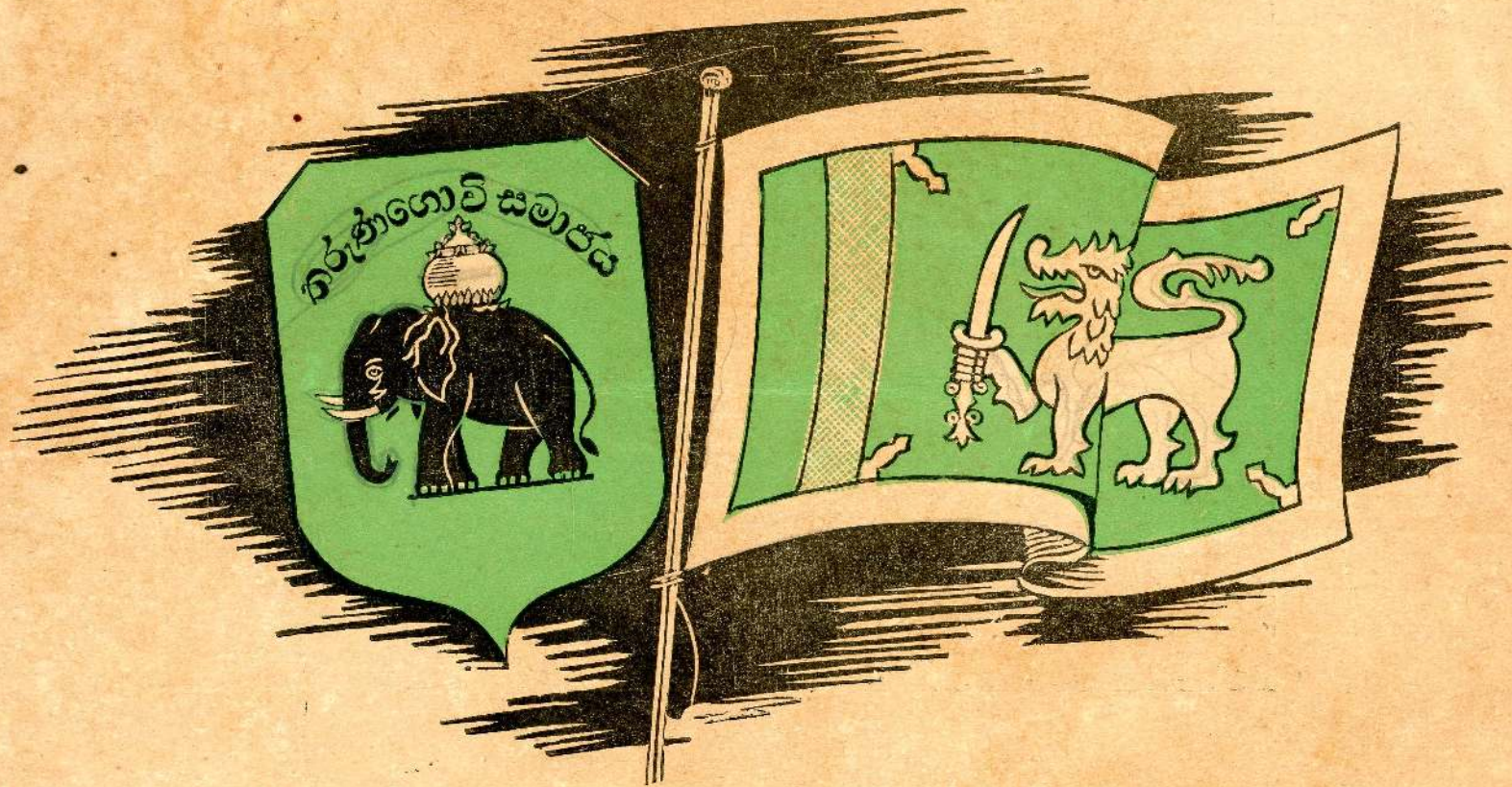


Building for the Future with YOUNG FARMERS



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CEYLON

CHALLENGE TO YOUTH



Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake

The late Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake inaugurated the first club in November, 1950. Now 30,000 Rural Youths in 400 clubs in all parts of the Island are learning

better things in life and are training themselves to be more confident leaders of rural youth.

THE YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB—What is it?

The organisation of Young Farmers is an out-of-school educational system designed to train youths in newer and better practices in farming and home making. Five or more boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 21 years can form a club. They are guided by local leaders and Agricultural Extension Officers.

Young Farmers help their parents, their neighbours and their community. They live together, play together and work together.

