

KIM JONG UN

**LET US BRING ABOUT
INNOVATIONS IN AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION UNDER THE
UNFURLED BANNER OF THE
SOCIALIST RURAL THESES**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Letter to Those Attending the National Conference
of Sub-Workteam Leaders in the Agricultural Sector
February 6, Juche 103 (2014)

To coincide with the 50th anniversary of the publication of the socialist rural theses, the Workers' Party of Korea has decided to hold this National Conference of Sub-Workteam Leaders in the Agricultural Sector in order to bring about innovations in agricultural production under the unfurled banner of the theses.

Attending this conference are exemplary sub-workteam leaders and officials in the agricultural sector who have overfulfilled their grain, vegetable, meat and fruit production plans by displaying patriotic devotion. By so doing, they have brought earlier the day when our people will enjoy an affluent and happy life to their heart's content.

I sincerely congratulate you; I also extend warm greetings to all working people and officials in the agricultural sector who have reliably defended the socialist agricultural front and to the service personnel and other people who have rendered wholehearted support to the countryside under the Party's leadership.

By publishing *Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country* 50 years ago, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung for the first time in history explained how the rural question could be solved. The theses is an immortal classic that provides perfect answers for all the theoretical and practical problems arising in solving the rural question; it is our Party's great programme for socialist rural construction. The great leader, by publishing the rural theses, performed an imperishable, historic exploit in accomplishing the cause of independence for the masses, the cause of socialism.

Since the publication of the rural theses, sea changes have been witnessed in socialist rural construction across our country.

The ideological and cultural revolutions have been promoted

successfully in the countryside, with the result that the ideological and spiritual qualities of our agricultural working people have been transformed and great developments have been achieved in rural cultural life. Our agricultural working people have become dependable fighters on the socialist agricultural front who, equipped with the Juche idea and Songun idea and firmly rallied behind the Party and their leader, work with devotion to execute the Party's agricultural policies. Their cultural and technical standards have been raised to unprecedented levels and the rural villages turned into cultured socialist ones; thus the differences between the urban and rural areas in terms of the cultured living conditions have been reduced considerably. Through the forceful promotion of the technological revolution in the countryside, great strides have been made in irrigation, the introduction of electricity and machinery in farm work, the use of agrochemicals and the realignment of the farmland across the country as befitting a socialist country, and the material and technological foundations of agriculture have been consolidated.

The historic sea changes that have taken place in our country's rural areas are clear proof of the validity and vitality of the socialist rural theses advanced by President Kim Il Sung. Our people, because they have this immortal programme for solving the rural question, have been able to create a brilliant example of socialist rural construction.

The rural theses is a great banner our Party will invariably hold aloft in socialist rural construction.

By carrying out the tasks set out in the socialist rural theses, we should bring about a fresh turn in rural construction in the new century and ultimately solve the rural question.

The countryside should promote the ideological, technological and cultural revolutions more forcefully.

It should direct primary efforts to the ideological revolution, so as to arm all the agricultural working people with Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and train them into rural revolutionaries of the Songun era who work faithfully for the interests of their community and society and for their country and fellow people and dedicate their pure conscience and sincere efforts unsparingly to the country's agricultural development. The agricultural working people should be imbued with complete faith in socialism and steadfast anti-imperialist and class consciousness so that they regard our style of socialism as their lifeblood, love it ardently and fight staunchly against the imperialists' moves for ideological and cultural infiltration.

If we are to successfully build the socialist civilized country our people desire and ultimately solve the rural question, we should step up the cultural revolution in the countryside. The countryside, upholding the slogan of making all the people well versed in science and technology, should actively propagate scientific and technological knowledge so that all the agricultural working people can learn the latest farming techniques and operate modern technical equipment skilfully; it should also ensure that greater numbers of agricultural working people are involved in the study-while-you-work system. Conditions should be created so that they can enjoy a cultural and emotional life to their heart's content and rural villages, by being laid out in a more cultured way, should be turned into a civilized and beautiful socialist paradise.

