



The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

No endorsement of AgEcon Search or its fundraising activities by the author(s) of the following work or their employer(s) is intended or implied.

Vol. 1, No. 1

PRICE 20c

Jan. 1962



QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMICS AND MARKETING



GENERAL, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. FOUNDING OF AN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC SOCIETY

The founders' meeting of the Agricultural Economic Society was held in Pretoria on the 28th and 29th of November, 1961. Simultaneously a conference was held, having as its subject "The task of the agricultural economist". His task as academician, leader in farm management, marketing economist, statistician, production economist and policy maker was brought under the search-light. It is a coincidence, but also very appropriate, that the founding of the agricultural economic society can be announced in the first issue of "Agrekon".

The objectives of the Society are -

- (a) advancement of the science of agricultural economics through stimulation of research, discussion, etc. of agricultural economic problems of the Republic of South Africa; and
- (b) contribution to the formulation of a sound agricultural economic policy for South Africa by taking into consideration available information and results of economic research.

Prof. F.R. Tomlinson was elected as the first chairman of the society, with Mr. S.P. van Wyk (vice-chairman), J.C. Strydom (secretary), L.W.A. Nel (treasurer), D.J.G. Smith and Prof. H.I. Behrman as additional members of the directing committee. Enquiries and applications for membership of the Society should be directed to the Secretary, Private Bag 246, Pretoria.

2. INDICES OF THE VOLUME OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PRODUCERS' PRICES AND PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND REQUISITES

It has now become necessary to calculate all economic series on a postwar basis. Economic development has now reached such a level that a prewar basis and structure is no longer realistic in all respects.

As the agricultural sector is subject to wide fluctuations in production, as well as in respect of certain prices, a base period had to be selected which was more or less "normal". With this end in view, the period 1947/48 - 1949/50 has been selected as the postwar base period.

The abovementioned economic indicators in agriculture have now been recalculated on the new base period; the new indices are being published for the first time in this journal.

It may further be pointed out that a combined index of agricultural equipment and requisites has been calculated, while the index of producers' prices has now been extended to include oilseeds and horticultural products.

This work has been carried out under the direction of Mr. L.W.A. Nel of the Division of Economics and Markets. In the next issue of this journal an article will be published on calculation of the gross and net value of agricultural production and the compilation of indices of prices.

3. CALCULATION OF THE GROSS AND NET VALUE OF
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ON A REGIONAL BASIS

Due to differences in the physical, climatic and economic characteristics of the various agricultural regions, it is essential that the agricultural potential, as well as the relative contribution to total production, be determined according to regions. The desirability of this step is emphasised by the extension and establishment also of other industries within specific regions. With statistics available on a regional basis, the economic structure and development, of agriculture in particular, can be determined with greater efficiency.

4. HANDBOOK OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

The Handbook of Agricultural Statistics is now available. It was only from 1935 that a systematic and persistent attempt was made by anybody to collect in one office continuous series of statistics of the various aspects of the South African Agricultural Industry. In that year a start was made in this respect by the Division of Economics and Markets.

It is trusted that research workers, students, writers, agricultural leaders and others, who from time to time need reliable figures on some aspect or other of happenings in the past in respect of agriculture, would find in this Handbook a valuable source of information. Its object is a reference work and it has been compiled accordingly. Apart from the figures provided, the source of information, as well as other explanatory notes, are given as footnotes to the tables. All reasonable precautions were taken to ensure the greatest measure of accuracy in the publication, but, should a reader have any doubt about a figure, it would be appreciated if he could approach the Chief of the Division of Economics and Markets for confirmation.

The Handbook is obtainable from the Director of Soil Conservation and Extension, Private Bag 144, Pretoria.
(The price is R6.00.)