



SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF HEALTH SERVICES
AND TRAINING INSTITUTES IN THE CONTROL
OF VECTORS AND RESERVOIRS OF DISEASES

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Agenda item 11

THE ROLE OF RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGY
DOKKI, CAIRO, EGYPT, IN THE COUNTRY'S VECTOR CONTROL
PROGRAMME

by

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When Egypt was invaded by Anopheles gambiae in 1942, causing a very severe malaria epidemic, a special service was established to confront the situation. This service, Gambiae Eradication Section, of the Ministry of Health was, after successfully accomplishing the task of eradication of the invading vector, transformed in 1945 into the Insect Control Section.

The Insect Control Section was at first concerned with field surveys of insects of medical importance and field trials for their control. In 1953 this Section was expanded and a new building in Dokki was established to function as the Laboratories of the Insect Control Section to perform laboratory trials of insect control by insecticides especially with regard to susceptibility, in addition to insect rearing.

Eventually, in 1961, these laboratories were given the status of an Institute, namely the Research Institute of Medical Entomology.

The role of Dokki Research Institute of Medical Entomology could be outlined as follows:

1. Survey of insect vectors and rodents in Egypt; their distribution, bionomics, susceptibility to pesticides and relation to diseases.
2. Training of personnel of the Institute as well as from different Departments of the Ministry of Health, students in the final year of the Faculties of Science and Agriculture and personnel from Military Service with regard to medical entomology and rodents. Training students from overseas in medical entomology and rodent-related subjects.
3. Giving advice to the Health Authorities in the Governorates regarding effective methods of insect control, based on studies of insect susceptibility to insecticides in the different Governorates.

4. Testing the efficacy of insecticides and rodenticides against the target organisms, both for household use before registration and public use by Health Authorities; also testing safety and proper concentration of such insecticides and rodenticides for safe use.
5. Encouraging senior staff to undertake post-graduate studies in Medical Entomology and rodent-related subjects, including M.Sc., Ph.D., M.D. and other degrees.
6. Establishing an insect collection for training purposes and as a reference source for systematic studies.
7. Planning and carrying out field studies for the control of rodents and insects of medical importance by different methods including biological control.

The Sections of the Institute are as follows:

1. Insectary for rearing insects of medical importance viz mosquitoes, flies, et
2. Insect collection section.
3. Filaria section.
4. Malaria section
5. Chemistry section.
6. Rodent research section.

The senior staff of the Institute are graduated from the Faculties of Medicine, Science and Agriculture. Most of them were given the chance of study and research to obtain postgraduate degrees in the field of medical entomology.

The auxiliary staff are graduated from Health Institutes. There are also other personnel who help in field work, such as insect collectors and supervisors.