

## Progress of Agricultural Education in Mysore

by

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The Hebbal School trained students for a post-secondary diploma course in Agriculture. The school earned a great reputation and attracted students from other States in India and outside from Ceylon, Burma, Malaya and other countries. It was during this period that agriculture was introduced as an optional subject for study in selected middle and high schools in various parts of the State. The staff resources in the Research Divisions particularly in earlier periods were very limited. As a result of devoted research work on the part of these few workers, many useful information of practical value to farmers have come out. In the Division of Entomology, considerable intensive work on the use of chemical pesticides and insecticides was done in the past two decades. In consequence, Folidol, BHC, DDT and other chemicals in the protection of crops from pests and insects have gained wide acceptance and popularity. In the Division of Botany many new varieties of sugarcane, paddy, groundnut, *ragi* and other crops have been evolved. Similarly, the Division of Agricultural Chemistry after sustained experimental work has recommended economic and optimum manurial schedule for the several crops in the different soil and climatic regions of the State. The demand for fertilizers is growing by leaps and bounds. It may be mentioned in this connection, that research conducted at Hebbal on the direct use of anhydrous ammonia as a nitrogenous fertilizer for crops is the first of its kind in the region East of Suez and South East Asia. The work on the influence of lime and phosphate on pod filling of groundnut and the build up of soil phosphorus status as a means of improvement of red soils belong to the category of fundamental research.

In the year 1946, Government started the Agricultural College at Hebbal using the then existing building facilities on the farm with the object of securing well trained technical personnel in large numbers required for expansion of the activities of education of the farmer in newer techniques of agriculture developed by painstaking research in the laboratories and on the experimental farm.

The College started with the three year degree course leading to the Bachelor's degree in Agriculture. A pass in Intermediate course in science was a pre-requisite for admission. With the change over to three years degree course in arts and science faculties, the B. Sc. (Agri.) Degree course comprised of four years of study after the Pre-University course. Post-graduate courses in the different disciplines in agricultural science are in the process of being instituted.

Though there are separate teaching sections with whole time staff and well equipped laboratories for the specific purpose of imparting instruction in the several subjects taught in the College, there is close

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collaboration between the respective research wings of the department housed in the college building and the corresponding teaching section of the college. Some of the research staff do some quantum of teaching and most of the teachers are actively engaged in research in their respective fields in addition to their teaching work, thus contributing towards making teaching more effective and research more purposeful.

The Dharwar college was started in the year 1947 by the then Bombay Government to satisfy the aspirations of the Karnataka districts. The course of instructions was four years in duration after the secondary school on the Poona pattern leading to B. Sc. (Agri.) degree. Now the same has been changed to four years after Pre-University on the same lines as at Hebbal.

Simultaneously with the attention to development of collegiate teaching in agriculture, efforts were made to include agriculture on a wider scale as a subject of study in the curricula of elementary and secondary schools. Children at these different stages are gradually introduced to the importance of agriculture in various aspects of national economy. They are educated to learn to live in harmony with natural resources.

There are also post-secondary agricultural schools and training centres, located at different places in the State imparting instruction in practical agriculture to sons of farmers and also village level workers engaged in agricultural development work at the National Extension Service and Community Development Blocks doing intensive development work throughout the State.

The College of Agriculture at Hebbal conducts every year refresher course of a month's duration for agricultural extension officers working in the development blocks in different parts of the State. The extension officers are appraised of the latest development in the different areas of agricultural improvement so that they are better equipped to face practical problems confronting the cultivators. The College also participates in the education of the farmers through the conduct of field days, seminars and other occasions besides short courses for leaders engaged in practical agriculture.

A change over to Land Grant pattern of Agricultural College of America which has helped transformation of their agriculture is underway in the Mysore State also. The University of Agricultural Sciences has been established. It is contemplated that the University would start functioning with the existing Colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Science at Hebbal and the College of Agriculture at Dharwar as its constituent Colleges and gradually establish full-fledged colleges in Dairying, Fisheries, Agricultural Engineering, Horticulture, Home Economics, Forestry, Basic Sciences and Humanities and Post-graduate College so as to be able to carry on the work of Research, Education and Extension in all the aspects of rural living.

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