

Crop and Trade Reports

Statistics — Agricultural — Cotton — Additional forecast report 1948 — 49.

The area under Cotton in the Madras Province in 1948—49 is estimated at 1,500,800 acres as against 1,360,900 acres estimated for the corresponding period of the previous year. The present estimate for the Province represents an increase of 19.0% as compared with the finally recorded area of 1,307,565 acres in 1947—48. The increase in area in the current year as compared with the previous year occurs in all the districts except East Godavari, South Arcot and Malabar where there is a slight decrease. The increase is marked in the districts of Guntur, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Salem, Coimbatore Tiruchirapalli and is due mainly to the increase in demand for cotton. The main or first picking of cotton is over in all the districts. The yield per acre is estimated to be normal in East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Malabar and South Kanara and below the normal in the other districts of the province. The crop had a set back due to insufficient rainfall in Guntur, Anantapur, Cuddapah, North Arcot and Salem districts. The crop was also affected to some extent in parts of Bellary and Anantapur by attack of insect pests. The seasonal factor for the province as a whole works out to 88% of the average for both the irrigated and unirrigated crop, the corresponding figure according to the Season and Crop Report for 1947—48 being 82 percent. On this basis total yield works out to 341,500 bales of 392 lb. in lint as against 272,732 bales of 392 lb. in lint estimated in the Season and Crop Report of the previous year, representing an increase of 25.2 per cent. 81,300 acres are estimated as standing on the ground for Kar : or second pickings in the Central and Southern Districts. The yield per acre is expected to be below the normal in these districts and the total yield from the Kar or second pickings is estimated at 22,100 bales of 392 lb. in lint.

Statistics — Crop — Sugarcane — 1949 — 50 Intermediate condition report.

The sugarcane crop in Guntur is reported to have been affected to some extent by heavy rains. In Bellary, the crop has been affected to some extent for want of adequate supplies of chemical fertilisers in time. The condition of the crop is reported to be generally satisfactory in all the other districts of the Province. The wholesale price of jaggery per imperial maund of 82 2/7 lb. (equivalent to 3,200 tolas) on 10th September 1949 was Rs. 24—11—0 in Adoni and Cuddalore, Rs. 24—0—0 in Erode, Rs. 24—4—0 in Coimbatore, Rs. 23—8—0 in Tiruchirapalli and Mangalore, Rs. 23—0—0 in Vellore, Rs. 22—10—0 in Bellary, Rs. 21—0—0 in Visakhapatnam, Rs. 20—15—0 in Chittoor, Rs. 20—9—0 in Kakinada, Rs. 17—4—0 in Rajahmundry, and Rs. 13—11—0 in Vizianagaram. When compared with the prices reported in the previous report, i. e., those which prevailed on 13th August 1949, these prices reveal a rise of approximately 32 per cent in Kakinada, 16 per cent in Visakhapatnam, 10 per cent in Adoni, 8 per cent in Bellary, 7 per cent in Vizianagaram and Coimbatore, 4 per cent in Cuddalore and 3 per cent in Vellore and Tiruchirapalli, the prices remaining stationary in Erode, Mangalore and Chittoor.

Statistics — Pepper — 1949 — First forecast report: The area under pepper upto 25th August 1949 in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara is estimated at 93,500 acres, (85,200 acres in Malabar district and 8,300 acres in South Kanara district) as against 92,500 acres (83,400 acres in Malabar district and 9,100 acres in South Kanara district) estimated for the corresponding period of last year. Due to excessive rains in Malabar at the time of ploughing and setting the yields are expected to be below normal in that district. The condition of the crop is fair in South Kanara district and normal yields are expected. The wholesale price of pepper per Imperial Maund of 82 2/7 lb. or 3,200 tolas as reported from important market centres on 10—9—1949 was Rs. 331—4—0 in Kozhikode, Rs. 308—8—0 in

Mangalore and Rs. 305-8-0 in Tellicherry, when compared with the prices published in the final forecast report for 1948 i. e. on 8-1-1949, these prices reveal an increase of 181% in Kozhikode, 145% in Tellicherry and 62% in Mangalore.

(From the Economic Adviser, Government of Madras.)

Cotton Raw, in the Madras Presidency: The receipts of loose cotton at presses and spinning mills in the Madras Presidency from 1st February 1949 amounted to 3,28,365 bales of 392 lb. lint. The receipts in the corresponding period of the previous year were 3,24,177 bales, 4,34,157 bales mainly of pressed cotton were received at spinning mills and 4,445 bales were exported by sea while 86,089 bales were imported by sea mainly from Karachi and Bombay.

(From Director of Agriculture, Madras.)

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