



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA  
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

### MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER 1955.-- Once in a while we like to sit back and reflect upon the dual purpose of an agricultural school in tropical America. Of course, the primary object is to turn out well-trained agriculturists. In our opinion, this involves a well-balanced combination of theory and practice. Without the latter, a man is not prepared to go out and show others how to do the job; and without the former he is not prepared to tell them why they should do it a certain way.

While training young men, a school can at the same time do a great deal for the development of its particular country or region. This has been brought home to us during the month by two new projects which officers of FAO, who are working in cooperation with the government of Honduras, plan to set up at Zamorano. Doctor Leonardo Valerani desires to use our facilities for artificial insemination of dairy--and perhaps beef--cattle. In this connection, Ing. José Blas Henríquez hijo, Director General de Ganadería y Veterinaria, thinks that the program of artificial insemination for Honduras can be advanced rapidly and materially through using a number of our 3/4 and 7/8 Guernsey and Jersey bulls. These are good animals, adapted to Honduran conditions. After twelve years of up-grading, we are producing a lot of them. In this project our new veterinarian, Dr. Ramón Peruga, will be of much assistance.

Our dairy herd, which is in the hands of Professor Rodolfo Zamora, is yielding 800 quarts of milk per day. Professor Guillermo Herrera, in charge of the creamery, is turning out Cheddar-type cheese so good that he is receiving many compliments. Dr. F. P. Keating of the FAO says we can make other types and he is going to help us do it. We are strong for the idea because we believe there is a great future for dairy products in this part of the world.

Another field in which there are splendid opportunities is that of plant introduction and improvement. George Freytag, who spent a year with us working on beans, selected a variety so good that STICA, which operates the agricultural extension service in Honduras, is distributing large quantities of seed.

We have introduced and distributed superior varieties of yuca (sweet cassava, an important food crop) from Colombia; the Puerto Rico sweet potato; several sugar cane varieties; leguminous plants for use as green manures and cover crops; several superior types of corn; and citrus fruits, avocados and mangos which are now being propagated rapidly and in quantity by Professor Mario Jalil and his assistant, Adán Rivera. Our collection of apples, pears, peaches, plums and other rosaceous fruits at our mountain-top orchard on Uyuca (6000 feet) is bringing to light valuable information for horticulturists in the highlands. We believe we have the best collection of these fruits in Central America.

Professor Eduardo Jiménez S., one of our graduates who recently returned after taking his M.Sc. degree at the University of Florida, is working with vegetable crops. Onions and tomatoes are the two which interest us most. During the past rainy season (and it has been the heaviest experienced here in our time) the San Marzano tomato has shown remarkable resistance and has kept our tables supplied with tomato soup when no other variety in our garden was able to survive.