

inferred from the fact that a field of 11 acres which was formerly let for Rs. 57 per annum has been let this year for Rs. 178 per annum. The Department charged Rs. 21 per acre for the steam ploughing which is quite cheap. The experiment will be continued during the coming season.

The hill tribes of Malabar occasionally prepare a delicacy of a meal and the recipe is this. Mix half crushed tenai (*Setaria Italica*) with honey, introduce into the hollow of a bamboo and place it in fire. Split the bamboo when cooked and the contents are excellent.

(K. U. K. M).

**Note on Pomegranate cultivation near Geddichevur,
Gobichettipalayam Taluk.**

In the month of Ani seeds from ripe fruits are pressed in a cloth carefully, to get rid of the water in them. Ashes are spread over the seeds and dried a bit. Care is taken not to injure the tips of seeds. The seeds are sown a cubit apart in beds so that their roots do not touch each other. Watering is done once in two days for a month and once a week later. No manure is given to the nursery. The land, however, is dug to a depth of $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. before sowing. The soil is red loam and gravelly. One weeding is given. Earthing up and hand-hoeing is also done. For 11 months the plants are allowed to remain in the nursery. In the month of Ani the plants are planted in plantain or ragi crop 5 cubits apart. Watering to ragi until harvest benefits these plants also. Interculturing by ploughing is done after harvest of ragi. Then irrigated vegetables are grown in the interspaces. In Marghali—Thai, no irrigation is given

(except one sometimes). Flowers appear in these months and these are removed. In Masi, irrigation is given. Till Chittrai 2 irrigations are given per week. In Vykasi flowers formed develop into fruits. The crop is rather poor in the first year. About 50 or 60 per tree are retained and are not tasty. Irrigation is given once a month till Karthigai & interculturing or mammatti hoeing is given once a month. Till Masi next, practically no irrigation is given. From Masi onwards 2 irrigations are given a month. In 4 or 5 years there are too many spines at the bottom of the tree which are removed. Picking of fruits is done once a week from Punkuni. In those trees which flower from Adi to Karthigai, some fruits appear which are punctured by insect attack. This occurs only in these months. No remedy is known. Tree rats, squirrels, mina and parrots, are destroyers of fruits. Contractors pay 1 Rupee per tree. Ordinarily 150 to 200 fruits are obtained per tree. The ryots generally sell them at 40 to 50 per Rupee. The immature ones are steamed over boiling water to obtain good colour on the skin and sold as good fruits.

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**A method of Ragi cultivation as a dry crop practiced in the
Melur Taluk.**

The crop is generally cultivated in all kinds of dry soils except those of a sandy nature. The season is from July to September. The seedlings are raised under wells.

The fields are ploughed with summer showers of May and June. Sheep penning is generally done for the crop, if not, yard sweepings are used. A good soaking rain is taken advantage of, by the end of July or after, for planting the crop in the field. The time at which the seedlings are pulled out from the nursery varies from 3 to 6 weeks. Generally black gram is broadcasted