

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

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# THE AGRARIAN REFORM

I.

AUSTRIA - FINLAND - LATVIA  
LITHUANIA - POLAND



ROME

PRINTING OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

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1930

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INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
OF AGRICULTURE

Rome, 15 September 1930.

*Your Excellency,*

*I have the honour to submit to you a first series of studies published by the Institute on the agrarian reform and its results in some of the countries in which such a reform has been carried out since the war.*

*A subject of such great economic and social importance as that of agrarian reform was bound to command the attention of the Institute as soon as circumstances allowed.*

*In fact the General Assembly of the Institute in 1924 passed the following resolution :*

*The General Assembly :*

*considering that in various European countries agrarian reforms have been carried out since the war ;*

*considering that these reforms have changed the distribution of land, agrarian relations and the conditions of production ;*

*that these transformations have brought about a new distribution of the crops cultivated ;*

*that they have had an influence on international trade in agricultural produce and on the internal production of the various countries ;*

*requests that the Institute shall take the initiative in asking the States to have enquiries made by their official organs into the results of these agrarian reforms from the point of view of the production and consumption of agricultural products and of international trade in such products ;*

*and that this official documentation shall be collected and published by the Institute.*

*When called upon to give effect to this resolution into effect, the Institute decided that a questionnaire should be drawn up and sent to the Governments in which a reform of this kind had been carried out with the request for the communication of any suggestions that it was desired to make on the different points contained in the questionnaire. This was done and the Governments of Finland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Austria, Rumania, Latvia, Poland and Hungary communicated with the Institute stating their views on the points contained in the questionnaire.*

*The International Labour Office is also interested in agrarian reform, more*

especially in so far as it affects the questions coming within its purview and the desire was expressed, at the meeting of the Mixed Advisory Agricultural Committee held in 1925 that the two Institutions should act in concert and avoid overlapping. It is, in fact, the function of the Mixed Committee to bring about such collaboration. It was decided in agreement with the International Labour Office that the Institute's draft questionnaire should be submitted to the next session of the Committee, and that the International Labour Office should contribute suggestions on the points in which it was interested. This new draft, established on the basis of the original draft and completed in accordance with the suggestions of the Governments, was presented to the session of the Mixed Advisory Agricultural Committee held in Geneva in January 1927, which adopted a definite draft, after having introduced certain points on the recommendation of the International Labour Office.

At the last session held in Rome in November 1929 the Mixed Committee took note of the work done by each of the two Institutions.

The studies contained in the present volume have been published in the International Review of Agriculture at such times as the official bodies responsible for carrying out the reform in the different countries forwarded replies to the questionnaires addressed to them in pursuance of the desire expressed by the General Assembly of 1924.

Up to the present replies have been received from the Governments of Lithuania, Finland, Latvia, Austria and Poland. The information obtained regarding these five countries is collected in a first series of studies which I have now the honour to submit to you.

The studies relating to this reform in the other countries and supplied by official bodies or prepared by specialists to whom the work has been deputed by such bodies, will continue to appear in the International Review of Agriculture and these too will be collected in a second series of the same kind as this present one.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. BRIZI

Secretary General

His Excellency

Prof. GIUSEPPE DE MICHELIS

Senator, Ambassador of H. M. the King of Italy,

President of the International Institute of Agriculture.

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## PRÉFACE

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The agrarian reform, one of the most important of the phenomena of the post-war economic evolution, has given rise in all countries to a considerable literature in which are discussed the measures taken by the Governments of the various countries, as well as the new agrarian organisation and its consequences. It is felt that statesmen, scientists and all who are interested on the practical side in the agrarian transformation of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will welcome the publication of the reports supplied by the Ministries of Agriculture or other official bodies responsible for the agrarian reform in the countries where such reforms have been carried out. These reports reached the International Institute of Agriculture in response to an enquiry on the causes of the agrarian reform, its legal bases and its economic and social consequences, undertaken by the Institute in accordance with the desire expressed by the General Assembly of 1924. On several occasions it has seemed advisable to add in the form of notes some statistical data and other information, in every case with indication of the sources.