raised by a minimum of 17,9 per cent as a result of devaluation, and an additional 10 per cent to meet higher production costs in West Germany and sharp increases in transport costs.

The price increases are intended to apply to the whole John Deere tractor range imported from its factories in Mannheim and Zweibrücken, which covers all models powered up to 75 kW.

Also, application will be made to add 10 per cent to the price of large tractors

over 75 kW, which are imported from the US. The price rises here will be less steep because the US plants can absorb more cost pressures through advances in productivity.

Mr Gilchrist says: "There is no way we can escape the increases. Our tractors and combine harvesters are all imported and we have already pushed economies as far as they can go in costs of production, transportation and marketing."

John Deere also produces a wide range of farm equipment in South Africa — such as cultivators, ploughs and rotary cutters — but even these face new price rises, though perhaps not as steep.

What are the likely effects on the market? A spokesman for the Durban group, Powtrac, says, "As in the US, there will be a swing to bigger tractors and larger equipment. The tractors, for

example, will be 75 kW plus."

The main aim will be to minimize cost increases by using fewer units, and maximize and rationalize production effort through bigger, more powerful and more efficient machinery. At present, tractors over 75 kW only constitute 16 per cent of the market.

Turning to milk equipment, a spokesman for Milkrite forecasts that prices will jump about 22 per cent in the next year or so. About 10 per cent of this will emanate from devaluation.

He says that between 85 and 90 per cent of the equipment by weight is local content. However, some of the imported items are of a high value.

The spokesman discounts a possible slump in the market for these reasons:

- There is presently a critical shortage of milk and a

(Turn to page 8)

Price of imported seed to go up

(Continued from page 7)

ready market for farmers.

○ Prices have been adjusted to more lucrative levels for dairy farmers.

● The levelling off of beef prices has checked the swing from dairy to beef production.

● Dairy farmers are being forced to mechanize because of sharply rising labour costs.

The spokesman forecasts that the market for milk

units will rise by between 18 and 20 per cent this year, irrespective of devaluation and inflation. This is on par with 1974, though considerably lower than growth in the earlier part of the decade.

A spokesman for KSB Pumps is not unduly pessimistic about short-term market prospects for irrigation and electrical installations. KSB's sales in the first five months of this year have exceeded those for the entire

1974 calendar year.

The Sales Manager of Ganson Seeds, Mr Solomon Shultz, estimates that the price of imported seed will rise by about 30 per cent during the year ahead. However, as seed is an essential input for agriculture the market must continue to expand.

Finally, fertilizers: these are subject to price control, but because of devaluation, a moderate upward adjustment in prices is inevitable. How-

ever, there is no likelihood of a market contraction in fertilizer has been to a private report. The industry is also expected to make considerable profits on the year ahead.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Chris Havens, recently appointed a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the fertilizer industry, with special reference to its "inflationary" nature. This should make interesting reading!

15. Comment

(Agri - General)

TOESPRAAK DEUR SY EDELE SEN. OWEN HORWOOD, MINISTER VAN
FINANSIES, TYDENS DIE AMPTELIKE OPENING VAN DIE NUWE LAND-
BANKGEBOU IN UPINGTON OP 24 OKTOBER 1975

Ek is bly dat die geleentheid hom voorgedoen het dat ek vandag weer hier kan optree en my vroeëre kennismaking met Upington toe ek die Streek-Toerisme-Konferensie hier geopen het, kan hernu.

In 1951 toe die Landbank besluit het om 'n takkantoor hier te open, het Upington nie naby gestaan waar hy vandag is nie en die vooruitsigte op groei en ontwikkeling was destyds nog nie so duidelik sigbaar as wat dit later geword het nie. Maar dit blyk nou dat die Landbank destyds reg geoordeel het in sy besluit om 'n takkantoor van die Bank hier te vestig want Upington is vandag in baie opsigte, benewens die landbou, die middelpunt waarom die sake van Noordwes-Kaapland draai en het reeds 'n bevolking van meer as 30 000 waarvan sowat een-derde blankes is. Dit is 'n dorp wat vinnig groei en met die oog op die groot Kleurlingbevolking van Upington en sy omgewing het die Regering ingevolge sy program van nywerheidsdesentralisering om grensgebiedvoordele aan ondernemers toe te ken vir die indiensneming van Kleurlinge. Upington is daardeur dus as een van die nywerheids-groeipunte op die platteland erken. Nywerheidsontwikkeling hou dan ook saam met die mynboupotensiaal groot belofte in vir toekomstige ontwikkeling in hierdie area.

Volgens 'n berig wat vroeër vanjaar in die pers verskyn het, is daar mynboueskundiges wat glo dat die massiewe minerale neerslae wat in die Keimoes-Gamsberg gebied aangetref word, binne afsienbare tyd tot mynbedrywighele sal lei wat selfs die Witwatersrandse mynbougebied in produksie kan oortref en dat die neerslae van lood, sink, koper en antimoon wat hier in Noordwes-Kaapland voorkom, uiteindelik van die rykstes in die wêreld bevind mag word. Indien hierdie

verwagtings bewaarheid word sal dit beteken dat die Republiek naas goud en diamante van 'n belangrike alternatiewe bron van minerale rykdom verseker sal wees.

Op die oomblik is 'n aansienlike gedeelte van die inkomste van hierdie gedeelte van Kaapland egter uit die landbou afkomstig en daarby is 'n groot aantal van die plaaslike nywerhede ook op die landbou gegrond, sodat die onregstreekse bydrae daarvan die landbou nog belangriker maak. Die landbou in hierdie streek bestaan uit intensiewe besproeiingboerdery langs die Oranjerivier en uit ekstensiewe veeboerdery in die res van die gebied. Die veestapel bestaan hoofsaaklik uit skape, hoewel beeste ook aangetref word. Die drie belangrikste landbouprodukte van die omgewing is wol, karakoel en vleis, dit wil sê aldrie veeprodukte. Die vernaamste akkerbougewasse is katoen, lusern, erte, lensies, bone, lusernsaak en koring.

Benewens dié produkte is daar egter ook 'n aantal ander produkte waarvoor die gebied by uitstek bekend is. Dit is hoofsaaklik droëvrugte. Sultanas en rosyntjies is die twee vernaamste soorte droëvrugte. 'n Ander landbouprodukt wat betreklik onlangs vir die eerste keer in hierdie gebied vervaardig is, is wyn wat 'n mens tradisioneel eintlik met die Westelike Provinsie verbind. Wynbou langs die Oranjerivier was egter só suksesvol dat 'n koöperasie aan die begin van 1966 gestig is om boere se druiwe te pars en die wyn op die voordeligste wyse te bemark. Benewens die koöperasie se hoofkelder te Upington, het hy parskelders op verskillende strategiese plekke langs die rivier en die gebied wat hy bedien strek oor sowat 300 kilometer langs die Oranjerivier met Upington as sentrale punt. Hierdie koöperasie word deur die Landbank gefinansier vir die oprigting van pars en stookgeriewe en vir die maak van voorskotte aan boere vir gelewerde druiwe.

Een van die oudste landboukoöperasies in die Republiek, naamlik die Oranje-Koöperasie, het ook sy hoofkantoor hier in Upington en bedien 'n gebied van nie minder nie as 25 000 hektaar.

Sy handelsgebied strek van Boegoeberg tot by Onseepkans en sluit ook die Hardapbesproeiingskema van Suidwes-Afrika in. Die vernaamste produkte wat die koöperasie hanteer is lusern, katoen, koring, bone, erte en lensies. Alle produkte word egter nie in onverwerkte vorm deur die koöperasie bemark nie. In Upington is daar ook 'n katoenpluismeul. Ook in hierdie geval het die koöperasie van sy stigting af gebruik gemaak van die fasiliteite wat die Landbank bied om in sy kredietbehoefte te voorsien.

Ander koöperasies is hierdie area wat almal belangrike funksies op hul onderskeie terreine vervul en finansiering van die Bank verkry, is Veekos (Sentraal Koöperatief) Bpk., die Suid-Afrikaanse Koöperatiewe Karakoeltelers Mpy. Bpk., en die Prieska Vleis Koöperasie Beperk, terwy belangrike takbesighede van die Suid-Afrikaanse Droëvrugtemaatskappy en van die geamalgameerde Boere Makelaars (Koöperatief) Beperk ook hier gevestig is.

Aan die einde van verlede jaar was die eersgenoemde vyf landboukoöperasies gesamentlik byna R5 miljoen aan die Bank verskuldig ten opsigte van kort- en langtermynfinansiering wat aan hulle verskaf is.

Wat opval is dat die groot verskeidenheid van landbouprodukte wat in hierdie deel van die Republiek geproduseer word, aan die bedryf in die algemeen 'n meer stabiele karakter verleen as wat die geval is in gebiede waar daar hoofsaaklik 'n eensoortige landbouproduk geproduseer word.

In carrying out its function as the principal source of finance to the agricultural sector, the Land Bank considers it of paramount importance that personal contact with the farming community be made and fostered. It is for this reason that its field officers make regular visits to farmers and to valuers as well, so that the Bank can constantly keep abreast of conditions prevailing in the agriculture sector in both the Republic and South West Africa. The Bank believes,

however, that the reverse should also apply and that farmers should in turn be given every opportunity of visiting the Bank whenever they have matter which they wish to discuss personally with any of its officials.

Accordingly the Land Bank Board has, wherever possible, followed the policy of opening additional branch offices in the main agricultural regions to serve the farming community.

The Bank already has 23 offices covering both the Republic and South West Africa. Because of its importance as a farming centre, Upington obviously ranked high in the order in which branch offices were to be established and as I have already said a branch was opened here as far back as September 1951. The extent to which capital is invested by the Land Bank in the form of loans in a particular area, gives a good indication of the potential and development of agriculture in that area. When one looks at the total investment in loans made by the Bank here in the North West Cape up to 1951, when the office was first opened, and compares this with the amount as it stands today, then a clear picture emerges of the progress made in these parts in the sphere of agriculture during the past twenty four years. I say this because in 1951, the Bank's total capital invested in loans to farmers falling under this branch amounted to a bare $\frac{1}{2}$ million rand, whereas it now stands at $7\frac{1}{2}$ million rand and is still increasing.

Die ontwikkeling op landbougebied in hierdie area getuig inderdaad van inspanning, beplanning en van moderne tegnieke wat in 'n verskeidenheid van gespesialiseerde boerderyvertakings aangetref word. Maar dit tref ook dat daar hier en daar tekens langs die rivier is wat herinner aan tye van ramp en teëspoed wat die oewerbewoners periodiek moes deurmaak wanneer die Grootrivier met al sy mag en verkrieking verwoesting langs sy walle kom saai het. Tye wanneer hy diegene wat vir hulle bestaan van sy waters afhanklik is, letterlik tot op hul knieë gedwing het, maar waaruit hulle telkens met geduld en volharding tog weer hulle weg na bo kon vind.

In sulke tye kon die Landbank deur sy spesiale tegemoetkoming en hulpverlening 'n belangrike bydrae tot die hervestiging van die geteisterde boere lewer. Maar die roeping en die taak van die Bank is nie slegs om ons boere in tye van teëspoed tot hulp te wees nie, maar om aan hulle geldelike middele beskikbaar te stel waarmee nuwe projekte begin kan word en bestaande boerderystelsels uitgebrei en verbeter kan word sodat meer en beter geproduseer kan word om in die land se groeiende vraag na voedsel te voorsien.

Daarom moet die Bank tred hou met die ontwikkelings wat voortdurend op landboukundige gebied aan die gang is en hy moet daarvoor sorg dat hy die nodige bevoegdhele het en oor voldoende fondse beskik om in die toenemende behoeftes van die bedryf aan gepaste finansiering te voorsien.

Baie is dan ook reeds met die verloop van tyd gedoen om die Bank, vir die taak waartoe hy geroepe is, beter toe te rus en sy doeltreffendheid te verhoog. So byvoorbeeld is die Bank se wetlike bevoegdheid om lenings teen verband te verstrek, uitgebrei van twee-derdes tot vier-vyfdes van die Landbankraad se waardasie van die grond wat as sekuriteit aangebied word.

In 1938 is in die Landbankwet ook voorsiening gemaak vir die toestaan van kaskredietlenings aan boere vir die bestryding van koste wat verbonde is aan die produksie, bewerking, insameling, verwerking en bemarking van oeste. Hierdie lening wat aanvanklik beperk was tot suikerrietkwekers, is later uitgebrei na ander boerderyvertakkings. En in 1959 is die Wet weer gewysig om voorsiening te maak vir die instelling van 'n middeltermynkrediet-skema ingevolge waarvan lenings teen hipoteek van roerende goed aan boere beskikbaar gestel kan word vir die aankoop van vee en plaasgereedskap wat noodsaaklik vir die beplanning en bestendiging van ekonomiese boerderyondernemings is.

Hierdie kaskrediet- en hipoteekskemas het in hulle tyd albei 'n baie nuttige funksie in die finansiering van ons landbou op kort- en middeltermyn vervul, maar met die verloop van tyd

het dit geblyk dat daar sekere nadele aan daardie skemas verbonde is wat veroorsaak het dat dié boere wat werklik 'n behoefte aan sulke krediet van die Bank het, nie altyd daarvan kan of wou gebruik maak nie. Basies het hierdie probleem sy ontstaan aan die pandreg wat die Bank op 'n boer se oes of sy losbates as sekuriteit vir die lening verkry. In die geval van die kaskredietlenings bring dit in die praktyk mee dat 'n bestaan verbandhouer oor die boer se grond kan weier om toe te stem dat hy van die lening gebruik maak, wat dan ook in baie gevalle gebeur het, en sulke boere op dié wyse dan uitgesluit is van die korttermynhulp wat die Bank vir seisoensuitgawes beskikbaar stel. By hipoteeklenings weer, is die gevolge van die pandreg dat die verhipotekeerde vee of implemente met 'n onderskeidende brand of merk gemerk moet word, en omdat baie boere hierteen beswaar het, het hulle net nie kans gesien om van die Bank se middeltermynkrediet gebruik te maak nie. Ten einde hierdie nadele uit die weg te ruim is die Landbankwet gedurende die afgelope Parlementssitting gewysig sodat die Bank aan boere lenings vir seisoens- en produksiedoelendes kan toestaan teen slegs 'n promesse wat die boer as sekuriteit vir die voorskot aan die Bank moet verskaf. Sy gewone sekuriteit in die vorm van pandregte oor oeste of vee of implemente gee die Bank dus alles daardeur prys en in die plek daarvan verkry die Bank die bevoegdheid om in gevalle waar 'n lener byvoorteeld nie sy verpligtings nakom nie, sonder geregtelike proses op soveel van sy losgoed beslag te lê as wat nodig is om die skuld te delg en dit vir die verhaal van die skuld te verkoop, en indien die losgoed nie voldoende is nie, dan ook op die lener se vaste eiendom beslag te lê en dit te laat verkoop. In so 'n geval sal die regte van bestaande verbandhouers behoorlik erkenning geniet. Die verwagting is dat hierdie metode van kort- en middeltermynfinansiering nie alleen meer aanvaarbaar sal wees nie, maar dat dit algemene byval sal vind en in die toekoms 'n belangrike rol op die landbou-ekonomiese terrein sal vervul. So 'n nuwe finansieringskema vereis baie voorbereidingswerk voordat dit van stapel gestuur kan word, maar dit doen my genoeë om nou hier aan te kondig dat die skema amptelik op 2 Januarie 1976 'n aanvang sal neem wanneer die Wysigingswet op die Landbank

wat vanjaar deur die Parlement aangeneem is, in werking sal tree. 'n Proklamasie te dien effekte sal binnekort in die Staatskoerant verskyn.

Die ander ewe belangrike aspek van die Bank se finansiering van die landbou is natuurlik dat hy oor voldoende fondse moet beskik om in die groeiende kredietbehoefte van die bedryf te voorsien. Na mate ontwikkelings op die gebied van die nywerheid, die mynbou en die sakewêreld plaasvind, ontstaan daar 'n toenemende vraag na voedsel om in die behoeftes van die groeiende bevolking te voorsien. Ontwikkelings op landbou = kundige gebied staan derhalwe ook nie stil nie en gevolglik was daar oor die afgelope jare 'n besondere skerp toename in die vraag na veral langtermynfinansiering in die landbou.

In 1964 byvoorbeeld was die totale vraag aan langtermynlenings wat die Bank daardie jaar ontvang het, R41 miljoen, terwyl dit in 1974 reeds tot meer as R136 miljoen aangegroei het. In 1964 het die Bank langtermynlenings ter waarde van R29 miljoen toegestaan, maar in 1974 is bykans R82 miljoen vir langtermynlenings bewillig. Dit verg jaarliks geweldige groot bedrae van die Bank om in hierdie toenamende vraag na langtermynfinansiering te voorsien, en aangesien die Regering terdeë bewus is van die noodsaaklikheid dat voldoende gepaste krediet aan die landbou beskikbaar gestel moet word, word daar van tyd tot tyd bedrae uit die Begroting aan die Bank bewillig om sy kapitaal te versterk. Dit op sigself sou die Bank egter nog nie in staat kon stel om tot 'n redelike mate in die vraag na langtermynfinansiering te voorsien nie, en daarom is die Landbankwet in 1959 gewysig om magtiging aan die Bank te verleen tot die uitreiking van obligasies ter aanvulling van die Regering se bewilligings.

Die belangrikheid van obligasielenings vir die finansiering van die landbou blyk daaruit dat die Bank op 31 Desember 1974 'n bedrag van nagenoeg R356 miljoen daaronder ver = skuldig was. In daardie stadium het individuele boere gesamentlik R408 miljoen onder langtermynlenings aan die

Bank geskuld.

Die ander belangrike vertakking van die Bank se werksaamhede behels die voorsiening van korttermynfinansiering aan landboukoöperasie vir die inname van produkte en vir die verskaffing van produksiemiddels aan hulle lede, terwyl korttermynlenings ook aan beheerrade wat onder die Bemerkingswet ingestel is, toegestaan word vir doeleindes wat uit hulle wetlike funksies ontstaan. In 1974 is 'n totale bedrag van R1 280 miljoen deur die Bank vir hierdie doel beskikbaar gestel.

As gevolg van die ekonomies ontwikkelings wat onder andere, hier in Noordwes-Kaapland aan die gang is en in die vooruitsig gestel word, kan verwag word dat dit as 'n sterk stimulus vir uitbreidings ook op landboukundige gebied sal dien en dat die Landbank in die toekoms 'n al hoe belangriker rol sal vervul om in die toenemende vraag na gepaste finansiering in die landbou te voorsien. Nie alleen sal dit 'n aansienlike druk op die beskikbare leningsfondse van die Bank uitoefen nie, maar 'n groot mate van oorleg ten opsigte van die landse finansiële bronne by die verskaffing van krediet in die algemeen vereis. Die Regering is egter ten volle op hoogte van die probleme wat die Landbank in hierdie verband mag ondervind en ek is bly om te kan sê dat aansienlike bedrae gereeld wanneer dit nodig is deur die Parlement aan die Bank bewillig word om sy leningskapitaal aan te vul.

'n Ander belangrike doel waarvoor addisionele bedrae jaarliks deur die Regering aan die Landbank bewillig word, is die oprigting van projekte vir die losmaathantering en -opberging van graan. Die ontwikkeling van die landbou in die graan produserende gebiede het meegebring dat daar gedurende die afgelope twee dekades 'n dringende behoefte ontstaan het om die groter wordende volume graan wat die land jaarliks produseer in losmaat te hanteer en op te berg. Spoorweg=graansilo's wat hoofsaaklik bedoel was vir die vinnige deurvoer van graan na die uitvoerhawens, was vir bykans dertig jaar die enigste gerief wat vir bergingsdoeleindes in die binneland bestaan het.

'n Eerste stap in die rigting van grootskaalse hantering en opberging in losmaat was dus die oornome van hierdie spoorweggraansilo's deur landboukoöperasies met behulp van Landbanklenings. Daarna, sover terug as in 1952, is met goedkeuring van die Regering, 'n leningskema deur die Landbank vir koöperasies in die lewe geroep om nuwe projekte van hierdie aard te finansier.

Weens die toenemende behoefte aan hanterings- en bergings=fasiliteite om die land se stygende graanoeste doeltreffend te akkommodeer, is die skema sedert 1952 van tyd tot tyd

verleng en tot op datum het die Bank met behulp van hierdie spesiale bewilligings van die Regering, aan landboukoöperasies altesame sowat R120 miljoen op langtermyn geleen met behulp waarvan 'n totale bergingsruimte van meer as 7 miljoen kubieke meter in die vorm van graan=silo's opgerig is. Dit is bo en behalwe lenings ten bedrae van R7 miljoen wat die Regering self deur middel van die Landbank aan nie-koöperatiewe instansies soos meulenaars vir dieselfde doel toegestaan het. Die behoeftes van landboukoöperasies in hierdie opsig is nog steeds nie heeltemal bevredig nie en dit kan stellig verwag word dat daar in die toekoms nogeens na die Landbank opgesien sal word om kredietfasiliteite vir hierdie belangrike doel beskikbaar te stel.

Voordat ek nou tot die amptelike opening van die gebou oorgaan, wil ek meld dat my kollega, Minister Schalk van der Merwe, my gevra het om sy spyt oor te dra dat hy as gevolg van ander dringende verpligtings ongelukkig nie in staat is om vanmiddag hier teenwoordig te wees nie. Hy het my spesiaal versoek om sy gelukwense aan Upington en die boere van hierdie geweste oor te dra met die mooi gebou van die Landbank wat hier in belang van die landbou

en ook tot voordeel van Uppington as vooruitstrewende dorp opgerig is.

Ek dink die mooi gebou wat die Landbank nou hier opgerig het, is nie alleen van praktiese waarde vir die gerief wat dit aan kliënte van die Bank sal verskaf nie, maar dit staan hier as 'n bewys van die Landbank se permanente belange in die voortgesette welsyn en vooruitgang van die boerderygemeenskap van Noordwes-Kaapland en dit is vir my 'n aangename voorreg om die gebou nou as amptelik geopen te verklaar.

Uitgereik deur die Departement van Inligting
op versoek van die Ministerie van Finansies.

Angry Border MP hits at ministers over farms

Agri - General D.D. 24/10/75

CAPE TOWN — An angry Mr Boet van den Heever, MP, yesterday attacked the Government for its inefficiency, immorality and bad business practices in its dealings with Border farmers over the takeover of their land for the Ciskei homeland.

The King William's Town MP, who was recently accused of seeking a coalition with the National Party, said after an urgent meeting this week with the Deputy Minister of Bantu Development, Mr Braam Raubenheimer: "Idi Amin couldn't have caused more havoc and more hardship than the Government."

Mr Van den Heever, who has personally taken complaints of many farmers to the Government, said the cabinet ministers responsible for the shambles — particularly the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, Mr M. C. Botha — should resign.

"These ministers have not planned properly. And they now say they haven't got enough money.

"What kind of business operates like this? It is inefficiency of the worst kind," Mr Van den Heever said.

"They have caused absolute misery amongst farmers who have no idea of where they stand."

The only solution, if there really was no money, was for the Government to declare a moratorium on the debts of all farmers involved in the take-over of land.

Mr Van den Heever said

he had written to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, demanding such a moratorium. The debts of these farmers should be frozen so that they could not be sued until the Government had honoured its obligations.

After discussing the problems of farmers in his own constituency with Mr Raubenheimer this week, Mr Van den Heever said: "I am still completely dissatisfied. The farmers cannot possibly plan for the future like this."

After offers of purchase by the Government had been received, many farmers had made plans for the future, often committing themselves to buying new farms and selling off equipment. But the Government's bad planning and indecision had resulted in serious financial difficulties for them.

Many farmers would be bankrupted if the Government did not take immediate action.

"The whole situation is completely immoral," Mr Van den Heever said.

"The truth of the matter is that the Government has bungled. These ministers have just gone on spending without planning. Instead of taking over area by area they were buying all over the country, a bit here and a bit there, and now they haven't got the money to carry on.

"In this and other respects they were spending it as though it was going out of fashion — like committing R10 million to Paraguay and spending vast sums on prestige projects in Umtata for the independence of the Transkei.

"However, I am still hoping they will find the money. Otherwise they

must recall Parliament to vote the money, or they must declare a moratorium."

A commission of inquiry should be set up immediately to investigate the Department of Bantu Administration and Development as well as the Bantu affairs administration boards. They were becoming an empire of their own, he said. — PC.

State rapped by farmers' chief

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ARGUS 24/10/75

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Strong criticism of the implementation of the Government's homelands policy has been expressed by the president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Albert Basson, in his presidential address at the opening of the SAAU's annual congress in a Silverton Hotel.

Referring to the announcement of the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, Mr M. C. Botha, that the purchase of homelands will virtually come to a halt, he said, 'the SAAU will never accept this because the purchase has always been slow. There have been bottlenecks like valuations.'

'If the State wants to carry out this policy it

News reports talk of 'very sharp and complicated class struggle.'

must decide now whether it is serious. Farmers who want to sell must be able to sell their land.

'Mr Basson warned farmers to spend less on luxuries. 'Nowhere in the world, I think is so much of the farmer's money spent on luxuries, excessive and inefficient implements and machinery.'

'PROSPERITY'

He added: 'We have many problems caused by our prosperity. The time has come that drastic steps must be taken

to increase our productivity, but there are too many luxuries which we accept as essential today that we can easily do without. The private motorcar has become an opulent evil in South Africa, which we certainly can no longer afford.'

Mr Basson said food had unfortunately 'become a political plaything in South Africa,' and it sometimes appeared as if the farmer was being branded as a sort of criminal because he feeds the nation.'

Farms row:

Nat MP

D.D

25/10/75

hits back

CAPE TOWN — The Nationalist MP for Cradock, Dr George Morrison, yesterday lashed out at the "fulminations" of the MP for King William's Town, Mr Boet van den Heever, over the take-over of white farmland for the Ciskei.

"After all, Mr Van den Heever has to re-establish his credibility in his own party after recent statements by him," Dr Morrison said.

"His fulminations about the land deals are an attempt to bolster that shaken credibility."

Dr Morrison rejected Mr Van den Heever's demand for a moratorium on the debts of farmers affected by the land deals.

"No one could foresee financial recession six months ago. These measures — such as the freezing of offers — are to combat inflation. It has nothing to do with planning," Dr Morrison said.

In his constituency, particularly in the Whittlesea area, all offers by the Government which had been accepted had been taken up.

However, many farmers had not accepted the Government offers and had asked for revaluations. These revaluations had been done, but before new offers had been made, the

Government announced its anti-inflation steps.

As a result, the Deputy Minister of Bantu Development, Mr Braam Raubenheimer, had frozen the negotiations until the financial position was easier.

The Minister of Bantu Administration, Mr M. C. Botha, and Mr Raubenheimer had both warned farmers not to make new commitments until the negotiations for the sale of their farms had been concluded.

Agri-General

Food may cost more next year

RDM 25/10/75

Agri - General

Staff Reporter

SOUTH AFRICA faces the prospect of more increases in the prices of basic foods next year.

This week's increase in fuel prices will be one of the major factors farmers will soon use in their demands for compensation for higher production costs.

A senior official of the SA Agricultural Union said in Pretoria yesterday that fuel was the second biggest cost item on farm budgets.

During the 1974-75 season farmers spent R116-million on fuel. Because of this week's increased prices, this figure would rise to somewhere around R150-million — roughly a 30 per cent increase.

Another big cost factor is the steep rise in the prices of vehicles and farm machinery. The wages of farm labourers have also been increased during this year.

The price of fertiliser is reviewed at the end of every year and demands for steep increases are ex-

pected from the two major manufacturers.

Despite a massive surplus, the Egg Control Board has no plans to reduce the minimum floor price of eggs.

The manager, Mr M. van Rensburg, said eggs in South Africa were cheaper than anywhere else.

He said the present surplus started in July and was expected to last until March when production would drop.

Meanwhile, the 500 tons of butter which is being made available to housewives at reduced prices was a "drop in the ocean", a spokesman for a margarine manufacturing firm said yesterday.

The monthly sale of yellow spreads throughout the country was between 7 000 and 8 000 tons and the stocks of cheap butter were not likely to last more than a few days.

Only table and household butter are on sale at reduced prices. Choice butter still sells at 70c for 500 g.

D.D. 27/10/75
Agric - General

We're sick of Govt pledges, say farmers

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — Eastern Cape farmers affected by homelands consolidation will ask the Government for money to fulfil its promises, the chairman of the Eastern Agricultural Union, Mr John Matthews, said in Alice at the weekend.

Mr Matthews, speaking on his return from a four-day congress of the South African Agricultural Union in Pretoria, said negotiations over the past four to five years with the Department of Bantu Ad-

ministration and Development about the buying of White farmland for the homelands had been a series of unfulfilled promises.

Urgent interviews with the Ministers of Finance and Bantu Administration and Development would now be sought by the union, he said.

"In addition to the extra money which we hope for in this financial year, to fulfil promises, the union will insist that greater amounts be budgeted in future years to expedite

and conclude the policy of consolidation."

Mr Matthews said the predicament of farmers who were to lose their farms while African homelands were consolidated was raised at the congress because of the Government's withdrawal of offers owing to lack of funds.

He said the delegates considered it strange that a Government cutback on spending should now be applied to what was earlier considered so important.

Mr Matthews said he had received a sympathetic hearing and support from the SAAU. He had told them: "We farmers of the Eastern Cape are sick and tired of being messed about by the Government."

He said afterwards the entire South African Agricultural Union was standing behind farmers to be bought out. The union was insisting that consolidation be conducted in a planned, orderly and fair fashion.

Agric - General

THE ARGUS, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5 1975

Farmers' income soars to R2 296-m

Finance 2

Financial Staff

THE net income of South African farmers increased by 5 percent in 1974/75 to a record R1 062-million in spite of rising costs.

A Volkskas survey, Tendencies in the Agricultural Sector, reveals that the gross income of farmers rose by 10 percent to R2 296-million.

The lower rate of increase in the farmers' net income as compared with the gross income is attributed to a sharp rise of 20 percent in the cost of purchases and services.

Items mostly affected were fuel, fertilisers and spray and dips, which rose by 35, 16 and 49 percent. Spending on packing materials and maintenance were also considerably higher.

The survey adds that increased spending by farmers is largely due to the constantly rising prices of farming requisites which increased by 20,7 percent to the year to July.

The combined producer price index of all agricultural products was about

3 percent higher in June 1975 than a year earlier, according to preliminary data, compared with increases of 17,5 percent and 31 percent respectively for the previous two years.

Overall, the agricultural sector plays an important part in the country's export trade, says Volkskas.

The value of unprocessed and processed products exported in 1974 was R955-million which, at 26 percent more than the previous year, constitutes about 31 percent of the Republic's total exports of merchandise.

The considerable rise in export earnings was caused mainly by the increased volume of grain sold at exceptionally favourable prices on foreign markets.

MAIZE RECORD

Maize exports in particular will make an important contribution to earnings of the sector. Volkskas says South Africa will have more than 4-million metric tons of maize available for export in the year up to April 1976.

The total value of maize exports in 1975 could am-

ount to R320-million — 58 percent above that of 1974. This means that the maize industry will this year make its biggest contribution in history to the balance of payments, both in absolute value and relation to total export earnings of merchandise.

The survey says the attainment is all the more significant in view of the importance of correcting the large deficit on the current account of the balance of payments, while the price of gold, on which heavy reliance is placed in this regard, moves to lower levels.

Maize exported in 1974 rose by 76 percent and earnings reached R204-million.

Sugar, the most important single export product last year apart from gold, brought in R233-million, more than double the previous year. This was mainly through higher prices on international markets.

Fresh fruit earned R86-million overseas, while the exports of canned fruit and jam amounted to R83-million.

The export value of wool, however, dropped from R166-million in 1973 to R119-million in 1974, due to lower prices on world markets and smaller quantities shipped.

Farmers irked by sale delay

News - 6/11/75

(F) 101
2 April - Genrd

Agricultural Correspondent

THE SOUTH African Agricultural Union is to see the Deputy Minister of Bantu Development, Mr. A. J. Raubenheimer, to obtain clarity on the Government's attitude over the slow-down of farm purchases for homeland consolidation.

Mr. Donald Sinclair, president of the Natal Agricultural Union, said yesterday that the executive council of the SAAU would be meeting the Deputy Minister at the end of the month to obtain assurances that

the Government was not going to shelve land purchases where homeland boundaries had already been drawn.

Mr. Sinclair said there was now some confusion among farmers over the Government's attitude resulting from a speech by Mr. M. C. Botha, the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, who had said a few weeks ago that, under the Government's anti-inflation manifesto, farm purchases would be held up.

Mr. Sinclair said funds for farm purchases in the current financial year had been spent and it appeared as if the consolidation programme would now take longer than expected.

He said many farmers affected by the slow-down were perturbed and he said that, in the Ciskei, deeds of sale had been withdrawn. In other places, he said, "deals have been put on ice."

Mr. Sinclair said Natal farmers were not as badly hit as farmers in other provinces, but in the Babanango district of Natal many plans had been curtailed by the Government's lack of funds to buy farms.

Farmers are angry

about the slow-down as they have made plans to leave their farms and some have already committed themselves to other properties.

They say they are living in a state of limbo and want to know what their future will be.

"Generally, however, farmers in Natal are better off than those in the Cape because, in Natal, farm purchases are on a far more limited scale," said Mr. Sinclair.

Agri - General
 There's a story going round of a maize farmer who ploughed 2 500 ha by himself in only 10 days, using one large tractor and achieving huge economies and bigger profits. In farming circles they'll tell you it usually takes 36 small tractors to do the same work in the time available.

So are these "supertractors" the shape of things to come? Perhaps. But that is not the whole story. "Planned mechanisation" is the in-thing.

In a nutshell, SA will have to double food production in the foreseeable future to feed its fast growing population. But there's no more land.

So the search for ways to produce more, and produce it more economically, has highlighted two areas in particular which are crying out for attention: mechanisation and labour.

It's not just a question of exchanging oxen for tractors, or of substituting large tractors (and narrower standardised row-widths which also make for more effective insecticide applications) for small ones. Not all farms are suited to this, though there is a trend in that direction.

Fred Gilchrist, chairman and MD of John Deere (SA) explains: "As specialists in the big horsepower tractor and equipment field, we watch with interest the trend for many smaller units to fewer, larger, more economical units. Whereas a few years ago tractors of over 100 hp (74,6 kW) made up less than 3% of the market, these larger units will, depending on availability, take over 10% of the market in 1976, and will gradually become more dominant.

"Basically, this is a shift away from the historic European mechanisation pattern in favour of the modern North

American mechanisation concept."

But, whatever the size of the operation, it should be properly planned. And the Department of Agricultural Technical Services' Engineering Division has put itself at the farmers' disposal to prepare full reports on the feasibility of introducing "Big League" implements before any item of equipment is bought. The Department's experts look at *inter alia*, capital, farm and field size, type of crop, area, implement and tractor size, and management ability before making any recommendations. The idea is that the farmer should ensure he has a complete system of implements designed to suit his specific needs.

costs last season, and are the only two factors susceptible to economies (the cost of seed, fertiliser and so on cannot be changed).

Even a cut of 20% in these two cost factors can result in up to 50% increases in profit margins, claims the Department.

Regular courses are being offered to farmers, company representatives, salesmen and co-operatives and the tractor and implement suppliers like John Deere in turn are now offering farmers advice on planning. The Division's scheme was started in 1973, but only got under way last year. So far about 1 000 have attended the courses.

Farmers, says DAT's Engineering Division Director J J (Tickey) Bruwer, are showing tremendous interest. However one stumbling-block, Bruwer warns, is the uneconomic variety of "row-widths" in use (about 10). This alone, costs the country about R10m a year. The number should be brought down to a basic three or four to reduce the range of equipment needed.

The labour situation is much less satisfactory. The general level of productivity is far below most other countries. There are estimated to be about 250 000 tractors on SA farms, and about 1m Black labourers, of whom only about 15 000 have had any sort of formal training. The consequent wastage in high cost repairs, spares and maintenance is prodigious.

The first agricultural training centre for Blacks is to be opened next year near Potchefstroom. But that is a drop in the ocean.

As time goes on there will be less labour available for farms. A massive training scheme is clearly No 1 priority.

PLANNED SAVING

Delmas. 600 ha maize. Average yield 3,5 t/ha.

Item	Existing	Mechanisation
	mechanisation	system after
	system	planning
Capital (R).....	90 000	69 000
Capital (R/ha).....	149	115
Working days.....	323	104
Driver days.....	660	202
Tractors.....	9 (50kW)	2 (75kW)
kW hours.....	256 000	174 300

The results speak for themselves. Working with groups of individual farmers in the Delmas, Vermaas, Koster, Harrismith and Heilbron districts, savings achieved averaged 15% on capital, 50% on labour, 40% on drivers, and 25% on kW hours (energy). Table 1 illustrates the savings achieved in the Delmas district.

The key rôle of mechanisation in maize production is illustrated by the fact that it and labour together accounted for 62% of total production

① 3 - General
~~② 4~~

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE HENDRIK SCHOEMAN,
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BOARD
IN TERMS OF THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT ACT, 1966

As a result of the rate at and the extent to which assistance has been granted to farmers by the Agricultural Credit Board in terms of the Agricultural Credit Act 1966 during the current (1975/6) financial year and in view of the limited funds available for the purpose it has become necessary to curtail further assistance by the Board, over and above the suspension of assistance for the erection of farm labourers' housing which has already been announced. It has accordingly been decided to discontinue assistance for the purchase of agricultural land with effect from 28 November 1975 until the next budget.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AT THE REQUEST
OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

PRETORIA
26 November 1975

The food industry, by whatever standards it is measured, is the world's largest and this is hardly surprising. Food is man's most basic requirement.

As the world faces the prospect of its population doubling by the turn of the century, while climatic and topographical factors set limits to agricultural potential, food will become an increasingly scarcer and more valuable commodity.

Food scientists and technologists face the challenge, not only of eliminating all wastage in the processing and preservation of agricultural produce, but also of short-circuiting many conventional agricultural procedures by developing nutritious foods more quickly and efficiently from new and unconventional sources.

South Africa is by no means immune from this impending food crisis, or from the need of scientific resources to combat it, and the prospects for the future are alarming.

According to World Bank statistics, South Africa has one of the highest population growth rates in the world and it is the second highest in Africa.

At the same time, we are currently wasting food to the value of R500-million annually, according to an estimate by the Director of Agricultural Information of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services.

South Africa is nevertheless one of the world's major food exporters, and despite the fact that so much of the country is unsuitable for agriculture, the Republic has the potential to support a population of at least 50-million, according to Government predictions.

Yet such predictions appear to disregard the indispensability and continually increasing importance of processing and preservation in the food chain, and our own food industry leaves much to be desired.

Of food exports totalling R904-million last year, the value of sugar exports (R233-million) was greater than that of all other processed foods combined. There is surely much room for improvement.

Moreover, although many of our manufactured foods are of excellent quality, there is no room for complacency. Many are being produced under licence from overseas companies, while throughout the industry heavy reliance is placed upon imported machinery, imported technology, numerous imported ingredients and, most disconcerting of all, imported technical personnel.

Are we not to learn any really fundamental lesson from double-digit inflation and the massive rand devaluation? If we are ever to achieve a satisfactory

More thought for food is essential

Stev
9/12/75

South Africa lacks proper food scientists — and without them she is heading for an inevitable food crisis says **PROFESSOR B H KOEPPEN**, Professor of Food Science at the University of Stellenbosch.

degree of self-sufficiency, then we must start by developing our own brain-power and technical expertise.

South Africa boasts more agricultural scientists than all the other countries of Africa combined, yet for the past 24 years we have been producing an average of less than two food scientists each year. In addition, facilities for training food scientists and technologists exist at only one university in the country and are totally inadequate to meet the country's present, let alone future, needs.

In this respect, the most industrialised and prosperous country in Africa is put hopelessly to shame by developing countries such as Ghana, Nigeria and Libya.

At the technician level, the situation is equally

alarming. In most civilised countries schools exist for the training of bakers, confectioners, butchers, brewers and other technicians for the various branches of the food industry. Additionally, legislation on technical and professional training ensures that licences are issued only to those who attain the necessary degree of competence.

No similar training schools, established in terms of legislation governing the food industry exist in South Africa.

It is left to each branch of the industry to train or obtain its technical personnel as it thinks best.

One has to be professionally qualified to practise as a doctor, dentist, or pharmacist, but any Tom, Dick and Harry can set himself up as a food manufacturer. Is it, therefore, surprising that there

is so much room for improved efficiency in our food industry?

Lack of adequately qualified personnel and an inefficient system of control also permit ignorant, even unscrupulous, manufacturers to flout food laws by marketing adulterated foods, or by making unsubstantiated or false claims for their products. Food legislation exists to protect the consumer, but the best laws in the world are useless unless they are enforced.

Without adequate provision for education in this important field, these much needed changes will not be possible, and the country's looming food crisis, with all its dire consequences, will not be averted. It is of vital importance to everyone that immediate action be taken to rectify the situation.

① Agri - General
② 78A
③ 86

at current world prices.

F.M. 19/12/75

Inflation's furrows

Anthony R Evans, Viljoenskroon, OFS:

In view of:

- Your article on the costs savings available to farmers through mechanisation (*FM* November 21);
- The country-wide campaign against inflation; and
- The recent increase in profits announced by several companies whose business is the assembly and/or distribution of tractors, it is pertinent to mention the following:

The price of a Massey Ferguson 165 tractor has risen as follows during the past 16 months (these are prices actually paid by my farming organisation during the year):

August 1974:	R4 022
March 1975:	R4 797
April:	R5 220
October:	R6 020
November:	R6 720
December:	R7 350

You will note that from August 1974 to October 1975, the increase amounted to a little less than 50%; and from October 1975 to December 1975, the increase was 22%. In total, the increase has amounted to over 80%.

By comparison, the producer price of maize in bulk was R50/t in 1974 and R56/t in 1975 — an increase of 12%. The fact that after-tax money is required by the farmer to pay for the 80% increase in tractor costs means effectively that the tractor companies have enjoyed a price increase at least 10 times that granted to the farmer.

Incidentally, there has been no change made to the tractor over the period.

I hope you and your readers will take these facts into account when discussions about the 1976 maize price take place in April.

(1) Agric - General

(2) 189

Wheat

RDM 22/12/75

estimate

THE FOURTH estimate of the 1975-76 wheat crop is 1 825 000 t, against a previous estimate of 1 815 000 t and last year's production of 1 596 000 t, says the Department of Agriculture.

The fourth estimate of oats is 105 000 t against a previous estimate of 111 000 t and last year's production of 103 000 t.

The estimate for barley is 72 000 t — unchanged from the previous estimate and 50 000 t.

Rye is unchanged at 4 000 t against 5 000 t last year —
Reuter.

3

~~Ag... ..~~

Concern over farming 'brain drain'

The Argus Correspondent

WELLINGTON. — Interest in agricultural courses for post-matric students had flagged over the past few years and lack of agricultural technical advisors may seriously affect farming in the near future, farmers were told at a meeting here.

Mr Francois Malan, a prominent farmer of Welbedacht, Wellington, told the meeting that too small a percentage of South Africa's brainpower was diverted to agricultural studies.

He said: 'If this continues it will undoubtedly spell disaster in years to come.'

'At present food is quite easily obtained but very often shortages occur and this is an ugly omen for the future.'

DISEASES

The public image of farming tended to accentuate the dark side of the industry, he said.

Many people associated farming only with rain and wind damage to crops, diseases contaminating farmlands and the shortage of farm labourers.

Prospective students therefore became wary of farming as a career.

JOHANNESBURG. — The Vaal River this year has been the fullest in 52 years.

Mr W. J. R. Alexander, chief hydrologist of the Department of Water Affairs, said here the flow in the river in 1975 had been the highest since records were first kept in 1923.

* * *

THE Citrus and Subtropical Fruit Research Institute says in a statement one of the many problems facing banana growers, is the lodging of plants bearing mature or immature bunches. Such bunches are lost as a result.

The institute says lodging can be due to the selection of weak suckers especially in older plantations, badly desuckered plantations or by the selection of suckers on the downhill side of plants growing on fairly steep terrain.

This problem can be solved through the use of wooden props.

The institute recommends that the top of the prop be placed against the throat of the plant under

the curvature of the bunch stem. It is important that the prop itself be clear of the bunch to prevent fruit scarring.

The institute warns against the use of stakes with sharp points as the sharp point which is forced into the pseudo-stem, will penetrate into the bunch stalk. It is essential that the supporting end of a prop must be blunt.

Double props, consisting of two poles of equal length tied together about 30 cm from the end can



COUNTRY NEWS

also be used. The legs are spread to form a V in which the bunch stem is held.

* * *

AGRICULTURISTS of the Transvaal region believe the biggest revolution in farming in the past year has been the cultivation of dryland wheat on the Springbok Flats in winter.

The Department of Agricultural Technical Science says it is esti-

mated that during the year about 40 000 hectares of wheat were planted with yields varying from 20 to 40 metric tons a hectare.

* * *

A SCOTTISH border farmer has developed a new system of rearing calves which is said to allow one cow to rear up to 18 calves a lactation.

Mr Ian Sutherland of Hillhouse, Oxtou, Lauder,

Berwickshire, uses a cow crate with calf pens on both sides and the calves get access to suckle through sliding doors at udder level, reducing labour costs because only about two minutes per day are needed for each calf.

The benefits of the system are high weight gains, low mortality rates and the fact that the system is highly adaptable and can be used to any existing

shed provided it is well-ventilated.

But the main advantage is that one average or below-average dairy cow, can rear 16 to 18 calves.

COMBINATION

The suckling lasts around nine to ten weeks and by seven weeks, most of the calves are eating sufficient dry food to make for trouble-free weaning.

The new method is a combination of the control and ease of bucket-rearing calves with the better gain in weight and health associated with multiple suckling.

The East of Scotland College of Agriculture, Edinburgh, says in a statement it is recording the results obtained with calves reared in this way, for further development.

* * *

COWS which are gaining weight at the time of insemination have a higher percentage of successful services than those which are losing weight at this time.

This is a conclusion of a research team at Liverpool University. Cows on 11 dairy farms were weighed every 14 days during the period from calving until diagnosed as pregnant, the university says in a statement.

Of the 888 fertile cows and heifers studied, 66 percent lost weight after calving, the average loss being 51,3 kg — 9,6 percent of the original body weight.

Only 47 percent of the cows losing weight at insemination time had a successful first service and the average number of services per conception was 2,11.

By contrast, the respective figures for the cows gaining weight at insemination were 62 percent and 1,61 services.

CONCENTRATES

The research was carried out with financial support from the Milk Marketing Board.

The board says in a statement that although farmers are trying to economise on their feed bills, this work shows that it can be false economy to

go too far in this direction.

It recommends farmers to feed concentrates two or three times a day outside the parlour in addition to their usual feeds in the parlour.

Farmers are also advised to split the herd into high-yielding fresh calves and lower-yielding later-lactation animals, for this makes rationing, outside the parlour, easier, particularly if there is a choice of different quality roughages.

3 - Good

Agric - General



Roadways have become waterways in flood-ravaged Ladysmith, where the overflowing Windsor Dam has left inhabitants stranded and people have to paddle to work.

STAR 4/2/76.
State relief for flood victims

Political Staff
CAPE TOWN — The Government is preparing emergency measures to aid victims of storms and floods ravaging vast areas of the Transvaal, Natal and Free State.

More than 50 lives are believed to have been lost. The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Schoeman, has announced that as soon as the extent of losses suffered by farmers was known, the Cabinet would consider emergency measures.

The Secretary for Social Welfare, Mr H P J van Vuuren, said the department would not hesitate to act if there were appeals for food and clothes.

Twelve people drowned and about 28 people are missing, believed drown-

ed, after the lorry in which they were travelling plunged into the flooded Umkomaas River about 16 km from Bulwer, near Maritzburg yesterday.

Police said the lorry's brakes failed. The dead and missing are from an African township at Bulwer.

DAM THREAT

The death toll in the Northern and North-Eastern Transvaal is believed to be 18. However, a final count is only expected within a few days because damaged roads and telephone lines have hampered investigations in some areas.

The big Kalfontein Dam at Koffiefontein threatened to overflow yesterday, endangering the lives of people in the town. Houses in the town and its neighbouring Afri-

can township were damaged yesterday. A helicopter is on standby in Bloemfontein to assist if necessary.

Four-wheel drive vehicles will be used in an attempt to reach Maputa in flood-stricken northern Natal with food and gas.

Light aircraft have been carrying in limited supplies, particularly for the Manguzi hospital.

Farmers file R2m claims for crops

R.D.M.
7/1/76.

Agric-General

Staff Reporters
FARMERS throughout the country have filed insurance claims exceeding R2-million for crops damaged by hail and rain over the past three weeks.

Yesterday Sentraoes, which has insured 25 000 farms throughout the Republic and Rhodesia against hail damage, received about 500 claims.

A Sentraoes spokesman, Mr L. Schuite, said this brought the number of claims to 1 200 over the past 10 days.

"Since last September, claims have amounted to R5,5-million, and since mid-December, they have exceeded R2-million. It is the highest figure for the period," he said.

He predicted that claims for the season would be more than last season's figure of R11-million.

The worst hit crops include wheat, maize, grain sorghum, cotton and tobacco.

With the Weather Bureau forecasting more rain, farmers are fearing more damage.

No estimates were available of the amount of dam-

age to homes caused by floodwaters in Randburg.

Figures issued by the Weather Bureau, say 65 mm of rain was recorded in 24 hours in Potchefstroom, 57 mm in Wepener in the Free State, 47 mm in Aliwal North and 110 mm in Tsane, South West Africa.

In Reitz, in the Free State yesterday, police found the body of two-year-old Bertie Meyer who drowned when a farm dam burst near the town.

Mr and Mrs Hentie Meyer of Reitz and their son were washed off their car roof by floods on the road between Reitz and Tweeling.

Mr Meyer was holding his son when he was knocked unconscious by an iron pole. Bertie slipped from his father's grasp.

Reitz police say the boy's body was found 12 km from his parents' car. Both Mr and Mrs Meyer were found unconscious several hundred metres from the road.

"Neither was seriously hurt," said a police spokesman.

Meanwhile eight sluice

gates have been opened at the Vaal Dam because of a slight increase in the inflow of water to the dam from the catchment area.

The chief hydrologist for the Department of Water Affairs in Pretoria, Mr W. G. Alexander, said yesterday the Vaal Dam was 99,1 per cent full.

"Six sluice gates were opened on Monday, and we have just opened another two. There has only been a slight increase in the flow of water to the dam and this is the reason for opening the extra gates."

Mr Alexander said a very careful check was being kept on the catchment area and the level of the dam. No floods had been reported.

● Gravel roads leading to Drakensberg resorts in Natal were wet and slippery and more rain was expected in the area, according to a statement released in Johannesburg yesterday by the Automobile Association, reports Sapa.

The road from Underberg to Boesmanstem was under water and impassable.

Agri - General

Damage by hail ^{STAR} in OFS ^{7/1/76}

Farming Editor

Hail storms in the Eastern Free State and Natal have caused damage estimated at R2-million in the past two days to wheat and maize crops.

The season so far has been the worst in the history of Sentraoes, the only co-operative hail insurance organisation in the country, Mr Levine Schutte, general manager of the firm said today.

Since September 1 1975 claims for about R5,5-million have been received. In the past 10 days alone 1 200 claims have been submitted, he said. Last season's total claims came to R11-million.

Farmers have already insured their crops for R200-million and "we expect the figure to increase to at least R250-million in the next six weeks," he said.

The damage was to wheat and fruit in the Eastern Free State, maize and vegetables in Natal and the Transvaal highveld, tobacco crops in the Rustenburg/Brits area and cotton and legumes in the Vaalharts irrigation area.

Big claims on his desk today were for R30 000 to a pea crop in Witbank, R24 000 for a tomato crop in Carolina and R22 000 for an onion crop in the Barjly West district in the Northern Cape.

Agric - General

STAR
21/1/76

Govt move on flood-hit W Transvaal

Farming Editor

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, says the Cabinet will consider emergency measures as soon as the extent of the flood damage in the Western Transvaal is known.

The Minister will personally visit the area for discussions with the farmers.

Due to the regularity of flood and other climatic calamities State aid to those affected has been streamlined in recent years. Three departments are involved and priorities have been established.

First the Department of Social Welfare renders assistance to relieve immediate need — supply

mediate need — supply food, clothing and other. This department is followed by the Department of Community Development which supplies emergency accommodation.

Finally the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing assists farmers financially. Farmers are never compensated for crop losses, only

for loss of stock, implements and buildings and other constructions on the farm.

Meanwhile rationing of petrol and immunisation against dysentery are the order of the day in flood-stricken Delareyville.

Civil Defence officials in the town said today that there was enough petrol for people in the

town, but rationing had been introduced to combat panic-buying.

Whites in Delareyville are being immunised against dysentery today and the local medical officer has warned the townfolk to boil water before using it. Blacks in areas around the town were inoculated against dysentery yesterday.

3 General

R

FOR RELEASE ON 23 JANUARY 1976 AT 09H00

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE J.C. HEUNIS, MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, REGARDING THE ANNUAL REVISION OF FERTILIZER PRICES FOR 1976

It has become customary to revise maximum prices for fertilizers at the end of each calendar year. This practice has also been followed for this year despite the (interim) revision during August 1975.

The price reductions which were effected during August 1975 were made possible by reductions in the prices of important imported raw materials viz. sulphur and potash during the year and also by the abolition of certain allowances which were originally included in prices for 1975 to compensate the industry for the under-recovery of costs during 1974. These price reductions were intended to transfer to the fertilizer end-user during the last four months of the year a more than proportionate share of the fertilizer industry's total savings for the year. This obviously, in itself, necessitated further revision at the end of the year.

The revision did not reveal any further reductions worth mentioning for 1976. The considerable petroleum price increase of September last year in fact gave rise to a substantial increase in the raw material cost of two important ammonia producing plants. An investigation also proved considerable increases in operating expenses, i.e. total cost less raw material cost, of fertilizer manufacturers.

Increases/...

Increases in the two items mentioned above, viz. petroleum fuel gas and operating expenses, made an increase in fertilizer prices unavoidable. In calculating revised prices Government however accepted that the fertilizer industry would bear part of the cost increases in spite of the fact that its expected overall return on investment would be below the level normally allowed. The Government accordingly decided to allow a fertilizer price increase of 6 per cent on average.

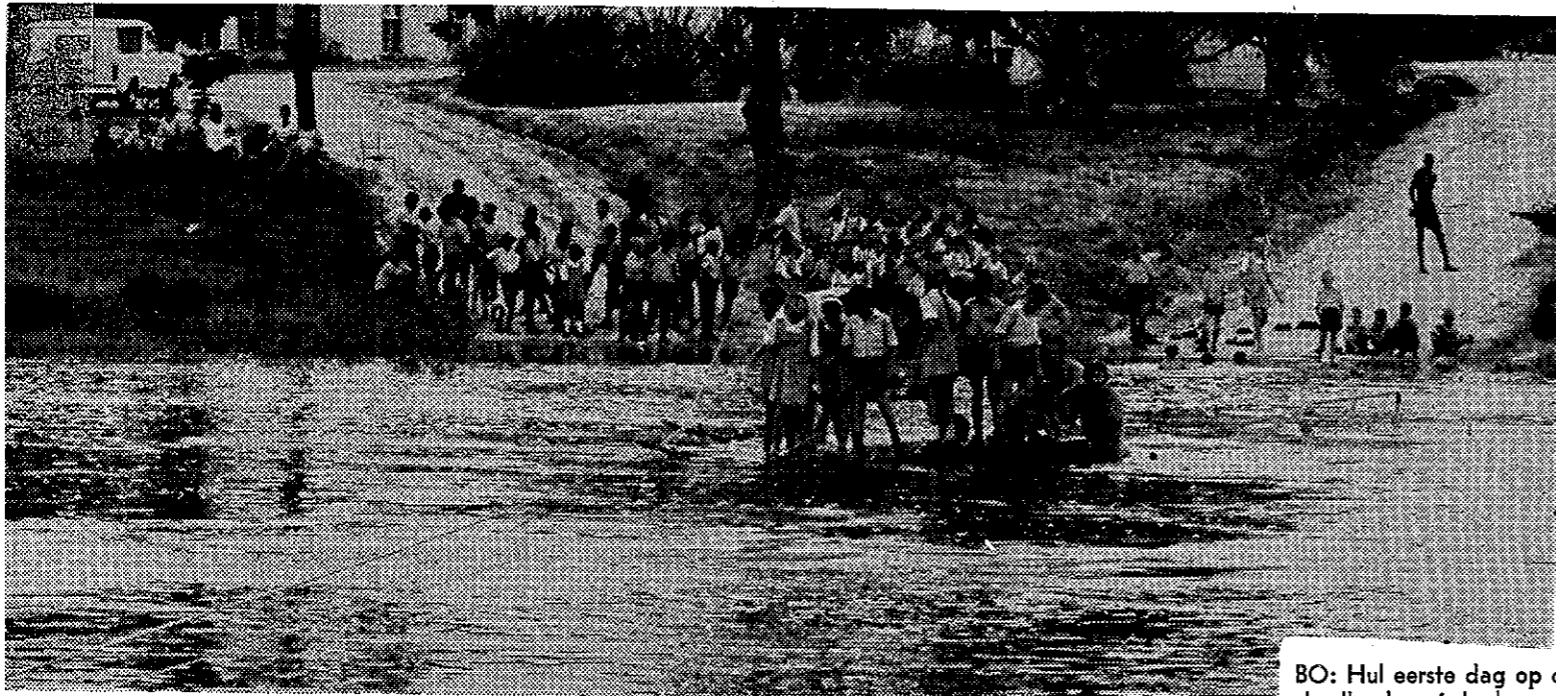
It might also be added that in order to keep price increases at a minimum level the Government decided firstly to increase the redemption period of loans, which were previously granted to the industry to finance the importation of expensive imports, from five to ten years, secondly to collect no contribution towards redemption of the said loans during this year and thirdly to allow no increase in the price of phosphate rock despite considerable cost increases experienced by the producer thereof.

Maximum fertilizer prices for 1976 will be published in the Government Gazette of 23 January 1976.

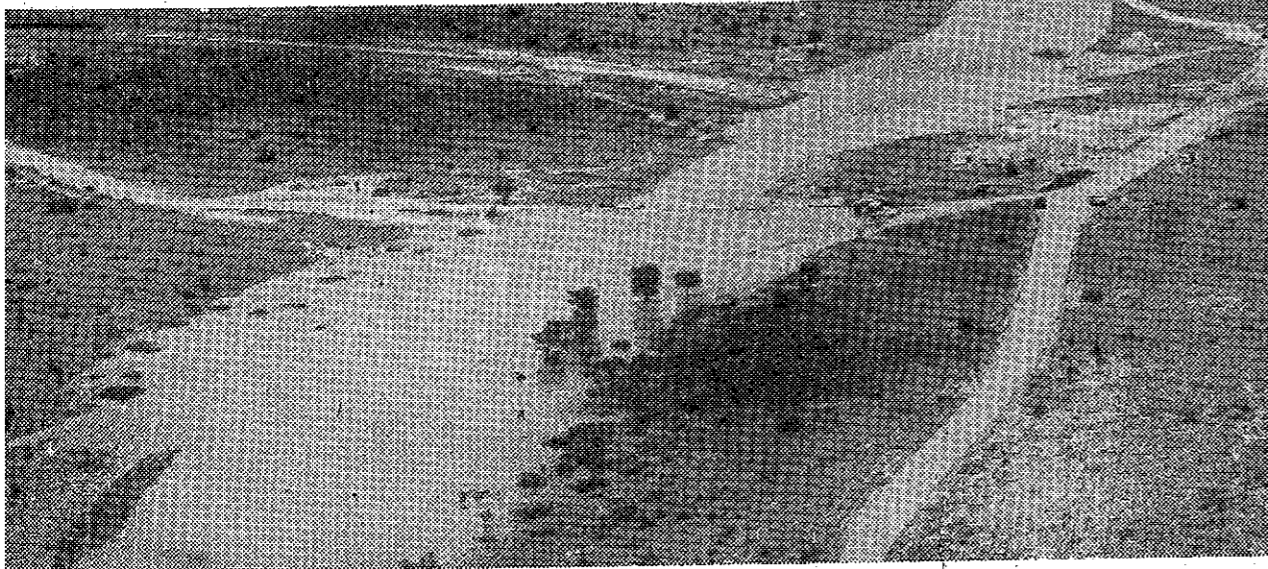
ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AT THE REQUEST OF THE
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

CAPE TOWN

23 JANUARY 1976

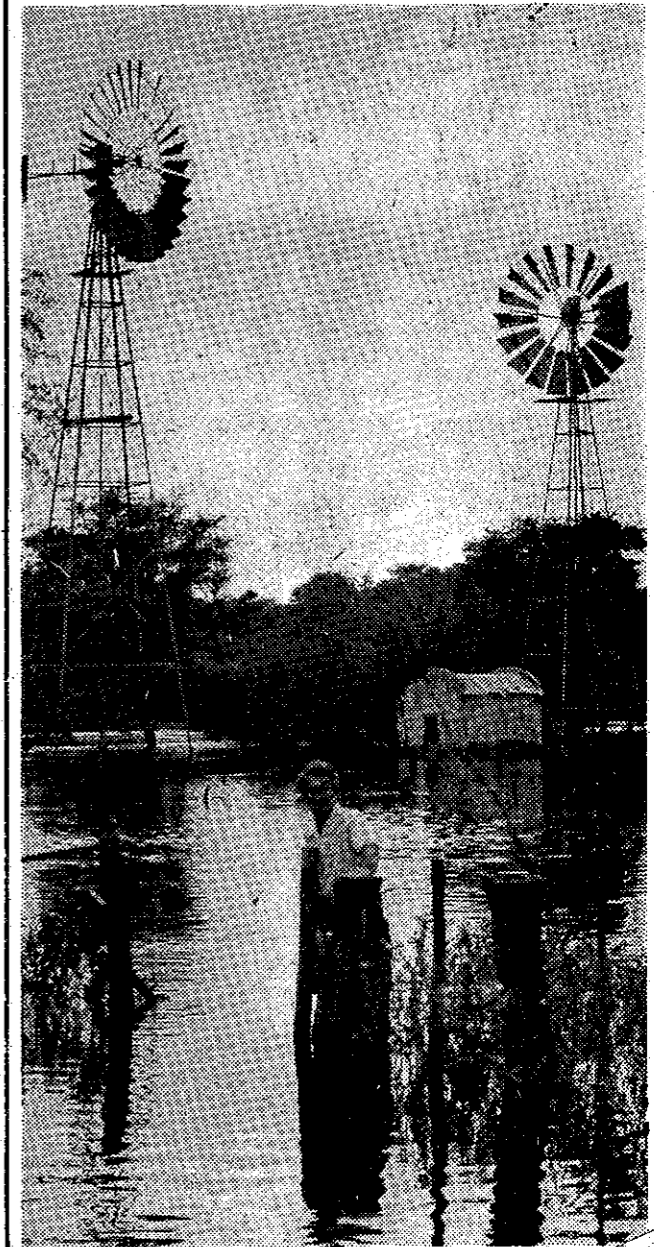


BO: Hul eerste dag op die skoolbanke ná 'n lang vakansie en so byna het die groep tjokkers nie onder hul ma's se voete uitgekome nie. Maar 'n boer maak 'n plan, en gou-gou was daar genoeg ywerige hande om die groepie verbouereerde kleintjies met 'n pont oor die vloedwater te help.
REGS: Albert Stadler, die landdros wat boer geword het, staan hier kniediep in die water in een van die veekampe op sy plaas.



LINKS: S6 is Vanzylsrus se lewensaar deur vloedwater afgesny. Hierdie lugfoto toon hoe die hoofpad na Kuruman op een plek deur die Kurumanrivier oorstroom is.

Al meer water, en boere al kwater in die sopnat Kalahari



CONTINUED ...

DIE vloedwater wat byna twee weke al dele van Wes-Transvaal en Noord-Kaapland teister, ontwrig nou die gewoonlik dorre Kalahari.

By Vanzylsrus, in die hartjie van die Kalahari, sit minstens dertig boere en hul gesinne al langer as 'n week van die buitewêreld afgesny. 'n Tekort aan kos en boerdery-noodsaaklikhede knyp die mense. Daarby is die gemeenskap in opstand teen die afdelingsraad.

Die boere wat jaarliks groot bedrae aan belasting betaal, sê dié geld word nie reg aangewend nie. Hulle weier nou om vanjaar belasting te betaal, en wil die geld in 'n trustfonds stort totdat noodsaaklikhede soos paaie en brûe herstel en mediese dienste weer op dreef is.

Dis die derde agtereenvolgende jaar dat al wat pad en brug in die omgewings is deur ongekende vloedwater weggespoel word, vertel die omgekrapte boere in die kroeg van die enigste hotel op Vanzylsrus. Hulle kom dag vir dag by die hotel bymekaar in die hoop dat die vloedwater sal daal sodat hul bestellings van plekke soos Hotazel en Kuruman af kan deurkom.

Daar is geen treinverbinding met Vanzylsrus nie. Die gemeenskappie is vir hul voorrade van padvervoer afhanklik. Die landingstroke in die omgewing is ook in só 'n toestand dat vlieëniers hul lewe waag om die allernoodsaaklikste voorrade deur te kry.

Toe die Kaaplandse skole Woensdag begin, moes al die hoërskoolleerlinge van die omgewing wat op Kuruman in die koshuis is, tuis bly. Die sowat 120 laerskoolkinders moes met die hulp van die polisie en ouers met 'n vlot oor die vol Kurumanrivier gebring word na die laerskoolkoshuis, wat van die res van die dorp afgesny is.

Die vier riviere wat die oorstromingsellende veroorsaak, is die Mashoving, die Molopo, die Kuruman en die Gamagara. Ná langer as vyftig jaar het hulle in 1974 so geweldig afgekom soos nou. Sedertdien is dit elke jaar se ding.

"Dit was laas in 1920 dat die riviere afgekom en ons so swaar gekry het," vertel mnr. Harry le Roux, 70, wat in die Kalahari groot geword en sy hele lewe lank daar geboer het.

Mnr. Le Roux sê toe die riviere in 1974 só afkom, het almal geglo dit sal nie sommer weer gebeur nie.

Die afdelingsraad het ook só geglo, en maar net weer die driffies en laagwaterbruggies herbou en die paaie geskraap.

Maar verlede jaar en vanjaar was die groot water weer daar. Nou dring die boere daarop aan dat behoorlik brûe gebou word om ten minste darem net een permanente skakeling met die buitewêreld te versker.

Stories van ontberings en noue ontkomings in die af-

**Berig:
BUKS PIETERSEN**

**Foto's:
CORRIE ROUX**

gelope week is volop.

Mnr. Ivan de Klerk, 45, vertel dat hy verlede week 940 km ver moes hy om sy seun by die tandarts op Kuruman te besorg. Sy plaas is by Tsabang op die Botswana-grens en normaalweg sowat 180 km van Kuruman af. Weens die vloedwater moet hy nou 'n groot ompad ry om op die dorp te kom.

'n Egpaar wat nou groot probleme het, is Adri Pienaar, 23, en sy vrou Dalene, 22, skoonseun en dogter van hotelbaas Dudley

Venter. Dalene is nege maande swanger. As die vloedwater nie vinnig sak nie, gaan dinge lol in die gemeenskappie wat sonder 'n dokter moet klaarkom.

Maar dit is nie net mense wat deur die vloedwater beproef word nie. Dit is veral die diere wat ly. Sommige boere ondervind al skade.

Flip Marker, 'n jong boer wat tussen die vier riviere vasgekeer is, vertel dat die blou bosluis en perdesiekte onder sy vee en teelperde maal. Die entstof wat hy weke gelede al bestel het, kan nie afgelewer word nie.

Nog 'n boer wat deur groot verliese bedreig word, is Albert Stadler, 44, gewese landdroos wat twintig jaar gelede sy amp vir die boerdery verruil het.

Albert se plaas lê tussen die Kuruman, die Mashoving, en die Moloporivier. Om op sy naaste dorp te kom, sê hy, moet hy oor twee vol riviere ry. Soos die meeste ander boere in die omgewing word Albert se troppe vee deur die riviere afgesny en kan die diere nie bymekaar gemaak word om ingespuut of na veilings gebring te word nie.

Ook voel die boere erg omgekrap oor die veediefstalle wat in die laaste tyd al hoe meer aan die grens van Botswana voorkom.

Weens die verspoelings het die boere geen behoorlike beheer oor hul vee nie. Die veediewe besef dit blykbaar en baljaar nou onder die troppe.

Die meeste plase aan die grens van Botswana is in hierdie toestand vir die polisie onbereikbaar. Teen die tyd dat die polisie wel 'n klagte kan ondersoek, is die booswigte lankal met hul buit oor die grens.

Income boost for farmers

STAR
28/11/76

Agric - General

Farming Editor

South African farmers estimated gross income increased by more than R300-million in the financial year, 1974/75. Because of higher production costs, the increase in the net income was only R133-million.

The division agricultural marketing research of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing estimates that the farmers' total income increased to R2 400-million and in the third quarter of 1975, which is the first quarter of the new financial year 1975/76, gross income was R790-million or nine percent up on the corresponding period of the 1974/75 financial year.

The estimated net income of the farming community increased to R1 130-million for the year. High production costs are responsible for the big gap between gross income and net income.

Expenditure on intermediary goods and services increased by 22 percent on the previous year's figure to an estimated R820-million.

Fuel costs increased by one third, fertilizer by 29 percent and dip and spraying materials by a massive 53 percent.

On the other hand beef farmers' income dropped by R9-million and wool

farmers experienced a massive drop in income of R37-million. They were compensated slightly by an increase of R13-million for the sale of slaughter sheep.

Crop farmers and horticulturists on the other hand received higher incomes although they have been hit hard by cost increases.

The income of crop farmers rocketed by R800-million to almost R1 100-million and that of horticulturists by R38-million to R280-million.

Higher vegetable prices on municipal markets accounted for much of the increase as well as higher export prices for fruit but export costs cut the net income.

3-General

Hansard 1, (HANSARD)

THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY 1976

18

Agricultural production/exports

134. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (a) What was the value of the Republic's (i) agricultural production and (ii) agricultural exports during 1974-'75 and (b) what portion of this amount was derived from exports to African states.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(a) (i) R2 524 004 000

(ii) R995 201 000.

(b) 5,6%.

Transvaal floods kill 24

DD 4/2/76.

JOHANNESBURG — Devastating floods in the Northern and Eastern Transvaal have killed at least 24 people.

Agri - General

In Natal and Zululand houses have been flooded and roads washed away.

And indications are that Cyclone Danae, which has brought the heavy rain, is now heading for the Western Transvaal which was ravaged by floods last week.

Thirteen bodies have been recovered from floodwaters in Vandaland, near Louis Trichardt, and police are still searching for another three. Two bodies were recovered near Nelspruit.

Nine people were killed in two incidents near Louis Trichardt when cars were washed off bridges.

An Air Force helicopter rescued two rangers from the flooded Limpopo at the weekend. The men were stranded on an island in the Kruger Park.

Flood waters in Ladysmith began subsiding yesterday after the town's rivers had burst their banks for the second time in seven days — causing R250 000 damage to municipal works.

However, scores of families were still unable to return to the partly submerged homes they hurriedly evacuated Monday night.

The alarm had been raised by Civil Defence volunteers when the Windsor Dam near the town began overflowing by more than a metre.

Some 16 m of main road have been washed away at Maputa, in Northern Zululand, and flood waters are still raging 6 m-deep in some places.

Fragile communications were restored with the outside world yesterday at Maputa, where more than 700 mm (28 inches) of rain has fallen in the past few days. In some places it is still raining.

Indications are that crop damage in the wake of Cyclone Danae will be heavy, but as yet nobody has been able to carry out an accurate survey of lands.

Heavy rain has also fallen, and floods have occurred, in the North-Eastern Free State, Northern Lesotho and the Drakensberg escarpment.

The Weather Bureau reports that Cyclone Danae's freak weather has spent itself in the North-Eastern Transvaal, where the Kruger Park has experienced its worst flood damage in years.

The Western Transvaal, which is still recovering from heavy rain and floods during the past two weeks, can expect more rain and floods. — SAPA-DDC.

White farms threat of 'war'

NM. 5/2/76

Agrik - General

Political Correspondent
CAPE TOWN. — White farmers along the Umzimkulu River are threatening armed action to prevent livestock from the Transkei invading their lands.

Mr. Dutchie van Coller, the United Party MP for South Coast, said in an interview yesterday that in spite of appeals for assistance to the Department of Bantu Administration, the situation was deteriorating and race relations were worsening.

He said that because of overgrazing by goats and cattle on the Transkei side of the Umzimkulu River problems arose from stock crossing into the irrigated lands of White farms particularly in the dry months.

Mr. van Coller said that once they had crossed the river, the stock could not be kept out and fences in Natal were apparently being out with impunity or trees were dropped across them.

One result had been the introduction of sickness to a dairy herd.

"The farmers are now threatening action to focus publicity on their plight," he said.

Floods

7/2/76 RDM.

cause

havoc

in the

Cape

Agric - General

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. — Widespread floods in the Karoo, northern Cape and Natal have killed at least three people, derailed trains, damaged power lines, cut the national road in several places and caused damage running into thousands of rands.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Sutherland, Mr and Mrs Andries Olivier, died when their car plunged into a stream which had washed away the approach to a bridge between Sutherland and Matjiesfontein.

Mr Charles Engelbrecht, 38, of Vryburg, northern Cape, was killed when the bridge over a flooded stream collapsed as he was driving a tractor across.

DERAILED

In Laingsburg, floodwaters from the overflowing Buffels River inundated many houses, washed away motor cars and moved two prefabricated buildings. Power and telephone lines were damaged and the national road south of the town was closed for several hours.

It'll save you a lot
in business, get

ns to get one.
a passport.

ely something for you.

Van den Heever hits at payout priorities

12/2/76

DO.

(1) Agri - Gen
2 101
3 103
4 100

CAPE TOWN — Farmers in the Eastern Cape had been "left to the dogs" after the offers to buy their property for the Giskei homeland had been withdrawn by the Government.

But at the same time, the Government was paying out over R2 million to two property speculators in Port St Johns, the MP for King William's Town, Mr S. A. van den Heever, said yesterday in the Assembly during an angry attack on government spending.

Citing the purchase and renovation of homes for members of the Free State Provincial Executive, the construction of certain buildings in the Transkei, and the purchase of luxury cars by the Government, Mr Van den Heever said:

"It is unfair to waste the people's money like this."

With the situation on the border and the recent commitment by the presidents of four neighbouring states to "free" South Africa, Mr Van den Heever said he believed the people of South Africa wanted to support the Government, but how could they when money was wasted?

Houses had been bought for members of the OFS Provincial Executive for R89 000 and renovated for R14 000.

In the Transkei, a home had been bought for over R250 000 for the Chief Justice. A palace for the Transkeian President was being built for R1,6 mil-

lion and houses for cabinet ministers at R280 000 each.

He also quoted from a press report which said the Government had last year bought over 5 000 cars including a number of luxury models.

Mr Van den Heever attacked the purchase of Port St Johns properties for over R2 million when municipal valuations were R172 000. He said the former Deputy Minister of Bantu Development, Mr A. N. Raubenheimer, had been guilty of incompetence in his handling of the deals.

What was worse was that farmers in the declared areas of Frankfurt and Braunschweig had waited since 1972 for firm offers for their property. After these had finally been made in August 1975, they had suddenly been withdrawn on the grounds that there had not been enough money.

"How does the Government not have money for the farmers but it does have money for Port St Johns speculators?" Mr Van den Heever asked.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr H. Schoeman, interjected: "Boet Hertzog."

Mr Van den Heever: "I suppose it is Hertzogite to be on the side of the farmers."

He said the farmers affected by consolidation were good patriots. Now they had to hear that speculators were being paid out, but they were put to the dogs.

The public wanted the

assurance from the Government that it did not waste their money. They were willing to make sacrifices in the interests of South Africa, but not when they did not have that assurance. —PC.

(1) Agri - Genl.
(2) tot

MP: farmers in Peddie desperate

12/2/76

DD

CAPE TOWN — Property owners in the Peddie district were desperate and many faced bankruptcy, the MP for Albany, Mr. Bill Deacon, said in the Assembly yesterday.

Something should be done immediately to solve the problem of farmers in Peddie whose land had been released for blacks. Otherwise the area should be deproclaimed.

The Government had

over-extended itself in the proclamation of land for blacks under the 1936 Land and Trust Act for homeland consolidation.

He had made this warning before when the price of gold was high but it had fallen on deaf ears. Now money was tight, the Government could not fulfil its commitments.

Peddie had suffered because of this. Other areas were in a similar position.

The land could only be bought by the Bantu Trust or the Adjustment Committee and as a result many were in financial difficulty.

In September last year the Peddie Farmers Association was told that no offers could be made because there was no more money.

He suggested the Minister of Finance "make adequate provision for these purchases in the budget later this year.

Not only whites "are becoming restive, but also the blacks. The situation is most unsatisfactory," he said. — PC.

12/2/76.

Deluge claims lives,^{NM} crops, cattle

Mercury Reporter

MATATIELE—Four days of heavy rain in this East Griqualand farming area has claimed at least two lives and flooded huge tracts of fertile land.

Throughout the district, farmers are facing severe losses after rivers burst banks and swept away maize, wheat and livestock.

Dams have burst, rail links are severed, and people, cars and trucks have been marooned between flooded bridges.

Damage is difficult to assess.

On Tuesday night, Xhosa Development Corporation representative Mr. Norman Puchert (45), of Matatiele, was swept away as he tried to cross the Segoga River outside Matatiele

on his way home to his wife.

He left his truck above the washed away Segoga Bridge and waded after two Africans into the river.

People on a krantz overlooking the river saw the two Africans cross safely, but Mr. Puchert was swept down river.

Lightning earlier killed an unidentified African woman near Umzimkulu, where several huts have been destroyed.

Mr. Richie Earle, Matatiele's Mayor, says he will approach the Cape Provincial Administration about the poor condition of the roads.

He said also that bridges were built too low for rivers that were constantly flooding.

Outside Cedarville, near here, one pan, once covered with maize, is now a lake covering several hectares.

Vehicles have been reported lost in the deluge and some have been temporarily abandoned. Drivers have had to leave flooded bridges and cross the river at safer spots upstream.

Outside Matatiele, the Umzumbubu bridge on the Swartberg road is under water, as is the Kenicha bridge on the other side of town.

A total of 100mm of rain has fallen since Sunday.

Several landslides have been reported, including one in which a goods train was derailed at Singisi near Kokstad. No one was injured and workmen were late yesterday struggling to clear the line.

The rail links from Pietermaritzburg to Matatiele reach only as far as Kokstad. Parcels and mail are carried by bus from Matatiele to Kokstad.

Agri - General

Natal Mercury 18/2/76

Farmers angry

Mercury Correspondent

PEDDIE—The Peddie Farmers' Association is up in arms over the Government's plan to employ two Black clerks and three Black telephonists in the local post office.

The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Senator J. P. van der Spuy, announced the intended move in the House of Assembly.

When asked by Mr. W. H. Deacon (U.P., Albany) whether he was aware that although Peddie had been zoned Black, it was still White, Mr. van der Spuy said that was the reason why a White would still be postmaster.

But the chairman of the farmers'

association, Mr. I. A. Lloyd, said: "The Government must realise that if its consolidation programme is to proceed in an orderly manner, it is essential that all departments co-ordinate their activities."

Mr. Lloyd said there were 250 White telephone subscribers and only 16 Black subscribers in the district.

"As far as my association is concerned, the status quo must be maintained as the Government repeatedly promised us it would be. Different staffing arrangements can be made when the whole district has been purchased."

(r) 264
(L) Itzi - General

FOOD PRICE LEVELS ARE LIKELY TO RISE AGAIN

Mercury Correspondent

PRETORIA — The producer prices of all basic foods are likely to rise again this year, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hendrik Schoeman, said in an interview yesterday.

They will include maize, wheat, dairy products, including fresh milk — in fact all the foods which are staple to the diets of the lower income groups.

Asked if the Government would consider higher food subsidies to keep consumer prices down, the Minister said: "We will be considering the new season's prices next month, and the possibility of higher subsidies will be looked at."

However, Mr. Schoeman said, a major problem was the Treasury might not have the necessary funds.

Frankly, he said, it would be very difficult to meet demands for additional food subsidies.

Farmers' production costs continued to escalate. During the past 12 months with steep increases in the fertiliser price, in the prices of vehicles, vehicle spares, wages and others, the overall increase in farming costs would be close to 30 percent.

"Against this background it is unreasonable to expect farmers to produce at the same prices they got last year. It appears inevitable therefore that their prices will have to be raised."

In terms of the Anti-Inflation Manifesto, farmers are entitled to 70 percent of production cost increases.

During the current financial year the Government subsidised food to the extent of R174 million. In this amount is included R55,9 million for maize, and R70 million for wheat.

The total is nearly double the R97,5 million paid in food subsidies in the 1973/74 financial year.

Other farming authorities pointed out that in addition to the steep rise in production costs the smaller crops, because of floods in some of the major producing areas, would also have to be taken into account.

The Trade Union Council of South Africa and the S.A. Institute of Race Relations have both pleaded for bigger food subsidies.

They have warned of the spread of hunger in the townships, and of the threat of serious unrest unless basic food prices are kept down.

(1) Agric - General

(2) 189

WHY TRACTOR PRICES HAVE SOARED

FARMERS have good reason to be concerned at the soaring cost of tractors. A tractor that cost R5 600 two years ago now costs R8 500 — an increase of 52 percent.

This was the theme of a speech given by Mr. Hendrik Schoeman, Minister of Agriculture, at the opening of a news spares factory in the Transvaal recently.

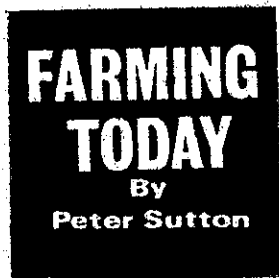
Mr. Schoeman said that although mechanisation had helped South African farmers increase production, it was because of mechanisation that many farmers now found themselves in a difficult position.

The Minister quoted figures to show that the average price for bigger tractors (75kW) had risen by 67 percent and that of big tractors (150 kW) had doubled. A tractor that cost R15 000 in 1973 now cost R30 000.

Mr. Schoeman described these increases

as "alarming" and warned that many farmers would face problems in the future.

He wanted to know why the tractor price had risen so sharply while that of the average big car had gone up by



only 25 percent over the same period.

Other price increase quoted by Mr. Schoeman since 1973 were: Farm vehicles 47 percent, spares 50 percent and for fuel, prices were 36 percent higher in January 1975 than in January 1974.

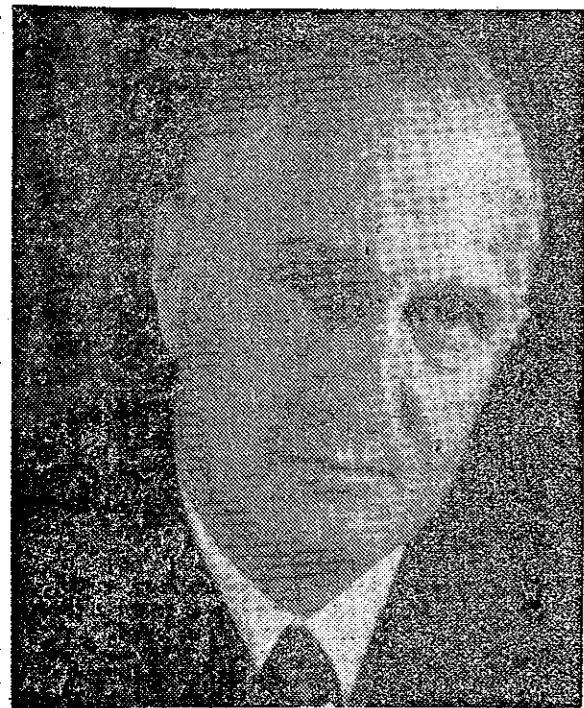
Mr. Buddy Gazzard, sales manager for Intertruck, whose company markets the International Harvester line of tractors in Natal, lays the blame for tractor price increases on the Government. He said that while the dealers' mark-up had remained static through the years, devaluation of the rand had played havoc with tractor prices.

Mr. Gazzard explained that although tractors were assembled in South Africa, all components had to be imported and had little, if any, local content. He said that most other countries were experiencing run-away inflation and South Africa had to import this inflation. Coupled with our own inflation, this had led to the increase in prices.

He said that before any dealer could increase prices, these had first to be approved by the Price Controller.

Agriculture - General

Farmers need expert help to beat food crisis



Dr W A Verbeek

"In recent years, much thought has been given throughout the world to the threat of famine, which is causing great concern," writes the secretary of Agricultural Technical Services, Dr W A Verbeek, in his annual report for the year.

He says: "The essence of the problem is the production of sufficient food. At the same time the call goes out to the

farmer to produce more on the same area of land and in spite of a sharply-rising cost structure."

Dr Verbeek says this call from the millions not engaged in agriculture was unfair if the farmer does not receive the necessary extension "that will enable him to apply the latest agricultural knowledge and production techniques, failing which the South African farmer cannot hope to answer the clarion call for greater and more efficient production."

He continues: "The primary task of the extension service is related to the overriding objective of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services, namely the achievement of optimum utilisation of resources on the individual farming unit."

But in South Africa, agricultural scientists "are very scarce" and the accession from universities had either remained static or even declined.

"But it is the agricultural extension service in particular that has been hard hit by the shortage of agricultural scientists. Not only is the accession of graduates to the service limited, but there is also a considerable drain of officers to the private sector."

In the year under review, Dr Verbeek says, several intensive investigations into the extension service were undertaken and the conclusion was reached "that the need for agricultural development in South Africa cannot be satisfied without a

World-wide famine, a weed South Africa has spent millions in failing to eradicate, and agricultural regional planning — these are elements in a wide ranging report by the Secretary for Agricultural Technical Service, Dr Wim Verbeek. Lucas Fouche reports.

departmental agricultural extension service."

Special measures "should be introduced to obtain agricultural scientists for its extension service."

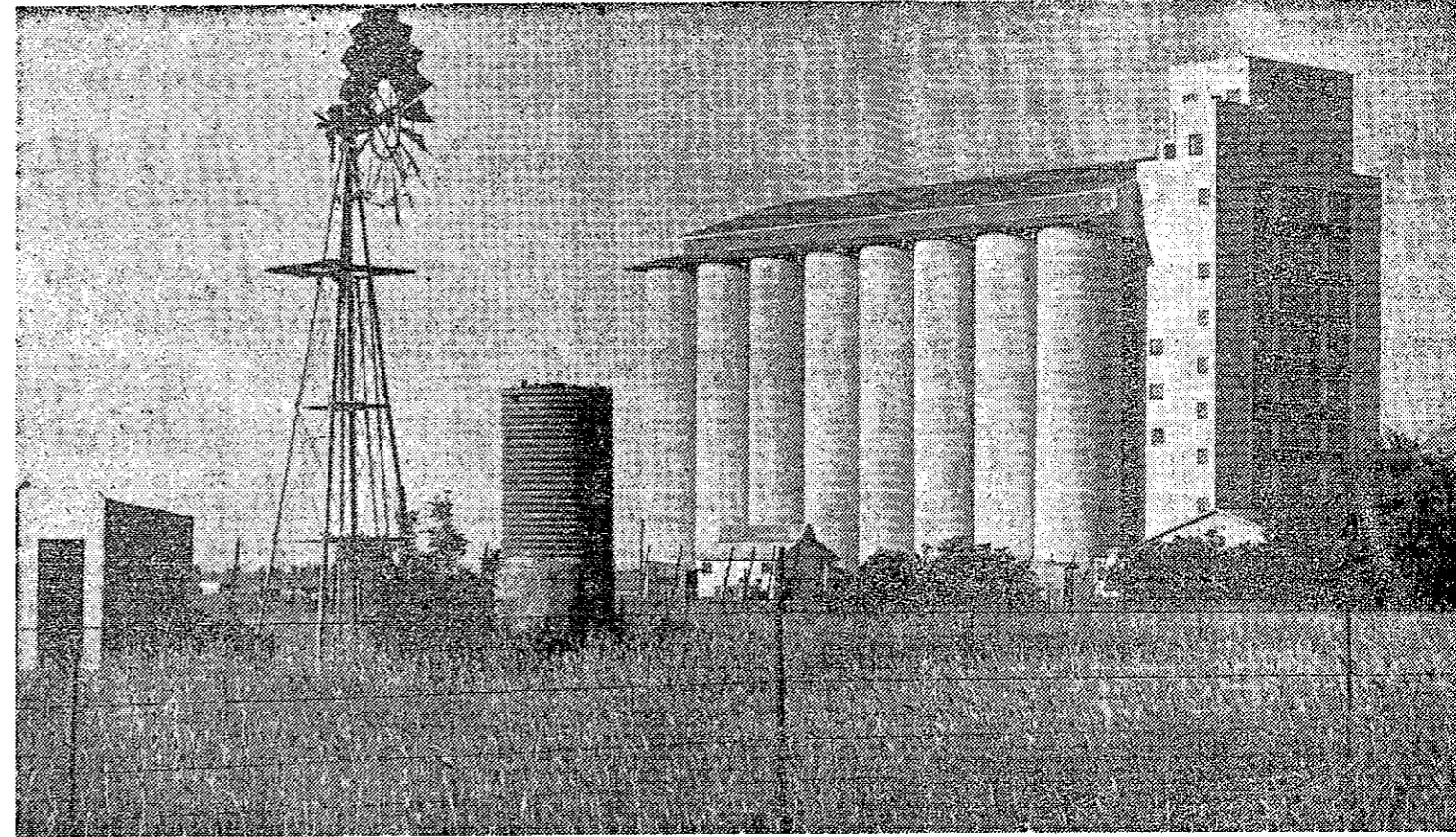
Dr Verbeek concludes that a "purposeful agricultural research and a dynamic extension service are prerequisites if a sustained and rising food and agricultural production in South Africa is to be assured."

PERSUASION

Dr Verbeek points out that "not all farmers immediately apply the knowledge and techniques imparted to them."

Throughout the world, the top 16 percent of all farmers inquire about and apply the latest information and techniques.

He sites the study of hybrid maize cultivation in America as an example. The top 16 percent of farmers started trying out the hybrid seeds after only 1.6 years while most of the other 84 percent only started using it after 6.5 years.



A huge grain silo packed with maize. Keeping agricultural land free from weeds and in full production is a vital part of ensuring that such silos remain part of the farming scenery in South Africa.

Weeds a growing threat to high production

Weeds and thick impenetrable bush have infested more than 30-million ha of farmland in South Africa and South West Africa. On one weed alone the Government has already spent R7.5-million but it is still spreading.

Dr Verbeek says that an intensive campaign against the jointed cactus — found in the Karoo region around Graaf-Reinet and Kendrew — was intended to destroy the weed within 10 years.

"Despite the fact that the State has already spent about R7.5-million on spray alone, new infes-

tations are still being discovered and the area of the properties on which jointed cactus occurs is increasing steadily."

In June 1975, half of a total farm area of more than 1.6-million ha was actually infested.

SUPERVISION

Dr Verbeek complains bitterly that farmers are not co-operating.

He says: "Full-time supervision is one of the most important aspects of the effective control of jointed cactus. However, very few farmers exercise supervision and today it is left almost entirely to the weeds inspector to report

to the farmer after his inspection round."

Another rapidly-spreading weed is the New Zealand tussock grass, nasella. Already 1 000 ha of veld in Barkly East and Maclear, the Winterberg and Amatola mountain ranges, are severely infested "and it is estimated that 220 000 ha will be affected by the end of the century," Dr Verbeek says.

Research has shown that the weed can be killed by spraying at a cost of R182 ha for the weedkiller alone. But "after spraying, nasella stands regenerate rapidly from seed."

In the Free State region a cactus-type weed *Opuntia rosea*, has infested a large area. In the Douglas

region "do not always realise the threat posed "by the imbricate cactus.

On bush encroachment, Dr Verbeek points out that about 20-million ha in South Africa and South West Africa is "suppressing the edible grass yield."

ENCOURAGING

Experimental aerial spraying with weedkiller in South West Africa "produced even more encouraging results than had been expected."

In the southern parts of South West Africa and the North-Western Cape, the fodder tree, mesquite, is spreading rapidly and causing concern "especially in view of the problems already being experienced in the USA and Mexico."

Bush encroachment "is becoming more and more a problem in the Karoo region" after the copious rains of the past two years, Dr Verbeek says.

'We must plan to save our farm land'

Dr Verbeek has called for essential regional planning "to prevent good agricultural land from being lost."

Dr Verbeek points out that 10 000 ha of good agricultural land were withdrawn annually in the last five years "with the necessary permission."

But this was "only a small part of the actual loss since it does not include the land needed for roads, railways, airports and other uses where there is no question of subdivision."

He says subdivision of agricultural land into small plots of two to five hectares remains the most popular — and represents the biggest percentage of rejected applications for subdivision.

About 8 000 ha was withdrawn annually for township development and should be "carefully watched, especially if it is borne in mind that urban development takes place

chiefly in agricultural areas with a high potential."

Dr Verbeek says in the 4½ years since the passing of the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act there "are no signs that the number of applications for the subdivision of agricultural land is dropping at all; indeed there has been a slight increase."

The reasons were: "The constant stream of requests, development in areas with a high potential, the keen demand for agricultural land for expansion of cities and towns and other non-agricultural purposes."

One out of every four applications is turned

down "where the portions that will be created do not comply with the minimum requirements for land size or where good agricultural land is involved and it is not in the national interest to use the land for non-agricultural purposes."

About 72 percent of applications involve using land for agricultural purposes and 79 percent of these are approved. Since January 1971 there were 3 278 applications that resulted in the creation of only 793 new farm units.

In the same period 1920 farm units disappeared as these were consolidated with other adjoining farms.



A harvester working at maximum efficiency to bring in a crop of mealies, one of the world's staple foods. Care must be taken to see that the best types of maize are produced and it is in this field that the scientist can be of great help to the farmer.

3 General

TYPE OF FARM EMPLOYEE - DOMESTIC	RACE - AFRICAN										EMPLOYMENT AS AT 31ST AUGUST 1973				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
EC REGION EMPLOYMENT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	35	2	3	16	165	72	18	61	341	595	67	150	24	349	
EC REGION EMPLOYMENT	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	2407	128	4	2057						429	610	34	36	118	
EC REGION EMPLOYMENT	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
	739	949	4							1102	618	46	48	1789	
EC REGION EMPLOYMENT	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
	605	164	4							4913	6396	58	60	254	
EC REGION EMPLOYMENT	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
	4167	2070	3							4841	2180	58	60	254	
TYPE OF FARM EMPLOYEE - DOMESTIC	AS AT 31ST AUGUST 1973														
EC REGION EMPLOYMENT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EC REGION EMPLOYMENT	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EC REGION EMPLOYMENT	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
	29	1	6	11	84	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EC REGION EMPLOYMENT	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EC REGION EMPLOYMENT	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Subsidized agricultural products
 390. Mr. T. ARONSON asked the Minister of Agriculture:
 (1) (a) What agricultural products which are sold to the consumer were subsidized in 1975 and (b) what products is it anticipated will be subsidized in 1976;
 (2) (a) what was the actual amount of such subsidy in 1975 and (b) what is the estimated amount for 1976.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) (a) During 1975-'76 maize, grain sorghum, bread flour and butter were subsidized.
 (b) During 1976-'77 the same products as in 1975-'76 will probably be subsidized.
 (2) (a) 1975-'76
 Maize R54,8 million
 Grain sorghum R1,0 million
 Bread flour R66,0 million
 Butter R8,0 million
 (b) The prices for the relevant products have not yet been fixed for 1976-'77 and it is, therefore, not possible to estimate the amounts of the subsidies.

Farmers can't absorb

STAR
5/13/76

costs— SAAU

Farming Editor

Farmers are no longer prepared to subscribe to the Government's anti-inflation manifesto.

This is the message from the South African Agricultural Union's chairman, Mr Albert Basson. He told the general council of the union yesterday: "Farmers can no longer absorb cost increases."

He said the union would in future consider higher production costs when produce prices were decided.

MEAT FIRST

First to be affected will be meat. When floor prices are reviewed soon, farmers would be compensated in full for the 50 percent rise in rail tariffs.

Rail tariffs on livestock had increased by 284 percent in the past three years.

Maize would be next. The maize committee of the SAAU was discussing the matter.

Once the first crop estimate became available in about two weeks the price-fixing machinery would go into top gear. The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Schoeman, would announce the new price next month.

The South African Mealie Producers' Institute (Sampi) has asked for a big price increase.

In submitting his proposals, Sampi's economic adviser, Professor F J du Plessis, of the University of Pretoria, said maize farmers did not fall within the provisions of the anti-inflation manifesto as maize price increases had always been below that allowed in the manifesto.

Nevertheless he had adhered to the provisions of the manifesto and had accepted that 30 percent of the higher costs would be absorbed by farmers.

① Agric General

Tabel 14 Arbeidskoste per jaar vir die Rôens

Jaar	Kon- tant	Bonus	To- taal kon- tant	Meel	Vis	Vleis	Wyn	Melk	Suiker Koffie Tabak	Me- diese koste	Kle- ra- sie	Onge- valle Ass.	Ander	To- taal Nie- kon- tant	Totaal	Aan- tal Ar- beids- een- hede	Koste Aan- bei- der/ dag
"55/56	144,82	1,65	146,47	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2,32	258,79	278,0	0,38
"56/57	152,32	8,58	160,90	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	8,59	279,49	361,0	0,39
"65/66	205,63	/	205,63	12,80	1,70	41,2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	4,87	300,50	226,0	0,75
"66/67	224,77	/	224,77	12,93	1,93	37,0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2,81	317,58	190,0	0,78
"67/68	231,95	/	231,95	24,22	3,24	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	8,83	291,78	210,3	0,81
"68/69	244,41	27,58	271,99	28,28	3,73	55,5	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	6,48	408,47	243,0	0,86
"69/70	258,56	28,70	287,26	30,00	2,18	51,0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	34,89	422,15	213,0	0,89
"70/71	266,69	31,75	298,44	28,69	3,22	65,2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	62,30	460,74	227,0	0,89
"71/72	311,71	35,12	346,83	32,49	4,72	72,7	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	61,55	508,38	231,0	1,08
"72/73	314,53	27,69	342,22	/	7,41	/	24,91	/	/	/	/	/	/	32,32	374,54	194,0	1,14
"73/74	384,18	38,62	422,80	47,52	4,14	132,35	11,08	18,01	1,17	5,33	10,40	5,90	14,90	250,80	673,60	191,0	1,39
"74/75	394,49	61,21	455,70	54,34	4,66	213,19	16,44	23,81	0,23	5,71	15,08	8,19	44,71	286,36	842,07	171,0	1,58
"75/76	449,77	57,68	507,45	54,90	10,71	182,26	32,08	42,60	0,13	7,32	16,01	9,02	24,84	379,87	887,32	151,0	3,08

Prices of basic agricultural foodstuffs

495. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG
asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) Whether it is expected that prices of any basic agricultural foodstuffs will be increased during the current year; if so, (a) in respect of which foodstuffs, (b) what is the expected increase in each case and (c) what percentage of the cost of each foodstuff will this increase constitute;

(2) whether the expected increases are to be offset by increased consumer subsidies; if not, why not; if so, by what amount will this subsidy be increased in each case.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) Probably. (a), (b) and (c) It can not be determined at this stage since the various control boards still have to consider the prices. The increase in each case will only be known thereafter.

(2) At this stage it is not possible to give an indication.

Bron: Afdeling Landbouproduksie-ekonomie

Handwritten notes:
3-Geel
Handwritten
Q vol
543
11 March
1976

Tabel 14 Arbeidskoste per arbeider per jaar vir die Røens

Jaar	Kon- tant	Bonus	To- taal kon- tant	Meel	Vis	Vleis	Wyn	Melk	Suiker Koffie Tabak	Me- diese koste	Kle- ra- sie	Onge- valle Ass.	Ander	To- taal Nie- kon- tant	Totaal	Aan- tal Ar- beids- een- hede	Koste Ar- bei- der/ dag	Aan- tal Ar- beids- een- hede
"55/56	144,82	1,65	146,47	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	112,32	112,32	258,79	278,0	0,38	3,2
"56/57	152,32	8,58	160,90	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	118,59	118,59	279,49	361,0	0,39	3,3
"65/66	205,63															226,0	0,75	3,4
"66/67	224,77															190,0	0,78	2,7
"67/68	231,95															210,3	0,81	2,8
"68/69	244,41	27														243,0	0,86	3,0
"69/70	258,56	28														213,0	0,89	2,8
"70/71	266,69	3														227,0	0,89	3,3
"71/72	311,71	3														231,0	1,08	3,0
"72/73	314,53	2														194,0	1,14	4,1
"73/74	384,18	3														191,0	1,39	3,1
"74/75	394,49	61,21	455,70	54,34	4,66	213,19	16,44	23,81	0,23	5,71	15,08	8,19	44,71	286,36	842,07	171,0	1,58	3,4
"75/76	449,77	57,68	507,45	54,90	10,71	182,26	32,08	42,60	0,13	7,32	16,01	9,02	24,84	379,87	887,32	151,0	3,08	3,7

MARCH 1976

Production of agricultural products
496. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG
asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether a shortage is expected in the production of any agricultural products during the current year; if so, (a) in which products and (b) what is (i) the extent of the expected shortage of each product and (ii) this shortage expressed as a percentage of the expected production;
- (2) whether any expected shortages are to be met by imports; if so, (a) what imports, (b) from what countries and (c) what amount of each product will be imported from each country during the current year.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) Yes.

	(a)	(b)	(c)
Meat		44 000 t	8
Brewers' barley		42 000 t	74
Lucerne seed		500 t	81
Tobacco		6 056 t	17
Cotton		178 000 bales of 200 kg each	134

(2) Yes partially.

	(a)	(b)	(c)
Meat		Africa	44 000 t
Brewers' barley*		Best tender North America	42 000 t
Lucerne seed		Africa and South America	250 t
Tobacco†		Africa, North America, South America and the Middle East	6 056 t
Cotton‡			178 000 bales of 200 kg each

* Brewers' barley will be imported wholly or partially in the form of malt.

† At present a shortage of certain types of tobacco is being experienced, while a surplus of other types exists. Imports take place according to the requirements of the various manufacturers and the types required. Prices will determine from which country manufacturers will import.

‡ In order to be able to mix as is necessary, cotton is imported as well as which countries and in what quantities country.

Bron: Afdeling Landbouproduksie-ekonomie

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1976

3-gees

Floods may cause food shortages

24/3/76 STAR.

Farming Editor

The heavy rains and severe flooding in the Northern Cape and southern Free State could cause food shortages this winter, especially of mutton, milk and potatoes.

Already about 40 000 sheep have died and crops worth R7-million have been lost in the Free State region and about 90 000 ha of grazing and fodder crops ruined.

Dr S W Pienaar, director of the region, told me today that one in every three lambs born in the area died. Losses of 500 to 600 sheep to individual farmers were the average.

WAFFLE PAN

Mutton production will be hit, as most of the deaths occurred among mutton breeds. This area produces almost one third of the total of sheep slaughtered annually in the nine controlled areas.

"The area resembles a giant waffle pan with no provision for run-off," said Mr Pienaar. "There are pans measuring 8 km

by more than half a kilometre."

Such a pan was threatening to inundate Daniel skuil, 120 km north-west of Kimberley. "It just becomes fuller and fuller with no possible outlet," Dr Pienaar said.

One farmer complained yesterday that of his 1 800 ha only 300 ha was not covered by water. Most farmers in the area have been completely isolated.

WRITE-OFFS

Dr Pienaar said that nowhere in the area could any fodder crops be gathered. Often nothing could be put in.

At Vaalharts the groundnut crop was estimated at less than 20 percent of normal. The bulk of the country's edible groundnut crop — about 20 percent of the total crop — is produced there.

The cotton crop was a total write-off as well as the lucerne crop which supplies fodder to most of the dairymen producing fresh milk for the cities in the north. So are the maize and the potato crops, valued at more than R7-million.

3-Caval

Soil erosion warning 14/4/76 NM. to farmers

Agricultural Correspondent

FARMERS who use herbicides to kill grass before burning fire-breaks have been warned to use them with care because injudicious spraying can lead to bad soil erosion.

A spokesman for the Department of Agricultural Technical Services in Kokstad said yester-

day that in some farms "vegetation has not recovered after being sprayed too often with herbicides and this could lead to a serious soil erosion hazard."

According to the official, deep gulleys similar to the old plough lines could form where the grass has been killed. He said that on some farms in the area, "the vegetation has not recovered after repeated sprayings with herbicides."

He explained that herbicides such as paraquat and gromoxone should be used only according to the manufacturer's instructions and the same strip of grass should not be sprayed two years running.

REFUGEES

**'We are at
mercy of
the owners'**

SUN. TIMES (EXTRA) 18/4/76

By HOWARD LAWRENCE

COLOURED trawlermen in the Cape are living in fear of their jobs being taken over by Portuguese refugees from Mozambique and Angola, a number of them told me this week in interviews in Cape Town.

The fear that South African fishing companies will replace Coloured officers-skippers, bosuns, mates and engineers with Portuguese fishermen is not however their only complaint.

I was told that although certain companies had given their Coloured trawlermen a "reassurance", one company had by December last year replaced three-quarters of their Coloured officers with Portuguese refugees from Mozambique and Angola.

"These Portuguese are paid less than Coloured officers and, since the advent of the refugees, Coloured trawlermen are having to swallow lots of things for fear of losing their jobs," one skipper told me this week.

Beira

He said that one company, with headquarters in Durban, had amalgamated with a Portuguese fleet-owner from Beira and that this company had added several boats to the original fleet, which had been built by Durban ship-builders.

By December last year, my informant told me, three-quarters of the company's fleet was staffed by Portuguese officers "but in recent months the company has again been taking on Coloured officers, because, apparently, the Portuguese were incapable of doing the job the way the Coloured fishermen do it," he said.

There are still several Portuguese officers in the company, however, I was told, and other companies had also taken on refugees.

On some of the traw-

lers, I was told, Portuguese work under Coloured skippers, but fears were expressed this week that the Coloured skippers are "being used to train the Portuguese and once they know the ropes about South African crayfish trawling and so on, we expect the Portuguese to take over completely," one fisherman said.

He said that in one company, Coloured crew who had been forced out by Portuguese "are still waiting for money owing to them by the company".

Several of the men to whom money is owed have instructed attorneys to sue the company for it.

Union

Trawlermen also claimed that some companies are employing Coloured crew only if they don't belong to the Trawlermen's Union.

Others claimed that trawlermen are not being given pay slips and that one company gave pay slips "every three months which reflected deductions which no-one can make out".

"We have to keep our mouths shut, because now that we have the Portuguese refugees waiting to pounce on our jobs, we have to be careful," another trawlerman said.

Another company had now introduced a scheme whereby Coloured crew are recruited in Cape Town and flown to Dur-

ban where they join the company's trawling fleet.

"Each boat is given a catch quota and those who meet it have their air fares to Durban paid by the company. Those who don't meet the quota have their air fares taken off their earnings," I was told.

Paid less

I was also told that the attempt by some companies to replace their Coloured officers with Portuguese who are paid less "appears to have caused considerable damage to the companies' catches, especially in the crayfish sphere, because the Portuguese, I was told, have no experience of this type of fishing.

"We have one trump card, at the moment," one Coloured skipper said, "and that is that we know where the fishing grounds are."

Most of the fishermen wanted the Government to bring about legislation to prevent fishing companies from getting rid of their Coloured officers to take on Portuguese and other foreigners who are prepared to work for less money.

"We are at the mercy of the fishing company owners and we feel so threatened now, that we believe it would be in the interest of our families and good race relations if we get some form of protection," a skipper said.

A THREAT TO OUR JOBS SAY TRAWLERMEN

3 - Fishing

Tree growers are boughed down

22/4/76 MM.

Agricultural Correspondent

TIMBER growers are upset that Government assistance to encourage tree planting has been cut from R3 000 000 to R500 000.

Mr. J. B. Ferguson, director of the South African Timber Growers' Association in Pietermaritzburg, yesterday said: "It is most unfortunate that the financial assistance we have taken so long to obtain has now been reduced.

Mr. Ferguson said that although timber growers appreciated that "times are difficult," trees not planted today will not be available in the years to come, when real timber shortages will occur.

Timber growers have been frustrated in their attempts to obtain loans for, after going through all the administrative difficulties they now find that funds are not available.

MORE CONTROL OF MEAT IMPORTS URGED

SOUTH Africa's meat marketing scheme — which is controlled by the Meat Board—has failed and fluctuations in the price of meat have caused farmers to lose confidence in meat production.

This is the opinion of Mr. F. J. Lategan, president of the South African Federation of Livestock Auctioneers, who says that fluctuations in the price of meat, such as those experienced by the South African producer, can force farmers into bankruptcy, the meat industry into large losses, and can make the consumer more suspicious of red meat, encouraging housewives to look for substitutes.

In a speech to an estimated 2 000 farmers at Fort Mistake near Ladysmith recently, Mr. Lategan took the Meat Board to task for not exercising proper control of meat imports into South Africa.

Although Mr. Lategan did not specify from which territories the

meat came, about 21 per cent of the Republic's meat supplies are known to come from South West Africa and annually 100 000 carcasses are railled from Rhodesia. Smaller numbers of cattle are imported from Botswana, Swaziland, and Lesotho.

UNREALISTIC

He stressed that nobody was against meat being imported into South Africa. In fact, the country needed these imports, he said "otherwise the shortage of beef would have increased the prices of beef to unrealistic levels which in turn would have chased the consumer away."

What Mr. Lategan deplored was that the Meat Board exercised no proper control over imports. (In the operation of the marketing scheme, South African farmers are subject to a quota system which is fixed by the Board).

He explained that because imports from these territories were not controlled by the Meat Board, local farmers had to put up with price fluctuations which on the same day, could differ by as much as R40 a head.

Mr. Lategan said that farmers wanted a realistic floor price system that would encourage South African farmers to produce more meat. Fluctuating prices could be caused by supply and demand, but often it was a result of changes in supply.

"Must the problems of the exporters be accepted irrespective of the effect this may have on the South African producer?" Mr. Lategan asked.

QUOTA

"Where does our responsibility begin — with these exporters or the South African producer?"

Some form of quota

should be applied on exporting countries so that the local meat price was not upset.

Another stabilising factor would be for the Meat Board to allow the marketing agent to supply a certain percentage of the total controlled area marketing by a method of forward trading.

He explained that forward trading would allow the producer to know in advance what he would realise for his product for a specified period. Mr. Lategan asked: "What manufacturer of any commodity will produce if his end-product only reaches the market after three years, and at the start of production he does not know

what price he will get for his product or whether he will even be able to recover his production costs?"

SERIOUS

Mr. Lategan then summarised the serious position of the meat industry and maintained that producers of meat had lost confidence. He quoted statistics to show that over a period of 15 years South Africa's per capita consumption of beef had decreased by 29 per cent while that of mutton has decreased by 31 per cent. The increase in the per capita consumption of chicken has shot up by 217 per cent.

He said that compared with meat production, consumption of poultry was increasing at a rate

of 12 per cent a year while that of meat was increasing by a mere 1,4 per cent annually. South Africa's consumption of chicken was now higher than France, Australia, the United States and Britain, and in contrast with other developed countries, consumption of red meat in South Africa was decreasing.

ADVERTISING

Mr. Lategan said that poor meat prices were not the only reason for this loss in confidence by farmers for meat had, in fact, increased in price by 180 per cent in the past 15 years. By comparison, increases in consumer income have increased 203/282 per cent.

Mr. Lategan believes that "red meat as a product with the consumer has been besmirched" and it was the duty of the Meat Board to re-creating greater demand for meat. To do this, more money should be spent on advertising.

He said that the Meat Board spent only R200 000 annually on advertising which, expressed as a percentage of monetary turnover of the meat industry was a mere 0,04 per cent.

"I hope, that in the interest of South Africa, someone will wake up with the determination and courage to face the situation and make a decision."

3

HANSARD

NO. 12

20/4/76

841

Theewaterskloof Dam

678. Mr. C. J. S. WAINWRIGHT asked the Minister of Agriculture:†

- (1) (a) How many farming units were expropriated in the area of the Theewaterskloof Dam during each year from 1972 to 1975 and (b) how many units are still to be expropriated;
- (2) whether all the expropriations have been finalized; if not, why not;
- (3) whether there are any owners from whom amounts have been or will be reclaimed; if so, (a) from how many owners and (b) why.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

	Year	Number of expropriations
(1) (a)	1971	3
	1972	15
	1973	1
	1974	8
	1975	22
(b)	13	
(2)	No. Agreement as regards the compensation has not yet been reached in some cases.	

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- (3) (a) Yes. After further investigations the original offers to pay compensation were withdrawn in three (3) cases and reduced offers were made. At this stage it cannot be said with certainty that there will not be any further cases.
- (b) The three owners concerned have meanwhile applied to the court for the determination of the compensation and the matter is now *sub judice*.

(1) Agriculture - General
2
JK

More land for Coloured farmers—Nat

28/4/76 STAR

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN—A Cape Nationalist MP has proposed that more agricultural land should be zoned for use by Coloured farmers, even though land and changes in group areas are emotional issues in South Africa.

Mr G de K Maree, MP for Namaqualand, urged this move in a long letter to the Cape Nationalist

newspaper, Die Burger, today in which he put his views on Government Coloured policy.

He said the limited possession of agricultural land by Coloured people, was an issue that really deserved attention, and should be tackled in two ways.

The first was that undeveloped Coloured rural land should be developed and then made available as private farms to Coloured farmers.

The 8 000 ha of riparian land in the Richtersveld on the southern side of the Orange River was a good example of land which could be irrigated at reasonable cost and which could provide an outstanding future for at least 800 Coloured farmers.

Mr Maree said the second approach was to zone certain lands in consultation with Coloureds for purchase by Coloured farmers.

Although this is an emotional issue, it could be a fruitful sphere of discussion between the groups.

"Happy co-existence requires it," he said.

In the rest of his letter, Mr Maree came out strongly in support of existing Government Coloured policy and claimed the Coloureds would have themselves to blame if they rejected the offer of an undidled say over Coloured interests, and no sharing of their identity with any other group.

Milk price up if plea agreed

28/4/76 NM.

Agricultural Correspondent

THERE will be an increase in the price of fresh milk if submissions by dairy farmers and milk distributors are accepted by the Price Controller.

Mr. J. E. Mansfield, chairman of the Natal and East Griqualand Fresh Milk Producers' Union, who met in Pietermaritzburg yesterday, said "we will definitely request a two cent increase in the price of fresh milk."

Yet another increase in the milk price could come from the distributing dairies. Mr. Bruce Laing, managing director of Clover Dairies in Durban, said that the price of milk came under review annually.

Mr. Laing said that he could not commit himself on the extent of any distributor's price increase other than "it is likely to go up."

He said that distributors would look into their costs and applications to the Price Controller would be made.

Explaining the dairy-men's application, Mr.

Mansfield said maize formed a substantial portion of concentrates fed to dairy cows.

He said that in addition, mealie meal was a significant cost in the feeding of farm labour. Massive rises in other agricultural requisites had also taken place.

DELIVERIES

A possibility that dairies may soon seriously consider is the stopping of home deliveries. It has been estimated that deliveries account for about 25 per cent of total milk costs.

A wave of food price hikes is also expected following the rise in the maize price and soon-to-be-announced increases in oil seeds.

The Government's announcement that the price of mealies has been raised by 18 percent will push up most staple

foods such as mealie meal, samp, mealie rice, maize flour, breakfast cereals and a host of other maize products.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hendrik Schoeman, will soon give details of price increases for groundnuts, sunflower seed and soya beans.

These rises will certainly lead to price rises for margarine, cooking oil, peanut butter and other food stuffs.

INFLATION

Mr. W. G. Pietersen, chairman of the Margarine Manufacturers' Association, said in Durban yesterday that his members would be meeting soon to consider the impact of the price increases.

He said that once the full implications had been studied an application would be made to the Price Controller.

Mr. Pietersen gave the assurance that in the light of the Government's anti-inflation manifesto, "costs would be absorbed if possible."

According to Mr. Innes van Rooyen, who is chairman of the Maize Committee of the Natal Agricultural Union, "South Africa's consumers must be grateful that the maize price increase has only been a small one."

Mr. van Rooyen explained that the world price of maize was more than R100 a ton compared to the local price of R65 a ton.

He said that the consumers would be paying much more if South Africa had to import maize.

(1) Agric - Dairy

(2) J47

Farmers' big debt

Agric - General

Farmers owed the Land Bank R468,3-million at the end of the 1975 financial year. Unpaid interest amounted to R5,1-million and arrears on capital repayments R4,1-million.

Arrears on capital repayment have been reduced to less than one percent of the total indebtedness, a good indication

of the favourable agricultural conditions experienced in the past five years, the bank states in its annual report.

In the year under review 3 686 applications for loans on mortgage for R155-million were received and 2 592 loans for R88,5-million were approved. Of this amount R60,5-million was used to buy land — about R2-million less than the

previous year. But application was made for R106,5-million for the purpose of buying land which means that only about three out of five people who wanted to buy land with Lank Bank money, were given the opportunity.

About R12-million was approved last year for repayment of mortgage and almost R10-million for consolidation of debts.

Opsaal! The Free State gets ready to fight terrorists

FARMERS' COMMANDO and civil defence organisations in the eastern Free State along the Lesotho border are preparing for an emergency, with emphasis on anti-terrorist training.

Farmers are angry about stock raids by Lesotho tribesmen from across the border, particularly the 80km stretch of the Caledon River between Ficksburg and Ladybrand where the river is less than 20cm deep.

Last week I talked to

farmers and learnt that commandos in the towns, spearheaded by the commandos of Ficksburg, Senekal, Bethlehem, Clocolan and Ladybrand, are on constant alert as an "exercise for disaster."

Regular weekend bivouacs are held, frequently interrupted by mock terrorist attacks.

Women have been drawn into the commando administration groups, and

Express Reporter

have been given long lists of emergency equipment and food to store.

Farmers are also being urged to set up caches of food, medical supplies, fuel and ammunition, in case of being cut off from regular supplies;

At the weekend camps women are trained to use the FN rifle, the commandos' main firearm.

I saw lists of equipment handed to wives of com-

mando members, who are also encouraged to keep ready at all times a box of food enough for four people for four days.

Commando groups are being trained to liaise with helicopters to set up ambushes and repel terrorist attacks.

On farms, special tuition is being given on how to watch out for landmines and avoid them; how to sandbag farmhouses and put wire mesh over windows in case of attack; how to close up chimneys in case of Molotov cocktail attacks.

Agriculture - Gard

Critical balance between people and food

11/5/76 NM

By Peter Sutton
Agricultural Correspondent

LIKE the rest of the world, South Africa is experiencing a population explosion that indicates that in the not too distant future, exceptional demands are going to be made on our farmers to meet the food problem.

This theme forms the subject of many speeches made all over the country by prominent leaders in agriculture.

The warning given by Dr. W. A. Verbeek, secretary of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services, at a conference recently on The Resources of Southern Africa is worth repeating.

Dr. Verbeek and many other agricultural

experts are of the opinion that the food position in the world has taken a critical turn. Responsible bodies throughout the world are concerned about the question whether agriculture will always succeed in supplying food for the growing world population.

Referring to South Africa, Dr. Verbeek said that South Africa's farmers have done a good job in spite of limited resources and a climate that is generally

unfavourable. Agricultural production has risen and the volume of agricultural exports is up 76 percent.

On the face of it these achievements look promising but, according to Dr. Verbeek, production will have to be doubled in the next 25 years and redoubled in the ensuing 20 years unless there is to be a reduction in available food.

"If it is accepted that at least 0.4 hectares of cultivated land is needed to provide for the food requirements of each person then South Africa, with the expected doubling of the population at the end of the century, will be below the level of 0.32 hectares per capita."

Experts like Dr. Verbeek have stressed that South Africa is not richly endowed with water and the area under cultivation is limited. Because of these factors and our generally unfavourable climate with its erratic rainfall, the possibilities for further expansion are limited.

Dr. Verbeek warns that trouble could lie ahead and he believes that the agricultural industry in South Africa is capable of "much greater heights of production than those hitherto reached."

The problem is complicated and can only be solved if farmers do increase productivity and grow more food but at the same time, something will have to be done to curb the population expansion.

As Dr. Verbeek points out "it would be unrealistic to believe that production can be expanded indefinitely to keep pace with an uncontrolled population growth."

**OPENINGSREDE DEUR SY EDELE SENATOR OWEN HORWOOD,
MINISTER VAN FINANSIES, BY DIE OPENING VAN DIE
KOÖPERATIEWE KONGRES VAN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE
LANDBOU-UNIE TE BLOEMFONTEIN OP 12 MEI 1976.**

VIR VRYSTELLING: 13h30 op 12/5/76

Meneer die Voorsitter, lede van die Uitvoerende Bestuur,
Dames en Here,

Ek wil u van harte bedank vir die vriendelike uitnodiging om vandag saam met u te wees en die openingsrede by u Kongres te kan lewer. U weet dit is vir my werklik 'n genoeë om weer terug in die Vrystaat te wees en vir 'n wyle van die woelings van die Parlementsitting te kan wegbreek.

As daar een ding is waarvan ek seker is, is dit dat u baie graag sou wou hoor wat die Regering se standpunt in verband met die oorblywende onafgehandelde aanbevelings van die Steenkamp-kommissie is. In hierdie verband sal ek u ongelukkig vanmiddag moet teleurstel

aangesien/...

- 2 -

aangesien onderhandelings in verband met die belasbaarheid van Koöperasies nog steeds aan die gang is en ek nie nou iets konkreets kan aankondig nie. Wat ek wel kan sê is dat die besondere aard van die koöperatiewe beweging en die perke wat dit op hom lê, insluitende sy vermoë om kapitaal op te bou, wel deeglik in ag geneem word. Ek vertrou nietemin dat hierdie ingewikkelde saak wat nou reeds baie goed deurtrap is, binnekort tot finaliteit gevoer sal kan word tot bevrediging van al die partye wat daarby gemoeid is.

Presies hoe ingewikkeld hierdie saak is, word duidelik as ons 'n bietjie in die geskiedenis van koöperasie teruggaan. Dan vind ons dat in koöperatiewe kringe veral, dit natuurlik algemeen bekend is dat die koöperasiebeweging sy ontstaan in die jaar 1844 gehad het, toe 'n aantal behoeftige wewers die eerste koöperasie in Rochdale, Engeland, in die lewe geroep het. Die koöperatiewe gedagte het

met verloop/...

met verloop van tyd nie alleen in Engeland nie, maar ook in ander lande van die wêreld inslag gevind.

Die Latynse betekenis van koöperasie, waaruit hierdie benaming afgelei is, beteken om saam te werk vir 'n gemeenskaplike doel. Dit kom in die praktyk daarop neer dat koöperasie verkry word wanneer die individu besef dat hy homself met behulp van sy medemens moet aanvul om sodoende te verkry wat hy as individu nie kan vermag nie. In sy wese is die koöperatiewe sake-onderneming dus sosiaal van aard en vereis dit samewerking deur 'n gemeenskap. Die bekende Britse ekonoom John Stuart Mill het dit soos volg gestel "Co-operation is the noblest ideal. It transforms human life from a conflict of classes, struggling for opposite interests, to a friendly rivalry in the pursuit of the common good of all".

Koöperasies is dus selfdiensorganisasies, gebore uit die bestaan van bedreiging van 'n groep. Die doel met die stigting daarvan was
om gesamentlik/...

om gesamentlik ter bevordering van en uitsluitlik vir die groepsbelang op te tree. Die koöperatiewe gees adem dus diens met gesamentlike optrede in groepsbelang.

Die geskiedenis van die mensdom is vanaf die vroegste tye gekenmerk deur 'n onafgebroke stryd om te kan bestaan en te bly voortbestaan. Die gesegde dat 'Koöperasies die kind van armoede maar die moeder van voorspoed is' blyk ook duidelik uit die geskiedenis van die koöperasiewese in Suid-Afrika. Die uiterste ekonomiese nood waaraan die boerderygemeenskap onderhewig was, het hierdie deel van ons gemeenskap tot koöperasie en aanvaarding van beheer beweeg.

Hoewel daar in Suid-Afrika reeds 'n aantal koöperasies gedurende die vorige eeu tot stand gekom het, vind ons dat die koöperatiewe beweging hier eintlik eers in die twintigerjare substansiële

betekenis/...

betekenis en beslag verkry het. Dit het gebeur nadat die Regering in 1922 - toe dit reeds duidelik was dat Staatsleiding en finansiële steun nodig sou wees om die koöperasiebeweging behoorlik van die grond te kry - die Koöperasie Wet ingedien het.

Soos aangedui het die boerderybedryf aanvanklik in Suid-Afrika met 'n verskeidenheid van knelpunte te kampe gehad. Hierdie faktore wat onder andere groot skommeling in landbou- en produktepryse, 'n gebrek aan die nodige markkennis en 'n swak distribusiestelsel vir landbouprodukte ingesluit het, was 'n struikelblok in die weg van 'n snelle ekonomiese ontwikkeling op die gebied van die landbou. Gevolglik kon die landbou nie teen dieselfde tempo as mynbou en fabriekswese tot sy ekonomiese reg kom nie.

Die landbou (en die koöperasies) kon dus voor 1922 nie daarin slaag om die besondere probleme van die landbou op te los nie. Dit was hoofsaaklik daaraan toe te skryf dat in Suid-Afrika op daardie stadium/...

stadium drie basiese probleme bestaan het. In die eerste instansie was daar 'n gebrek aan ekonomiese samehorigheid en wil tot samewerking. Die maatskaplike bewussyn van die boeregemeenskap van ons land was op daardie stadium nog nie baie sterk ontwikkel nie. Die rede hiervoor was dat die destydse ekonomiese stryd van die boeregemeenskap nie besonder heftig was nie. Dit was die dae toe die mark nog na die boer gekom het en die boer nie na 'n mark hoef te gesoek het nie. Aangesien boere 'n redelike mark kon vind het hulle nie 'n afhanklikheidsgevoel teenoor hulle mede-boere gehad nie. 'n Verdere rede was dat die boere in die algemeen baie versprei oor die land was; boere wat dieselfde produk produseer kon nie maklik georganiseer word nie. Gevolglik het koöperasies nie veel ondersteuning gekry nie en het dit ongelukkig die indruk gewek dat die koöperasies nie aan die verwagtinge kon voldoen nie.

Tweedens kon daar nie in alle gevalle aan die voorvereiste vir die oprigting van koöperasies om op 'n gesonde ekonomiese grondslag te

opereer/...

opereer, voldoen word nie. Dikwels was die omvang van landbouprodukte wat geproduseer is en die mark wat vir landbouprodukte bestaan het onvoldoende om die oprigting van 'n koöperasie te regverdig.

Derdens het die boere te veel van koöperasies, veral dié wat op vrywillige samewerking gesteun het, verwag.

Boere was natuurlik om verskeie redes huiwerig om by die koöperasies aan te sluit. Een van hierdie redes was dat Landbank-fasiliteite feitlik slegs aan koöperasies met onbeperkte verantwoordelikheid toegestaan is en boere vanweë gewaande risiko's nie juis ywerig was om by dié soort koöperasies aan te sluit nie.

By andere weer was daar 'n oormaat van optimisme en het die geloof bestaan dat hierdie stelsel sou verseker dat skommeling in die boerse inkome uitgeskakel word. Die uitwerking wat die ekonomiese depressie van die dertigerjare op die pryse van landbouprodukte

gehad het/...

gehad het, het egter grootliks hierdie seksie se geloof in die koöperatiewe beweging laat verflou en tot hernude ontevredenheid met die stelsel van afset van landbouprodukte gelei. Hierdie toestande het aanleiding gegee tot verskeie stukke wetgewing waarvan die belangrikste sekerlik die Bemerkingswet van 1937 was waarkragtens die beheerraadstelsel - wat daarop gemik was om uitermatige prysskommelings uit te stryk - tot stand gekom het. Die voordeel wat die koöperasies hieruit verkry het, is dat die beheerraadstelsel hom beywer het vir die stabilisering van produsentepryse, terwyl koöperasies hulle op ander funksies kon toespits. Koöperasies is dus in staat gestel om groter klem op die afset van landbouprodukte te verleen, aangesien die snelle ontwikkeling wat in die ander sektore van die volkshuishouding plaasgevind het 'n stygende vraag na landbouprodukte veroorsaak het.

Dit sou dus heeltemal korrek wees om te konstateer dat landboukoöperasies in Suid-Afrika uit praktiese behoeftes gebore is en

nie deur/...

nie deur suiwer idealistiese leerstellings te voorskyn gekom het nie. Die doeleindes waarvoor hierdie beweging in die lewe geroep is kan dan kortliks soos volg saamgevat word:

- (a) Verkryging van bedingingsmag ten opsigte van pryse van landbouprodukte. Hoewel die produksie van landbouprodukte die primêre taak van die boer is, het die ekonomiese ontwikkeling wat plaasgevind het veroorsaak dat die boer tot die sakewêreld moes toetree. Koöperasies was die enigste instrument deur middel waarvan die boer die nodige bedingingsmag ten opsigte van al sy selfgeproduseerde produkte kon verkry.
- (b) Bedingingsmag ten opsigte van die verskaffing van boerderybenodighede. Die verskynsel dat produktepryse 'n dalende tendens getoon het, terwyl die prys van boerderybenodighede opwaarts geneig het, om die relatiewe hoë vlak wat dit gedurende die oorlog bereik het, te handhaaf, het die koöperatiewe beweging genoodsaak om 'n doeltreffender bedingingsmag te probeer verkry.

(c) Verdere/...

- (c) Verdere funksies behels die verskaffing van tegniese voorligting, inligting aangaande die tendense op die produkte-markte, die gradering, verwerking, verpakking en versending van landbouprodukte en die verskaffing van intermediêre produkte soos byvoorbeeld saad.

Gewapen met die nodige ammunisie het die koöperasies na 1937 maar veral in die na-oorlogse jare sterk gedy en vinnig tot selfstandige ekonomiese instellings ontwikkel. In elke gemeenskap is daar 'n verskeidenheid van ekonomiese funksies wat onderneem moet word. In die landbou se geval, waar die produkte van die natuur ge-oes moet word, in vorm verwerk of verander moet word en gedistribueer moet word was die koöperasies veral goed geplaas om hierdie funksies te kan onderneem. In die proses was dit egter onvermydelik dat daar 'n mate van belangebotsing moes voorkom omdat die betrokke funksies iets was wat natuurlik grootliks deur organisasies in die besit en onder leiding van private onderneming gehanteer is.

Kredietvoorsiening/...

Kredietvoorsiening en finansiering is ook aspekte wat snel in omvang toegeneem het en nou 'n baie belangrike funksie van koöperasies geword het. As in aanmerking geneem word dat die totale waarde van die totale omset van alle landboukoöperasies jaarliks reeds meer as R2 000 miljoen is, kan afgelei word hoeveel kapitaal vir finansiering vereis word.

Mr. Chairman, funds for the financing of the activities of co-operatives are obtained from a number of sources. As you are well aware, the most important of these are:

Firstly: Share capital provided by members in the case of co-operatives with limited liability;

Secondly: Entrance fees paid by persons who become members of co-operatives with unlimited liability;

Thirdly: Use of reserves accumulated inter alia from undistributed profits, and

Finally/...

Finally: Funds obtained from other sources such as loans from the Land and Agricultural Bank or other financial institutions.

The latest available information indicates that the share capital of agricultural and special co-operatives has increased rapidly in the past few years. Share capital, for example, rose from R18 million in 1960 to R48 million in 1974. This represents a total increase of 166,7 per cent or an average annual increase of 7,3 per cent. Total reserves over the same period increased by as much as R163 million namely from R65,3 million in 1960 to R228,3 million in 1974 or by an annual average of 9,4 per cent.

Members' funds rose by 372 per cent from R18,5 million in 1960 to R87,3 million in 1974. The remaining component of internal funds of the co-operatives namely undistributed profits, rose by no less than 429 per cent from nearly R7 million in 1960 to more than R37 million in 1974. The total of the co-operative movements'

internal funds/...

internal funds thus increased by nearly 300 per cent to R401 million.

The balance of the funds needed for financing purposes consists of long-term and short-term loans and creditors. Short-term loans provided the largest proportion though its relative share declined from 64 per cent in 1960 to 56 per cent in 1974. This development can mainly be ascribed to the more extended use made of financing by creditors which rose from R38,3 million in 1960 to R192,2 million in 1974. Notwithstanding the fact that long-term loans to co-operatives rose by some R77 million, the percentage it constituted of total outside financing was virtually unchanged at 16 per cent.

Viewed globally we find that the ability of the co-operatives to supply their own financing requirements has shown a slight improvement in recent times. While co-operatives could only muster some 35,5 per cent of their total financing requirements from internal sources in/...

sources in 1960, this percentage has now risen to 36,7 per cent for 1974.

Available statistics also show that the total number of agricultural co-operatives increased from 200 in 1923 to 320 in 1960 and further to 330 in 1974. Total membership rose from 32 681 in 1923 to no less than 304 589 in 1974. This represents an annual growth rate of some 4,5 per cent. Even more impressive was the growth rate of the total value of turnover and assets of the agricultural co-operatives.

Turnover increased at an average annual rate of 11,8 per cent from R55,7 million in 1940 to R2 794,1 million in 1975. Asset value of the co-operatives increased from R306,7 million in 1960 to R1 091,5 million in 1974.

The inference that can be drawn from these statistics is that the co-operatives are without doubt now functioning in an efficient manner/...

manner, hence the large amount of support that they have drawn from the farming community.

Co-operatives are of course not geared primarily to, nor should they be geared to, obtaining a high rate of return on capital. Principally they should supply to their members, irrespective of their shareholding or volume of business, financially beneficial services. They should also endeavour to obtain the maximum benefit possible from joint marketing, joint purchasing and joint action in other fields.

Through joint marketing it is possible to eliminate disruptive competition between the various suppliers of agricultural produce and to establish orderly marketing so that a fair average producers' price can be obtained for all producers.

Joint purchasing on the other hand makes the advantages of scale available to the members of co-operatives in their capacity as consumers and purchasers of agricultural requirements.

Joint/...

Joint action in other fields is mainly aimed at obtaining and providing the best possible services for their members at a fair and reasonable price so that these services can also be made available to the less affluent members of the co-operatives.

Perhaps the main advantage that has to my mind been derived from the co-operative system has been the stimulating effect on the production and productivity of the agricultural sector.

Koöperasies is egter nie slegs vir lede alleen van betekenis nie, maar lewer terselfdertyd ook 'n positiewe bydrae tot die algemene ekonomiese ontwikkeling van die landbousektor. 'n Taakstellings-groeikoers van gemiddeld 5,9 persent per jaar in die fisiese volume van landbouproduksie word in die jongste Ekonomiese Ontwikkelingsprogram in die vooruitsig gestel. Indien hierdie groeikoers met die 4,3 persent groei wat gedurende die tydperk vanaf 1970 tot 1975 aangeteken is, vergelyk word, sien ons hoe hoog die eise is wat inderdaad aan die landbou gestel word.

In Suid-Afrika/...

In Suid-Afrika, soos ook die geval in ander lande, toon die relatiewe bydrae van die landbou tot die volksproduk 'n dalende neiging namate die graad van ontwikkeling in die binnelandse ekonomie toeneem. Hoewel hierdie daling na alle waarskynlikheid in die toekoms verder voortgesit sal word, beteken hierdie afname geensins dat die belangrikheid van die landbou afgeneem het nie. Inteendeel, een van die groot probleme waarmee die wêreld te kampe het en waarmee toenemend te kampe gekry sal word, is die uifers belangrike vraagstuk om die bevolking van die wêreld behoorlik te voed en te klee.

Dit is derhalwe van die uiterse belang vir 'n land om sover moontlik selfvoorsienend ten opsigte van voedselprodukte te wees. Suid-Afrika verkeer in die gelukkige posisie dat hy ten opsigte van die meeste landbouprodukte wel selfversorgend is. Die omvang van die binnelandse landbouproduksie is sodanig dat jaarliks groot hoeveelhede landbouprodukte na die buiteland uitgevoer kan word. Landbouprodukte was in 1974 trouens vir 31 persent van die totale waarde van Suid-Afrikaanse uitvoere verantwoordelik. Gedurende die tydperk/...

die tydperk 1970 tot 1974 het die gemiddelde bydrae van landbouprodukte tot uitvoere 33,5 persent beloop.

Die landbousektor het vanaf 1970 tot 1974 ongeveer R3 423 miljoen vir Suid-Afrika aan buitelandse valuta verdien. Hierdie bedrag was voldoende om meer as 45 persent van die kapitaalgoedere wat gedurende hierdie tydperk ingevoer is, te finansier. Afgesien van die landbou is die binnelandse nywerheidsontwikkeling in 'n groot mate van ingevoerde kapitaalgoedere afhanklik. As in ag geneem word dat Suid-Afrika betreklik skraal bedeed is met bewerkbare grond, moet dit as 'n voortreflike prestasie beskou word dat slegs 5 persent van die land se voedselbehoefte ingevoer hoef te word. Hierdie invoere bestaan hoofsaaklik uit produkte soos rys, koffie en tee wat as gevolg van klimaatsfaktore nie plaaslik in voldoende hoeveelhede geproduseer kan word nie.

Die uitvoer/...

Die uitvoer van landbouprodukte is egter nie net vir betalingsbalansdoeleindes van betekenis nie. Dit hou ook sekere politieke voordele vir die Republiek in. Die vermoë van Suid-Afrika om groot hoeveelhede voedselprodukte uit te voer, verskaf aan die land die voordeel om politieke verhoudinge met veral ons buurstate uit te bou en te verstewig.

