

Fund ; UNESCO ; International Bureau of Analytical Chemists ; International Cotton Advisory Committee ; International Wine Office ; Organization of American States ; Associated Country Women of the World ; International Federation of Agricultural Producers ; International Chamber of Commerce ; International Co-operative Alliance ; International Council of Women ; League of Red Cross Societies ; World Federation of United Nations' Associations ; American Federation of Labour ; International Council of Agricultural Industries.

ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCE

The work of the Conference was organized in three Commissions :—

Commission I (Chairman : Viscount Bruce).—Annual World Food and Agriculture Review.

Commission II (Chairman : Mr. B. R. Sen, India).—Activities of the Organization.

Commission III (Chairman : Mr. A. Wantus, Belgium).—Constitutional, Administrative, and Financial Questions.

WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REVIEW

The Conference had the benefit of the FAO publication, "The State of Food and Agriculture, 1948," as a base document and was therefore able to review the situation expeditiously. Some later information was available, particularly in relation to crops and harvests. Favourable climatic conditions during 1948 resulted in excellent harvests, particularly in cereals, and a feeling of optimism prevailed so far as supplies of bread and coarse grains were concerned. The demand and supply position for the period July, 1948—June, 1949, is as follows :—

	Bread Grains.	Coarse Grains.	Total.
Provisional import demands	27·4	12·7	40·1
Exportable supplies	.. 27·3	12·4	39·7

(All figures in million tons.)

The significance of these figures can best be gauged if we remember that the deficit between demand and supply in 1947–48 was 20 million metric tons. For the first time since the war, the demand for wheat can be met, and grain is available for stock-feeding in reasonable quantities. The rice position is not so favourable, but it is expected that gradual improvement will take place.

The sugar situation has changed from one of shortage and allocations to one of fear of surpluses.

World production of oils and fats has reached pre-war level, but consumption in certain regions, particularly in Europe, has not yet fully recovered.