



A hundred extension home economists and agriculturists could feed Germany, declared Ray Anderson in a recent issue of Farm Journal. They would educate the people in conservative farm procedures. Anderson believes that the presence and activities of these trained men and women in Germany would help halt the spread of communism, make peace a reality, give children a chance, revive self respect and save the American taxpayer untold millions in rebuilding.

Europe Needs Trained Extension Workers

by Joan Ahern

TODAY when the world needs help, the woman trained in home economics is qualified to help. Relief agencies and public health agencies are fields in which workers are needed throughout the world. Nutritionists are especially in demand in public health work.

Levels of living and standards of nutrition go hand in hand. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations is the joint agreement of 41 nations to co-operate in raising levels of living. Its objectives include improving the efficiency of agriculture and marketing and the welfare of rural populations. FAO desires to serve as the spokesman of the world's consumers.

The meeting to organize the FAO along lines developed at the Hot Springs Conference in 1943, was held during October and November, 1946. Representatives from the United Nations, chosen for their professional skills instead of their politics, attended the first meeting. Practically all of the women participating were home economists. FAO is a fact-finding and advisory agency that speaks in the consumer's interest. It believes that the interests of producers and consumers are identical.

Dean Buchanan

Dean R. E. Buchanan, of the graduate college, was a member of the FAO committee reporting on Greece. He recommended that trained home economists help in raising nutritional levels in the country.

Home economics extension workers are needed. Their work has been effective in the United States and is being tried in other countries.

Mrs. J. A. Nordin has worked in Brazil. Mrs. Nordin, now living in Ames, did graduate work at Iowa State and was a member of the staff of the Department of Foods and Nutrition. In 1943 she went to Brazil where she was employed by the United States Government. Her Brazilian work was done in co-operation with the Brazilian Department of Agriculture and Department of Labor.

Working as a nutritionist, Mrs. Nordin trained 52 women to work as extension agents throughout Brazil. She helped plan the Agnes June Leith School, named in her honor, in Fortaleza for training nutritionists. Offering a 7-month course, the school trains 24 women every year.

Brazil had two main problems in the nutrition field in 1943, Mrs. Nordin stated. It had to feed the American and Brazilian troops stationed in Brazil, and it had to raise the level of nutritional efficiency. Brazilians did not fully utilize their agricultural resources. It was necessary to stimulate the desire for a balanced diet before encouraging the people to grow products to maintain this standard.

Home demonstration agents are being trained in Venezuela to help in raising levels of living among backyard peoples in that area. These home demonstrators instruct in nutrition, hygiene and sanitation. They must adapt it to conditions of poverty and family need.