In line with the demands of the era of science and technology, the information era, the rural technological revolution should be promoted, thus making the material and technological foundations of the rural economy firmer and steadily raising agriculture onto a higher scientific and modern footing. By comprehensively introducing machinery in the rural economy

and widely applying agrochemicals, the differences between agricultural labour and industrial labour should be narrowed and the farmers completely freed from back-breaking labour. And by building new irrigation facilities and widely introducing a variety of modern irrigation methods while building on the successes already achieved in rural irrigation, irrigation system should be perfected.

The most important task facing the agricultural sector at present is to do farm work well so as to achieve a radical increase in agricultural production.

The agricultural front is an outpost in the battle for defending socialism and a major thrust of the effort to build our country into a socialist economic giant.

The imperialists, who are loath to see us prospering and living well, are stepping up the pressure and economic sanctions against our country; they are resorting to sinister schemes to force our people to experience food shortages in the hope of undermining the faith in socialism implanted in their minds. We must farm well by all means and ensure that the people have enough to eat; by so doing, we can smash the enemy's anti-DPRK, anti-socialist schemes. Now that our country has attained the status of a politico-ideological power and a military power, our style of socialism will remain unperturbed and we can push forward the revolution and construction boldly and at our discretion whatever the enemy's moves, so long as we achieve self-sufficiency in food by farming well.

Since the agricultural problem is so important, our Party has defined the agricultural front as a major thrust of our effort to build our country into an economic giant, and this year it has called on the agricultural sector to hold high the torch of innovation in building a thriving socialist country.

In this significant year, when we are marking the 50th

anniversary of the publication of the socialist rural theses, the agricultural sector must farm well and thus meet without fail the grain production quotas set by the Party and the state. And from 2015, when we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, it must hit even higher grain production targets.

While decisively increasing grain production, the agricultural sector must bring about fresh innovations in vegetable, livestock and fruit production and all other branches of the rural economy.

In order to achieve a radical increase in agricultural production, the sector must do farm work scientifically and technologically in line with the demands of the Party's agricultural policies and the Juche farming method.

The Juche farming method is an invaluable asset which the great Comrade Kim Il Sung created and bequeathed to us. It is a method of farming of our own style that suits the actual conditions in our country, and an advantageous scientific and intensive farming method that enables us to reap high and stable yields, however unfavourable the natural and climatic conditions.

Having defined the Juche-based and scientific farming method, which the great leader created with so much effort, as the Juche farming method, the great Comrade Kim Jong Il energetically led the effort to implement it. With clear insight into the demands of the developing reality, he advanced the Party's policy of an agricultural revolution in the Songun era aimed at applying the Juche farming method more comprehensively, and thus opened a new avenue for solving the rural question.

The key to increasing agricultural production in our country, where the area of arable land is limited, is to raise the unit-area yield to the maximum by doing farm work scientifically and

technologically as required by the Party's agricultural policies and the Juche farming method.

The rural economy sector should strive to do farming scientifically and technologically so as to produce, for the present, more than eight tons of grain per hectare in the plain areas and more than five tons per hectare in the intermediate and mountainous areas.

First of all, seed production should be revolutionized.

The main thing in farming is seeds. The agricultural sector should recognize this and pay primary attention to solving the seed problem. It should develop strains that give high yields, require little fertilizer, are fast-growing and are resistant to drought, storms, pests and various other harmful factors produced by our country's climatic and soil conditions. While developing superior strains by itself, it should also investigate the possibility of introducing high-yielding strains from other countries.

Seed selection should be improved. The agricultural sector should conduct seed selection properly on a scientific and technological basis and produce and supply good seeds to meet the needs of each region and cooperative farm. Modern seed processing factories should be built as required by the age of scientific farming, and a system established whereby all seeds are screened, sorted and coated in a comprehensive manner and supplied to cooperative farms.

Innovations should be effected in farming methods.

An important reserve for increasing agricultural production lies in radically improving farming methods in keeping with the latest trends in agricultural development.

Crops and varieties should be distributed on the principle of sowing the right crop in the right soil at the right time, and manuring and cultivation should be done on a scientific and technological basis.

