

AGRICULTURAL JOINTINGS.

BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MADRAS.

Transplanting Paddy in Anantapur. In Anantapur taluk noted for its very low rainfall and absence of any large irrigation systems, approximately 20,000 acres are under paddy. As can be expected the supply of water in tanks is precarious and irregular. The local practice of raising the crop is by broadcasting when tanks receive their full supply. No advantage is taken of small supplies of water reserved in July and August, but cultivation is delayed till December leading to wastage of water. In order to remedy this defect the Department of Agriculture has been doing propaganda and demonstration in raising dry nurseries of paddy in July and August with the available supply of water and starting cultural operations taking advantage of early rains and in transplanting seedlings in August and September. In spite of strong opposition from a section of Ayacutdars to open the sluices in August, demonstrations were conducted under Anantapur and Singanamala tanks during the three years 1932-35. It was demonstrated that the increased yield by transplanting varied from 9-12% and the extra produce was valued at about Rs. 5 per acre. It is interesting to note that the methods recommended are gaining ground also under spring channels and wells. In one particular village (Illur) it is reported that broadcasting has been completely replaced by transplanting. At present about 10% of the total area is under this new method.

Paddy work in Pattambi (Malabar). As a result of an intensive study and careful testing of a very large number of pure line selections isolated from the major varieties grown on the West Coast, ten high yielding strains have been released from the agricultural station at Pattambi. Most of these are red riced varieties. A majority of them are intended for the first crop. These strains with the exception of one have given 10-22% more yield than the ryots' bulk. One strain has also been produced for South Kanara which gives 18% increase in yield over the bulk and which has also been found to stand inadequate water supply.

Rotations and Manuring Sugarcane in Palur (South Arcot). Ryots in South Arcot are known to apply very large doses of manure to sugarcane as compared with ryots in other parts of the Presidency. The reason is that in view of the profits accrued from sugarcane ryots have been accustomed to follow a close rotation so that sugarcane is grown almost every other year in the same land. A long standing crop like it exhausts the soil and if the field is cultivated every other year with it needs heavy dressings of manure. A rotation experiment conducted for 10 years in the Palur agricultural station showed that growing sugarcane every other year is detrimental to the soil, that it is economical to grow it once in three years and that good yields of cane could be obtained if grown on the same land once in four years.

In the case of manures, a trial started in 1928 and concluded recently indicated that Fiji B, the standard variety of South Arcot responds to heavy manuring up to 200 lb. of Nitrogen per acre applied in the form of an oil-cake (groundnut) and Ammonium Sulphate mixed in the proportion of 3:1. Applying manures in 3 doses is preferable to applying them once or twice. To obtain the maximum returns it is advisable to add Potassic and phosphatic manures to the nitrogenous manures. It is also noticed that sodium nitrate by itself is inferior to a mixture of groundnut cake and ammonium sulphate.

Green Manure crops and Insects. Sunnhemp, Dhaincha and other green manure crops which are grown in the summer months are often subject to insect attacks. Caterpillars are the worst offenders. At the Aduturai research station, it was

found recently that on Dhaincha a bug acted as an efficient predator on all caterpillars including the hairy variety. The Entomological Assistant is devoting his special attention to this bug and is trying to introduce it in places where it is not present in numbers to see if they would check caterpillar pests there.

College News & Notes.

Mr. R. C. Broadfoot, Principal left for England on leave and Mr. R. W. Littlewood officiating Principal has taken over charge,

Jubilee celebrations. The Managing Committee is busy making preparations, for the Jubilee celebrations, and it is hoped that with the co-operation of all the officers of the department, the function will be a grand success.

Students. The college reopened after the vacation, and the Second and Third year Classes have settled themselves for work. The first year class will join in the first week of July.

Selection Committee. The committee for selection of students for the college, consisting of the Director of Agriculture, the Principal, Rao Sahib J. Ponnai Gounder and Mr. N. Sivaraj were at Coimbatore, on the 24th and 25th instant.

An omission. The names of Messrs. P. Jeevana Rao and C. Krishna Nair were inadvertently omitted in the list of resident members, despatched last month to the members. These names may be kindly included in the list.

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Nomination Papers. Members of the Union are reminded that the last day for sending Nominations for election of office bearers in 1936 is the 15th of July.

Weather Review (MAY 1936).

General. Scattered thunderstorms caused widespread rain in the Peninsula, North Madras Coast, Malabar and in South-east Madras during the first half of the month when typical hot weather conditions prevailed associated with the normal pressure distribution and high day temperatures in the interior of the Peninsula.

A temporary advance of the monsoon occurred off the Ceylon and South Malabar coast about the beginning of the third week of the month and locally heavy rainfall occurred there on the 20th and 21st.

Conditions became unsettled in the South-east of the Bay and a depression formed in the centre of the Bay on the 23rd. This caused an extension of the monsoon into Lower Burma and the Andamans. The depression moved towards Bengal and crossing the South Bengal coast as a cyclonic storm of severe intensity on the 27th night, filled up over East Bengal by the 29th after causing widespread and locally heavy rain on the Orissa Ganjam coasts, and in Bengal and Lower Burma during its traverse.

The Arabian sea branch of the monsoon remained fairly active on the Malabar coast, though showing signs of weakening about the 30th.

Rainfall was on large excess in the South Malabar coast and in the Circars and locally in the Tinnevely district. Elsewhere it was practically normal.

Day temperatures were generally in excess in the interior of the Peninsula during the first three weeks, Rentachintala recording 112° on one occasion.