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GREETING SPEECH OF THE CHAIRMAN  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
KRASNODAR TERRITORIAL SOVIET  
(COUNCIL) OF WORKING PEOPLE'S  
DEPUTIES

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen  
Dear Comrades

On behalf of the Krasnodar Territorial Soviet of Working People's Deputies, on behalf of workers, collective farmers and intellectuals of the Territory let me heartily greet you - the participants of this momentous international forum - on our Land of Kuban.

Such meetings and professional contacts between scientists and specialists of different countries contribute to the establishment of mutual understanding and co-operation, promote friendship among the peoples, and thus serve the cause of strengthening the peace in the world.

Consistent implementation of the peace policy, improvement of the living standards of the Soviet people are the main targets of the policy pursued by our Communist Party and Soviet State. This was brilliantly and convincingly demonstrated by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade L.I. Brezhnev in his Report to the 25th Congress of the CPSU. All peoples of our multinational Motherland - the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - unanimously accept and actively support the communist party's policy.

We have welcomed the decision to organize the VII International Sunflower Conference here, on the land of Kuban.

Kuban is a rich land. Sometimes it is called a pearl of Russia. We are proud of this, but at the same time we are well aware of our responsibility before the people to preserve

and multiply its riches.

The Krasnodar Territory has some 83,000 square kilometers. The population is over 400,000 people, almost half of whom inhabit the towns and industrial townships.

Our Territory is at equal distances from the North Pole and Equator, it is bordered on the Black and Azov Seas and limited by the Caucasus Mountains. All this created specific climatic zones in the Territory.

In the plains occupying two thirds of the Territory the climate is moderately continental, in the South-East part of the Black Sea coast it is sub-tropical.

From East to West the Territory is crossed by the river Kuban, its main water artery.

During the last five year period the Krasnodar water reservoir, the largest in the Northern Caucasus, was constructed on this river near the Territory's capital. Its capacity is over three thousand million cubic meters.

Our Territory possesses developed industry, diversified agriculture, and is a favourite place for rest and medical treatment of millions of Soviet people and foreign tourists.

The Territory's farm land covers over 5 million hectares, including 4,200,000 hectares of plowland. All farm land is allotted to collective and state farms.

What is a Kuban collective farm?

It has about 1700 farmers and an average of some 10,000 hectares of plowland. The mean size of state farms is somewhat smaller.

During recent years the Territory has seen a rapid development of specialization and concentration in agricultural production, an agricultural and industrial integration. Large modern enterprises and industrial-type complexes are being in which production processes are organised on the up-to-date industrial basis.

Over one hundred crops are grown on the Kuban fields, the pride of place being given to winter wheat, rice, maize, sunflower, sugar beet,

vegetables, fruits, grapes and tea.

Grain production amounts to 8 million tons including 4,500,000 tons of wheat.

The rice production has recently been stepped up. About 700,000 tons of rice were grown last year.

Livestock production is well developed in the Krasnodar Territory. There are over 2 million cattle, about 3 million pigs, and 1,400,000 sheep.

The fifty two research institutions situated in the Territory employ some 8,000 workers.

A total of 350,000 specialists are employed in all branches of our economy. They are trained in nine institutions of higher learning and 56 specialised secondary schools.

Such a representative International Conference of scientists and specialists is the first one in the history of our town. We attribute this above all to the achievements of our countryman, plant breeder, twice Hero of Socialist Labour, Lenin and State prizes winner, Academician V.S. Pustovoit, whose name is awarded to the All-Union Research Institute of Oil Crops situated in Krasnodar.

Pustovoit's life is an exploit of a scientist, citizen and communist.

His varieties bred for decades of tireless and devoted work allowed almost to double oil yields.

"The flower of Sun", Helianthus, being a decorative plant only fifteen decades ago, now has found its true motherland on the fields of collective and state farms of our country. It has become one of the leading crops, the source of valuable edible sunflower oil and of sunflower cakes rich in protein.

We are proud that sunflower varieties developed by Pustovoit occupy about 4.5 million hectares in the USSR and over 1 million hectares in other countries.

The acreage under this crop in Kuban is about 340,000 hectares, the productivity level is over 2 tons of oilseeds per hectare and on many farms it reaches 3 - 3.5 tons/ha.

The 1976-1980 Five-Year Economic Development Plan provides for a considerable increase in the total yields and productivity of sunflower.

The total sunflower seed production in our Territory is planned to increase to 750,000 tons in the Tenth Five-Year period, that is, 70,000 tons more than during the past five-year period.

An important role in solving this problem belongs to our scientists. Their duty is to help disseminate rapidly new scientific achievements, methods and managerial practices and introduce them in all sunflower-growing collective and state farms.

Soviet scientists and specialists must deepen scientific research in sunflower, especially in developing new high oil varieties and hybrids of intensive type which are more resistant to diseases and pests and are better reacting to high agronomic background. Research is aimed to develop new and more perfect technologies assuring not only an increase of yielding ability but an improvement of seed quality and reduction of production costs as well.

Let me express a firm belief that an exchange of opinions on all these problems at your representative Conference will be fruitful and mutually enriching.

In accordance with the Programme the participants of the Conference will visit some farms to be acquainted with the management of sunflower and with the present state of the crops. Your estimation of all seen will be specially valuable to us.

We shall do our best to make your stay in our Territory pleasant, interesting and useful to you.

Let me once again, on behalf of the Territorial Soviet of Working People's Deputies, on behalf of all people in our sunny land, wish the participants of the Conference successful work and new creative achievements in developing the science of sunflower.

I wish all of you good health and personal well-being.