

with this variety in 7 villages of this Taluk in this season and about 200 acres with Ayan Samba and Anai Komban in half a dozen villages and about 37 acres with Kar in one village. Thus single seedling is spreading rapidly in this Taluk

W. RAGHAVACHARI,
Ag. Farm Manager.

* The need for Agricultural Organisation.

Within the last few years, the Government have reorganised their Department of Agriculture. They have established a College of Agriculture and Research Institute at Coimbatore and Farms' Substant centres, for experimental and demonstration purposes. It was only the research work, the experimental work and demonstrations other published in bulletins and pamphlets. The Government, in its view the introduction that, the Department of Agriculture, has in its view the introduction that, improvements in the methods of agriculture as practised here heavily in combat the insect pests and fungoid diseases of the crops. It is remembered that eighty per cent of the population of agricultural depend upon agriculture for their living, and that the revenue Indian from land by Government constitutes more than sixty five per cent of Co the total income, it is natural that the Government are anxious to improve the prosperity of the agricultural classes. But, in spite of the benevolence of Government, can we honestly say that improvements in agriculture have been effected in any appreciable manner, that new methods have taken the place of old, except in a few isolated instances? It is a

Dr. Volcker says that at his best the Indian ryot or cultivator is quite as good as, and in some respects superior to, the average British farmer, and that at his worst, he will struggle on patiently and uncomplainingly in the face of difficulties in a way that no one else would. Yet how is it that modern methods and improvements advocated by the

* Summary of paper read at the last Agricultural Conference by Mr. C. R. Lakshminaraya Aiyangar, B. A. B. L., High Court Vakil and Secretary, Agricultural Association, Kumbakonam.

Agricultural Department are not readily and eagerly adopted by the bulk of the agricultural community? It is not my province, nor my purpose to find any immediate solution—it is a very difficult problem in solving which the State and the Subject are alike interested. The improvement of agriculture depends a great deal upon the people them-

Better methods of cultivation and improvements in agricultural practices could only be pointed out by the Department and it is for the people to adopt them or not. The question then is how to familiarise the ryot and induce him to adopt the improved methods of agriculture. My answer is through agricultural organisations. The next question is, what they are and what form they should take and what are the conditions necessary to make these organisations successful in achieving their object. These again are very difficult to define exactly in my view. Some views which occur to me, as the result of my work, are given below.

1. **or silt.**
 2. **to tiller pro**
 3. **transplants**
 4. **far apart**
 5. **Depart**
 6. **of 30**
 7. **3 to 6**
 8. **mini**
 9. **Agr**
 10. **ader.**

Chief forms or types of agricultural organisations which are Agricultural Associations and Co-operative Agricultural Associations. The Agricultural Associations started in many Districts some of which owe their failure to their having had no definite object in view, that the aid of the Agricultural Department in those cases was either sought for nor given. Such of the Associations as have survived owe their life and activity, to their having had a definite programme in view, and which have had the benefit of the advice of the Agricultural Department and the sympathy of the Revenue Divisional Officer. The effort of Government must be to bring the Agricultural Associations into closer touch with the Department of Agriculture, and so to shape their working as to be in conformity with a system laid down by the Department. The Officers have to study local conditions and needs, win the confidence of intelligent ryots, and try through them to effect the improvements. A successful demonstration plot on the land of a private member of an Association, is of much more educational value, than one at a Government Farm. I fear, much is made of the failure of those Agricultural Associations which were started throughout

the Presidency, to draw from it the inference that they are not suited to the conditions of Indian Agriculture. Agricultural Associations having been given up as failures, something had to take up their place and the modern tendency is to encourage to start Co-operative Agricultural Societies in their stead. Within the last ten years the Co-operative Credit movement has advanced in rapid strides. From the exceedingly interesting progress report published not long ago in the Gazette of India, it will be seen that the Co-operative Credit movement has already brought relief to six millions of people, a gratifying and indeed phenomenal outcome of the work of ten years. The report goes on to say "It is true that there is still only one Agricultural Co-operative Society in India for every 20,000 of the population engaged in Agriculture, whereas in Italy there are eighteen and in Germany thirty-two." But the movement is only at the beginning. It may be noticed that it was only in 1912 that the Co-operative Act was extended to cover Societies other than those organised for credit and the small number of Societies started since then, are yet in their experimental stage. It is no wonder that, in India where the bulk of the agricultural community is heavily indebted, the advantages of co-operative credit have been availed of with an avidity which was natural. But how far Co-operative Agricultural Societies can be depended upon to solve the problem of improving Indian Agriculture it is too soon to say. Even in England the proportion of Co-operative Agricultural Societies to other credit and trade organisations is very small, and the principal types of successful Agricultural Societies are Dairies and Creameries.

It will be seen that that the Co-operative Agricultural Society is a business concern organised solely with a view to profit. It has to confine its operations to a few items of definite work, such as the purchase and sale of seeds, manure, or implements suited to the agricultural requirements of the tract. Generally speaking it has also a limited working capital. It is beyond its scope to carry on any propaganda or demonstration work, and the working of the society is of a spasmodic nature. For instance, the members of a society dealing in seed and manure—all require them more or less at the same time. A consolidated indent is

given, the seeds are obtained and distributed. There the work for the season stops. Similarly with manure.

