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INFORMATION CIRCULAR

Date

April 1969

13892

Classification

Agricultural Education
and Extension

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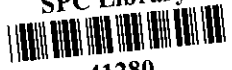
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Agricultural Education - Bulletin No. 1

Foreword

The resolves we made in September, 1967 to keep in touch with one another by various means have not been forgotten by any of us, but attempts by several participants to take action along these lines have fallen victim to circumstances over which none of us have had much control.

This bulletin is a first brief attempt by two of us to keep faith with those who attended the Technical Meeting or those who kindly answered Mr Sutherland's request for information. Replies were received from 14 people.

We have confidence that these bulletins will continue to be published and will become a more effective medium in the exchange of ideas. The Eighth South Pacific Conference and the Thirty-first Session of the Commission have authorized the appointment of an officer to deal with agricultural education and agricultural extension methods. We trust that when this officer is appointed, he will be able to help us to keep in touch with one another and with current ideas in this field, and will be responsible for issues of these bulletins.

We hope that we can look forward to your support and that you will send in articles, questions or items of news. Would you care to begin by letting us have your reactions to this bulletin?

Editors (J.A. Sutherland,
(Teachers' College, Armidale.
(
(M. Lambert,
(South Pacific Commission.

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General Trends

A number of general trends in agricultural education have become apparent since 1967. Firstly, the 3 agricultural Colleges continue to grow and develop and are making significant progress. Important aspects of their development include the unusual training in extension methods at Vudal and the interesting and useful research programme in progress at Alafua. Provision of greater extension experience and the training of women extension officers are important trends at Koronivia.

Secondly, there is a significant growth of the teaching of agriculture in the secondary schools. The biggest developments here are in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, but school agriculture is also growing in the Cook Islands, in Tonga and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Plans are completed for agricultural education via television in American Samoa and it will be interesting to watch this development.

Thirdly, the picture with regard to the vocational schools of agriculture is not encouraging and it is obvious that there are great problems in running this kind of institution. The Trust Territory Farm Institute in Ponape closed down in June 1968. The School of Agriculture at Port Laguerre in New Caledonia is at present in the process of a change which will better adapt it to the needs of the Territory and, within the field of Agricultural Education, to that form of training given in Metropolitan France. The Kukum School of Agriculture in Guadalcanal is being incorporated in The Technical Institute there. On the other hand the Agricultural Training Institute at Popondetta is expanding rapidly but is in a rather different position from the other farm institutes. The Ponape Agriculture and Trade School and the Navuso Agricultural School are doing well, but again, these are different from the usual form of this institute.

A number of interesting developments in farmer training schemes are evolving, and it is clear that further developments are bound to occur.

Reading through the reports sent to us by teachers, Principals, Directors of Agriculture etc., it is clear that the greatest problems we are all battling with in agricultural education are the deeply-ingrained social attitudes towards farming as a way of life. It would seem that the only hope we have of making progress is by seeking to identify these attitudes and making plans which take them into account. The attitudes themselves cannot be altered.

Personal Items

After three and a half years as Director of the School of Agriculture at Port Laguerre and on return from leave in France, Michel Lambert was appointed tropical agriculturalist at the South Pacific Commission.

Manuel Sproat who, as Director of Agriculture, has done so much in guiding agricultural education in the Trust Territory, has been on leave in the States.

Aubrey Sweeney has also been on leave from Kukum, and was very disappointed at being unable to join us for the Technical Meeting. He is hard at work guiding the new agriculture courses at Guadalcanal's Technical Institute.

Jean Dourthe has returned to France at the completion of his term of service with B.D.P.A. in French Polynesia.

Tom Hatakeyama is busy as Director of Agriculture in American Samoa and is currently interested in the programme designed to increase the growing of Taro.

Peter Radford has just graduated his first students and is very pleased with their reaction to the challenging curriculum.

Steve Jackson has signed on for a further term in Rarotonga and is very involved in all aspects of agricultural education in the Cooks. Like many others he is disturbed by some aspects of the "escalation" of tourism in the Pacific Islands.

Ken Reakes-Williams is happy about his augmented staff and has been interested in developing co-operation with the Community Development Centre.

Syd Saville is involved widely in various developments in Agricultural Education in the Territory. His hands are full with accommodation for 170 students at Vudal, and with his position as Chief of the new Branch of Education and Training within his Department.

Father Soucie S.J. writes of progress at the Ponape Agriculture and Trade School and of his desire for contact with others working in agricultural education.

Gordon Dick is the new Principal of the Institute at Popondetta and reports greatly increased enrolments and a lowering of the age of students at entry.

Bob Ellis is working at the headquarters of the Education Department in Fiji and is currently interested in new developments in the Young Farmers' Clubs.

Tom Lamin has left the Gilberts and has now joined the Education Department in Suva as Education Officer (Curriculum).

David Ivra is now working in agricultural extension in Ponape, specifically in Cacao production.

Geoff Bamford is involved widely in developments in agricultural education in Fiji and his wide experience will prove useful in guiding new trends. His approach to the problem of practical work in schools of agriculture is interesting and in our next Bulletin produced in this SPC Information Circular series, we will publish his article entitled "Developing desirable attitudes to physical work".

The South Pacific Association of Agricultural Education.

At present it does not appear that we can make much progress until:-

- (a) an Agricultural Education Officer is appointed by the Commission and
- (b) There is some prospect of our having a meeting.

Would you like to let us know your thoughts and wishes on this matter?

Original Text: English

Noumea, April 1969

ISSUED IN THIS SERIES

Classification

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Annual Conference of O.I.E. held in Paris 13-18 May 1968, Report of SPC Observer. September 1968 | Livestock Production and Health |
| 2. South Pacific Commission Publications' Series - Recent Developments. October 1968 | Publication |
| 3. Free Diving Without Breathing Apparatus - Its Accidents. March 1969 | Public Health |
| 4. "A" Level: Australia's Notification on Bovine Pleuropneumonia Regulations. March 1969 | Plant and Animal Quarantine |
| 5. Study Tour to Noumea, Brisbane, Territory of Papua and New Guinea and British Solomon Islands Protectorate. March 1969 | Tropical Crops |
| 6. "A" Level: Agricultural Education - Bulletin No. 1. April 1969 | Agricultural Education |