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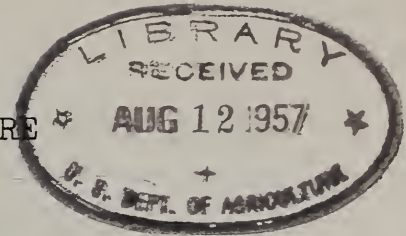
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIBRARY
Washington 25, D. C.



April 30, 1957

To: Directors of State Agricultural Experiment Stations and
Extension Services

From: Foster E. Mohrhardt, Director, USDA Library, and *F.E.M.*
Noble Clark, Chairman, Land Grant College Committee
on Distribution of Agricultural Publications Abroad

Subject: Current Report on the Publications Exchange Desk, USDA
Library

This is a summary report on the publications exchange program sponsored by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library in cooperation with the Joint Committee on Distribution of Agricultural Publications Abroad, A.L.G.C. & S.U., with financial assistance from the International Cooperation Administration and its predecessors. This summary deals briefly with the background of the exchange information center, progress to date, current activities, and future plans.

The major problem in the proper and efficient dissemination of American agricultural publications abroad is to assure that these publications will be sent to those foreign institutions which can:

- (1) File, preserve and index the publications sent to them.
- (2) Make these publications freely available to any responsible person seeking information.
- (3) Be located so as to give the best coverage for the needs of the country. Publications sent to such repositories will then be available not only to the native research workers and students, but also to American technicians working under foreign aid programs in these countries.

Setting up such repositories enables us to reduce the large foreign mailing lists. Knowing that certain foreign libraries are willing and able to service their countrymen with American agricultural publications, the colleges are better equipped to reply to the flood of foreign requests.

For over fifty years the Department of Agriculture Library has been attempting to serve the Land Grant Colleges as an

information center for foreign publications. Prior to 1940, this was not a burdensome job, since domestic publications were freely available and foreign agricultural publications were not numerous. However, during World War II and in the past ten years, the problem of foreign exchanges has become more and more acute. Federal and State agencies have been compelled to scrutinize carefully their free distribution of publications.

For the past ten years special committees of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and State Universities, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, have been working on the problem of exchanging experiment station and extension service publications with institutions in other countries. Through the joint efforts of the agricultural leaders, both State and Federal, ICA and its predecessor agencies supplied funds to survey countries in various parts of the world which had been obtaining American agricultural publications. The following four surveys have been made, and recommendations based upon the first three have been passed on to the State Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Directors:

- (1) 1952 - Dean Harold Macy surveyed institutions in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. He recommended 53 primary repositories (i.e., to receive all State and Federal publications) and 66 other places to receive specific categories of publications.
- (2) 1954 - I. B. Johnson, Director of South Dakota AES, completed the survey of Latin American institutions in British Guiana, British Honduras, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, French Guiana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Surinam, (Dutch Guiana), Trinidad and Venezuela. He recommended 110 foreign institutions, including 28 primary repositories.
- (3) 1955 - Louis A. Henke, Associate Director (Retired), Hawaii AES, surveyed the Near East (Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey) recommending 133 institutions in nine countries. Because of the lack of library facilities, only three primary repositories were recommended. 77 of the 133 institutions were to be sent lists of available publications from which they would select material of interest and for which there was demand.

Copies of the Macy, Johnson and Henke reports are still available and may be obtained from the Exchange Desk, USDA Library.

3-Directors of SAES and ES - 4-30-57

Questionnaires have been recently sent to all repositories recommended by these first three surveys to learn if publications are being received, are being made available, and are still wanted.

- (4) 1956 - Noble Clark surveyed countries of the Far East (Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Viet-Nam) recommending 95 repositories. Copies of his transmittal letter of April 9, 1956, to the Director of the Library, a suggested memorandum from the Publications Exchange Desk to the recommended repositories, and a questionnaire ("Request for Information") were distributed to the Station Directors attending the Land Grant meetings in Washington in November, 1956.

The list of 95 repositories recommended by Mr. Clark was not disseminated to the LG institutions pending written confirmation from these repositories of their willingness and ability to cooperate in this program. The return of questionnaires from these repositories has been slow and is still incomplete. Of 105 questionnaires sent out, 46 replies have been returned.

You will be sent, under separate cover, three copies of the list of the 105 repositories under consideration, annotated to show the ones which are still pending as well as those from which questionnaires have been received. It is suggested that these be made available to the person in charge of the distribution of agricultural publications at your institution, and to your librarian. Since returns are still trickling in, you may not yet want to drop those institutions, if they appear on your mailing lists, with which arrangements are still pending. It is planned to issue, after July 1957, the results of the questionnaires received between now and then.

This brings up to date the formal surveys that have so far been made.

The Exchange Desk, in fiscal 1957, began operating under Department funds. It works closely with the Foreign Agricultural Service, the Smithsonian International Exchange Service, the Federal Extension Service, the Agricultural Research Service, the U. S. Book Exchange, the U. S. Information Agency, the International Cooperation Administration, and other agencies concerned with the dissemination of publications abroad. It welcomes inquiries from the States having any questions about the libraries now on recommended lists or libraries which are newly nominated, and will aid in securing exchanges from abroad if the States desire such assistance.

4-Directors of SAES and ES - 4-30-57

As repository conditions change, as new Export licenses are announced by the Department of Commerce, and as U. S. policy changes, this information will be passed on to the Land Grant Colleges.

Meanwhile, your suggestions and inquiries are welcomed.

