

**CROP-PRODUCTION  
IN INDIA**

# CROP-PRODUCTION IN INDIA

*A Critical Survey of its Problems*

by

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## P R E F A C E

AGRICULTURE is and for many years to come must remain India's greatest industry and the foundation of the State. In comparison with the value of the annual produce of the soil and the trade in raw materials, the remaining industries of the country are, with few exceptions, relatively unimportant.

For the last twenty years a number of men of science have been engaged in exploring the various directions in which the produce of the soil of India can be increased and improved. The results of this experiment, which was initiated by Lord Curzon in 1904, have been both interesting and encouraging. Many improvements in crop-production have been devised, which are well within the means of the people. To utilize these discoveries, an organization, working in the Districts, has been evolved by which the lessons, learnt at the Experiment Stations, have been brought rapidly and successfully to the fields of the cultivators.

Besides the results obtained on crops and the work done in the distribution of seed, the investigations in progress have brought to light a number of problems, the successful solution of which must be accomplished before further advances can be made. From their nature and magnitude, these questions can only be dealt with if the active co-operation of the public is secured. The first step in enlisting this interest is obviously to set out these problems in simple language, and to explain in what manner they affect the future progress of India. This is the chief aim of this book. It has been written with a subsidiary purpose, namely to stimulate further work and to attract a number of active and enthusiastic investigators to these questions. Both these objects will have to be attained

before the immense potentialities of the soil of India can be developed.

It has not been possible, within the limits of this book, to give a complete account of the work done by the Agricultural Department in India during the last twenty years. The aim has been rather to indicate the vast field of work still untouched and, while doing so, to make use of past work as pointers in the investigations of the future.

A short, selected bibliography has been appended to each chapter so as to enable the student to explore the various subjects dealt with in greater detail.

ALBERT HOWARD.

PUSA,

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