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INDIAN SOCIETY OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
BOMBAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I. SEMINAR ON "PROBLEMS OF COST STUDIES IN AGRICULTURE"

The Society in collaboration with the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics will hold a Seminar on "Problems of Cost Studies in Agriculture" from 27th October to 5th November, 1960 (both days inclusive) at Matheran. The purpose of the Seminar is to examine critically and in sufficient detail the various problems confronted in cost studies in Agriculture with a view to providing guidance to research workers concerned with such studies as well as to set out various methods of analysis of cost data and their applications. A synopsis on the subject has been prepared which is appended at the end. Two leading Papers on each of the groups listed in the synopsis are invited from eminent persons. A select number of senior economists are being invited to participate in the Seminar. Arrangements will be made for the participants for their board and lodge at Matheran by the sponsors of the Seminar. Travelling and incidental expenses will, however, have to be borne by the participants or by the institutions deputing them.

SYNOPSIS OF SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION

The various problems concerned with cost studies in Agriculture are divided into the following five groups for the purpose of discussion.

1. *The Approach to Cost Studies in Agriculture*

The question of appropriate approach to be adopted, for example, farm approach, commodity approach, etc., questions like length of period of study, whether continuing or at intervals, have to be considered in this connection.

2. *Design of Cost Studies in Agriculture*

This group will include problems of choice of universe for study, methods of sampling, size of sample, methods of measurement and ascertainment including alternatives like farm recording and survey methods, procedures of estimation and presentation of results, e.g., averages, frequency distribution, etc., calculation of indicators such as an Index of cost of cultivation.

3. *Concepts and Definitions*

This group will include problems of composition of cost and definition of one or more costs depending upon inclusion or exclusion of various components such as family labour, rent, interest, depreciation, allowances for management and risks, etc. Problems of economic interpretation of costs thus defined will also form part of this group.

4. *Principles of Evaluation and Apportionment of Items of Cost*

Under evaluation problems of evaluating family labour, labour of owned bullocks and other unpaid costs such as rent on owned land and interest on owned capital, depreciation of farm structures, equipment, etc., have to be considered.

Problems of apportionment refer to individual enterprises, main and by-products, joint products, mixed crops, etc. Items which need particular attention are depreciation on farm structures and equipment, interest on fixed assets, rent of land, manuring and other improvements having long-term effects.

5. *Uses of Cost Studies*

Under this group uses of cost studies in agriculture, *e.g.*, input-output relationships, price policy, farm management advice and extension, etc., will be considered.

II. TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY, DECEMBER, 1960

The 20th Annual Conference of our Society will be held at Chandigarh under the auspices of Punjab University. The tentative dates fixed are from 21st December to 25th December both days inclusive. The final programme will be communicated to you in due course.

The following subjects are selected for discussion at the Conference :

1. Problems of Marketable Surplus in Indian Agriculture.
2. Economics of Mixed Farming in Different Regions.
3. Distribution of Incomes in the Rural Sector in India.

We shall be glad to have a paper from you on any of the above subjects. The paper should be as far as possible based on original research and personal investigation. The paper is expected not to exceed 3,500 words or about 8 printed pages and should be sent in *duplicate*.

As was done last year, the rapporteurs will prepare summaries of papers on various subjects which will be circulated in advance to the members. In order to facilitate the preparation and circulation of summaries of papers well in advance of the Conference, the papers should reach the Society's office not later than 15th October, 1960. The papers received after the time limit will in no case be entertained either for discussion at the Conference or for publication in the *Journal*. The acceptance of the paper for the purpose of the Conference is at the discretion of the President of the Conference.

III. XIth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

Dear Friend,

As the Regional Secretary for Asia of the International Conference of Agricultural Economists, I have pleasure in approaching you and seeking your cooperation in enlarging the membership of the International Conference of Agricultural Economists as well as for securing a larger participation of the members at the forthcoming Conference to be held in Mexico in August, 1961.

As you are aware, agricultural economics and economic advisory services with respect to world agricultural problems are coming more and more in the forefront; and this is the only organisation which has concerned itself with the holding of Conferences at the international level for the discussion of the fundamental, as well as the practical problems in the sphere of agricultural economics. The organisation provides an opportunity to professional economists to put forward their views on a theme of general interest to all countries once in three years. In addition, those who attend the Conference get the opportunity of discussing the various problems with their fellow workers from other countries.

