



**Government of Madras**

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**G.O. No. 1349, 15th October 1932**

Agriculture—Administration Report, 1931-32—Recorded with remarks.

READ—the following paper :—

From the Director of Agriculture, dated 10th August 1932,  
 R.O.C. No. D-68-Pdl./32.

**Order—No. 1349, Development, dated 15th October 1932.**

Recorded.

2. *Administration.*—The direction underwent some changes during the year. Mr. Hilson acted as Director until the middle of May when he went on leave and Rao Bahadur Ananda Rao was put in charge while continuing to do the duties of Headquarters Deputy Director. This arrangement lasted for eight months and the present Director was in office for only two months in the year.

3. *Education.*—The Agricultural College continued to attract a large number of candidates for admission though the number fell to 321 (against 48 vacancies) from 365 in 1930-31—partly perhaps on account of the unfavourable prospects of agriculture during a time of falling prices. Circumstances have made it necessary to introduce tuition and lodging fees (amounting together to Rs. 120 a year) during the current year, but it is not anticipated that this will discourage applicants of the right type. School education in agriculture has not proved successful and the school at Taliparamba has now been ordered to be closed.

4. *Research.*—Research followed the usual lines in the subjects of botany, chemistry, crops, entomology, mycology, horticulture, livestock and engineering implements. The supreme importance of organic manure, both for animal nutrition and for crop yield was emphasized in the course of chemical research. Millet research was carried a stage further, nearly a thousand units of sorglum being dealt with at Coimbatore, of which two, A.S. 809 (yellow) and A.S. 1575, have been handed over for trial on ryots' lands. Some part of the

research in millets has been transferred to the stations at Nandyal and Hagari to ensure a more natural environment for certain strains. It is hoped that experiments in this most important group, whose practical application has been retarded by the season vicissitudes to which this crop is especially liable and by its exposure to natural pollination, will soon bear ample fruit.

As regards paddy, while varietal and cultural experiments continued, the most interesting points perhaps are (a) the expansion of improved seed distribution and (b) the test of crops for cultivation in rotation with and in substitution of paddy, e.g., sugarcane, plantain, ragi, gingelly, fodder sorghum, groundnut, and Cambodia cotton. The experiment of growing the last-named with canal water in delta areas when the water is insufficient for a paddy crop is reported to be full of promise. The importance of this to the ryots of the Godavari and Kistna deltas can hardly be over-estimated.

The question of seed distribution, though one rather of propaganda and demonstration than of research, is of immense importance in regard both to paddy and to cotton. It appears from the Report that over 2,000,000 lb. of selected paddy seed (by direct agency and through co-operative societies and other private means), and over 900,000 lb. of cotton were distributed during the year. These represent seed for cultivation of 100,000 acres of paddy and about 90,000 acres of cotton (about 1 per cent and 5 per cent respectively of the area under each crop). It would be of interest to know the total area *constantly* cultivated with improved strains of these crops so as to gauge progress. The Director will be asked to consider the compilation of such figures in future Reports. The statements of areas covered by seed distribution might also with advantage be more methodically arranged.

The development of the study of fodder grasses, both in the Botany and in the crop sections, is of importance to work on livestock. Oil-seeds and fruits are comparatively new studies of research in the Presidency the importance of which is evident; and in the former line the Oil-seeds Specialist has now been working for a little over a year—a period far too short to permit of definite results.

The study of sugarcane has been actively revived, both on its own merits as a crop for which the Presidency is peculiarly suited, and as a substitute for paddy. By far the most interesting discovery recorded is that achieved by the Imperial Sugarcane Expert, who has produced a cross between sugarcane and sorghum requiring only six months for cultivation instead of ten months—a most valuable achievement.

5. *Demonstration.*—The chapter on demonstration shows the gradual development of the scheme of re-organization sanctioned in 1929 with the Deputy Directors serving as the personal link between research and demonstration and the demonstrators concentrating their attention on a single village or group of villages at a time. With this chapter should be read the list of publications by which the Department endeavours to diffuse agricultural knowledge and the simpler scientific studies among the literate agricultural population. More precise evidence of the extent to which scientific discoveries are being put to practical use by the ryots would be welcome; especially in regard to livestock and engineering research which appear at present to be somewhat too centralized and divorced from the local everyday life of the agricultural population. Reference is made in the Report (paragraph 41) to the help of co-operative societies in spreading agricultural improvements. The Government regard close co-ordination between the Agricultural and the Co-operative departments as of vital importance, and the next Report should state as fully as possible what is being done in this direction.

6. *Retrenchment.*—The Department, like all others, suffered somewhat severe retrenchment during the year, but its organism remains unimpaired and expansion, when opportunity arises, can be made without difficulty. Meanwhile it has received valuable help from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research which has agreed to finance a rice research station in Ganjam, and from the Indian Central Cotton Committee which has financed certain entomological experiments in connexion with cotton. There can be little doubt that agricultural research in Madras as elsewhere is destined to receive a great stimulus from the activities of the Imperial Council established by the Government of India in 1929.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Public Works)

S. H. SLATER,  
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Director of Agriculture.  
 „ Director of Veterinary Services.  
 „ Registrar of Co-operative Societies.  
 „ Law (Education) Department.  
 „ Public Works and Labour Department.  
 „ Public Department.  
 „ Finance Department.  
 „ Accountant-General.  
 „ Government of India (Education, Health and Lands) (with C.L.).  
 „ Secretary, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research (with C.L.)

Press.

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