

## The Annamalai University Agricultural College

by

Dr. G RANGASWAMY\*

The rural set up of the University and the rich facilities readily available in the campus led to the starting of a Department of Agriculture in 1951 to teach agriculture as a science subject at the under-graduate level in Intermediate, B. A., and B. Sc. classes. In 1958, the Pre-Professional course in Agriculture was started and the professional B. Sc. (Ag.) course was inaugurated on July 27, 1959 with 24 students. The strength has now increased to a total of 300 in the four classes of the B. Sc. (Ag.) course. Already four batches have passed out and in all 145 students have completed the B. Sc. (Ag.) course. Thanks to the grants received from the State and Central Governments, the required facilities by way of buildings, experimental farm, laboratory equipments etc., have been mostly provided.

The Department of Agriculture has been from the very beginning concentrating on research work in certain branches of Agriculture. This was intensified in 1958 and several research projects on fundamental and applied aspects of Agricultural Microbiology were undertaken. With the starting of a two year M. Sc. (Ag.) course in Agricultural Microbiology in 1959, the research and teaching work in the subject received a fillip. Liberal grants for strengthening these activities have been received from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, University Grants Commission, Atomic Energy Commission and United States Department of Agriculture. So far 41 students have received their M. Sc. (Ag.) degree (23 by study course and 18 by research thesis), two candidates have already received their Ph. D. degree and five more have completed their research work and are writing up their theses.

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\* Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University.