

## The Graduate Farmers of Chithradha

A Note By  
S. V. DURAISWAMI AYYAR

'Back to land' by even agricultural graduates had been a failure. But it came as a pleasant surprise to hear during the recent tour in the Circars, that several non-agricultural graduates have taken up to farming as their profession in life and that they have been doing it most successfully, in the village of Chithrada, two miles to the east of Pithapuram. Most of them by virtue of connection or abilities to influence, had opportunities to enter Government service in decent jobs, but it seems they deliberately preferred to take up to farming as a profession on their own estates which varied from 15 to 50 acres. The attraction of growing sugarcane and obtaining good profits was also there. They have not regretted their decision and on the other hand they are highly satisfied to note that they are much better off than what they would have been if they had entered the much coveted service. It would be interesting to give below the financial position with the balance sheet of one who has been oldest at it and who has been able to give very reliable figures. This would give the readers an idea of the position they occupy in relation to other professions or industrial enterprises managed with the same amount of capital.

### Fixed Capital:

Particulars.	Value in Rs.
Land, area owned 45 acres @ Rs. 2,000 an acre ...	90,000
Implements, carts and Miscellaneous deadstock ...	600
Petter crude oil engine and pump ...	3,000
Sinking of and construction of well ...	2,000
Value of 5 pairs work cattle including thatatched Shed etc., ...	2,500
	<hr/> 98,100 <hr/>

### Charges in one year for production of crops:

Paddy 30 acres @ Rs. 150 per acre ...	4,500
Sugarcane @ Rs. 800 " " ...	12,000
Depreciation, interest charges and land revenue ...	4,000
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### Receipts:

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Receipts :

From Paddy 18 bags @ Rs. 14 per bag	...	7,560
From Sugarcane @ Rs. 1,500 an acre by supply to factory	...	22,500
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Farm labour income or nett profit	...	9,560
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Percentage to capital outlay 10.5%

Note: Value of work done by permanent labour and work cattle and charges for irrigation have been included in the cost of production of crops noted above. The owner supervises all operations and no remuneration for supervision has been included under charges.

If the whole land had been given out on lease to tenant cultivators, the income would have ranged from about 7000 to 9000 rupees per annum. The owner and his family of 5 members would require at least Rs. 200 per month for decent living without anything available for savings and this amount would be derived from an area of about 15 acres. This area may be said to be an economic holding in this tract for this type of family which may be taken to represent the upper middle class.

Educated young men owning decent areas of land in their families and intending to take up to farming, may with advantage visit this village and be benefitted by the experience gained by the graduate farmers.



"Starvation of the soil is the root cause of our own starvation. Mother Earth is truly a living being, and if we do not nourish her she cannot nourish us."

— Shrimati Mira Behin.