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RAPIDLY IMPLEMENT SEEDLING CONTROL

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OPERATING A DIATOMACEOUS EARTH MINE

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

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RAPIDLY IMPLEMENT SEEDLING CONTROL

-COMMUNIST CHINA-

Following is the translation of an editorial in Chi-lin Jih-pao (Kirin Daily), published in Changchun and dated 1 June 1960, page 1.

It is now the growth period for paddy seedlings. It is urgent that we seize the opportunity of taking good control of the sprouting beds, in order to guarantee that every bed of sprouts and every sprout will grow into strong seedlings.

Experiences of two continuous years of the great leap forward have proven that proper early planting of seedlings in paddy fields is the key to bumper crops. Whether proper early planting of seedlings can be guaranteed depends on whether the seedlings are raised on time. In 1959, in some areas there was a shortage of seedlings and this caused a delay in planting. In 1960, every area has given due consideration to this problem, and not only have raised seedlings early, but also reserved relatively sufficient seedling fields. The general ratio between the total area of paddy fields and the area of seedling fields is 15:1, or 10:1.

In many places, reserved seedling fields are created as a safety measure. These are important steps in guaranteeing proper early seedling planting. However, at present, we should not be too optimistic. If control over the sprouting beds is neglected, the possibility of seedling shortage still exists. In 1960, reasonable dense planting has been applied in all areas. The area of high production paddy fields has increased and the planting density is greater; thus, the general use of seedlings is about 15% greater than that of last year. This is a new phenomenon.

Another new phenomenon is that in 1960, many areas are using planting machines to plant seedlings. This will result in using more seedlings. According to estimates

made by the Shih-men People's Commune in An-t'u Hsien, the planting machine will use about 15% more seedlings than by hand planting. Accordingly, we may have more seedlings in 1960, but the seedling supply is still relatively serious.

In addition, there is one factor which demands full consideration. In 1960, certain areas in our province have used hot-beds to raise seedlings. This is a new undertaking, in which we have no control experiences. The Fourth Production Team in the Hsin-feng Administrative District, Chiang-mi-feng People's Commune, Yung-chi Hsien, has used oil paper to prepare hot-beds for raising seedlings, but because of improper control, some seeds have rotted. Attention must be given to safe-guarding against similar conditions. Sterile thinking, such as the belief that "this year we have plenty of seedlings, so we can relax", is very harmful. We would rather have an over-supply of seedlings than a shortage of seedlings in the paddy fields. We must raise the seedlings so that every stalk grows and is strong.

The experiences in the last several years have proven that paddy seedling control is a very difficult and complicated activity; therefore, we must exercise fast, tight, and timely key [control] periods, not giving in, nor missing one phase. We must hold fast to the end. Recently, the weather has been changing greatly, the temperature rises and falls irregularly, so seedling growth has been extremely slow. Effective measures must be taken to hasten their growth. Special attention must be given to the fact that great weather change, heavy rain, and too many cloudy days will often make seedlings decay, or cause withering, and attract flies, mosquitos, worms, and other pests which injure the seedlings.

Seedling decay has been found in Shu-lan and Yung-yuan hsien. In Shu-lan Hsien, five people's communes, K'ai-yuan, Hsin-an, Chao-yang, Chen-chiao and Hsiao-ch'eng, have been affected by seedling decay in about 14.7% of the total seedling fields. If we do not exercise effective preventive measures, it is quite possible that the damage will become very serious. We cannot overlook this situation.

Every area must establish a control organ over the sprouting beds and hold fast to this activity. This should especially be coordinated with the farm investigation and supplemental planting movement. A concentrated and detailed mass seedling control investigation and supplemental planting movement must be launched in every administrative district, production team, and sprouting bed in order to inspect the general condition of seedlings, to see whether they have been damaged by insects and diseases, and to

see whether there has been any deficiency in control. When a problem is discovered, it must be solved immediately. In the process of inspection, a careful calculation must be made concerning the demand and supply of seedlings. In communes, administrative districts and production teams, which have been affected by disasters that have resulted in seedling shortage, the method of direct sowing must be adopted, so that the entire area of cultivation will be planted (with a variety of early ripening seeds), and not a single spot of paddy field will be left without planting.

At the same time, we must help them seek effective measures, to do their utmost to control seedlings, and to guarantee that all seedlings are healthy and strong. This is the decisive key to the problem of whether we can fulfill the goals of our planting plan.

We must realize that in 1960, every area has adopted the method of "raising seedlings by stages." The early seedlings are being planted, while the late seedlings are still in the growing stage, so the control over them must be strengthened. Seedling control does not stop when planting has begun. It stops only after planting has been completed. From now to the completion of planting, there are still 20 days left for seedling control. According to experiences of previous years, it is at this stage that the seedlings attract flies and mosquitos which cause great harm. Thus, every area must pay close attention to this matter. Whenever such an evil has been found, it must be stopped effectively to prevent it from spreading.

As to second and third grade seedlings, fertilizer treatment and effective measures must be adopted immediately to foster rapid growth, so as to create early planting conditions. Shu-lan Hsien has adopted "reasonable irrigation, using fertilizer to accelerate growth, insecticide to kill germs" to prevent diseases and insects; it has also adopted the "internal steam seedling raising, increase direct sowing area, and raise reserve seedling" methods. All the other areas should follow suit. After the completion of a large scale investigation, all areas should establish a definite system of investigation, and they should make frequent inspections. Whenever a problem is discovered, it must be solved immediately.

Time is a strong factor in paddy seedling control. All areas should call on the masses to make suggestions and offer plans. Everybody must have a profound interest in sprouting bed control. On the other hand, we must only send those people who are experienced in seedling control, profoundly interested in collective enterprises, and faithful to their duties to take charge of seedling control. In some places, the people build small huts on the side

of the sprouting beds to let the control personnel keep a day and night watch over the seedlings. This method should be expanded.

At the same time, we should establish a practical system of inspection, punishments and rewards, and reporting. We should institute a system of seedling control technical measures to guarantee that no link in the sprouting bed control measures will be missed. According to new phenomena that the various areas have attained in their broad promotion of oil paper hot-bed seedling raising and improved water bed seedling raising, to propagate seedling control experiences, various new effective methods have been adopted. Such as, calling timely on-the-spot meetings, making judgments and comparisons, conducting investigations, and spreading experiences and borrowing experiences. This is very important. *

OPERATING A DIATOMACEOUS EARTH MINE

Following is the translation of a news report in Chi-lin Jih-pao, Changchun City, 29 May 1960, Page 2.

The Pa-tao-kou People's Commune, in the Chang-pai Korean Autonomous Hsien, has discovered a great deposit of diatomaceous earth at Ma-an-shan. Operation has already begun and success has been attained in producing two new products: light-weight heat-preserving bricks and silicon ash. This diatomaceous earth mine was discovered by the Chang-pai Hsien Geological Exploratory Team last year. It will be a favorable factor for Chang-pai Hsien industries, especially steel production.