

19 AUGUST 1960

RFE EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT

Background Research

RUMANIAN AGRICULTURE:

A ROUND-UP FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1960

Rumanian Unit
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This report is intended as a follow-up to the chapter on agriculture in "Report on Rumania: Background and Current Situation -- December 1959" of 24 December 1959. It does not treat the provisions for agriculture in the new Six-Year Plan or the 15 Year Economic Program. These have been described and analyzed extensively in other papers published by the Rumanian Unit.

RUMANIAN AGRICULTURE: A ROUND-UP FOR THE FIRST HALF
OF 1960

The Development of Socialization

At the third Rumanian Workers' Party Congress (20-26 June 1960) Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, first Party secretary, said that "the cooperativization of agriculture is achieved in general lines" (1).

This is an overstatement, of course, even if such a formula is interpreted in a wide sense; it was first and foremost a propaganda declaration. Dej himself said further in his speech that on 1 June 1960 there were still 680,000 peasant families with 1.8 million arable hectares in the private sector. A more appropriate formula would have been that "the basis for complete cooperativization has been laid". Such a formula could have been taken a little more seriously because the cooperative-collective sector, comprising collective farms, Rent Paying Agricultural Cooperatives (a very negligible factor), and Agricultural Associations, together with the zootechnical associations (2), represented at that date about 50.4 per cent (3) of the agricultural area, and 81 per cent of the families (1) of the country's totals.

Details of the increase in the agricultural area and in the number of peasant families in the cooperative-collective sector are available in absolute figures for the first five months of the year only.

If, however, one takes into account an increase of only one per cent in the arable area held by the socialist sector during the month of July, i.e. 82 per cent reported by the July issue of "Lupta de Clasa" compared with 81 per cent for June 1 reported by Dej at the third Party Congress, and if one bears in mind the fact that in general during summer months, from end of May through to September, people in rural areas are fully occupied more with harvesting, and therefore the monthly increase in collectivization during this period is very small, one can accept the breakdown of the percentages for June 1 as being very little different than that for July 1.

The table below shows for the first five months a marked increase in the collective farm sector compared with that in the

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- (1) "Scinteia" 21.6.1960
 - (2) By "zootechnical associations" are meant associations of peasants who own livestock, sheep, for instance.
 - (3) By calculation: 44.1 % -- figure for end of 1959 ("Buletin Trimestrial Statistic"/4/ 1959, p.44) plus 6.3 %, representing the increase in the first five months of 1960 (that is 952,500 agricultural hectares -- "Lupta de Clasa" July 1960, p.6.)

Agricultural Associations, although the latter still lead over the former in totals.

Sectors	at the end of 1959(4)		Increase during 5 months of 1960(5)		Situation on 1 June 1960	
	agr.area	families	agr.area	families	agr.area	families
socialist sector(6)	10,578.5	--	--	--	11,531.2	--
of which	(72.7%)				(79.3%)(7)	
state sector	4,155.7	--	--	--	4,155.7	
(state farms & state land)	(28.6%)				(28.6%)	
collective farms	2,970.6	842,900	602,700	243,500	3,573.3	1,086.4
	(20.4%)	(23.4%)	(4.2%)	(6.8%)	(24.6%)	(30.2%)
rent paying agr.coop.	27,500	8,300	--	--	27,500	8,300
	(0.2%)	(0.2%)			(0.2%)	(0.2%)
agricult. associations	3,424.7	1,767.0	350,000	72,800	3,774.7	1,839.8
	(23.5%)	(49.1%)	(2.33%)	(2.0%)	(25.83%)	(51.1%)

A comparison of the 1960 increase with the increase for the same period of last year shows a relatively smaller increase in the number of collective farms than might have been expected. But, on the other hand, it does show a substantial decrease in the number of families joining the associations and in the total area brought into the Associations.

- (4) The figures are provided by and worked out from the data in the RPR Central Directorate of Statistics "Buletin Statistic Trimestrial (4) 1959, pp. 39 and 44.
- (5) "Lupta de Clasa" July 1960, p.6
- (6) Comprising state sector and cooperative-collective sector.
- (7) Dej at the third RWP Congress (20 June 1960) said "over 81 per cent of the country's arable area on 1 June 1960". ("Scinteia" 21.6.1960) "Lupta de Clasa" July 1960 gave "over 82 per cent arable area for July 1960".

