

Sir,

It is with a deep sense of privilege that I submit this brief report, for apart from the high office he holds, the Vice President of India is a renowned scholar whose presence is an inspiration to teachers and students alike.

Postgraduate training in the agricultural sciences has continued to be a very important activity of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. Not only have the numbers of those seeking accommodation continued to swell—only about one-third of those who apply obtain admission because of limitations imposed by laboratory and hostel accommodation—but constant endeavour has been made to further improve the courses. More than 17 courses are available at the Institute, providing the necessary diversification. Arrangements have also recently been finalised under which as a result of close collaboration between this Institute and the Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack, two new courses in Rice Agronomy and Rice Breeding respectively will become available from the next session.

I should also like to mention that as a result of the pressing demand for higher postgraduate training for which the Institute has such excellent facilities, the Government of India have recently sanctioned the construction of a second large postgraduate students' Hostel. This will enable the Institute to increase quite substantially the seats available for postgraduate scholars. At the present time, excluding short-course students, 105 students are undergoing the regular postgraduate courses in different branches of the agricultural sciences. Two of the students are from our neighbour in the Himalayas, Nepal.

During the last academic year which ended on the 30th September, 1953, 42 students successfully completed the Diploma Courses, 17 obtaining the Certificate of Merit and 20 securing Distinction. One of the successful candidates was from Burma, and another from Thailand. The remainder came from the various States of the Indian Union.

As the courses were completed on the 30th September, and since many of them were already employees of the State Departments of Agriculture, and practically all of the others have been able to find employment in different parts of our country, it has not been possible for all of those who have qualified to receive the Diploma of Associateship of the IARI to be present here today. I am quite sure that they deeply regret that exigencies of service and other pressing reasons have prevented them from receiving their diplomas at such distinguished hands. But 19 of them have the good fortune to be present and the respective Heads of Divisions will present them shortly.

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