

# INTENSIVE EFFORT AT AGRICULTURAL REFORM

## MUNSHI SUGGESTS FRAMING OF EXTENSION WORK PLAN

Mr K. M. Munshi yesterday called for the formation of an auxiliary "land army" of enterprising farmers for extension of India's agricultural production.

Addressing jointly the Governing Body meeting of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the convocation of the Indian Agricultural Institute in Delhi, the Food Minister said given a countrywide effort, the integrated production programme could be fulfilled by growing an additional 14 lakh tons of food, six lakh bales of cotton and 18 lakh bales of jute and substitute fibres by the end of March 1952.

Mr Munshi said: "The programme of integrated production ensures: (1) not only self-sufficiency in food grains but also relative self-sufficiency in cotton and jute; (2) in sanctioning schemes for agricultural production, high priority is to be given to intensive cultivation schemes in selected zones which hold out the highest promise, one of the conditions of financial assistance being that 60 per cent of the increased production in such intensive areas would be surrendered to the procurement authorities; (3) in view of the emergency character of the present production programme, close contact is to be maintained through Regional Production Commissioners with the actual execution of the schemes in the States; so as to be able to assess the progress made from time to time, and to render such help as may be necessary to the executive officers with the least possible delay.

"The programme as thus reorientated is making good progress and the schemes are being completed according to plan.

"The additional production which should have resulted from this programme in 1950-51 will, however, not reflect in the total yield figures as these will be seriously reduced due to natural calamities and adverse seasonal conditions. There has been a controversy in the country whether the grow-more-food drive results are correct. It will, however, soon be laid at rest. The random sample surveys which I.C.A.R. has been conducting have in the main confirmed the eye-estimates of our achievement of 17 lakh tons for 1950-51.

### DEVELOPMENT OF LAND

"Though our present self-sufficiency programme is designed on an emergency basis, the development of our resources is a ceaseless endeavour and its tempo is governed only by the march of science and the pace of its utilization. We are yet a long way off from complete utilization of our land resources. We have 102 million acres of cultivable waste and current fallows the extent of which fluctuates between 48 million and 65 million acres and a considerable part of which may not necessarily be lying fallow for rotational reasons. Several States have passed Land Utilization Acts, but more strenuous efforts are needed to enforce the laws in a thorough manner. A little effort has enabled the Malwa Development Board, set up in July last, to help the States concerned in taking active steps to utilize their fallow lands. We cannot afford to be dilatory or perfunctory about this. Prompt and, if necessary, drastic steps under the control of the district officers should be taken to bring these lands under cultivation for the next *khari* season. He who has the land but does not use it is guilty of creating food shortage and should be treated as a criminal.

"The Board of Extension set up by I.C.A.R. is expected to translate research in terms of practice in selected centres. In this connection, I may suggest for your consideration the setting up in each State an extension board corresponding to our Central Extension Board with the Minister and the Director of Agriculture as Chairman and Vice-Chairman and with experts and representatives of growers and interests who are prepared to set up small demonstration farms in different villages. The whole country should be thus dotted with little demonstration farms and I am sure that in many villages will be found enterprising farmers willing and able to work in close contact with these centres who, in their turn, will serve to extend better farming methods to their neighbours.

"In this connection, there are four incidental matters: first, the ascertainment of the correct factual position of the cultivable waste and fallow land; secondly, the determination of crops which could be grown on such land; thirdly, village fuel forests to save cowdung; fourthly, the village prize competition scheme. The district extension boards would stimulate competition; a State officer devoted to this work should organize it.

"We must create an atmosphere in

the country in which the farmer who achieves the highest yield per acre is accepted as a hero deserving of honour at the hands of the nation and the Government; a warrior of peace of greater merit than the soldier or the politician.

"I do not minimize the gigantic nature of extension work before the country, but it has to be done, in spite of our limited means. For this, a country-wide machinery has to be organized.

