

History of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

Since Saidapet was not an ideal location for agricultural education, the Agriculture institute was shifted in toto to Coimbatore in June, 1908. The construction of the Agricultural College and Research Institute was started in 1907, and completed and occupied in 1909. Find below some basic (and rare) details about AC&RI, Coimbatore:

Total area acquired: 500 acres

Cost of land acquired: INR 75,000

Cost of construction of building: INR 700,000

Foundation laid on: 24th September 1906 (By Sir Arthur Lawley, Governor of Fort St. George, Madras - first picture)

Inaugurated on: 14th July 1909

Architect: G.S.T. Harris

Execution: H.T. Keeling, District Executive Engineer

Building: 300' X 50' (H shape)

Building style: Hindu-Saracenic style, made of red table-molded brick in mortar and finely dressed cutstones

Clock Tower: 75'

Pioneers of Site Selection: C.A. Barber, C. Benson

The first batch of students was admitted in 1908 using the available facilities. Two courses - (1) a Practical Certificate course of two years duration and (2) an Advanced Diploma course (L. Ag.) of 18-months as pointed out by Prof. [Uthamasamy Subbarayan](#), were offered. The last batch of students of these courses completed their studies in 1925.

In 1920, a three year degree course in Agriculture, B.Sc. (Ag.) was started with 16 students admitted annually until 1926, when the number of admissions was tripled to 48 students. The teaching was mainly done by the Heads of Research Stations and Deputy Directors of Agriculture. See picture 2 for the staff during that time.

Mr. J.W. Shepperson (1906-09) was the first Principal, followed by R. Cecilwood (1909-17), William McRae (1918-20), F.R. Parnell (1921-24), R.C. Broadfoot (1931-41) and R.W. Little Wood for a brief period between 1936-37. However, since 1925, Indian scientists also got the opportunity to steer the administration as Principals and Heads of the Research Institute. Rao Bahadur M.R. Ramaswamy Sivan (1926-27) was the first Indian Principal, followed by Dewan Bahadur C. Tadulinga Mudaliar (1927-33), Rao Bahadur P.H. Rama reddy (1929-33), Rao Bahadur D. Ananda Rao (1934-35) and Rao Bahadur S. Sundararaman (1933-35). (see pictures 3-4).

..... I shall continue the history in a day or two! - Srinivasan Ramasamy, AVRDC

(Source: Agricultural College & Research Institute, Coimbatore, Platinum Jubilee Souvenir)

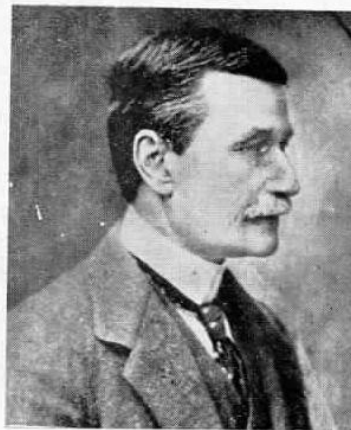


Laying the foundation stone in 1906 by Sir Arthur Lawley, Governor, Fort St. George

PRINCIPALS OF AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, SAIDAPET
(1876 - 1906)



W. R. Robertson



Walter Keess



S. L. D'Silva

PRINCIPALS 1921 - 1940



F. R. Parnell



R. C. Broadfoot



M. Ramaswami Sivan



C. Tadulingam



P. H. Rama Reddy



S. Sundararaman



D. Ananda Rao



R. W. Little Wood

PRINCIPALS 1907 - 1920



J. W. Shepperson



R. Cecil Wood



H. C. Sampson



W. McRae
W. McRae



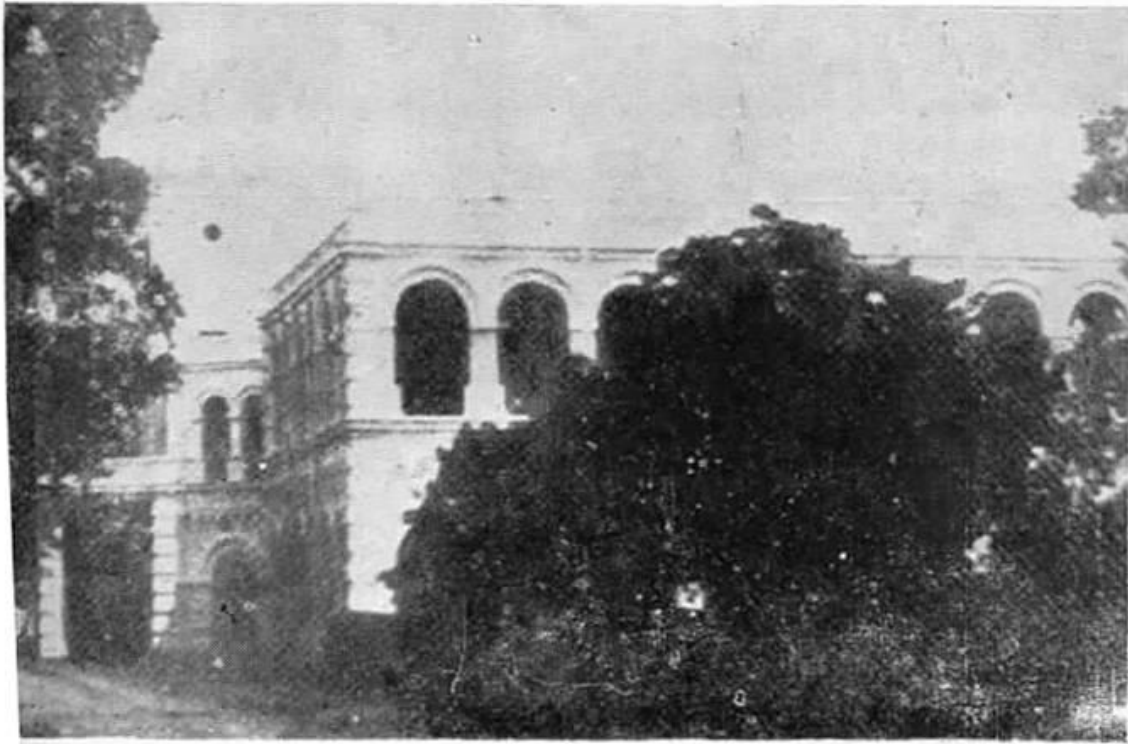
Dr. R. V. Norris



G. R. Hilson



Staff of Agricultural College and Research Institute (1909) with J. W. Shepperson,
the First Principal, Dr. C. A. Barber and Dr. W. H. Harrison



MADRAS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, SAIDAPET