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FORESTRY GAINS IN VARIOUS PROVINCES OF CHINA, 1953

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[Summary: A School of Forestry has been established in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. In the Greater Khingan Range forests of this section the timber production goal for 1953 is twice that of 1952. A constant flow of lumber comes from Kwangsi Province. In Sungkiang Province the project for 1953 is to plant 359.5 hectares of land with 1,000,622 trees. Forest fire protection varies in this province; some farmers are enthusiastic about protecting the trees while others are indifferent.

In Hopei and Sinkiang provinces protective forest belts have been planted. In the province of Kirin 62,595 square meters of nurseries will produce 1,800,000 seedlings which will reforest 1,000 square hectares of land. In Shensi and Fukien provinces important afforestation work has been carried out.]

Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

To meet the need for training foresters, the Inner Mongolian Autonomous People's Government in the spring of 1953 established a School of Forestry. The school has three grades, primary, middle, and forest survey. There are 70 instructors and 400 students. The present quarters are in a temple but a new building of the most modern construction and equipment will be ready for occupancy by November 1953.

On 22-23 May 1953, some of the students of this school of forestry tried out the advanced Soviet method of forest survey. Three teachers and 68 students formed the survey group. All showed an ability to suffer hardship and it was evident that the women did as well as the men, disproving the mistaken idea that women cannot sustain a hard surveying work.

The students found that 2 days of field work were worth as much to them as half a month in the classroom. Reading lectures were failed to grasp the central ideas but field training firmly fixed these ideas in their minds.

In the Greater Khingan Range of this region the loggers are striving to reach production goals ahead of time. They are taking advantage of spring freshets to move to market several hundred thousand cubic meters of timber. The production goal for 1953 is twice that of 1952.

In the fall of 1952 the loggers constructed 70 kilometers of roads and worksheds containing several thousand rooms. In the winter of 1952, they built ice roads having a total length of 160 kilometers. When they began transporting logs they used tractors and also 7,000 horse-drawn sleds.

Youth groups formed shock teams in the T'u-li Ho forest. By promoting the Soviet method of leaving shorter stumps when trees are cut they increased the lumber output by 19,000 cubic meters.

In this forest area loggers also made use of experience gained in the North-east by using a saw with curved handle which helped them to meet their season's quota ahead of time and exceed their quota by 50,000 cubic meters of timber.

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In the Po-k'o-t'u forest area loggers made the reasonable suggestion that blocks of ice be used instead of lumber to repair the ice roads. This saved the nation 702 million yuan.

Sungkiang Province

In Sungkiang Province the people's government called a conference concerning the special afforestation work for 1953. A good start has already been made on the 1953 project of planting, 1,000,622 trees on 359.5 hectares of land.

In some parts of the province there has been very good fire protection while in other parts the forests have lacked protection. In Lin-chiang Hsien many villages failed to realize the importance of fire protection, considering that all such work could be delegated to women who could act as sentries.

On the other hand, in Wu-ch'ang Hsien there has been such splendid fire protection that no forest fires have occurred during the last 2 years. This was the result of constant teaching, inspection, and organization. Shuang-lung Ts'un maintained a regular fire patrol and registered all those passing through the woods. In this village, every home has a wooden placard proclaiming, "to love his country and to protect her forests is the responsibility of every person." Mutual-aid groups have fire-protection slogans pasted on each plow and cart and the horses' collars sport little red flags with the slogan "Love your nation and protect her forests."

Liaosi Province

The matter of forestrights has been cleared up. People have been aroused to greater interest in afforestation because of the principle that the trees belong to those who plant them.

Kirin Province

Afforestation Station No 1 in Fu-yu Hsien, Kirin, promoted the "four yourself" movement meaning "choose your seed, yourself," "look after it yourself," "plant it, yourself," and "protect it, yourself." In three ch'us a movement has been started to stimulate the people to care for the forests. The acreage of nursery seedling beds amounts to 62,990 square meters. It is estimated that these beds can produce 4,300,000 seedlings which will reforest more than 1,000 square hectares. Experience proves that when the people look after seedlings very little capital is expended and the survival rate of the seedlings is high. Local labor saves transportation costs.

Experience has also shown that three elements are important, (1) local leadership that emphasizes afforestation, (2) people who understand that patriotic production and individual profit are linked together, and (3) suitable locations, with water easily obtainable, suitable soil and sufficient labor.

Three types of fears must be removed. The first fear is that the culture of seedlings is such a complex technical matter that the ordinary farmer may expend considerable labor and then have it all wasted. The answer to this is that the station for technical assistance is always available. A second fear is that afforestation needs many varieties of trees not obtainable locally where only poplar trees are available. The answer again is that the station will provide the trees needed. A third fear is that there is not sufficient labor; but the answer is that much of the work can be done by women and children who can look after the nurseries in the early morning and in the evening.