"An official 'land army' is not enough. If I had my way, I would compel each agricultural officer to run his own little demonstration farm on the success of which to judge his efficiency. We must also find a place for the existing non-official organizations like *firka* development boards and the *sarvodaya* associations.

"Ultimately, however, it is the enterprising farmer who is the pivot of prompt and effective agricultural reform. An auxiliary 'land army' of enterprising farmers who would agree to maintain continuous contact with the extension agencies, follow up the advice given and assist in the extension work undertaken, will have to be built up. The young men in the villages could be enrolled as honorary workers—land guards—and they could be required to give a certain number of hours of work every week and be enrolled for service either in the village or in their *tehsil* or district or State. Training camps of one to three months duration could be organized where selected courses of training could be given to them which they could put into practice when they go back to the village.

### I.C.A.R. FINANCES

"The income of I.C.A.R. from the agricultural products cess has been steadily increasing and the current year's proceeds are estimated at Rs 29 lakhs as against the last five years' average of Rs 19 lakhs.

"It was decided in January:

(a) To collect and tabulate information regarding agricultural research which is being carried on in the country and the money spent on them;

(b) To collect and reprint unavailable research papers on subjects of practical application; and

(c) To conduct regional surveys of research institutions.

"In connection with research, I look forward to the I.C.A.R. playing a central role under the guidance of its new Director, Dr Pal. I congratulate the students of I.A.R.I., who have taken their diplomas today. The post-graduate students trained at the Institute have in the past filled a variety of posts ranging from research assistants to the head of an experiment station.

"Another branch of extension by approach to the people basically has four aspects: production, popular interest extension and research. Production is the responsibility of the tiller of the soil, mostly illiterate; he wants better seeds, better implements, better animals, fertilizers, fuel to save cowdung and water. He can only be reached by example and practical instruction. Prize competition schemes and small demonstration farms inaugurated on as wide a scale as possible will help.

### PUBLIC CO-OPERATION

"Extension work to be effective must also create an interest in the public mind. The public must feel the urge for production, saving and conservation of food for encouraging intensive effort at agricultural reform; for preventing waste of food and making the most of what is available.

"This can best be done if we have popular journals supported by all States commodity committees and interests in English and various Indian languages which would reach all extension workers and educated farmers at a nominal cost.

"There is yet another matter to which I must draw your attention, the damage caused by insects, pests, diseases, weeds, monkeys and other wild animals. It is assessed at one-fifth of our production—about nine million tons; during epidemic the loss is greater. Research for the eradication of these destructive pests and popular education to stimulate an incentive to eradicate them are very essential. If we just spend the energy which we exhaust on clamouring for imported food grains on destroying pests, we would need no imports. This is where a land army of non-officials can secure easy conquest.

"The Gowshala Board, the Board of Forestry, the Vana Premi Sangh and the Women's Supplementary Food Council are powerful agencies for supplementing agricultural extension. The Vana Mahotsava, as you know, reached even distant hamlets, and led to the

planting of three crores of trees within a few weeks. Within a few months, the Women's Council has evoked the enthusiasm of several hundreds of women all over the country, branches have been formed in several States; other States are following suit; and supplementary food cafeterias and exhibitions held so far have been very successful.

"I would, therefore, suggest the Governing Body to frame a scheme for extension work and give to I.C.A.R. its legitimate place as the national organization of agricultural research and extension."

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Dr Rajendra Prasad awards diplomas to post-graduate students of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at the Council of State Chamber, New Delhi on Monday. Sir Datar Singh and Mr N. C. Pal (Director of the Institute), are also seen.—Statesman.

## “LAND ARMY” TO INCREASE PRODUCTION

### MR. MUNSHI'S ADDRESS AT DELHI CONFERENCE

Mr Munshi, the Food and Agriculture Minister, yesterday called for the formation of an auxiliary “land army” of enterprising farmers to extend India's agricultural production.

