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THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN EAST GERMANY

Regional Analysis Division
Economic Research Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREWORD

East Germany is the only country in Eastern Europe besides the U.S.S.R. to have announced complete socialization of agriculture. This claim plus the availability in recent years of additional data precipitates the need for a re-evaluation of the agricultural situation in that country. This report is a revision of a publication issued February 1958.

Revised August 1961

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GLOSSARY

<u>Abbreviations</u>	<u>German</u>	<u>English</u>
LPG	Landwirtschaftliche Produktionsgenossenschaft	Agricultural producers cooperative
VEG	Volkseigenes GUT	People-owned farm
MTS	Maschinen-Traktoren-Station	Machine-tractor station
SED	Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands	German Socialist Unity Party
ÖLB	Örtliche Landwirtschaftliche Betrieb	Locally administered agricultural enterprise
DDR	Deutsche Demokratische Republik	German Democratic Republic (East Germany)
DBR	Deutsche Bundesrepublik	Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)
DM (E)	Deutschemark, East	East German mark

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES






<u>Unit</u>	<u>U.S. equivalent</u>
1 hectare (ha.)	2.471 acres
1 kilogram (kg.)	2.2046 pounds
1 quintal (qu.)	220.46 pounds
1 metric ton (m.t.)	2204.6 pounds
1 DM (E)	\$0.0535

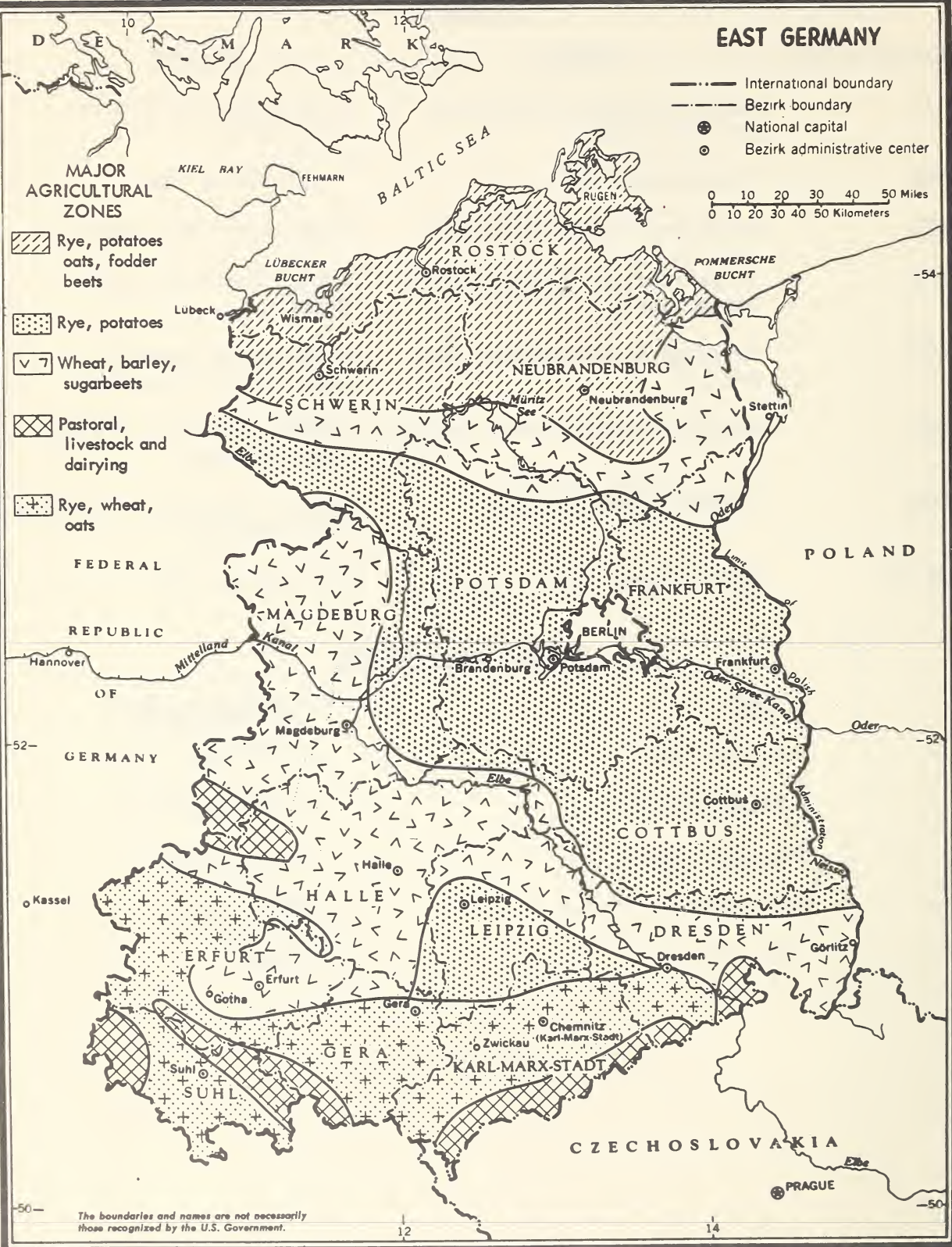
EAST GERMANY

- — — International boundary
- - - - - Bezirk boundary
- ⊙ National capital
- ⊙ Bezirk administrative center

0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles
0 10 20 30 40 50 Kilometers

MAJOR AGRICULTURAL ZONES

-  Rye, potatoes
oats, fodder
beets
-  Rye, potatoes
-  Wheat, barley,
sugarbeets
-  Pastoral,
livestock and
dairying
-  Rye, wheat,
oats



The boundaries and names are not necessarily those recognized by the U.S. Government.

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN EAST GERMANY

By Alexander Bernitz, agricultural economist
Regional Analysis Division, Economic Research Service

INTRODUCTION

East Germany, the so-called German Democratic Republic, was formed after World War II from the Soviet Zone of Occupation of former German Reich territory. It has an area of 41,633 square miles, approximately the size of the State of Tennessee, which includes a large level land area in the northern sector and a smaller mountainous region in the south and southwest.

Prior to World War II East Germany was approximately self-sufficient in food and even exported quantities of beet sugar, grain, and potatoes. Today, however, it is a deficit food area and must import grains, oilseeds, meat, and dairy products. The population of East Germany has been decreasing since 1948 (19,000,000 in 1948 to about 17,250,000 at the beginning of 1960) primarily due to the large migration of people from East Germany. In spite of this decreasing postwar population and announcements of increasing food output, rationing of food was not officially abolished until May 29, 1958. However, frequent shortages of certain foods have necessitated the use of distribution cards and other forms of rationing in an attempt to insure an adequate allocation of the supplies available.

