

Helping The Cultivator—Madras Proposals—Agricultural Department Extension.

An era of new agricultural development in the Madras Presidency is proposed by the Government and our special correspondent is in a position to sketch briefly the main lines of the contemplated improvements. In June last, the Government instructed the Director of Agriculture to prepare a detailed programme of reorganisation of the Department and to lay down adequate and definite lines of development and to prepare a programme with reference to which the agricultural budget for this year could be framed bearing in mind, at the same time, the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. The Director of Agriculture with the assistance of Mr. Munro, I understand, submitted a report last August and the recommendations contained in it have been accepted by the Government. The scheme contemplated by the Director makes provision for a ten year's gradual development of agriculture. It has been the complaint that the development of the department has not been sufficiently co-ordinated and that agricultural propaganda has been unsatisfactory and spasmodic. The efficiency of the Research staff has been lowered in recent years owing, it is understood, to their having become involved in administrative details and thus unable to devote themselves to research. The department has developed by fits and starts, without any co-ordination of the work as a whole with the result that it has become disorganised, and while it has gone ahead rapidly in some directions, it has lagged behind in others. The work of the Director himself has been so much added to that it has become impossible for him to handle the mass of work properly. The Director then, in response to the Government Order has made some very useful and interesting suggestions, which apart from relieving the research staff from administrative duties and co-ordinating the work, makes full provision for future development. His suggestions, so far as they relate to this year, have been passed in the Legislative Council.

Relief For Research Officers:—The problem will be solved by relieving research officers of a lot of administrative work by first of all consolidating the routine work at the Research Institute, Coimbatore in a central office under one gazetted officer and by providing in the future for the gradual addition to the staff of gazetted assistants, secondly by relieving district officers by providing them with gazetted staff in charge of groups of agricultural demonstrators and of experiment stations, and lastly by adding to the staff of the Director of Agriculture a second Personal Assistant of the grade of a Deputy Director of Agriculture. One of the important recommendations of the Director of Agriculture, which has been accepted by the Government, is the redistribution of circles. This consists of the formation of a new circle in the Telugu districts and another in the Nilgiris in separate administrative charge of two Deputy Directors. In order to make agricultural propaganda more effective, it has been decided to appoint two Assistant Directors almost immediately. There will be extra agricultural demonstrators to run seed distribution farms. Though it has been recognised that there should be more experiment stations, it is proposed to open two new experiment stations for work on cotton and millete as an urgent measure. In order to man the experiment stations, it is proposed to appoint one or more superintendents for each station. Ten of these superintendents are contemplated immediately while ten more are provided for as new stations are established,

New Experiment Stations.—Thus this year a combined cotton and millet section will be opened at Adoni, an oilseed station and agricultural station at Salem, Ganjam and Trichinopoly. Two research officers, three crop specialists and four Deputy Directors together with three Assistant Research Officers, four Assistant Crop Specialists eleven Superintendents of Farm and ten District Agricultural Officers in addition to the already existing eight will be appointed in due course. The reorganisation of the clerical staff of the Director's office, the centralisation of officers at Coimbatore with one Personal Assistant to the Principal and the addition of more assistants will take place this year. These improvements will involve Rs. 1,72,394.

Side by side with the strengthening of the administrative side of the department, it is also decided to augment the research side. This will be done by the appointment of an Oilseed Specialist during the current year. A Live-Stock Improvement Officer to be in sole charge of Government breeding stations will also be appointed this year relieving the present Deputy Director. In the Millets section more attention will be devoted to cholam, ragi, cumbu and tenai in addition to four other minor millets by the appointment of an Assistant Crop Specialist. In 1936-37 a Pulses Specialist is provided for. In view of the size of the subject and the dependence of other sciences on Chemistry it is proposed that the Chemistry section should be divided up, beginning in 1930-31 with the appointment of a biochemist who will take over charge of biochemical work and bacteriology. In 1935-36, it is proposed again to divide up the work by the appointment of soil-physicist. The Entomological, Mycological and Teaching sections will continue as they are at present. All these improvements will ultimately increase the agricultural budget of this Presidency from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 30 lakhs and will work out at 10 pies per acre or 3.6 pies more than the present average.

(From Madras Mail dated 28th April 1929).

Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

Composing of the council and Method of Financing it.
The following is a resolution (No. 826-Agricultural, dated 23rd May 1929) of the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands:—

In Chapter III of their report, the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India held that agricultural research in this country is still in its infancy; that however efficient the organisation which is built up for demonstration and propaganda, it cannot achieve a full measure of success unless it is based on research; that lack of co-ordination in agricultural