



MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 1954. We assume the end of the year is the right time to stand back and review achievements, as well as to repent sins of omission and commission. One sheet will not suffice for these latter.

As we look back over the year, some of the things which stand out are the following: the good work our graduates are doing in Extension, Education and Experimentation throughout tropical America. "By their fruits ye shall know them". Another source of satisfaction is the increasingly large number of our graduates who, with the aid of scholarships or under their own steam, go to the United States to work toward baccalaureate degrees--this year for the first time one is after a Master's. While we started out as a vocational school, and as far as we can now see, should not attempt a higher level (because we feel vocational training is the first great need in tropical America); the increasing demand for professionals makes us like the idea that some of our graduates can and should get on that level--and up to now, not one of those who have gone abroad for further study has let us down.

We feel--and we hope not wrongly--that this year we have strengthened materially our program, especially on the classroom end. The problem is to keep work in all subjects on the same level. For example, biology must be in line with the courses in horticulture and field crops; mathematics must prepare a student for our simple courses in agricultural engineering and farm administration. Proper coordination of the various subjects has always been a problem, and perhaps always will be.

In the field, we produced our largest crop of oranges and grapefruit; also an abundance of mangos and avocados, not to mention all the vegetables we could use--with exception of the weeks following the heavy rains of late summer. At that time we simply have to hold off and accept the complaints of the Mess Hall. Our experiments with Temperate Zone fruits at our high-altitude orchard on Uyaca (6,000 feet) are continuing to provide results of practical value. Expanded use of the veneer graft in our nurseries, under direction of Mario Jalil, has given excellent results.

Our corn fields, planted by Professor Morcillo before he left for advanced study at Michigan State College, gave us the largest crop we have ever harvested. The experiment started by Dr. Dijkman with paddy (inundated) rice is coming along well and may point the way to increased production of this highly valuable cereal.

Our dairy herd, developed through the use of imported Jersey and Guernsey bulls during the past ten years, has reached the point where we were able to release a number of fine young heifers to the Honduran Government, to save time in the development of dairy cattle at the Centro Nacional de Ganaderia in Comayagua. Through careful feeding Professor Rodolfo Zamora has maintained production above 20 lbs. of milk per cow per day--some cows have produced much more. Professor Guillermo Herrera has turned out in quantity the best cheese we have ever made, while Professor Julio Pineda has kept our production of chickens and eggs at a high level and has added ducks to our program. Professor Walter Fick has continued to train the boys in the handling and cutting of beef and has prepared excellent ham and bacon. From our fifty colonies of bees we took one thousand quarts of honey, without any expense to us for bee labor.