A comparison with the same period for 1959 is not easy to work out since the figures available do not correspond to identical periods in the two different years. The third issue of the quarterly statistical bulletin for 1960 gives an increase of 859,253 agricultural hectares for the first nine months of 1959 but the figures given for 1960 only cover the first five months. An approximate comparison may be made by the following method. First consider the first nine months of 1959 as equivalent -- from the cooperativization point of view -- to seven full months (for the reasons mentioned previously). Second, to get the monthly average, divide the 859,253 hectares by seven. Third, multiply the average monthly increase by five. The figure thus obtained for 1959 can then be compared with the known figure for the first five months of 1960.

The following table below shows the comparative figures of increase calculated by this method.

S e c t o r s	I n c r e a s e			
	Estimated increase during the first five months of 1959		during the first five months of 1960 (8)	
	agr.area	families	agr.area	families
Collective Farms	613,000 (4.2%)	230,825 (6.4%)	602,700 (4.02%)	234,500 (6.5%)
Agricultural Associations	553,400 (3.8%)	252,810 (7.0%)	350,000 (2.3%)	72,800 (2.0%)

These figures show that both, as to area and families brought the pace of collectivization in the two periods under review was about the same. But it should be stressed that the regime has set 1965 as the goal for collectivization. It need, therefore, be in no great hurry. As to the Associations, the drop for 1960 is quite marked and it is significant.

Another point of interest is in the average agricultural area brought in the sectors by a single family. Indeed, while the average family-area brought in the collective farms is about 2.5 agricultural hectares, the average family-area brought into Agricultural Associations is almost double -- 4.2 agricultural hectares.

There seem to be two possible explanations of this:

(a) a substantial number of Agricultural Associations have in 1960 been turned into collective farms (always been

(8) "Lupta de Clasa" No. 7 (July) 1960, p.6.

the regime's policy) (9) and/or many poor peasants have joined the collective farms directly;

(b) the much less numerous medium class peasant, having been induced by various means to join socialist agriculture prefers the Agricultural Associations for the time being at least, in quest of some kind of refuge from collectivization, in the hope that the worst might yet be avoided.

As soon as the harvest is in the regime will certainly feel freer to press ahead with collectivization. Therefore the results for the last quarter of the year, when they are published, will be of particular interest and may well be a sign of what the intended pace of collectivization is.

In his report from Bucharest on 3 August 1960 Mr. Eric Bourne in the "Christian Science Monitor" stated that the days and months of the individual (Rumanian) farmers are clearly numbered -- "at best a year or so". This, as has been implied earlier, may not be the case. Since the "complete collectivization" target is 1965, the regime may adopt a more gradual policy and try to avoid the recent example of both East Germany and Hungary, in the interests of production. It is possible, however, that at some time in the next five years political reasons might prevail and there might be a collectivization "rush".

One immediate fear, prompted by the Dej Congress statement that the phase of collectivization was beginning, that no more Agricultural Associations would be set up -- only collective farms -- seems to have been dispelled by the latest figures. This would appear not only to indicate a gradual approach on the part of the regime; it would imply that the peasants' hostility and resistance to collectivization is still strong. This gradualism of the regime's approach would seem to be borne out by Dej's remark that:

"Turning Agricultural Associations into collective farms, merging the small ones to form larger units, their economic or organizational consolidation, is an uninterrupted process (10).

As has been inferred above, there are so many unknown factors which could enter into the situation that it is practically impossible to forecast, from the present rate of cooperativization, what the rate in the future will be. If the rate of growth in Agricultural Associations for the first five months of this year is kept up, it would take four years or so for all the remaining private peasants (680,000 families with 1,800,000 arable hectares) and their land to be drawn into the Associations. But, as we have seen, many of the poorer private peasants have seemed in the first half of 1960 to be going directly into the collectives. Thus

(9) At the Congress Dej reported that, during 1959 and the first five months of 1960, 2,516 Associations with an area of just over 1,000,000 hectares had become kolkhozes.

(10) "Scinteia" 21.6.1960.

no worthwhile estimate is really possible. There is the dangerous possibility that, if toward the end of the present Six-Year Plan the regime feels compelled to hasten the transition from Agricultural Associations to collective farms so as to meet the 1965 deadline for collectivization, one might have a repetition of what happened in the Constanta Region in October 1957 when, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, some 340 Agricultural Associations were turned into collective farms practically overnight. This made Constanta a completely collectivized region -- the only one yet in Rumania.

Such a process would do nobody any good; it has certainly had no beneficial effects on agriculture in the Constanta region.

The following two pages of diagrams and tables give a full breakdown of recent development in the whole socialist sector.

