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PROGRESS NOTED IN ELECTRIFICATION; FORESTATION, IRRIGATION PUSHED

Electrification

By 1950, the Soviet electric power system is to have an installed capacity of 22,400,000 kilowatts.

While small agricultural power stations are still being built, larger ones are also being constructed. The 1,000-kilowatt Kuz'minsk rural GES on the Oka River was completed in 1948 and supplies 40 kolkhozes in the Rybnovskiy Rayon, Ryazan' Oblast. A 2,000-kilowatt GES is under construction on the Moksha River in Ryazan' Oblast; it will supply 136 kolkhozes. Numerous 100- to 1,000-kilowatt GESs are being built in Georgia, Armenia, the Ukraine, Molotov Oblast, and Sverdlovsk Oblast.

As of 1 January 1949, electrified kolkhozes numbered 24,000 and electric motors used in agriculture, 56,000.

Many advanced kolkhozes in Moscow, Sverdlovsk, Molotov, and Chelyabinsk oblasts average a consumption of 1,000 kilowatt hours per year per farmstead.

In 1950, total capacity of rural electric power stations and substations is to be 3 million kilowatts. In 1950 the supply from these stations, supplemented with power from large developments, will provide for the electrification of all sovkhozes, MTSs, experimental agricultural stations, forest shelter belt stations, and 56,000 kolkhozes.

In 1948, electric power consumption in agriculture reached one billion kilowatt-hours.

Reforestation

Up to 1 April 1949, 118 forest shelter belt stations had been completed and 570 were in process of organization.

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In 1949, these stations will be equipped with over 5,000 tractors, including tractors with automatically coupled equipment, 2,700 tree-planting machines, electric welding equipment, electric motors, and other electrical equipment for repair shops, water supply, and lighting.

Agricultural and Forestry Experimental Stations and Nurseries

From 1949 to 1955, these stations and nurseries must grow 34 billion young trees.

A total of 241 nurseries must be organized before 1 April 1949. Their standard equipment will include two or three tractors, an automobile, tractor plows, cultivators, towing machines, and graders. Sprinkling equipment, woodworking and repair shops, and water supply must be electrified. MTSs and electric power stations must insure the mechanization of labor-consuming work in reforesting 3,592,500 hectares. Soil preparation, tree planting, sowing, and maintenance of young forests are included in the MTS plan.

Research in and building of water supply projects must be carried out jointly by reforestation and hydroelectric power stations.

Fertilization

In 1948, the flax-growing regions had 450 percent more fertilizer, and cotton and beet-growing regions, 50 percent more than in 1947.

Irrigation

Most hydroelectric projects will provide both water and power. For example, the Shakhovskaya GES will supply water and power for mechanized irrigation on 28 kolkhozes.

In Kursk Oblast, 38,000 hectares are being irrigated in 1949. In the southern regions, 2,812 ponds and reservoirs were built in 1948; 4,300 are to built in 1949. In Voronezh Oblast, 1,300 ponds and reservoirs are to be built in 1949. In Kherson Oblast, 3,300 more hectares were being irrigated at the end of 1948; in 1949, 5,765 additional hectares are to be put under irrigation. In Stalino Oblast, 7,000 more hectares are to be irrigated in 1949 and in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, 12,000 more hectares.

Reclamation

During 1947-1948, 100,000 hectares of swamps were reclaimed in Belorussia and 22,000 hectares were drained in the Volga-Aktyubinsk valley, where 800 pumping stations are in operation.

Reclamation work has begun on the Barabinsk Steppe in the Yakhroma River valley in West Siberia.

Electric Power and Labor Productivity

The following table illustrates the increase in labor productivity when electricity replaces manual labor.

Type of Operation	Productivity Increase Factor
Threshing	2 - 3
Sifting of grain	10
Irrigation	10 - 50
Water supply	10 - 20
Fodder processing	4 - 5
Saw mills	8 - 10
Dairies	5 - 6
Workshops	3 - 5
Mills	2

The average productivity increase in electrified agricultural operations is more than 400 percent, matching the performance achieved in using tractors.

Generalizing data on efficiency of electrification in seperate kolkhozes, the following conclusion can be drawn: every kilowatt-hour spent in agriculture saves an hour of labor of a kolkhoz worker, and every kilowatt of rated power, the work of approximately one man. Despite the high cost of electric power, the economy greatly surpasses expenses and provides for a substantial decrease in expenditure of labor per unit of production in agriculture.

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