

SUPERIORITY OF SOCIALIST AGRICULTURE *by IBRAHIM BAÇI*

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THE PSR OF ALBANIA HAD A VERY GOOD HARVEST IN 1983. REPORTS CAME FROM THE PLAINS DISTRICTS FIRST, AND THEN FROM THOSE IN THE MOUNTAINS, ABOUT THE VERY GOOD RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF WHEAT. THEIR AVERAGE YIELDS OF 50, 60, 70 AND EVEN MORE QUINTALS OF WHEAT PER HECTARE IN THE PLAINS ZONE, ESPECIALLY IN THE ZONE OF PRIORITY INTENSIFICATION, ARE HIGHER THAN THOSE TAKEN IN DURING THE PAST AND COMPARE FAVOURABLY WITH HIGH WORLD STANDARDS.

Achievements made in this field crop constitute no exception. They are followed by a very promising harvest of many other field crops and in all the branches and sectors of the agricultural economy. Likewise, these achievements are not the result of an accident, nor are they temporary. The production and the yields of wheat have been on the continuous rise. In 1980, against 1970, yields of wheat increased 63 per cent, while many districts achieved yields averaging from 10 to 16.6 quintals per hectare more than in 1980. This dynamic of growth, this road of the intensive development of the production of wheat, is seen also in the growth of production of other field crops, fruit-growing, livestock-farming.

Our socialist agriculture, this basic branch of the people's economy, has

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continuously increased every year the volume of food-stuffs for the population and primary materials for the industry, despite the weather conditions. During the nearly four decades of the existence of the people's state power (1944-1983) agricultural production has increased twice as rapidly as the increase of the population. In the 6th Five-year Plan (1976-1980) the annual average of agricultural production was 21 per cent higher than that of the 5th Five-year Plan (1971-1975). In 1980, as against 1960, agricultural production for unit of arable land and for each agricultural worker has increased 1.7 and 1.6 fold respectively. On the basis of these sound fundamental achievements, in the envisages for the 7th Five-year Plan (1981-1985) the total agricultural production increase is set at 30-32 per cent higher than that of the 6th Five-year Plan.

Such are the rates of development of agriculture. Albania knows no

agricultural crises, or shortage of food-stuffs. On the contrary, it has secured the uninterrupted increase of the real per capita income of the peasantry (like that of the entire people), and the increase of the per capita consumption of the food products, clothing and footwear articles. The co-operativist peasantry and all the agricultural workers of the country, with the powerful support of the working class, under the leadership of the Party, have concentrated their efforts on these following targets: the increase of production in order to ensure the ever better supply of the people with food-stuffs and to improve their structure; the large-scale increase of the agricultural primary and raw materials for the light and food-processing industries; the gradual cutting of that small amount of imported food-stuffs and other agricultural primary and raw materials; the increase of the volume of export of agricultural finished products and raw materials; the increase and strengthening of the necessary reserves. These fundamental targets and tasks are achieved on the basis of the socialist development of agriculture, the large-scale modern production, closely connected with all other branches and sectors of the people's economy.

The agricultural workers have ensured, for some years in succession, the whole amount of bread grains needed, through the increase of production. The year 1976 marked the beginning of this period of great economic and political importance for our country. From 1976 to 1983, achieving self-sufficiency in bread grains and increasing their reserves, a powerful impulse has been given to the whole economy of the country; the foundations of the independence of our socialist Homeland have been further cemented; possibilities have been created to cope more easily with unexpected situations; great sums in foreign currency have been relieved, which have been used to fulfil other needs of the economy. At present our country has become completely independent of the import of bread grain. The cooperativists and the working people of state farms see the tasks for the production of bread grain as the primary task of agriculture.

Achievements in the production of bread grain and in the development of agriculture, in general, are the result of the correct agrarian policy the Party of Labour of Albania has always followed and of the complete superiority of the cooperativist order, which guides the peasantry on the brilliant road of socialism. They are the fruit of the tireless work of our cooperativist peasantry which loyally follows the road indicated by the Party and consistently carries out the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha on the socialist development of agriculture and the revolutionary transformation of the countryside. With full confidence in the correctness of the Marxist-Leninist line of the Party, the line and directives for the construction of socialism in the countryside, the peasantry of our country has always followed the Party loyally. This is how it acted in the application of the Land Reform in the years immediately after the liberation of the country and, later, during the work for the collectivization of agriculture, the setting up of the higher-type cooperatives, the formation of the common herds of cooperativist families and now in the efforts for priority intensification of the plains zones of the country at rapid rates.

This correct road has found complete confirmation in practice. The superiority of the cooperativist order is evident in the increase of production and yields, in the abundance of market commodities, such as food products, clothing, etc in the continuous improvement of the material and spiritual life of the peasantry. Our country does not know the phenomena of the drain of the countryside as happens in many capitalist and revisionist countries, but, on the contrary, the countryside flourishes and prospers more and more each day. Socialist Albania, with a predominantly mountainous terrain, with a limited area of arable land per capita, has everything it needs.

The collectivization of agriculture, this radical revolutionary change in the social and economic relations of our new countryside, has confirmed its superiority over the capitalist mode of production in agriculture. The establishment of the socialist relations of production in the countryside was the foundation on which work began to overcome the former backwardness of the extensive primitive agriculture, to create the premises to implant the new socialist ideology and culture there, and to further strengthen the alliance of the working class with the cooperativist peasantry.

The Party and the people's state power have carried out a great work for the improvement and irrigation of the land, for the extension of the mechanization of agriculture, for its ever better supply with chemical fertilizers and selected seeds, for the uninterrupted raising of the ideological and political, technical and professional level of the working people, for the development of our agricultural sciences and for putting them in the service of production. The productive forces of agriculture have developed uninterruptedly along with the establishment and continuous improvement of the socialist relations of production in the countryside.

The area of arable land in our country has more than doubled against 1938. Initially this was done through the land improvement schemes and the draining of marshes and bogs, and later through the opening up of new lands in hills and

mountains. Before Liberation our country had an irrigation that covered only 10 per cent of the arable land, whereas today about 55 per cent of the arable land is under irrigation. The primitive work tools of the farmer have been replaced with tractors and modern means for the cultivation of crops. In 1981, as against 1960, the volume of mechanized work increased over 7 fold, the use of chemical fertilizers about 12.7 fold. The amount of various high productivity seed has increased about 3 fold. All these factors not to mention more of them, have facilitated the introduction and application of the advanced contemporary technologies in the agricultural and livestock production.

A factor of great impact for the intensification of agriculture are our agricultural sciences. Today there are 8 scientific-research institutions and 13 stations carrying out their scientific activity in the direct service of agriculture. Nearly 4,000 themes of study covering different fields of agriculture have been presented, and about 3,700 groups of workers and thousands upon thousands of specialists engage in scientific-research work. The Institute of Agricultural Research in Lushnja, in collaboration with other scientific centres and with the working people of agriculture, has solved a series of important problems of genetics and agrotechnics of wheat, without mentioning its work on other field crops. Apart from those working in the scientific institutions, there is also a whole army of specialists who carry out scientific work directly in the agricultural economies and who are in a position to put into practice the scientific information and results without delay. Until today the Higher Agricultural Institute of Tirana has trained 8,700 specialists of agriculture in various specialities. The number of agricultural secondary schools, both part-time and full-time, which function all over the country is 386 and 235 respectively. The higher and middle cadres of agriculture direct the agricultural work with ability, while many of the middle cadres work directly in production. The agricultural pursuit is today the field of work for people with schooling, knowledge, culture and professional ability.