

the medium of this Journal, as to where and during what part of the year Neem trees show signs of such infestation.

The reader may be interested in knowing that this insect is known to attack besides the Neem tree, Mahogany and Guava, and certain wild bushes and also Tea, Cocoa and Cinchona in Ceylon. Information as to any other tree suffering similarly will also be thankfully received.

Y. Ramachandra Rao.

Snake gourd cultivation in Periyar tract.

This vegetable is cultivated in single crop wet lands in villages round about Melur. The plot is ploughed generally thrice soon after paddy harvest, in the middle of February. Sheep are penned at 2000 per acre and the plot is again ploughed thrice during May. Two seeds are dibbled in each hole in rows 6 feet apart. There is also a system prevailing here, of raising a nursery manured with Farm Yard manure. The seedlings are transplanted after a fortnight when they are about 9" to 12" high, and this system is preferred owing to the crop being better. The distance in this case also is 6 feet apart from plant to plant. Both the nursery and the plot are irrigated the day previous to planting. The seedlings are pulled out carefully and transplanted singly in each hole, the soil having been just previously loosed with mammotti. Care is taken to keep the plot always moist and clean. About a fortnight after dibbling or planting, a mixture of ash and fowl dung in the proportion of 10 : 1 is applied to each plant, at the rate of 20 baskets per acre, each basket holding about 6 Madras measures.

Picking commences a month after transplanting or after 1½ months in the case of dibbled seeds i. e. in the middle of June. Pickings are done weekly on shandy days. Early pickings yield

about 300 gourds which increase to 700 in about a fortnight. This high yield is maintained for about 2 months, after which it begins to decrease. The plot is ready for transplanting paddy by the middle of September.

This crop is generally cultivated by ryots in plots of 25 to 40 cents and a return of Rs. 150 per acre is not considered very high. This system of cultivation not only engages the ryots during the slack season, but affords them with money to dig wells in their wet lands. This facilitates them to raise paddy nursery for transplanting previous to the arrival of the Periyar water. Snake gourd is preferred to brinjal as the latter is more risky being subject to insect pests.

K. Sankara Aiyar.

Calicut Town and Vegetable Supply.

The population in Calicut Municipality is 78,417. Putting roughly 3 pies worth of vegetables per head daily and deducting about 30% for the poor classes and backyard cultivation Rs. 800 worth of vegetables are consumed daily. Most of these come from localities on the eastern side of Calicut collectively known as Kizhakkumpuram which is made up of the villages of Chevayur, Kovur, Iringellore, Mayanad &c.

The following are the best and most important of the vegetables.

Banana and minor varieties of plantain. Elephant foot yams.

Colocasia (*chembu*) varieties including kizhakan, Notti &c.

Bringals, Cucumbers, Melons.

Cowpeas and Cowgrams (locally known as *Payaru*) Gourds &c.

One will be surprised to see the large quantities of these being carried on heads in baskets or in *kavadis* along the road from 6 to 12 o'clock during the day.