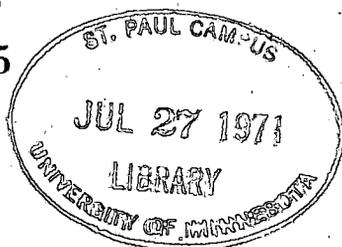


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## FOREWORD

THE Twelfth International Conference of Agricultural Economists, held at Lyons, France, in August 1964 was the first under the auspices of the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

At the Conference in Cuernavaca, Mexico, in 1961 a decision was taken to recognize the strength and scope of the movement which had evolved since the first meeting was called by Dr. L. K. Elmhirst in 1929; the International Conference of Agricultural Economists became the International Association of Agricultural Economists. The Lyons Conference showed how fully justified was the change.

This was the third conference at which added scope for contact between the large number of members attending was given by means of discussion periods outside the main conference sessions. This was tried first in Mysore in 1958, extended at Cuernavaca and developed further at Lyons—on all three occasions under the guidance of Dr. Harry C. Trelogan. The number of groups organized increased from nineteen at Cuernavaca to twenty-five at Lyons. This was the result less of the addition of completely new subjects than of the search for greater depth of discussion by defining the scope of study more closely. Thus provision was made for the problems of Policy and of Farm Management to be considered separately for developing and for developed countries. Again, the broad subject of Research Methods was divided up so that attention could be focused more precisely.

The diversity of background of those forming each group and the informality of the sessions made these discussions an invaluable part of the conference experience for all who took part. It would be out of the question to attempt to set down a comprehensive account of the proceedings of these meetings but an indication of the main lines on which the discussions developed is provided by the summaries presented at the final Session of the Conference. The publication of similar summaries from the Cuernavaca Conference in this Journal under the title of *Contemporary Problems in the Economics of Agriculture* (Vol. III, No. 3) provided a useful review of a complex of subjects and, in consultation with the officers of the Association, we are publishing the summary reports of the twenty-five groups of the Lyons Conference. We include also group photographs and lists of group members together with the text of a talk given at the Final Session of the Conference by one of our pioneer agricultural economists, Dr.

Henry C. Taylor. Brief though they are, these reports provide a valuable review of the range of the subject of agricultural economics today. Further, read with insight, they provide an agenda of work to be done and pointers to the ways in which agricultural economists can combine their knowledge for the benefit of their fellow-men.

The Proceedings of the main meetings of the Conference are in preparation and will be published in the usual way. It will be remembered that the 'theme papers' for the Conference were published in Vol. IV, No. 3, of the *Journal* under the title of *Disparities in Pace and Form of Rural Development*.

EDITOR