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THE ROLE OF THE GUYANA SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Role in Caribbean Agricultural Development

For several years now the Guyana School of Agriculture has been reserving a number of places for the training of students from the Caribbean area in Agricultural Science and we have, as the table in the appendix will show, accepted for training so far a total of 53.

- (a) The Diploma Course is open to men and women over 17 years who have been successful in at least 4 subjects at the G.C.E. 'O' level (English and a Science subject being compulsory) or have some equivalent qualification, or have been trained teachers recommended for training in Agricultural Science by their Governments. The trainees on graduating will be competent to serve as Agricultural Field Assistants or teachers of Agriculture in schools.
- (b) The Certificate course caters for the candidate who is not as well qualified academically but is sufficiently intelligent or keen to be able to cope with the course which is designed along lines similar to the Diploma programme but at a lower level. The successful candidate will be capable of serving as an Assistant Field Assistant.

At the end of the current academic year the total number of graduates turned out over the 15 years of our existence would be well over 600. About 10 per cent of these have proceeded on to University courses - (at UWI and North American colleges) and earned themselves first and second degrees within a relatively short time.

The Areas of Interest and Activity

The areas of interest and activity include:

- (i) The Basic Sciences and Social Sciences
- (ii) General Crop Husbandry - in two ecologically different areas - rice (as a major crop), legumes, root crops, plantains
- (iii) Animal Husbandry - poultry (broilers and layers), cattle, pigs.
- (iv) Food Science - processing of foods: canning, bottling, pickling and drying.

Summary of Past Activities and Results Achieved

Apart from the number of students turned out, who from reports received are performing creditably in their several fields, emphasis has been placed on the production of several items of food to meet their needs and to generate funds (over 55 per cent during last year) through livestock and rice farming and other activities to help meet the cost of running the institution.

List of Activities in which Involved at Present and Future Activities Planned

The activities are not limited to farm practices. An average of 40 per cent of the students' time is spent in the classrooms, the other 60 per cent in the library, laboratory and field work. There is a very active extra-curriculum activity.

Sources of Funding

Mainly from the Guyana Government assisted by the school's ability to generate funds and from organisations such as CIDA and US groups.

Distribution of Professional Staff

Distribution of professional staff is as follows:

<u>Full-time Lecturers</u>	<u>Part-time Lecturers</u>
1. Principal - Farm Management Marketing Extension Education	1. Lecturer - Physics
2. Principal Lecturer - Rural Sociology Farm Management	2. Lecturer - Mathematics
3. Senior Lecturer - Animal Husbandry Farm Manager	3. Lecturer - Farm Accounts
4. Senior Lecturer - Food Technology (on leave)	4. Lecturer - Cooperatives
5. Lecturer - English Communications	5. Lecturer - Plant Protection
6. Lecturer - Biology	6. Lecturer - Vet. Science
7. Lecturer - Botany	7. Lecturer - Microbiology
8. Lecturer - Chemistry	8. Lecturer - Economics
9. Lecturer - Crop Husbandry/Soils	9. Lecturer - Rice
10. Lecturer - Food Science and Human Nutrition	10. Lecturer - Seed Production
11. Lecturer - Agric. Machinery	11. Lecturer - Hydrology, Soil and Water Conservation
12. 13, 14 - Asst. Farm Managers	