An analysis of the table giving the breakdown by regions shows that:

- (a) four of the 16 regions of the country have no district either cooperativized or collectivized. Is it "sheer coincidence" that no information of any kind on development in those areas have been given by the regime?
- (b) no substantial change in the number of districts completely cooperativized and/or collectivized from March 1959 to June 1960, although the percentage of socialization increased substantially in all regions -- in some regions between 40 and 75 per cent (for example, see the Baia Mare region, although one district only was cooperativized during that period).

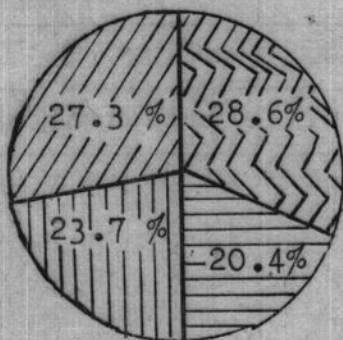
This "evolutionary" picture would seem to indicate that the regime, for the present at least, has renounced trying to get quick spectacular results by collectivizing entire regions as was the case with Constanta, but prefers to get stronger footholds simultaneously spread about in as many regions as possible. In this way it may think that cooperativization and/or collectivization may gradually, as it were, rise to a climax so that in the future, in a period of a short time several regions will be able to announce that they have completed collectivization. But it is possible, as has been said, that if the regime ever thinks it is short of time it may try to repeat "a Constanta" in other regions.

BREAKDOWN BY SECTORS

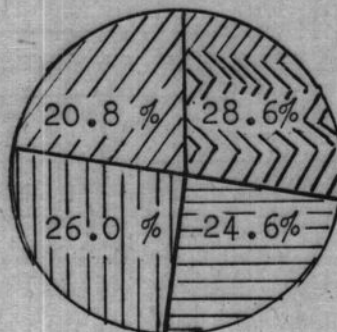
End of 1959

on 1st June 1960
(estimated approximately the same on
1 July 1960)

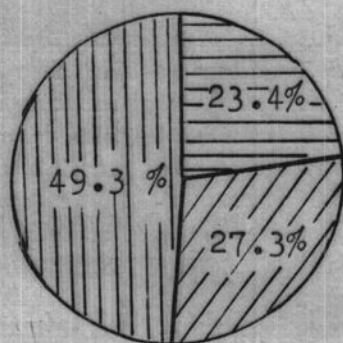
agricultural area



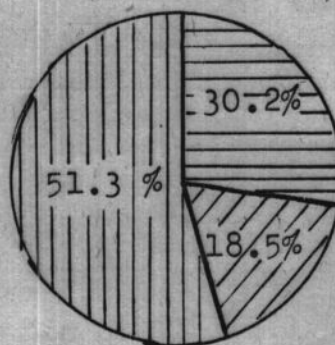
agricultural area



families



families



Sectors:

state



private



agr. ass. & rent
paying agr. coop.



collective farms



EVOLUTION OF COLLECTIVIZATION AND SOCIALIZATION BREAKDOWN
BY REGIONS

Regions	No. of Districts	1959		1960		Socialization in % of the country's areas			
		end of March		1 June		end of 1959		1 June 1960	
		Coop.	Coll.	Coop.	Coll.	Agric.	Arable	Agric.	Arable
Baia Mare	9	1	nil	2	nil	40.0	49.0	n.d.	79.4
Bacau	10	nil		nil		41.9	53.9	n.d.	n.d.
Bucharest	19	4	nil	9	2	74.5	76.9	97.1(?)	80.7
Cluj	14	2	nil	6	nil	66.9	76.7	83.5	80.1
Constanta	7	nil	7	nil	7	98.5	98.7	98.5	98.7
Craiova	20	1	1	2	1	53.5	58.6	70.0	n.d.
Galati	12	5	2	2(?)	5(?)	77.4	82.4	n.d.	90.0
Hunedoara	8	nil	nil	nil	nil	59.8	63.3	71.0.	n.d.
Jassy	10	5	nil	4	1	68.9	76.7	88.5	n.d.
Pitesti		nil	nil	1	nil	45.3	50.0	n.d.	n.d.
Ploesti	12	nil	nil	nil	nil	45.7	56.2	n.d.	n.d.
Oradea	11	1	nil	nil	1	52.0	57.0	72.5	n.d.
Stalin	8	2	nil	2	nil	61.4	66.9	n.d.	n.d.
Suceava	12	2	nil	2	nil	50.5	59.2	68.3	n.d.
Timisoara	16	3	5	2	6	66.0	75.4	90.0	85.0(?)
Auton. Magyar	10	2	nil	2	nil	64.4	70.5	n.d.	n.d.