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Hopeh Province

In Chou-chia Ts'un in Chin Hsien, Hopeh, a village containing 500 households, the people began afforestation work immediately after the New Year. Within 2 days they had completed eight belts of protective forest, the belts being 4 meters wide and spaced 100 meters apart. Each belt consisted of five rows of trees. One row in the center was planted with ash and the other two with willow wands. The two outside rows were the purple budged locust. The length of the belt is 200 meters. The trees are one-half meter apart with the rows one meter apart. The eight belts were planted with 16,000 trees. In addition to these belts, eight other strips of forest comprising 410 mou were planted with 160,000 trees. The purpose was to protect the village against the northwest winds and to hold back the drifting sand. Four hundred and eighty-two men were engaged in this task.

In Tai-tao-an, in the Chia-ch'u of Lai-yuan Hsien, the Forest Survey Committee decided that within the next 2 years a belt of willows should be planted along the banks of the village river. The villagers, however, suggested that the hills above should first be made a forest reserve for a few years to hold back the water or the newly planted willows would be washed away, as had happened before. The better plan of the villagers was adopted.

Shansi Province

In Chiao-ch'eng Hsien the spring afforestation work has been completed with 20,000 mou of treeless hills planted. Seedling nurseries cover 61 mou of land. Success has been due to the proclaimed policy of equal emphasis on farming, animal husbandry, and forestry. Cadres emphasized the "five goods," "good forestry committees," "good organization of the masses," "good instruction in techniques," "good surveys," and "good preparation of seeds and tools." The work itself had three stages, the preparatory period of propaganda, the shock performance of afforestation, and the appraisal and summarizing of the work.

Northwest

The Forestry Office of the Northwest Bureau of Forestry in April 1953 organized a team to survey forest land. This team joined with similar teams from Shensi and Kansu provinces. By first making a survey of trees on land that was comparatively level they learned methods that can later be applied in more difficult situations in the forests of the Northwest.

Sinkiang Province

In the Turfan Basin of Sinkiang Province the Uighur farmers are waging war against sandstorms by planting trees over a large area. In May 1952, a fierce wind tore up cotton and wheat plants by the roots and filled fields and ditches with sand. This spring (1953) on the edges of the Turfan Basin and opposite the mountain passes of Tien Shan, along the Ya-erh lake, 468 mou of willow trees have been planted.

Fukien Province

Ch'i-ch'ih Hsiang of Yu-ch'i Hsien has little arable land so the inhabitants gain 58 percent of their livelihood from the forests and only 42 percent from crops grown. In the spring of 1952, they afforested 525 mou. Sweet potatoes and other hill crops were planted amid the seedlings, producing very good harvests.



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In Ma-k'ang Ts'ao, in the 10th ch'ü of Min-nou Hsien, 71 percent of the land is covered with forests. In the spring of 1953, 82 percent of the households joined in the cooperative movement for afforestation. They planted 500,000 horsetail pine trees, removing the bare appearance of 240 mou of hills. They marked 1,400 mou as forest reserves, four areas covering 1,000 mou for cutting firewood, and five areas containing 500 mou for grazing purposes. They also marked off 500 mou to be planted with trees in 1954.

Anwei Province

In the An-ch'ing Special Administrative District, Anwei, there has been a general emergence of pine caterpillars. In the three hsien of Ch'ien-shan, T'ai-hu, and Chih-te an area of 154,000 mou may suffer injury. People must be reminded that pine trees are very valuable and that lumber is essential to the future building projects of the nation. People must be mobilized to destroy the caterpillars.

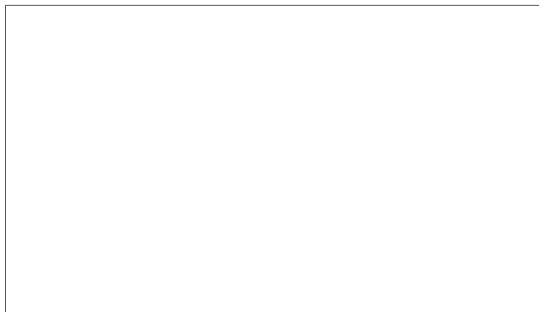
Kwangtung Province

The Forestry Bureau of Kwangtung Province, in the latter part of April 1953, sent a team of 11 men to Hainan Island to make a survey of the natural timber resources of that island.

Kwangsi Province

From that part of Kwangsi Province occupied by the minority nationalities a constant flow of lumber meets the needs for construction purposes. The logs, made into rafts, are floated to such centers as Liu-chou, Kuei-lin, and Wu-chou, all in Kwangsi Province, and then transhipped. The timber is large, hard and of very good quality. The prices paid for timber in 1953 are 30 percent higher than in 1952. In six lumber buying centers of the I-shan Special Administrative District, in only 2 months, 100,000 square meters of lumber were purchased.

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