The chief objectives of the Conference are: (i) to foster development of the science of agricultural economics in different countries and (ii) to further the application of the results of economic investigation of agricultural processes and agricultural organisation in the improvement of economic and social conditions relating to agriculture and rural life.

The Conference was first organised in 1929 in England and since then there have been 10 Conference Meetings, the last of which was held at Mysore in India in 1958. At the last Meeting about 300 economists from 58 countries participated in the discussions. The membership fee is £2 for a period of three years and can be remitted either to me at the Society's address or directly to Dr. Joseph Ackerman, Farm Foundation, 600 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago 5, Illinois, U.S.A.

The privileges of membership include : (i) A well-bound printed volume of the Proceedings of the last Conference held in India. These Proceedings include much of current topical interest. Moreover, it is a useful reference publication. (ii) It also includes the list of names of those who participated together with their work affiliation in their respective countries. This list provides the possibility of direct contacts with the members to obtain economic or other information. (iii) The Conference has arranged an index and abstracts service for most, if not all, of the publications in the field of agricultural economics throughout the world. This is available to members who may wish it on an annual fee subscription basis from: Dr. Sigmund v. Frauendorfer, Editor, World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts, C/o. Bibliothek den Hochschule fur, Bodenkultur, VIENNA-XVIII/110, Austria. (iv) The members of the International Conference will have full voting rights at the Mexico Meeting or any other Meeting which may be held. There are no delegates in the strict sense of the term. The membership is for the Conference period, *i.e.*, for about 3 years or so.

The next Conference will be held in Mexico in August, 1961 and the preliminary preparations for the same are already in progress. We shall let you know the programme of the Conference as soon as it is finalised. We hope to secure a larger participation of members to this Conference specially from the Asian countries. I trust and hope that you will not only enrol yourself as a member but also secure a wider membership from the country and the profession.

A line in reply will be very much appreciated.

Yours truly,
D. G. KARVE

**IV. A SCHEME FOR THE UTILIZATION OF THE SERVICES OF
RETIRED SCIENTISTS IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY AND ALLIED SCIENCES
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

The existing rules regarding superannuation sometimes put an abrupt end of the research work of an active scientist or, at any rate, make the continuation of such work extremely difficult as a result of which the talent of a good number of scientists who are physically fit and mentally alert is wasted after retirement for lack of opportunities to pursue work in their fields of specialization. In order that the experience and talent of such scientists as have finished with their active professional career is not wasted, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has decided to initiate, with effect from the 1st April, 1960, a scheme for the utilization of the services of retired scientists in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry and allied sciences.

2. Under the scheme retired/retiring scientists of established reputation who are still active in research will be enabled to continue their researches with suitable financial assistance from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The retired or retiring scientist should try to secure sponsoring Institution (which may be one from which he has retired or a different one) which would provide him necessary facilities for continuing his work, *e.g.*, access to the laboratory and library, accommodation for work, etc. Failing this, the scientist may apply to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Council will try to place him in a suitable Institution. The choice of the Institution at which the retired scientist would continue his researches will be left to the scientist himself but such Institution should be one acceptable to the Council. The retired or retiring scientist (within a year of his retirement) will submit to the Council, an outline scheme of research which he intends to undertake after retirement. In doing so, he will clearly give an account of the research work done by him during the five years preceding the date of his retirement or application whichever is later.

3. An annual allowance not exceeding Rs. 6,000 will be provided to the retired scientist himself, if asked for by him, and a grant ordinarily not exceeding Rs. 4,000 to cover the cost of one research assistant and other expenses as may be decided by the Council. The amount of the grant may be increased in exceptional cases where the investigations involve field work necessitating undertaking of tours or where costly equipment apparatus have to be purchased.

4. The allowances and grants to the scientists under the scheme will be provided, in the first instance, for a period of three years only. As usual, annual progress reports shall be submitted to the Council by the scientist. Where the retired scientist would like the grant to be renewed, he will have to submit a year in advance of the termination of the first sanction, an application to that effect indicating the progress made under the scheme and the programme proposed to be followed during subsequent years. The allowances and grants to the retired scientists will be payable on a quarterly basis through the Institution to which the retired scientist is attached.

All applications for grant under the scheme should be submitted to the Council in the prescribed proforma which can be obtained, free of cost, from the Secretary, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi.