The Tennessee River Basin embraces parts of seven States, covers a total area of 26 million acres, and is occupied by approximately 2½ million people. This is the area for which the Tennessee Valley Authority was authorized to provide proper use of marginal lands, reforestation, and agricultural and industrial development in relation to and in addition to improvements of navigation and flood control on the Tennessee River system.

Control of flood-water run-off and improvements of navigation, through measures of watershed protection, and provisions for proper use of marginal lands and agricultural development of other lands call for readjustments in these farm practices and agricultural land use, involve improved soil tillage and management, improved crops and cropping systems, and improved forms of plant nutrients and methods of fertilization, following in principle and objective the general agricultural improvement and adjustment programs of the state agricultural colleges and affiliated national agricultural institutions. Formulation of any rational plan of approach to such a program of change in land use requires, among other things, a detailed inventory of the soil resources of the region concerned.

Recognition of such a need in the Tennessee Valley was called to the attention of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils of the United States Department of Agriculture a little more than a year ago by the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station and the Tennessee Valley Authority. The result was an agreement between the agricultural experiment station of the University of Tennessee and the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils to begin soil survey work in the Valley. This initial step toward meeting the obligation of the Authority was followed about 6 months later by a proposal from the directors of the agricultural experiment stations of the several Valley States for extending the soil survey work to the rest of the Tennessee Valley area.

The directors of the several State agricultural experiment stations expressed their interest and purpose in undertaking in the following resolution:

"Recognizing that the soil survey maps and reports are basic to plans for agricultural adjustment, development, recognizing further the State agricultural experiment stations and the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils of the United States Department of Agriculture have cooperated effectively over a long period of years and have developed highly satisfactory technics for making soil surveys, recognizing still further that the facts and information which the surveys make available are necessary to the development of a land-use policy for the Tennessee Valley area, it is recommended:

1. That the State agricultural experiment stations, in cooperation with the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, direct immediate attention to the completion of the modern detailed soil survey in the basin of the Tennessee River.

2. That from the standpoint of the State agricultural experiment stations it is our plan and purpose to relate to the detailed soil surveys the agricultural information at hand and to follow the soil surveys with the necessary additional studies of cropping systems, present land cover, management practices, and other studies bearing upon the capabilities for use of the individual soil types."

COOPERATING AGENCIES

Consequently, at this time, soil survey work is being carried on under cooperative participation by the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, the Agricultural Division of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the respective State agricultural experiment stations.