

AGRICULTURE

U. S. to Grow More Rice

► U.S. FARMERS will replace those of Viet Nam and other countries in filling the world's rice bowl.

They will start growing more rice and soybeans this spring in response to President Lyndon B. Johnson's message on Food for Freedom.

Unprecedented demands arising out of drought and war in Asia require the United States to increase its rice crop this year,

the President said in setting forth the new Food for Freedom Act to help the United States lead the world in a war against hunger.

The President asked for a 10% increase in land for growing rice—from about 1,818,600 acres to 2,000,502 acres. This will be an increase of about 750 million pounds of rice per year.

The pointed-leaf plant is grown in coastal plains, tidal deltas and basins wherever fresh water is available to submerge the fields as the plant grows. About 95% of the world's rice has been produced in Asia, the Philippines, Indonesia and other nearby islands. Until the recent war, Viet Nam was a main exporter of rice. Now with the man-made and natural disasters, as well as with increasing populations, rice is urgently needed for import into these lands.

The other basic food staple President Johnson asked be increased is soybean. These beans contain very high quantities of protein, and have been substituted for meat on occasions. They are also high in vegetable oils which go into shortening, margarine, salad oil, paints, soaps, rubber, textiles, gasoline and other items. The stalks of the plant can be crushed and broken into nutritious animal fodder.

Cultivated in China and Japan long before written history, soybeans are now grown extensively throughout Asia and Indonesia. In the United States, soybeans can be grown almost any place that corn grows—in the midwest states of Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Minnesota, and in the south and southeast in the Carolinas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Delaware and Maryland.

In order to assure adequate supplies of the important bean, President Johnson asked that soybean production be encouraged on acreage formerly planted with grains used to feed cattle and farm animals. Feed grain stocks, he said, are more than sufficient.

• Science News Letter, 89:158 March 5, 1966

ENTOMOLOGY

USDA Curbs Use of Two Well-Known Insecticides

► THE USE of two widely known insecticides, aldrin and dieldrin, was cancelled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture because the chemicals could leave harmful residues on plants and in milk from cows feeding on the plants.

New analytical methods that are far more sensitive than those used when the pesticides were first registered have indicated the presence of the harmful residues. The use of aldrin was prohibited for 25 crops, including alfalfa, corn, clover, grass, peas, rice, soybeans, sugar beets and spinach. The use of dieldrin, other than for treating seeds, was prohibited on 23 crops, including corn, peas, rice, sorghum, soybeans and spinach.

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