

## Studies Management Practices for Adaptation at Home

# Nagaland Farmer Learns Here

"I do have a farm, but not a good farm like Larry and others here."

That was the candid statement last week of Lima Ao of Nagaland, one of 18 states in India. Ao was referring to his Lancaster County host, Larry Weaver, a young New Holland RD1 farmer.

But by standards in his own state Ao is a successful and progressive farmer. His two-week visit to the Weaver farm was part of an extended six-month tour of some of the better farms in the US in an effort to gain more knowledge and make his own farm, and farming in his state, even better.

Ao visited this country under the 4-H International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) program. He previously spent two months in Iowa, four weeks elsewhere in Pennsylvania, and two weeks at the John Henkel farm, Strasburg RD1, before stopping at Weaver's beef farm.

Livestock production in his own country, Ao said, "can be improved a lot."

He described farming in Nagaland as primarily a subsistence agriculture with most farmers growing a few chickens

and keeping a couple of cows. Until recently, the country actually had to import a lot of food, but lately has become more self-sufficient, Ao said.

He looks forward to making strides toward an improved agriculture with application of some of the modern management practices used in this country. Farming in Nagaland now is "very much by hand," he said.

When he returns, Ao said he will recommend that the government use some of its money to set up specialized farms to pave the way for improvement. He noted that the government is about the only source of sufficient capital for such specialized farms.

### Isolationist

Actually, the Nagaland government has received offers of assistance in the past to improve its agriculture, but has rejected them.

As described by Ao, the state is extremely isolationist and has deliberately kept out outsiders, including those who could assist the area.

Ao noted that the Ford Foundation offered to build a rural university and Scandinavian countries offered to help set up



Lima Ao, Nagaland, India, farmer and 4-H IFYE exchangee, poses with his hosts, Carol and Larry Weaver, New Holland RD1, recently. Although he dressed like a conventional American while he discussed his country, Ao draped himself in this aristocratic ceremonial garb for

the photo. It contained symbols (not shown) depicting the history of Nagaland people including worship of the moon and stars which occurred before Christianity was introduced by missionaries about 150 years ago.

modern dairy and poultry programs. But the offers were rejected. "We look forward to the day when the restrictions are lifted and when I get home, I'm going to talk to officials about the offers," Ao said.

While the refusal of outside help with agriculture wouldn't make sense in the US context of open state borders, extension programs and complex assistance to farmers from agribusiness firms, the situation is entirely different in Nagaland.

Nagaland not only keeps citizens from other countries away, but also citizens from other Indian states. Nagaland is virtually a nation within a nation.

### Nagaland Is

The smallest and least populated state in India, Nagaland has only about 500,000 persons or one-tenth of one per cent of India's 550,000,000 people. While India is known as the world's second most populous nation behind China and has a tremendous

though Ao lives at about 4,500 feet. The climate is extremely wet with 80 to 100 inches of rainfall a year and mild temperatures that range up to 80 degrees.

In his own area, Ao said it never frosts and he has never seen snow, although it snows in some of the high mountains.

Nagaland emphasizes agriculture, education and small scale industry. Principal farm products are rice, beef, pork and vegetables.

In the wet climate, rice is predominant, much as corn is the leading crop in this area. There are "insignificant quantities of corn" in his country, Ao said.

Ao himself raises about 30 acres of rice, about 100 cattle per year and 1,500 orange trees.

Nagaland is a relatively small area squeezed between much larger nations. The largest city, Kohima, the capital, has only 20,000 people.

At the extreme northeastern tip of India, the state is relatively isolated from the main portion of India. It borders Burma to the East and, although there are other Indian states on the other borders, East Pakistan is only about 50 miles away to the Southwest. Tibet and China are only about 150 miles to the North.

As Ao says, it's "a political hotspot" in a "strategic location."

### Independent People

Ao indicated that the country's rejection of outsiders stems from a strong determination to remain free and independent. And apparently, the independence of Nagaland is important to the Indian government, because it provides the people of this land with an operating budget, while requiring no taxes to the national government.

