

distinguished Soviet scientists representing all branches of IBP activity. Academician B. E. Bykhovskiy was named chairman of the committee and his deputies are V. A. Kovda, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and Drs. N. K. Vereshchagin, A. A. Nichiporovich, and L. E. Rodin. (Translator's comment: Kovda was formerly the head of Unesco's Department of Science and is now the Scientific Secretary of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, U.N. Economic and Social Council).

In January 1966, the committee called a meeting in Leningrad on biological productivity of terrestrial plant communities. More than 400 scientists from 56 scientific institutions of the USSR took part in this meeting. There were 153 reports on general, theoretical and methodological questions. In the course of the meeting, there were 3 symposia on the following subjects:

1. The Theoretical Bases of Photosynthetic Activity of Plant Cover.
2. Biological Productivity of Natural and Artificial Communities.
3. Biological Cycles of Chemical Elements in Plant Communities.

The meeting was called primarily to present results of work on the study of biological production of terrestrial plant communities, the biological cycle of ash elements and nitrogen, photosynthesis as a factor determining productivity of wild and cultivated plants and to set the direction for further development of these important branches of contemporary biology.

For a long time, research on the productivity of the organic world has been conducted in our country. Research on the productivity of the Pacific Ocean, bodies of fresh water, terrestrial plant cover, and the processes of photosynthesis have been especially successful. Soviet scientists can make a serious contribution to the total sum of international research on these subjects. But it is necessary that these fields of IBP research receive the attention of institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Academies of Sciences of the Republics, universities, and other institutions of higher learning. This research should occupy a central place in plans for the scientific activities of biological, agricultural, and certain mixed institutes (geographical, meteorological, etc.).