NEWS

COMPUTER PLANS CROP YIELDS

A mathematical model devised by Bulgarian and Soviet scientists, determines potential productivity of plants at an early stage of their vegetation. This has enabled them to draft general recommendations for scientific programming of crop yields for the CMEA countries. This set of documents also sums up the experience of all socialist countries in land farming intensification.

Mathematical methods of modelling have considerably speeded up the development of this new branch of science, says Nikolai Bondarenko, Head of the All-Union Centre of scientific programming and rector of the Leningrad Agricultural Institute.

A computer can calculate in a matter of minutes all the processes of spring wheat vegetation from seed sowing to ripening, giving a complete picture of getting a maximum crop for a particular wheat variety under specific natural conditions. It also determines fields, types of machinery and forms of labour organisation which will make for getting bigger produce with lower labour costs.

At present, the new method is used on five million hectares of ploughland. The results show that grain crops rise by a third and potatoes and vegetables by 50%. (*Soviet Features*, Vol. XXIV, No. 104, July 5, 1985)