

## *The Madras Agricultural Journal*

**Sugarcane for water-logged conditions:** Sugarcane is generally grown in once in three years, in rotation with the paddy. Naturally, when sugarcane is sown and succeeded by paddy, it is surrounded by paddy crop on all sides, and consequently swampy conditions prevail for sugarcane also. But sugarcane comes up excellently in well-drained soils only and is not quite tolerant to bad drainage. Besides, in the areas adjoining tank-bunds and places, where the water table is high, drainage is inadequate, resulting in water-logged conditions in the fields. Most of the sugarcane varieties fail to thrive satisfactorily under the swamp conditions and it was found after a thorough experimentation at the Sugarcane Research Station, Anakapalle, that Co. 419 is the best variety for such conditions. It is better to plant the cane early i.e., by about the middle of February, so that the crop can make good growth before the advent of the monsoon. When the crop has grown up to some extent, it is able to resist the water-logged conditions better. Canes grown under water-logged conditions mature earlier i.e., by December-January and the recovery of jaggery per cent is more and the quality better. In a series of trials with different varieties conducted at this station, it is noted that Co. 419 is unrivalled in yield under swampy conditions, with an average yield of 38 tons of millable cane per acre, when planted early in February. This yield is less than that from a crop under normal conditions by about 5—8 tons, and this difference is compensated to a certain extent by higher recovery of better quality of jaggery and early harvest and marketing when prices are usually high. Hence Co. 419 is recommended for all soils liable for water-logging during the monsoon and it has to be planted about a month earlier than the normal.

**Hybrid Cumbu Strains:** Two hybrid strains of cumbu X. 1 and X. 2 evolved at the Millet Breeding Station, Coimbatore, have been found to be outstanding in their yield performance in the Coimbatore district. In trials, conducted at Ondipudur, both the hybrids were superior to the local cumbu. These strains X. 1 and X. 2 gave 1,296 lbs. and 1,200 lbs. of grain per acre respectively against an acre yield of 830 lbs. of the local type. The increases in yield were 56% over local in the case of X. 1 and 44.6% of X. 2. These hybrid strains have also done well in the Tiruchirapalli district and they are now being tried in the other districts of the Presidency.

**Livestock improvement:** Eighteen Murrah buffalo bulls and 17 Scindhi bulls were purchased from North India and distributed under the Livestock (bull) Distribution Scheme to the various districts in the Province, for the improvement of Livestock. Government have also sanctioned the opening of a District Livestock Farm in the Malabar district.

## Crop and Trade Reports

### Statistics-Crop-Intermediate Condition-Report Madras Province 1949-50.

**Gingelly.** The gingelly crop has been affected by severe drought in Anantapur district and by insect pest in the district of Bellary during the period of its growth. The yield per acre is expected to be below normal in the districts of Guntur, Bellary, Anantapur, Chingleput and Malabar and normal in the other districts of the Province. The wholesale price of gingelly seed per imperial maund of 82 2/7 lb. as reported from important market centres on 5-11-1949 was Rs. 32-15-0 in Tirunelveli, Rs. 30-12-0 in Eluru, Rs. 30-10-0 in Visakhapatnam, Rs. 30-4-0 in Tiruchirapalli, Rs. 30-2-0 in Kakinada, Rs. 29-12-0 in Rajahmundry, Rs. 29-10-0 in Tuticorin, Rs. 29-5-0 in Cuddalore, Rs. 28-14-0 Vizianagaram and Rs. 28-13-0

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in Salem. When compared with the prices published in last report i.e., those which prevailed on 8-10-1949, these prices shown an increase of 9 per cent in Kakinada and 2 percent in Tuticorin, the prices remaining stationary in Tirunelveli, Eluru, Tiruchirapalli, Cuddalore, Vizianagaram and Salem.

**Groundnut:** The winter crop of groundnut has been affected by recent cyclonic rains in the districts of Krishna and Guntur, by want of timely rains in the districts of North Arcot and Coimbatore and by attack of insect pests in the districts of Bellary, Anantapur, Chingleput and Ramnad. The condition of the crop is generally satisfactory in the other districts of the Province. The wholesale price of groundnut (machine shelled) per imperial maund of 82 2/7 lbs. as reported from important market centres on 5-11-1949 was Rs. 30-4-0 in Cuddapah, Rs. 29-5-0 in Bellary, Rs. 28-11-0 in Tadpatri, Rs. 27-14-0 in Hindupur, Rs. 27-2-0 in Coimbatore, Rs. 26-8-0 in Guntur, Rs. 26-6-0 in Guntakal, Rs. 26-4-0 in Nandyal, 25-15-0 in Erode, Rs. 25-9-0 in Adoni, Rs. 25-2-0 in Vizianagaram, Rs. 24-13-0 in Salem, Rs. 24-3-0 in Cuddalore, and Rs. 23-4-0 in Vellore. When compared with the prices published in the last report i.e., those which prevailed on 8-10-1949, these prices reveal an increase of 21 percent in Coimbatore and a decrease of 17 percent in Guntur, 15 percent in Adoni, 13 percent in Cuddalore, 12 percent in Nandyal and 10 percent in Erode. The prices remained stationary in Cuddapah, Tadpatri and Hindupur.

