

Wageningen and the developing countries *

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Introduction

The international contacts of Wageningen are quite old, considerably older than the Agricultural University or the imposing series of Institutes for Applied Research which were there established in the course of years. The original State School of Agriculture, founded in 1876, was an institution where education was soon directed upon the colonies oversea. In 1880 a course was started for colonial agriculture. Thus Wageningen offered an opportunity of acquiring scientific knowledge of tropical agriculture, at that time unique in the world. Oddly enough this course was discontinued in 1892. However shortly before (in 1891) a Preparatory Course for the training of foresters for the Dutch East Indies had been organized and so the trend was continued.

In 1896 the level of the then 20 year-old State School of Agriculture was raised. The so-called B-section was changed into an Advanced School of Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry with a two-year course. This school included a full two-year course for Agriculture in the Dutch East Indies. So the equivalent training of Dutch and tropical agriculturists, which has always been a typical aspect of the education given in Wageningen, dates back to this year. It goes without saying that a considerable percentage of the agriculturists, who received their training in Wageningen, left for the Dutch East Indies; of course exact figures cannot be given from these days long past.

In 1904 again a higher level was effectuated; the State College for Advanced Studies in Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry was established. Coming on top of the then modern type of secondary school with a five-year course, it offered the opportunity for agricultural education on a definite higher level, at least for those days. About these times more is known. During the period 1904–1914 the number of students studying for the Dutch specializations increased more or less steadily from 32 to 62; the number of students studying for the tropics shows a leap from 27 to 187. Such a rise is not exceptional when one considers that it was associated with a changing situation in the Dutch East Indies: that period saw a marked increase of the number of university trained employees in estate farming and considerably more interest in native agriculture from the Government.

The year 1918 saw the foundation by law of the Agricultural University; lessons started in the academic year 1919–20 (in the Netherlands the division in semesters is not known). More specialization (animal husbandry and dairy science, agricultural economy) and the possibility to grant a doctors degree were the marked differences; the general trend in the study did not change. About half of the graduates (who received now the title 'Landbouwkundig ingenieur') went to the Indies; according to

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the Bureau of Statistics of the University the percentages were: for the period 1918-'28 49%, for the period 1928-'38 62%.

So it is easy to understand that the transfer of the sovereignty to the Republic Indonesia in 1950 seriously affected the position of the Agricultural University. After 1950 the possibilities for employment in Indonesia degenerated quickly. At a certain moment it was even considered to abolish the Tropical Departments. It shows a wise insight in the future from the part of the Dutch Government that this was not done; on the contrary the tropical studies were soundly reformed and directed to the general tropical hemisphere.

One of the professors who has done much to promote this change, the late Prof. Dr. Ir. C. Coolhaas, deserves special mention. Taking advantage of his relations with various experiment stations in Africa and South America he succeeded in opening possibilities for Wageningen-graduates, which he consolidated on a long study tour. The foundation of the Centre Néerlandais at Adiopodoumé (Ivory Coast) is among the achievements with which he should be credited.

In the early fifties however completely new fields of action for the graduates of Wageningen were opened. Until this moment not much attention had been paid to the aid given to developing countries within the framework of the United Nations. This changed now rapidly and since an important part of the aid goes to agriculture, it was soon obvious that Wageningen should be closely concerned in this activity. Consequently the curriculum of the University was changed again. More specialization was envisaged, resulting in 1956 in the establishment of two new branches in the study of tropical agriculture, viz. the Departments of Water management in the Tropics and of Rural Sociology of the Tropics and Sub-Tropics. Moreover in several other departments (Plant Breeding, Phytopathology, Soil Science and Agricultural Engineering) opportunity was given for tropical orientation. Especially in Soil Science this filled a real need, hence the appointment in 1962 of a full-professor for Tropical Soil Science.

Graduates of Wageningen abroad

As appears from the developments outlined in the foregoing quite a number of graduates of the Wageningen University are now working and studying abroad (Table 1). The part of the world where they are working gives more or less an insight to which extend these people are working for the aid to developing countries. Those who left for Canada, Australia and New Zealand are invariably emigrants, those to the United States went there for further specialization, at least part of them. Little can be said about those who stayed in Europe (outside the Netherlands). They are undoubtedly permanent residents but a few of them are working for the Specialized Agencies of UNO. The 22 who went to South Africa are for the greater part also emigrants. The other graduates (274) are working in the so-called developing countries. Assuming that a large part of the Dutchmen who are working in these countries in industrial or commercial enterprises, are furthering the economy of the country (for the agriculturists this is probably true for practically all of them), it is safe to state that between 270 and 280 Wageningen-graduates living abroad are engaged in the aid to developing countries.