Crops and varieties should be distributed in line with the regional characteristics and natural and climatic conditions. Crops that grow well in certain regions should be cultivated on a large scale there; the emphasis should be on rice and maize farming in areas where they grow well and on potato farming in areas where potatoes flourish. Since the natural and climatic conditions vary with each region and each farm and there are differences even between fields at the same farm, it is necessary to work out scientifically which crop and variety are viable before distributing the most suitable ones.

Cooperative farms should carry out every farming operation in the right season and in the right way, based on scrupulous preparations for each process. There should be no tendency towards indiscriminately dictating to lower units when something should be done without taking into account the natural and climatic conditions and the specific regional characteristics, on the pretext of ensuring timeliness in farming.

It is important to apply fertilizer to crops in a scientific and technological manner during the manuring and cultivating process. It is necessary to apply effective fertilizing methods to suit the characteristics of the crops and the stage of their growth in order to ensure that larger quantities of grain are produced with less fertilizer. The practice of using only nitrogenous fertilizer should be eliminated, and phosphatic, potassic and silicon fertilizers and different kinds of microelement fertilizers should be applied in a balanced manner. Cooperative farms should rid themselves of the outdated practice of controlling the supply of water, fertilizers and agrochemicals by eye and hand measures, and turn to advanced manuring and cultivation methods based on scientific measurement and analysis.

Advanced farming methods and techniques should be widely introduced.

At present, the agricultural sector is researching and introducing a variety of farming methods that boost yields drastically with smaller amounts of seeds, labour and materials, and they should be widely popularized. Cooperative farms should actively introduce double and triple cropping based on earlier and later crops, as well as intercropping, whose the advantages have been proved in practice, and, while giving priority to grain-to-grain and grain-to-potato farming, conduct grain-to-vegetable and grain-to-cash crop cultivation scientifically and efficiently, thereby raising the rate of land utilization and the level of intensive farming.

Organic farming should be encouraged proactively.

Fundamental to organic farming is the production and use of large quantities of bio-fertilizer. There is a strong tendency among officials in the agricultural sector to think that they cannot do farming without chemical fertilizer, but they are misguided. Farming can be done properly with less chemical fertilizer if the soil contains lots of organic matter. The world's agricultural development is tending towards farming with bio-fertilizer, not chemical fertilizer.

It is necessary to apply large quantities of manure to paddy and non-paddy fields in order to fertilize the soil and increase unit-area yields sustainably. Manure production means increased grain production. The agricultural sector should direct efforts to manure production so as to turn out more than 20-30 tons of it per hectare of paddy and non-paddy fields. Cooperative farms should identify and make use of all sources of manure such as domestic animal excrement, night soil, compost and ditch-bed soil.

Hukposan fertilizer, which the great Comrade Kim Il Sung named and means a tonic for the soil, and organic compound fertilizer are highly efficient organic fertilizers. The agricultural sector should direct a major effort to the production of *hukposan*

fertilizer and develop the production bases for organic compound fertilizer so as to increase its production.

We need to establish a reliable food production cycle for agriculture and animal husbandry. The establishment of such a production cycle is beneficial as it makes it possible to increase the production of livestock products and grain output by producing quality manure using the excrement of domestic animals. Cooperative farms should consistently adhere to the Party's policy of establishing such a production cycle and thoroughly implement it so as to reenergize animal husbandry and boost grain production.

We need to develop agricultural science and technology.

The agricultural science research sector should concentrate its efforts on solving the scientific and technological problems arising in carrying out the Party's agricultural policies, including the problems of seeds, farming techniques and the development of new farming machinery. Scientists and technicians in the agricultural sector, with the patriotic spirit of bringing about a bumper crop through substantial scientific and technological achievements, should adopt the urgent problems arising in agricultural production as their core themes and conduct their research purposefully and persistently.

It is important to act promptly in applying the achievements made in agricultural science and technology. The agricultural sector should remove the tendency to depend on old experience and make light of science and technology, and positively introduce scientific and technological achievements into agricultural production.

In order to increase agricultural production, it is necessary to protect the land already under cultivation and expand the grain cultivation area.

