



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA  
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 1950. When the United Fruit Company established this school it had in mind two objectives, first, the training of sound agriculturists, and second, stimulation of interest throughout tropical America in the practical sort of education it was proposed to impart here. In our January News Letter we mentioned that the government of Ecuador was planning to establish a vocational school of tropical agriculture at Daule, near Guayaquil, and had sent Ing. Absalón Tola Barcia here to study our program and physical plant. We have now received a request from Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, where a similar project is under consideration. "We are advised", writes Sr J. R. Fernández, "that we might well take your school as the model for our project."

The big event of the month was the filling of our two silos. This occupied the second and third year boys for a full week. The first silo was filled with sorghum obtained from Costa Rica, which was not very sweet, plus a good percentage of pigeon pea tops; the second with a mixture of Guatemala grass (Tripsacum latifolium), pigeon pea tops and sugar cane.

The mango season has just about come to an end. The following varieties were in production this year: Amini, Aroemanis, Carabao, Gadoeng, Golek, Haden, Julie, Madoc and Mulgoba. Since the students have acquired rather extensive field experience in sampling mangos (though not always under the most favorable conditions) the class in horticulture was asked to vote upon the respective merits of these varieties. They were told in advance that they should vote for the variety they would choose if they could only have one mango tree, and the fruit was not to be put on the market but was for their personal consumption. There were 38 votes in favor of Haden, 5 in favor of Julie, 4 in favor of Mulgoba and 2 in favor of Amini. No one was much impressed by any of the four varieties from Java: Aroemanis, Gadoeng, Golek and Madoc. Since the big problem in mango culture at this particular place is control of flies of the genus Anastrepha, the larvae of which commonly infest the fruit, students were asked if they had found any variety practically free from these larvae. All agreed that Julie showed very slight infestation, and that the worst is Haden. We suspect that one or two other varieties may have been as badly infested as Haden, but the boys' attention was called to the latter because there were so many more fruits produced and examined.

There were relatively few visitors during the month. Mr John K Olyphant Jr., of New York, brought his family here on the 5th for an overnight stay. Mr. Olyphant is a member of the Board of Directors of the United Fruit Company. The Ambassador of Israel to Central America, Hon. Moshé Tov, came on the 7th, accompanied by Mrs Tov and the Consul of Israel in Tegucigalpa, Mr. Jacobo Wezenblut. We were greatly interested in discussing with Ambassador Tov the possibility of our cooperating in the horticultural development of Israel through sending propagating material of our new hybrid avocados from Mexico. On the 12th we were happy to receive Mr. Claud L. Horn of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, with whom we discussed many of our horticultural problems. On the 24th we were visited by Messrs Martin Connelly and J. K. Simms of the General Office, United Fruit Company.