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SOURCE Ekonomist, No 5, 6, 1949CROP PURCHASE IN YUGOSLAVIA

Radmila Stojanovic

The 1947 crop purchase was the first under the Five-Year Plan. On the basis of the experience acquired during the reconstruction period, the crop purchase system was founded on actual estimates of surpluses.

The norms for the compulsory delivery of products were calculated according to these estimates. All households were divided into categories according to size, and the norms were allocated according to categories. Thus, the largest amount of goods was to be delivered by the kulak, while the small producer was completely exempted from compulsory deliveries. The norms were not the same for advanced and backward srez. Experience showed that this determination was improper because the backward srez showed too little initiative in covering their needs with their own production, as they counted on imports from advanced srez. The advanced srez were satisfied with their initial success and did not show initiative in making additional grain available for the crop purchase. Consequently this classification of srez was later withdrawn.

In October 1947, the program for the compulsory purchase of livestock at fixed prices was adopted.

Commerce, according to tied prices, was introduced on 1 March 1948. Tied prices were adopted in the purchasing system because through them the government had greater control over the agricultural products market. This measure was possible because increased industrial production made available more goods, which the government distributed in exchange for agricultural products.

In order to prevent rich farmers from profiteering, the law set limits for sales at tied prices and for purchases of manufactured goods at the lower prices.

According to the decree on grain purchasing for 1949/50, the quota for compulsory delivery was determined for every household separately. The individual quota was based on estimated yield, and was calculated in percentages according to the category in which the household was classified. This method made possible a realistic estimate of the market surplus of every household. This decree increased the compulsory deliveries by rich farmers.

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In October 1949 the decree on the 1950/51 grain purchase and the decree on the 1950 compulsory purchase of livestock and pigs were issued. This was the first time that a decree on the grain purchase program was published before sowing.

The old decrees on the purchase of livestock and grain were issued just before the purchase was to take place. The new decree will enable the farmer to calculate how much he has to deliver and how much he will be able to keep for himself. The fact that he will be able to keep all that remains above the delivery quota will give the farmer an incentive to increase production.

The new decrees on the purchase of grain and on the purchase of livestock are issued simultaneously, which permits quotas to be assigned on the basis of the total capacity of each farm.

The new decree calls for the delivery of grain and livestock in amounts corresponding to the size of the farm.

The new decree on the delivery of grain calls for the delivery of surplus grain calculated on the basis of the total area of arable land (with the exception of orchards, vineyards, and areas planted in industrial crops). Paragraph 9 of the decree states, "Under the heading of arable land are also included those areas which were once cultivated, but which the owner no longer cultivates, for reasons of speculation, etc."

The new decrees state that the economic plans of the individual farm work cooperatives or cooperative farms determine the quota for compulsory delivery of agricultural products by each farm work cooperative and cooperative farm. Cooperatives, according to the new decree, will also be responsible for the compulsory delivery of agricultural products by each individual who joins the cooperative.

Crop purchasing now begins with sowing and not with harvesting, as was the case in the past. It lasts until all the surpluses are purchased, i.e., almost until the next sowing season.

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