

REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1969-70

On behalf of the Executive Council of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, I have great pleasure in presenting the report of the activities of the Society for the year ending 30th June, 1970. The Society's membership during the year was 248, of which seven are Honorary members, eight patrons, 65 life members and 168 ordinary members. The membership is drawn from all parts of India as well as from abroad and extends over agricultural and other Government departments, institutions and universities besides agricultural statisticians and other workers interested in the development of statistics. In addition to its regular membership, the Society is maintaining a list of subscribers to its Journal which includes important research institutions in India and abroad. The number of foreign and Indian subscribers was 226 during the year.

As regards the publication programme of the Society, the current year's vol. 22, No. 1 (1970) has already been published and second number of the volume is under print. The publication of the journal has been punctual with the cooperation of the R.K. Printers, Delhi. With the high standard that the journal maintains through the efforts of its editors and contributors, the society continues to receive frequent requests for the exchange of the journal with the publications of similar renowned institutions throughout the world; but the Council of the society confines this exchange to a limited number of carefully selected publications. There are at present 24 journals which are received in exchange and are kept at the Library of the Institute of Agricultural Research Statistics, Library Avenue, New Delhi-12 and are available to the members of the Society for reference.

The Hindi supplement continues to be a feature of the journal. The Council has decided to publish technical article in Hindi in the Society's journal. The summary of such article would be published in English.

The problem of adequate finances of Scientific activities of the Society and printing of the journal continues to receive the attention

of the Executive Council of the Society. The cost of printing such a technical journal being high, its publication is sustained mainly through grants-in-aid received from the Central and State Governments and other national organisations. During the year under report grants were received from the Government of Maharashtra and from the National Institute of Sciences of India. The Society wishes to acknowledge gratefully the financial assistance received from these organisations.

The Society's publication on "Sampling Theory of Survey with Application" by Dr. P.V. Sukhatme continues to be well received. This important book on sampling has been revised by the author in collaboration with his brother Dr. B.V. Sukhatme and published jointly by the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics and Asia Publishing House. The price of the publication has been kept at Rs. 32.00 per copy.

The Society is trying to obtain some grant from the Government of India for subsidising the sale of the book to bona fide students and research workers. The revised edition is being translated in Spanish also.

In appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Dr. V.G. Panse, one of the founder members of the Society, the Society published a felicitation volume entitled "Contributions in Statistics and Agricultural Sciences" containing articles contributed by noted Statisticians, agricultural economists and allied workers. Cost of this publication was partially met through the financial assistance from the Government of India. The book has been priced at Rs. 20.00 per copy for the members of the Society and Rs. 25.00 for others.

As reported earlier, the working of the research unit of the Society located in a rented building near the Institute of Agricultural Research Statistics is one of the important activities of the Society. This research activity has been possible through grants from the Government of India. The Society is very much grateful to Shri J.S. Sharma, member Secretary, National Commission for Agriculture and the Economic Statistical Adviser to the Government of India for their keen interest in setting up the research unit and its development and continuation.

Under the project a Research Statistician assisted by computational staff has been provided. Analysis of available data on livestock statistics has been taken up with a view to working out economics of livestock keeping in view latest developments in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry. Shri V.N. Amble, Jt. Director, Central Statistical Organisation, New Delhi is providing guidance for these problems. A research direction committee has been formed to formulate problems and guide research activities of the Society.

The 23rd Annual Conference of the Society was held at Bombay from 22nd to 24th December, 1969 and was organised by the Deptt. of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri S.P. Kotwal, acting Governor of Maharashtra. Shri Balasaheb Sawant, Minister for Agriculture, Maharashtra, welcomed the delegates. Prof. C.F. Kossack, visiting F.A.O. consultant on Computer Technology at the Institute of Agricultural Research Statistics, delivered a technical address on "Statistics, Computer and Modern Society." During the conference two symposia on (i) crop, weather and water relationship in agricultural production and (ii) farmers' response to prices were organised. The first symposium was presided over by Dr. V.M. Joshi, Secretary, Finance Deptt., Government of Maharashtra and the second by Prof. M.L. Dantwala, Prof. and Head of the Deptt. of Economics, Bombay University.

To perpetuate the memory of Dr. Rajendra Prasad who was the President of the Society for 16 years from its inception, the Society instituted a lecture called "Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Lecture" which is delivered on the occasion of the annual conference of the Society. The Society is grateful to Dr. W.D. Hopper, Dr. P.V. Sukhatme, Shri S. Subramaniam, Dr. B.N. Datar and Dr. Ashok Mitra who delivered the lecture in previous conferences (18th to 22nd Annual conference). Shri Pitambar Pant, Member, Planning Commission, New Delhi delivered the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial lecture entitled "Perspective of Indian Economic Development" at the 23rd Annual Conference held at Bombay. Dr. Anjaria of Reserve Bank of India, Bombay, presided over this lecture.

There were two sessions for reading contributed papers in the conference under the chairmanship of Prof. P.N. Mathur, Director,

Gokhale Institute of Economics and Politics, Poona and Prof. M.C. Chakrabarti, Head of the Deptt. of Statistics, Bombay University, Bombay. In all 51 technical papers were presented in these two sessions.

A popular lecture was delivered at the 23rd Annual Conference by Dr. P.V. Sukhatme, Director, Statistics Division, F.A.O., Rome on 'Nutrimetrix and diet in Maharashtra'.

The Society will be completing 25 years of its existence next year.

The Council of the Society has decided to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Society which falls next year (1971-72). On this occasion special publications would be brought out containing articles from eminent statisticians, economists and other agricultural scientists in addition to arranging special lectures and other usual features. In memory of Dr. V.G. Panse, the Council has decided to institute "Dr. Panse's memorial lecture" from next year. Next Dr. P.V. Sukhatme has been requested to deliver the first lecture in this series.

The railway authorities as in the past gave concession to the members and delegates attending the 23rd Annual Conference of the Society at Bombay. The Society records its grateful thanks to the railways authorities.

A statement of audited accounts of the Society for the year 1969-70 is placed on the table. The audit has been carried out by a professional auditor as usual.

The work of the Society during the year was made possible through the active help of the members of the Executive Council of the Society. A large number of Statistical experts both in India and abroad helped the Society in referring the papers received for publication in the journal. The Society wishes to record its thanks to all of them. The Society is also thankful to Shri B.B.P.S. Goel for the help in preparing the Hindi supplement of the journal. In the end I have to thank the staff of the Society for their devoted work.