



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA  
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

### MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER 1952: From the 11th to the 15th Escuela Agrícola Panamericana had the honor of acting as host to staff and students of the "Curso Internacional de Silvicultura Tropical" which gathered this year in Honduras, under the auspices of the Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agrícolas and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Led by Dr. Leslie R. Holdridge, Dr. Joseph Tosi, and Dr. Frederick H. Vogel the group of professional foresters and students spent the week here in discussions and field trips. About twenty students took part, representing Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti and Puerto Rico.

Harvesting of field crops occupied much of our time during the month. Luis Morcillo reports the following interesting figures: Rocol-101 variety of maize from Colombia yielded at the rate of 54 bushels per acre. This was without fertilizer of any sort. Magnolia rice produced 26 cwt of rice in the hull, equivalent to 18 cwt of clean rice per acre.

We have always been interested in comparing yields of sweet potatoes (Nancy Hall variety) and yuca (sweet cassava). This year for the first time we have obtained some good figures. A crop of sweet potatoes recently harvested yielded at the rate of 190 cwt per acre; a crop of yuca 500 cwt. It takes approximately twice as long to produce a crop of yuca as it does a crop of sweet potatoes -- ten months as against five months. Both crops can be grown here at all seasons of the year.

Walter Fick took 310 liters of strained honey from our 35 hives of bees. This goes well in the students' mess hall.

Our staff was increased by the arrival of two new employees from Great Britain: Harry S. Gordon, who recently finished his training in horticulture at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and Kenneth H. Gaston, who studied animal husbandry at the University of Reading. With the assistance of Mr. Gordon we hope to increase our work of plant introduction and the propagation of new varieties of fruits and other plants for distribution; Mr. Gaston will assist in the department of animal industry.

The horticultural department was the scene of much activity. Sour orange rootstocks were budded to Washington Navel and Hamlin oranges; Marsh Seedless grapefruit and the Persian Lime. Avocado rootstocks were budded to Simmonds (considered here our best variety of the West Indian race), Pollock, and a number of the Mexican x Guatemalan hybrids introduced in 1947 and 1948 from Atlitxoo, State of Puebla, Mexico. Many roses were budded on rosa macho rootstocks.

Visitors were numerous during the month, especially on Saturdays and Sundays. Among these were a group of normal school girls from San Salvador; a group of pharmacy students and normal school students from Tegucigalpa; and the teachers and students from the Instituto de Oriente in Danlí. Miss Emma Reh, nutritionist of the FAO, spent two days with us. Mr. Crede Calhoun, representative of The New York Times in Central America, paid one of his periodic and welcome visits. Ing. Rafael Callejas, president of the Banco de Fomento Agrícola de Honduras, brought out two technicians, one from CEPAL and one from UNTAA. Peter R. Ellis from the Centro Panamericano de la Fiebre Aftosa, Rio de Janeiro, and Mr. David Hellyer of the University of Florida, came for short stays with us; while early in the month two architects from El Salvador, Ing. Renato Romero and Ing. Rafael Cordero, spent several days here with a view to getting full information regarding our set-up and program, to be used by the government of their country in the establishment of a vocational school of this type at San Andrés.