Land is the main means of agricultural production and a

precious asset for the country, to be handed down generation after generation. The rural economy sector should put great efforts into protecting the land so as not to lose any areas currently under cultivation. It should undertake tree planting, river improvements and structural repairs and maintenance efficiently and on a regular basis in order to prevent crop land from being inundated and washed away by flooding in the rainy season, and push ahead in a planned way with building terraces with grass-covered slopes where crop land is on a slope to protect it from natural harm. Along with this, it should make proactive efforts to restore arable land that has been washed away by flooding and retrieve lost areas of land according to the land distribution map. In particular, the practice of misusing and wasting land should be stamped out. Strict discipline and order should be maintained to prevent such illegal practices as violating crop land and misusing it for other purposes, and administrative and legal control over such practices should be tightened. Steady efforts should be made to reclaim tideland in order to bring new land under the plough, and various other methods employed to increase the area of land under cultivation.

Agroforestry is a good way of increasing grain production by making effective use of forest land. General Kim Jong Il said that all the mountains should be turned into “mountains of gold,” into “mountains of treasure,” where we can obtain materials for producing food and clothes. Cities and counties should identify suitable sites for agroforestry so that it can be undertaken on a large scale and grain production increased, and step up the reforestation of mountains.

The agricultural sector should improve the structure of agricultural production to make it grain-oriented, and thus boost food production to the maximum. As solving the food problem is

the most pressing demand facing us, we should reduce the area in which non-cereal crops are grown as much as possible and expand the area of rice and maize cultivation. The Cabinet should conduct an overall survey of the utilization of land under cultivation by units outside the Ministry of Agriculture, assign each of them a grain production quota and see to it that it is met without fail.

The agricultural sector should launch a vigorous drive for doing all farming by its own efforts.

The masters of agricultural production are the officials and working people in the agricultural sector. Farming by their own efforts is a duty devolving upon them. Although it is not easy in the present conditions for cooperative farms to do farming by their own efforts, it is by no means impossible. The several exemplary cooperative farms associated with the leadership exploits of the President and the General are overfulfilling their grain production plans and increasing the income of their farmers by inspiring their self-awareness and enthusiasm and carefully organizing all farming operations. All other cooperative farms should emulate them and launch a brisk drive to do farming by their own efforts.

The sub-workteam is the grass-roots unit in the countryside, and it occupies an important position in the development of the rural economy and agricultural production.

Only if sub-workteams enhance their role is it possible to develop the socialist rural economy and bring about innovations in agricultural production.

Full play should be given to the advantages of the sub-workteam management system.

The sub-workteam management system created by the President is an excellent form of organized production and a superior method of management, in that it encourages farmers to

take part in production and management as befitting masters with the feeling of attachment to the collective economy. Its advantages have clearly been proved through practice.

The agricultural sector should, by operating the system effectively as required by the developing reality, bring the farmers' sense of responsibility and creative enthusiasm into full play. It should give the farmers clear-cut tasks related to soil management, farming operations and the production plan, review the results promptly and in detail, and thus encourage them all to work responsibly, conscientiously and enthusiastically as befitting masters. Recently a decision has been taken to introduce a field responsibility system within the framework of the sub-workteam management system so as to inspire farmers with enthusiasm for production. By applying the system correctly in conformity with the actual conditions, cooperative farms should ensure that it proves effective in agricultural production.

It is important in operating the sub-workteam management system to abide strictly by the socialist principle of distribution. Egalitarianism in distribution has nothing to do with the socialist principle of distribution and has the harmful effect of diminishing farmers' enthusiasm for production. Sub-workteams should calculate the daily work-points of their members accurately and in good time according to the quantity and quality of the work they have done. And they should, as required by the socialist principle of distribution, share their grain yields to their members mainly in kind according to their work-points after excluding what has to be set aside for the state. For this, it is important to eliminate such practices as dictating on the sub-workteams large quotas of grain for compulsory purchase in disregard of the actual conditions of the countryside or collecting a larger amounts of grain on this or that pretext from the sub-workteams that have overfulfilled

their grain production quotas, thus dampening farmers' zeal for production. The state should define reasonable quantities of grain for compulsory delivery on the basis of an accurate calculation of the country's demand for grain, the interests of farmers and their living needs, thereby ensuring that they make redoubled efforts with confidence.

