

Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux

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Origin and Constitution

THE Imperial Agricultural Research Conference of 1927 recommended the establishment of eight bureaux to collect, collate and disseminate information on research in eight selected branches of agricultural science. The Conference also recommended that each bureau should be located at an Institute already well known for research in its particular branch, and that the cost of the bureaux be met from a common fund formed by contributions from Empire Government. As a result of these recommendations, the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux came into being in April, 1929. In 1932, the Imperial Institute of Entomology and Imperial Mycological Institute were formed, while the Imperial Bureaux of Dairy Science, and Forestry, started work in 1938.

On the 1st January, 1948, the name of the organization was changed from "Imperial Agricultural Bureaux" to "Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux". Ceylon's financial contribution to the Bureaux is Rs. 30,000/-, voted annually in the Budget by Special Law.

The Executive Council controls the destinies of the Bureaux, and each member-Government has a representative on this body. H. E. the High Commissioner for Ceylon in the United Kingdom is Ceylon's representative on it.

Functions

These were laid down in 1928, following the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference, and have been amended and added to by successive Review Conferences. In brief, the Institutes and Bureaux act as clearing-houses for information of value to scientists and research workers in agriculture and forestry. They collect information by scanning and indexing, as far as possible, all journals in their subjects in all languages, and by keeping directly in touch with research in progress. They distribute this information by the periodical issue of fourteen abstract journals, by the publication of monographs reviewing some particular subject within their field, and by answering queries put direct by scientists and research workers, and in other ways. They also assist research workers by giving information about research centres, by arranging meetings, by arranging the exchange of experimental material, by giving information on post-graduate courses of study, on the sources of supply of apparatus, equipment, plants, stock, and so on. With the exception of certain work done at the Institutes, the organization neither undertakes nor initiates research. It is an intelligence service which keeps abreast of the results of research. Close touch is maintained with the Commonwealth countries and individual bureaux by a system of "official correspondents", whereby each participating Government nominates a scientist who specializes in the subject of the bureau and keeps it informed of research developments in each country.

Publications

The following list shows the Institutes or Bureaux, their addresses, and the abstract journals regularly published, with the first year of publication:—

COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE OF ENTOMOLOGY, 41, Queen's Gate, London, S. W. 7, England. *Review of Applied Entomology* (Series A—Agricultural) 1913. Monthly. *Review of Applied Entomology* (Series B—Medical & Veterinary) 1913. Monthly.

COMMONWEALTH MYCOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, Ferry Lane, Kew, Surrey, England. *Review of Applied Mycology*. 1922. Monthly.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL PARASITOLOGY, Winches Farm Drive, Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England. *Helminthological Abstracts* (Incorporating Bibliography of Helminthology) 1932. Five parts yearly.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF ANIMAL BREEDING AND GENETICS, Institute of Animal Genetics, King's Buildings, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, Scotland. *Animal Breeding Abstracts*. 1933. Quarterly.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF ANIMAL HEALTH, Veterinary Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Surrey, England. *Veterinary Bulletin*. 1931. Monthly.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF ANIMAL NUTRITION, Rowett Research Institute, Bucksburn, Aberdeen, Scotland. *Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews*. 1931. Quarterly.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF DAIRY SCIENCE, National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, Reading, England. *Dairy Science Abstracts*. 1939. Monthly.

COMMONWEALTH FORESTRY BUREAU, Imperial Forestry Institute, South Parks Road, Oxford, England. *Forestry Abstracts*, 1939, Quarterly.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF HORTICULTURE AND PLANTATION CROPS, East Malling Research Station, East Malling, Kent, England. *Horticultural Abstracts*. 1931. Quarterly.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF PASTURES AND FIELD CROPS, Hurley, Nr. Maidenhead, Berkshire, England. *Herbage Abstracts*. 1933. Quarterly. *Field Crop Abstracts*. 1948. Quarterly.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF PLANT BREEDING AND GENETICS, Cambridge, England. *Plant Breeding Abstracts*. 1930. Quarterly.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF SOIL SCIENCE, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, England. *Soils and Fertilizers*. 1938. Bi-monthly.

In addition to the abstracts journals, there are certain other regular periodicals for which the organization is responsible. These are:—

- Bulletin of Entomological Research. 1910. Quarterly.
- Zoological Record (Part Insecta). Yearly.
- Distribution Maps of Insect Pests. 1951. 12 per year.
- Commonwealth Institute of Entomology.
- Supplements to the Review of Applied Mycology. 1940. Twice yearly.
- Distribution Maps of Plant Diseases. 1942. 24 per year.
- Annotated Bibliography of Medical Mycology. 1944. Yearly.
- Bibliography of Systematic Mycology. 1947. Yearly.
- Commonwealth Mycological Institute.
- Index Veterinarius. 1933. Yearly.
- Commonwealth Bureau of Animal Health.

Each member-Government receives a free quota of the above journals, the size of the quota being related to the number of units of contribution paid by each Government. Ceylon's quota is thirty journals, which are constituted as follows:—

Bulletin of Entomological Research	...	...	...	...	2	copies
Review of Applied Entomology, Series A	...	...	...	...	5	..
Review of Applied Entomology, Series B	...	...	...	...	5	..
Review of Applied Mycology	...	...	...	...	7	..

Soils and Fertilizers	...	...	...	...	...	1	copy
Veterinary Bulletin	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Animal Breeding Abstracts	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Plant Breeding Abstracts	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Herbage Abstracts	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Horticultural Abstracts	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Helminthological Abstracts	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Dairy Science Abstracts	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Forestry Abstracts	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Forestry Abstracts	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Field Crop Abstracts	...	...	...	...	...	1	„

These regular publications are supplemented by occasional publications which are reviews of published work on particular problems, especially those of current interest, or descriptions of experimental practice. These are variously known as Technical Communications, Joint Publications (where two or more Bureaux collaborate), Occasional Papers, Mycological Papers, Herbage Bulletins, &c., according to subject and series. Over 250 of these have been published by the organization. In addition, the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control is producing a comprehensive catalogue of the Parasites and Predators of Insect Pests. Eleven volumes have so far been issued.

Information Service

Apart from the printed record, the Institutes and Bureaux serve as intelligence centres in a variety of other ways: some of these have been touched on earlier. Scientists are free to send inquiries straight to the Director concerned. These may range from requests for a few references to furnishing a bibliography or a memorandum of digested information, in the preparation of which several bureaux may co-operate where necessary. Reprints, photo-reproductions, micro-films, translations, &c., are also supplied.