

Madras Digests.

NOVEMBER 1927.

Exhibitions :—Exhibitions were held during the month at Melmalayanur, Vaniyampadi, Kalavai and Katpadi, at Kalpathi, Amalapuram, Maruter and Kodavasal, in all of which the department took active part.

Godavari circle :—(Waltair up to October 1927):—125 villages were visited during the month. Guzerat and Victory ploughs and Kirloskar mhote buckets were demonstrated. Saline lands round Narasapatam showed decided improvement with the application of green manure crops.

Guntur circle :—A severe cyclone was experienced during the month. This damaged demonstration plots put down in ryots' lands. 93 villages were visited. Eleven ploughing demonstrations were held and 23 ploughs sold.

Bellary circle :—The cyclone which did damage elsewhere proved very useful, to *Hingari* crops, especially groundnut. 75 villages were visited. Demonstration plots were harvested. One at Kampli was estimated to yield 4500 lbs. of paddy per acre. The plot at Markapur gave with G. E. B. 24 paddy, a net gain of Rs. 16 an acre over the local plot. 69,250 lbs. of Kumnta cotton seed were distributed to the applicants.

Madras circle :—November was rainy throughout the circle, especially in the first fortnight. Standing crops were benefitted and paddy cultivation was in full swing. Groundnut harvest was begun. 168 villages were visited. Some meetings of Co-operative Unions were attended. 63 ploughing demonstrations were held and 178 ploughs sold.

Trichinopoly circle :—Good showers that fell benefitted all crops though the tanks could not fill. Paddy work showed decided progress. At Andarkovil, Co., 3 paddy introduced three years ago showed an area of 300 acres under the variety this year. Similarly with G. E. B. 24 in another village. At Annalagaram, Aduthurai strain 5 paddy gave 6 kalamms more than the local which yielded 33 kalamms per acre. 188 villages were visited. 15 roll-easy mhote wheels and 11 ploughs were sold.

Madura circle :—The rainfall though below the average was well distributed. Sowings were well advanced. A new sub-circle with headquarters at Palni stimulated work. 344 villages were visited. 96 bags of kolingi seed were supplied to co-operative societies and 29 bags were distributed locally.

West-coast circle :—The staff visited 175 villages in the month and advised about manurial systems and distributed green manure seeds. One gratifying result of the maintenance of Tali-paramba school was found in a student farming his own lands at Kuthuparamba—5 acres of paddy under improved methods and 10 acres of coconut plantations and bananas.

Coimbatore-Salem circle :—The staff visited 179 villages and were engaged in distributing and sowing cotton seed. 244 acres were drillsown during the month.

Cattle-Farms :—At Coimbatore, heavy yields of guinea grass were obtained. At Hosur, 115 tons of green fodder were pitted for silage. At Pattambi, 15,000 lbs. of wild grass were cut and soiled. At Coimbatore Cow No. 8 of the Bangalore herd gave this month a highest yield of 50½ lbs. on one day. 33 cows and 44 buffaloes were served by Government stud bulls.

General :—The digest gives, with reasons, particulars of the breeds of cattle maintained at Chintaldevi, Hosur and College Farms.

Further a brief account is given of a disease amongst crows in the Tanjore district and its close relation with diseases in fowls.

Notes on rice-beetle, rice-bug, hairy caterpillar and rats are added.

A fairly full account is given of the wilt disease of betel-vine in Poonamallee, Chingleput district.

During the month the Director of Agriculture made an extensive tour in Ganjam and Godavari districts and observed the defects in local practices and inspected the improvements that were in progress.

December 1927.

Exhibitions :—The department took part in the All-India Exhibition at the time of the National Congress in the Xmas-week. All circles and sections at the College were represented. Members of the staff were in attendance all through the Session to answer queries and explain the nature of the work of this department. Dairying and ploughing demonstrations were a special feature. At Angadipuram, an exhibition was held.

Godavari circle :—Demonstration paddy plots were harvested and gave satisfactory results.

Guntur circle :—In the Kistna district similar results were obtained where a phosphate was applied.

Bellary circle :—G. E. B. 24 paddy was noted to be spreading in area.

Madura circle :—Larger areas were being drill-sown with cotton.

Coimbatore-Salem circle :—Drill-sowing of cotton was being demonstrated at Udamalpet.

Cattle Farms :—The survey of Ongole cattle which was undertaken following the decision of the Government in 1924 was completed, in Ongole, Bapatla and Narasarowpet taluks and almost in Guntur. Following figures obtained are interesting:—

Taluk.	No. of pure Ongole cows.	No. of breeding bulls.	No. of cows per bull.	Average frequency of calving.	Average at which heifers calve.
Ongole ...	16,200	97	170	One calf in 2 years.	4½ to 5½ years.
Bapatla ...	10,187	104	100	do.	do.
Narasarowpet.	13,248	135	91	2 to 2½ years	4½ to 6 years

The survey disclosed that there was no want of interest on the part of cattle owners but that facilities were fast disappearing under the stress of modern conditions.