Again with a capital of about Rs. 1000 or 2000, it will be out of place to think about buying all agricultural requisites, to sell co-operatively all the crops of the members, to manage cattle breeding and run a dairy, to stock improved ploughs and implements and so forth; and the absurdity of aspirations like these is apparent; and when a society formed on such ambitious lines is, in practice, found not to be fulfilling the expectations, it is no wonder. I am pointing out the difficulties involved in introducing tangible improvements in agriculture through means of cooperative societies. To give my experience of Tanjore Co-operative Agricultural Society, the society was started in 1912 with the object of co-operative buying and selling of seed, manure and implements. When I wanted to supply to the members good seed, I asked my members whether any of them would supply good seeds. None of them would venture to place seeds which they could not guarantee. But every one offered to *purchase* good paddy seed. Then I applied to the Deputy Director of Agriculture offering to buy the entire seed which the Department could save from the recently established rice station at Manganallur, but he told me that, since the farm was only recently established, the Department was selecting seeds and he could help me only in the season to come. So we could not make any progress in the seed line. But in the manure line, the society bid in auction and has purchased the cattle depot manure of the Municipality of Kumbakonam. We find ready purchasers for the cattle-manure. So far as night soil manure is concerned, considerable difficulty is experienced in removing it from the pits.

Again with regard to implements, unless we buy collectively there will be very little profit to share at the year's end. The scope of co-operative agricultural societies seems to me to be very limited.

In contrast with a co-operative society, an Agricultural Association is more elastic in its working. Its activity and scope for usefulness are determined only by the energy of its organisers and the length of its purse. It can enlist many members; it can take in donations, can

collect subscriptions. It is not fenced in by any restrictive regulations. It can have demonstration plots and induce members also to demonstrate them on their lands. It can organise shows, and exhibitions—arrange for lectures, give prizes and can publish a journal. The Officers of the Agricultural Associations are the better media for the introduction of actual improvements in agriculture, and it is bad policy to discourage their formation or suggest their winding up.

In my opinion Co-operative Agricultural Societies must be made adjuncts to Agricultural Associations and it is through these that improvements in Agriculture can be made to reach the ryot. And in order that these Associations and Societies may be really successful, they should have cooperation of the Officers of the Agricultural Department and the Revenue Divisional Officer or Collector of the District. This does not involve the idea of officialising these organisations.

The number of Co-operative Agricultural Societies and Associations now working can be counted on one's fingers. Fresh societies and associations should be organised, on lines different from what they have been, based on past experience. If it is not presumptuous of me to say, the Central Agricultural Committee at Madras should be reorganised on new lines—possibly on the line of the Ceylon Agricultural Society which has a membership of over a thousand and a monthly journal edited by an Agricultural Expert, commanding a large circulation. The District and Taluq Associations may or may not be affiliated to the Central Committee. What seems to me to be of most importance, is that the associations must have a programme of work, constantly kept before their view, by the persistence of the Agricultural Officer of the District. We were all very glad to hear that the department is to be considerably strengthened and we hope that each District will very soon have its Agricultural Inspector. Similarly in starting Co-operative Agricultural Societies, some definite and clear object suited to local needs must be kept in view. We feel that we are not in our proper element in organising and working these concerns, that we have not got the requisite agricultural knowledge or training, or leisure, to work

them successfully; but one can't help it at this stage. But the future is, I dare say, full of hope.

Notes.

We very much regret to record the untimely death of *Mr. L. Srinivasa Das*, I. Ag., Agricultural Teacher in the Municipal High School, Anantapur. He joined the college in 1910 and took his Diploma in 1913 and impressed the staff as a very intelligent young man. He attended the last College Day and, from the conversation we had with him at the time, he was enthusiastic about his work at Anantapur and was very hopeful of turning out work, practically useful to the ryots of Anantapur. The hopes have been shattered and we convey our sincere and heartfelt condolence to his father *Mr. L. Subbanacharlu* and to his young widow.

The Agriculture Trade Conference:—The conference was presided over by the Hon'ble *Mr. L. E. Buckley* I. C. S., Commissioner of Agriculture; and comprehensive notes and points for discussion had been previously prepared by Departmental Experts under the following subjects and circulated to the members:—1. *Cotton*. 2. *Groundnut*. 3. *Sugar*. 4. *Manures*. 5. *Coconuts*. 6. *Tobacco*. 7. *Jute*. 8. *Wool*. 9. *Implements*. and 10. *Well irrigation by power*. The several committees, in which representatives of the Trading Firms, and landholding classes were present along with Departmental officers, discussed the questions in detail and expressed their opinions in the form of resolutions. These discussions and resolutions were then published, from time to time, in the newspapers and there is no need to go into them here. The object of the Conference was to get the cooperation of the trading firms and landholders in the work of the Departments of Agriculture and Industries, and we believe that this help was given more freely at