Coop. = cooperativized districts

Coll. = collectivized districts

n.d. = no data

Basic Funds and Working Conditions in Collective Farms

There is little new information available on the basic funds and collective farm working conditions for the first half of the year. However, from what is known one can conclude that the regime is carrying on what Dej described at the Third Party Congress as "economic-organizational consolidation". The means used to achieve this are the same which have been applied for the last two years: an offensive for the increase of production, productivity and for the increase of communal property and basic funds of the units. In fact, these basic funds are increasing rapidly in many units at least partly through the disregarding of the units' statutes to the disadvantage of their members, i.e. higher quotas being retained for the basic fund from the units' total income, manipulation of the quota already distributed to the members, more "voluntary" work, etc. (11)

Such increases are obviously a good propaganda instrument. The regime press and radio continually stress that the collective farms' income is increasing and that many were becoming "millionaire" units. The hope is, of course, that more peasants will be induced to join them.

But when one actually analyzes some of the published figures for the collective farms' incomes they do not seem impressive at all. Take, for instance, the Bucharest region which in 1959 with 407 collective farms covering 287,067 hectares of land claimed an income of 238,671,000 lei (12). This amounts to about 586,400 lei income per collective farm, or 832 lei per hectare -- a not very substantial sum.

As to individual incomes in the collectives, from last year's data, which is relatively scanty, one might conclude that the collective farms limit, as a rule, the value of a work-day distributed to their members in cash and kind, to about 40 lei. (13) But since the regime is continually claiming that the farms are gaining increasingly higher incomes, one should be able to assume that the value of the work-day will eventually be increased also.

- (11) See Evaluation and Research Section Background Research "Wages and Working Conditions in Rumanian Collective Farms", 29.10.1959.
- (12) "Steagul Rosu" 26.2.1960
- (13) "Romania Libera" 22.6.1960 dealing with the "Comana" collective farm in the Constanta region; Radio Bucharest 17.3.1960 dealing with the "Balaceanu" collective farm in the Ploesti region; Radio Bucharest 9.1.1960 dealing with the collective farms in the Baia commune, Foscani district of the Galati region; Radio Bucharest 23.12.1959 dealing with the "Aurel Setu" collective farm district of the Suceava region. It is true that these examples are very few but since the regime has published these figures one may assume that they are either average or above average.

It remains to be seen what happens this year; there has apparently been a good harvest this year and this should lead to better incomes.

It is worth recalling that in many collective farms apart from the brigade system, there was introduced the system of supplementary remuneration for excess of the planned production. The introduction of the system was also obviously designed to boost production. Its implementation is, however, very complicated and since it varies a great deal from locality to locality no generalizations can be made.

There is so little information on collective farms that one has to work very much in the dark on this problem. Gheorghiu-Dej promised at the Congress that the real incomes of the peasants would increase by 40 per cent by 1965 (14). But since no real present basis is evident this figure means very little indeed. (14)

Pensions

Collective farm members are not legally entitled to pensions. At the 13-14 July 1959 enlarged Plenum of the CC of the RWP which dealt with salary and pension increases, Dej said that people ~~should be~~ getting pensions "on the basis of the collective farms and their members own contribution", and suggested that the problem be studied in order to elaborate a "single pensioning system". He revealed some collective farms in 1959 -- others since 1955 -- had already introduced a local kind of pension system (15). But nothing more has been heard of this matter since.

Article 22 of the collective farm statutes provides for an "aid-fund", which is formed by deducting two per cent of the total gross production of the unit. The aid is supposed to be distributed to invalids, old people, people who have temporarily lost their working capacity, etc.. The July 1956 Plenum of the CC of the RWP decided that the deduction could go up to four per cent.

Production

There are obviously no figures yet for the present harvest. But the RPR press announced that the crop is "good" (16) and that in many parts of the country the average production of wheat would be between 2,500 and 3,000 kilograms per hectare. The State Farms, the press and radio claim, have obtained by 200 to 400 kg/ha yields higher than the collective farms, and the latter have realized higher production than the individual farmers. They claim also that this year's high crop is due to "the advanced agrotechnic means taken by the Party to increase cereal production". (17)

(14) "Scinteia" 21.6.60

(15) "Scinteia" 16.7.59

(16) Radio Bucharest 21.7.60

(17) Radio Bucharest 12.7.60

The area which was planned for cultivation with wheat and rye this year was supposed to be about 3,500,000 hectares (18) but no information is available about whether this target has actually been achieved.

The Second RWP Congress Directives in December 1955 set the 1960 target for wheat and rye at "at least 5.5 million tons. (19) As an indication and comparison is given below the 1959 production (a good harvest year) as recorded by the RPR Central Directorate of Statistics. (20)

<u>Total grain production</u>	<u>10,631,700 tons, of which:</u>
- wheat	4,000,500 tons
- rye	128,100 tons
- maize	5,680,100 tons

Therefore, if in the good harvest year of 1959 only 4,000,500 tons were attained it is very hard to see 5,500,000 tons being attained in 1960 even with the good year they have obviously had. But since the regime has set the 1965 cereal target at about the same level that was set for 1960 by the second Party congress one can certainly assume that all the original cereal targets for this year have been quietly shelved.

State Farms

With regard to the area covered by the State Farms there seems to have been little change in the first six months of this year.

Although the regime has recently claimed some improvement in both the profitability and efficiency of the State Farms, they are obviously still not the models of socialist management which they are supposed to be. Severe criticism was leveled at them by Dej at the 3/5 December 1959 enlarged Central Committee Plenum, especially on the use of the investments. He referred to a "waste of money and incapability in production organization." (21) At the Third Congress he repeated the criticism, although in a milder form. He urged the Councils of the farms, as well as their staff

(18) "Probleme Agricole" June 1958.

(19) "Scinteia" 29.12.55.

(20) "Buletin Statistic Trimestrial" (4) 1959 p. 46.

(21) "Scinteia" 6.12.59.

to try to make themselves models of socialist agriculture -- a well worn slogan by now. (22)

It is worth noting that also during his Congress speech, Dej revealed that the organization of the State Farms had not yet finished, in that some of their area is still composed of scattered plots which need to be commassated. There was also a need, said Dej, for their territories to be zoned for culture specialization. (23)

Remuneration Proportionate to Production

In the wake of the criticism leveled at the State Farms and in order to spur production, a new Decision was issued by the Party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers on 22 July 1960. (24) The Decision introduces in the farms (and other state owned agricultural units) remuneration proportional to production in order "to stimulate in ever increasing measure the fight for increasing cereal, vegetable and animal production, as well to cut down cost price."

The Decision makes provision for

tariff salary will be paid in its entirety, subject to:

- a) an increase proportional (in percentage) to the increase of the realized production,
- b) a decrease in salary in the same proportion if the plan is not realized, such reduction not to exceed 15 per cent of the newly increased tariff salary.

State Farm Deliveries to the State Central Fund

Regime media this year have announced not only a high production of wheat and rye in the State Farms, but also the fact that they are delivering quantities of grain higher than planned for the State Central Fund.

Agerpres on 23 January 1960 reported that the State Farms will have to ensure this year over 120,000 tons of wheat and rye more than last year for the Fund. This means a total delivery of about 640,000 tons, since 520,000 tons were delivered in 1959. (25)

(22) "Scinteia" 21.6.60.

(23) "Scinteia" 22.6.60

(24) "Scinteia" 22.7.60. (The July 1959 CC RWP Plenum made provision for tariff salary increase for workers" (in industry), "agricultural wage earners" not being specifically mentioned in the breakdown by branches. ("Scinteia" 1,8.59.)

(25) Agerpres" 9.2.60

In 1958 Bucur Schiopul, deputy Minister of Agriculture predicted that State Farm deliveries to the fund should in 1960 be twice that of 1957, i.e. 760,000 tons. (26) This will mean a 50 per cent increase over the deliveries of 1959, a considerable target indeed, if in actual fact it is still being aimed at. The year 1957 was a good harvest year. But at that time the State Farms had under their administration only 974,400 arable hectares, whereas at the beginning of 1960 they were supposed to have 1,270,000 arable hectares (27) of which 400,000 hectares were to have been sown with wheat and rye, (28) against 313,405 hectares in 1957. (29)

With regard to the number of State Farms, Agerpres on 27 January 1960 announced that there were 556 of them, but the "Buletin Statistic Trimestrial" (4) 1959, (p.39,) records only 525 for the end of 1959. Probably the balance of 31 farms are Research and Experimental Centers. Such centers, with their highly qualified personnel and the latest techniques in both seeds and machinery, could turn out high average production per hectare, even record production, thus adding to the average production of the other State Farms. It is also possible that the decrease in the number of State Farms may have been due to the amalgamation of some of the smaller ones.

Mechanization of Agriculture

Mechanization is obviously an essential to any modern agriculture and it has been one of the main concerns of the Rumanian regime. Through the increase and improvement in industrial production, and substantial investments in agriculture, some progress has certainly been achieved in this field.

A substantial increase in the number of tractors and other agricultural machines has been made but some of this success has been marred by bad quality and bad maintenance. Some reliable reports indicate that although normally a tractor should be serviceable for about 10 years, it is often of real use only for five to six years because of poor quality and maintenance.

