



Scientific cultivation increases yield.



THERE are more than 200 kinds of bamboo in China. The Moso bamboo which accounts for 80 per cent of all the bamboo groves is highest in economic value and finds the greatest use. It ranges from Taiwan in the east to Yunnan in the west, from Kwangtung in the south to Honan in the north.

Bamboo has long been closely associated with the lives of the people. As early as the Warring States Period (475 B.C.-221 B.C.) characters were written on bamboo slips which were tied together to become the first books. The writing brush of the Chin Dynasty (221 B.C.-207 B.C.) had a bamboo handle, a type which is still popular today. The bow and arrow, an important ancient weapon, was made of bamboo. The use of bamboo as building material is more than 2,000 years old. Bamboo is used for making farm tools, baskets and water conduits, to say nothing of a wide variety of daily-use articles. Following the development of China's socialist construction, bamboo is finding an increasingly wide range of application.

Anchi County at the northern foot of the Tienmu Mountains in Chekiang Province is one of the principal Moso bamboo producing areas. Since Liberation and especially the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, while making great efforts to raise grain yields the local people have not neglected the planting of the Moso bamboo. They have put 90 per cent of their barren hills under it. Their bamboo groves have expanded 25 per cent over the pre-Liberation days and their reserves have been more than doubled. The pre-Liberation practice of cutting without planting has been changed.

Recent years find Anchi carrying out mass scientific research. Commune members have mastered scientific methods of bamboo cultivation — keeping the shoots to multiply the plants, rational cutting, loosening the soil to apply fertilizer — greatly pushing bamboo production.



Bamboo output grows from year to year along with the development of grain production.



Shops make bamboo articles in every commune in the area.

