

M
Sept 16
III/E.G.490

EAST GERMANYEAST GERMANY'S HARVEST ENDANGERED

SOURCE BERLIN : Observer of the East German Ministry
of Agriculture.
DATE OF OBSERVATION: August 27 1954.
EVALUATION COMMENT : Attention Agricultural Editors.

* * *

Heavy rains, accompanied by strong storms brought new serious losses to East German farmers between August 8 and 22 1954.

While the bad weather of June and July had mowed down the grain in the fields, the farmers, supported by unwilling townsmen, succeeded in mowing most of the grain, late in July and early in August, stacking it just like their colleagues in West Germany, neatly as ever in the fields to dry in the sun.

Due to the latest rainfalls, grain stacked in the fields is so wet that it will take several days of warm weather before the harvest can be processed any further. Reports from several districts in East Germany indicate that the grain is beginning to putrify.

By a number of special orders and directives, the East German government hopes to cope with the danger. Officials of the East German Ministry of Agriculture nevertheless believe that the latest bad weather period brought additional losses of about ten per cent of the overall grain harvest to the German Democratic Republic.

"Were it not for the heavy hectoliter weight of the grain, the grain harvest would have to be called outrightly catastrophic this year," one official said.

End.