The following table shows the number of the main types

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- (26) Gospodariile Agricole de Stat" No. 8 (August) 1958.
 - (27) "Radio Bucharest" 16.2.60.
 - (28) "Munca" 23.12.59.
 - (29) Schiopul in "Scinteia" 20.12.57.

of agricultural machinery at the end of 1959 with the numbers planned for 1960.

	at the end of 1959 (30)	planned for 1960
Description	totals in agric. in Mts.	to be added in 1960 (31) for the entire agric.
<hr/>		
<u>Tractors</u>		
-physical units	36,529	10,750
-conv. (15 h.p.)	57,709	28,343 (32)
<u>Plows for tractors</u>	38,000	12,700
<u>Combines for bread-</u> <u>making cereals</u>	10,801	5,000

With regard to conventional (i.e. 15 hp) tractors only, Radio Bucharest reports on July 14 that there would be 62,650 in operation by the end of the year and on July 25 Agerpres said that 53,500 conventional tractors were tilling Rumanian fields at that date.

In recent years the Rumanian regime has made great efforts to utilize fully the capacity of every tractor and every other piece of farm machinery. There was obviously room for improvement here but it seems that the regime is now pressing the issue to such a point that the machinery, especially the tractors, is being over-worked and this, of course, is contributing to the shortness of the life of the machines.

The Rumanian Central Directorate of Statistics in its "Buletin Statistic, Trimestrial" (No. 4, 1959, p. 45) shows that a conventional tractor worked 233 hectares of normal plowing in 1955, 262 in 1957, 310 in 1958 and 360 h in 1959. This means more than 50 per cent more work in 1959 than in 1955. (33) With regard to 1960 "Munca" on January 22 of this year stated that the MTS in 1960 should work a volume by 44 per cent more than was done in 1959, or an average of 425 hectares of normal planning per conventional tractor, i.e. almost double that in 1955.

(30) "Buletin Statistic Trimestrial" (4) 1959 p. 45.

(31) 1960 budget ("Scinteia" 27.12.59.)

(32) "Munca" 22.1.60.

(33) On the "Becicherecul Mic" farm (the Timisoara region) and the "Segarcea" farm (the Craiova region) a tractor was made to plough 470 h.a.n. and 610 hectares of normal plowing resp.

But despite the apparent overworking of the machines, the fact remains that the extent of mechanization in the main agricultural operations, especially in the State Farms, has considerably increased. Deputy Minister, Bucur Schopul on 23 December 1959 said that the main agricultural operations done by mechanized means in the State Farms in 1959 had reached 99 per cent in plowing, 98 per cent in sowing, 98 per cent in harvesting bread-making cereals, and 98 per cent in earthing-up. (34) Radio Bucharest on 22 April 1960 speaking in more general terms stated that those operations varied between 90 per cent and 100 per cent mechanization. The same broadcast also stated that on the collective farms mechanization varied between 50 and 90 per cent.

Agerpres on 18 December 1959 gave a broader picture of mechanized operations. It reported that in the socialist sector (i.e. State Farms and the cooperative-collective sector) the mechanization was 90 per cent in plowing, 77 per cent in sowing and 100 per cent in threshing.

Lastly, a word about MTS. The second Party congress in December 1955 set up a Five-Year Plan target of 380 Machine Tractor Stations. But soon after the congress there was a clear slowing down in the setting up of new MTS reflecting a modification in policy. In 1955 there were 221 MTS, in 1956 there were only 222 and a year later there were 235. Since then only seven new stations have been set up. (35) This modification of policy has been shown in the stationing "permanent brigades" of tractors and auxiliary machines on the kolkhozes themselves. (36) The regime's aim may very well be that ultimately the MTS should sell their machinery to the kolkhozes as in the USSR, and the reason why this has not been done is probably because so few collectives are yet in a position to buy them.

The Problem of Maize

Both the Rumanian soil and the Rumanian climate are conducive to a good cultivation of Khrushchev's favorite crop, maize.

(34) "Munca" 23.12.59.

(35) Buletinul Statistic Trimestrial (4) 1959 gives 242 for the end of 1959.

(36) For a full discussion on this problem see Evaluation and Research Section Background Research: "A Decade of Agricultural Collectivization in Rumania" 11.6.59 pp. 24-26.

In 1960 the area earmarked to be sown with maize was given at 3.8 million hectares, of which 800,000 hectares were supposed to be sown with double hybride seeds of high productivity. Agerpres on March 23, stated the seeds to cover that area had actually been secured.