The principal crops grown are wheat, rye, oats, barley, potatoes, hops, and sugar beets. The number of livestock (hogs, cattle, and sheep) have been maintained at a level above prewar, but the production of meat and slaughter fats continues low due to lower livestock slaughter weights.

Official East German statistics show annual increases in production of all types of agricultural commodities. Although the Central Statistical Administration of East Germany has stated that their crop production statistics are reported on a barn yield basis (as compared to the biological yield method which was in general use prior to 1956), their statistics are generally overstated and suggest that some East German farm managers are reporting an estimated yield rather than actual barn harvest. The reader should also bear in mind the political and economic factors which influence the reporting of an East German farmer. He may be compelled to show annual improvement in his farm's production even if such gains are not there. All data cited in this bulletin are from publications of the government of East Germany. Where other sources indicate a discrepancy, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates are given.

LAND, CLIMATE, AND SOILS

Approximately 60 percent of the total land area is classified as agricultural land. Of this, about 77 percent is arable land, 19 percent meadows and pastures, and the remaining 4 percent is in orchards and gardens.

Although East Germany is located at about the same latitudes (between 50 and 55 degrees north latitude) as Eastern Canada, its climate is milder and its growing season of approximately 175 days is longer. There is an average annual precipitation of 20 to 30 inches, most of which occurs during the period of plant growth. The average summer temperatures range from 70° to 75°

during the day and 50° to 55° during the night. Although the climate of East Germany is generally favorable to its intensive agriculture, difficulties sometimes arise due to excessive rainfall during the sowing and harvesting periods.

The most predominant soils in East Germany are the sandy clay and loamy sand, or rust colored forest soils. These are poor soils since they are very light and easily leached of nutrient plant foods. Constant and substantial inputs of fertilizer and labor are needed to produce good crops on these soils.

LAND TENURE

On April 15, 1960, the government of East Germany announced that the drive to socialize the agricultural sector of that country's economy had been successfully completed. Within 3 1/2 months 45 percent of the GDR's total farmland was collectivized, although an equivalent amount of farmland had previously required 7 years to collectivize. Through the use of political, economic, and social pressures, East Germany farmers were made to turn over their farms to collectives (Landwirtschaftliche Produktionsgemeinschaften, or LPG's). Original goals were to bring between 80 and 90 percent of the total farmland under agricultural socialization by the early 1960's, but the recent drive for socialized agriculture succeeded in including all farms (table 1).

There are three types of collectives in East Germany. Type I requires collective ownership of plowland only; Type II, that of plowland, draft animals and equipment, with private ownership and utilization of other livestock and pastures and meadows; and Type III, the most numerous in 1959, entails the complete collectivization of all means of production, except for a private plot of about half a hectare per family. It is probably that many farmers chose to join Type I collective during the last collectivization drive, since this requires that least amount of socialization, although no official statistics giving the breakdown of the socialized sector have been published for 1960. USDA estimates that, as of July 1, 1960, 55 percent of the collectives were of Type I, 5 percent Type II, and 45 percent Type III. If past trends continue, the immediate future will see steps taken to consolidate the government's control of the collectives. The growth of Type II and Type III collectives and the elimination of Type I will probably be stressed. Although the total number of LPG's is expected to decrease their average size will increase.

In addition to LPG's, the socialized sector consists of state farms (Volkseigene Gueter, VEG), other publicly owned farms which include locally administered farms (Örtliche Landwirtschaftliche, ÖLB), and church farms. The growth of the socialized sector from 1956 to 1960 is given in table 2.

Private ownership of small garden plots and a considerable amount of livestock still exist in East Germany. The East German farmer also has kept title to his land although, due to the political situation this is generally only a token arrangement. Socialization of agriculture in East Germany in recent years contributed to the exodus of many farmers. The resultant shortage of farm managers adversely affected agricultural production during the

Table 1.--Conditions of land tenure in East Germany, June 15, 1956-60

Type of farm	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960 ^{1/}
Number:	Farms	Farms	Farms	Farms	Farms
Private farms:					
Below 50 acres	715,340	653,342	609,910	324,431	0
Above 50 acres	25,178	23,613	20,943	17,449	0
Total	740,518	676,955	630,853	341,880	0
Socialized sector:					
Collectives	6,270	6,285	7,859	9,566	19,354
State farms	555	577	700	688	2/700
Other public farms	15,316	21,003	15,511	14,901	2/14,500
Total	22,141	27,865	24,070	25,155	2/34,554
Grand total	762,659	704,820	654,923	367,035	2/34,554
Agricultural land area:	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres
Private farms:					
Below 50 acres	9,207	8,947	8,305	6,931	0
Above 50 acres	1,903	1,769	1,569	1,267	0
Total	11,110	10,716	9,874	8,198	0
Socialized sector:					
Collectives	3,447	3,684	4,453	6,014	13,383
Member private plots	165	176	237	381	1,208
State farms	707	734	924	961	961
Other public farms	583	667	445	339	339
Total	4,902	5,261	6,059	7,695	15,891
Grand total	16,012	15,977	15,933	15,893	15,891

^{1/} As of August 31, 1960.

^{2/} USDA estimate.

Statistisches Jahrbuch, 1959, der Deutschen Demokratischen Republic, Government Central Statistics Administration. Vol. 5, Berlin 1960, p. 419.

Statistische Praxis. No. 12. Berlin, December 1960.

Table 2.--East Germany: Percent of total agricultural land by type of farm, 1956-60

Year	Socialist Sector			Total	Private ^{2/}
	Collective ^{1/}	State	Other		
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1956.	21.5	4.4	3.6	29.5	70.5
1957.	23.1	4.6	4.2	31.9	68.1
1958.	27.9	5.8	2.8	36.5	63.5
1959.	37.8	6.0	2.1	45.9	54.1
1960 ^{3/}	84.2	6.0	2.1	92.3	7.7

^{1/} Does not include private plots of members.
^{2/} Includes private plots of collective members.
^{3/} USDA estimate.

postwar years. Although official production figures do not reflect this lack of farm managers, unofficial reports and estimates show that the agricultural situation in East Germany during 1960 deteriorated from 1959 as a direct result of socialization and because of unfavorable weather conditions.

Machine-Tractor Stations (MTS), though not specifically pertaining to land tenure, are an integral part of socialized agriculture. Prior to 1958, the MTS were the primary source of mechanized farm equipment and subsequently were utilized (1) to promote socialized agriculture through discriminating allocation of their services and (2) as a means of insuring state control and supervision over both collective and private farms. After 1958, the growth of socialized agriculture and the control of collectives by the local East German Communist Party (SED) cells diminished the political functions of the MTS and part of their authority was transferred to the collectives. During the past few years equipment has been transferred from the MTS to the collectives, further decreasing the political importance of the stations but increasing their ability to handle the smaller amount of equipment.

