

**REPORTS OF THE ROYAL
COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE
IN INDIA WITH ABRIDGED
REPORT PART I**

S. L. S.

NOTE

This abridged version of the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India has been prepared with a view to placing the main conclusions stated in that Report before a wider public than is likely to be reached by the full Report. Should it appear that there is any conflict of sense between the abridged version, and the relevant passage of the full Report, the full Report should invariably be regarded as the authoritative document.

J. A. MADAN,

F. W. H. SMITH,

Joint Secretaries.

The 14th April 1928.

Abridged Report

CONTENTS

	PAGE
I Introduction and Historical Retrospect	1
II The Organisation of Agricultural Research	4
III Agricultural Improvement and the Subdivision and Fragmentation of Holdings	9
IV Demonstration and Propaganda	15
V Animal Husbandry	20
VI Forests	25
VII Diseases of Livestock and their Control	28
VIII Irrigation	35
IX Communications and Marketing	42
X The Finance of Agriculture	47
XI Co-operation	51
XII The Village	56
XIII Education	62
XIV Rural Industries and Labour	70
XV Horticulture and Plantations	73
XVI Statistics	75
XVII The Agricultural Services	79
XVIII Miscellaneous	87
XIX Conclusion	89
INDEX	91

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. THE REPORT

PARA.	PAGE
Terms of Reference, Acknowledgments and Itinerary	1
CHAPTER I	
INTRODUCTION	
1 The Indian village	5
2 Lack of communications and of organised trade and commerce	6
3 Lack of internal security	7
4 Famines	7
5 Establishment of internal peace and security	8
6 Evolution of land revenue system	9
7 Development and improvement of communications	10
8 Irrigation works	11
9 Development of overseas communications	11
10 The absence of large scale farming in India	12
11 The present economic position	12
12 The present agricultural position	13
CHAPTER II	
HISTORICAL RETROSPECT	
13 Agricultural policy prior to 1880	15
14 Agricultural policy, 1880-81	16
✓ 15 Agricultural policy, 1881-1905	17
16 The Famine Commission of 1901	20
17 The position in 1905	20
Agriculture in the provinces prior to 1905—	
18 (i) Bombay	21
19 (ii) Madras	22
20 (iii) The United Provinces	24
21 (iv) Bengal	25
22 (v) Assam	26
23 (vi) The Central Provinces	26
24 (vii) The Punjab	27
25 (viii) Burma	28
26 The position in the provinces in 1905	29
The reorganisation of 1905—	
27 (i) Imperial	
The Pusa Research Institute	29
28 The present position of Pusa	30
29 Other activities of the Imperial Department of Agriculture	31
30 The Indian Central Cotton Committee	32
The reorganisation of 1905—	
31 (ii) Provincial	33
32 The constitutional changes of 1919	33
33 The present position of the Indian Agricultural Service	36
34 The work of the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments	37

CHAPTER III

THE ORGANISATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

35 The constitutional position	38
36 Organisation for agricultural research in Canada	39

CONTENTS

xvii

PARA.		PAGE
-------	--	------

CHAPTER XX

MISCELLANEOUS

570	Scope of the chapter	657
	Agricultural development in the minor provinces—	
571	(i) Descriptive	657
572	(ii) The case for assistance	659
573	(iii) Possible methods of promoting the agricultural development of the minor provinces	660
574	(iv) Concluding remarks	662
575	✓ Points of contact between agriculture in British India and in Indian States	662
576	Education in the principles and aims of local self-government ..	663
577	Meteorology and Agriculture	664
578	The International Institute of Agriculture at Rome ..	666
579	The Imperial Institute	668
580	Summary of conclusions and recommendations	669

CHAPTER XXI

CONCLUSION

581	Conclusion	672
582	Acknowledgments to staff	674

B. APPENDICES

I	Questionnaire	678
II	List of witnesses examined	685
III	Itinerary	696
IV	Estimated cost of maintaining a pair of bullocks for one year by a ryot in various districts in British India	697
V	Forest Policy (Government of India's Circular No. 22-F, dated 19th October 1894)	699
VI	Estimated value of forest produce given away free or at reduced rates in 1925-26	704
VII	Area irrigated from wells in British India	705
III	All-India forecasts of crops issued by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	706
	INDEX	707
	GLOSSARY	753
	GRAPHS	(See last overleaf)
	MAP (in pocket)	

CONTENTS

GRAPHS

TITLE	Facing Page
Expenditure of the Imperial and provincial departments of agriculture ..	36
Gross area under food and non-food crops in British India by five-year averages	69
Average yield in pounds per acre, for all India, including Indian States, of cleaned rice, wheat, ginned cotton and jute	76
Area irrigated in British India	326
Area irrigated by various sources in the provinces where irrigation is important (averages for the years 1908-09 to 1912-13 and 1921-22 to 1925-26)	328
Exports from India of rice, wheat, raw jute and raw cotton	398
Destination of exports from India of rice, wheat, raw cotton and raw jute.	402
Number of births and deaths registered in British India	512
Death rate per 1,000 of the population in rural and urban areas	516
Total expenditure on education and division between direct and indirect expenditure	516
Direct expenditure on education	518
Net expenditure on education by provincial governments	518
Area under cultivation in British India (1908-09 to 1925-26)	604
Classification of area in British India and in Indian States in 1924-25	604