A Scientific Discussion on the Topic

"THE INFORMATION SYSTEM AS A MEANS OF KNOWLEDGE, PREDICTION AND ACTION IN AGRICULTURE"

held at the Academy of Agriculture and Forest Sciences, January 8—9, 1973)

The first scientific discussion devoted to the preparation, designing and introduction of management systems in agricultural and food industry with the aid of automatic means was held in keeping with and in the light of the programme drawn up by the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party of April 18, 1972. The purpose of the discussion, that was essentially attained, was to make clear a number of subjects and to mark out adequate ways conducive to the implement ation of such a programme in the agricultural and food branch of Romanian economy.

The addresses and reports of the academicians — among whom Nicolae Giosan, President of the Academy of Agriculture and Forest Sciences, and Octav Onicescu, founder of the Romanian school of probability calculus, stood out —, experts pertaining to managing boards of informatic institutions, numerous representatives of multidisciplinary research and computation centres bestowed on the discussion the prestige deserved by the scope of this topic at the present stage of development attained by our socialist society.

The participation of experts of basic agricultural units and of some other compartments of the functional body — the Ministry included — in certain papers and reports and in the debate brought about the long waited for dialogue between research and practice and opened up a promising road for a fluent operation of the science — technique — production cycle. If all this is turned to good account in a higher degree in economic activities, in technology and administration, a happy turning-point would render dynamic this cycle.

As stressed in the conclusions of the meeting, the discussion started from the ground that the information system shall be a means of *knowledge* (useful, quick, suitable and full information on the structure and connection provides a rational support for management decision), *prediction* (because it is necessary to get out of the present tripartite system of anthology-like book-keeping and recording that hinders efficiency and opens no windows towards the future), and *action* (introduction of the newest achievement of science and technique turns the management into a dynamic, many-sized process, and succesive decisions made in agreement with the existing objective circumstances enable a permanent activity control through feedback).

During the dialogue established on the occasion between economic activity and research, taking into account the fact that agricultural and food economy is one of the priority branches in the implementation of the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party of April, 1972, the sponsors and participants in the discussion regarded the very complex problems set forth by the use of management systems based on the automatic data processing in the light of their many-sided and n-sized aspects.

The methodological approach of designing, in a new outlook, of the branch information system along its entire functional body starting from the most advanced positions of the multidisciplinary science and from the latest improvements of electronic computation techniques, shall be directed towards the following objectives: a) knowledge and genuine reflection of the structure and role of the agricultural and food branch as a component part of the general, dynamic and complex system of national economy, in the succession of its stages of internal development and within international labour division as well; b) knowledge and control of agricultural expanded reproduction and of its component parts in agreement with the objectives of overall national socio-economic development strategy; c) socio-economic process modelling in this branch, in view of achieving feedbacks and of substantianting system development predictions, as well as current activities planning.

Since the information system under way shall provide the managing and control mechanism with useful, quick, genuine and full information, the discussion stressed out the necessity for improving the present system of indicators in order to achieve objective and many-sided characterization of the processes in agricultural and food economy.

The examination of a substantial amount of reports concerning the rationalization of the present system of economic book-keeping and recording in socialist agricultural units, as a preparatory stage meant to facilitate the implementation of automatic management means, revealed that the work carried out resulted in a documentary material of indisputable value on information flows and their material carriers, on redundant information and system shortcomings. This material shall be valued to the utmost in further studies in view of drawing up the outlook on the new system, the methods to be used, of ascertaining the profitableness in units and upper compartments of the functional body, of implementing automatic data processing systems.

It goes witout saying that also reports and discussions on technological processes modelling and the optimization of particularly important spray systems for vegetable growing, fertilizing treatment, fodder prescription, by

applying automatic computation techniques to any of these, shall be in line with the directions indicated by the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party of April, 1972.

Whereas all the above fully emphasizes the great scope and targets incumbent upon research in implementing the programme drawn up by the party leadership, we should not underrate the responsibilities of the personnel carrying out practical economic activities with respect to the quickening of the rates of testing and practical generalization of the models and solutons provided by research.

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