It is now interesting to inquire into the question how especially the younger people are getting on with this work overseas. The data given in Table 2 are taken from

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Table 1 *Graduates of the Wageningen University during the period 1918-1967 (data from the Netherlands Society of Graduates in Agriculture)*

Inactive		524
died	163	
retired	250	
housewife	94	
fulfilling military service	17	
Employed in the Netherlands		2240
Employed abroad		477
Europe (partly employed by UNO organizations)	56	
USA and Canada	89	
Central and South America	90	
Africa (without South Africa)	110	
South Africa	22	
Middle East	34	
Asia	40	
Australia and New Zealand	36	
Total number of graduates		3241

Table 2 *Graduates of the Tropical Departments with known employment, graduated from 1945 till 1965*

Date of inquiry: Jan. 1st	1950	1955	1960	1965
Number of graduates (cumulative)	126	311	412	490
Working for the tropics and sub-tropics	54,8 %	48,5 %	43,2 %	41,4 %
of which working:				
in the tropics and sub-tropics	51,6 %	43,7 %	37,1 %	31,0 %
in other foreign countries	—	0,6 %	0,5 %	0,2 %
in the Netherlands	3,2 %	4,2 %	5,6 %	10,2 %

an inquiry held by the Netherlands Society of Graduates in Agriculture (NILI) and the Bureau of Statistics of the University.

A conspicuous phenomenon is that both the percentage of Wageningen-graduates working in the tropics decreased considerably (from 51,6 % to 31,0 %) and that of working for the tropics, if rather less rapidly. Since 1950 a constantly increasing number of graduates of the Tropical Departments has apparently found a post directed towards the Netherlands. This must be ascribed partly to the compulsory exodus from Indonesia in the years 1955-1957 and the handing over of New Guinea to Indonesia. However there is another factor which is presumably more important. The average Dutch family working in the developing countries is confronted with great difficulties as to the education of their children. Unlike the education of British children that of Dutch children is practically invariably given in the family circle. Holland has hardly any boarding-schools to which children can go whose parents work abroad. It is evident that the above mentioned decrease, which has continued by 6 % from 1960 till 1965 — when there was not any other reason to be considered — is the result largely of the circumstances and the atmosphere of the family.

Nevertheless it would be wrong to think that the number of Wageningen graduates

Table 3 Number of graduates with known employment, graduated since 1945 in the not specifically tropical departments

Date of inquiry: Jan. 1st	1950	1955	1960	1965
Total number (cumulative)	382	783	1095	1481
Working for the tropics and sub-tropics	5,5 %	6,6 %	6,5 %	8 %

working abroad — and particularly in the developing countries — is not so very large. Curiously statistics point out that a considerable number of the graduates from the departments for the temperate zone goes to the tropics. The possibility of tropical orientation since 1956 has undoubtedly stimulated this trend in the last years but this was true already in former days. The percentages mentioned in Table 3 show a small but regular increase.

In this connection it is interesting to mention some more figures obtained from the International Agricultural Centre (IAC). From 1960 this organization has compiled data about all graduates who through the agency of this centre worked in the developing countries for some time. They proved to be 95 in all, of whom only 41 graduated in the Tropical Departments and 13 chose the so-called Tropical Orientation. It is evident that graduates can also do useful work for the developing countries when they have studied for the temperate zone. A sound scientific basis in education makes it easy to adapt oneself to new problems.

On this place it must be mentioned that there are in Holland two leading organizations which are engaged in the private sector with agricultural work in the developing countries. Their Dutch names are 'Koninklijke Nederlandsche Heidemaatschappij' and 'Grontmij'. The first works abroad with a daughter-company called 'International Land Development Consultants' (ILACO), the other calls itself abroad 'Engineering Consultants for Land Improvement and Reclamation'. The greater part of the graduates working in the Netherlands for the developing countries are employees of these organizations. As an example: ILACO employs 43 university-trained people of whom 40 are graduates from Wageningen, i.e. 50% of the total university-trained personnel of the 'Koninklijke Nederlandsche Heidemaatschappij'.

