

## PREFACE

*Following a Refresher Course on Dairy Cattle Nutrition for Regional Research and Extension workers, held at the State Research Farm, Werribee, Victoria in October 1969, a group of participants from the States of Queensland and New South Wales considered that the dairy industry in the tropical areas of Australia required a degree of independent consideration. They reported their views to the Directors-General of the Department of Primary Industries and Agriculture of the two States. Subsequently, an Organising Committee was appointed and plans were made to conduct a Conference on "Limitations to Dairy Production in the Tropics" at Wollongbar Agricultural Research Station, N.S.W., from 10th-14th May, 1971.*

*The Organising Committee comprised:*

*Dr. S. G. Grimmitt, Department of Agriculture, N.S.W.*

*The late Mr. J. G. Young, Department of Primary Industries, Queensland.*

*Dr. T. H. Stobbs, Cunningham Laboratory, C.S.I.R.O., Queensland.*

*Mr. R. L. Colman, Department of Agriculture, N.S.W.*

*Mr. A. G. Kaiser, Department of Agriculture, N.S.W.*

*Mr. I. H. Rayner, Department of Primary Industries, Queensland.*

*Financial support for the Conference was provided from the Commonwealth Extension Services Grant. Delegates were drawn from the Department of Agriculture, N.S.W., Department of Primary Industries, Queensland, Division of Tropical Pastures, C.S.I.R.O. Brisbane, University of New England, Armidale and private enterprise. The conference was opened by Mr. D. W. Crowfoot, Chairman, New South Wales Dairy Industry Authority, on 10th May, 1971.*

*Conference objectives*

*1. To review knowledge arisen from research and practical experience of some important aspects of dairy production in the tropical and subtropical areas of Queensland and New South Wales.*

*2. To identify deficiencies in knowledge and experience in these production sectors and their problems.*

*3. To indicate useful future research.*

*The Conference reviewed knowledge and experience in the tropical dairying situation of Australia which is different to the temperate dairying situation in production methods and results.*

*Socio-economic considerations were specifically excluded from the Conference as it was considered that their inclusion would involve too broad an area for satisfactory consideration in the time available.*

*Review papers on the eight conference topics were prepared by designated participants. For all topics except one, two separate papers were prepared, the first being a scientific review on current knowledge and an indication of areas requiring further research, and the second a review of current farm practices including a definition of production problems at the individual farm levels. This review drew attention to deficiencies in available technology at the applied level, whether arising from gaps in knowledge or apparent failure of research findings to give satisfactory results in practice.*

*This issue of Tropical Grasslands contains the Proceedings of this Conference. The papers in each of the eight topics are followed by a summary of the discussions that took place and there is an overall summary of the closing session which contains recommendations for further research and development.*