

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
A UNIT OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY  
ITHACA, NEW YORK

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*Agriculture*

WILLIAM I. MYERS  
DEAN

*I think EIB will  
wish to answer this  
himself. FMR*

JTA

August 27, 1951

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Mr. Chester I. Barnard, President  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
49 West 49th Street  
New York 20, New York

*x-refs!*

Dear Chester:

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*Agriculture*

*Agriculture*

I returned to New York on Friday, September 10, after a very interesting trip with Dr. Parran and Mr. Rockefeller to look over the agricultural program of the Foundation in Mexico and Colombia. From my point of view, the trip was very successful, and I want to express to you my appreciation for taking it at the expense of the Foundation.

I was very much pleased at the steady progress made in the Mexican program since my last trip two years ago and by the equally remarkable achievements of the Colombian program in a period of only a year and a half. These observations confirmed my opinion that continuity in service of staff members in foreign countries is a most important factor in their success. We have one of the best qualified groups of agricultural scientists that can be found anywhere, and, in addition, they are motivated by a sincere desire to help others. The leadership of Dr. Harrar is particularly outstanding and is shown not only by the morale and competence of our staff but also by the high degree of confidence reposed in them by the ministers of agriculture of Mexico and Colombia.

The extraordinary progress made in Colombia in a little more than a year is an indication of the help that can be given to other Latin American countries at small cost because of the fundamental research that has been carried on in Mexico. Dr. Roberts and his associate started out with improved varieties of corn and wheat developed in Mexico, and has proved by demonstration, that they are much better than local varieties being grown at the present time. This gives the program an excellent start, and further progress can be made in the breeding of varieties adapted to the wide variety of climates found in Colombia.

While great progress has been made, it is really only a good beginning on a program of helping these countries to bring their levels of living up to a standard that can be attained with their agricultural resources. While I approve many of the statements made in the memorandum

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Mr. Chester I. Barnard

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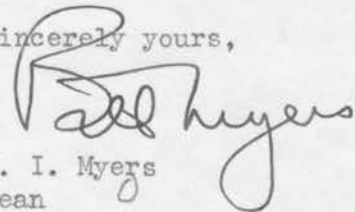
August 27, 1951

which you circulated to trustees a few weeks ago, it seems to me that it was too optimistic in regard to the work that remains to be done. We have not yet made even a beginning in the study of economic and social problems that are also important in improving the general level of well-being of the countries concerned. In these areas, as in the science of crop and animal production, I believe that the Foundation can be most helpful by carrying on scientific research to reveal the problems and to suggest methods of solving them. With the basis of confidence that has been built up by our successful operations over the last eight years, I hope it will be possible to provide a modest expansion in other directions during the coming years. I do not wish to intrude into administration, but if my observations and reactions would be of any help to you I shall be glad to see you at any time.

I regret that I shall not be able to attend the special meeting of trustees called for Friday, September 28 because of an important prior engagement that cannot be changed at this time.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
W. I. Myers  
Dean