LAND UTILIZATION

The total sown area in East Germany has been gradually reduced since 1956, table 3. The food grain area has shown a decrease; the area devoted to feed grains has remained largely unchanged; potato cropland has decreased as has the area planted to vegetables and nonedible pulses. The industrial crop area has increased, primarily in sugar beets, tobacco, and rape acreage. The amount of land planted to forage crops has also shown a large increase, approximately 11 percent. The need for more animal feed and the emphasis on corn production have been the main reasons for this forage increase. The continued stress on maintaining and increasing livestock production suggests that feed grain and forage crops areas will be increased in the future. In that event, it is likely that the area devoted to bread grains, edible pulses,

Table 3.--Distribution of sown area by crop, 1938, 1956-60 ^{1/}

Crop	1938	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960 ^{2/}
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres
Grains:						
Wheat	1,516.4	966.9	1,038.1	1,090.2	1,075.1	1,075
Rye	2,887.4	2,772.0	2,716.6	2,709.7	2,553.8	2,545
Barley	1,099.6	816.7	795.2	833.5	875.5	877
Oats	1,751.2	1,126.3	1,127.8	1,058.3	1,016.3	1,013
Corn	37.8	22.2	10.4	8.4	5.9	10
Other	324.7	437.3	514.5	511.7	519.9	519
Total grains	7,617.1	6,141.4	6,202.6	6,211.8	6,046.5	6,039
Pulse:						
Edible	62.0	69.4	67.9	56.6	59.3	49
Nonedible	146.8	141.6	190.3	150.0	178.7	185
Total pulse	208.8	211.0	258.2	206.6	238.0	234
Potatoes	1,998.8	2,027.2	2,002.0	1,916.7	1,903.9	1,903
Industrial crops:						
Sugar beets	555.0	554.7	568.8	583.4	606.1	605
Tobacco	4.0	10.6	10.1	10.6	11.6	12
Oilseeds:						
Rape	38.3	285.4	328.4	322.7	310.1	314
Other	20.5	79.8	45.2	44.5	43.5	44
Total oilseeds	58.8	365.2	373.6	367.2	353.6	358
Fiber plants:						
Flax	25.7	83.3	68.0	72.4	71.6	72
Hemp	10.6	15.1	12.8	12.1	15.6	15
Total fiber plants	36.3	98.4	80.8	84.5	87.2	87
Total industrial crops	654.1	1,028.9	1,033.3	1,045.7	1,058.5	1,062
Fodder roots	566.8	806.3	707.9	613.8	598.0	593
Forage crops	1,332.1	1,704.7	1,671.4	1,829.0	1,886.9	1,888
Vegetables	104.8	179.6	171.2	160.9	160.1	161
Other crops	10.0	26.4	25.7	25.2	24.7	25
Green manure	35.1	98.8	78.6	57.6	54.4	54
Total sown area	12,527.6	12,224.3	12,150.9	12,067.3	11,971.0	11,959

^{1/} As of June 15, 1938, and June 3 for other years.

^{2/} USDA estimate.

Statistisches Jahrbuch, 1959, der Deutschen Demokratischen Republic, Government Central Statistics Administration. Vol. 5, Berlin 1960, pp. 448, 449.

and possibly potatoes will be decreased, since there is only a small amount of unused arable land in East Germany.

PRODUCTION

Production estimates are not easily established because the original statistics are often exaggerated, incomplete, and contradictory. Reports from West Germany indicate that published statistics of the East German government have tended to overstate actual production data. Grains are overstated by approximately 6 percent, potatoes by about 8 percent, and sugar beets by about 7 percent. Official meat and milk production figures have averaged about 10 percent above USDA estimates, which are based on livestock slaughter numbers, grain, feed and milk balances, and other sources. Egg numbers are also reported higher than official per capita consumption data, available trade statistics, and other sources warrant.

Table 4 presents the production of principal agricultural products for 1934/38 and for recent years. All data are revised in accordance with USDA evaluations of official statistics with the exception of 1960, for which only USDA estimates are available.

Table 4.--Production of principal agricultural products, 1934-38 average and 1956-60 1/

Product	Unit	1934-38 average	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960 <u>5/</u>
	1,000						
Wheat	tons	1,702	1,021	1,183	1,281	1,289	1,200
Rye	do.	2,277	2,161	2,097	2,226	2,005	1,950
Barley	do.	1,126	784	843	875	977	975
Oats	do.	1,742	1,045	939	1,075	908	900
Other	do.	288	391	418	477	412	375
Total grain	do.	7,135	5,402	5,480	5,934	5,591	5,400
Potatoes	do.	14,924	12,480	13,367	10,578	11,441	11,500
Sugar beets <u>2/</u>	do.	5,412	4,021	6,012	6,488	4,333	4,750
Pork	do.	743	751	789	793	721	750
Beef	do.	222	179	206	221	269	270
Veal	do.	80	52	50	31	34	40
Poultry	do.	35	38	45	50	56	65
Other	do.	76	59	55	56	60	70
Total meat	do.	1,156	1,079	1,145	1,151	1,140	1,195
Goat's milk	do.	-	374	350	313	287	-
Cow's milk-3.5%	do.	-	4,487	4,758	5,090	5,244	-
Total milk <u>3/</u>	do.	<u>4/</u> 4,925	4,861	5,108	5,403	5,531	5,420
Butter	do.	85	127	137	142	145	135
Wool	do.	6,200	6,876	7,639	7,953	8,304	-
Eggs	million	1,364	2,160	2,468	2,724	2,814	2,300

1/ 1934-38 grain and potatoes increased 10% according to W. German re-evaluation of prewar German statistics. 1956 to 1959 data reduced 6% for grains, 8% for potatoes, 7% for sugar beets, 10% for meat, milk, and eggs. 2/ Live weight. 3/ Commercial production. 4/ Cow's milk only. 5/ USDA estimate.

Source same as table 3, pp. 456-77, 605.

Indexes of agricultural production from USDA estimates of outputs of the most important products show improvement in the aggregate agricultural situation in East Germany from 1956 to 1960 (table 5). The increase in animal products was larger than that of crop production and provided the larger share of the increase in gross and net total production.

Table 5.--Indexes of agricultural production, 1956-57 to 1960-61

(1934-38 = 100)

Index	: 1956-57	: 1957-58	: 1958-59	: 1959-60	: 1960-61 <u>1/</u>
Gross total	94.7	100.6	107.3	101.1	106.6
Gross livestock	103.7	116.0	121.7	121.6	121.8
Net total	88.9	95.7	100.5	94.6	100.1
Net livestock	95.1	108.2	110.3	110.9	111.1

1/ Preliminary.