Both organizations have worked in the Netherlands for many years. Their field of operation was originally moorland reclamation, later the building of rural roads and water courses in reallocation schemes, nowadays also projects for recreation. Shortly after World War II these organizations took to work in the developing countries, initially chiefly under the direction of the UNO-Agencies, later in direct contact with governments overseas, nowadays mostly for Netherlands bilateral projects. Their work is much appreciated.

This chapter would not be complete without a short discussion of the so-called associate experts. They are important for the developing work and this will remain so in future. In the early fifties the Dutch Technical Assistance Program came to realize that it would be useful for young graduates in agriculture to be apprenticed as assistants to older experts of international organizations. Thus it would be possible for them to get thoroughly acquainted with the problems related to the work in the developing countries. Besides, it would be a means to give the international organizations a clearer idea of the possibilities of the education and training at Wageningen. So far the Dutch experts sent abroad had practically invariably been chosen on account of their experience in the colonies. This situation, however, was bound to

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change in the course of years. In addition there was the widespread belief of older people that much simple work — especially in assignments — had to be carried out by persons who were very busy with important work, so that help of young graduates would be very useful. Of course the Netherlands would provide the necessary funds, fortunately the then Minister of Agriculture sympathized with the plan.

It was submitted to FAO in 1953 where it was also favourably received. In 1954 the first Wageningen graduates left and the number has since increased rather steadily. Soon the idea was taken over by other organizations which resulted in quite a number of associate experts from other disciplines assigned also. Table 4 shows this development. About 90% of the agriculturists were in the employ of FAO, the other specialists were distributed among FAO, UNTAO and UNESCO. The Netherlands Technical Assistance Program came only in the last years in the market.

Table 4 Number of associate experts commissioned for one or two years

<i>Year</i>	<i>Graduates in agriculture</i>	<i>Other specialists</i>
1954	4	—
1955	1	1
1956	7	2
1957	2	3
1958	8	13
1959	7	7
1960	2	7
1961	4	5
1962	14	13
1963	10	9
1964	12	17
1965	13	27
1966	20	unknown
total	104	

It is obvious that it cuts both ways in this case: the international organizations profit by the Dutch initiative and so do the Netherlands. These assignments are most instructive for the young graduates and add to the efficiency essential for the work in the developing countries. However, it has one drawback that has become more serious in the last years. The Netherlands Government has committed itself to pay the cost for three years at the utmost. In the beginning the staff of the FAO wished to extend so that after completion of their practice a considerable number of young graduates in agriculture were offered an assignment as full expert to the organization. The rest could easily find posts at home or in the countries overseas in those years. However, the prospects have tended to become poorer in the course of years and moreover this useful system of post-graduate training has been discovered also by other countries. There are now associate experts from Sweden, Germany and the United Kingdom. So the Dutch Technical Assistance Authorities wonder what is to be done about it. Is it justified to stimulate activities in which employees — then mostly married — may run the risk of being confronted with a vacuum after three years? In the final contemplation 'prospects' we will go further into this matter.

Foreigners in Wageningen

International Agricultural Centre (IAC)

The number of foreigners visiting Wageningen is large. Their stay varies from one day to several years. Before detailing this subject it seems to be useful to tell something more about the organization in Wageningen whose task is to receive those visitors. It is called the International Agricultural Centre (IAC).

The primary reason for founding it in the fifties was to create an office centre which was not only in charge of receiving and registering foreigners but also of finding accommodation for those who intended to stay longer. Another task, which soon proved far more important, was to consult the instances that would employ the visitors from abroad and keep in touch with the proper quarters. The agricultural community of Wageningen consists of the Agricultural University and a series of autonomous institutions among which there is not so much intensive contact. Of course, there are foreigners who have arranged their stay beforehand and work with professors and scientists at the institutes, but the majority has not, so that some program has mostly to be outlined at short notice. The task soon extended to giving advice on scholarships for which a special committee was appointed. This was the logical consequence of the work for the visitors from the developing countries who could not afford a stay abroad. The arrangement of meetings where many foreigners were expected began to form part of the task of IAC. Finally the centre was soon essential for finding experts to be sent out to developing countries and later for advice on associate experts to be appointed. This was normally done in consultation with the professor concerned.

