

Madras Agricultural Journal

(ORGAN OF THE M. A. S. UNION)

Vol. XXIV]

JANUARY 1936

[No. 1.

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	Population & Production in India	31
ORIGINAL ARTICLES:		Abstracts	38
1. Rainfall & Yield in the Coconut	5	Gleanings	39
2. Multiple Seededness in Sorghum		Correspondence	41
and Consequent Repercussions	15	Crop and Trade Reports	42
3. Fruit Marketing in Madras Pre-		College News and Notes	44
sidency with Special Reference		Weather Review	45
to Oranges	19	Departmental Notifications	46
4. Agriculture in Burma	26	Additions to the Library	L-1

Editorial.

New Year Honours. We are extremely glad to note that two of our members are among the recipients of New Year Honours. The title of Rao Bahadur has been conferred on Mr. S. Sundararaman, Government Mycologist, Agricultural Research Institute and on Rao Sahib Y. Ramachandra Rao, Locust Entomologist, Karachi, under the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

RAO BAHADUR S. SUNDARARAMAN started service in the Department 30 years ago as assistant to Government Economic Botanist, was later appointed as senior assistant to Dr. McRae, Government Mycologist and he finally succeeded Dr. McRae when the latter left for Pusa. Mycology as a branch of agricultural science had developed but little 30 years ago when Mr. S. Sundararaman started work and he is one of the pioneers in India on the subject. A number of plant diseases of great economic importance have been investigated into, by Mr. S. Sundararaman during his long service. Mr. Sundararaman has been connected with the union ever since its inception and he is now its Vice-President.

RAO BAHADUR Y. RAMACHANDRA RAO like Mr. S. Sundararaman starting service as entomological assistant to Government Botanist worked his way up and was appointed the Madras Entomologist in 1921. During his service in Madras he was for a year put

on special duty as an All-India Officer to investigate the possibilities of finding a biological method of controlling the lantana and we believe this work of his, earned him the title of Rao Sahib. As Entomologist in Coimbatore he was responsible for starting work on biological methods of controlling insect pests. When the locust problem was taken up by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, Mr. Ramachandra Rao was selected for the post of Deputy Locust Entomologist and was later appointed as the Locust Entomologist. Mr. Y. Ramachandra Rao is a familiar figure to all members of the Union and during his stay in Coimbatore was one of the active members of the working committee and was for some years Editor of the Journal.

We offer our hearty congratulations to both of them on their well merited distinction. This distinction is a fitting tribute to two branches of science, Mycology and Entomology, the problems of which in their application to agricultural crops, are often complicated and incapable of striking the public imagination like some of the other branches of science.

SIR B. C. BURT. We are glad that knighthood has been conferred on Mr. B. C. Burt, Agricultural Expert and now the Acting Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Every one connected with the agricultural departments in India, and who has had a chance of coming in contact with Sir Burt, cannot fail to be impressed with his greatness. He is industry personified and work is a pleasure with him, and there is no activity of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research where his guiding hand is absent. The success of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has been in no small measure due to the ability of Sir Burt who has been its Agricultural Expert from the beginning. While distinguished members of other branches of Science, Botany, Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Engineering etc. have received this distinction in India already, this is the first time that a member of the Agricultural Service has been chosen for this unique honour. We offer Sir Burt our very hearty congratulations.

Among other recipients of new year honours we are glad to note the names of the following agricultural officers in other provinces.

Khan Bahadur Afzul Hussain, Principal, Agricultural College, Lyallpur, Punjab; Rao Bahadur Tamane, Chief Agricultural Officer, Sindh, and Rai Sahib Lala Harbhajan Lal, Dy. Director of Agriculture, Eastern Circle, Partabgarh.

Ourselves. It is now exactly 25 years since the Madras Agricultural Students' Union was founded, and some of the founders who fortunately are still with us might well feel proud of the developments. The objects of the Union are to encourage an *esprit de corps* among its members and to exchange and record opinions and experiences in matters agricultural. The latter object was sought to be obtained by holding an annual conference and conducting

e possibilities
and we believe
Entomologist
on biological
problem was
n, Mr. Rama-
Entomologist
r. Y. Rama-
e Union and
mbers of the
Journal.

on their well
pute to two
ems of which
plicated and
of the other

een confer-
Acting Vice-
rch. Every
and who has
ot fail to be
and work is
l Council of
The success
in no small
Agricultural
ers of other
e, Engineer-
s is the first
sen for this
tulations.