Crop production in 1960 was still not equal to prewar levels but showed a general increase over 1956 levels. The production of animal products was approximately equal to prewar level with the highest gain in milk and eggs. Because slaughter weights per animal were below prewar, a larger number of animals were slaughtered to obtain the equivalent prewar carcass weights. The ration of carcass weight (including offal and fat) to live weight was estimated at 75 percent for swine, 52 percent for cattle and calves, and 60 percent for poultry. The shortage of animal feed made increased imports of grains necessary in order to maintain the rising livestock numbers (table 6). The demand for animal products increased at a faster rate than the offsetting population decrease, making it necessary to import meat, butter, and eggs.

Table 6.--Numbers of livestock and poultry, December 3, 1938, 1956-60

Year	Cattle		Swine	Sheep	Goats	Poultry		Horses
	Total	Cows				Total <u>1/</u>	Hens	
	----- 1,000 -----							
1938	6,353.3	1,945.2	5,706.9	1,763.4	678.6	21,690.0	11,003.3	816.0
1956	3,718.5	2,115.0	8,325.6	1,892.8	764.2	28,732.2	14,933.5	641.4
1957	3,744.1	2,112.8	8,254.6	2,018.7	693.9	31,390.6	16,013.8	623.8
1958	4,144.9	2,133.7	7,503.6	2,111.4	625.3	33,138.2	17,326.8	606.8
1959	4,464.8	2,157.5	8,283.0	2,114.6	547.1	38,604.2	17,671.9	560.3
1960 <u>2/</u>	4,679.2	2,174.6	8,576.1	2,064.7	-	-	-	-

1/ Includes duck, geese, and turkey.

2/ November 30, except sheep - September 30.

Statistisches Jahrbuch, 1959, der Deutschen Demokratischen Republic, Government Central Statistics Administration. Vol. 5, Berlin 1960, p. 485.

Statistische Praxis. No. 1. Berlin, January 1961. p. 14.

PRODUCTIVITY

The general decline in agricultural productivity noted in the immediate postwar years was arrested between 1956 and 1960. Except for oats, all of the grain yields per acre were about equal to prewar yields by 1960 (table 7). The yields of potatoes and sugar beets, though above 1956 estimates, were still below the 1934-38 average.

Table 7.--Yield per acre of principal crops, 1934-38 and 1956-60

Crop	Unit	1934-38	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
<u>Official</u>							
Wheat . . .	Bushel :	36.8	42.8	44.9	46.4	47.2	2/
Rye	do. :	27.0	32.7	32.0	34.1	32.7	2/
Barley . . .	do. :	43.6	48.2	51.9	51.4	54.7	2/
Oats	do. :	60.0	69.3	61.2	74.8	65.9	78.5
Potatoes . .	do. :	259.0	259.6	268.5	223.9	241.5	2/
Sugar beets .	Pound :	25,963	19,236	26,337	27,899	17,746	2/
:							
<u>USDA estimate 1/</u>							
Wheat . . .	Bushel :	40.6	39.1	42.2	43.4	44.3	41.3
Rye	do. :	29.8	30.5	30.1	32.0	30.6	29.8
Barley . . .	do. :	47.8	44.1	48.8	48.2	51.4	51.0
Oats	do. :	65.9	63.9	57.5	70.1	61.7	61.4
Potatoes . .	do. :	284.8	203.0	247.1	204.2	222.4	223.7
Sugar beets .	Pound :	25,909	15,979	23,304	24,517	15,756	17,308

1/ The officially given figures on prewar yields of grains and potatoes were increased by 10 percent in accordance with West German re-evaluation of German prewar statistics. Postwar yields are estimated on the basis of official acreage data divided into revised official production data. (Grain production reduced 6 percent, potatoes by 8 percent, and sugar beets by 7 percent.)

2/ Not available.

Statistisches Jahrbuch, 1959, der Deutschen Demokratischen Republic, Government Central Statistics Administration. Vol. 5, Berlin 1960, pp. 456-77.

Statistische Praxis. No. 11. Berlin, November 1960. P. 259.

Milk yield per cow improved since 1956 although there was a slight decrease in 1960 from 1959. Egg productivity showed improvement from 1956 to 1957, but has since remained at the same level according to official reports. The live weight per slaughter animal has remained below the prewar average weights and has even declined slightly from the low 1956 weights (table 8).

Table 8.--Yields of selected animal products, 1934-38, 1956-60

Animal Products	1934-38	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960 ^{1/}
Milklb. per cow :	5,893	5,218	5,529	5,891	6,014	5,926
Eggsper hen :	124	120	132	132	132	132
Swinelb. per animal:	^{2/} 280	262	276	269	265	262
Cattle ...lb. per animal:	^{2/} 1,036	783	783	794	730	716
Calves ...lb. per animal:	^{2/} 187	117	117	119	159	143

^{1/} USDA estimate.

^{2/} Estimated on basis of carcass weight reported. Assumed ratio of carcass weight to live weight of 75 percent for swine, 50 percent for cattle and calves.

LABOR

The number of persons officially reported engaged in agriculture, including apprentices, declined approximately 12 percent from 1956 to 1959 (table 9). The present labor force is not sufficient at the present level of performance to cope with the larger tasks resulting from a more intensive agriculture and a larger livestock population. An example of the farm labor shortage in East Germany is found in the use of industrial, clerical, and military personnel during the harvest season. In the fall of 1960, approximately 20 million man-hours over and above normal harvest labor were required to assist in the harvest of that year's crops.

Table 9.--East Germany: Farm Employment, 1956-59

Type of worker :	1956	1957	1958	1959
	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>
Laborers :	481	448	394	364
Collectives :	212	228	353	447
Self-employed :	467	445	377	309
Family help :	477	464	400	328
Total :	<u>1,637</u>	<u>1,585</u>	<u>1,524</u>	<u>1,448</u>
Apprentices :	41	38	37	34
Grand total :	<u>1,678</u>	<u>1,623</u>	<u>1,561</u>	<u>1,482</u>

Improvements in farm management and technology have not offset the decline in farm labor. In addition, East German farm labor has relatively low efficiency because it is generally overaged, lacking in technical skills, (operation of tractors and other machinery), and is poorly distributed and utilized. Lack of economic incentives also contributes to lower labor productivity.

Low labor efficiency has been one of the main factors limiting the development of agricultural production in East Germany since World War II. In an

attempt to correct this situation, the current multi-year plan of East Germany, 1959-65, calls for improvement of labor efficiency through agricultural mechanization, increased training of skilled farm laborers, and more efficient livestock feeding methods. By 1965, the following livestock numbers are planned to be handled per worker:

40 to 50 cows
120 to 150 young cattle
60 to 75 calves
150 to 200 bulls
4 to 5,000 pigs
10 to 12,000 hens in new buildings
3 to 4,000 hens in old building

CAPITAL

Lack of data prevents a comparison of the present capital intensity of agricultural production with what it was before the war. However, since agricultural output is a function of the inputs of land, labor and capital, it is possible to show the degree of capital substitution since 1956 by examining changes in land and labor inputs. Although a large number of experienced farmers have migrated from East Germany to West Germany, it is virtually impossible to measure the effect of their loss on the economy. It is therefore assumed that managerial ability has remained about the same during this period. From 1956 to 1959, the net product of agriculture increased approximately 12 percent, the labor force decreased 12 percent as did its efficiency, and the amount of arable land decreased 2 percent, indicating an increase in capital intensity. As examination of certain indicators, fertilization, mechanization, and farm construction supports the proposition that capital substitution for land and labor has occurred during the past 4 years.

