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*Third*, problems of agriculture, food, or foreign trade in commodities of certain areas of the world, e.g., temperate zones on both sides of the Atlantic or in the southern hemisphere, or areas of Africa, the Middle East, the Far East, and Latin America.

The methods of research used by the staff have been developed under the leadership of the directors over the years, but they are continually tested by international research standards and evaluated by the solidity and usefulness of their results. The Institute has performed for over 40 years with very limited means in intellectual competition with a multitude of national and international, private and public research agencies dealing with essentially the same or similar problems. The Institute's methods are primarily empirical critical study in depth and analysis of specifically defined problems on the basis of all available and accessible data pertinent to the exploration and understanding of cause and effect relations. From their beginning over 40 years ago the studies conducted at the Institute have been supplemented and strengthened in perspective by travel and conferences in foreign countries as well as in the United States. This travel has included inspection of farms and factories and contact with commodity brokerage firms, government agencies, laboratories, other research institutes, and scholars.

The research work is facilitated by the combination of the Institute's own uniquely specialized and valuable research library and the extraordinary wealth of other libraries at Stanford University, first among them the Hoover Library on War, Revolution, and Peace, and next the Document Department of the Main Library.

The Institute devotes the major part of its work capacity to problem-oriented research aimed at significant contribution to knowledge. With its staff of scholars competent in several academic disciplines and with its broad topical research objective, the Institute is decidedly *not a teaching department of the University*. However, as a natural part of its function the Institute makes an important and unique contribution to educational and instructional services, with particular emphasis on international studies. The Institute offers courses, seminars, and directed individual reading courses, mainly for graduate students and selected seniors on subjects within the range of competence of its staff members or of visiting scholars. These courses are open to qualified students of any department in the University. Beyond these offerings the main instructional contribution is the selection, guidance and training of candidates for the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. Candidates for the Ph.D. degree choose their dissertation subject at an early stage of their work in the Institute and continue it as a major piece of independent research under the guidance of staff members.

Every year the Institute offers a substantial number of fellowships to highly qualified candidates for the Ph.D. and makes these offers known in more than 50 countries. Apart from these fellowships, foundations, foreign governments, and international agencies make it possible for graduate students to apply for admission for advanced studies at the Institute. By such highly selective enrollment of qualified applicants from many countries the Institute helps train men and women in academic research skills that are of strategic importance for eco-

# The Food Research Institute

ITS ORIGIN, PURPOSE, HISTORY, METHODS, CONTRIBUTIONS TO KNOWLEDGE,  
AND SOME OF ITS WORK IN PROGRESS

*The Food Research Institute owes its origin to Herbert Hoover's conception of a new kind of internationally important research and to his initiative in implementing his ideas. As United States Food Administrator and Administrator of Relief during and after World War I he had become keenly aware of the inadequacy of knowledge about the world's basic food commodities in times of war, revolution, and peace.*

Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, then President of Stanford University, recognized the need as well as the opportunity for significant research in the field suggested by Mr. Hoover and promptly offered the necessary space, facilities, and academic support for the new venture. A major consideration for the location at Stanford was the University's possession of large and unique historical archives with documentary materials relating to food problems in its Hoover Library on War, Revolution, and Peace. Another consideration was detachment from the hectic short-term interest in food commodity problems prevailing in the metropolitan areas of the East and Middle West.

*The Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Trustees of the University established the Food Research Institute in February 1921 for the purpose of intensive scientific study of the problems of the production, distribution, and consumption of food.*

The Food Research Institute at Stanford University is today a semi-autonomous academic research enterprise of international studies within one of the privately endowed institutions of higher learning in the United States. As such it functions as an independent, nongovernmental and nonprofit research body of scholars competent in a variety of disciplines of the social sciences, primarily economics. Its research staff, presently comprising some twenty scholars, is engaged in studies concerning three major types of problems related to agriculture, food, and trade in major organic commodities in their broadest worldwide perspectives:

*First*, basic research on institutional and structural economic affairs such as land and water resource law, property in land, agricultural credit, inheritance, land distribution, agrarian reform, national diets, population growth, growth of agricultural productivity, price supports, cartelization of agriculture, international commodity agreements and controls;

*Second*, problems concerning production, processing, transportation, marketing, foreign trade, and prices of commodities produced in agriculture and commodities used as input in agriculture or competing with major agricultural products;

nomic development, education, research, public administration, and better business in many parts of the world.

In the course of its history the Institute has rendered important public service also by having made its directors and staff members available to the governments of the United States and other countries, as well as to international agencies, foundations, universities, and civic organizations at their request when the unique experience and competence of the staff or its resources were needed.

The results of research by its staff members are published as books, chapters contributed to books, pamphlets and special papers, as well as articles in professional journals. Major essays and articles appear in the Institute's own periodical **FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE STUDIES**.