

Half a cart load of cattle manure	...	0	8	0
Cost of 6 lbs. of chilli seed.	...	1	4	0
Hand watering three times. (1 man)	...	0	8	0
Transplanting.				
Pulling seedlings, washing carrying, watering and transplanting complete. Contract rate at Rs. 3 per acre.	...	3	0	0
After Cultivation.				
Working country plough (1 pair and 1 man)	...	1	4	0
Harvesting.				
Collection of chillies 3 times (40 women)	...	7	8	0
Drying and Marketing.				
Charges for 1½ candies	...	1	5	0
Total.	...	60	0	0

<https://doi.org/10.29321/MAJ.10.A04938>

CULTIVATION & EXTRACTION OF SUNNHEMP FIBRE

SOME ECONOMIC ASPECTS

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This crop is largely cultivated for fibre in Nainaragaram, Tenkasi Taluk and also in Aikudi village, 6 miles from Tenkasi (Travancore area). The area under this crop for fibre in Nainaragaram is about 25 acres. This crop is also grown in Elangi in about 10 acres for fibre.

Season. Sunnhemp for fibre extraction is sown in wet lands between the last week of May and the first week of June.

Nature of soil. It requires rich loamy soil with good drainage facility

Seed-rate. The seed-rate per acre is 56 Madras measures and it costs Rs. 12-8-0.

Preparation of the land. The land intended for sowing sunnhemp is ploughed four times. No manuring is done. After sowing the crop is irrigated once in 10 days. The water stored in tanks is used for irrigation. The crop is not irrigated here from wells. On the whole till the time of harvest, about 9 irrigations are given and it costs Rs. 3-6-0 per acre at 6 annas for each irrigation.

Sowing expenses. For forming beds and sowing one acre three men are required and it costs Rs. 1-8-0.

After cultivation. For watching the crop, Rs. 3 is spent.

Harvesting. The crop is harvested for fibre after 100 to 105 days from date of sowing. For harvesting an acre 12 men are required and it costs Rs. 4-8-0 at 6 annas per man. After harvest, the crop is tied into bundles and it is stacked for which 4 coolies are required and it costs Rs. 1-8-0. Then whenever fibre is required, the bundles are

removed from the stack and steeped in water for 5 days. On the 6th day they are washed well, dried in the sun for two or three hours, then with hand they remove the fibre from the stem. The fibre is again dried, made into twists and is kept ready for sale. From steeping till the extraction of fibre, the cooly is paid at 8 annas per *thulam* (14 lbs.) of fibre so extracted and for an acre the yield of fibre is about 50 *thulams* and each *thulam* costs Rs. 2.

Cost of cultivation of Sunnhemp per acre and the money value of fibre per acre.

<i>Preparatory cultivation.</i>	Rs.	A.	P.
Ploughing	4	0	0
Cost of seed per acre	12	8	0
Sowing expenses	1	8	0
Cost of irrigation	3	6	0
After cultivation	3	0	0
Harvesting	4	8	0
Bundling and stacking	1	8	0
Steeping and extracting fibre at 8 annas per <i>thulam</i> for 50 <i>thulams</i>	25	0	0
	55	6	0
Yield of fibre per acre—50 <i>thulams</i> at Rs. 2 per <i>thulam</i> .	100	0	0
Profit per acre.	44	10	0

THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE LAC INDUSTRY IN INDIA

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The lac industry in India has been drawing much attention in recent years, firstly on account of the "boom" which the industry enjoyed in the post-war period, when fabulously high prices prevailed and a great demand for lac existed which exporters were unable to meet, and secondly, on account of the crisis through which the industry has been passing during the last few years, owing to trade depression and low prices. Probably, no other industry in India is in such a disorganised state, in respect of cultivation and production as well as of marketing and industrial utilisation; and this, in spite of the fact that India holds the world monopoly in this important raw material. The object of the present article is to point out the importance of encouraging the utilisation of lac within the country itself, in the manufacture of various lac products, for which more technical skill than large capital is necessary, so that a demand for lac within the country may be created and, coupled with an organisation among exporting agencies for the proper regulation and control of the lac