

FOREWORD

This directory is a result of one of the important decisions of the Ministerial Meeting on Food Production and Rural Development held in London in March 1975. In their search for practical methods of accelerating the pace of improving the nutrition, purchasing power and, therefore, the quality of life of the vast number of rural dwellers in the Commonwealth, the Ministers recognized the need for many more trained people in the developing Commonwealth and agreed that reliable and up-to-date information about education and training facilities in the fields of agriculture and rural development in the Commonwealth should be brought together in a single publication to facilitate maximum utilization.

The main purpose of this directory is to meet this expressed need in the hope that it will enhance co-operative action among member countries in making full use of existing facilities and, where possible, improving and expanding them.

Food production and rural development, of course, embraces many disciplines. This composite whole requires expertise in water and soil conservation, irrigation, forestry, fisheries, agronomy, veterinary science, food processing and storage, disease and pest control, sociology, management of co-operatives, wildlife management, and several other disciplines. In defining which of such topics should be included in this publication the main criterion has been whether or not it has a direct bearing on food production and rural development, either in the immediate or longer term. Thus, for example, surveying is included since land conservation and correct land utilization are crucial and land development projects cannot proceed without adequately trained survey technicians.

Material for this directory was sought through official channels and the staff of Ministries concerned with agriculture in many countries took much time and trouble to send in relevant information. In a few cases, however, there was little or no response to our enquiries and information has been taken from existing sources which have not always been accurate or up-to-date. The short introductory statements at the beginning of the description of training programmes were usually provided by the countries concerned but were compiled in other cases from official publications made available by High Commissions in London. Valuable advice and source material was also provided by officials of FAO in Rome, UNESCO in Paris, and a large number of other authorities, foundations and universities. The collection of material and general preparation of the directory has been the responsibility of Norman Tett as Consultant Editor, ably supported by Yvonne Messenger as Sub-Editor who gave valuable help in preparing material for printing.

One reason for the time taken to collect material for this directory is the multiplicity of reference points in many countries. Education and training in agriculture and rural development necessarily stretches across the terms of reference of several government ministries or departments and it is not always practicable to consolidate them under one organization. In view of the single terminal objective of efforts in these fields, however, it is hoped that an additional value of this publication will lie in its illustration of the need for filling gaps and removing overlaps through some suitable co-ordinating arrangement.

In spite of all the time taken and the official and unofficial help received in the preparation of this directory it is far from comprehensive and it will need regular revision and expansion. The directory is therefore issued with a pocket in the back cover where sheets of amendments, addenda and corrections can be collected. It is intended to issue such sheets of new information every few months until a revised second edition can be issued. The publishers hope, therefore, that recipients of the publication who are in a position to do so will forward corrections or additional information to them.

It is now generally recognized that the best way of ensuring a rapid and lasting improvement in agriculture and rural development is through self-help and self-reliance. An essential need in this process is a large pool of suitably trained and active manpower. In publishing this directory, therefore, it is the hope of the Commonwealth Secretariat that the fullest possible use of the available training resources will be made on a national, regional and, where appropriate, inter-regional basis. The Commonwealth Secretariat, and in particular its Division of Food Production and Rural Development and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC), is available to assist in sustaining, developing and pooling training resources within the Commonwealth.