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SOURCE Sinkiang Jih-pao

LAND REFORM AND INCREASED PRODUCTION PROGRAM IN SINKIANG

According to a statement by the Propaganda Section of the K'o-p'ing Hsien Communist Party Committee, a summary of newspaper copy sent in by reporters and correspondents from several hsiens indicates that the land-reform cadres of each ch'u and hsiang have tried to combine their work with that of increased production. Their propaganda has stressed that "he who sows, reaps the harvest" and they have encouraged the farmers to voluntarily loan to each other needed tools and animals.

In trying not to interfere with production, some land-reform cadres have pleased the farmers by emphasizing small conferences held at night instead of large mass meetings held during the busy day. They have also suggested that the land-reform team become a production team. This means that the cadres work in the fields with the farmers and chat with the farmers during rest periods thus coming to know their thoughts and problems. It gives the cadres a chance to advocate land reform.

In the second ch'u of Sha Ya Hsien the land-reform cadres helped the farmers plow, carry fertilizer, and dig irrigation ditches. The farmers readily listened to their exhortations. In one village where the cadres helped in this manner the farmers were so impressed that they remarked, "they dress like cadres, but they work like hired help."

However, in places where land reform has been initiated but not completed people of all classes still have their doubts and worries about this reform. Those farmers who in 1951 received their share of allotted land are worried lest this land be taken from them. Those who rent land fear it will be distributed to others before they can reap the grain they have sowed. The middle-class landowners fear the burden of taxes. They know that the landlord class has been destroyed and that, while the wealth of rich farmers has been preserved, their numbers are so few that most of the tax burden will fall on the middle-class farmers. Within all these classes of farmers there is very little enthusiasm for increased production.

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There are some localities such as the third ch'u of K'u-ch'e Hsien, where the middle-class farmers, discouraged by rumors, planted only a portion of their fields. The landlord class whose lands are still undistributed, fearing their land will be confiscated and that they will secure no crops, are unwilling to plant their fields.

Throughout the hsien the land-reform cadres have encouraged the policy of "voluntary lending and borrowing." In the first ch'u of Ju-shih Hsien, after the explanation of this policy, 12 farmer households of their own accord loaned 580 catties of wheat, 430 catties of maize, and 200 catties of rape to 54 households who lacked food and seed.

Not all problems have been solved regarding working plans for the increase of production. Some cadres still emphasize the large imposing meeting. At times farmers show their displeasure at making a 10-li round trip on foot to attend such shows. During the discussion time at such large assemblies people have no chance to express their opinions. In individual cases, like that of the fifth hsiang of the third ch'u of So-ch'e Hsien, the cadres, disregarding production, had long meetings of the administrative village units each morning and each evening. Some morning meetings lasted until noon causing one farmer to remark, "The cadres are always yelling about production but how can one produce anything with meetings every morning and evening?"

The policy that "he who sows, reaps the harvest" was not always made sufficiently clear, leading to some indiscriminate planting.

Patriotic increase in production was not properly understood. Some hsiangs even had the slogan, "The laborers will become wealthy. Produce and advance your family fortunes." One land-reform cadre group said to the people, "Work well to produce. The government leads you toward increased production not merely to get grain tax but so you may eat well and dress well, so that the laborer may become rich and the family prosper."

In the matter of voluntary lending, some of the propaganda was reckless, cadres proclaiming "all farmers are kin." In the matter of borrowing, some cadres did not appreciate the difficulties involved in repayment. Grain can be repaid by grain but with borrowed carts, tools, plow animals, donkeys, and sheep the matter of age and deterioration makes it impossible to return the borrowed item in the original condition. This causes complications and is a matter demanding correction.

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