

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.

These vegetables are cultivated in both dry and wet lands, in the former from January to November and in the latter from September to February. The crops are mostly rainfed supplemented by pot-irrigation at the early stages, in the case of dry lands and late stages in the case of wet lands. Details of the cultivation of these vegetables will be dealt with in future notes.

The villages mentioned above contain 75% of dry lands including topes and the rest being narrow strips of paddy land between ranges of hills. Manure supply is limited and most of the available quantity is used for dry land cultivation.

The uneducated poor cultivators in whose hands entirely lies at present the supply of vegetables have to carry every day their produce to the town which is bought off in the way by middlemen and in the town by shop keepers at a cheaper rate and the latter dictate their own terms to the customers. The shop-keeper gets the lion's share. Neither the hard working cultivators nor the easy going consumers are in any way benefited.

It has been observed that the system of cultivation as adopted at present is very unsatisfactory and will admit of considerable improvements as the facilities for such are really great.

There is ample scope therefore for some scientific agriculturist with only a limited initial capital to start systematic vegetable cultivation in any of the villages mentioned above which are all connected by roads to the town where the demand for vegetables is ever on the increase. He can thereby become rich and serviceable to the public.

M. Govinda Kidavu.

Notes.

A tree known locally as Ambach has been found out from the region of lake Chad by some explorers. It belongs to the *mimosa* family. Ambach grows in abundance in the