

FARMSTOCK

WEST AFRICAN FARMERS' & COOPERATIVES' MONTHLY

JULY '75

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**What COOP
Signifies** p. 24

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CHIEF E. O. LADEBU-ADEBAKI p. 18

CROP SPRAY BEATS DROUGHT

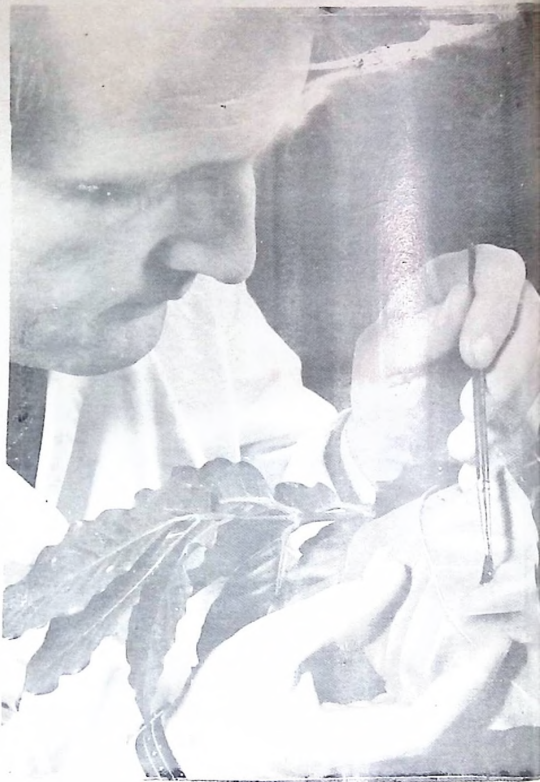
A discovery of Dr. Terry Mansfield of the University of Lancaster in northern England may have widespread applications in arid conditions or where sudden drought threatens the loss of a crop.

Plants lose a lot of water through their leaf surface - a process known as evapotranspiration. Something like a third of water fed to plants in the form of irrigation can be lost in this way. The process, however, has always been assumed to be essential to the plant's health.

Dr. Mansfield has shown that by spraying crop plants with the hormone abscisic acid the pores of leaf surface close and water loss is reduced significantly. In test under laboratory conditions it has been found that a plant's water requirements can be halved for about nine days without apparent damage.

The potential of Dr Mansfield's discovery is enormous. If water were to be in short supply it would be possible to spray abscisic acid as a means of both saving the crop and conserving water supplies.

Dr T. Mansfield, University of Lancaster, Lancashire, England.



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Managing Editor ABIQDUN OJUGBELÉ

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DIZENGOFF BID AGRIC. MANAGER FAREWELL



That it was not how long but how well a person handled a situation would determine that person's quality formed the crux of the various farewell speeches made recently at a lively send-off Party arranged in honour of Mr. B. Langer, agricultural economist and Manager of the Agricultural Department of Dizengoff W.A. (Nig.) Ltd, Apapa.

Mr. B. Langer after four years was leaving the country. It was significant that within his short stay, the Agricultural Section which was a very tiny annex of the company has grown to become a full Department known in all parts of the country on various agricultural issues. Responding to his toast, the guest of honour corrected the general notion that he alone brought the marked improvement to the Agricultural Department and to the company generally but that it was the outcome of devotion to duty not only by his direct staff but also attributable to proper coordination by the various sections acting in unison. The party was well attended.

Presentations were made by the staffs of the various sections of the company. The new Agricultural Manager is Mr. Gillai also an Agricultural Economist.



Mr. Gillai

AGE GROUP LAUNCHES NEW FARM

The sum of N10,000 was raised by the BICHI age group in Osokom Clan of Boje Touring Area when they launched the first phase of the community farm project estimated to cost N30,000.

The spokesman for the group, Mr. George Obiem Alang said the aim of establishing such a farm was to boost food production in the area in order to feed the growing population.

He further disclosed that the farm which has a total acreage of 100,000 was mainly for yams and cassava cultivation adding that 40,000 yam seedlings would be planted in the next planting season.

He assured the community that about 200,000 yams will be harvested at the farm annually.

SHEEP FARM FOUNDATION LAID

The foundation stone has been laid for a sheep farm at Odjiba, a small village about 100 km from Brazzaville recently.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Pool Region spoke of the importance of this farm to the economy of the Pool Region and the nation's food supplies.

Meat was still a luxury in this country and production must be raised threefold to make meat available to all.

The Minister of Agriculture and stock-breeding, Charles Ngoutou said there were great possibilities of modern stock-breeding in Congo which had been making various efforts to increase and improve cattle stock.

The Odjiba sheep farm is planned to accommodate 15,000 to 20,000 heads of goats and sheep. They will be bred for the meat market.

N2.5 INDUSTRY FOR KWARA

A N2.5 million mechanical processing industry is to be established at Ballah near Ilorin, Kwara State.

The industry which is to go into production about the end of this year is being established by the Ilorin based private company - Kwara Consolidated Advancement Company (KCAC) in conjunction with an overseas partner - Messrs Newell Duff Food Engineering Company.

Announcing this in Ilorin, the project Director Mr. Olusegun Olatunji said that his company has so far acquired an eight square mile land for both the cultivation of cassava and the mechanisation of Gari in Ballah village.

COMMUNITY RECONSTRUCTION

Construction work has begun on the new primary school block at Orimekang, Boje Touring Area - Ikom Division at an estimated cost of N5,000.

Already, a sum of N1,038 has been raised by the community for the construction work and the people have earmarked the sum of N542 for the construction of a community cassava farm to be sited within the development area and that work on the project would begin soon.

N6m EXPANSION PROJECT

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is to provide Kenya with a loan of nearly N6 million for the expansion of the Chemelit sugar factory.

The agreement to this effect has been signed in Nairobi by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Planning and the German Ambassador.

The loan will enable the company to meet with the cost of new equipment for more sugar production.

N500,000 PLEDGED TO CGIAR

Nigeria has announced its intention to become a donor member of an international grouping of countries and foundations dedicated to increasing food production through research efforts.

As a donor member of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Nigeria has pledged N500,000 in support of international agricultural research activities during the coming 1976.

The Nigerian contribution will go to four different international research centres. Three of the centres are located in Africa, a fourth - the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) - is located in Hyderabad, India.

Including Nigeria, there are 31 members of Consultative Group.

PROJECTS AID RICE GROWTH

Many developing nations of Tropical Africa are looking for rice to help overcome their problems.

Throughout West Africa efforts are being made to increase rice production.

One of the most promising effort in Nigeria is the U.S. assisted accelerated food programme which helps to promote good management and the use of fertilizers and insecticides.

please continue overleaf

TRADE FAIR

**THE THIRD GHANA INTERNATIONAL
TRADE FAIR WILL BE HELD IN ACCRA
FROM FEBRUARY 1 - 15, 1976.**

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