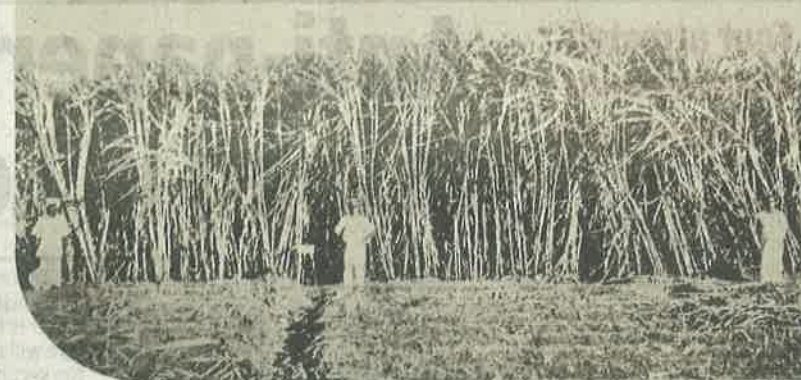
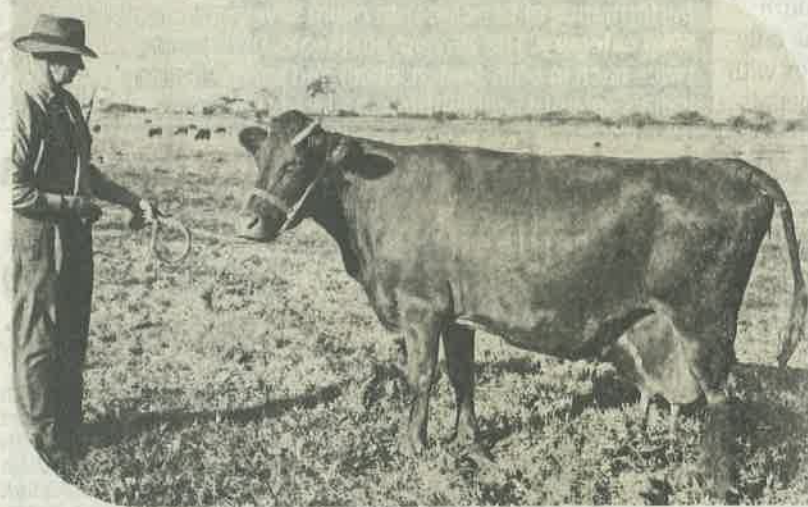


MADRAS HIGH COURT GRANTS RIVER THAMIRABARANI DEITY STATUS | 5

DMK & LEFT PARTIES WILL JOIN HANDS, FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF TAMILS, SAYS UDHAYANIDHI | 5



Madras Agricultural Students Union & Its Journal Continue Their Successful Run Even After A Century; Gain Global Attention

THESE PAGES TELL UNTOLD STORIES ABOUT AGRI SECTOR

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When a bunch of members of a student's union at the erstwhile Agricultural College in Coimbatore launched a journal way back in 1913, no one would have imagined that it would one day serve as the oldest and comprehensive archive, offering a clear picture of how farming practices, crop choices and agricultural technologies evolved over the decades.

While the college is today transformed into Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), the association - Madras Agricultural Students Union - is still active and so is its publication - Madras Agricultural Journal. The journal is a treasure trove that delves deeply into more than a century of India's agricultural history.

First published in 1913, it's among India's oldest continuously published peer-reviewed agricultural journals, says its editor-in-chief Dr V Rajanbabu. "For more than 110 years, the journal has been recording scientific research, technological innovations, policy per-



spectives and extension strategies covering fields such as crop improvement, plant protection, biotechnology, natural resource management and agricultural economics."

The journal is as such the best record available today about critical developments ranging from the decline of traditional millets and the introduction of hybrid sugarcane and cotton varieties to wartime food production and early discussions on drip irrigation dating back to 1914.

All volumes of this journal are housed in the building of Madras Agricultural Students Union (MASU), located behind the post office on TNAU campus. Established in 1911 during the first college day celebrations of then Agricultural College, MASU is one of India's oldest agricultural student organizations.

The journal, being published twice a year, has been documenting

agricultural practices in Tamil Nadu and across India since 1914, says another source. "The collection features historical material on the popularization of high-yielding rice varieties like IR8, shifts in pre-independence Tamil diets, agricultural productivity during World War I & II, and accounts concerning Indian soldiers who fought for the British in World War I."

According to Dr N Senthil, president, MASU, the journal offers clear evidence of how farming practices, crop choices and agricultural technologies evolved over the decades.

Senior scientist Vetrivendhan Mani from ICRIAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics), Hyderabad, says the journal's multidisciplinary work continues to provide significant value to the global scientific community.

To make this historical wealth

globally accessible, MASU has fully digitized the journal's complete volumes from 1914 onwards. Editorial manager T Aathirai says these archives are freely available online through an open-access model, enabling students, researchers, extension professionals and policymakers worldwide to consult historical and modern research without paywalls.

Sustaining primarily through membership renewals and subscriptions, MASU also serves as a bridge connecting current students with alumni, scientists, entrepreneurs and policymakers.

Dr P Shankar IAS, who is the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Production Commissioner and a former MASU student member, calls the union's survival for over a century a remarkable milestone.

The institution's origins, meanwhile, could be traced back to the agricultural college founded at Saidapet in Chennai, which was relocated to Coimbatore by the British govt in 1906 owing to the region's diverse soil types. It later became Agricultural College and Research Institute under the University of Madras, before it was upgraded to TNAU in 1971.



> When & where was Madras Agricultural Students Union established - 1911; TNAU, Coimbatore

> What makes it unique - Oldest agricultural students' organization in India and the first registered society in Tamil Nadu

> What's it famous for - Preserving 115 years of India's agricultural history

> Its major contribution - Madras Agricultural Journal (MAJ)

> MASU's first president - R Cecil Wood (1911-1913). He was the principal of College of Agriculture, which is now called TNAU

> First secretary of MASU and editor of MAJ - M Ramaswamy Sivan (1911-1913)

> First Tamil (Indian) president of MASU - Dr C Tadulingam

MEMBERS

> It has more than 813 lifetime members and more than 4,500 student members

> Father of green revolution M S Swaminathan was one of the members of MASU

MORE ABOUT MAJ

> First published in 1913, it's the oldest agricultural journal

> The journal has grown into a valuable archive documenting evolution of Indian agriculture for more than a century

> Interestingly, the journal did not document agriculture alone. It also recorded several important national and global events that shaped the respective periods

> For past five years, authors from countries such as Egypt, Bangladesh, Iran and Iraq have been publishing their papers in the journal

> 50% of space is allocated for authors outside TN

> MAJ editor review team comprises members from countries such as USA, China, Australia

> MAJ publication was never hit by any pandemic, wars, famine, flood, etc

DIGITAL PRESENCE

> masujournal.org provides open access to all articles published from 1914 to present day

> Until 2017, only printed versions of archives were available



BEST SOURCE: Madras Agricultural Journal has been documenting agricultural practices in Tamil Nadu and across India since 1914