

# Madras Agricultural Journal

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## Editorial.

**Our Retiring Director of Agriculture.** On the 15th of September M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur D. Ananda Rao Garu, laid down the reins of office as the Director of Agriculture, Madras, after nearly 28 years of untiring service to the cause of Agriculture in Madras.

He has the unique distinction of being the first old student of the Madras Agricultural College to become a Director of Agriculture. After undergoing preliminary training in the Saidapet College of Agriculture, Mr. Ananda Rao went to Edinburgh. On his return to India he joined the Department as Assistant Director of Agriculture in 1908 and served the northern districts in that capacity till 1914 when he made a special study of the paddy seed beds in the Kistna Delta.

For the next seven years he was at Coimbatore as Assistant Principal, Professor of Agriculture and Superintendent of Central Farm. During these years he organised the College Dairy to a high level of efficiency. He made a study of the daily variation in the composition of milk and of the influence of different kinds of fodders, on the quantity and quality of milk. He further investigated the condition of dairy industry round about Coimbatore and the economics of *ghee* trade. The efficiency of labour and the economics of small holdings were also the subjects of his enquiry.

In 1921 as a fitting recognition of his valuable services he was promoted to the Indian Agricultural Service and a year after he was transferred to St. Thomas Mount as the Deputy Director of Agriculture of the Fourth Circle. During the period of eight years in which he was associated with the districts of North and South Arcot, Chittoor and Chingleput he did much of pioneer work especially on groundnut and sugarcane. His experiments on the rotation and manuring of crops and mixed cultivation at Palur are an indication of his intense agronomic outlook. He was the first in the Department to realise the necessity for a separate farm for groundnut research and the first groundnut research station was fortunately organized and opened by him.

In 1926 Mr. Ananda Rao went on leave to the Continent, and even during this period he studied rice culture in Italy so that the benefits of the experience of the Italian agriculturists might be readily available to his country. In 1928 the title of Rao Bahadur was conferred on him. In 1929 the post of Head-quarters Deputy Director was sanctioned, and Mr. Ananda Rao was selected for this post as the best fitted man for assisting the Director of Agriculture in giving a fresh stimulus to the propaganda activity of the Department. Even though the urge to get into intimate contact with the agriculturist and his live material would have been alive in his heart he responded to the call of duty magnificently and carried on the administrative tasks of that post which to most of us would be irksome.

In 1934 when he was posted as the permanent Principal of the Agricultural College at Coimbatore he immediately set about devising ways and means which would enable the students to ultimately become efficient agriculturists. Both as a Professor of Agriculture and as a Principal he was loved by his students.

In June 1935 he became permanent Director of Agriculture. And under his very able guidance the Department has been forging ahead in many directions. It was his ceaseless effort that resulted in the appointment of store keepers who relieved the Agricultural Demonstrators from their routine work and made them more available for their legitimate propaganda activities. Realising the possibilities of harnessing the press for Departmental propaganda he has brought into vogue the system of publishing agricultural jottings with which every reader of English and Vernacular dailies of Madras is now so familiar. During his tenure of office the policy of imparting practical training in agriculture to educated young men coming from the land-owning classes was initiated.

He has been one of the founders of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union and held the offices of Vice-President and President. His personal interest in the Union remains as keen as ever.

Being a hard and sincere worker himself he expected a high standard of work from his subordinates; nevertheless he was extremely kind and sympathetic. Mr. Ananda Rao is still of a very active disposition and we trust that his accumulated knowledge and varied experience will be available to the Province in spite of his retirement.

A worthy partner in life has been Mrs. Ananda Rao, whose genial personality and sympathetic heart have been admired by one and all.

We wish them a very long and happy life.