

Arizona--Focal Point of International Agriculture

by Howard Baker and Arland Meade*

There is a far-reaching activity at the University of Arizona that is rather "foreign" to the everyday work of a Land Grant College.

It is "foreign" to the extent that: the activity is so new and little known; it lends Arizona agricultural experts to a foreign land; it includes many guests from foreign countries; its beneficial influence is worldwide.

To our Land Grant College of the University of Arizona come students from many foreign countries, especially from those whose climate is similar to ours. So, too, come older foreign representatives, who are leaders in their homelands. Both come to Arizona to learn how American know-how and democratic procedure combine to turn resources into a thing high in both material and spiritual values.

Although Arizona's contact with foreign agriculture is with many lands, the closest contact is with Iraq. With Iraq

Ishmael al-Azzawi (right), former graduate student in poultry science, and Phil S. Eckert, formerly Dean of the College of Agriculture, plant a palm tree presented to the University of Arizona by the five Iraqi students enrolled in the College of Agriculture last year. Other Iraqi students and University faculty representatives watch.



we have a special cooperative arrangement, supported financially by the United States Government through its International Cooperation Administration.

Arizona Faculty in Iraq

The University of Arizona has sent nine professors to Iraq as teachers, consultants, and administrators in Iraq's College of Agriculture. Each year several students from Iraq come to our College of Agriculture. These young people return to Iraq to become teachers in their own College of Agriculture, or to take places in their new Extension Service or Experiment Station.

It is not learning alone that these students take back to their homeland. They take back with them the inspiration to improve the agriculture of their home country; they go with the spirit of accomplishment in the American way.

Dean Mumtaz Arif, Dean of Iraq's rapidly growing college of agriculture, has twice visited Arizona for first-hand observations. During July, 1955, he studied the organization of the Land Grant College and its sub-divisions, its policies and operations. He visited the principal

areas in the State to get first-hand information on the three great functions of a Land Grant College: research, extension, and teaching.

To Many Countries

Let's look beyond Iraq. We aid academic students and leaders from many foreign countries including Turkey, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Canary Islands, Pakistan, India, Australia, and South Africa. A little over a year ago, 23 directors of agricultural organizations came here from Pakistan to study Arizona's agriculture.

These foreign visitors come for two basic purposes. First, they want to observe the latest developments in agricultural production and to develop ways of adapting these developments to their own agriculture. Second, they are anxious to find ways to organize their own resources for more efficient production.

Many of our visitors are already agricultural leaders in their own countries. These leaders come either at the expense of their own governments or under "leader grants" from the United States Government. These leaders stay in Arizona from two weeks to three months, with additional time in other parts of the United States. Sometimes they enroll for regular courses; more typically they observe actual agricultural operations ranging from production loans to the marketing of the product.

The Personal Touch

These activities mean far more in international relationships than simply their worthwhile contribution to living standards in less developed countries. The personal touch, the mutual understandings probably go further toward developing good relationships with these foreign peoples than anything else we could do. We are helping them to a better understanding of America and to a better life within their homeland.

Not only is the College of Agriculture of the University of Arizona making a great contribution in helping these foreign peoples, but the farmers of Arizona are making a greater contribution than they realize to the cause of *international good will*.

*Howard Baker is Assistant Director, Arizona Agricultural Extension Service, and an Arizona host to many of the senior foreign visitors; Arland Meade, Agricultural Experiment Station Editor, was formerly in Iraq with the "Point Four" program.