The Second RWP Congress (December 1955) set up a 1960 target of about 4,000,000 hectares to be sown with the whole maize production target being eight to nine million tons. (37). Here again the target may have been shelved because of the unlikelihood of its being fulfilled.

Maize production in 1959, a good harvest year, was 5,680,100 tons, and bearing in mind that in that year 1.5 million hectares were sown with hybrid seeds (38), it is difficult to anticipate for 1960 a production by about 60 per cent higher (than in 1959).

In this field it seems that the progress made is not very significant. Maize production was fairly high in previous good years: 5,876,700 tons in 1955, 6,337,900 in 1957 and 5,680,100 in 1959. Higher production may be realized in future by sowing large areas with double bybrid seeds which on experimental plot of about one hectare yielded 16,000 kgr. maize grains ("Scinteia" 17 February 1960). The "Urziceni" State Farm in the Bucharest region claims 6,000 to 10,000 kgr. per hectare on larger plots ("Munca" 15 April 1960.) But Gheorghiu-Dej was more cautious, saying that an average production of about 2,000 kgr. maize-grain per hectare could be obtained on large area sown with such seeds.

Directives for a high maize production for human consumption in Rumania do not appear among Comecon recommendations as such. The stress seems to be on "considerable increase" in fruit, grapes, and vegetable production with the view to exporting to other countries, (39)

The communiqué issued after the Moscow conference held by the Soviet bloc countries on 2-3 February 1960 to discuss "exchanges of experience with regard to agricultural development," stated in part:

(37) "Scinteia" 29.12.55.

(38) "Scinteia" 5.4.58.

(39) This was laid down at the 12th session of the Comecon council in Sofia in December 1959; "Scinteia" 17.12.59.

"The participants at the conference expressed their conviction that ... the important reserves and possibilities of increasing food stuff cultures, maize for fodder production, will permit every country to increase in the following years the production of cereals for food and for fodder, animal products and other agricultural produce in the interest of building successfully socialism and Communism."

Rumania has always realized a high production of maize for human consumption. The present emphasis on maize throughout the Soviet bloc is at least partly prompted by the desire to increase the production of maize for fodder. It is also expected that the areas sown will produce much greater quantities because of extensive use of hybrid seeds. The Draft Directives of the Third RWP Congress make provision for an increase of the area to be cultivated with maize, which area by 1965 should reach "over 4,000,000 hectares, of which about 1,200,000 hectares will be sown with maize for fodder (to be ensilaged)." (40) Since the total target for these 4,000,000 hectares is 8-9,000,000 tons it is obvious what high hopes are being placed on these modern seeds.

Cadres

The lack of the necessary cadres to carry out the great tasks which the regime has set itself in agriculture has always been felt and still is being felt. The constant references in the press to the need for better cadres is in itself a proof of this. Increased efforts have been made by the government and the Party to overcome this deficiency. Apart from the more highly qualified cadres (engineers, agronomists, veterinary doctors, accountants, etc.) graduated from technical colleges and institutes, schools and courses are organized to train collective farm managers, foremen, brigadiers, zootechnicians, etc. (41)

Recently in July this year, in order to boost the efficiency of work, the Party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers issued a decision whereby the technical and administrative personnel in production, i.e. leading and medium cadres, are granted salary increase ranging from 10 to 25 per cent.

The table below shows the increase in the number of

(40) "Scinteia" 19.5.60.

(41) "Lupta de Clasa" June 1960.

agricultural cadres since the end of 1957.

	1957 (42)	employed in agriculture in 1960 (43)	to be added in 1960	the en- suing years
	1	2	3	4
<u>Total specialists in agriculture</u>	24,437			
-with higher stu- dies and qualifi- cation	12,297	about 14,000	1,300	"over" 28,000
of which:				
eng. agronomists	6,872			
eng. zootechni- cians	1,168			
veterinary doctors	1,945			
mechanical en- gineers	889		189	
-with medium qualifi- cation, total	12,140		17,000	1,500 70,000-80,000
of which:				
agronomists	7,725			
zootechnicians	1,816			
veterinary me- chanics	1,423			
tractor and com- bine drivers	27,720		50,000	
graduates of the agric. vocational schools			80,000	

Agerpres on 14 February 1960 reported also that the RPR technical institutes are training over 5,000 students to become agronomists, forestry engineers, mechanics, horticulturists, viticulturists, , experts in hydromelioration work, zootechnicians.

(42) RPR Statistical Yearbook 1959, p. 203, table 90.

(43) Agerpres 14.2.60.