General :—The digest records details about the outbreak of rinderpest in Ooty municipality, watering of groundnuts, paddy beetle and blast disease of paddy besides noting the progress made in paddy cultivation at Coimbatore with systematic manuring and careful attention.

January 1928.

Godavari circle :—Officers visited 41 villages and advised ryots to use bonemeal with green manure for second crop paddy. Two Rasangi types and G. E. B. 24 showed in the demonstration plots on the Samalkota station a net gain of over Rs. 120 and Rs. 150 per acre.

Guntur circle :—Officers visited 122 villages and demonstration plots were harvested. One notable feature was the discovery of the superiority of Co. 3 paddy at Pedaravur which introduced two years ago gave this year 3740 lbs. of grain an acre while the local Kusuma gave 2890 lbs.

Bellary circle :—Harvests of groundnut and first crop paddy were finished. Second crop paddy was being planted. Jonna crop suffered from insect pests and was poor while *Hingari* cotton was affected by drought. At Cumbam, 114 paddy nurseries with reduced seed rates were sown under departmental supervision. Markapur showed an increase in the area under G. E. B. 24 which during the year stood at 400 acres. 68 villages were visited, roguing was done in seed farms and estimates of yields of kappas were made so as to enable advances to be given to ryots.

Trichinopoly circle :—Harvest of a demonstration plot at Valadi gave a net gain to the ryot of Rs. 20. The Tanjore Trichi mirasdars' conference was held at Aduthurai.

Madura circle :—In the Tinnevely black-cotton soil tract, 17,250 acres of cotton were sown with drill this year. 216 villages were visited. Rains were however disappointing in the month.

West-Coast circle :—The Taliparamba School Day was celebrated and an agricultural show held in connexion with it. 170 villages were visited.

Coimbatore-Salem circle :—There was practically no rain during the month. Garden and dryland crops suffered and cholam gave a diminished yield. 140 villages were visited. Small shows were held at Parur, Idigarai, Pandamangalam and Yettapur.

General :—The digest gives an account of the survey made in Salem for finding out what materials are available for preparing silage and of the operations of the Veterinary department with reference to the incidence of anthrax infection in industrial materials, such as hides and skins.

February 1928

Exhibition :—The stimulus given last year in sending coir fibre exhibits to the British Fair in London showed itself this year in the export of 15,000 to 20,000 tons of coir. At Cannanore an exhibition was held for the benefit of the Indian Territorial Force which gave an opportunity for officers of the Agricultural, Veterinary and Co-operative departments to deliver lectures. This year's

S. P. C. A's cattle show at Madras brought out five calves reared from Government bulls. Exhibitions were held at Rajole, Cocanada, Bobbili and Bhalligudem. In the Kurnool district Koilkuntla and Mahanandi held their own shows. Shows were held at Cauvery-pauk, Tiruvettipuram, Kotappakonda, Chinnaganjam and Kalugumalai.

Godavari circle:—Demonstrators attended a number of co-operative conferences and Jamabundi camps and advised ryots to use three-roller cane mills. A new subcircle was opened at Parlakimedi. At Anakapalli an acre yield of 13,103 lbs. of jaggery was obtained. Navakote paddy gave the highest yield of 3,052 lbs.

Bellary circle:—Unusual rainfall in the month was harmful for all crops except sugarcane and paddy. Jonna harvest was delayed. Cotton bolls shed badly and groundnuts in the fields began to germinate. The district officers visited 72 villages.

Madras circle:—172 villages were visited. Demonstration plots were harvested. Paddy and green manure seeds were distributed. The superiority of Co. 2 paddy and of kaki jonna was established.

Trichinopoly circle:—Two inches of rain that fell in Tanjore did more harm than good. 114 villages were visited and demonstration plots were harvested. The two plots at Vishnampet and Thigalur were a great success.

Madura circle:—Showers received dislocated paddy harvest but were beneficial to the cotton crop. With their help some ryots sowed green manures. 48 ploughs were sold. Cotton seed farms were inspected and rogued out. Demonstrations were given at Kalugumalai and Ottapidaram.

West coast circle:—Unusual rains fell in Malabar and there were showers in South Kanara. This rendered the campaign against *Spodoptera* easy round about Ponnani. Attempts were made to demonstrate preparation of silage from hill grass in the Udipi division. The district officers visited 188 villages.

Coimbatore—Salem circle:—Showers received in the beginning of the month though insufficient were welcome for cotton. The staff visited 145 villages and 25 ploughs were sold. 19 Sindewahi furnaces were constructed in six villages in Kollegal and Dharmapuri taluks.