"The Central international repository of knowledge relating to agriculture, forestry and fisheries and the chief agency of the UN for disseminating it, is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations."

- Joseph Jones

(UN at work.... Page 109.)
CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

We may now summarize the preceding discussion. The first chapter is introductory in character. In this chapter, an attempt has been made to identify the underdeveloped countries of the world, and also the problems commonly faced by them. The need for ensuring lasting peace in the world through international economic co-operation is stressed. Reference has been made to the creation of the FAO with a view to solving food problem through hussbending the available natural resources.

While the second chapter deals with the origin, objectives, organization, functions and achievement of United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, The third chapter brings into focus the conditions and factors which emerged in the thirties and the forties and ultimately led to the founding of the FAO. The chapter contains a detailed discussion on the evolution, principles, objectives, functions and the organized structure of the FAO, and also how its budgets are financed.

The fourth chapter and fifth chapter describe the present programmes and activities of the FAO in different parts of the world, while the sixth chapter gives an analytical, field by field study of the current FAO projects in India.

The present, seventh chapter summarizes the study.
Concluding Remarks:

Progress toward freedom from want is essential to lasting peace; for it is a condition of freedom from tensions, arising out of the economic mal-adjustment, profound discontent, and a sense of injustice, which are so dangerous in the close community of modern nations. The FAO stands to feed the hungry man, to clothe the naked man and to house the home-less man and thereby to bring the material advancement—a foundation to peace.

The third world food survey, issued by the Organization in 1963, concluded that although both quantity and quality of average world diets had improved very slightly since before the second world war, some 10 to 15 percent of the world’s population (or about 400 million people) were hungry or undernourished, and up to one half (about 1500 million) of the population suffered from hunger or mal-nutrition, or both.

Since then, world population has continued to increase by about 60 million people per year, and United Nations demographers estimate that the population of the world, which in the year 1900 was only 1500 million, will be close to 7,000 million, by the year 2000. The third world food survey estimated that food production ought to be trebled by the year 2000 to provide adequately for all the world’s inhabitants.

This is the problem that faces the nations and the people combining their efforts through FAO.

Fortunately, as the problem grows so do the means of meeting it. Modern technology has already put into man’s hands
The tools to solve the problem if only he is able, or enabled, to use them. Technology has developed new varieties of plants and livestock which produce a much greater yield than the varieties they replace; it has developed new agricultural machinery and ways of farming which produce more food with less human effort; it has developed new methods of forest management; and scores of radically new forest products; it has devised new fish-finding and fish catching techniques, and new ways of getting the catch to the consumer in the freshest condition. The problem, then, is not what to do but how to get it done.

As the possibilities of meeting the food shortage have grown, so too has the scale of FAO's activities.

During the last 10 or 12 years there has been a significant reorientation in FAO's role in assisting developing countries. From being primarily an advisory body, FAO has increasingly become an operational organization and has responded to requests for direct assistance where it is needed and can be effective. FAO is designated as the Executing Agency for projects financed by the funds under UN Development Programme where food and agriculture, including nutrition, fisheries and forestry, are primarily concerned. The UNICEF participated jointly with FAO to assist governments in the conduct of a large number of projects specially designed to serve the needs of children. World Food Programme made food commodities available for approved projects in needy countries. FFNC attracted much contribution to support the technical assistance projects undertaken by FAO. Through Funds-in Trust arrangements, FAO entered into agreements to render assistance in specific projects at the request of
governments. Its field programme is assisted by a number of personnel contributed by various governments and organizations.

Thus the war against world hunger is being fought by many people, on many fronts.

However, the progress made so far is not sufficient. Vast members of people are ill-fed. While the world population is increasing by 2 percent per year, the world food production is increasing by a little more than 2 percent. But the battle has been started, and will be won when mankind fully commits itself to the struggle.

Despite the massive problems the FAO face, it remains a relatively small organization, with a staff of about 2300 at its Rome headquarters and about 400 in regional and sub-regional offices.

The task for which the FAO was set up, is neither a short nor a simple one, and the problems are numerous and formidable. There are, on the one hand, millions of hungry people, mal-adjustments of distribution and depressed rural populations, and on the other, vast unused resources awaiting exploitation. Despite the efforts of the UN Specialized Agencies, including the FAO to narrow the gap between the rich and poor nations and regions, disparities persist and continue to grow, making the task of the world organization still more difficult and complex, as is evident from the following observation. "In this world of deep and bitter contrasts in the opportunities, life, death and fate of immense numbers of human beings, it is obviously not a simple business for a large of humanity to
produce enough to adequately fed and attain better standards of living. Indeed it is an extremely complex problem.¹

Need this mean that the picture of the future is a uniformly gloomy one? Are we then to conclude that the UN Specialized Agencies, specially the FAO have failed to achieve success? The answer is in the negative; for it is only as FAO's work progresses that the full potential of the world for feeding, housing and clothing itself becomes apparent. The FAO opens men's minds to new things. They are now feeling that poverty is not a God given state of life. The FAO is engaged in the great task of transferring knowledge, science and technology which is the "most hopeful enterprise of our time".²

FAO has not, of course, won a decisive battle against hunger, but it has made the world conscious of the existence of surpluses and waste in some parts and of the problems of poverty and hunger in others. It has also brought about a measure of international co-operation in the field of agriculture which never existed before. Through its efforts there may progressively come numerous victories over hunger in certain areas of the world; and these would do further honour to FAO's objective, aptly called "human elevation".

The problem of hunger which results in disease and death is the product of poverty and perpetuator of further poverty. This problem is an almost infinitely complicated one,

2. UN at work..... : Page 2 By Joseph M.Jones.
and the solution requires integrated mobilization of all the human and physical resources of a country to bring about balanced economic development of the world. Around agricultural development is the only way of this problem. It can provide the roots from which industry can grow. Industries for processing agricultural products for export enhance the value of these exports and, therefore, enlarge export incomes. They also provide a stepping-stone toward more elaborate and highly organized industries.

There is no doubt that the earth can support the whole of mankind generously. It can provide ample food as well as the fibres and other raw material needed to support a high standard of living for all men. But to realize these possibilities will require effort and knowledge and co-operation between all countries. The FAO is progressing on this very road.

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