Soos ook dikwels in die verlede die geval was, kan ons verwag dat die landbou, soos trouens al die ander sektore van die ekonomie, in die toekoms probleme met die verkryging van voldoende kapitaal sal ondervind. Die afgelope paar jaar word gekenmerk deur 'n skaarste aan kapitaal en stygende rentekoerse. Uit die aard van die saak is dit vir enige ekonomie moeilik om deur 'n fase van hoë rentekoerse sterk te groei, aangesien wins- en beleggingsmoontlikhede dikwels minder aantreklik word. Nieteenstaande hierdie finansieringsprobleme het die reële vaste investering in die landbousektor gedurende 1975 nogtans skerp toegeneem. Kredietbeheermaatreëls wat vroeër hierdie jaar deur die monetêre owerhede ingestel is/...

ingestel is, sal dit ongetwyfeld vir die landbou moeilik maak om voldoende finansieringsfondse in 1976 te bekom. Hierdie probleem word egter nie deur die landbou alleen in die gesig gestaar nie, maar trouens deur al die verskillende sektore insluitende die owerheidsektor. Ek wil dus 'n beroep op u doen om in die huidige finansiële toestand saam met ander sektore van die gemeenskap die gordel 'n bietjie stywer te trek. Daarsonder sal ons beslis nie die baie groot ekonomiese probleme waarmee die Republiek tans te kampe het, naamlik die nog hoë inflasiekoerse en die ongunstige betalingsbalans, te bowe kan kom in die belang en vir die beswil van al die land se inwoners nie.

Meneer die Voorsitter, ek dink die boerderygemeenskap van Suid-Afrika besef terdeë dat hul bydrae deur die Regering hoog geag word aangesien die landbou in Suid-Afrika soos in die meeste ander lande, die besondere sorg van die owerheid geniet. Voorbeelde in hierdie verband, om net enkeles te noem, is 'n aparte Staatsdepartement wat tegniese voorligting verskaf, navorsingsinstitute,

landboufasiliteite/...

landboufasiliteite, verskeie proefplase en Onderstepoort. Verder is daar ook 'n afsonderlike Staatsdepartement wat ekonomiese sowel as bedryfsekonomiese vraagstukke van die landbou ondersoek en intensiewe voorligting verskaf. Spesiale voorsiening word ook vir die finansiering van die boer en verskeie aanverwante organisasies deur middel van die Landbank en die Departement van Landbou-krediet en Grondbesit gemaak. Daarbenewens word natuurlik ook deur die Departement van Waterwese 'n sleutelkommoditeit aan 'n groot deel van die boerderybedryf beskikbaar gestel.

Interessantheidsonthale het ek onlangs die bewilligings in die Begroting deurgewerk en die volgende insiggewende feite in verband met Staatsbystand en hulp aan die Landbousektor gedurende die 1976/77 boekjaar opgediep.

Direkte hulp sal na raming 'n bedrag van ongeveer R150 miljoen beloop en sluit in bystand aan boere deur Landbou-krediet en Grondbesit; subsidies deur Landbou-ekonomie en -bemarking ten

opsigte van/...

opsigte van kunsmis, rentegelykstelling, wolbemarking en -reklame, asook vir sorghum; boordienste en waterverskaffing sowel as subsidies aan besproeiingsrade deur Waterwese; lenings vir massa-opberging deur middel van die Landbank en les bes al die navorsings en voorligtingsuitgawes van die Departement Landbou-tegniese Dienste.

Hierdie bedrag sal as ons dit gelykop tussen al die blanke plase in die Republiek sou verdeel, vir elke plaaseienaar hierdie boekjaar 'n inkomste van sowat R1 600 verskaf.

As ons nou ook nog die verdere R217 miljoen wat in die vorm van voedselsubsidies bestee word op brood, mielies, e.d.m., asook uitgawes op sekere waterwerke wat beide boer en stedeling bevoordeel, landbou-administrasiekostes en ander indirekte landbou-uitgawes sou byvoeg, dan beteken dit dat die Staat in hierdie boekjaar 'n raps meer as gemiddeld R4 000 op elke blanke plaas in

die Republiek/...

die Republiek bestee. Boonop word die boerderygemeenskap op 'n gunstige basis vir direkte belastings aangeslaan. Les bes moet ook nie uit die oog verloor word nie dat indirekte belastings of glad nie of op 'n drastiese verminderde basis gehef word op die boer se produksiemiddele en toerusting insluitende brandstof.

Dit behoort myns insiens nou ook uit die voorafgaande vir almal duidelik te wees dat die Regering nie sal skroom om, binne die perke van sy vermoëns, steeds soveel moontlik vir die boerderygemeenskap te doen nie sodat hy sy strategiese posisie in die ekonomie sal kan verstewig en ten volle sy potensiaal kan ontplooi.

Ek weet, meneer die Voorsitter, dat u as Koöperatiewe beweging ook die langtermyn-voordeel van die boer nastreef en u deel sal bydra tot heil en voorspoed van Suid-Afrika.

UITGEREIK DEUR DIE DEPARTEMENT VAN INLIGTING OP VERSOEK VAN
DIE MINISTERIE VAN FINANSIES

KAAPSTAD

12/5/76

A general shake-up is urged in the marketing of agricultural produce. A close look shows it's long overdue

F.M. 14/5/76

Agriculture: tackling a root problem

The Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Marketing Act (for agricultural products) is likely to get a mixed reception. Recommendations flowing from the first comprehensive inquiry into the Act since 1947 will disappoint those who hoped for radical changes in the control board system, while objections may be expected from those with a vested interest in maintaining the *status quo*.

The Commission has, in effect, proposed the *status quo ante*. The control board system, was set up to ensure high and stable farm incomes and efficient agricultural markets, distribution and processing. Where did it go wrong? The root of the problem, the Commission found, is that after nearly 40 years the control boards have increased out of all recognition in numbers and power. The National Marketing Council, meanwhile, has not kept pace.

Implied in the report is a restoration of the original concept of control boards performing administrative functions, with price and policy decisions vested in the Minister. The Commission proposes to reinstate the Minister's authority over the control boards.

The NMC is (or rather should be) the central cog in the marketing mechanism. The Commission has emphasised *its* responsibilities, rather than the control boards', in advising the Minister on agricultural policy, particularly prices. The Commission would thus distance the Minister from the advice of the control boards themselves, giving the NMC the responsibility of co-ordinating prices and marketing policy.

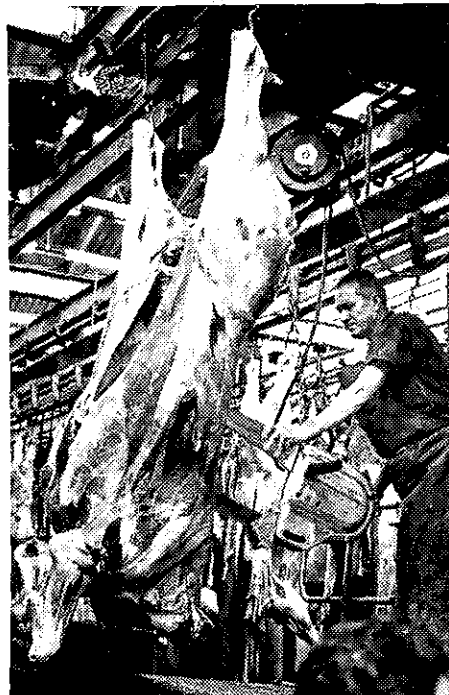
The second principle adopted by the Commission is that controlled marketing should be kept as close as possible to free enterprise marketing. Accepting that the control mechanism itself (which, the Commission believes, is justified because of the uncertainties inherent in agriculture, and the need to stabilise farm incomes) has inherent rigidities, it advocates a derestriction of various distributive functions.

The main recommendations are:

The NMC: The existing Council of four civil servants and two farmers is clearly too frail to withstand the powerful con-

control boards. The Commission recommends that the Council be increased to eight full-time members, six of whom should be professional people (economists) and two producers. If possible at least two of the professional members should be from outside the civil service.

As the primary advisory body to the



Meat . . . plea for freer marketing system

Minister, the NMC must have closer liaison with the boards. In his turn, the Minister must be empowered, through an amendment to the Marketing Act, to determine prices on the recommendation of the NMC. This means that the powers of the control boards, which at present recommend prices for approval by the Minister, will be curtailed.

Co-ordination: It will be the responsibility of the NMC to see that prices for different agricultural products are properly co-ordinated. This is an urgent necessity. For example the price of maize products is considerably above wheat products in the Republic, reversing the internationally established trend. And the

prices of poultry, pork and beef have been determined after, and virtually independently of, the price of maize. This lack of co-ordination is obviously detrimental to both producer and consumer.

In enlarging the NMC and increasing its responsibilities, the report stresses the need for adequate staffing, and the need for reliable statistical services. Should the Department fail to establish those within 12 months, a Statistical Corporation should be set up by the Minister.

Control Boards: By and large the Commission is in favour of the control board system which, it says, has made an important contribution to the "sound and balanced development of agriculture". It argues that, although the short-comings in the control structure are partly due to the large number of boards, the possibilities of amalgamation are limited. Consequently it does not recommend that the number should be reduced. The Dairy Board and the Milk Board, however, should be merged immediately and the Dried Bean Board should find its home with the Maize Board.

The Commission is firmly against the tendency for individual products to be split into their own segregated control structures. If further products need to be controlled, they should be included under existing boards. Furthermore, the possibility of further amalgamations, where warranted, must be kept in mind by the NMC.

Producers v consumers: On the hotly disputed issue of producer majority or balanced representation, the Commission recommends that "the principle of a producer majority be upheld" (but with the proviso that the boards' powers to decide finally on prices are curtailed).

Here it has missed an opportunity. In many cases equal representation would be preferable, as processors are as intimately concerned with prices as farmers, and at present they have only a small representation.

However, even a producer majority would be more acceptable if it were on the basis specified in the Act. This defines a producer as "any person concerned in the production, manufacture or processing of that product". Moreover, it is these statutory producer majorities that tend to

Agriculture - Marketing Control Boards

make some boards too large, because of the number of other interests that have to be represented. The Meat Board (the largest) has 24 members of which 14 are producers.

Size: One of the most important recommendations is that boards should be limited to 11 members. Consumer representation on boards should be dropped, and the Consumers' Advisory Committee abolished. However the NMC and SA Co-ordinating Consumer Council should meet once a year, and the Consumer Council should take part in the annual conference on agricultural prospects (see below). This would give the Consumer Council more effective representation.

Prices: The Commission has not followed up a proposal, widely canvassed, that all concerned — the Departments, Boards, SAAU, and so on — should get round a table once a year in order to co-ordinate prices. But it comes close to it by suggesting an annual or bi-annual conference under the NMC, to include the Agriculture Departments, Boards, SAAU, the Consumer Co-ordinating Council, Land Bank, and the Departments of Planning and the Environment, Finance, Commerce and Industries.

This would look at production, world trends, marketing, etc, and would provide the boards guidelines on which to plan. It

would not be a planning council in the sense of actually telling farmers how much or what to grow.

Marketing Schemes: The Commission favours "floor price schemes" because they are cheaper and more in line with free enterprise than "single-channel schemes" (because the marketing is done by commerce, not the boards) but considers that both should continue to be used where appropriate.

Livestock and meat: The Commission considers that it is not necessary to have the present compulsory "auction-on-the-hook" system in order to determine floor prices. Producers and the trade should also be allowed to bring in stock for slaughtering at the service abattoirs, and for sale by negotiation. It recommends that the Minister should "decide in principle" on a freer marketing system, and that the NMC should work it out with the Meat Board.

Restrictive Registration: One of the basic changes recommended refers to restrictive registration of distributors and processors. (The alternative is formal registration, to which the Commission has no objection).

Describing restrictive registration as a "dramatic measure which should only be applied in exceptional cases and where it has obvious advantages", the Commission recommends its retention only for

fruit packers, wheat millers and bakers, milk producer-distributors and dairy produce factories.

Regarding the Meat Board's registration of wholesalers, manufacturers of meat products, hide and skin curers and brokers, it suggests that restrictive registration should be dropped when the Animal Slaughter Meat and Animal Products Hygiene Amendment Act (No 13 of 1975) comes into operation, and the proposed adjustments to the meat scheme have been made.

The Commission recommends that restrictive registration for confectioners and milk distributors (as opposed to producer-distributors) be abolished.

The Commission took the view, Mr J J G Wentzel, its chairman, told the *FM*, that moderate rather than drastic proposals would stand a better chance of being implemented. Nevertheless, they amount to a substantial overhaul. They are likely to receive a better reception from commerce and industry, which will welcome the proposals for lifting restrictions, than from farmers who may resent having the control boards' wings clipped.

But, as with all commissions of inquiry, the crunch comes with the implementation of the proposals. Here the Minister should stand firm and, as a first step, hand-pick some really first-class men for the new NMC.

'Only good farmers can exist'

"South Africa can no longer afford the farmer who does not make a material contribution to agricultural production, Mr Philip Vogel, agricultural adviser of Barclays National Bank, said in Pretoria today.

These inefficient farmers, whether big or small, had to go so that the land they occupied could be cultivated more productively by the more efficient farmers, he added.

Mr Vogel was addressing the International and Allied Industries Expo in Pretoria. He said the demands of modern scientific farming practices on the management skills of farmers would automatically eliminate many farmers if they were not kept on the farms artificially.

"Unselected financing, and subsidies, are the two most undesirable factors which keep inefficient farmers on their land."

Many farmers could produce more if their

financing could be improved.

Mr Vogel said subsidising of agriculture "is justified and absolutely essential, in my opinion, specially if it can serve to stimulate agriculture." But it should be selective according to merit to enable "the more efficient farmers to provide cheaper food."

Mr Vogel pointed out that almost a quarter of the country's agricultural resources was situated in the African homelands and more land belonging to Whites was being incorporated "with the result that an even higher percentage of our resources will eventually be included."

He added: "It is disquieting, though, that in spite of the fact that about a third of the South African population lives in the homelands, their territories produced less than three percent of our total gross domestic product in 1970."

Mr Vogel said that due to the phenomenal increase in land prices, "put of all proportion to the yield potential," it was "virtually impossible for a young man to enter agriculture unless he has inherited land."

But agriculture needed young farmers and a formula would have to be found to assist young men to become farmers.

(1) Agriculture - Genl.

(2) 101

Opposition backs Land Bank Bill

22/5/76
DD.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY —
The ineptitude and bungling of the Government's grandiose farm-buying scheme by the Bantu Trust would now be straightened out by the unusual measure of making funds available through the Land Bank, Mr T. G. Hughes (UP, Griqualand East) said here yesterday.

Supporting the second reading, committee stage and third reading of the Land Bank Amendment Bill on behalf of the United Party, Mr Hughes said his party supported the measure only because it would relieve the plight of farmers who had been embarrassed because Government offers to buy their farms had not come to fruition.

It was not the function of the Land Bank to buy Bantu Trust land, but the money involved would not in any way infringe on funds usually available to farmers for agricultural purposes.

The minister should give an assurance that farmers who had received offers from the Government to buy their farms would receive immediate attention and that where offers had been withdrawn, these would be renewed.

The minister should also remember that there had been a devaluation since the offers had been made and should take this into account when making fresh offers.

The Deputy Minister of Bantu Development, Dr F. Hartzenberg, who handled the three stages of the Bill on behalf of the Minister of Finance, said funds were being made available to the Bantu Trust through the Land Bank by taking up bonds on the sale of farms which had been held in trust.

This was not one of the sources from which the Land Bank normally drew funds.

"South Africa is in the process of getting itself into long-term debt for ideological reasons and we are supporting this measure with grave misgivings."

The Bill passed through all three stages. — SAPA.

'N BIELIE VAN 'N RAM



'N MOOI Merino-ram laat enige wolboer se hart vinniger klop. En wanneer 'n mens so 'n ram boonop saam met 'n mooi boerenooie sien, kan so 'n boerehart begin bokspring. Hierbo sit Pauline Visser van Piketberg by 'n fris Döhne-Merino-ram, wat duidelik toon watter uitwerking Agricura se nuwe groeipil, Ralgro, op die skape het. Daar is reeds betekenisvolle resultate met hierdie groeistimulant verkry op skape sowel as beeste.

GROEIPIL WERK VERBASEND

UITGEBREIDE proewe is in Suid-Afrika, Suidwes, Botswana en Rhodesië afgehandel met 'n groeistimulant vir beeste en skape wat rooivliesproduksie in die voerkraal en van die veld af aansienlik meer winsgewend maak.

Agricura het die groeistimulant, Ralgro, onlangs in die Republiek bekend gestel. Dit verhoog veral die peil van doeltreffendheid van voeromset in rooivlies, terwyl dit ook die weerstand van die dier teen spanningstoestande verbeter.

Volgens 'n woordvoerder van Agricura is die Ralgro-groeipil reeds in Suid-Afrika geregistreer as groeistimulant vir beter massatoename en voeromset by beeste en skape in die voerkraal en op die veld (registrasienuommer G1325 : Wet 36/1947).

Agricura sien die waarde van die stimulant groterdeels in die bevordering van rooivliesproduksie en nie soseer vir gebruik by teeldiere nie.

Gedurende die proewe is bevind dat die gebruik van die groeipil baie tot rooivliesproduksie van die veld af en in die voerkraal bydra, omdat diere gouer markgewig bereik en 'n vinniger omset van diere bewerkstellig word. Die doeltreffendheid van voeromset wat met Ralgro verkry is, is,

R3,41 beter winsmarge per dier behaal. Ewe indrukwekkende resultate is behaal op die Rumevite-proefplaas in Natal met osse wat op somerveld geloop het en Rumevite-S-somerleik aanvulling gekry het.

Die Ralgro-groeipil is ook vir skaapboere 'n belangrike hulpmiddel tot verhoogde produksie. In 'n proefneming met twaalf maande oue SA Vleismerinohamels op die Welgelegen-proefplaas van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch, is bevind dat Ralgro beide groei en voerbenutting met 18 persent verbeter het.

Die koste per kilogram vleisproduksie is met 7,2c verminder, terwyl 'n netto bykomende inkomste van R1,10 per kop in die voerkraal verkry is. Op Ermelo in Oos-Transvaal het die groeipil massatoename by uitskot Merino- en Duitse Merino ooie en hamels wat intensief afgerond is, met 34 persent verhoog en voeromset met 16 persent verbeter. Koste per kg vleisproduksie is met 7,7c verminder en het 'n netto bykomende inkomste van

R1,41 sent per skaap gelewer.

'n Belangrike bykomende voordeel van Ralgro is dat dit die uitwerking van spanningstoestande wat algemeen in voerkrale voorkom, verlig. Diere wat oor lang afstande na voerkrale vervoer moet word, herstel ná behandeling gouer van skok en hulle aanpassingsvermoë word verbeter.

Die beste resultate word verkry deur diere gedurende hulle aktiewe groeistadium met die groeiplek te implanteer. Inplantering word tussen die vel en die kraakbeen agter die dier se oor gedoen om te verseker dat dit stadig deur die bloedstroom opgeneem word. Die aktiewe bestanddeel, Zeranol, word ná opname in die bloed deur die lewer, gal en niere uitgeskei sodat daar ná 40 dae by skape en ná 65 dae by beeste, absoluut geen reste van die middel in die eetbare weefsel waarneembaar is nie. Die groeipil is nie 'n antibiotikum of geslagshormoon nie en het geen nuwe-effekte nie.

NEEM IETS SAAM NA DIE PLASIE

BEROEPS- en sakemanne wat ook boer, verskil van hul heeltidse boere-kollegas in twee belangrike aspekte. Vir eers is dit te betwyfel dat die beroeps- en sakemanne op hulle plase woon, en ten tweede is dit soms moeilik vir hulle om die Ontvanger van Inkomste daarvan te oortuig dat hulle wel in die boerdery bedrywig is.

Só het mnr. D. A. Brooks, administratiewe en finansiële bestuurder van Total S.A., gesê toe hy vandeeweek die Johannesburgse Boerevereniging vir Beroeps- en Sakelui toesprek het. Sy toespraak het gegaan oor inkomstebelasting en hoe dit die beroeps- en sakelui raak wat ook boer.

„Ek moet dit duidelik stel,” het mnr. Brooks gesê. „dat lede van dié vereniging nie op twee plekke kan woon nie. En julle moet onthou dat die Ontvanger nie bereid is om reiskoste tussen julle

stadswoning en die plaas van julle inkomste te laat aftrek nie. Daar is reeds verskeie hofgedinge oor die punt afgehandel.

Maar, daar is 'n uitweg. Ek is daarvan oortuig dat julle hierdie reiskoste wil aftrek. En die oplossing lê in die feit dat julle nooit met leë hande van die stad na die plaas ry nie. Elke rit is noodsaaklik vir die boerdery.

Bestry

„En die Ontvanger sal dit kwalik kan bestry — dat elke rit 'n spesifieke doel gehad het. Ritte na die plaas word net onderneem om lone te bring, om medisyne, onderdele, omheiningsmateriaal en ander benodigdhede van die boerdery na die plaas toe te bring. Met ander woorde, julle ritte van die stad na die plaas is dus hoofsaaklik in die belang van julle boerdery-bedrywighede en beslis nie net vir plesierdoeleindes nie.

„Om die Ontvanger te oortuig dat julle wel in die boerdery betrokke is, is ook nie so moeilik nie. Vir eers, nêrens in die Wet is daar 'n duidelike uiteensetting van wat boerdery-bedrywighede behels nie. Die Wet bepaal ook nêrens die grootte van die plaas as sulks nie. Daar moet net feitlik kan bewys word dat boerdery-bedrywighede wel aan die

„Wat my betref is 'n man in boerdery betrokke as hy kan bewys dat dit sy ernstige bedoeling is om die grond so te ontwikkel dat dit uiteindelik 'n winsgewende boerdery-onderneming wees.

As voorbeeld noem ek 'n persoon wie 'n onderwyser was. Hy het terselfdertyd eienaar van 'n kleinhoewe van ongeveer 12 ha geword. En daarop het hy sekere gesaaides en sekere vrugtebome geplant. Die Hof het bevind dat die bedrywighede in die jaar ter sprake nie winsgewend was nie, maar die aard daarvan so was dat 'n mens kon aanvaar dat die bedoeling was om die kleinhoewe op die duur wel 'n winsgewende eenheid te maak”.

Aartappels floreer in Oos-Vrystaat

DIE verbouing van aartappels het gedurende die afgelope vyf tot ses jaar geweldig in die Oos-Vrystaat uitgebrei. Die uitbreiding hiervan was so fenomenaal dat dit vandag as een van die belangrikste oesgewasse in hierdie gebied beskou word.

Die redes vir hierdie uitbreiding kan, volgens Fisons-Agrochemies, aan verskeie faktore toegeskryf word. Vir eers is die grond baie belangrik. Aartappels verkies 'n sandleemgrond.

met 'n klei-inhoud van tussen 15 en 25 persent, wat goed dreineer. Daar moet hellings wees sodat die water kan afloop om versuip-toestande te voorkom.

Die geskikte klimaat van

die Oos-Vrystaat — dit is gewoonlik koel weer — is 'n tweede faktor wat tot die uitbreiding van aartappels bygedra het.

As gevolg van die koue winters dien die grond ook as 'n „yskas“ waarin die aartappels geberg kan word en gewag kan word vir die beste bemarkingstye. Hierdie bergingsmanier hou egter een gevaar in, naamlik dat die aartappels in geval van geweldige reënbuie, soos inderdaad die afgelope twee seisoene voorgekom het, verrot.

Met 'n reënval van tussen 700 en 750 mm per jaar is die Oos-Vrystaat die ideale plek om aartappels te verbou. Maar boere moet ook onthou dat aartappels egter baie onderhewig aan peste en siektes is — in verhouding, meer as die meeste ander gewasse.

Omdat aartappels egter so winsgewend is, is die beheer van siektes, plaeg en onkruid van die allergrootste belang. Die suksesvolle verbouing van aartappels is geheel en al afhanklik van 'n doeltreffende spuitprogram en weens skaars en duur handarbeid is die boer genoodsaak om hom tot chemiese hulpmiddels te wend.

Afgesien van dié probleme, moet daar onthou word dat die aartappelboer met 'n uiters duur oesgewas te doen het. Maar, soos in die verlede oor en oor bewys is, is dit 'n ekonomiese gewas en baie beslis die moeite werd om korrek te verbou.

veral vir die voerkraalbedryf van groot belang omdat die besteding aan voer sowat 80 p.s. van die totale voerkraalkoste beloop.

Die proewe het ootensleglik bewys dat Ralgro werklik rooivleisproduksie verhoog sonder oormatige vetneerlegging en dat minder voer nodig is om een kilogram vleis te produseer. Die stimulant verhoog stikstofterughouding uit ingeneemde voer met gemiddeld 27 persent, wat beter benutting van voer in die hand werk.

Voerkoste

Betekenisvolle resultate is tydens die uitgebreide proewe met Ralgro verkry. In Botswana het behandelde diere in 'n beesnavorsingsprogram van die land se landboudepartement oor 'n tydperk van 176 dae 'n 12 persent groter massatoename getoon teen 'n koste van R1,96 vir behandeling per dier.

In proewe wat die Mielieraad, die Vleisraad en Vleissentraal op die Mielieraad se plaas in Wes-Transvaal gedoen het, was die netto resultaat na aftrekking van R1,96 vir twee inplanterings Ralgro per dier, R5,51 per kop ten gunste van behandelde diere. As al die beste in die proef met Ralgro behandel is, sou ongeveer R2 600 meer inkomste verkry kon word teen 'n bykomende koste van R690 teenoor wat die geval sou wees indien die diere glad nie behandel is nie.

Die voerkoste per kilogram karkastoenamewas 5,43c ten gunste van die Ralgro-behandeling. Die behandelde diere is 3,5 dae minder gevoer maar het 54 kg per bees meer voer gevreet en 'n 26,4 kg groter lewende massatoename per bees getoon. Gemiddelde daaglikse massatoename was 0,19 kg beter.

In 'n proef by die Omattjene - Navorsingstasie in Suidwes met osse op natuurlike weiding, was die massatoename 41,10 p.s. beter by die met Ralgro behandelde diere en is 'n

Rooivleis duur in Durban

ONDERSTAANDE tabel toon 'n paar van die pryse van landbouprodukte waarby die meeste boere 'n belang het. Maar dit is nie net die boer wat na hierdie pryse moet kyk nie.

Die huisvrou kan ook hierdie pryse nuttig gebruik om te sien wanneer sy werklik uitgebuit word. Lesers moet natuurlik onthou dat dit die pryse is wat die

boer ontvang en dat die kleinhandelaars geregtig is op 'n billike wins.

Uit die pryse is dit duidelik dat veral rooivleis tans baie duur is in Durban.

BEESEVLEIS:		
Johannesburg	Super	Graad 1A
Kaapstad	111c	105c
Durban	97c (prima)	95c
	118c	104c
SKAAPVLEIS:		
Johannesburg	150c	135c
Kaapstad	124c	123c
Durban	168c	143c
VARKVLEIS:		
Johannesburg	Spekvarke	Vleisvarke
Kaapstad	Gr 1	Gr 1
Durban	85c	104c
	79c	83c
	83c	90c
GROENTE:		
Johannesburg	Tamaties	Aartappels
Kaapstad	(kissies)	Gr 1 groot
Durban	100-200c	100-130c
	140-160c	160-180c
	Gr 1	70-110c
	Gr 1	120-150c

Veeverliese dreig ná reënweer

Agric-General

DIE byna abnormale reën van die laaste tyd kan groot probleme vir veeboere meebring. Aangehelp deur die hitte en vogtoestande wat met die reënweer gepaard gaan, kan daar verwag word dat gevreesde veesiektes soos hartwater, bosluigsiekte, vrotpootjie, naelstringontsteking en longontsteking, wat jaarliks etlike miljoene rande se skade in die veebedryf meebring, nou in toenemende mate sal voorkom.

