

Food, Ag Research Concerns Shift

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consumer radio briefs

Concern about food and agricultural research, which leads to increased and more dependable food supplies, has made a striking shift in recent months.

Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station Director Keith Huston says food surpluses of the '70's and 60's diverted public attention from food to other matters of national interest. But as the world population grows in numbers and wealth, we now recognize that many areas of the world will likely be unable to feed themselves.

The United States, as the principal agricultural nation in the world, is moving to involve itself with less developed countries to meet the food production challenge. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, on his recent visit to Africa, identified the interest of the United States in providing resources to enable African agricultural development.

Also, President Ford asked the National Academy of Science to join the U-S Department of Agriculture in assessing the present agricultural research situation. The two agencies will try to determine whether the United States is beginning to use up its store of agricultural research information at such a fast rate that within a few years we will not be able to progress as we should.

Legislation is pending in Congress to create a new agricultural research policy and advisory committee to help the secretary of agriculture in judging the nation's needs in agriculture. The bill would also strengthen agricultural research at institutions, such as the University of Minnesota.

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