

'Earthworm Enterprises': Most farmers and gardeners appreciate the value of worms in improving the soil, and in some places the land has been raised to a higher standard of fertility by encouraging the multiplication of the worms. Mr. Harold Karp, of Randwick, Sydney, claims that if home gardeners used more worms they would get better flowers and vegetables. With a box of 250 worms as breeding stock, he thinks any garden could be started along the road to high fertility, and he has set out to make the necessary worms available. Last December he took up worm breeding as a hobby, but he has now registered 'Earthworm Enterprise' as a business, and has built up a 'stud' of half a-million worms. He intends to sell them at from 15 shillings to one pound a box according to quality.

He apparently has a more ambitious rival in the United States, who recently sought the help of a Sydney newspaper to arrange for the export of some giant earthworms from Gippsland. This worm, technically known as '*Megascotides australis*', may grow to a length of 10 feet and as thick as a man's thumb. However, the prospects of acclimatising these worms in a strange environment are poor. The giant worm is so discriminating in its surroundings that it is found only along the banks of the Bass River in Gippsland, and no where else in Australia or the world. [A. G. N. 242.]



Crops and Trade Reports

Statistics—Crop—Cotton—1948—1949—Fourth Forecast Report: The average area under cotton in the Madras Province during the five years ending 1944-'45 represents 10.7 per cent of the total area under cotton in India.

2. The area sown under cotton upto the 25th January 1949 is estimated at 1,378,700 acres. When compared with the area of 1,286,000 acres estimated for the corresponding period of last year, it reveals an increase of 7.3 per cent.

Three hundred and seventy thousand six hundred acres have been reported as sown since the last December forecast was issued. This extent comprises 202,500 acres under Tinnevelly including Karunganni in Coimbatore, 73,900 acres under Cambodia, 60,200 acres under Westerns (including Mungari cotton), 12,900 acres under Warangal and Cocanadas, 18,000 acres under White and Red Northern, 2,600 acres under Salems and 500 acres under Chinnapathi or short-staple cotton. The area sown in December 1948 and January 1949 is less than that sown in the corresponding period of the previous year by 1.2 per cent.

3. When compared with the area estimated for the corresponding period of the previous year, an increase in area is estimated in the districts of West Godavari, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur, Coimbatore, Ramnad and Tirunelveli and a decrease in area in the other important districts. The variations are marked in Guntur (—6,100 acres), Kurnool (—18,000 acres), Bellary (—40,000 acres), Anantapur (—13,700 acres), Nellore (—6,400 acres), Salem—5,500 acres, Coimbatore (—29,800 acres), Ramnad (—9,300 acres), and Tirunelveli (—7,000 acres).

4. The area under irrigated cotton, mainly Cambodia, is estimated at 132,100 acres, as against 126,100 acres estimated for the corresponding period of the previous year.

5. Pickings of the mungari or early sown cotton crop in the Deccan are nearing completion.

The crop has been affected by insufficiency of rainfall in parts of the Anantapur and Salem Districts. In the Bellary District the crop is reported to have been subject to attacks of hairy caterpillar pest in the early stages of its growth, and to show signs of drooping and shedding of bolls and flowers. The yield per acre is estimated to be normal in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Tirunelveli, Malabar and South Kanara and below the normal in the other districts.

The seasonal factor for the Province as a whole works out to 91 per cent of the average which is the same as that estimated for the corresponding period of the previous year. It is, however, too early to estimate the yield with accuracy as the harvest has not yet commenced in the major portion of the area and much will depend upon the future weather conditions in the districts.

6. The average wholesale price of cotton lint per imperial maund of 82 2/7 lbs. or 3,200 tolas, as reported from important market centres on 26th March 1949, was Rs. 57-11-0 for Cocanadas, Rs. 64-4-0 for White Northerns, Rs. 65-13-0 for Red Northerns, Rs. 60-1-0 for Westerns (Mungari), Rs. 65-1-0 for Westerns (Hingari), Rs. 83-1-0 for Coimbatore Cambodia, Rs. 74-3-0 for Coimbatore Karunganni and Rs. 57-12-0 for Nadam cotton. When compared with the prices published in the last report i. e., those which prevailed on 8th January 1949, those which prevailed on 8th January 1949, these prices reveal a rise of approximately 27 per cent in the case of Westerns (Hingari), 25 per cent in the case of Westerns (Mungari), 19 per cent in the case of Cocanadas, 10 per cent in the case of Nadam cotton and 1 per cent in the case of Coimbatore Cambodia.

Cotton Raw in the Madras Presidency: The receipts of loose cotton at presses and spinning mills in the Madras Presidency from 1st February 1949 to 10th June, 1949 amounted to 163,051 bales of 392 lb. lint as against an estimate of 301,800 bales of the total crop of 1948-'49. The receipts in the corresponding period of the previous year were 212,812 bales. 230,590 bales mainly of pressed cotton were received at spinning mills and 1,705 bales were exported by sea while 53,817 bales were imported by sea mainly from Karachi, Bombay and Egypt. (From the Director of Agriculture, Madras)



MADRAS UNIVERSITY

The following is the list of Register numbers of successful candidates in the recent B. Sc. (Agriculture) Examination held in May 1949.

First Examination:— 1 2 4 6 to 8 10 13 14 16 to 18 20 to 22 24 to 36 38 39 41 to 46 48 51 to 55 57 to 64 66 67 69 to 78 80 to 95 97 to 99 and 101.

The results of candidates with register numbers 5 11 23 50 65 68 are withheld.

Second Examination:— 102 to 20 22 24 27 to 32 34 35 37 39 40 42 to 51 53 54 56 58 59 61 to 65 67 to 74 75 79 to 81 83 to 97.

Passed in all subjects except Animal Hygiene:— 121.

Passed in all subjects except Agriculture:— 125 133 141 176 178 182.

Passed in all subjects except Agriculture Engineering:— 138 152 160.

Final Examination:— Second Class: 184 to 257 59 to 62 and 64 to 89.

Division	Station
Orissa & Circars.	Gopalpur Calingap Vizagapat Anakap Samalk Kakinad Maruter Masulip Guntur Agrl. C
Ceded Dist.	Kurno Nandy Hagar Sirug Bellar Renti Cudd Anar
Carnatic.	Nello Buch
Central.	Mad Tiru Pal Tin Cue
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