However, the number of tasks in development aid, in which agriculture plays a part, constantly increased. So IAC again was reorganized and extended by the end of 1962. In fact this last change made it the technical organ of the Ministry of Agriculture in the field development aid. Another two important tasks were then entrusted to IAC viz. giving advice on development aid and rendering aid in realizing bilateral projects with an agricultural character and the organization of short-term courses. Both tasks have since been considerably extended: the second will later be discussed in greater detail. A so-called Project Advisory Committee — on which also non-agriculturists are — was appointed for advice on projects which increased in number as the Dutch Technical Assistance Program was expanded.

One last task with which IAC was entrusted a few years ago is the management of the so-called Pool of Agricultural Experts. People who are regularly concerned with development work in the field of agriculture are included in this pool. They receive the status of Dutch Civil Servant. The clerical work, the contacts with the people concerned when these are abroad and the arrangement of an effective practical course during the re-training period which they will spend in the Netherlands between two missions to the developing countries, these tasks have also come to form part of the work of the IAC staff.

One-day-visitors

As was stated before Wageningen is often visited by foreigners; the following figures give an idea of it. During the years 1962 to 1967 4200, 5700, 5100, 6000 and 6400 visitors were recorded by the IAC. The numbers are expressed in hundreds and refer to one day visits, usually made by groups. If desired, a simple program is

arranged for these visitors and information is given to them to indicate how they can spend the rest of the time in a most useful way.

Fellowship program

The number of visitors who are specialists in some branch of agricultural science and hope to enrich their knowledge is naturally far smaller. The figures in table 5 give an idea of the numbers recorded in the course of years. The decrease after 1962 was the result of a marked reduction of the number of FAO fellowships, the increase in 1966 resulted from the expansion of the Dutch Technical Assistance.

Table 5 Number of holders of a fellowship

Year	Number	Year	Number
1952	11	1960	148
1953	31	1961	244
1954	34	1962	242
1955	66	1963	136
1956	70	1964	87
1957	96	1965	107
1958	127	1966	177
1959	138	1967	278

The fellow is enabled to receive a complementary training in or to deepen his knowledge in his sphere. This training mostly has a practical character. As a general rule holders of a B.Sc. with a number of years of experience are accepted. In a few cases persons were admitted who had only practical training in their own country but nevertheless hold a prominent post. The fellows should be able to make themselves understood in English, French or German. They can be divided into three groups according to the nature of their study program, viz. those who daily visit some institution, those who regularly work at one or perhaps two institutions and those following a course. The first group normally stays in the Netherlands for one to three months and spends part of this time outside Wageningen. From a scientific point of view Wageningen is more interested in the fellows who come to work at an institution for a rather long time. In the first place because it is far more gratifying to provide someone with a deep insight into a problem in which both parties are interested. At the same time this results in some form of interplay. They usually stay for six months to one year, fellowships for longer periods are not granted by the Netherlands. Nor are they often given by the international organizations. In the last years their number has varied from 50 to 60 each year; in the course of the last 10 years 534 of such fellows were recorded. About half of them came from the developing countries.

Courses

The discussion of the courses requires a clear distinction between the summer course on rural extension and the other three in drainage, nematology and soil science. All these courses are held annually.

Course on Rural Extension. The course on rural extension was given in 1953 for the first time. It consists of plenary meetings, meetings of working parties, practical courses and excursions and takes about four weeks. There are interpreters in French,

German and English for the meetings: during the plenary meetings the spoken words are simultaneously translated. The number of participants is about 100, of which one third comes from the developing countries.

Drainage course. The drainage and the two other courses mentioned have one thing in common: they have an entirely different character. This is the consequence of the endeavour originated at Wageningen in the fifties to give graduates with at least a B.Sc. coming from developing countries a complementary course in one of the branches of agricultural science in which the Netherlands has attained particular skill.

As it soon appeared that this could not be realized at the Agricultural University (more details will be given in the following pages) it was decided to organize a number of courses, short-term or long-term, under the auspices of IAC. Since the Netherlands became widely known for drainage this course was chosen in 1962. Moreover the work of the International Institute for Land Reclamation and Land Improvement turned out to be of great interest to foreigners. Consequently, the course is mainly supported by this institute and a large number of drainage experts play an active role. In principle the number of participants is limited to 25; in the last six years 155 persons have taken part in it of whom 60% came from the developing countries. The duration of the course is 14 weeks. During this time much intensive work is done: 170 to 180 lectures, three times a week practical exercises and demonstrations, excursions for ten days and last but not least two days for open discussion of questions submitted by participants. At the end of the course a certificate can be gained.

