

Cotton Growers Aid Research Cost

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In 1948 the first commercial increase field of a new variety of upland cotton, A-44, which had been developed by the Plant Breeding Department was grown. All of the seed from this field was planted in 1949. At the same time, 1948, small increase fields of two other newly developed varieties, A-28 and A-33, were grown. A new variety of American Egyptian, Pima-32 developed by the USDA at Sacaton, was also ready for increase.

At this time Arizona had no organization which could increase this seed for general use throughout the state. It could not be done by the experiment station or the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It became evident that the cotton industry needed an organization which could take seed from the breeders, maintain its purity, and increase it in quantity for commercial distribution.

The following paragraph is quoted from the "Story of Arizona Seed Development" published in 1960 by the Arizona Cotton Planting Seed Distributors, Inc.:

"In February of 1949, representatives from the cotton growing industry, the Agricultural Experiment Station, U. of A., and the U. S. Field Station at Sacaton met, and, after studying both California and New Mexico pure seed organizations, worked out a plan for an Arizona Association. With the help of the Arizona Cooperative Cotton Growers Association, articles of incorporation and by-laws were written, and the financing for the new organization was arranged. The ginning industry supplied legal assistance and agreed to finance the new seed organization until it could stand on its own feet. The new organization was then incorporated as "Arizona Cotton Planting Seed Distributors."

Get Good Seed to Growers

The function of this non-profit organization has always been to make available to the cotton growers planting seed of the highest quality of recommended varieties at the lowest possible cost. In the 11 years of its existence, the following upland varieties have been handled: Acala 44,

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Acala 28, Acala 33, Acala 124 and Acala 44 WR, all of which were developed by the Plant Breeding Department of the University of Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station. For various reasons, several of these varieties have passed out of the picture. American Egyptian varieties handled during the same period are Pima 32 developed by the USDA at Sacaton and Pima S-1 developed by the Plant Breeding Department of the Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station.

In the early 1950's it became apparent that the U. S. Cotton Field Station at Sacaton would be closed to further breeding and research on cotton. Leaders of the state's cotton industry were very much disturbed over the probability that the services of the personnel located at Sacaton would be lost to the state. The manager and board of directors of the Seed Distributors conceived the idea of purchasing and deeding to the University of Arizona a farm for the establishment of a Cotton Research Center where both U. S. Department of Agriculture and state personnel working with cotton could be located.

Checkoff for Research Fund

By adding a comparatively small amount to the price of each ton of plant-

BELOW, The Arizona Maid of Cotton, Miss Janet Cooper, cuts the ribbon at dedication of the new Research Center. She is flanked by UA President Harvill, ARS Administrator Byron Shaw, University regents and leading cotton growers.

ing seed sold through the organization, a research fund was established. With this research fund the board of directors of the Cotton Seed Distributors purchased a 265 acre farm on East Broadway between 40th and 48th Streets near Phoenix and deeded it to the University of Arizona. With appropriations received from the Legislature and further financial assistance from the Seed Distributors, an office and laboratory building was constructed as well as an Agricultural Engineering shop, a gin room and a storage building. The U. S. Department of Agriculture provided greenhouses and furnished laboratories with the necessary equipment.

Through their contributions to the research fund, Arizona cotton growers who have purchased their planting seed, both long and short staple, through the Cotton Seed Distributors have made possible this research facility second to none in the entire cotton belt.

Wide Field of Research

Laboratories and greenhouses are available for basic studies in genetics, plant physiology, plant pathology, nematology and fiber technology. Land is available for a wide variety of field investigations including variety and strain testing, breeding of new varieties, production methods, irrigation, fertilization, weed control and disease and insect control for both upland and American Egyptian cottons.