Young Farmers Clubs are voluntary organisations. They do not cost members anything to join them. Their activities are educational which bring to members both profit and pleasure. *Through them members build for the future of Sri Lanka.*



Basket weaving is an interesting and profitable hobby



Girls make themselves useful in the home garden



Girls receive instructions in the culinary art



Over-age youths help in the fields

Boys and Girls above or below the required age group are admitted as *associate members*. They do not hold office or participate in competitions.

An attempt is also made to harness the services of many thousands of youths who are unemployed or under employed for greater and more efficient production of food.

PROJECTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES



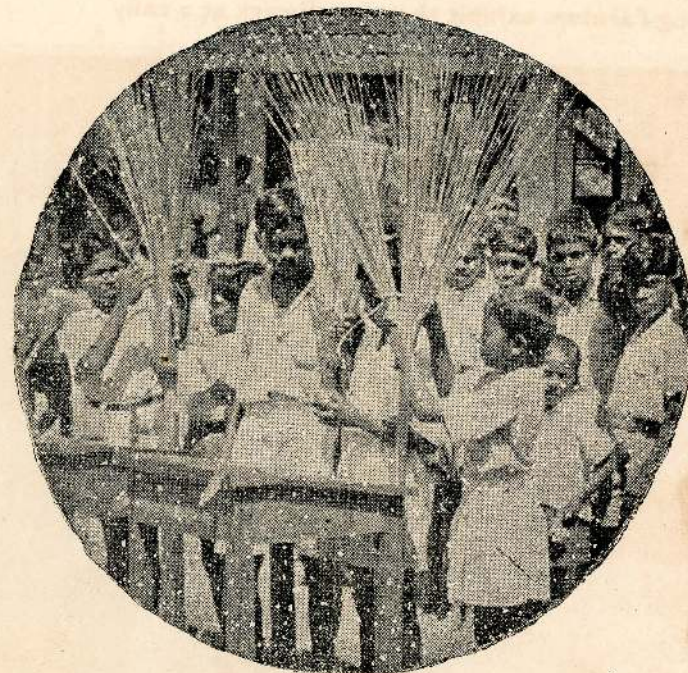
Increasing rice production by the use of improved methods is a major project
Here Young Farmers are seen transplanting rice

Every member on joining promises to do at least one activity by actually doing it. This is the most striking feature in club work. There is a wide and flexible range of activities usually termed *projects*. All projects are practical and members gain

considerable satisfaction by doing them. Year after year the members make an attempt to raise the standard of their project work. *Their aim is to beat their own best record.*

Activities of Young Farmers are conducted throughout the year. They get a reasonable income from whatever they do. This early training they receive helps them to go forward with courage and confidence.

Girls learn to weave mats



Young Farmers exhibit their skill at making ekel brooms

Even in areas where agriculture is poor and opportunities for agricultural projects are limited, club work can still exert its influence and contribute towards constructive development of rural leadership.

COMPETITIONS

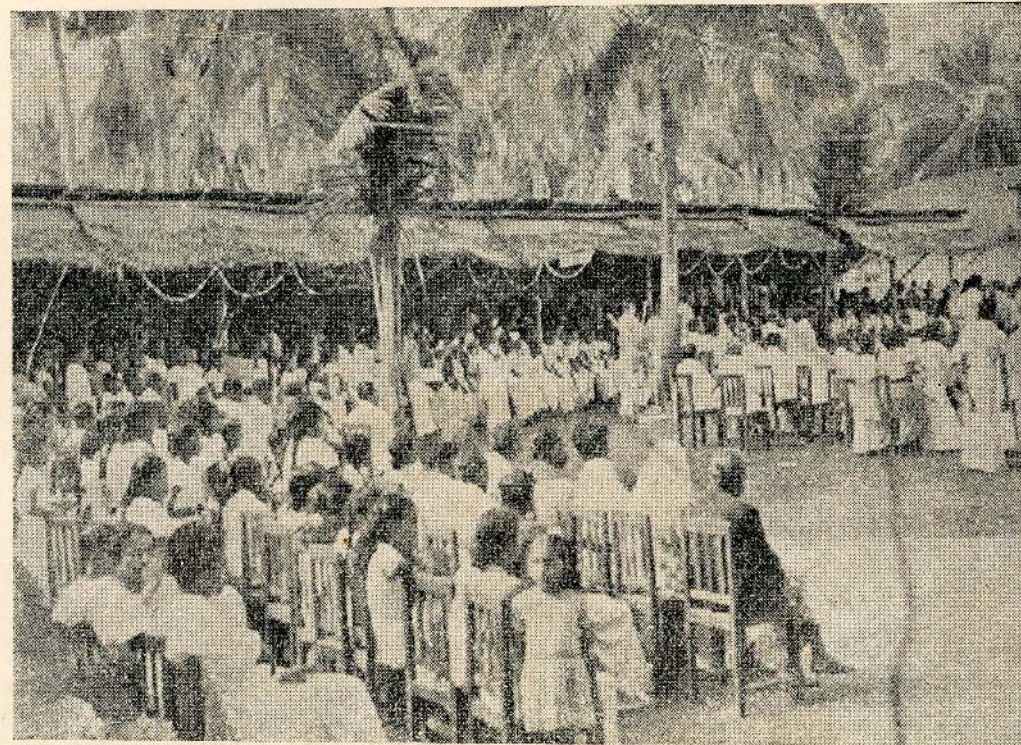
Young Farmers exhibit their handiwork at a rally