The independent spirit of the people has a long tradition. Until only about 150 years ago, the people were very primitive by modern standards. Then missionaries came, then more missionaries.

As a result, today about 60 per

cent of the people of Nagaland are Christians, compared to only about two per cent for India as a whole.

The pride and independence of the people of Nagaland was expressed in World War II when the Japanese invasion in the region was stopped in the state.

Pointing to a color picture of the capital city, Kohima, Ao said, "This in front is a cemetery where many of our soldiers died fighting the Japanese."

After the British left India,



Lima Ao  
'We Farm; Not Like Larry'

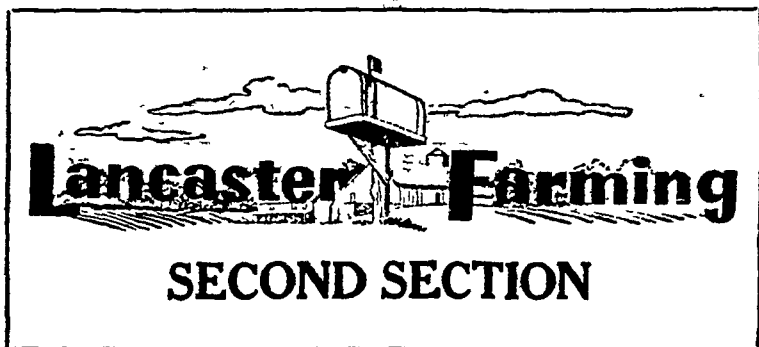
Nagaland waged open warfare with the national government to retain its independence. It succeeded in 1964.

Now, Ao is trying to discover the secrets of prosperity to add to the people's pride and independence.

### Tobacco Acreage Down

The Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service is holding fast to forecasts as of Sept. 1 that this year's harvest of Type 41 tobacco will be at the lowest level since 1937.

The service reports an expected yield of nearly 347 million pounds, down 2.8 million pounds from last year, mainly because of declining acreage.



## Mr. and Mrs. Ivan R. Yost Win Regional Young Farmer Award

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan R. Yost, Christiansburg RD1, have been selected as winners of the Young Farmer Community Award of Region II of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association.

They are now eligible to compete with the winners of the other five regions of the Association for the state title of "Pennsylvania's Outstanding Young Farmer Family."

The award recognizes a young farm couple for outstanding service in their home community. Emphasis is placed on both participation and leadership in all types of community activities.

The Yost family reside on their 450-acre Lancaster county dairy farm where they are milking 58 Holstein dairy cows. They have two children, Ivan Jr., six, and Karen, three.

### Milk and Fat Contest Deadline Set Oct. 31

Deadline for entries in the Pennsylvania Milk and Fat Contest is October 31. Entries cannot be accepted after this date, according to Robert Book, contest chairman.

Persons who are Pennsylvania Junior Holstein members are eligible and can enter by contacting Book at 656-7665 or by writing him at 11 S. Hershey Ave., Leola 17540.

The Lancaster County winner will compete in the state contest and be eligible for prizes.

Mr. and Mrs. Yost participate in the activities of many farm and community organizations. They are active members of the Mennonite Church, the Lancaster County Farm and Home Center, the local fire company, and many fund drives in their local area. They are members of the local, state, and national units of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Ivan Yost is a member and president of the local association of Young Farmers in the Otterara High School in Atglen. The teachers of agriculture in the high school, Ivan R. Stauffer and G. R. Rothermel, are the advisors of the association.

This young farmer served as president of the 1969 National Young Farmer Institute. In addition to his Young Farmer activities he finds time to participate in the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA), the local, state and national Holstein breed associations, the Lancaster County Conservation District, the County Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Services, and serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Yost will attend the 11th Annual Convention of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association on November 12, 1970 in the Mountain View Inn, Greensburg.

At that time one of the six regional families will be crowned "Pennsylvania's Outstanding Young Farmer Family."



Lima Ao  
'We're Independent People'

over-population problem Nagaland, according to Ao, is a sparsely populated and mountainous region.

It has mountains ranging up to 13,000 feet above sea level, al-