Fertilization

The supply of commercial fertilizers has increased since 1956 and today is substantially above prewar levels (table 10). Although East Germany uses more commercial fertilizer per hectare of agricultural land than any other Eastern European country,^{1/} the current plan calls for an increase in fertilizer supplies of about 40 percent by 1965. Each acre of farmland will receive applications consisting of 47.3 pounds of nitrogen, 46.4 pounds of phosphorus, and 95.5 pounds of potassium. There has also been increased usage of lime in East Germany where the acid soils necessitate large applications annually.

The production of the three main commercial fertilizers in East Germany has increased since 1956 (table 11). Exports of potash have increased almost as much as production, resulting in a small increase in the amount available for domestic consumption. Exports of nitrogen have also increased since 1956 but not as much as production. Imports of phosphoric acid have increased along with production, providing considerably more for domestic use than in 1956.

^{1/} For example, Poland in 1958-59 applied 9.9 pounds of nitrogen, 7.1 pounds of phosphorus, 11.4 pounds of potassium, and 16.3 pounds of lime per acre of agricultural land.

Table 10.--Consumption of commercial fertilizers 1938-39, 1955-56 to 1958-59
(Pounds of plant nutrients per acre of farm land)

Period	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphorus (P ₂ O ₅)	Potassium (K ₂ O)	Lime (CaO)
1938-39	29.3	24.4	43.5	69.7
1955-56	27.5	21.0	63.1	96.0
1956-57	31.1	25.4	63.4	102.4
1957-58	31.0	25.5	68.2	103.4
1958-59	31.4	29.8	71.0	108.8

Statistisches Jahrbuch, 1959, der Deutschen Demokratischen Republic,
Government Central Statistics Administration. Vol. 5, Berlin 1960, p. 453.

Table 11.--Commercial fertilizer: Production, trade, and utilization, 1956-59
(1,000 metric tons)

Fertilizer	Production	Imports	Exports	Available for agriculture	Utilized by agriculture	Balance
Nitrogen (N)						
1956	299.9		89.6	210.3	206.2	+4.1
1957	305.4		82.6	222.8	222.5	+0.3
1958	320.0		85.6	224.4	229.0	-4.6
1959	329.1		102.3	226.8	235.3	-8.5
Phosphorus (P₂O₅)						
1956	117.7	60.3		172.0	168.5	+3.5
1957	128.8	58.9		187.7	186.0	+1.7
1958	136.3	62.2		198.5	199.0	-0.5
1959	138.8	63.5		202.3	204.8	-2.5
Potassium (K₂O)						
1956	1,556		966	590	445.1	+144.9
1957	1,604		976	628	463.1	+164.9
1958	1,650		986	664	518.5	+145.5
1959	1,644		1,041	603	522.8	+80.2

Statistisches Jahrbuch, 1959, der Deutschen Demokratischen Republic,
Government Central Statistics Administration. Vol. 5, Berlin 1960, p. 344,
453, 574, 575.

Mechanization

In the spring of 1961, East Germany officially reported the total number of tractors in agriculture at 72,170, an increase of approximately 58 percent over 1955. The increased number of tractors in East Germany since 1955 is given in table 12.

Table 12.--Number of tractors by economic sector, 1955-60 (December 31)

Sector	: Prewar :	1955	: 1956	: 1957	: 1958	: 1959	: 1960
		<u>:Tractors</u>	<u>Tractors</u>	<u>Tractors</u>	<u>Tractors</u>	<u>Tractors</u>	<u>Tractors</u>
MTS	<u>1/</u>	31,531	33,866	34,617	37,076	41,680)	
State farms . . .	<u>1/</u>	4,185	<u>2/4,585</u>	<u>2/4,855</u>	5,231	5,909)	57,389
Collective and private farms:	<u>1/</u>	<u>2/9,972</u>	<u>2/12,335</u>	<u>2/13,953</u>	<u>2/14,816</u>	<u>2/14,781</u>	<u>2/14,781</u>
Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>2/45,688</u>	<u>2/50,786</u>	<u>2/53,455</u>	<u>2/57,123</u>	<u>2/62,370</u>
Net production, wheeled trac- tors <u>3/</u>	<u>1/</u>	5,964	5,098	2,669	3,668	5,247	<u>4/9,800</u>
Agricultural land per tractor		<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>
		822.8	402.8	350.9	313.8	299.0	276.8
							254.5

1/ Not available.

2/ USDA estimate.

3/ Calendar year production less exports.

4/ Officially reported as being delivered to the agricultural sector during 1960.

Statistisches Jahrbuch, 1959, der Deutschen Demokratischen Republic, Government Central Statistics Administration. Vol. 5, Berlin 1960, p. 426-42.

Neues Deutschland, February 11, 1961.

Although the aggregate draft power appears to have improved in recent years, the East Germany farmers are still handicapped in their usage of mechanized equipment, due to the shortage of spare parts, faulty distribution of operating equipment, and political priorities on work imposed by the machine-tractor stations. Unlike other East European nations and the Soviet Union, where the sale of MTS equipment to collective farms has been instituted since 1958, East Germany has not permitted a large sale of MTS farm machinery. However, in response to criticism of the inefficiency of the MTS, the East German government has redelegate control of stations to local collectives where the number of collective farms account for over 50 percent of the local farmers or where the collectives operate over 50 percent of the land.

In addition to tractors, official East German sources report an increase in the number of all types of farm machinery, including trucks, trailers,

potato diggers, sugar beet combines, drills, harrows, threshing machines, and commercial and stable manure spreaders.

The mechanization of agriculture, a primary goal of all Soviet bloc nations, appears to have made gains during the past 5 years. However, in view of the official complaints regarding idle machinery, lack of spare parts, and shortages of labor, the larger numbers of farm machinery have not resulted in as great a contribution to production as these numbers would suggest.

Farm Construction

Although agricultural construction has been maintained at a level above that of 1956, the need for rural housing and farm buildings has not eased. Increased animal numbers have placed additional burdens on an already chronic livestock housing shortage. Another factor influencing the housing shortages is the merger of collectives which requires the construction of new large buildings. Construction in East Germany has been hindered since 1956 by the lack of sufficient building materials. The annual production goals have never been met, averaging about 90 percent of fulfillment. Rural construction, while showing improvement, is still considered far short of meeting the demands of agriculture.