Addressing jointly the governing body meeting of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Convocation of the Indian Agricultural Institute in Delhi, he said, given a countrywide effort, the integrated production programme could be fulfilled by growing an additional 1,400,000 tons of food, 600,000 bales of cotton and 1,800,000 bales of jute and substitute fibres by the end of March 1952.

The random sample surveys conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, he said, had confirmed the eye estimates of increased production of 1,700,000 tons in 1950-51 as a result of the grow more food campaign.

“We must create an atmosphere in the country in which the farmer who achieves the highest yield per acre is accepted as a hero deserving of honour at the hands of the nation and the Government; a warrior of peace of greater merit than the soldier or the politician” Mr. Munshi said.

Pleading for more strenuous efforts in the direction of utilization of land resources, he said: “We are yet a long way off from complete utilization of our land resources. We have 102m acres of cultivable waste and current fallows the extent of which fluctuates between 48m and 65m acres and a considerable part of which may not necessarily be lying fallow for rotational reasons. Several States have passed Land Utilization Acts, but more strenuous efforts are needed to enforce the laws in a thorough manner.

“He who has the land but uses it not is guilty of creating a food shortage and should be treated as a criminal”.

#### EXTENSION BOARDS

Mr Munshi suggested the setting up in each State of an extension board similar to the extension board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to translate research in terms of practice in selected areas. These boards might comprise the Minister and the Director of Agriculture and experts and representatives of growers and interests who were prepared to set up small demonstration farms in different villages.

For extension work, he said, an official “land army” was not enough. Ultimately it was the enterprising farmer who was the pivot of prompt and effective agricultural reform. An auxiliary “land army” of enterprising farmers who would agree to maintain continuous contact with extension agencies, follow up the advice given and assist in the extension work undertaken, would have to be built up; young men in the villages could be enrolled as honorary workers—“land guards”—and they could be required to give a certain number of hours of work every week and be enrolled for service either in the village or in their tehsil or district or State. Training camps of one to three months' duration could be organized.

“Extension work to be effective must also create an interest in the public mind. This can best be done if we can have popular journals supported by all States, commodity committees and interests in English and various Indian languages which would reach all extension workers and educated farmers at a nominal cost”.

The damage caused by insects, pests, diseases, weeds, monkeys and other wild animals. Mr Munshi said, was assessed at one-fifth of the country's production—about 9m tons. Research to eradicate these pests and popular education to stimulate an incentive to eradicate them were very essential. “If we spend the energy which we exhaust on clamouring for imported foodgrains, on destroying pests, we would need no imports”.

Mr Munshi urged the Governing Body to frame a scheme for extension work and give to ICAR its legitimate place as the national organization of agricultural research and extension. The income of the Council from the agricultural products cess had been steadily increasing, he said, and the current year's proceeds were estimated at Rs 29 lakhs as against the last five years' average of Rs 19 lakhs.

#### DR PRASAD'S SPEECH

Inaugurating the session, Dr Rajendra Prasad said India's dependence on other countries for food was a challenge to the scientists and agriculturists of the country. Agricultural institutes in India had therefore to evolve methods which would eliminate the country's dependence on foreign imports of food as soon as possible.

He added: “If we want to improve the

instruments the agriculturist uses, it would be helpful if they could be made available to him. The improved plough, however, must not be such as the bullock available to him cannot drag. It must also be suitable for the soil in which he works. All these limitations have to be borne in mind. The problem before the Government is how to satisfy the agriculturists that the improvements are really for his benefit from his point of view. This should be done through an organization which remains in close contact with the agriculturists. The Government can do this by having small farms in particular areas for particular purposes”.

The President awarded diplomas to post-graduate students of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and prizes to winners of the various crop competitions.

