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## Tropical Technology For Agricultural Production

From A Correspondent

The importance of technology for accelerating the pace of agricultural production is being increasingly realised both in developing and developed countries. A specialised approach aimed at attaining higher productivity is the voice of the present epoch. In developing countries where millions of people remain undernourished and ill-fed, the need for such an appropriate technology is obvious. In order to introduce new techniques in agricultural production, improved courses in schools and colleges are recommended to be incorporated. Some institutes in West Germany are giving thought to introducing courses in subjects relating to technology in tropical countries. Such courses will be of particular interest to students, apprentices and researchers from developing countries in Asia and Africa.

A three-semester course is offered by a college in Cologne which concentrates mainly on agricultural machinery, its uses in tropical production techniques and building in the tropics. The course is a specialised one and is designed keeping in view the requirements of the tropical countries. The course covers 51 weeks of lectures and culminates in a written and oral examination. Highly qualified experts among graduates of higher education institutes at home and abroad who wish to work as advisers to local experts in tackling scientific problems and in dissemination of adapted production techniques in developing countries are to be prepared in an optimum manner for their future duties.

The faculty of agriculture at the University of Goettingen has set itself a similar task. At this university a course of studies in tropical and sub-tropical agricultural sciences is set up in order to impart specialised knowledge to the ex-

perts. The course provides advanced training facilities in agricultural sciences and allied disciplines.

The continuation course at Goettingen is, as a rule, to last 4 semesters and includes research work on the part of the graduates, if necessary within the framework of the projects undertaken in context with the technical aid programme. The experts back at the school can make a free choice among the general series of lectures but must do a minimum of 40 periods weekly. In addition, the experts must master two foreign languages.

The new courses at Cologne and Goettingen complete the special studies programmes preparing foreign and German experts for future development tasks, particularly in the field of agriculture, in the emerging countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Since 1974, special courses have been running in medicine in developing countries which familiarize doctors with the therapy and control of the most common tropical diseases and the environmental conditions of their breeding grounds. The possibilities of improving the health services and the expansion of medical care in countries of the Third World are also duly included in the courses.

Further focal areas include social medicine, social psychology and subjects concerned with organisations and cooperation with local authorities and auxiliary bodies. Over and above this a comprehensive range of basic knowledge for day to day operations is provided.

Similar courses for nurses from developing countries have been organised in Hamburg. Here they are taught the medical and sociological aspects of their duties. The people interested in these courses can avail of them by applying through the German embassies in their respective countries.