Healthy competitions are encouraged among Young Farmers. Every member is expected to exhibit his or her produce at the local fair every year. Those most proficient participate in the provincial and island-wide fairs.

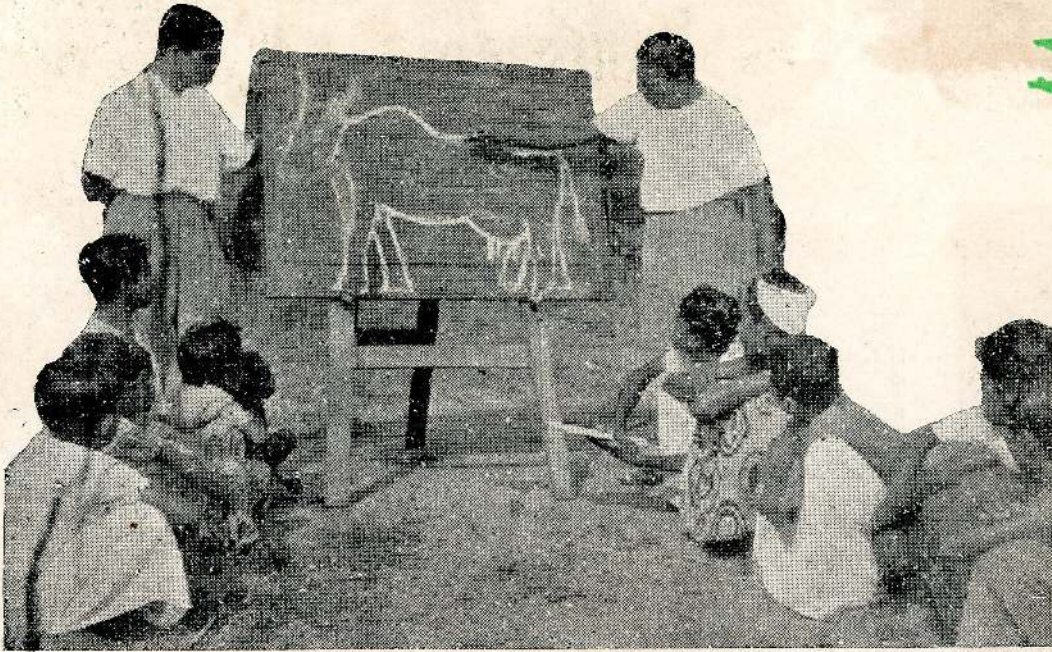
FAIRS AND RALLIES

Parents and Young Farmers assemble at a district rally



Young Farmers conduct annual rallies which provide opportunities for the members as well as their parents to meet people from all parts of the Island. They exchange views and understand each other better, ultimately bringing better relationship between people in the Island.

INSTRUCTION



Young Farmers learn about the cow from an Instructor

Members learn to do by doing. All clubs adopt the demonstration method of teaching.

Members keep complete and accurate records of all operations involved in project work. They submit brief reports of the projects at the close of the club year.

