

Development:

U.N. organization aims to improve world food production

By KIM BOWER
Collegian Staff Writer

Promoting the common welfare is the purpose of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a senior officer of the FAO said yesterday.

T.C. Varghese said the FAO accomplishes this by encouraging nations to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to better the conditions of rural populations and to improve efficiency of production and distribution of food and agricultural products.

Varghese spoke to students and faculty at a seminar on international service programs sponsored by the College of Human Development's Office of Commonwealth Educational Systems and the college's Department of Community Studies.

After 1945, many countries became independent from their colonial empires. Varghese said when the colonial administrations were withdrawn, the new nations did not have the technology or scientific knowledge to provide for their own needs, and the FAO was created to provide information on research in these areas to help them.

The FAO, originally headquartered in Washington, D.C., is now based in Rome.

While food production has increased significantly in Third World countries, the organization realizes that it must now concentrate on increasing production for all levels of rural society, Varghese said.

Agriculture, economic and social policy, forestry and fisheries are the four technical departments within the organizational structure of the FAO, Varghese said. Another department also deals with technical assistance projects and investment-oriented projects, he added.

The Human Resources, Institutions and Agrarian Reform Division, under the economic and social policy department, provides four services: agrarian reform and settlement; education, extension and training; development organization and institutions; and women in development, Varghese said.

Each service works in its own specific area and also joins with the other services to formulate and implement rural development projects, he said.

Varghese said the Human Resources Division is now in charge of about 500 projects, which fall into three basic categories. The first category deals with the monitoring and evaluation of rural devel-



LaMar Kopp, associate provost, introduces T.C. Varghese of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, who spoke at yesterday's seminar on international service programs sponsored by the College of Human Development's.

opment programs and the implementation of land reform or settlement, he said.

"In many countries of Asia and also Latin America there is a lot of land available for new settlement and this type of settlement program is something which the countries are giving a lot of emphasis," Varghese noted.

The second category deals with improving the conditions of certain disadvantaged groups such as women, landless and small farmers, and youth, while the third attacks the problems of undeveloped or backward areas within a country, Varghese said.

"Human development is not possible by itself," he said.

Candidates selected for field staff positions must have considerable experience with the work in the

developing countries, Varghese said. They are given a three to four day briefing as well as background material and literature concerning work already done in their particular field, he added.

Because of the need for experience, new graduates cannot be assigned to such positions. However, the FAO does have two programs to train them, he said.

In the first program, called the associate experts scheme, promising graduates are sent to work with the FAO for about two years by those countries which can afford to pay their salaries. The graduates spend most of their time working in the field, Varghese said.

He said the second, the Junior Professional Training Program, facilitates the recruitment of fresh candidates from less affluent countries by making it possible for them to send a few people to work in the FAO headquarters.

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Former chemistry department head retires

Joseph A. Dixon, former chemistry department head and University alumnus, retired from the University on July 1.

Dixon, who ran that department from 1970-83, will continue to teach two chemistry courses at the University this semester. However, because he has retired, he is relieved of duties such as faculty committees.

"I like to teach, it keeps me young, makes me stay up on my chemistry and is one of the few ways of contributing and perpetuating my science," he said.

Dixon teaches Chemistry 16, a course about chemistry as a profes-

sion for junior chemistry majors, and Chemistry 38, a four-credit organic chemistry class for sophomores.

After graduating from the University in 1942, Dixon worked for the Department of Agriculture until 1944, when he returned to the University for his master's and doctorate degrees in chemistry.

In 1951, after acting as an assistant professor, Dixon left the University to lead a project at the California Research Corporation.

He said his organometallic chemical experiments involved "very interesting compounds, (with unusual bonding) radically different from most because they are highly reac-

tive and flame in air."

Currently, Dixon is also a section editor for a small quarterly journal, The Journal of Chemistry and Engineering Data. He also acts as chairperson on the Budget and Finance Committee in the American Chemical Society, the largest organization of members from chemistry and chemical engineering sciences.

The American Chemical Society has three main objectives. It is a service to its members and a publishing venture. It also supports public relations to inform people that chemistry is comprehensible and is not a "dirty word," Dixon said.

—By Victoria Jaffe

Trustees hear progress reports

Continued from Page 1.

offered by the University in years, Tischler said.

Some of the features of Summer Session 1984 were a special pre-matriculation program created for black students and implementation of an aggressive marketing plan for Summer Session, she said.

"In numbers alone, our Summer Session is potentially among the top ten universities in the country," Tischler said. "With effort and imagination, we can become one of the nation's premier summer sessions."

The office of Summer Session is trying to make Summer Session more flexible in time modules, in use of faculty and in approach, Tischler said. The office also hopes to make Summer Session more comprehensive, creative and responsive to the academic needs of Penn State students, and more attractive to prospective students.

As for Fall Semester, enrollment at the University is about 570 students below the administration's target figure, the University vice president for academic services told the trustees yesterday.

