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Editorial

Self-sufficiency of Food: As Roosevelt said "Food will continue to be weapon in all efforts towards ensuring a more orderly, prosperous and peaceful country". At the present juncture, the Indian Republic is deficient especially in her needs of vital food and these deficits show a trend of becoming greater as years pass. The normal food deficit in the Madras Presidency is about 1 million tons, mostly of rice and a little of millets but with the failure of the monsoons in the State for a number of years in succession and the havoc caused by the periodic cyclones, the situation has become really grave. Apart from basic food crops, other supplemental foods also need to be produced in greater quantities. Increased production in agriculture is a complex matter requiring the simultaneous application of a number of different measures, but varying with different sets of conditions. It needs the help and co-operation of all - the State, the public and the consumer to achieve these targets. On the State falls the responsibility of launching programmes for this purpose and on the public rests an equal share of the responsibility to co-operate with the Government and promote the working of these schemes.

Of the methods that should be useful in increasing food production - say Rice - which is the most deficient, the increase of yield per acre is the quickest and this can be achieved only with adequate and timely supplies of water and manure. Every bit of waste material should be turned into compost as the Japanese and Chinese have successfully done to serve as food for the crop, or build up soil fertility. Land should be grown with proper seeds which have been evolved by the Agricultural Department to serve different localities and needs. Everybody should endeavour his or her little mite to contribute to good production by growing some plant, yielding food, vegetables or tubers. To attain this self-sufficiency more effectively at every stage of its culture and use, losses should also be minimised; labour should be sympathetic; house-wives should practice domestic economy and people should shun the black market.

With these ameliorative methods, the time should not be distant when we could make the country self-sufficient with regard to food.

RETIREMENT

Sri V. K. Subramania Mudaliar, Headquarters Deputy Director of Agriculture, Madras, retired from service on 9th January 1953. He took his diploma in Agriculture at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, in 1921 and entered service in March 1922, at Koilpatti. Earnestness, sincerity, zeal for work and uprightness have been his outstanding characteristics right through and these appealed to all alike, subordinates, colleagues and superior officers with whom he worked. He became the Superintendent of the Agricultural Research Station, Koilpatti in 1929 and laid the foundation for systematic breeding and evolution of superior karunganni cotton strains. The karunganni cotton strain K. 1, reputed for its fine, and long staple and high spinning values, was evolved by him. He also laid the foundation for evolution of *Mungari* cotton strains at Adoni and the breeding of potatoes at Nanjanad. His name will be always associated with the work at these Research Stations. The results of his pioneering work in the thirties are to-day seen in the different popular strains that are pouring out from them.

Later, he became Assistant Director of Agriculture in 1941, Regional Deputy Director of Agriculture in 1946 and Head Quarters Deputy Director of Agriculture in 1948. His early training at the Agricultural Stations were thus usefully employed in extension work. His rich practical experience thus became the store from which the several Officers of the Department drew inspiration and strength and his absence will be keenly felt by one and all.

We wish him happiness and a long and healthy retired life.

OUR NEW PATRON

The Madras Agricultural Students' Union extends a hearty welcome to its new patron Sri A. K. D. Balarama Raju of Rajapalayam. He is our old boy of the Agricultural College, Coimbatore. He is a big land-lord, evincing a lively and keen interest in the recommendations of the Madras Agricultural Department. The zeal with which he used to attend the College Day and Conference practically every year is an ample proof by itself for his thirst for knowledge on practical agriculture. He is a member of the Provincial Livestock Improvement Board. Till recently he was a member of the Indian Central Cotton Committee and also the Madras State Cotton Committee.

The Union is really glad to have him as one of its patrons.