**Sugarcane:** The condition of the sugarcane crop is generally satisfactory in all the districts of the Province except in Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Bellary. The crop has been affected by heavy rains in parts of Visakhapatnam, by cyclone in East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur and by lack of adequate supply of artificial manures in Bellary. The yield is expected to be below normal in the affected districts and nearly normal in the other districts of the Province. The wholesale price of jaggery per imperial maund of 82 2/7 lbs. (equivalent to 3,200 totals) in the important market centres in the Province on 3rd December, 1949 was Rs. 31-13-0 in Adoni, Rs. 30-7-0 in Cuddalore, Rs. 29-6-0 in Mangalore, Rs. 28-0-0 in Salem, Rs. 26-12-0 in Bellary, Rs. 26-7-0 in Tiruchirapalli, Rs. 26-0-0 in Erode, Rs. 25-10-0 in Visakhapatnam, Rs. 21-6-0 in Kakinada and Rajahmundry, Rs. 20-9-0 in Vellore, Rs. 18-5-0 in Vizianagaram and Rs. 17-8-0 in Chittoor. When compared with the prices published in the last report i.e., those which prevailed on 5th November 1949, these prices reveal a rise of approximately 16 per cent in Cuddalore, 13 per cent in Vizianagaram, 9 per cent in Adoni and 3 per cent in Bellary and a fall of approximately 25 per cent in Erode, 24 per cent in Chittoor, 23 per cent in Rajahmundry, 16 per cent in Vellore, 13 percent in Visakhapatnam and 8 per cent in Kakinada, the prices remaining stationary in Salem, Tiruchirapalli and Mangalore.

**Paddy:** The harvest of the first crop of paddy is progressing in parts of the West Godavari and Chingleput districts and has either concluded or is concluding in the Central districts the South and the West Coast. The yield per acre is expected to be normal or nearly normal in the West Coast and the Nilgiris district, and below the normal in the districts of West Godavari, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli, Tanjore, Ramnad and Tirunelveli. The reduction in yields is expected to be large in the West Godavari district, on account of the damage caused by the recent cyclone, and in the Chingleput district due to delayed and insufficient rains.

**Condition of standing crop:** The standing crop of paddy is reported to have suffered extensive damage in the Circars districts, as a result of the floods and the cyclone which swept these districts recently. The damage to crops is expected to be severe in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna, Where

almost all the standing crops have been affected and consequently the yields are expected to be very much reduced in those districts. In the Vishakhapatnam district the condition of the standing crop is reported to be not fair, due to damage caused by floods. In the Guntur district the loss to crops is not expected to be so severe. The paddy crop in the low-lying areas of Ongole, Tenali, Bapatla and Repalli taluks were submerged and were damaged to some extent, but the condition of the crop in the other taluks is reported to be fair. In the Deccan, the standing crop is reported to be generally satisfactory in Kurnool and Bellary districts. The crop in the Anantapur and Cuddapah districts has been affected to some extent by want of timely rains, but the prospects are generally fair. The condition of the crop in the Nellore district is fair and prospects are good, more rains are needed in some of the upland taluks. In the Chingleput and South Arcot districts the crop have been adversely affected due to delay in the setting in of the North-East monsoon and inadequate supplies of water in irrigation sources. The crops are reported to be withering in four taluks in Chingleput district and in two taluks in the South Arcot District. More rains are urgently needed in those districts. In the Central districts the condition of the crop is reported to be satisfactory in Tiruchirapalli district. In the other district the crop is generally fair, but more rains are urgently needed. Supplies of water in irrigation sources are reported to be inadequate in the North Arcot and Salem districts and in the Pudukottai division. The condition of the crop in the Southern districts is reported to be below the normal due generally to delayed rains. In the Ramnad and Tirunelveli districts supplies of water in irrigation sources have not been adequate and the prospects of the crop are not encouraging. The progress of the crop in the districts of Malabar, South Kanara and the Nilgiris is reported to be satisfactory and yields are expected to be normal or nearly normal. The paddy crop was also attacked by insect pests in certain parts of the Vishakhapatnam, Chingleput, Salem, Coimbatore and Nilgiris districts, but adequate remedial measures are reported to have been taken to check their spread. The average wholesale price of paddy, 2nd sort, per imperial maund of 82 2/7 lbs. (equivalent to 3,200 tolas) as reported from important market centers, on 12th November, 1949, was Rs. 7-15-0 in Nellore, Rs. 8-1-0 in Eluru, Rs. 8-2-0 in Nagapatnam, Rs. 8-6-0 in Tiruchirapalli, Rs. 8-8-0 in Kumbakonam and Tirunelveli, Rs. 8-10-0 in Vijayawada, Rs. 8-11-0 in Cuddalore and Rs. 8-15-0 in Masulipatam. (Economic Adviser, Government of Madras.)

**Cotton Raw, in the Madras Presidency:** (All figures in bales of 392 lb.)

The receipt of loose cotton at presses and spinning mills in the Madras Presidency from 1st February 1949 to 2-12-1949 amounted to 3,92,717 bales of 392 lb. lint. The receipts in the corresponding period of the previous year were 3,46,686 bales. 5,26,402 bales mainly of pressed cotton were received at spinning mills and 9,184 bales were exported by sea while 1,01,092 bales were imported by sea mainly from Karachi and Bombay. (Director of Agriculture.)