

Resolutions of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (4–6 September 1951)


Caption: From 4 to 6 September 1951, the European Economic Recovery Committee of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers adopts four resolutions on the organisation of agricultural sectors in Europe.

Source: Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam. NVV - J.G. van Wouwe 1945-1973. Stukken betreffende Europese en internationale organisaties. Stukken betr. de Nationale Commissie van advies voor de Europese Landbouwintegratie. 1952-1955, 105.

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Resolutions of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (4–6 September 1951)

Resolution No. 1

Having given consideration to the change in emphasis placed by the Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA) on the use of Marshall Aid funds in European countries and to the programs presently being developed, the EER Committee considers that it is necessary to orient the programs for aid to agriculture towards practical technical progress at the farm level in order to increase production and improve productivity.

The increase of food production and of aid to undernourished people being considered as essential to the defence of civilization, the Committee considers it of prime importance that the principles of such programs should be applied to agriculture.

Understanding that these new ECA programs envisage the establishment of national productivity councils, the EER Committee considers that programs for aid to agriculture should ensure that agricultural producers are also adequately represented in those councils.

The EER Committee considers that in order to be efficient this direct aid should be oriented towards the following principal objectives:

1. The rapid achievement in the different countries of the general equipment which constitutes the indispensable base for technical progress, especially:

- electrification of rural areas (light and power) as a public service essential to attaining increased and more efficient production
- water supplies to villages and farms as a means of encouraging better production, particularly of quality disease-free milk, and as an essential amenity to the maintenance of a contented rural population
- regrouping of farm lands
- repair and permanent upkeep of rural roads for practical use by vehicles and machinery
- irrigation in regions in which agriculture relies heavily on regular water supplies

2. Direct aid to the farmers through their professional organisations by means of contracts appropriate to agriculture, under conditions which are flexible and well adapted to the diversity of situations, and particularly through greatly extended credit in order to improve their equipment and effectively to achieve the technical progress recognized as necessary by professional organisations and carried out in accordance with their advice and under a joint control. This effort should also concern the provision of assistance (financial and technical) for the development of extension and advisory services in all Western European countries for:

- the improvement of soil preparation and of methods of culture
- the rational use of fertilizers and lime

- the choice of seeds of a quality adapted to the type of soil
 - the further development and improvement of forage crop production techniques and particularly the study and expansion of methods and means of conserving grass and other forage crops in an endeavour to attain maximum self-sufficiency in supplies of animal feeding stuffs
 - the extension of dairy controls
 - the protection of plants against parasites and diseases and the improvement of health standards of livestock
 - the improvement of facilities and methods of processing and marketing of agricultural commodities
3. The putting into effect of large regional installations in order to transform and improve agricultural production in complete regions, modelled on the accomplishments of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
4. The EER Committee, with the object of influencing the direction of technical aid on the European agricultural economics, should collect information on the carrying out of the new programs for instituting direct aid and of the results-obtained.

Resolution No. 2

The EER Committee of the IFAP has taken notice of the document distributed on 11th August 1951 by the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) following a first meeting of Chiefs of Press Services and of agricultural publicity for the purpose of defining the proper way in which to ensure a wider publicity in the campaign for expanded agricultural production.

It appears to the Committee that the means of securing publicity should be examined with the greatest care in order to obtain the maximum results and that it would be desirable to ensure the cooperation of the representatives of farmers in defining the methods and choice of fields in which this publicity should be intensified.

The EER Committee therefore proposes, in order to ensure united action by the administrative services and the professional organisations:

- (a) that delegates from professional associations especially qualified by their knowledge of extension and advisory services to farmers should be invited by their governments to participate in the periodic meetings which are to be held at the OEEC office in Paris to define the means of publicity most apt to achieve the desired results, and
- (b) these delegates shall ensure permanent contact with the administrations of their countries in order to make their contribution to the putting into effect of the publicity program which will be defined for each country.

Resolution No. 3

The EER Committee affirms the need to reach concrete decisions without delay in order to make European economic cooperation in the agricultural field become a reality.

It asks that consideration should be given to the practicability of organizing common measures for international marketing for the principal agricultural products between as wide as possible a group of European countries, to the application of the principle of an organised market at least to some basic commodities entering inter-European trade between those countries who would agree to participate, and to any other method of affecting orderly marketing which is appropriate. The approach to this organisation of marketing arrangements should be conditioned by the following factors:

1. It should not be forgotten that agriculture is not only an economic activity but a way of life and a form of civilisation and it is important to pay as much attention to social, human, and demographic aspects of the problems as to the economic aspect.
2. Any marketing arrangements should have as their objective in addition to the increase in production needed by Europe, the improvement of the economic and social conditions of European agriculture. They should not result in the elimination of family farms which are still not well adapted. They should on the contrary be accompanied by the measures necessary to help their progressive adaptation to the new marketing conditions.
3. The evolution towards freeing of trade should be gradual and conditions which would prejudice the agricultural economy in the different countries should be avoided.
4. It is undesirable to set up complex institutions in order to carry out agreements to be reached in respect of marketing arrangements. The organisation which is required to resolve difficulties inherent in the operation of the agreements should, before any decision is reached, seek understanding between participating countries and should be flexible enough to take into account the demographic, social, and human consequences.

It should provide for active and permanent participation of the national agricultural organisations.

5. Parallel, to the development of marketing organisation special efforts should be made to provide technical assistance in stimulating increased production. The objective should be to enable the farms to be adapted to new requirements and to improve the standard of living of both the farm communities and the urban consumers who need greater and more varied supplies of food.

6. Therefore, to implement the above recommendations, the EER Committee requests the governments of European countries to convene a conference to consider the practicability of common measures for European marketing, at least in connection with some basic commodities, and to carry out the necessary studies in conjunction with existing international bodies. The Conference should consider the scope and responsibility of the type of organisation needed to implement future agreements. Representatives of national agricultural associations should be invited to participate actively in any such organisation.

Resolution No. 4

The EER Committee again draws the attention of governments to the serious problem of allocation of products necessary to agriculture at normal prices.

While noting with appreciation the work already achieved by the International Materials Conference in Washington, the Committee feels that the decisions being carried out in the allocation of raw materials in the world do not take sufficient account of the legitimate interests of European agriculture and of the need to give it the means of increasing and improving the production of food and textile products.

The Committee reiterates its support of the decision of the IFAP Mexico City Conference regarding the participation of the IFAP in the work of world allocations of raw materials and products essential to agriculture.