

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, which took up regular postgraduate training in the main branches of agricultural science in 1923, was the first institution to do so in India. The Royal Commission on Agriculture, on whose recommendations this training was taken up, stated that India should "become self-contained in the matter of agricultural training at an early date so that it may not be necessary to send Indian students abroad for this purpose" and that the Pusa Institute should be developed into a first-class centre for advanced training and research in agriculture.

During the early period the trainees were almost entirely members of the Departments of Agriculture in the provinces and the number was limited to not more than 10 every year. In 1944, the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries recommended that the facilities for the training available at this Institute should be expanded. In pursuance of this recommendation the courses were re-organized to allow of greater specialisation in the different branches of agricultural science with comprehensive lectures for the period of the first year and the research during the second year. The number of admissions was increased to about 50 per year and the existing facilities for training were extended to include distinguished students direct from the universities, in addition to the nominees of the State Departments of Agriculture put up by the respective selection committees of the States.

The postgraduate courses of training are now provided in 24 subjects covering the five main branches of agriculture, namely, botany, chemistry, entomology, mycology, and agronomy (Appendix I). It has not yet been possible to start courses in all the branches of specialisation contemplated, such as agricultural engineering and agricultural economics.

The postgraduate students trained at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute have in the past filled a variety of posts ranging from Research Assistants to Head of an experiment station. Their numbers in those days were comparatively small. With the increased demand for trained personnel in the country, provision was.....

provision was made to admit and train a much larger number of postgraduate students every year in the specialised courses in research training in the different Divisions of the Institute. A majority of the students are agricultural officers deputed by the States for advanced training in the various branches of agricultural science to fit them up more efficiently in the research posts of the respective States. In addition, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research sanctions a number of new research schemes every year; these are worked either at the Central Institutes or at the State experiment stations or at the Universities. Moreover, the Commodity Research Institutes have increased in number and they also require trained personnel. The students trained at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute thus not only supply a definite need for persons trained up to the highest possible standard in the agricultural sciences, but they can serve as a link to unite the various agricultural agencies concerned with agricultural research and development.

The number of students who have so far obtained the Associateship of the Institute is 387 as per list attached (Appendix II), which indicates that almost all provinces have utilized the facilities available at this Institute. Students from neighbouring countries including Burma and Ceylon have also been trained.

In addition to the postgraduate training, the Institute also gives short courses of training in various subjects. Some of these courses are regular, such as the Six Months' Course in Soil Survey, while other courses are ad hoc ones designed to meet the needs of particular candidates. Arising from the suggestion of the Hon'ble the Prime Minister when he visited the Institute in 1949, plans have been worked out for instituting short refresher courses for members of the staff of the State Department of Agriculture and a start has actually been made in a small way and two students from West Bengal are already undergoing training under the Scheme.

An important development during the year was the integration of the Central College of Agriculture with this Institute in

July this year. After a somewhat precarious existence in hired buildings, the College now is situated at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and the facilities of the latter are now available for the College. This means the Institute now provides both undergraduate and postgraduate instruction. In this connection it is relevant to recall that the question of agricultural education in this country has come to the forefront very much and the possibility of making the training more practical so that the graduates of the agricultural colleges are kept in touch with the actual conditions of the cultivator is being actively investigated. A conference of Ministers in charge of Agriculture in the States and Vice Chancellors of Universities and Deans of Agriculture Faculties was recently convened at the instance of the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Agriculture. This Conference discussed the question thoroughly and decided to set up an Indian Council of Agricultural Education which would function as a wing of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and which would coordinate and endeavour to approve the methods of agricultural education at the various stages throughout the country. A copy of the resolutions passed at the Conference is enclosed.\*

These  
can be got  
from ICAR.

In an endeavour to make both its research and training practical, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute is undertaking intensive cultivation in a group of villages in Delhi State. Both postgraduate and undergraduate students have been associated with this work by their being enrolled as members of the Land Army and these Land Army Units of this Institute have already done some useful work in the villages.

Although postgraduate training has been in progress at the Institute from the beginning and regular courses were instituted as far back as 1923, a Convocation for the award of the Diplomas was held for the first time last year. The present is the second Convocation of the Institute.

(APPENDIX I)

Postgraduate courses of training are now provided in the following subjects:-

I. Agricultural Botany:

- (1) Plant Breeding and Genetics.
- (2) Cytogenetics;
- (3) Crop Physiology;
- (4) Economic botany.

II. Agricultural Chemistry.

- (1) Agricultural Chemistry.
- (2) Soil Science.
- (3) Soil Microbiology.
- (4) Soil Surveys.

III. Entomology:

- (1) Systematic Entomology.
- (2) Insect Ecology.
- (3) Insect Toxicology.
- (4) Parasitology.

IV. Mycology:

- (1) Mycology.
- (2) Virus Diseases;
- (3) Plant Pathology;
- (4) Plant Bacteriology.

V. Agronomy:

- (1) Soils, Crops and Manures;
- (2) Farm Management;
- (3) Agricultural Economics;
- (4) Cattle Management and Breeding;
- (5) Agricultural Statistics;
- (6) Demonstration and Propaganda;
- (7) Agricultural Machinery;
- (8) Agrostology.

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(APPENDIX II.)

Number of Diploma holders upto date ... 387.

Distribution of Diploma holders province-wise:

1. Madras.	45
2. Bombay.	14
3. Bengal.	28
4. U.P.	89
5. Punjab.	30
6. Sind.	14
7. N.W.F.P.	11
8. M.P.	35
9. Bihar.	18
10. Burma.	2
11. Orissa.	22
12. Ceylon.	3
13. Assam.	6
14. Delhi.	6
15. PEPSU.	3
16. Gwalior.	2
17. Hy <sup>dr</sup> abad.	8
18. Jodhpur.	1
19. Mysore.	6
20. Baroda.	3
21. Bhopal.	4
22. Ajmer.	4
23. Rampur State.	4
24. Joorā State.	1
25. Udaipur State.	1
26. Bharatpur State.	2
27. Coorg.	1
28. Cochin.	1
29. Marwar.	1
30. Travancore.	7
31. Kolhapur.	1
32. Kashmir.	4
33. Jaipur State.	2

(Contd.) (APPENDIX II.)

34. Delhi.	7	<del>22</del>
35. Vindhya Pradesh.	1	
36. Malaya.	1	
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Total.	387	
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