The nematology course. This was given because there was so much interest in this subject. The number of applicants for individual specialization increased so much that it was impossible to satisfy all.

The first course was given from April 1 to July 1 1965; it has been repeated annually since. The number of participants has been limited to 17 as one had to take account of the laboratory accommodation available. However, the number of the applicants was constantly larger. If possible persons from developing countries have priority; a somewhat advanced knowledge in this field of study is required.

The course is organized by the lecturer of nematology at the Agricultural University Dr. M. Oostenbrink: various teachers from outside the Agricultural University contribute to the lessons. During the first two months the curriculum of the 'graduates' study of the University is followed: lectures and discussion in the morning, practical lessons in the afternoon. The last month is spent on various specialized subjects, furthermore excursions are regularly organized.

The course Soil Science. This course had already been planned a few years before, but it was not until 1966 that the first part could be realized. The difficulty was that this course had to take more time: a general introduction had to be followed by specialization and the Agricultural University has not sufficient suitable accommodation as the number of Dutch undergraduates is large. The first part of the course was given in the first half of 1966, the general part from the beginning of January to April, the specialization in soil and crop analysis from April to August, the specialization in soil survey, which is partly held outside Wageningen, from April to the end of September. There were 13 participants who nearly all came from the developing countries. The second course, in which 20 people take part, was started on November 1 1967.

Other courses. The courses are clearly successful and there are definitely other subjects of which a course could be organized with satisfactory results. However, there are the accommodation difficulties; the regrettable long delay in the realization of the plans for a good building for living is responsible for the fact that Wageningen fails to do what it could have done in this sector of development aid. Fortunately the numerous foreign relations in Wageningen, have made arrangements possible which created new opportunities overseas. The International Institute for Land Reclamation and Improvement organized a drainage course from May 3 to June 16 in Peru at the Agricultural University of La Molina. It had much success and 23 Peruvian 'ingenieri agronomo' took part. At the request of Peru this will be continued: a drainage centre is being set up in La Molina.

The nematology course has also been extended on an international scale. From November 13 1967 to January 31 1968 a South-East Asia Course on Nematology is held in India (Aligarh and New Delhi) under the direction of Ir. J. A. van Berkum (The Netherlands) and Dr. S. P. Raychaudhuri (India). These activities will fairly certainly be continued. They were started under the auspices of the Division for International Technical Assistance (from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and IAC.

The Agricultural University

Even in the fifties the Senate of the Agricultural University considered whether it would be possible for agriculturists from the developing countries to follow the normal curriculum of the Agricultural University or to finish their studies at it after they have obtained their B.Sc. elsewhere. Various foreigners were successful at their attempt to achieve this, part of them were fugitives for political reasons who required special care, the others — only a few — were persons with pronounced scientific talents, who took their doctor's degree later. Nevertheless this experience led to the conclusion that on a larger scale such an integration is not possible. The Agricultural University sets great store by a thorough training in natural science and mathematics, which is well-coordinated with the basis laid in Dutch secondary education. In the developing countries, in particular those which are English minded, prevails the idea that for practical training this is less urgent. The situation may be different for the French-speaking persons from Africa, but here we face serious language difficulties. Therefore the Senate has decided to provide only facilities to obtain the Doctor's degree in Agricultural Sciences and confines this to agriculturists who took the M.Sc. degree in their own country with very good results. From 1945 53 foreigners took thus the Doctor's degree at the Agricultural University, 44 of them came from the developing countries.

Of course the previous discussion does not apply to the undergraduates from Surinam and the Dutch Antilles. These have received a preparatory training comparable with ours. A number of undergraduates from Indonesia also took their degree in the first years after World War II.

Facilities for foreigners

In Wageningen the integration of the foreigners is satisfactory: many of them have Dutch friends. Yet it is useful to draw the attention to a few particular facilities in which those who like to enrich their knowledge there might be interested.

First the IAC-course teaching elementary Dutch. Since 1956 these courses have regularly been given several times each year. They normally take two or three months. The courses are greatly appreciated.

In the second place the housing problem. In spite of the present housing shortage, the Wageningen Municipality made accommodation available for a dozen of married foreigners staying here for a rather long time. IAC manages the assignment and the distribution of this accommodation. The Centre also helps to rent rooms etc. whenever possible, partly even in the surroundings of Wageningen.