Hierdie waarskuwing is afkomstig van dr. Pierre Strydom, Veeartsenynprodukbestuurder van Agricura. Volgens dr. Strydom moet boere nou veral op die uitkyk wees vir bosluise wat vanweë die warm, vogtige toestande ná die reën, in groter getalle in die bos- en laevelddele van die land voorkom.

Wanneer ongesoute diere na hierdie gebied ingebring word, loop hulle gevaar om veral hartwater en bosluigsiekte op te doen. Die erns van hierdie situasie, se dr. Strydom, kan nie genoeg beklemtoon word nie, veral as in ag geneem word dat daar na raming 20% van alle kalwers, wat in die Bosveld aankom, aan hartwater vrek.

Vrotpootjie

Die geweldige modder-toestande in plekke soos vcerkrale, melkerye en klein kampsies waar diere gekonsentreerd aangehou word, kan aanleiding gee tot vrotpootjie. Die bakterieë floreer in die nat

modder-toestande en diere wat slegs 'n skrapie aan die kloutjies het, kan maklik 'n slagoffer van hierdie siekte word.

Waar kalwers in hierdie nat modderige toestande gebore word, kan bakterieë by die naelstring indring en naelstringontsteking veroorsaak.

In sommige gebiede waai daar koue winde ná die reën. Hierdie toestand maak diere weer baie meer vatbaar vir longontsteking.

Probleem

Dr. Strydom se dat Curamycin 123, 'n breëspektrum-antibiotikum, 'n hoogs doeltreffende middel in die behandeling van hierdie siektes by diere is. Die middel word maklik toegedien en beskik oor 'n vinnige werking.

Die toediening van vee-middels is dikwels 'n probleem vanweë groot dosisse wat 'n paar inspuitings vergem om die voorgeskrewe volume te kan toedien en omdat dit pyn by die dier tot gevolg het. Curamycin 123 is 'n inspuitbare oplos-

sing wat dadelik gereed is vir gebruik sonder om gemeng of geskud te word en word in gekonsentreerde klein volume-dosis versien.

Dié dosis word met slegs een inspuiting toegedien sodat pynreaksies en weefselbeskadiging by die dier beperk word.

Volgens dr. Strydom het die stadige werking van middels dikwels veeverliese tot gevolg. Dié probleem word met Curamycin 123 ocrbrug deurdát dit geformuleer is om binne-aars toegedien te kan word in gevalie waar oombliklike werking verlang word. Dit kan egter ook op die gewone manier binne-spiers toegedien word. Curamycin 123 word in botteltjies van 30 ml verpak en is vanweë die hoë konsentrasie klein-volume-dosisse, uiters ekonomies.

SAMPI REËL 'N HOOIDAG

DIE tweede SAMPI-Hooidag sal op 24 Maart op die SAMPI-Oesdagterrein by Bothaville in die Vrystaat gehou word. Dit maak deel uit van 'n reeks gebeurte, waar SAMPI ook sy tien-jarige bestaan sal herdenk.

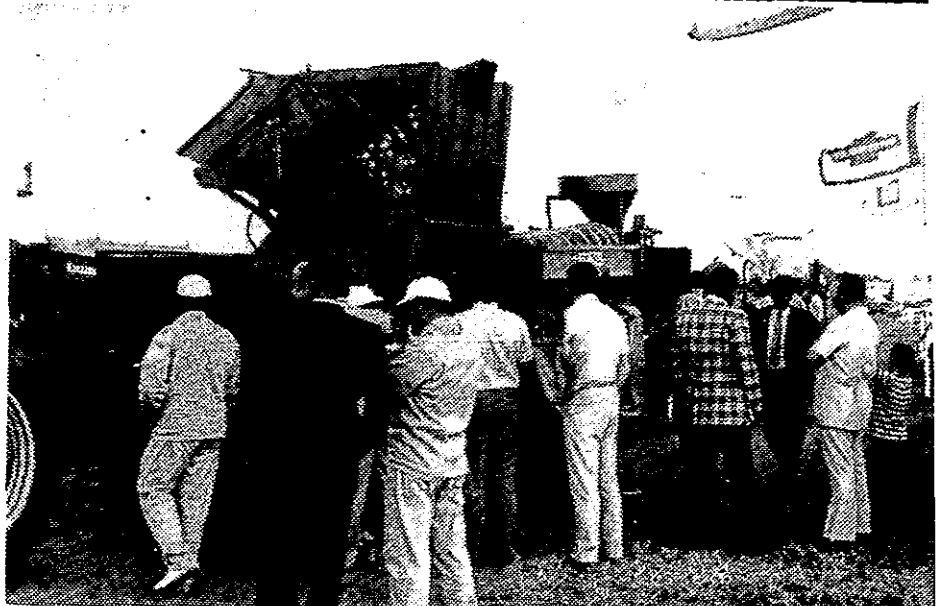
Daar sal tien van die voorste uitstallers wees, wat verskillende grondbonekultivoer- en hooiwerktuie sal vertoon en demonstreer. Die Hooidag is spesifiek gereël vir einde Maart, omdat die nodige gewasse, weens groei periodes, nie by die volgende SAMPI-Oesdag, wat teen einde April gehou sal word, beskikbaar sal wees nie.

Wat die organisasie van die Hooi- en Oesdae uniek maak, is die feit dat dit op

'n vrywillige grondslag deur die boere georganiseer word. Die oorfloedige reëns het wel skade by die gesaaides aangebring, maar nie in so 'n mate dat dit die welslae van die Hooidag enigsins sal raak nie.

Talle verbeteringe vir die gerief van die publiek, sowel as die uitstallers, is reeds op die terrein aangebring om te verseker dat hierdie aanbiedings van SAMPI 'n nog hoër peil as in die verlede sal handhaaf.

Landbou - RAPPORT



BOERE belyk 'n Slattery-grondboontjie-eenheid op verlede jaar se Hooidag.

Support for liquor price inquiry

1/18/76
(2) Agric - Wine
(3) 1/16/76

24/5/76
STAR

Own Correspondent
CAPE TOWN — The hotel industry in South Africa would support a full Board of Trade inquiry into the liquor industry, Mr Arnold Brock, vice president of the Federated Hotel Associations of South Africa, said today.

This is the latest step in the growing row over the price of table wines at restaurants.

At the weekend, Dr Andre du Toit, chairman of the powerful KWV,

joined issue with Fedhasa on the subject. He questioned the results of a survey undertaken by Professor J Zewenbergen of Pretoria University, showing that in spite of a mark-up of 189 percent on table wines, five-star hotels still showed a loss of 3.9 percent on sales allowing for costs and overheads.

He said apart from the wine industry's objection to "apparently excessive margins hoteliers may now wish to arrogate for themselves, the producers take the strongest exception to the fact that the retail trade continues in its mark-up policy to discriminate against wine."

DESERVED

He said a Board of Trade inquiry "could well be called for" in view of the magnitude of the public interest.

Mr Brock expressed surprise that Dr du Toit should attack Fedhasa. "I am quite amazed that he should be quoted in this way. Fedhasa would not criticise the mark-ups of wine merchants because we believe the profits they make are justly deserved, even though they may well be more than the 189 percent to which they now object," he said.

"We would gladly support a State probe into prices, but then the Board of Trade inquiry should investigate all matters affecting liquor prices, from the primary producers through the merchants to the retailer.

"We're not only talking about hotel prices, but everything involved in the liquor industry, including free competition and other aspects that affect prices."

107
(2) Hgen. Sugar
(3) 186

KwaZulu wants

African Affairs
Correspondent

25/5/26

sugar mills

ULUNDI — The sugar industry was reprimanded in the Legislative Assembly yesterday for its opposition to the establishment of sugar mills in KwaZulu.

Chief Owen Sitole, Councillor for Agriculture felt that the sugar industry wanted a monopoly of mills.

He recalled that his Government had appointed a consultant last year to look into the establishment of a sugar mill in KwaZulu. The report was submitted to Pretoria and then to the South African Sugar Association.

The Sugar Miller's Association and Government officials rejected KwaZulu's proposal.

"We are really going to take the sugar industry and the Government to task on this issue," said Chief Sitole.

Late last year he and his director, Mr. Nico Smit, met members of the Sugar Association.

They discussed the need for mills in KwaZulu "on the basis that Whites deliver cane to our mills as we deliver cane to their mills." The association's response was unfavourable.

In fact, he said: "This proposal was met with the remark that there was no need to have a

mill within KwaZulu because the White sector Quota was sufficient.

Chief Sitole also spoke on the "alleged weaknesses" in the system of land occupation, saying they could be overcome by effective land use.

He is chairman of the commission investigating land tenure in KwaZulu.

The land tenure report tabled last year has to be considered by the House.

Communal land tenure is the prevalent system in rural KwaZulu at present with land allocation in the hands of the chief.

Chief Sitole expressed satisfaction with the traditional pattern of rural settlement.

Agral - Cereal

STRENGTH TO THE MIDDLE CLASS

R500m of food in S.A. is 'wasted'

Mercury Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — More than R500-m worth of food is wasted in South Africa each year, the director of the South African Co-ordinating Consumer Council, Mr. J. J. Verheem, said in Stellenbosch yesterday.

Addressing a meeting organised for housewives by the Stellenbosch Afrikaanse Sakekamer. Mr. Verheem said that while it was often cheaper to buy in bulk, anything bought in excess of what a consumer actually needed was only waste.

"R500-m is wasted each year in South Africa — just on food. We can't afford it any more. We couldn't afford it in the first place," Mr. Verheem said.

A positive effect on inflation, Mr. Verheem said, was that it had led to a rise of consumer consciousness in South Africa.

Women had become more concerned with quality as a result of inflation, he said. The days when a housewife would buy something just because of its attractive appearance or packaging had passed.

And housewives were now more inclined to buy for cash rather than credit. In fact, Mr. Verheem said, the consumer was beginning to make "more responsible consumer decisions."

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 Hausard 18
 2/6/76

Compare your two lists of cities and restricted negotiate with the your objective.

2. PLANNING THE PRESENTATION

2.1

	Number	Area (ha)
Cape Province		
Whites	29 042	51 775 721
Coloured persons	675	307 617
Asiatics	5	35
Registered companies	874	3 090 980
Other organizations	171	1 303 724

	Number	Area (ha)
Natal		
Whites	5 135	3 110 693
Coloured persons	135	14 739
Asiatics	2 064	38 460
Registered companies	761	857 992
Other organizations	107	365 947
Transvaal		
Whites	27 517	13 142 848
Coloured persons	2	243
Asiatics	24	3 691
Registered companies	729	1 234 393
Other organizations	91	306 224
Orange Free State		
Whites	14 356	11 323 542
Coloured persons	3	816
Asiatics	—	—
Registered companies	220	471 089
Other organizations	24	67 485

(2) Not available.

3. *Bona fide* farmers 1122
 970. Mr. H. J. VAN ECK asked the Minister of Agriculture:†
- (1) (a) How many *bona fide* farmers who are (i) Whites, (ii) Coloured persons and (iii) Asiatics are there in each province and (b) what is the area of the land on which the farmers in each such race group farm in each province;
 - (2) what is the number of (a) Whites, (b) Coloured persons and (c) Asiatics engaged in (i) stock farming, (ii) dairy farming, (iii) horticulture, (iv) crop farming and (v) poultry farming in each province.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) (a) and (b) According to the 1972-73 Agricultural Census there were 81 935 farming units of which 78 958 were owned by private persons or partnerships. Since small-holdings are included in the Agricultural Census the information does not apply to *bona fide* farmers only.

Particulars according to Provinces were as follows:

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 in one
 paper.

- 5) Leave about six lines for the introduction. Write your three main points down leaving a few lines in between each.
- 6) Go through your list of ideas again. Underline those points that support your three main points.
- 7) Write two sub points under each main point.
- 8) At this stage you should refer to books, interview specialists, check figures and statistics, find quotations, apt examples or demonstrations. Your talk should be an expression of your own ideas on the subject, backed by outside opinion.

been prepared
already been prepared

Agricultural produce produced/exported

994 Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG
asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) What quantities of each type of agri-

cultural produce were (a) produced
and (b) exported during 1975;

(2) what quantities of each product were
exported to African countries during
that year.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) The particulars available for 1974-75
are as follows:

	(a)	(b)
Maize	9 139 000 t	3 698 000 t
Wheat	1 780 000 t	43 019 t
Oats	99 000 t	13 475 t
Barley	51 000 t	—
Rye	4 000 t	—
Chicory	11 934 t	100 t
Groundnuts	179 500 t	146 000 t
Sunflower seed	243 200 t	6 000 t
Rooibos tea	2 004 t	86 t
Oranges	612 104 t	311 677 t
Grapefruit	121 241 t	57 058 t
Lemons	23 735 t	11 307 t
Naartjies	20 080 t	10 032 t
Mohair	4 053 t	4 062 t
Grain sorghum	360 000 t	20 878 t
Dried fruit	17 004 t	9 964 t
Wool	103 931 t	92 701 t
Cotton lint	39 000 t	4 447 t
Cotton seed	78 000 t	3 537 t
Lucerne hay	1 019 000 t	—
Teff hay	563 100 t	—
Other hay	346 050 t	—
Soybeans	19 950 t	12 000 t
Dry beans	72 012 t	5 259 t
Butter	27 321 t	1 139 t
Cheese	21 996 t	142 t
Condensed milk	50 194 t	5 t
Meat (Commercial slaughtering):		
Cattle	1 287 018	176 t
Calves	87 439	—
Sheep	5 253 076	—
Goats	105 978	—
Pigs	1 465 185	—
Fresh milk	1 242 989 Kl	—
Karakul pelts (R.S.A.)	1 636 501	1 636 501
Eggs	225 939 000 dozen	4 437 720 dozen
Potatoes	712 000 t	10 922 t
Bananas	101 653 t	—
Apples	284 849 t	178 438 t
Apricots	23 510 t	67 t
Grapes	55 256 t	29 353 t
Pears	96 315 t	30 930 t
Peaches	153 335 t	654 t
Plums	7 825 t	2 994 t

(2) Particulars not available.

Is it the right place for your subject?

place for your audience and as

Is it suitable as a meeting (b)

familiar to you?

Will you be playing at home or (a)

If so:

presentation been decided?

Has the venue for your

videotape?

such as a film or a

show any audio/visuals,

Is it essential to

Venue

Audio/visuals

① Agric-General 3
② 267
③ 294

Farmers call for Bantu land

Mercury Reporter

LADYSMITH — The recycling of Bantu Trust Land no longer required for resettlement in the Klip River district for farming was urged by farmers at a meeting attended by the Deputy Minister of Bantu Development, Doctor Ferdi Hartzenburg, at Besters yesterday.

The meeting had been arranged by Mr. Tino Volker, MP for Klip River, at the request of the Besters Farmers Association and was well attended by Besters and Ladysmith farmers, as well as senior officials of the Bantu Affairs Department.

After the meeting Mr. Volker said that farmers had pointed out that over 20 000ha of land north of the Tugela had been acquired from White farmers for resettlement and had thus been withdrawn from farming productivity.

Farmers felt that this land in the Klip River catchment area and at Hermanuskraal west of the railway line at Pieters, which was no

longer required for resettlement, should now be recycled.

Mr. Volker said that it had been stated that if this land was recycled and sold to White farmers at current market prices it would provide additional funds for the Bantu Trust to undertake further development and resettlement.

Mr. Volker said the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner in Natal, Mr. A. van der Watt would find out how many squatters lived in these areas. Priority would probably be given to their resettlement so that the land could be used for farming.

Mr. Volker said farmers were also concerned about the problems of White farmers

adjoining Black spots in the Klip River area, and the fact that there were virtually no fences between them.

Proper fences would mean effective control in the district, farmers said.

If there was better control the relationship between Whites and Blacks would not be disturbed by stock theft, hunting and other unpleasant instances.

The programme of resettlement in the Klip River area was discussed and the meeting accepted the previous priority list of Roosboom, Cremin, Matiwaneskop and Jononokop in that order.

Mr. Volker said the Deputy Minister had said these Black spots would take up to 1979 to resettle.

Farmers suggested that after that attention should be given to the resettling of the Black spots of Driefontein and Kleinfontein.

Farmers *STAR* unhappy 9/8/76 at move

Farming Editor.

The South African Agricultural Union is unhappy with one of the recommendations of the commission of inquiry into the Marketing Act, which seeks to give the Minister of Agriculture much wider powers on the pricing of produce.

The SAAU's general council, while stressing that it has full confidence in Mr Hendrik Schoeman, fears that the powers may be wielded in the future by a Minister who is less sympathetic.

The director of SAAU, Mr C. J. P. Gilliers, said prices were agreed between the Minister and the control boards. Though the Minister had the final say, much could be achieved through discussion.

DOWNGRADED

If, however, the commission's recommendations were accepted by the Government, the control boards could be reduced to the level of advisory boards only.

The matter will be taken further at SAAU's national congress in Bloemfontein in October, and strong representations made to the Government.

The general council also thought it wrong that the Minister would be entitled to appoint control board members on his own initiative alone.

At present he appoints members on the recommendation of organised agriculture, in the form of SAAU and the provincial agricultural unions.

Govt payout plan hailed by farmers

STAR

9/8/76

13-General

2/101

Pretoria Bureau

The South African Agricultural Union has welcomed the Government's plan to speed up homeland consolidation by paying the present White owners of land to be incorporated in the homelands in cash and Government bonds.

The message came from the director of SAAU, Mr C J P Cilliers, following last week's general council meeting at which the new method was discussed.

Under the plan, revealed by the Deputy Minister of Bantu Development, Dr F Harzenberg, in an interview with The Star, farmers will be paid out 40 percent in cash for their properties and the rest in Government bonds.

LOAD SPREAD

Since the bonds need be redeemed only over the next 20 years or so, this spreads the financial load of transferring all the land earmarked for transfer within the next 10 years, over a much longer period.

With the cash currently available a much faster rate of land purchase becomes possible.

Mr Cilliers declined to comment on the new plan when it was first announced, saying he wanted the SAAU's general council to discuss it first.

The view which the council accepted was that the plan would be welcomed by farmers, since there were fears among many of them that the homelands might be declared independent before their own properties had been bought and transferred.

This would involve their being incorporated into the homelands, with the possibility of never being able to sell their land for its true worth.

PROBLEMS

There were, however, problems attached to the Government bonds plan, Mr Cilliers said.

Older farmers who wished to retire might find their bonds useful, but younger ones who wished to buy new farms might find they needed cash.

If they redeemed their government bonds through the banks a discount might be asked for.

The SAAU hoped to discuss this aspect with banks.

WHITE BREAD UP 4c A LOAF TODAY

25/8/76 nm

3 Marketing Cen.

3 Marketing Control Boards

Mercury Correspondent
PRETORIA – The CoL shock of the year—the biggest-ever increase in the price of bread—was announced in Pretoria last night by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hendrik Schoeman.

From today white bread will increase by 4c a loaf to 20c (or 25 percent) and brown bread by 3c to 16c (or 23 percent).

Mr. Schoeman said the reasons for the increases were higher costs in all sectors of the wheat industry.

These necessitated adjustments in the remuneration of wheat producers, millers and bakers.

He said if bread prices were to be maintained at the present level the subsidy for the coming year would have to be increased to more than R130 million.

However, according to other Pretoria sources, not only has the subsidy not been increased, it has actually been reduced by about R30 million.

The Minister said the present financial circumstances simply precluded an increased bread subsidy and price rises had become unavoidable.

The subsidy now amounts to R62 million.

The Minister said 70 percent of all bread sold was white.

Subsidy on food to go warns MP

3/18/76. NM.

Agricultural Correspondent

THE R30m reduction in the bread subsidy appears to be the first step by the Government in a move to end all food subsidies, according to Mr. Warwick Webber, MP.

Mr. Webber (Pietermaritzburg South) is the U.P.'s spokesman on agriculture.

He sat on the commission of inquiry into the Marketing Act, whose report has called for an end to food subsidies.

Asked to comment yesterday, Mr. Webber said: "The days of subsidies are drawing to a close, and it appears as if the Government has accepted the recommendations of the majority of the commission.

He said the increase in the bread price had not been designed to compensate producers, millers

and bakers, but was "designed so that more money will flow into Government coffers."

More than half of the increased bread price went straight to the Government.

Mr. Webber said he believed that subsidies should be retained for all basic foodstuffs.

The public, already staggering from the 25 percent increase in the price of bread, and with the Government turning down pleas for a milk subsidy, can expect no mercy from them as the economic situation worsens.

The commission's report says: "We cannot unreservedly support the principle of a general subsidy on selected produce.

"As a general principle, the majority of the commission members recommend that the policy should be to effect a systematic reduction of the subsidies on bread flour and maize, as in the case of butter, bearing in mind that they are part of the price structure and that a rapid reduction would lead to disruption."

Confirmation that subsidies are being reduced come from a spokesman for the dairy industry,

who said yesterday that this year's subsidy on butter had been reduced from R9,4 million to R7,4 million.

It was likely that there would be further reduction soon.

The prices of milk, maize and wheat come up for review during the next 12 months, and observers believe that the Government will remove or reduce the subsidies at that stage.

Paarl farmers' meeting called off

C.T. 20/9/76

3 - General

PAARL. — Because of the unrest farmers are not prepared at present to leave their wives and children alone on farms at night while they attend meetings. In view of this the monthly meeting of the Paarl Farmers' Association tomorrow evening has been cancelled.

The speaker was to have

been Professor Erika Theron chairman of the Theron Commission on the Coloured people. Her subject was the commission's report on the Coloured people.

Also because of the unrest a flower festival and a farewell matric social of a girls' school have been cancelled.

POLICE PROBING

R40m FIRES ^{S.T.} 28/9/76

LINK WITH RIOTS

By NEIL HOOPER

POLICE are trying to establish whether there is a link between the racial unrest and the spate of veld and other fires which have caused R40-million damage to cattle, crops and buildings.

They are not discounting the possibility that the veld fire which led to the explosion at the Modderfontein dynamite factory last Sunday was also started deliberately.

This was disclosed this week by a senior officer at Wachthuis police headquarters in Pretoria. He said investigations were being carried out by the CID.

However, the police were satisfied that several veld fires had been the result of negligence by White farmers.

The tally of fires throughout the country includes:

- About 30 veld fires in the Transvaal, Free State, Northern Cape and Natal
- Seven sawmills burnt down in the Eastern Transvaal. Police believe at least three were fired deliberately.

In the Free State and Northern Cape, veld fires have destroyed 500 000 sheep and 307 000 hectares of grazing — a total loss of about R6.7-million.

Relief

One of the worst-hit farmers in the Free State is Mr Andre Kolver, son-in-law of the Prime Minister who lost about 2 000 sheep plus R200 000 damage to land and buildings.

The Department of Agriculture is giving special aid to farmers in the southern Free State because of their heavy losses.

In the Transvaal, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, has lost about R100 000 through fires on his farm Witklip in the Delmas district.

In the Eastern Transvaal R5-million damage was caused when a sawmill at Jessievale burnt down, R1.5-million damage at another at Rooihogte and R50 000 at a third sawmill at Amsterdam.

Total fire damage in the Eastern Cape is estimated at R30-million and there have been some arrests in connection with sawmill fires.

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Another two Transvaal sawmills went up in smoke this week at Tweefontein and Middelburg.

In Natal, 12 farms at Dundee have lost R200 000 through fires. Sugar plantations have also been badly hit.

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SPRAAK DEUR DIE STAATSPRESIDENT, DR. N. DIEDERICH, BY
LEENTHEID VAN DIE JAARKONGRES VAN DIE SUID-APRIKAANSE
LANDBOU-UNIE IN BLOEMFONTEIN.

SPERTYD: 19 OKTOBER 1976 : 21h00

ADDRESS BY THE STATE PRESIDENT, DR. N. DIEDERICH, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN
AGRICULTURAL UNION IN BLOEMFONTEIN

EMBARGO: 19 OCTOBER, 1976 : 21h00

Die winsgewendheid van 'n onderneming is sekerlik die vernaamste faktor wat bepaal of die ondernemer daarmee voortgaan of nie. Dieselfde geld vir die boerdery. Die tyd is reeds lank verby dat 'n boeregesin dit kan bekostig om op die plaas te sit ter wille van die vrye bestaan, weg van die stadsgewoel, of ter wille van die natuurskoon.

Vir die voortbestaan van die boer op sy grond, maar ook vir die volgehoue vooruitgang van Suid-Afrika, is dit belangrik dat elke boerderyonderneming in die land 'n winsgewende onderneming moet wees. Dit is dus belangrik dat ons by 'n geleentheid soos hierdie die ekonomiese welvaart van die landbou van nader beskou, ons vergewis van die feite en dan koppe bymekaar sit indien sake moontlik 'n verkeerde wending neem. Dit is immers een van die vernaamste redes waarom u kongres hou.

Die bruto inkomste van boere oor die twaalf maande wat einde Junie vanjaar geëindig het, wil 'n mens optimisties stem oor die toestand van die boerdery in die Republiek. Vir die jaar 1975/76 het die bruto inkome 'n nuwe rekordpeil van R2,68 miljard bereik wat 7 persent hoër was as die hoë syfer in die vorige jaar.

Hierdie hoër inkomste was egter grootliks te danke aan die feit dat produsente hoër pryse vir hul produkte gekry het. Weens die wispelturigheid van klimaatstoestande veral is die jongste mielie-oes aansienlik kleiner as dié van verlede seisoen. Dieselfde geld vir graansorghum, grondbone en suikerriet, terwyl die koringoes gelukkig effens hoër was as verlede jaar.

3/...

Maar ten spyte van die rekord bruto inkome van boere die afgelope seisoen het hul netto inkome met 10 persent gedaal. Na skatting sal boere vanjaar R121 miljoen minder uit hul ondernemings verdien as verlede jaar. Op slot van rekening is die netto verdienste die syfer wat saak maak, die een wat beslis of die boer op sy plaas sal bly en voortgaan met sy onderneming, en of hy uiteindelik sal verkoop en elders 'n heenkome soek.

Die verskynsel van stygende inkomstes maar laer netto verdienstes en toenemende probleme om ekonomies die mas op te kom, is vandag in Suid-Afrika en in feitlik alle lande van die wêreld nie net die probleem van die boerderybedryf nie, maar van die hele gemeenskap, van elke ondernemer of individu.

In die geval van die boer is sy dalende netto inkome in die grootste mate te wyte aan die skerp styging van sy produksie-middele in die jongste tyd. Boere het gedurende die afgelope

4/...

jaar vergeleke met 1974/75, 35 persent meer aan brandstof bestee, 44 persent meer aan kunsmis, 18 persent meer aan veevoer en 24 persent meer vir die instandhouding en herstel van hul masjinerie en implemente.

Dit is verontrustend om te verneem dat die pryse van trekkers gedurende die afgelope jaar (1975/76) met 33 persent gestyg het en dié van masjinerie, toerusting en implemente met 22 persent. Die pryse van omheinings- en boumateriaal het onderskeidelik met 19 en 23 persent gestyg.

Die pryse van boerderybenodigdhede in die geheel het die afgelope jaar met 19 persent gemiddeld toegeneem, vergeleke met die vorige jaar. Hierdie skerp stygings in die jongste jare is die kern van die probleem in die boerdery vandag.

5/...

- 5 -

Wat die fisiese produksie van landbouprodukte betref, weet ons dat die Suid-Afrikaanse boer hom nog altyd uitstekend van sy taak gekwyt het, veral in die afgelope dekade of twee. Ten spyte van moeilike boerderyomstandighede oor die grootste deel van die land is die volume van akkerbouproduksie oor die afgelope vyftien jaar (tot in 1975) meer as verdubbel, tuinbouproduksie is met 83 persent opgeskuif en die produksie van veeprodukte met 43 persent. As daarby in aanmerking geneem word dat die produsentepryse van landbouprodukte oor die afgelope vyftien jaar meer as verdubbel het, is dit ontstellend vir 'n bedryf as die netto inkome van sy ondernemers desondanks daal.