glad to note
vinces.

al College,
rural Officer,
Agriculture,

Madras Agri-
e founders
id of the
age an es-
rd opinions
was sought
conducting

a journal as an organ of the Union. The journal first published as a year book in 1911, was converted into a quarterly the next year and was made into a monthly in 1915. Apart from the annual conference, the running of the journal is now the one important and sustaining activity of the Union throughout the year. Though in the beginning, the journal was serving a limited purpose, there is no doubt that it has widened its sphere of influence beyond the members of the Union who are all mostly members of the Agricultural Department. The changing of the name of the journal from The Journal of Madras Agricultural Students' Union into The Madras Agricultural Journal has been more than justified.

The main purpose of the Agricultural Department is to impart agricultural knowledge to the public and an agricultural journal like ours naturally supplements the other activities of the Department with regard to the dissemination of such knowledge. It is quite possible that a vernacular journal will be of even greater service because of the very small percentage of people who can read and understand English, but, there is one serious difficulty with regard to the publication of such a journal, namely the existence of four distinct vernaculars, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Canarese in Madras and one cannot easily cater to the needs of the whole province. This is probably one of the reasons why, attempts made to run a vernacular journal in Madras either by private individuals or agencies, have not met with any success. Several of them had to be closed down after a short spell of life. Even agricultural journals in English started by private agencies in India have not succeeded for want of sufficient matter to publish and proper organisations to collect agricultural information. It is therefore a matter for gratification that our journal has run on continuously for the last 24 years.

Our journal is probably the only one of its kind that is run purely by a private organisation of honorary workers, without any financial help from Government or other persons, though of course the editorial board as officers of the Madras Agricultural Department, gets all the facilities and access to the matter that could be published. Since the commencement, each successive board of Editors has been trying to improve the journal by the addition of new features and though there is still scope for further improvements, finance is limiting that scope to a very great extent.

The journal now caters to two sets of people, one the members of the Union who are all officers of the Department, and the other, the enlightened agriculturists of the province. It must be admitted that the requirements of the two sets of people are entirely different. The Union member who is an agricultural officer would like to keep himself in touch with the latest developments of agricultural sciences, and to him, scientific articles appearing in the journal have an appeal. The

practical agriculturists of whom there are a large number of subscribers, desire, on the other hand, popular articles on agricultural matters which might be of some immediate use to them. The attempt to satisfy both the sets of people, has necessarily to be a compromise with the balance perhaps more towards scientific articles. And so far as scientific articles are concerned, we have to pat ourselves on the back, for we believe their standard is appreciated as is seen from the numerous requests we get for copies of special articles from other parts of India and elsewhere. Our articles are also freely quoted in other foreign scientific journals.

The paucity of popular articles has however to be deplored, but we are not without hopes, that this defect will soon be remedied. If only each member of the Union in the district would make up his mind to contribute at least one article a year, about some special crop or some special agricultural practice of the tract he is working in, we should soon have a surfeit of articles which are likely to be understood and appreciated by subscribers who are not officers of the Department. We have on several occasions appealed to our mofussil members and once again at the beginning of the New Year, we appeal for popular contributions from them.

As regards the finances of the journal, it is only recently, that we have just been able to make both ends meet. In the absence of any government grant or private donations the conducting of the journal has to depend upon the number of subscribers on the rolls, and unless the number of subscribers is increased, it would not be possible to make any improvements in the present get up of the journal. Though the strength of the Agricultural Department has been expanding rapidly in recent years, our membership list has unfortunately not gone up to the same extent. There are still a large number of officers who have not enlisted as members. If every member of the Department will enrol, we should have over 1000 subscribers (together with the non-member subscribers), and there should then be no difficulty at all to run the journal. In fact, we should be able to introduce several improvements in its present get up. May we hope that the New Year will bring a greater response to our appeal?

The Union is intending to celebrate in a fitting manner the 25th year of its foundation (Silver Jubilee) this year which also happens to be the 60th year (Diamond Jubilee) of the inauguration of Agricultural Education in the province. There is also a proposal to publish a special number of the journal called the Jubilee Number, and the accomplishment of all these would mean adequate finance. Unfortunately our application to government for financial help has been negatived and we have to depend upon the generosity of the members and well wishers of the Union. An appeal is being sent out by the Secretary of the Union and the amount of response that is obtained will decide the nature of the celebration we are to have this July.