The International Club

In the fifties it soon appeared that the student's clubs and their activities were less attractive for usually older fellows who had already been employed. So when some of these decided to found their own society no stone was left unturned to provide adequate accommodation. A semi-permanent building near the centre of the town was put at their disposal. It is still the centre where foreigners meet and where their Dutch friends are always welcome. Ult. 1967 the club had 225 active members.

Prospects

Foreign countries

It is difficult to predict the perspectives for work of Wageningen-graduates abroad. Because nowadays the Agricultural University and Wageningen as a whole are widely known in foreign countries, there will always be graduates who find posts in the developed countries. Especially this will not be difficult for those who during their study acquired a Master degree at some American University; they are then in possession of two certificates. As far as they are concerned the situation will hardly alter. However, we are more interested in what is going to happen in this respect in the developing countries. Here the future seems less bright. In the first place their governments tend to claim that their own people are able to do the work although the scientists in those countries are convinced that the afflux of western intellect is quite important.

Furthermore the international organizations report an afflux of University trained people from such countries as India, Egypt and Japan. They have certainly the advantage that they are both scientifically qualified and more easily adapt themselves to the way of life in the developing countries than the western scientist. Fortunately the Dutch can readily assimilate their attitude of mind to that of the research workers in the developing countries. However, they can often hardly make both ends meet on the modest salaries which the local workers consider to be sufficient. For the Europeans and the Americans living in the tropics will be more expensive than for the denizens, and conversely. Even if the young graduates should realize more that they are expected to make sacrifices for the sake of the international aid to the less developed part of the world — and that is not yet true of all of them — there will be difficulties in financial respect. These problems have sometimes been solved by some additional allowance from the Dutch Government but it is hardly likely to make this a rule.

In the course of years the specialized Agencies of the United Nations have formed a large staff and the employment prospects are no longer rosy. Temporary employees are preferred; now that this kind of work had become better known candidates from many countries apply. As the work is temporary it is not so attractive for old age and this was one of the reasons why the Pool of Agricultural Experts mentioned was set up. University-trained people, who are experienced in the work in

developing countries and whose work has given every satisfaction, can be employed by the Government, if they are willing to enter the service of the Ministry of Agriculture for the time being or of other departments in the future. The cost is passed on to the account of the Dutch Development Aid so far as it cannot be recovered from the projects etc. in which they are engaged abroad. Until now IAC has made agreements which are binding upon about 30 graduates in agriculture of whom 22 have already been appointed and the rest will fairly certainly be appointed as soon as they are on their next leave in the Netherlands. Those who are intensively engaged in the technical realisation of development aid will be more and more aware of the use of forming such a body of civil servants for development aid as the Pool of Agricultural Experts. This is the only way out of the difficulties mentioned. Development aid does not only consist in voting sums of money; people are needed who know how to spend it efficiently.

As far as the multilateral aid the Specialized Agencies are responsible; for the bilateral aid the Netherlands will have to take their own measures. There will certainly be people — whether in the Civil Service or not — who might well be assigned to perform long-term or short-term tasks, but the nucleus should consist of a fairly large group of persons from various disciplines who like to make their career in this work. This is a much-discussed point; it is to be hoped that the Government will soon take a decision in this matter.

Wageningen

As was stated the prospects have a direct bearing upon a permanent establishment of IAC; this project includes a building accommodating about 175 persons. Without adequate accommodation the work for the foreigners cannot be expanded further. Not until the participants in the courses can be properly lodged will the number of short-term courses be increased. There are several branches of study in agriculture which in co-operation with the Agricultural University and the institutes for applied research might well give valuable information to the foreigner. IAC continues to be in charge of the courses, but the scientific staff takes care of the lessons.

The problem would be far more complicated if it was decided to start long-term courses in Wageningen meant for those foreigners from the developing countries who have taken the B.Sc. degree only. We have in mind a supplementary course at the end of which a M.Sc. can be taken. Such a course will have to be connected with the Agricultural University. This possibility has already been discussed for years both in Wageningen and elsewhere. In the past this idea could never be realized since it proved to be a problem to confer here a university degree which clearly differs in nature from ours. If this problem could be solved in some way or other, the difficulty remains that this type of education would inevitably require separate departments whose foundation will involve considerable expenses. Wageningen considers the possibility of establishing such a 'foreign department'. It remains to be seen whether that will be realized in the near future.