THE MICHIGAN PLAN FOR DISTRIBUTING IMPROVED CROP VARIETIES. 1

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Widespread interest is at present being manifested in organized movements to obtain the extensive distribution of dependable seed of high yielding crop varieties. Crop improvement associations, experiment associations, and corn growers' associations have been organized in many States for this purpose. With the formation of the International Crop Improvement Association marked impetus has been given to this work.

Within a short time there should develop a more or less standardized method of State organization for the purpose of distributing improved varieties, as a result of the interchange of ideas among representatives of States engaged in this work.

Recent progress along the lines of testing, developing, increasing, certifying, and distributing seed of improved varieties in Michigan may therefore be of some interest to agronomists in States where such work is contemplated or under process of development.

Several important changes in the plan of obtaining rapid distribution of dependable varieties have been made during the past year and have greatly increased the effectiveness of this work in Michigan. The initial distribution of varieties to members of the Michigan Crop Improvement Association is no longer made in small lots of from several pounds to a bushel, but means have been provided for the growing of large increase fields on the Experiment Station Farm which will make possible the distribution of substantial quantities of seed at cost to members of the association.

The field inspection system has been placed on a definite basis thru the action of the directors of the Crop Improvement Association in fixing the responsibility for the direction of this work with the Farm Crops Department of the Michigan Agricultural College, the cost being borne by the association.

Seed certification and guarantee is made by the Certification Committee of the Crop Improvement Association, based on recommenda-

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