The winners of the prize were: Mr Jagdish Prasad of the village of Mowana for a yield of 58 maunds, 13 seers per acre of wheat during the rabi crop of 1950; Mr J. C. Pani of Midnapur district for a yield of 73½ maunds of paddy per acre during 1949-50; Mr Rattan Prakash of Hapur for a yield of 679 maunds 21 seers 7 chattaks of potatoes per acre.

The winners of the Delhi gardens potato competition were Mr K. L. Panjabi, Lady Parry and Mr McKechina.—PTI.

“Statesman”

27/6-2-51



Dr Rajendra Prasad addressing the convocation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute held in New Delhi yesterday. On left is Mr K. M. Munshi, Food Minister.

## Food Imports Challenge To Research Workers

### DR PRASAD'S PLEA TO APPLY SCIENCE TO RAISE OUTPUT

In a joint address yesterday in Delhi to the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Convocation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Dr Rajendra Prasad said India's dependence on other countries for food was a challenge to the scientists and agriculturists of the country. Agricultural institutes in India had, therefore, to evolve methods which would eliminate the country's dependence on foreign imports of food as soon as possible.

The President said if India wanted to improve the instruments the agriculturist used, it would be helpful if they could be made available to him.

The problem before the Government was how to satisfy the agriculturist that the improvements were really for his benefit from his point of view. This should be done through an organization which remained in close contact with the agriculturists.

The Government could do this by having small farms in particular areas for particular purposes.

The President said "Being an agricultural country, it is really a matter of shame that we should have to depend

Mr Munshi's speech—page 5

upon other countries for our food and it should be a challenge not only to the agriculturists of the country, but also to the scientists who are engaged in agricultural research that we should not be able to produce what is required for our own food requirements. It is not only in the matter of food grains that we are in deficit. In the matter of fruits and horticultural needs and milk and milk products also there is a great leeway to make up. It is, therefore, necessary that the Agricultural Research Institute should devote itself to research work of a kind which actually and immediately benefits agriculture."

Emphasizing the practical aspect of research, Dr Prasad said:

"We hear a great deal about the improvement of the agricultural machinery. Undoubtedly the instruments that are now used by our agriculturists ordinarily are of a primitive type. They have been in existence for many centuries past, and they have not been improved. One of the reasons may be that they have not been able to find anything better; and if you want to improve them, you can be helpful to them only if the improvement's such as can be easily made available to the ordinary farmers. That is to say, if you were to improve the plough, it must not be a very costly plough. It must be such as the bullock that is available in the countryside can easily drag. It must be such that it is suitable for the particular soil where it is used."

Dr Prasad then turned to the problem of using soil in the most profitable manner. He said: "We have got such a variety of soil in this country that you can grow almost anything and from anything to nothing on the soil and it is no use telling agriculturists that they should grow such and such crop only. It must be a crop which is suitable for the particular kind of land, and the quality of the land also depends very largely on the availability of water for irrigation. So all these things of agricultural engineering—soil chemistry and the kind of crop you can grow—are so closely connected with one another that it is impossible to separate one from the other.

"So a Central Institute like the one that we have in Delhi has in the first instance to co-ordinate all kinds of research which are being conducted in different parts of the country and on different lines. And more than that, it has to set the standard for the kind of research which has to be carried on by the various institutes of which I believe we have got several spread all over the country."

Discussing the ways and means to take the results of agricultural research to the farmer, Dr Prasad asserted:

"If somebody also does the experimen

tation and proves to his (farmer's) satisfaction that the result is going to be profitable, my own idea is that he will quickly adopt changes that may be suggested. I have found they have easily accepted new varieties of cane where they have found that new varieties of sugarcane are more profitable. They have also adopted easily better variety of wheat where it is of better quality giving a better yield and bringing in more money. They have also adopted, though to a much smaller extent, better quality of paddy.

