

New Zealand is represented at the Forestry and Timber Utilization Conference for Asia and the Pacific which opened at Mysore on 28 March.

Relations between FAO and the United Nations, its Economic and Social Council, the Regional Economic Commissions of that body, and with other specialized and international agencies have become closer. FAO co-operates on many matters with WHO, ILO, and UNICEF. Under a FAO/UNRRA agreement, FAO technical experts have been placed directly at the service of countries formerly receiving UNRRA aid. In Europe, thirty-five such assignments were completed up to June, 1948, and fifty projects under way in China include one for the vaccination of 15 million animals against rinderpest.

Through its eight technical divisions FAO provides information, advice, and assistance on all aspects of agriculture and food-production and brings its programmes and limited budgets into line with recommendations made to Governments. FAO is a clearing-house and also a first source of world agricultural information. Its publications include year-books, statistical bulletins, and technical pamphlets. Sixty-five countries are carrying on preparatory work for the 1950 World Census of Agriculture.

6. THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD COMMITTEE (IEFC)

As the International Emergency Food Committee of the Council of FAO, the former International Emergency Food Council has continued its work to secure an equitable distribution of available foodstuffs and associated products in short world supply. However, with the improvement in the supply of various commodities, several of the committees dealing with particular products have been disbanded as the need for allocation has disappeared. The annual FAO Conference in November, 1948, agreed that allocation of foodstuffs and fertilizers should be discontinued as soon as possible but decided that the time had not then come to dissolve IEFC. Latest available information indicates that only rice, cocoa beans, and nitrogenous fertilizers now remain under allocation.

7. THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL

The International Wheat Conference which met at Washington from 26 January to 23 March, 1949, drew up an agreement designed to assist stabilization of world wheat prices during the next four years. The agreement follows closely that reached at a similar conference last year and which New Zealand signed and accepted. Later New Zealand and other countries formally withdrew acceptance when the United States Congress failed to approve acceptance of