Irrigation and Land Melioration

The work for irrigation on State Farms and collective farms is continuing apace as in previous years, although the planned increase for this year is about the same as achieved last year. According to "Munca" of 8 July 1960, 48,500 hectares had already been prepared for irrigated cultures at that time. This, according to the paper, represented "82 per cent of the planned area for 1960." In other words the total planned area for 1960 is about 60,000 hectares, which is equal to the area organized for irrigation in 1959.

When this year's work is completed, the total irrigated area will represent over 240,000 hectares. (44) Besides vegetable and rice, areas to be irrigated this year are maize, sugar beet, sunflowers, and other crops, according to Agerpres on 5 March 1960. Irrigation is being extended mainly in the regions of the southern part of the country, where the development of cooperativized agriculture, said Agerpres, enables the efficient use of the set measures to boost agricultural output.

Land melioration has also been extended since the beginning of this year. At the end of February over 100 melioration sites had been established. The largest part of this type of work on the collective farms was carried out by "voluntary" work, the use of which is assuming immense proportions in the RPR.

Brigades for Irrigated Crops

Agerpres on 27 February 1960 announced that the first brigades for irrigated crops had been set up. They are formed of workers, technicians and engineers specialized in agrotechnical work on irrigated land, and are provided with tractors, agricultural machines, pumping installations, as well as equipment for producing artificial rain, and with other equipment. (45)

Conclusions

During the first six months of 1960 one has seen, in the cooperativization process of agriculture, a continuation of the same stress as in 1959 -- a strengthening and a consolidation

(44) Agerpres" 21.3.60.

(45) "Romina Libera" 27.2.60.

of the collective sector, i.e. the kolkhozes as against the lower form of Agricultural Associations. The latter, however, are continuing to be set up and it is possible that the regime, with an eye on the all important factor of produce, will adopt a gradual approach toward full collectivization and avoid the recent examples of East Germany and Hungary.

There is little new information available on the basic funds of the collectives. In many collectives they have certainly improved but this has often been because of higher quotas demanded from the collective farms members in defiance of the collective statutes. But despite some improvement the well founded suspicion still remains that many collective farms are not paying their way. With regard to collective farmers' incomes there is no new information but since a very good harvest is expected this year they should rise, at least to a certain extent.

Production this year is expected to be good. All reports on the harvest agree that it is very good. Last year's grain crop was over 11,000,000 tons and it is quite likely that this figure will be exceeded. One should in this connection remember that the target set for 1960 by the second Party congress was some 15,000,000 tons of grain. This target has now been quietly shelved since the new target for 1965 is just about the same.

In mechanization the regime can claim considerable successes. The number of tractors has exceeded the original 1955 estimate and progress toward complete mechanization is being made. But complaints continue to be made about the quality and short life of tractors to which their overexploitation is a big contributing factor. The MTS still exist and now number 242 but the regime is continuing its policy of stationing "permanent brigades" of tractors on the kolkhozes. The ultimate aim is probably that the collectives should buy the machinery from the MTS, as in the USSR. The fact that this has not yet been done is probably because most collectives cannot afford to buy it.

The State Farms, which are intended to be the "models of socialist agricultural management" have certainly not yet become so in spite of their very high rate of mechanization and the new techniques which are becoming available to them. At the third Party congress Dej urged certain measures of internal reorganization and more recently a new wage system has been instituted so as to get wages more closely to production.

With regard to maize cultivation which, on Khrushchev's insistence, is now receiving great attention throughout the bloc,

the interesting thing with regard to Rumania is the high hectarage which is planned for fodder maize. The 1965 target is for 4,000,000 hectares to be planted with maize of which 1,200,000 hectares will be fodder maize, to be ensilaged. Also of considerable interest is the growing use of high yielding hybrid seeds which in certain areas have produced very impressive results.

The inadequate number of well qualified agricultural cadres has always been a problem, and still is a problem in spite of the obviously increasing numbers which are being turned out. Recently with the obvious aim of boosting the incentive of skilled workers throughout the economy skilled technical and administrative personnel were given increases in salaries ranging from 10 to 25 per cent.

Plans for irrigation and land melioration continue and this year about the same area (60,000 hectares) is planned for irrigation as was actually achieved last year. In both these fields the regime is depending -- probably unwisely -- on unskilled, mass "voluntary" labor.

In general the main problem which has faced Rumania's agricultural planners this year, and which will continue to face them for the next few years, is how to combine the acknowledged drive for collectivization with maintaining a good level in agricultural production. At the moment they seem to be aware of the difficulties involved. But the difficulties are great as all the other East European Communist states have found to their cost.

End