"The problem before the Government is how to carry the results of these researches to the agriculturist so as to satisfy him that the improvement that is suggested is really an improvement from his point of view. That is, I think, more a problem for the Government than for the research worker, but the two are so inter-connected that we cannot separate one from the other. I know a great deal of research work is being done in this Institute and in other institutes, but I am not sure if the results have been propagated to the same extent to the agriculturist or even if it has been done, whether he has accepted and adopted the results in daily agriculture.

"For that a different kind of approach is necessary and that approach can be through some sort of organization which comes in close contact with the agriculturist. Very often there are many social service organizations. There may be agricultural associations for particular purposes; there may be particular individual workers who may by their example actually show to the agriculturists that particular new methods are really profitable. I believe the Government can do much by having small farms in particular areas for particular purposes. In an area where you have sugarcane, a sugarcane farm is required and it should be encouraged; similar is the case of wheat farms; and wherever particular crops can be grown to advantage, we should have farms of those crops."

The President awarded diplomas to the post-graduate students of I.A.R.C. and prizes to winners of the various crop competitions.

The winners of the prize were: Mr Jagdish Prasad of village Mowana for a yield of 58 maunds 13 seers per acre of wheat during the rabi crop of 1950; Mr J. C. Pani of district Midnapur for a yield of 73-3/4 maunds of paddy per acre during 1949-50; Mr Rattan Prakash of Hapur for a yield of 679 maunds 21 seers 7 chataks of potatoes per acre.

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"Hindustan Times"

27 6-2-51

SPEECH

by the Hon'ble Shri K.M. Munshi, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Govt. of India, at the Governing Body Meeting of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on 5th February 1951.

Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to this meeting of the Governing Body of the I.C.A.R. as also the first convocation of the I.A.R.I. Under its revised constitution, the Council and its various administrative bodies have been reinforced; representatives of important spheres of work such as Forestry and Fisheries and of allied organisations like the Central Commodity Committees have been added. The income of the Council from the Agricultural Products Cess has been steadily increasing and the current year's proceeds are estimated at Rs. 29 lakhs as against the last five years' average of Rs. ~~23~~<sup>19</sup> lakhs. On the whole, therefore, I have a feeling that in so far as the machinery of operation is concerned, we are now fully equipped to deal effectively with our responsibilities.

At a joint meeting of the Boards of Research and Extension held on January 6, 1951, it was decided:

- (a) to collect and tabulate information regarding agricultural research which is being carried on in the country and the money spent on them;
- (b) to collect and reprint unavailable research papers on subjects of practical application; and
- (c) to conduct regional surveys of research institutions.

In connection with research, I look forward to the I.A.R.I. playing a central role under the guidance of its new Director, Dr. Pal. I congratulate the students of the I.A.R.I., who have taken their diplomas today.

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The post-graduate students trained at the Institute have in the past filled a variety of posts ranging from Research Assistants to Head of an experiment station. With the increased demand for trained technical personnel in the country, provision was made to admit and train a much larger number of post-graduate students every year in the specialised courses in research 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 Institute thus not only supply a definite need for persons trained up to a high standard in the agricultural sciences, but also serve as a link to unite the various agricultural agencies concerned with agricultural research and development.

In the arduous task undertaken by the country to achieve self-sufficiency by March 1952, I.C.A.R. as a body which coordinates agricultural research and extension throughout the country, has an important role to play. Immediately on my taking office, the whole position was reviewed and the programme was so modified so as to secure integration of production effort and ensure maximum results.

FIRST:.....

FIRST: an Integrated Production Programme designed to secure not only self-sufficiency in foodgrains but also relative self-sufficiency in cotton and jute was worked out.

SECOND: in sanctioning schemes for agricultural production, high priority was decided to be given to intensive cultivation schemes in selected zones which hold out the highest promise, one of the conditions of financial assistance being that 60% of the increased production in such intensive areas would be surrendered to the procurement authorities.

THIRD: in view of the emergency character of the present production programme, it was decided to maintain close contact through Regional Production Commissioners with the actual execution of the schemes in the States so as to be able to assess the progress made from time to time and to render such help as may be necessary to the executive officers with the least possible delay.

