

INTRODUCTION

The FAO Expert Consultation on the substitution of imported concentrate feeds in animal production systems in developing countries was held at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok, Thailand, from 9 to 13 September 1985.

The rapidly increasing imports of cereals (and to a lesser extent of oil meal) for incorporation in compound feeds in developing countries responds to the application of classical systems established in and for developed countries. Compound feedstuff production has risen at an average annual rate of approximately 15 percent since the mid-seventies. The number of feed factories has risen very rapidly although their installed capacities are more often than not underutilized.

Apart from the fact that there is competition between man and animal for the use of cereals in developing countries these tendencies make them more dependant upon imports (the total value of annual imports reached several billions of dollars in recent years). In some cases governmental subsidies for compound feed production may even discourage efforts aimed at increasing domestic feed production and the search for alternative feeds. In this context FAO has on various occasions been requested by developing countries to assist in seeking effective substitutes for grain in animal feeding.

This expert consultation aimed at:

- analyzing the present place of concentrate feeds in animal feeding systems in developing countries
- proposing alternatives to imported feed ingredients or compound feeds
- analyzing the present place of the feed mill industry, identifying the problems arising from its development and considering the role it should have in the future
- making recommendations for the development of animal production systems more based on locally available feed resources

In his introductory speech, R. Sansoucy, Animal Production Officer (Feed Resources), FAO headquarters, Rome, recalled the purpose of this meeting. He highlighted the fact that participants coming from the 5 continents represent all parts of the world. They also represent a wide range of professional qualifications, being: economists, nutritionists, extensionists, technologists or managers.

They are engaged in various sectors of activities: universities, research institutions, development organizations, industrial sectors. This should enable consideration of every aspect of the problems arising in this field.

The opening speech was delivered by B.K. SONI, FAO Regional Animal Production Officer for Asia and the Pacific. He described the background and the history of the meeting, emphasizing the importance of the various problems to be considered. He also indicated the strong interest that the Regional Office has developed in this matter. It has been involved for many years in studies on feeds and feeding of livestock and poultry. Various meetings have been organized regionally on this topic, a survey was done and a report prepared on Feed Resources in the Asia and Pacific Region. Improvement of feedstuffs quality control has also been a major preoccupation.

The welcome address was given by P. YUANTAR, on behalf of the Royal Government of Thailand. She described the situation of the animal production and feed resources in Thailand. The rapid growth of both pig and poultry production resulted from the development of commercial intensive and large scale operations in the suburban areas. Thailand is quite unique regarding the animal feed situation as it is a net exporter of animal feeds. However, the international prices of both cassava and maize are currently so low that farmers are now being discouraged to plant for next year's crops. For the first time, many feedmills started using cassava flour, and accordingly, fish meal production has been promoted this year in order to provide protein supplement. The use of various agro-industrial by-products could also be promoted.

Technical Secretaries were T.R. Preston and R. Sansoucy