Sub-workteam leaders should enhance their role and sense of responsibility.

They are the rural hardcore on whom our Party relies in solidifying its socialist rural position, as well as the primary leading members of the rural communities, who organize and execute farming and the management of sub-workteams. How they perform their duties decides whether the Party's agricultural policies are implemented or not and whether the advantages and vitality of the sub-workteam management system are displayed or not.

All sub-workteam leaders should be fully aware of the Party's intention in convening this conference of sub-workteam leaders in the agricultural sector as this year's first conference, and carry out their duties responsibly and with credit.

First, sub-workteam leaders should become active defenders, propagators and implementers of our Party's agricultural policies and Juche farming method.

They should regard the Party's agricultural policies and Juche farming method as an absolutely correct guidelines for action and their unshakeable faith, and staunchly defend them in all circumstances and under any conditions. They should be better-versed in them than anyone else and actively explain and propagate them to farmers. They should ensure that all farm work is done in conformity with their requirements, and regard the production plans assigned to their sub-workteams as a battle order issued by the state, and carry them out without fail.

Second, sub-workteam leaders should become genuine masters of their sub-workteams and skilled commanders who conduct farming and the management of their sub-workteams responsibly and creatively.

By working out a long-term plan for every farming operation in keeping with the actual conditions in their sub-workteams and distributing labour and organizing farm work scrupulously, they should ensure that all types of farm work are carried out in terms of quality and on time. They should be determined to make themselves the foundation of a rich harvest and take the lead in performing difficult and backbreaking farm work, getting up earlier and sleeping less than others. They should always rack their brains for ways to increase production and manage their sub-workteams better. They should do away with any subjective and arbitrary behaviour and enlist the collective wisdom and creative initiative of their sub-workteam members; in this way they can continuously improve the management of their sub-workteams.

Third, sub-workteam leaders should become truly solid farmers of the new century who are well-versed in all types of farm work and knowledgeable about modern agricultural science and technology.

They should be versatile farmers, who are knowledgeable about modern agricultural science and technology and able to operate various kinds of farm machinery skilfully. They should be sensitive to the new, have a strong enterprising spirit and be bold in introducing advanced farming techniques and methods and good experiences.

Fourth, sub-workteam leaders should become dutiful “caretakers” of the public property at their farms.

In cooperation with the members of their sub-workteams, they should value and take good care of the land, farm

machinery, draught cattle and farm implements as they would do their own property and their own flesh. They should ensure that all the members of their sub-workteams take part in production and management with a high degree of awareness of being masters of the collective economy and keep them from treating farm property and agricultural produce carelessly, and wasting them.

Fifth, sub-workteam leaders should become the “elder brothers” or “elder sisters” of the members of their sub-workteams who love and look after them as they would do their own family.

They should be equally kind to all the members of their sub-workteams, ignoring the differences in their dispositions, habits and levels, work with them well and thus make all of them members of the great socialist family. They should care for them with all sincerity, be concerned about their lives before their own and take responsible care of them. They should always treat the members of their sub-workteams politely and live in harmony and optimistically together with them, sharing joy and sorrow with them. In this way they will be called “our sub-workteam leader.”

Our Party puts great trust in and has high expectations of sub-workteam leaders. By performing their duties with a clear understanding of them, sub-workteam leaders should become pacesetters and standard-bearers in the countryside who raise fierce flames of innovation in agricultural production.

State support for the countryside should be stepped up.

To render support for the countryside is one of the basic principles of socialist rural construction specified in the rural theses. Without the state giving its support to the countryside it is impossible to put agriculture on a scientific and modern footing and to achieve steady growth in agricultural production.

The state should scale up its investment in the agricultural sector and ensure a better supply of materials for it. What is important in the state's support for the countryside is to ensure the timely supply of fertilizer for agricultural production. Fertilizer means rice. Sufficient electricity and coal should be supplied to the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex and Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, the arsenals for the socialist agricultural front, so as to allow them to normalize fertilizer production at a high level. In addition to nitrogenous fertilizer, they should produce and supply phosphatic, potassic, silicon and various kinds of microelement fertilizers. We also need to provide rural communities with large quantities of modern farm machinery, including tractors, and ensure the adequate supply of electricity, fuel, PVC sheeting, agrochemicals and other requisites for farming, when they are needed.