Although farm construction is to be maintained at the current level throughout the 1965 plan, improvements in animal housing facilities are to be incorporated. Loose housing and milking parlours, for dairy cattle, modern automated hen houses, and other technological improvements are planned to give a greater value for each Deutschemark invested in rural construction.

AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

The basic objective of agricultural policy in East Germany is to raise production to a comparable level with West Germany. Political and ideological considerations dictate that the method of attaining this goal is through the socialization of agriculture, though past experience with collective farming does not justify such expectations. Since socialization was accomplished in the spring of 1960, East German policy will now be concentrated on the consolidation of existing Type II and III collectives. Through operation of large-scale collective farms (currently, agricultural planners in East Germany consider about 1,500 to 2,500 hectares as being the optimum size for collectives), the East German government plans to match West Germany's agricultural production by the end of their current seven-year plan, 1965. This objective was originally scheduled to be reached by the end of 1961, but has since been revised to 1965 for most crops and for 1963 for some selected commodities.

The planned economy of a socialist state operates under an annual plan which is determined primarily by the central government and contains the overall production goals to be obtained by each sector of the economy. All goals are coordinated with the objectives of the multi-year plan which currently in East Germany consists of a 7-year plan, 1959-1965. East Germany is also a member of the Council for Economic Mutual Aid (CEMA), an organization which is developing plans for economic growth and development of the whole Soviet bloc up to 1980.

Lack of precise data on planned output goals prevents the evaluation of agricultural production in relation to plans. However, official announcements on incomplete plan fulfillments suggest that the agricultural sector in East Germany rarely meets the government plan and is lagging behind the rest of the economy in spite of constant emphasis on increasing production. The inability of the government of East Germany to increase agricultural production has caused it to modify some of its agricultural policies and to increase its use of monetary incentives. The transfer of machinery from the MTS to the collectives has been increased changing the original East German policy of having control of all farm machinery centered in the MTS. There has also been in recent years an increase in the government procurement prices of agricultural commodities thereby providing an incentive for increased production.

PRICES AND MARKETING

Two markets are available to East German farmers, one for state sales, the other for private sales. State sales include compulsory deliveries, contract sales, and extra-quota sales.

Compulsory deliveries are established by the state for each commodity, according to the type and size of farm. The amount to be delivered, the delivery date, and the quota price are specified. For some selected commodities and under certain conditions, the farmer may sign a contract with the state in advance. As with compulsory deliveries the contract specifies the quantity, time of delivery, and price of the commodity. The contract price is usually higher than the compulsory delivery price and is used primarily as a means of stimulating the production of selected commodities. If the farmer manages to have any products left after fulfilling his compulsory deliveries or his contracts, he may sell this "surplus" to the state at an extra-quota price. Such sales consist mainly of those commodities requiring additional processing such as grains, sugar beets, and industrial crops.

If farmers have surplus produce, such as livestock and dairy products, fruits, and vegetables, they may sell these on the open market in cities. Here they may rent stalls to display and sell their produce directly to consumers. The open market prices are generally higher than the prices fixed by the government since they are responsive to normal supply and demand.

The bulk of the major commodities are marketed through sales to the state, the larger proportion being handled through compulsory delivery quotas (table 13). However, in recent years, there has been a definite trend toward easing the disproportionate spread between the compulsory price (procurement price) and the extra-quota price paid by the state for purchases above the quotas. Several price changes have been made in recent years to insure the increased production of selected agricultural commodities. In early 1961, for example, the price paid to farmers for beef was lowered while the price paid for milk was increased in an attempt to increase milk supplies.

Table 13.--Producer prices of selected agricultural commodities 1956-59 (per 100 kilograms)

Commodity	Compulsory quota price			Extra-quota price			Percent of total sales 1959	Percent of total sales 1959		
	1956	1957	1958 1/	1959	1956	1957			1958 1/	1959
	DM(E)	DM(E)	DM(E)	DM(E)	DM(E)	DM(E)			DM(E)	DM(E)
Wheat	22.87	22.81	24.06	24.23	82.87	82.81	47.06	50.27		
Rye	22.37	22.31	25.56	25.72	76.37	76.31	51.06	54.14		
Barley (brewing)	30.89	31.31	36.28	39.35	91.89	92.31	81.78	87.01		
Sugar beets	4.50	6.00	6.00	6.10	6.00	8.00	8.00	9.00		
Potatoes (late)	7.20	7.20	7.70	7.43	12.00	12.00	12.00	13.08		
Pig (live weight):	167.00	170.00	210.00	209.00	510.00	513.00	425.00	421.00		
Other animal meat (live weight)	2/	152.00	152.00	154.00	2/	300.00	337.00	341.00		
Poultry (live wt):	250.00	253.00	300.00	328.00	3/	569.00	520.00	524.00		
Milk	24.00	24.00	27.00	27.00	41.2	70.00	62.00	62.00		
Eggs (per 100)	13.00	13.00	4/	23.00	29.5	40.00	4/	31.00		

1/ After May 28, 1958. Prices were changed in conjunction with abolition of food rationing.

2/ In 1956, prices were given for each category of meat; after 1956, as an average for four meats.

Compulsory quota prices in 1956 for cattle, 104.00; calf, 118.00; sheep, 76.00; goat, 64.00. Extra-quota prices in 1956 were for cattle, 273.00; calf, 274.00; sheep, 119.00; goats, 96.00.

3/ Not available.

4/ In 1958, prices were given per 100 kilograms: compulsory price 35.00; extra-quota price, 60.00.

Statistisches Jahrbuch, 1959, der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, Government Central Statistics Administration. Vol. 5, Berlin 1960, p. 234, 506-511.

INVESTMENTS AND AGRICULTURAL EXPENDITURES

The State investment for the agriculture, forestry, and water resources development in East Germany accounts for approximately 10 percent of the total investment each year, or approximately 1 billion East Deutchmarks (table 14). About 90 percent of this is allocated to agricultural uses, primarily in the form of medium and long-term loans for mechanization or livestock housing construction.

Table 14.--Investment in the agricultural, forest, and water economies, 1956-59

Year	Amount	Percent of total investment
	<u>1,000 DM (E)</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1956	903.168	11.0
1957	736.270	8.5
1958	875.512	8.9
1959	1,178,062	10.4

Prior to the elimination of private farming, agricultural investments, mainly in the form of credit extension, favored the socialized sector. Today government agricultural investments are primarily to develop animal husbandry and mechanization within the collectives. The investment in agriculture would have to increase considerably during 1961 if the East German government is to successfully develop and consolidate the newly formed collectives as well as the previously formed collectives and state farms.

