

## CONCLUSION

The series of three meetings held in Turrialba, Baurú and Buenos Aires in 1950, 1952 and 1955, respectively, to consider problems of livestock production in the Americas, provided to the members of delegations from participating countries opportunities:

- (1) to exchange information on their problems and on the steps being taken to deal with them through research, extension, training of technical workers, and other means;
- (2) to see the production methods, types of livestock, grasslands, and agricultural institutions in three countries, namely, Argentina, Costa Rica and Brazil each with its own characteristic conditions and problems;
- (3) to establish personal contacts with workers in their own and closely related fields in other countries, thus facilitating the flow of information between countries; and
- (4) to improve their work in their own countries by applying information obtained from workers in other countries and as a result of the stimulus emanating from the exchange of ideas with their fellow scientists.

The immediately tangible evidence of the work accomplished in these meetings is found in the three reports, and in the present paper which is based to a large extent on the report of the third meeting in Buenos Aires. Through these publications summaries of the most important information presented at the meetings is made available to leaders and technical workers in the livestock industry in all countries. But the intangible results of the meetings are no doubt much more important because, although not readily measurable, they are found in improved services to the livestock industries in the various countries, and in programs which have been initiated or improved as a result of the stimulus of the meetings which will eventually result in improved services.

The participants in these meetings, recognizing the value of the inter-country consultations provided for therein, considered that some more formal arrangement should be made to ensure continued contacts between countries, particularly during the intervals between meetings. They, therefore, recommended at the Buenos Aires meeting that the Director-General of FAO should establish an inter-governmental working party to provide for this

continuing consultation on livestock problems in the Americas. Action to implement this recommendation has been initiated.

At the first meeting at Turrialba, and again at the second one in Baurú, members of delegations had an opportunity of discussing problems relating to all aspects of livestock production. On the basis of the interest shown in various problems, and the nature of the problems which appeared to require special attention leading to their solution, a limited list of topics was selected for consideration at the third meeting in Buenos Aires. After considering these topics, and deciding upon the type of organization that they wished to recommend to ensure continuing consultation, the participants selected a still more limited group of subjects to which attention might be given by specialized sub-groups of the working party mentioned in the previous paragraph. This limited list will be subjected to further review by the working party itself as one of its first major functions after members have been designated by participating governments.

Thus, the three meetings have provided an opportunity for the gradual sorting out of a of relatively few subjects upon which definite steps may be taken to develop inter-country co-operation, and the work initiated at the meetings will enter a new phase. In the work thus far the emphasis has been on the exchange of information. In the phase which is now beginning through the establishment of a working party and consideration of the establishment of sub-groups, the emphasis will be much more on the development of inter-country co-operation in limited fields, although the opportunities for exchange of information in these and other fields is expected to continue in the series of meetings, the fourth of which has been recommended to be held in Jamaica in 1958. This Development Paper may, therefore, be regarded as a bridge between the two phases of activity, providing an end-point for the first phase, and a point of departure for the second phase which took definite form as a result of the discussions in the Buenos Aires meeting.