REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE F.A.O. EXPERT PANEL ON ANIMAL HUSBANDRY EDUCATION
ROME JUNE/JULY 1969
A SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Organisation of the Meeting

The Panel is comprised of 20 members from 17 countries. Nine members participated, and each presented a Working Paper on one item of the Agenda. The hope was expressed by the Assistant Director-General, F.A.O., who opened the Session, that the outcome of the Meeting would be of assistance to the Animal Production and Health Division in developing a meaningful policy in Animal Husbandry Education.

The Panel adopted the following agenda (summarized):

(a) Consideration of the recommendations made at the International Conference on Animal Husbandry Education in July 1968.
(b) Present status and requirements of animal husbandry education at agricultural faculties in developing and developed countries.
(c) Animal husbandry educational practices and requirements in the training programme of veterinary faculties.
(d) Post-graduate training and research in animal production.
(e) Present status and requirements of animal husbandry education at sub-university levels.
(f) The need for activities by F.A.O. Animal Production Branch in collecting and collating information on (i) teaching systems, (ii) text-book requirements, (iii) future requirements for teaching, training, advisory and extension personnel at all levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In framing its recommendations the Panel has taken the view that animal husbandry education should be integrated with other educational activities in the broad field of agriculture, e.g. veterinary and dairy education. The Panel supported most strongly a proper balance between theoretical and practical teaching and was interested in all levels of animal husbandry education from short courses for farm workers to the sophisticated needs of post-graduate research workers and university lecturers.

Regional Animal Husbandry Training Centres.—The Panel recommended that training centres should be on a regional basis and provide a variety of short-term courses in the practical application of animal husbandry.

Animal Production and Health Division of F.A.O. should (a) prepare a Newsletter of F.A.O.'s activities in animal husbandry education and research, and distribute it periodically to members of the Panel and selected persons working in the
profession of animal husbandry, (b) complete the compilation and publication of a directory of animal husbandry education training and research centres, (c) prepare teaching material for short courses for farmer training to be held available at teaching institutions, (d) encourage the preparation of suitable manuals, and provide when requested, advisers to help in the preparation of local texts and documentation services (e) arrange for lists to be prepared and distributed of animal husbandry books published in the languages of member countries.

Liaison with other Expert Panels.—Close and active liaison should be established with the F.A.O. Expert Panels on Dairy Education, Veterinary Education and Agricultural Education. The Secretary of each Panel should attend the Meetings of the other Panels.

Further Meeting.—Only the general concepts and requirements of animal husbandry education at various levels could be covered at the first meeting. The Panel recommended a second meeting be convened as soon as possible to consider the specific aspects of animal husbandry education in relation to livestock development opportunities and the needs of developing countries.

Terminology.—The Panel recognised the different interpretations of the terms 'animal husbandry', 'animal production', 'animal science', 'zootecni, etc., and recommended that the meaning of such expressions should be carefully evaluated in order to find a generally acceptable nomenclature.

Animal Husbandry Education at University Level

(a) That consideration be given to the development of curricula and training programmes that would produce high quality animal husbandry professionals who are now required and will be required in the future.

(b) That university courses of animal husbandry should not provide training that is too narrowly based.

(c) That new institutions for animal husbandry education and research should be located close to or as a part of an existing university/institution concerned with agronomy, veterinary science, natural science, etc.

(d) That the subject be taught in association with as many fields of interest as possible within the overall framework of agriculture.

(e) That the students enrolled should have a sound basic foundation in the basic sciences.

(f) That only students at an educational level normally demanded for other professions should be accepted for entry.

(g) That the institutions concerned should have in close proximity adequate land and livestock resources at their disposal.

(h) That adequate laboratory and farm facilities should be available for the number of students accepted for training.

(i) A favourable ratio between staff and students be maintained. 1:7.

Post-Graduate Level

(a) Facilities.—If post-graduate training and research in animal production was to be effectively carried out, it was essential for adequate experimental facilities to be provided.

(b) Entrance requirements. M.Sc.—A first degree in agriculture, animal husbandry or natural science. Ph.D.—Either a first degree with a high level of proficiency, in agriculture, animal husbandry, veterinary science or a natural science with some specialization.