The East German government plans to invest 14 billion Deutschemarks in agriculture and forestry from 1959 to 1965, or about 10 percent of the total investment plan. The expenditure on agriculture is much greater when support programs for collectives are included. Judging from the past development of East German agriculture this amount is still insufficient for the successful attainment of 1965 agricultural goals.

East Germany increased budget expenditures for agriculture approximately 12 percent, 5,775 million DM (E) to 6,477 million DM (E) from 1959 to 1960. The money was needed to provide support for LPG's, MTS's and the newly formed collectives during their first stage of organization. Other expenditures were for the merger of old collectives, and for the increased cost of support programs.

In 1961, preliminary reports indicate that the expenditures will amount to approximately 8 billion DM (E), an increase of about 24 percent over 1960. The major part will continue to be used for support of current programs.

FOOD SITUATION

After World War II, East Germany was the last country in Eastern Europe to abolish food rationing. Official sources indicate sufficient retail

Table 15.--East Germany's estimated food balance, excluding alcoholic beverages, 1959, for a population of 17,280,000

Product	Supply		Non-food uses				Supply for food		Kilo-grams	Cal-ories
	Production	Trade 1/	Seed and supply	Feed : trial	Indus-tries	Total	Per capita			
			and waste:	metric tons	metric tons	metric tons	metric tons	metric tons	metric tons	
Wheat and rye	3,285	+1,525	4,510	390	1,740	30	2,160	2,350	112.2	
Rice, milled		+115	115	-	-	-	-	115	6.7	
Other grains	2,300	+292	2,592	255	1,810	500	2,565	27	0.9	
Total grains	5,585	+1,932	7,217	645	3,550	530	4,725	2,492	119.8	
Sugar, refined	730	-329	401	-	-	-	-	401	23.1	
Potatoes	11,440	-	11,440	2,915	4,510	1,000	8,425	3,015	174.5	
Dry legumes	55	+13	68	10	40	-	50	18	1.2	
Other vegetables	745	+94	839	150	-	-	150	689	39.9	
Fruit (in terms of fresh) 4/	395	+255	650	60	-	-	60	590	34.2	
Meat (carcass weight)	640	+193	833	-	-	-	-	833	48.2	
Fish (landed weight)	95	+114	209	-	-	-	-	209	12.2	
Fats & oils (fat content)	265	+256	521	-	150	150	150	371	21.5	
Cheese 5/	70	+15	85	-	-	-	-	85	4.9	
Whole milk	5,525	-	5,525	-	830	6/2,810	3,640	1/1,885	109.0	
Eggs	125	+50	175	-	-	-	-	175	10.1	
Total consumption									2,900	

1/ Based on official data which are incomplete since only a listing of principal imports and exports are given.
 2/ After deducting 300,000 metric tons for increase in stock.
 3/ Extraction rates: 80 percent for wheat, 85 percent for rye, 60 percent for oats, and 70 percent for other grains.
 4/ Includes nuts.
 5/ Includes goat's milk.
 6/ Milk used in butter and cheese production.
 7/ For direct human consumption as fresh, dried, and canned milk (in terms of fresh milk).

supplies of all foods, but other reports emphasize current shortages of milk, meat, and butter. Complaints as to the low quality, little variety, and long queues necessary to purchase foods constitute another limitation on the official statements on the obtainability of all types of food in East Germany.

Nevertheless, average per capita consumption in terms of energy value during 1959 is estimated as approximately equal to prewar (table 15). Grains and potatoes account for about 50 percent of the calories, animal products for about 20 percent, fats and oils about 16 percent, sugar about 10 percent, and fruits and vegetables for the remainder.

The results of the 1960 agricultural year suggest that there will be little improvement in the availability of domestically produced food during 1960-61. It is expected that consumer demand for meat, butter, eggs, and other quality foods will necessitate the continued importing of these foods. The announced plan of meeting domestic consumption of animal products from domestic production by 1963 is not expected to be realized. The livestock industry is also expected to continue to depend on imported grains, primarily from the Soviet Union.

The initial goal for having East Germany per capital food consumption equal that of West Germany by 1962 has recently been revised to the end of the current 7-year plan, i.e., 1965. The quality of the diet is also to be improved through an increase in the consumption of meat and animal products and a decrease in the consumption of grain and potatoes.

FOREIGN TRADE

Approximately three-quarters of all East Germany's foreign trade is with the Sino-Soviet bloc countries, of which about two-thirds is with the USSR. Total trade turnover with the socialist countries increased slightly from 1956 to 1960 (table 16).

Prior to World War II East Germany was a net exporter of food, but since the war it has become a net importer (table 17).

The proportion of agricultural and food items to the total value of imports has remained fairly constant since 1950, ranging between 35 and 40 percent. The bulk of these agricultural imports in the past have been supplied by the USSR.

In recent years, the only agricultural commodities exported have been small amounts of wheat, seed corn, sugar, and egg products, accounting for about 3 percent of the total value of exports (table 18).

Table 16.--East Germany's foreign trade with specified countries, 1950, 1956-60

Year	Socialist countries ^{1/}	Remaining countries : excluding W. Germany:	West Germany
	Percent	Percent	Percent
1950			
Exports	68.2	12.3	19.5
Imports	75.9	11.2	12.9
Total	72.3	11.7	16.0
1956			
Exports	74.1	15.0	10.9
Imports	72.2	16.8	11.0
Total	73.2	15.8	11.0
1957			
Exports	75.1	13.6	11.3
Imports	71.6	17.0	11.4
Total	73.4	15.3	11.3
1958			
Exports	76.8	12.1	11.1
Imports	70.9	17.8	11.3
Total	74.0	14.7	11.3
1959			
Exports	77.4	11.9	10.7
Imports	75.0	13.8	11.2
Total	76.0	13.0	11.0
1960			
Exports	-	-	--
Imports	-	-	-
Total	74.0	14.9	11.0

^{1/} Includes USSR, Mainland China, North Vietnam, North Korea, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania and Albania.

Statistisches Jahrbuch, 1959, der Deutschen Demokratischen Republic, Government Central Statistics Administration. Vol. 5, Berlin 1960, p. 573.

Preliminary reports in East German press releases.

