



WILLIAM B. HEWITT
*Assistant Director
Agricultural
Experiment Station
and Director of
Research Programs,
San Joaquin Valley
Agricultural Research
and Extension Center*

SAN JOAQUIN CENTER RESEARCH EMPHASIS: PEOPLE'S NEEDS

AS THE DECADE ENDED, news reports reflected opinions on various accomplishments and unsolved problems of the past and offered predictions on the new decade. Most commentators agreed that among the major problems to be solved are: (1) cleaning up the air, (2) proper use and preservation of our natural and renewable resources, (3) decontamination of waters and soils, (4) improving and preserving our agricultural lands, (5) improving the production and marketing of food and fiber, (6) planning for rural community development, (7) improving human nutrition, and (8) overcoming poverty. Much energy will be devoted to improving the lives of all people through education, research, and technology. A fuller, more meaningful, and more exciting life for mankind is the goal.

People are our greatest resource. We should therefore educate them and use their talents. Public education will become broader in scope and more of a continuum, permitting individuals to move at their own pace, to explore their abilities, and to develop skills in vocations and professions as well as in advanced learning and research. Research will place new emphasis on providing for human needs and solving problems of ecology as well as sheer survival.

The San Joaquin Valley, one of the world's largest and most productive agricultural areas, leads in most of California's agricultural accomplishments, and also in needs and problems to be solved. In addition to the three field stations already established in the Valley by the University of California Division of Agricultural Sciences in cooperation with farmers and agricultural businesses, the San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center became a reality about a year ago. The Center has headquarters at the Kearney Horticultural Field Station near Parlier. Thirteen scientists and six extension specialists, with expertise in 10 disciplines, plus a

supporting office and technical staff are now stationed in the valley and are involved in research at the Center, at field stations, at Shafter, and in numerous plots on farms throughout the valley.

Staff Mission

Staff members, in conjunction with departmental researchers, have developed a mission which states, in effect, that the Center will promote and conduct research pertaining to man's use of the environment. It will apply and disseminate knowledge for the benefit of all the people of the state of California and will include concern for agricultural, economic, and social needs. Research will develop knowledge, and technology, whether simple or complex, and apply such knowledge to the solution of human problems.

Immediate effort is being directed to solving basic needs in agriculture, including studies in more efficient production of quality food and fiber, improving processing and marketing, the use and conservation of natural and renewable resources, and improving the environment. High quality, productive scientists are on the research job at the Center. We seek to provide them with needed resources, and to create a stimulating and encouraging atmosphere for the solution of their research. Administrators will seek the advice of leaders in agriculture, agribusiness, labor, industry, and communities, in determining broad research objectives, establishing priorities, and assisting departments and staff in organizing research programs. We will also seek the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Fresno State College in planning so that the greatest returns from all research can be realized.

Among the most urgent agricultural problems to be resolved are those directly related to the development of water and new agricultural lands in the valley—and the related problems of crop displacement and replacement brought about as a result of the development.