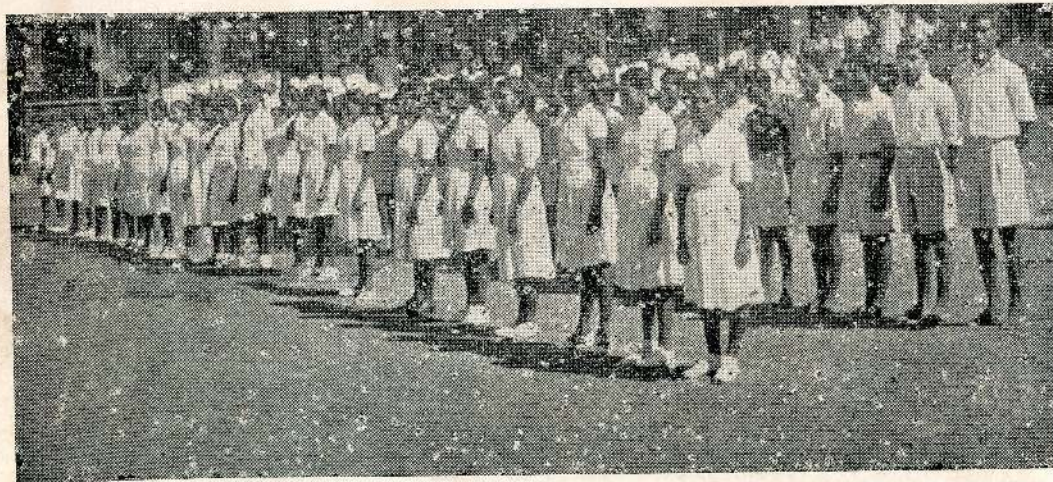


Women in the village learn the scientific methods of dress making from an UNESCO teacher

FUN AND GAMES



Kandyan dancing—an interesting way to spend an evening



Young Farmers at a youth camp



Picnic Lunch



Games are a healthy exercise

Young Farmers pay particular attention to health activities. Personal hygiene, games, camps and hikes are an important part of their programme.

TRAINING LEADERS



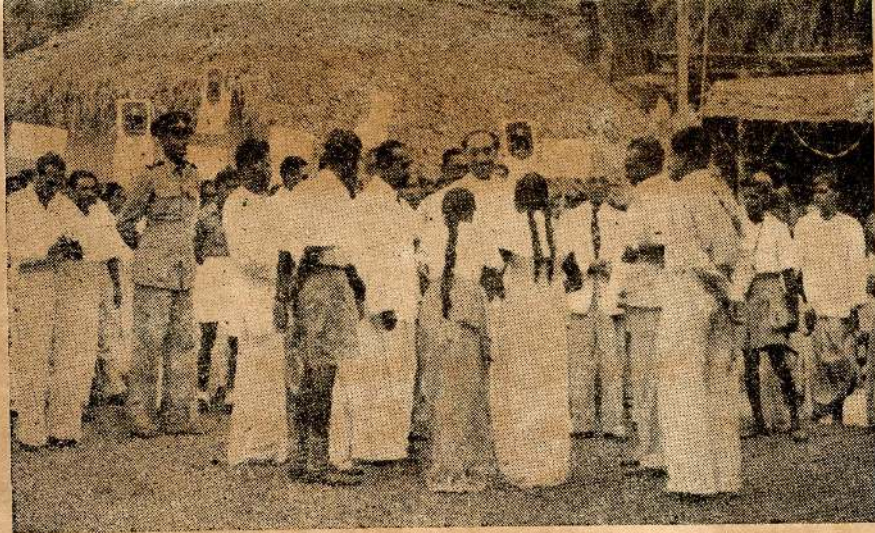
A batch of Agricultural Instructors being instructed in Y. F. C. extension work by an F. A. O. expert from the U. S. A.

Leaders hold a key position in the development of the Y. F. C. programme. Extension workers in the Department of Agriculture are specially trained in Y. F. C. work, and they in turn pass on their knowledge and experience to local leaders, who are responsible for training Y. F. C. members.



A group of local leaders of Young Farmers' Clubs are taught the principles of leadership and organisation by departmental extension workers

GOVERNMENT TAKES A KEEN INTEREST



The Hon'ble J. R. Jayewardene, Minister of Agriculture and Food at a Y. F. C. exhibition

I welcome this opportunity to convey to the Young Farmers of Ceylon how much I am interested in this Movement which seeks to send the young people of Ceylon back to the land, which alone can give them sustenance to perform the duties and conquer the problems that lie before them. Yours is a generation that was born in independence. Unlike in the case of your forefathers for many generations, your country is your own. If your parents have won for you political independence it is for you to win economic independence for Ceylon. This can never be done other than by coaxing out of our land the wherewithal to feed our people of today and of tomorrow. The task is not difficult: the rich earth is ready to respond to high endeavour and to the skilful, industrious and scientific application of the best cultural practices which have been successful in other countries more advanced than ours in agricultural enterprise. Through the medium of the young Farmers Club Movement knowledge of these practices can be acquired by you and applied on the land which will surely yield its fruit in abundance to your young hands.

I wish your Movement all success. I shall watch it constantly and shall always be ready to give it any assistance that may be needed.

J. R. JAYEWARDENE

Minister of Agriculture and Food.

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