Table 17.--Imports of selected farm products, 1956-60

Commodity	1956	1957	1958	1959
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>metric tons</u>	<u>metric tons</u>	<u>metric tons</u>	<u>metric tons</u>
Wheat	606	1,078	1,292	1,335
Rye	482	342	207	207
Barley	365	387	85	83
Oats	87	150	133	63
Corn	145	57	143	149
Rice	54	63	59	115
Total grain	<u>1,739</u>	<u>2,077</u>	<u>1,919</u>	<u>1,952</u>
Oilseeds	269	320	314	268
Vegetable oils	85	72	85	87
Butter	30	37	22	69
Animal fats	23	13	3	10
Cheese, fat	10	16	12	15
Pulses	21	10	13	13
Vegetables, fresh	57	58	76	94
Vegetables, canned	15	18	20	17
Fruit, fresh	74	49	50	101
Fruit, canned	5	8	9	24
Fruit, tropical	46	54	86	97
Nuts, excluding peanuts	9	8	13	15
Wine grapes	18	20	30	35
Meat and meat products	96	114	63	193
Fish and fish products	136	139	138	114
Coffee	9	12	16	23
Cocoa	5	6	9	15
Tea	2	2	2	2
Cotton	91	92	88	103
Tobacco	26	29	26	28
	Million	Million	Million	Million
	<u>pieces</u>	<u>pieces</u>	<u>pieces</u>	<u>pieces</u>
Eggs and egg products	187	294	101	117
Cigarettes	928	581	421	331

Statistisches Jahrbuch, 1959, der Deutschen Demokratischen Republic,
Government Central Statistics Administration. Vol. 5, Berlin 1960, p. 579-80.

Table 18.--Exports of farm products, 1956-59

Commodity	: 1956	: 1957	: 1958	: 1959
Wheat 1,000 metric tons . . .	0.6	1.3	1.2	1.8
Sugar do.	75.0	50.0	168.0	329.0
Egg products ^{1/} millions	-	24.8	34.6	28.0

^{1/} In egg equivalent.

Trade with Underdeveloped Countries

Although the increase in total trade turnover of East Germany between 1959 and 1960 was approximately 6 percent, the increase in trade with countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America amounted to 26.3 percent. Of particular interest are the following increases in total trade:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Percent increase</u>
United Arab Republic	18.4
India	27.7
Indonesia	82.2
Ceylon	87.6
Brazil	175.0
Guinea	190.7
Cuba	1,400.0

Trade agreements were made in 1960 with Morocco, Tunisia, and Cambodia for the first time. In addition East Germany delegations made many visits to countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Although the present trade with underdeveloped countries is only about 5 percent of East Germany's total trade turnover, there is considerable evidence of increased emphasis being placed on these potential markets by the East German government. The commodities envisioned for trade are primarily nonagricultural exports and imports of agricultural foodstuffs and raw materials for industry.

East Germany plans to increase its foreign trade approximately 75 percent by 1965, but no change is forecast in the distribution of trade between socialist countries and the rest of the world. An increase in the volume of trade between the less developed nations and East Germany is planned, but no specific goals have been announced.

LONG-RANGE PLANS

East Germany's economic development is charted in multi-year plans. The first plan, 1949 to 1950, served merely as the transitional plan during the first 2 years of the so-called German Democratic Republic existence. The second plan for the 5-year period, 1951-55, achieved moderate success in industrial production but did not fulfill the planned target of gross agricultural

output, although the production of animal products was greatly increased. The third plan for the 5-year period, 1956-1960, was formulated but not yet approved by the SED when political unrest occurred in Poland and Hungary in August and October of 1956. The economic dislocations caused by these developments delayed the enactment of the "Law of the Second Five-Year Plan" until January 1958. However, in 1958, the Soviet Union instituted a 7-year plan, 1959-1965, and "suggested" that all socialist nations use 1965 as their terminal year. The DDR, after many revisions had been made in their 5-year plan, decided to abandon that plan and adopt a new 7-year plan which would correspond to the new USSR plan. Thus, East Germany is currently operating under its fourth plan, 1959-1965.

Total agricultural production by 1965, is estimated to be approximately 28 percent above the 1959 level. By increasing inputs of fertilizer, by increasing capital (in the form of equipment and construction) and by improving labor efficiency, crop yields per acre are expected to provide the necessary feed and fodder for the planned gain in livestock numbers (tables 19, 20, 21).

The plans of the East German government, considering the actual achievements of East German agriculture during the past 7 years, seem unrealistic. However, it should be remembered that the long-range planning of a Soviet orientated country, although presented in definitive quantitative terms serves primarily as a guide and secondly, to spur the bureaucracy and the population. East German agriculture can be expected to show improvements in yields, production, and quality of product, even though target goals are not reached. The dependence of East Germany on agricultural imports is expected to continue during the foreseeable future, especially for such products as feed grains, meat, eggs, butter, fruit, and vegetables. There is little likelihood that East Germany will be able to equal West Germany's agricultural production or per capita consumption levels by 1965.

Table 19.--Planned 1965 yields of selected crops

Crop	Yield per acre	Percent increase over 1955-59 average
	Pounds	Percent
Grains	272	1/34
Sugar beets	2,543	1/19
Potatoes	2,186	1/67
Oil seeds	165	48
Green fodder	749	2/45
Corn silage	5,888	2/104
Hay	540	2/42

1/ Based on 1955-59 USDA estimated yields.
2/ 1956-59 average.

Table 20.--Planned 1965 production of animal products ^{1/}

Commodity	Quantity	Percent increase over 1958
	<u>1,000 metric tons</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Meat ^{2/}	1,340	40
Poultry ^{2/}	54.7	^{3/}
Milk (3.5% fat content)	7,640	80
Eggs (million pieces)	2,942	76

^{1/} State procurement only.

^{2/} Live weight.

^{3/} Not available.

1959 Economic Survey of Europe, United Nations, Geneva, 1960, p. 1-48.

Table 21.--Planned livestock numbers in 1965

Class	Number	Percent increase over 1958
	<u>1,000's</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Cattle	5,015	29
Cows	2,617	24
Pigs	8,706	16
Sheep	2,590	16
Hens	31,829	39

1959 Economic Survey of Europe, United Nations, Geneva, 1960, p. 1-48.

CURRENT OUTLOOK

Prospects for the 1960-61 agricultural output in East Germany appear unfavorable. In spite of an early spring, the planting of spring grains, potatoes, and sugar beets has not been completed in the recommended optimum time or by the date specified in the official plan. During the latter half of May and early June, severe thunderstorms and rains caused flooding and heavy damage in the western half of the country adding to the mounting backlog of work.

The shortage of animal feeds in the winter of 1960-61, especially in the beginning months of this year, has resulted in an insufficient supply of animal products for the urban population. Rationing has been accomplished for certain foods by establishing customer lists for the purchase of butter, issuing potato distribution cards, decreasing the hours during which meat and meat products can be purchased, and limiting the quantity of animal products distributed to the retail stores by the government.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Washington 25, D. C.

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID

Official Business

In an attempt to improve the domestic meat supply, the government of East Germany has lowered the required slaughter weight of cows and hogs to permit farmers to increase their deliveries of slaughter animals and to conserve the limited supply of animal feeds.

Official government appeals during June have stressed the need for farmers to make up recent losses by working longer hours until the situation is again normal. The economic incentive offered is that unless farmers salvage an adequate harvest, they will not receive the quantity of consumer goods expected next winter, since these goods will have to be sold on foreign markets to pay for increased food and fodder imports.