It is also important to give manpower support to the countryside. Since the mechanization of agriculture is not yet up to standard, people across the country should turn out to help the farmers in their work. Manpower support for the countryside should be organized rationally as appropriate to the actual conditions in each region and at each cooperative farm, and volunteers should be encouraged to work with care from the standpoint that they share responsibility for farming with the farmers. Along with increasing the support for the countryside, we need to stop the workforce and farming equipment at cooperative farms being diverted to other projects that have nothing to do with farming.

It is essential to enhance the role of the Cabinet and the agricultural guidance organs.

Whether or not a radical turn can be effected in agricultural production by concentrating efforts on farming depends largely on the role played by the Cabinet and the agricultural guidance organs.

True to the Party's intention of focusing on the agricultural front in building a thriving nation, the Cabinet should carefully arrange, organize and command economic activities on the principle of concentrating efforts on agriculture and offer timely solutions for the problems arising in agricultural production. Cabinet officials, on the plea of the difficult economic situation in the country, should not simply issue supply plans to the agricultural sector and remain desk-bound, pressing their subordinates to execute the plans quickly. Instead, they should visit the sites of production, identify bottlenecks and take proactive steps to resolve them.

The agricultural guidance organs should command farming operations with the attitude of taking responsibility for the agricultural front. It is of decisive importance to root out the subjectivism, bureaucratism and formalism that are deep-seated in the guidance of farming operations. The agricultural guidance organs should make technical guidance the main aspect of directing farming operations, popularize advanced farming techniques and methods, and make precise demands on cooperative farms and give substantial help to them so that they do all their farm work in a scientific and technological way.

Party guidance to the agricultural sector should be intensified.

Party organizations should orient their work towards championing and glorifying the immortal achievements made by the President and the General for the country's agricultural development and implementing the agricultural policies put forward by the Party.

They should conduct effective political work aimed at giving free rein to the spiritual strength of the officials and working people in the agricultural sector.

The key to increased agricultural production lies in giving

full play to the spiritual strength of the officials and working people in the agricultural sector. Party organizations should see to it that they cherish and apply Kim Jong Il's patriotism in practice and learn from the heroic spirit of the farmers of the older generation who strove to produce food grain amid the flames of war. They should move the theatre of their political work to the fields and, through intensive motivational work, inspire the farmers there with zeal and vigour and make all fields seethe with the struggle for increased grain production.

Model units should be created in the countryside, and all other units should launch an emulation campaign to overtake them. To create a model unit and make it a spark igniting flames among other units is a traditional method of work for our Party. Party organizations should create model units by motivating the relevant units to develop into such on their own, not by giving help to them, and encourage other units to compete with one another to surpass them. Even at a single cooperative farm a model workteam and a model sub-workteam should be created, and other workteams and sub-workteams should be encouraged to join the campaign to outdo the leading ones.

The position and role of county Party committees are very important in solving the food problem by carrying out the Party's agricultural policies. The most important duty of a county Party committee is to push the county under its charge to farm well. It should actively encourage the officials of the county cooperative farm management committee and other administrative and economic organs to make effective arrangements and provide guidance to create successful innovations in farming with a high sense of responsibility, and correct any deviation before it is too late. It should give effective Party guidance to all its subordinate organizations in the rural areas so as to ensure that they

unfailingly fulfil their agricultural production plans by bending their every effort to farm work.

It is important to build up the ranks of sub-workteam leaders. Party organizations should form their ranks with those who are loyal to the Party, ardently patriotic, technologically competent, and able, and help and lead them so that they live up to the Party's and the people's great expectations by increasing grain production.

I am firmly of the belief that all the officials and working people in the agricultural sector, full of confidence in victory, will bring about a fresh turn in agricultural production under the unfurled banner of the socialist rural theses.