

Seek National Agricultural Recognition

The creation of the National Academy of Sciences in 1863 proved to be an effective mechanism for stimulating scientific development.

Since that time, however, the ferment for greater national recognition of agricultural scientists is essentially the same as that which prevailed among engineers and which resulted in the creation in 1964 of the National Academy of Engineering. Essentially the same concern is being expressed by some of the leaders in the medical profession.

There are similarities between the problems of agriculture, engineering and medicine. All are first and foremost applied sciences. The application of science has been one of the principal factors in the economic development of our nation . . . agriculture, communication, manufacturing, transportation and health. Without applied science, basic research contributions would constitute only interesting textbook information.

Applied science makes it possible to use basic research results for the

benefit of mankind.

But, those who have devoted their research efforts to the applied sciences, as in agriculture, have felt that national recognition has been less than satisfactory.

Frequently, it is suggested that a change be made in the National Academy of Sciences organizational pattern to include the creation of a National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Such an Academy, by the very nature of stringent qualifications which would be required for membership, would recognize the outstanding agricultural scientists. These men and women represent every professional field in the agricultural sciences and would come from industry, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, private research organizations and the universities and colleges.

They would bring together into one organization the visionary science leaders in the field of agriculture.

Our main concern is that the agricultural scientists in spite of his productivity and success in contributing to science and to the welfare of mankind have not been granted a merited position within the National Academy of Sciences.

It appears that the most creative of the manpower in agricultural sciences should be mobilized in a National Academy of Agricultural Sciences under the charter of the National Academy of Sciences and on a coordinate basis with the two existing academies. Agricultural scientists should be the key group to deal with national and international agricultural problems. If ever there were a time when aggressive and respected agricultural leadership were needed on both national and international scene, it is today.

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