Lowering the costs of production and increasing net income correspondingly is without doubt the most important problem facing the agricultural industry today. If the producer can effectively overcome this problem his future, and with it that of South Africa, is largely assured and our agricultural industry

6/...

will then achieve even greater heights than in the past.

The farmer can unfortunately do little or nothing in regard to the costs of most of his production enterprises, especially not to those with an imported component. Fuel is today one of the farmer's heaviest expenses, as it is for the country as a whole, an expense which, with other expenses, is to a very large extent responsible for the difficult economic conditions now prevailing in the Republic.

The first defence of the farmer, as of any other consumer, against the rising prices of essential items is the more sparing and effective use thereof. It has now become urgently necessary, also when the purchase of a new tractor or implements and other

7/...

machinery is considered, that the farmer should ask himself whether his existing equipment on the farm cannot serve satisfactorily for another season or two.

We are living at a time when Langehoven's advice on buying is more to the point than ever before: "Do not buy a thing when you need it", he said, "buy it when you cannot do without it". This is a self-examination which every farmer, but also every consumer in the country, will now conscientiously have to devote himself to every day if we wish successfully to survive the economic conditions in which we now find ourselves. The continued high level of domestic spending is in fact quoted as one of the main reasons why the present setback in the economy lasts so long, and it can possibly last still longer if there is not a very marked improvement in respect of domestic saving.

8/...

There are, however, essential production means without which the farmer cannot pursue his undertaking, means which must in many cases be purchased also in greater quantity if regard must be had to the call and necessity for higher production. For example fertiliser, which has shown one of the greatest increases in price in the past year, is indispensable for larger crops.

Under present circumstances effective production has become something more than just a fine idea often discussed in farming; it has become an absolute necessity for continued economic production.

If the net farming income declines despite the fact that farmers have in recent years increased the volume of agricultural products,

9/...

and despite the fact that the prices of these products have risen considerably, we must realise that the farmer will in the future hold his own only with outstanding achievements.

The only way he can achieve this is on the one hand to organise his undertaking as scientifically as possible on the technical level, and on the other continually to keep the economy of every aspect of the undertaking under the magnifying glass.

The natural resources and climatic conditions in South Africa do make exceptional demands on the agricultural producer, but on the other hand he finds himself in the fortunate position that in government departments and private undertakings he has a large number of agricultural scientists and economists upon whose advice and assistance he can always rely. In this respect I think farming is better assisted than any other industry in the country.

10/...

There are numerous examples of farmers in different parts of the country who are steadily increasing their incomes by year after year applying to their undertakings the latest findings arrived at by agricultural science and especially by conducting their farming on economic principles. Accordingly it must be concluded, where it was found that neighbours of such farmers retrogressed under practically identical environmental conditions, that this can surely be attributed to the fact that use was not made of the latest findings. The methods of earlier days were still good enough before the production-cost-squeeze gave us such severe headaches, but under the present oppressive conditions farming must necessarily be conducted according to the best agricultural science and business principles.

11/...

Looking back on the performances of the South African farmers in the past, I do not doubt for one moment that in the difficult years that lie ahead they will continue to demonstrate performances that will ensure the future of the farming industry.

Ten slotte is daar nog een aspek van die landbou in Suid-Afrika waarna ek graag wil verwys, 'n saak waaroor ook baie ander bekommerd is. Dit is naamlik die feit dat die boerdery in 'n steeds groter mate 'n geslote bedryf vir die buitestaander word. Die belangrikste oorsaak van dié toestand van sake is die geweldige groot kapitaalvereistes wat die boerdery vandag aan die ondernemer stel. Dit word bewys deur die feit dat daar tans gemiddeld R200 000 in elke boerdery-eenheid in die land belê is.

Vir die jongman wat geen hoop op erfgrond het nie, maar landbouopleiding geniet het of op 'n ander wyse boerderykennis bekom het,

12/...

is daar dus weinig geleentheid om 'n plaas van sy eie te bekom en 'n eie onderneming aan die gang te kry.

Nuwe bloed en frisse nuwe benaderings moet enige bedryf tot voordeel strek, en ook in die geval van die landbou sal dit so wees. Daarom is ek bly om te verneem dat die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou-Unie reeds ernstige aandag aan dié saak gee en metodes en middels probeer vind om belowende nuwe mense in die boerderykring in te trek.

Daar is vooruitstrewende lande van die wêreld waar die staat 'n aansienlik groter persentasie landbougrond besit as in Suid-Afrika en dié grond dan onder billike, aanmoedigende voor-

13/...

waardes aan mense verhuur wat nie andersins aan grond kan kom nie.

Ek is oortuig daarvan dat daar baie ryk boere in Suid-Afrika is wat nie al hul plase optimaal benut nie, maar hul omset kan verhoog deur dele van hul grond onder die bestuur te plaas van uitgesoekte manne wat formele of praktiese kennis van die boerdery het.

Wat vir my in dié verband ewe belangrik is as verhoogde landbou-produksie is dat ons na ons beste vermoë daarna strewende om 'n terugvloei van blankes na die plaas en die platteland te bewerkstellig. Daar is groot dele van die Suid-Afrikaanse platteland wat in die afgelope paar dekades groot getalle blankes verloor het en dit het van kardinale belang geword dat hierdie gebiede hul lewenskragtigheid herwin. Dit kan

14/...

alleen gebeur as daar genoeg handwerkende mense met ondernemingsgees in dié gebiede gevestig word.

Ek vertrou dat hierdie belangrike saak die daadwerklike en volgehoue aandag sal geniet van elke instansie en persoon wat kan help om die volle besetting van ons plase weer te bewerkstellig.

Mag u besprekings op hierdie kongres ook veel goeie vrugte vir die landboubedryf lewer. Ek wens u sukses met u ondernemings toe en goeie jare vorentoe.

(3) / (3)

S.A.'s fading farming heritage

21/10/76

nm

PORT ELIZABETH—The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hendrik Schoeman, yesterday promised to investigate complaints by businessmen about the country's agricultural set-up, but warned that his main task was to look after the dwindling farming population.

The number of farmers had been shrinking by about 2 000 a year and now stood at 78 000, he told the annual Assocom congress here, adding: "These are the people I am fighting for."

The days of inefficiency in farming had gone, he said, and escalating costs meant it now took about R200 000 to establish a new economic

farming unit — "and it is not easy today to make a success of farming."

He defended the present set-up of control boards and said the interests of consumers were always considered.

Attempts were being made to streamline the boards, he said, but basically they were doing a sound job and added

only a minimal amount of the cost of products.

Answering questions from delegates, the Minister said the registration of bakeries and butcheries was necessary to ensure that the "small man" stayed in business.

He dismissed suggestions that the control boards should do more research work, and said the Department of Agriculture had the biggest research department in Africa.

Its staff, he said, would be enticed away if other bodies began duplicating the department's research work. This had already happened in certain cases.

On co-operatives, he said that if they were subjected to the same taxes as ordinary companies, they would then not be subject to present restrictions and would be able to sell all ranges of goods.

Every effort was being made to extend electricity to more farming areas, he said, but as the cost of electricity mounted farmers were finding that it paid to go back to diesel engines for their pumps. — (Sapa.)

Councils will keep markets — Schoeman

PORT ELIZABETH — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, yesterday gave the assurance that municipal markets would remain in the hands of local authorities, "unless something quite unforeseen happens in the field of local government."

Opening the new national fresh produce market here, the Minister said: "It is only logical that local authorities should own and conduct markets and be responsible for making available the required supply of

fresh fruit and vegetables to the public as economically and efficiently as possible, while also ensuring the producer is reasonably remunerated for his produce."

Urging all concerned with the effective running of municipal markets to make the best possible use of facilities available, the Minister urged fruit and vegetable traders to improve and rationalise their businesses and to aim at efficiency and service at a reasonable price.

— SAPA.

CONTROL BOARDS ARE 'HITTING' SA CONSUMERS

agrus
6/11/76

By David Albino

SOUTH AFRICA'S 22 product control boards — which govern the marketing of foods ranging from peanuts to pork chops — are 'killing off private enterprise in the agricultural industry,' represent mainly the views of the producer, and protect him to the detriment of the consumer.

This position, according to Assocom (the Association of Chambers of Commerce) and the SA Grain Produce Traders' Association results in the boards fixing prices for a 'self-interested group' and inflated food prices.

The bodies warned that the consumer has to pay the boards were killing off private enterprise in virtually 'every sphere of agricultural industry.'

They can do this because the Marketing Act says all commodity control boards should have a majority of producers.

At present consumers represented on these boards are outnumbered 14 to one, largely by producers.

And this position is unlikely to change in spite of a commission of inquiry into the Act which published its report earlier this year.

UNETHICAL

The commission, apparently rejected advice by Assocom and the Grain and Produce Traders' Association that 'primary producers should not continue to enjoy the present unethical majority representation on control boards.'

Instead the commission has recommended that the principle of a producer majority should be upheld.

This week spokesmen representing commerce, agriculture and consumers strongly criticised the boards, and the Government, for failing to consult fully with consumers about price increases.

They attacked certain boards for 'gross mismanagement and inexplicable actions.'

derstand is the absolute indifference on the part of the Government. Butter prices can be reduced significantly if the Government is prepared to subsidise the difference. They do not want to go beyond the R7-million or so subsidy for the present financial year.

QUOTAS CUT

Mr Streicher said the Government had recently warned farmers not to enter the dairy industry indiscriminately. Many dairy farmers had already had their milk quotas cut.

'We have just encouraged people into the industry and within months we suggest they should get out again. And for what reason? To have a shortage of certain dairy products again within 24 months? That is not planning.'

Mr Streicher said the Minister of Agriculture was holding conferences with, and listening to, the complaints of consumers at present. 'Why did this not take place before the increase?'

Mr Streicher said he refused to believe that a surplus could be removed by increasing prices in order to finance losses on exports.

He urged the authorities to introduce a school feeding scheme run by the educational authorities to serve children milk and cheese during play times. 'Within a matter of months we would get rid of our surplus milk and cheese and consequently reduce our supplies of butter and powdered milk.'

UNFORTUNATE

Mr Richard Mitchell, ASSOCOM'S deputy president said the current 'unfortunate' development in respect of butter marketing partly reflected the 'inadequacies in the system' of control boards.

He said ASSOCOM had in the past urged the authorities to consult fully with consumer and other interests.

Various aspects of the operations of agricultural control boards have been of considerable concern to organised commerce for many years.

It is hoped the present difficulties serve to speed up the implementation of the recommendations of the commission of inquiry.

UNFAIR

Mr Myburgh Streicher, chairman of the United Party's agricultural group, said that although it would be unfair to accuse control boards of inefficiency or exploitation when circumstances developed beyond their control they are not beyond criticism, especially when their actions are inexplicable.

He said: 'We desperately need forward planning. What I do not un-

CT. 16/11/76

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Cillie commission starts City hearing today



Key members of the Cillie Commission discussing procedure to be followed when the hearing of evidence about the disturbances in and around the Cape Peninsula starts at the H F Verwoerd Building, Cape Town, today. From left: Mr D Jacobs, secretary of the commission; Mr J F Malherbe and Mr D R Ngo, both local advisors; Dr Percy Yutar, who will lead the evidence; Mr Justice P M Cillie, chairman of the commission, and Mr P M Sonn, the third local advisor co-opted for the Cape Town hearings.

Chief Reporter
POLICE evidence is expected to be led first when the Cillie commission of inquiry into the riots begins its two-week hearing in Cape Town today.

Members of the commission spent the whole of yesterday receiving and considering applications from people wishing to testify at the inquiry, as well as discussing procedure and preparing generally for the Cape Town hearing.

Mr D Jacobs, secretary of the commission, said that at this stage it was impossible to say how many individual witnesses would be called.

Anyone wanting to get in touch with Mr Jacobs while the commission is in Cape Town can telephone him at 45-6129.

The hearing will take place in the ground-floor auditorium of the H F Verwoerd Building in Parliament Street, starting at 9am. Evidence will be led by Dr Percy Yutar, former Attorney-General of the Transvaal, assisted by Mr E S J van Graan, an advocate attached to the Attorney-General's office in Pretoria, and Mr A M Hlungwani, a professional assistant.

For the first time since the commission was constituted the chairman, Mr Justice P M Cillie, will be sitting with local advisers. These are Mr J F Malherbe, Mr D R Ngo and Mr P M Sonn.

FOOTNOTE: Members of the staff of the Cape Times who covered the recent unrest have offered to give evidence before the commission. Summaries of their proposed evidence together with comprehensive press clippings were presented to the secretary of the commission in

STAR 1/12/76

Farmers' call for mixed kwaZulu

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — White-owned farms and urban areas, such as Richards Bay, should be incorporated into kwaZulu in any further consolidation moves.

The president of the Natal Agricultural Union, Mr D C Sinclair, said this would make kwaZulu a multiracial state.

Mr Sinclair, commenting on a statement by Minister of Water Affairs, Mr Raubenheimer, said kwaZulu would probably have to be reconstituted in about 10 years.

Any further consolidation on the present "swop basis" would have a drastic effect on farmers, affect production and might prove impossible to implement, he said.

Mr Sinclair said the Government should consider proposals leaving the status quo in areas to be incorporated, circumventing the need for the swopping of land, and making kwaZulu a multiracial state.

He said the proposals would probably meet with Government opposition as it would be against policy

to create a multiracial state. Affected whites might also object.

South Africa could not afford any further consolidation on a swop basis if the present rate of consolidation, severely affected by lack of funds, was to continue.

Current proposals to reduce kwaZulu from more than 100 parts to 10 would cost between R300-million and R400-million, Mr Sinclair said.

The entire consolidation programme for all the homelands would cost about R900-million, he said.

Pigs face a lean future

3

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS GENERAL RULES FOR BUSINESS

1. Matters for Discussion:

All motions to be discussed clearly worded and presented one or two weeks in advance.

2. Agendas:

These should be drawn up by members of the course.

3. Quorum:

If there are not sufficient members present the Chairman must dismiss the meeting.

4. Officers:

4.1 The Chairman, by virtue of his office, may dismiss the meeting if in some cases a quorum is not reached. (This casting vote may be used if necessary.)

4.2 The Secretary, by virtue of his office, may dismiss the meeting if in some cases a quorum is not reached. (This casting vote may be used if necessary.)

4.3 The Treasurer presents the financial report, handles any monetary matters and usually has the right to vote.

4.4 Members have the right to raise a second motion, discuss motions and vote on their adoptions as resolutions at the beginning of the mid-year examination period.

5. Opening Procedure:

5.1 The Chairman details the minutes of the previous meeting.

5.2 Apologies for non-attendance are called for, and personal notices are announced.

5.3 The Minutes of the previous meeting are read or "taken as read", and the minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true reflection of what took place.

5.4 Matters arising from the Minutes are then discussed.

5.5 Other matters to be placed on the Agenda are then called for by the Chairman.

5.6 Scheduled matters are discussed in the order in which they appear on the Agenda.

Pretoria Bureau
Housewives will be able to buy leaner pork and bacon, when new grading regulations for porkers and baconers are introduced in July next year, it was announced today.

In making the announcement, the Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board said the new grading regulations were to meet consumer demand for leaner pork and bacon as well as to streamline and improve the grading process.

The move has been welcomed by the Pig Development Association and its president, Mr Gerard Braak, said this would be of major advantage for the consumer who would now be able to buy pork with even less fat.

"This will not only increase the consumption of pork, but it means that the already-efficient pig producers will have to be more efficient if they are to produce this quality now called for," he said.

Under the new grading regulations, the maximum back fat thickness for Super Grade porkers and Grade One baconers will be reduced by 2 mm and 3 mm respectively.

Shakespeare, Hamlet
Gardner, Any other
13. DEVELOPMENT
12. COMPARE
11. SPEAKER, THE
10. Selected top
Prescribed books:
8. Advanced
7. Old Norse
6. English Renaissance
5. English Renaissance
4. English Renaissance
3. English Renaissance
2. English Renaissance
1. English Renaissance

Lecturers:
Group 1: G. Bell
Group 2: Literature
Group 3: Middle
Group 4: Shakespeare
Group 5: Shakespeare
Group 6: Shakespeare
Group 7: Shakespeare
Group 8: Shakespeare
Group 9: Shakespeare
Group 10: Shakespeare
Group 11: Shakespeare
Group 12: Shakespeare
Group 13: Shakespeare

Examinations are held in
Prescribed Books:
1. Middle
2. Literature
3. Middle
4. Shakespeare
5. Shakespeare
6. Shakespeare
7. Shakespeare
8. Shakespeare
9. Shakespeare
10. Shakespeare
11. Shakespeare
12. Shakespeare
13. Shakespeare

A LOOMING CRISIS THAT MUST BE FACED

NM 24/12/76

Too many people - too

W.C.

NM 24/12/76

little food

THE THREAT of starvation, or at the very least a serious food shortage, within five years has been predicted for South Africa.

This is not the Doomsday warning of a crack-pot alarmist but the considered opinion of some of the country's leading agricultural experts. For the past few years officials of the Department of Agriculture have been issuing a steady flow of warnings which have not, however, become a public issue in South Africa.

It seems that our politicians are too involved in race issues and have largely ignored the warnings.

Opening the Cape Show in March this year, the State President, Dr. Nico Diederichs, issued this sombre warning: "By 1985 South Africa will be short of two million tons of grain and there will be considerable shortages of legumes, root crops and vegetable oils. At the end of the century the shortage of grain will be 7.25 million tons and two million tons of fruit and vegetables will have to be imported."

Although the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hen-

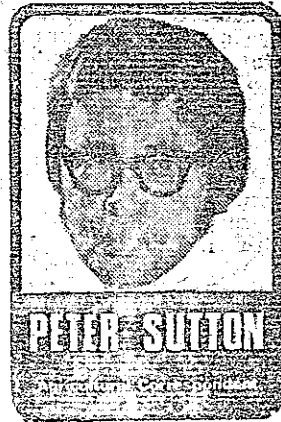
rik Schoeman, is more guarded in his warning, he nevertheless told delegates at a Food Expo held in Pretoria earlier this year that "there will be a serious shortage of all products except sugar."

Mr. Schoeman admitted that there had been "remarkable increases in maize and wheat production and poultry products and red meat" but he quickly qualified this by saying that we could only maintain progress by continuing an all-round increase in agricultural production.

To appreciate the gravity of our situation we must look at the nature of South Africa's population growth and then try to assess our future food needs.

Earlier this year the Department of Statistics released figures to show that by the year 2010 South Africa's Whites would double their 1970 numbers, and the Coloured and African populations would triple their 1970 levels.

The department estimates that the White population in 2010 would be 3.7 million, there would be 54.8 million Coloureds and 7.3 million Africans. The 1970 figure for Asians is



given at 642 000 which by the year 2000 will have increased to 1.7 million.

Vital point

A vital point to remember is that there is not a numerical relationship between population growth and food consumption. The standard of living attained by any country is the all determining factor.

For, even if a population remains static, with a doubling of the stan-

dard of living food requirements will double to meet demand. America for example, while representing only a fraction of the world's total population, today uses 60 percent of all food and raw materials consumed throughout the world.

Taking this factor into account the agricultural growth rate of South Africa needed to satisfy the food requirements of a more prosperous population must be looked at. The picture that emerges is frightening.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. J. J. Malan, recently said that during the next five years the volume of agricultural production must increase by at least 5.9 percent a year.

He said: "The scope for this challenge to the agricultural industry is apparent from the fact that the industry during the past 10 years up to 1973 grew at an average rate of 3.5 percent a year." This is an admission of failure for the agricultural sector.

Drought

Prof. Peter Tyson and Mr. Tom Dyer of the University of Wit-

watersrand predicted five years from now — the rainfall will start easing off towards drought years. Prof. Tyson, who heads the Department of Geography at Wits University, stresses that by 1990 the country will have entered another wet cycle.

However, although nobody knows for certain when it will strike, the next drought could see the beginning of long food queues forming all over South Africa.

What is being done in South African agriculture to stave off this frightening spectre of hunger and possible starvation? Not very much, I am afraid. Dr. D. J. Agenbach, chief of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services, has analysed what has been done in conservation farming in South Africa over the years. This is his verdict:

"It would appear that no noteworthy changes in farm planning and agricultural production in South Africa have taken place since the acceptance of the policy of optimum resource development was introduced."

Unfortunately, the sad and discouraging story does not end even here. The record of achievement of South Africa's farmers does not appear to be better than

dropped to 0.32 head.

The estimated manure required to support a person with a foodstuff is 0.4 head of population so by the year 1990 the country will have begun to suffer from acute starvation.

Many people have lulled into a false sense of security by Africa's much discussed irrigation schemes. Few people realise that South Africa has at present only 1 million hectares under irrigation and that mere 40 000 hectares of land can ever be brought to this total.

Training

The record of Africa's irrigation farmers is also not good. It has been estimated that on the heartz irrigation which has been in more than 40 years about 820ha have lost to cultivation because farmers know how to use property.

The White Paper on the Orange River called for the services of the

lard of living food requirements will double to meet demand. America for example, while representing only a fraction of the world's total population, today uses 50 percent of all food and raw materials consumed throughout the world.

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five years from now — the rainfall will start easing off towards drought years. Prof. Tyson, who heads the Department of Geography at Wits University, stresses that by 1990 the country will have entered another wet cycle.

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"It would appear that no noteworthy changes in farm planning and agricultural production in South Africa have taken place since the acceptance of the policy of optimum resource development was introduced."

Unfortunately, the sad and discouraging story does not end even here. The record of achievement of South Africa's farmers does not auger well for the future. There are 88 000 farming units in the country. Of these

dropped to 0,32ha per head.

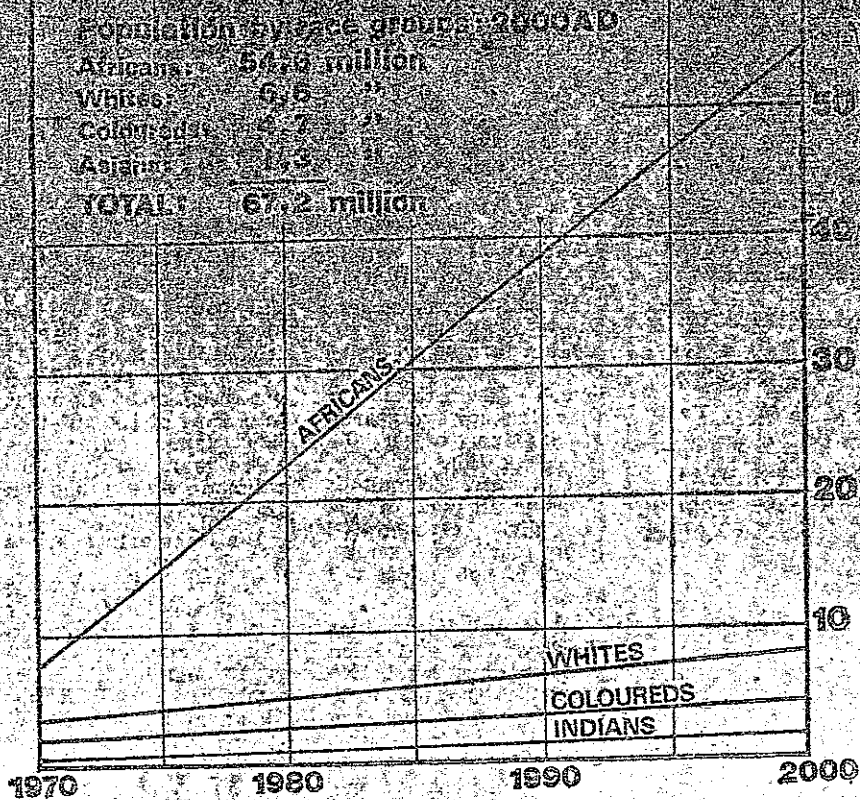
The estimated minimum required to supply one person with essential foodstuffs is 0,6 ha per head of population and so by the year 2000 we will have begun to suffer from acute starvation.

Many people have been lulled into a false sense of security by South Africa's much-publicised irrigation projects such as the Orange River scheme. Few people realise that South Africa has at present only one million ha under irrigation and that only a mere 40 000 ha of more land can ever be added to this total.

Training

The record of South Africa's irrigation farmers is also not very good. It has been estimated that on the Vaalhaartz Irrigation scheme which has been going for more than 40 years — about 920ha have been lost to cultivation because farmers did not know how to use the soil properly.

The White Paper on the Orange River project called for the settling of about 9 000 irrigation farmers on the lands to be opened up. But where are these men going to be trained? For the pro-



methods are also applied in the Black areas which occupy about 40 percent of the country's best farming land.

According to Mr. A. J. Raubenheimer, former deputy Minister of Bantu Development, the Transkei has the potential to produce three million tons of maize. Actual production is given at 0,1 million tons. The prospects for the other Black States are equally bleak.

It has been estimated that even if the home-

lands did not achieve optimum yields but were farmed only as well as White farms, they would, excluding the Transkei, feed a population of 25 million people.

For South Africa to achieve victory in the food war, the task of feeding the homelands must be first tackled and the problem solved.

Failed

Summarising the reasons for the country's lethargic attitude to our

deteriorating agricultural performance, Mr. T. C. Robertson, former director of the National Veld Trust and well-known conservationist told me:

"There is no national awareness of the seriousness of the food war on which our social order depends. The politicians are not in possession of the facts and they have failed to debate them. The Press has not been stimulated to respond to an urgent national issue."

Dr. Tom Dyer of the University of Witwatersrand, working with a research team have discovered that South Africa is at the peak of a good rain cycle and is now entering into a trough of drought. In practical terms this means that a crisis must not be thought of in terms of what things will be like in the distant future, but what they will be in a few years' time.

Dr. D. M. Joubert, director of the Transvaal region of the Department of Agriculture, recently analysed the phenomenal growth of wheat production (obtained in good rainfall years) and showed that if a drought similar to that of 1972-73 had struck, production would have dropped by 56 percent below the average yields.

All figures of food needs are statistical averages based on mathematical concepts. But, while the population increases fairly steadily, and is predictable, the food production graph is seen to be a jagged line totally dependent on the weather.

We now have almost conclusive proof from the scientists that an oscillating weather pattern for South Africa's summer rainfall regions does exist. Its implications are serious.

Food queues

Figures for the past 10 years show that we have been going through a period of above average rainfall and we know that by 1981 — a mere

and discouraging story does not end even here. The record of achievement of South Africa's farmers does not auger well for the future. There are 88,000 farming units in the country. Of these 30,000 are said to be uneconomic. This means that a mere 20 percent of farmers produce 70 percent of all our food requirements.

Many people in South Africa are under the misapprehension that we have abundant natural resources on which we can draw to feed our growing population.

The facts tell an entirely different story. Only 15 percent of the total land surface is arable, and of this only three percent is high potential land that yields 40 percent of food.

Alarming

Agriculture has already used up 90 percent of the available arable land. The United States and Russia by comparison have used only 60 percent of their available land. Here is another set of alarming statistics which has been quoted by Dr. W. A. Verbeek, secretary for Agricultural Technical Services. These show how fragile are our hopes for the future.

According to Dr. Verbeek, in 1973 South Africa had a total population of some 23 million. The arable land available per head of population was then 5.7ha. He estimated that by the year 2000, this will have

The White Paper on the Orange River project called for the settling of about 3,000 irrigation farmers on the lands to be opened up. But where are these men going to be trained? For the project to be viable farmers of exceptional calibre are needed and South Africa does not have the facilities to train them in a few years.

Some engineers fear that the Government soil surveys for the project failed to show — just as in the Makhatini Flats in Zululand — that some of the soils are unsuitable for irrigation. If this proves to be correct then one of the country's greatest hopes for future food production will be gone.

The Achille's Heel of South African food production is the homelands. The argument is that we cannot feed ourselves unless optimum farming