I am glad to report that the programme as thus reoriented is making good progress and the schemes are being completed according to plan.

The additional production which should have resulted from this programme in 1950-51 will, however, not reflect in the total yield figures as these will be seriously reduced due to natural calamities and adverse seasonal conditions. There has been a controversy in the country whether the G.M.F. results are correct. It will, however, soon be laid at rest. The random sample surveys which the I.C.A.R. has been conducting have in the main confirmed the eye-estimates of our achievement of 17 lakh tons for 1950-51. In this connection, I cannot but congratulate the Section  
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of Agricultural Statistics of the I.C.A.R. for the excellent work that they are doing. Dr. Sukhatme, its head, has done splendid work and has acquired well merited international reputation. The time, I feel, has come when the section - misnamed a section, but in reality a school - should be called the School of Agricultural Statistics, so that an appropriate academic status may be accorded to the professors and the students and closer contact with Universities may be established. Given a countrywide effort, I feel that we will be able to fulfil the Integrated Production Programme by growing additional 14 lakh tons of food, 6 lakh bales of cotton and 18 lakh bales of jute and substitute fibres by the end of the target period.

Though our present self-sufficiency programme is designed on an emergency basis, the development of our resources is a ceaseless endeavour and its tempo is governed only by the march of science and the pace of its utilization. We are yet a long way off from complete utilization of our land resources. We have 102 million acres of cultivable waste and current fallows the extent of which fluctuates between 48 million to <sup>65</sup>~~64~~ million acres and a considerable part of which may not necessarily be lying fallow for rotational reasons. Several States have passed Land Utilization Acts, but more strenuous efforts are needed to enforce the laws in a thorough manner. A little effort has enabled the Malwa Development Board set up in July last, to help the States concerned in taking active steps to utilise their fallow lands. We cannot afford to be dilatory or perfunctory about this. Prompt and, if necessary, drastic steps under the control of the district officers should be taken to.....

to bring these lands under cultivation for the next kharif season. He who has the land but uses it not is guilty of creating food shortage and as a criminal he should be treated. I would invite the Governing Body to give this point the highest priority in their consideration.

The Board of Extension set up by the I.C.A.R. is expected to translate research in terms of practice in selected centres. In this connection, I may suggest for your consideration the setting up in each State an Extension Board corresponding to our Central Extension Board with the Minister and the Director of Agriculture as Chairman and Vice-Chairman and with experts and representatives of growers and interests who are prepared to set up small demonstration farms in different villages. The whole country should be thus with little demonstration farms and I am sure that in many villages will be found enterprising farmers willing and able to work in close contact with these centres who, in their turn, will serve to extend better farming methods to their neighbours.

In this connection, there are four incidental matters: First, the ascertainment of the correct factual position of the cultivable waste and fallow land; secondly, the determination of crops which could be grown on such land; thirdly, village fuel forests to save cow dung; fourthly, the village prize competition scheme. The District Extension Boards would stimulate competition; a State Officer devoted to this work should organise it.

We must create an atmosphere in the country in which the farmer who achieves the highest yield per acre is accepted as a hero deserving of honour at the hands.....

hands of the Nation and the Government; a warrior of peace of greater merit than the soldier or the politician, for, he alone will save the country in the end.

I do not minimise the gigantic nature of extension work before the country, but it has to be done, in spite of our limited means. For this, a country-wide machinery has to be organised. The departments of the States, in most cases, are staffed with technically qualified officers who reach down to the district and the tehsil, sometimes even to a group of villages. This framework has to be shaken out of its self-complacency and has to be converted into an organised and militant band of "Missionaries of the Replenished Earth."

An official "Land Army", however, is not enough. If I had my way, I would compel each agricultural officer to run his own little demonstration farm on the success of which to judge his efficiency. We must also find a place for the existing non-official organisations like the Firka Development Boards and the Sarvodaya Associations.