The preliminary number of students enrolled in all of the University's degree programs this fall is 58,577, Robert Dunham said. Although final enrollment figures will not be available until October, the estimated final enrollment for Fall Semester is 61,000 students.

This compares to a total of 63,050 students last fall, he said.

"The bulk of the estimated decrease in fall enrollment is reflected in the decline in freshmen admissions

this year," Dunham said.

The total number of freshmen students at the University has decreased from 11,667 last year to 10,009 this year, he said.

With regard to the recent controversy about the University's computer system, the trustees heard a report that the system is functioning fairly well. The University executive vice president and provost said despite all

of the drawbacks of the University's new Administrative Information System (AIS), the system is doing a good deal of what it is supposed to do.

The new computer system successfully processed about 7,000 students through phone-in registration, William C. Richardson said.

The lines associated with drop/add were not caused only by the computer system, Richardson said.

The information system does what it is supposed to do until it is under pressure, he said. It is placed under pressure when about 250 terminals are placed "on line," he explained.

"When we get to 250, we hit the wall," Richardson said. "When we hit the wall, the response time degrades from the typical response time of about five seconds up to response times into the minutes."

PSU to gain biotech institute

Continued from Page 1.

University, private industries and the state. The Ben Franklin Program has allocated \$225,000 to match the \$745,000 donated by outside sources for the program, Jordan said.

Thomas Beaver Jr., University executive director of industrial development, said the sum raised by outside sources breaks down into \$614,000 which has been pledged by corporations associated with the project, such as Bethlehem Steel, Procter & Gamble Co. and IBM and \$131,000 from the University.

One of the first steps in the establishment of the institute will be to renovate North Frear Building, Brechnley said.

Jordan said two buildings will be erected this year to house the labs and classroom which are now being used in North Frear Building. He expects one of these buildings to be located near the existing agricultural buildings and the other to be built on North Atherton Street near the engineering buildings.

Jordan said the exact locations must be approved by the University's Board of Trustees. Those buildings will later be used by the institute.

He said architects and consultants have already begun renovation plans for Frear and he expects the work to be completed within 18 months.

Brechnley, who has a strong background in academic

research and also has firsthand experience with the problems faced by industries using that research, stressed the need for industries and researchers to work together.

"Application-oriented research" will be the focus of the institute, she said. This type of research bridges the gap between basic and applied research to solve problems which are common to pharmaceutical, agricultural and chemical industries, she explained.

Brechnley, the former director of research at Genex Corp., said the institute's academic program will emphasize to students the different disciplines involved in biotechnology, such as agriculture and engineering. The program will consist of courses that will be offered to graduate and undergraduate students, but she said it will not be a separate major in itself.

She explained that students will be trained in broader areas of science than their specific majors and be shown what the impact of their work will be in industry. Brechnley said she is hopeful the institute will encourage students to become more competitive and knowledgeable about the field of advanced technology.

The industrial aspect of the institute will provide service and research needed by industries cooperating with the project. Brechnley said lectures will be given to industry's employees to educate them on advanced technological systems and keep them updated on the latest innovations.

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On-campus interviews to be conducted Friday, October 26

USEC supports plan to move Buckhout gardens

By ROBERT P. KING
Collegian Staff Writer

The University Student Executive Council voted unanimously last night to support an administration plan to move the Buckhout gardens and replace them with a five-story lab building.

In the 12-0 vote, USEC voted to accept the report of the subcommittee organized to look into the matter.

USEC vice-chairman Vic Lundberg, who presided at the meeting in the absence of chairman Adam Levinson, said he and four other USEC members met with members of the administration on Tuesday to discuss the plan to erect the new 100,000-square-foot building on the present site of the gardens.

Lundberg said the University has made a commitment to move the gardens to another site, although it does not want to be held to a specific date.

Rather than bulldoze the gardens and plant new gardens elsewhere, the University will either move the gardens to a temporary location or replant them at a permanent site. It is possible such a site would be in the vicinity of the Birch Cottages along Shortlidge Road, he said.

University Student Government Senate President Kate Cooney suggested that USEC devise some

way to put students in on the ground floor about plans about the location of new buildings.

She said student input could have prevented the controversies that arose dealing with the gardens, as well as with the federal credit union under construction in North Halls.

Also discussed was USEC's voter registration drive.

Organization of Town Independent Students President Roger Sobek said only 10 percent of the student population is registered to vote, and the turnout on campus is 0.5 percent.

USEC will be sending people to register students in the residence halls and the apartments in town and will supply absentee ballots to students registered out of town, Sobek said.

Also discussed was a proposal to reorganize the budget committee of Associated Student Activities.

Sobek, head of the subcommittee looking into the proposals, said the allocation system "hasn't been changed for twenty years."

Organizations that have been around for a while often get the lion's share of the funding, while newer groups are left out, he said.

Under the proposals USEC would review applicants for the budget committee and would nominate the candidates for budget committee chairman, he said.

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