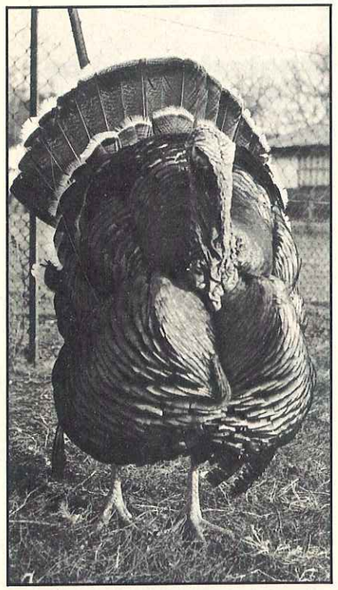
Country File: HUNGARY

International Co-operation Plays An Important Role In Industry Development

The Hungarian Government—with its rational and subjective economic policy—created the basis for the intensive development of large-scale agricultural production. In addition to guiding state farms, it organised a viable, strong co-operative sector. The development of Hungarian poultry breeding started on this basis, and has resulted in an up-to-date, highly-developed and internationally recognised poultry industry.

One of the key issues of successful development was to decide on the method and steps of achieving the development process. The decision proved to be correct in that firstly the financial-technical basis of production and technology had to be brought to a high level, instead of genetically making up the arrears of many years using backward breeding stocks with low, or moderate production capacity. Therefore, far-sighted enterprises brought in existing hybrids from abroad and adapted these with imported technology. Following this, well-organised multiplication centres were established with the introduction of parent and grandparent stocks. Hungary looked for partners from countries with advanced poultry industries and established commercial and professional connections with many famous breeders. So, in the development of broiler and layer hybrids: Shaver, Lohmann, Euribrid, Studler; in connection with turkeys: Matthews, Hybrid and BUT; while concerning ducks, Cherry Valley played an important initial role in industry development. Hybrids of Hubbard, Ross, ISA, Marshall, Cobb, Pilch, Arbor Acres, Babcock and Nicholas are also now well known in Hungary.



Representing the past: the Hungarian Bronze turkey cock (Photo: Szikora).

Simultaneously, compound feed production has also developed by adopting the best from foreign experiences. The veterinarians also acquired the knowledge necessary for commercial poultry growing, through connections with the most advanced enterprises producing medicines and vaccines.

Poultry farms witnessed a big step forward in the area of housing, equipment and buildings. The production of up-to-date technical equipment is carried out by specialised industrial enterprises, like the state-owned *Raba* factory and the *Delta* co-operative. Besides marketing parent flock and end-products, the breeding and multiplying centres provide their buyers with feeding, technological and a veterinary service as well as advising on modern production methods. Through the co-ordination of all the production factors and phases, these enterprises created a special Hungarian form of highly-organised production, the so-called industry-like production systems (package system). The first system of this type was founded in 1965 by *Babolnai Mezocazdasagi Kombinat* (Agricultural Combinate Babolna) for broilers and table eggs. It was followed by other systems: *Boly* (table eggs), *Hunniahibrid* (broiler), *Nadudvar* (turkey), *Palotas* (duck), *Kecskemet* (goose).

Following poultry, new systems have been developed for the production of grains and other important crops. These operate well and also participate in international co-operation. Thus, the poultry industry has had a vast impact on the development of Hungarian agriculture.

The state-owned slaughtering and processing industry used to operate within the framework of a separate trust-organisation, but today there are independent state-owned slaughtering plants, as well as slaughtering plants owned by agricultural co-operatives or jointly owned by co-operatives and the state. The slaughtering plants co-operate with the commodity-producing farms organised by the production systems, in local integration.

Poultrymeat and egg production has shown the following growth:

The table also shows the dynamic development of the organised poultry sector. Today, broilers make up 73% of poultrymeat. Besides a high domestic poultry consumption, exports have also risen, though not so for eggs, where output roughly equates with the demand of home consumption and that of hatching.

Regarding broiler exports, the markets of the Soviet Union, the socialist countries, the Middle-East—and to a lesser extent (mainly for further-processed products) Western Europe—are of importance. The majority of turkey and water fowl exports go to Western Europe. Exports of table eggs are negligible. Exportation of hatching eggs, day-old chicks and pullets by the breeding companies go to many countries but, generally as part of a complete system involving man-

Egg and poultrymeat production (1000 tons)

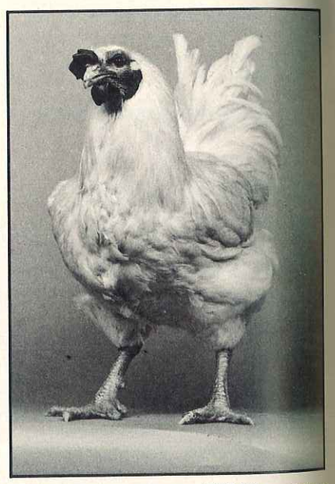
Year	Total	Processed Industrially	Eggs (mill pieces)	Consumption/head/year Meat (kg)	Consumption/head/year Eggs (No)
1962	174	47	1.836	10.0	170
1970	281	135	3.280	14.2	247
1980	464	303	4.384	18.0	275
1982	545	386	4.360	19.4	320
1984*	530	385	4.400	21.0	330

* = preliminary

The main building of the slaughter plant in Kecskemet which processes over two million geese a year or more than 25% the total for the country. (Photo: Szikora).

agement, service, buildings and equipment.

The organisation of production is characterised by the existence of independent farms and integrated enterprises, which perform breeding, multiplying, commodity production and processing. Production, however, is regulated according to the market situation. The most important enterprises established the Association of Poultry Producers in the framework of which, corporative decisions are made, based on equal rights of the members. This organisation has 46 members, including all the production systems, agricultural farms, processing plants and several unions and enterprises for foreign and home trade, interested in poultry. The production process is carried out by reasonable decentralisation in local integrations, but it is influenced by the coordination of the Association of Poultry Producers which takes into consideration the real market possibilities.



Representing the present: TETRA meat-type breeding cock.

An open economic policy makes it possible for the poultry industry to establish trade connections, as well as other links in the sphere of production and development with other countries of the world. The internationally known and recognised Hungarian companies are always looking for fair co-operation on the basis of mutual benefits.—Bela Kallay, deputy director of the Association of Poultry Producers.