Ultimately, however, it is the enterprising farmer who is the pivot of prompt and effective agricultural reform. An auxiliary "Land Army" of enterprising farmers who would agree to maintain continuous contact with the extension agencies, follow up the advice given and assist in the extension work undertaken, will have to be built up. The young men in the villages could be enrolled as honorary workers - 'Land Guards' let us say - and they could be required to give a certain number of hours of work every week and be enrolled for service either in the village or

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in their tehsil or district or State. Training camps of one to three months duration could be organised where selected courses of training could be given to them which they could put into practice when they go back to the village. These 'Land Guards', if accorded due prestige, would form the major motive force of our movement for agricultural improvement at the village level. We would thus be providing our 'Land Army' with a new auxiliary force to support it.

I come to another important branch of extension - approach to the people. I know of agricultural publicity in other lands; and I confess ours is woefully ineffective. Our magazines, in form, are unattractive. Our "Indian Farming", our popular magazine, has scarcely any popular appeal; some of the Commodity Committees have specialised journals only for a few interested persons and their work remains un-appreciated. The problem basically has four aspects:

- (a) Production,
- (b) Popular interest,
- (c) Extension, and
- (d) Research.

Production is the responsibility of the tiller of the soil, mostly illiterate; he is the person to be contacted and is not directly accessible to published literature. Even if he were, a written message to him has no meaning. He wants better seeds, better implements, better animals, fertiliser, fuel to save cow dung and water. He can only be reached by example and practical instruction. A village to village extension service is, in the state of our present finances, impossible. But prize competition schemes and small Demonstration Farms inaugurated on as wide a scale as possible will help.

Extension.....

Extension work to be effective must also create an interest in the public mind. The public must feel the urge for production, saving and conservation of food for encouraging intensive effort at agricultural reform; for restoring the farmer's status to - to use a Gujarati phrase - that of the 'father of the world'; for preventing waste of food and making the most of what is available. It must understand the need for scientific methods in agriculture and stimulate the collective will to take to better farming.

This requires an overall effort to provide a machinery to explore, instruct and provide interest in the great work of extension. The main objective of the medium, whether it is newspaper, journal, a cinema, must be first and last, to create interest in improved farming.

This can best be done if we can have popular journals supported by all States, Commodity Committees and interests in English and various Indian languages which would reach all extension workers and educated farmers at a nominal cost.

Research students must have Research Journals of the highest order. But between them all, the I.C.A.R. must create a harmony and a dynamic spirit.

There is yet another matter to which I must draw your attention, the damage caused by insects, pests, diseases, weeds, monkey and other wild animals. It is assessed at one-fifth of our production - about 9 million tons; during epidemics the loss is greater. Research for the eradication of these destructive pests and popular education to stimulate an incentive to eradicate them are very essential. The Plant Protection Section of the Ministry of Agriculture has,

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as you know, done effective work in fighting the recent locust menace. If we just spend the energy which we exhaust on clamouring for imported foodgrains on destroying pests, we would need no imports. This is where a land army of non-officials can secure easy conquest.

The Gowshala Board, the Board of Forestry, the Vana Premi Sangh and the Women's Supplementary Food Council, are powerful agencies for supplementing agricultural extension. The 'Vana Mahotsava', as you know, reached even distant hamlets, and led to the planting of 3 crores of trees within a few weeks. Within a few months, the Women's Council has evoked the enthusiasm of several hundreds of women all over the country; branches have been formed in several States; other States are following suit; and supplementary food cafeterias and exhibitions held so far have been very successful.

I would, therefore, request the Governing Body to frame a scheme for extension work and give to I.C.A.R. its legitimate place as the national organisation of agricultural research and extension.

Let us, therefore, attempt by efforts to lift our agricultural advance into a regenerative movement so that plenty may return to the Motherland.

I have done. Thank you.

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