

Conclusion: Agricultural folk lore can often guide the farmer in his agricultural operations. It offers wide field for the Meteorologists and Agronomists to scientifically interpret the 'Nattuvelas' in their relationship to cropping practice.

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Thoughts After the Tour

By

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Study tours and excursion trips are better than class room broadcasts. The emotional awareness to facts of reality enriches experience very much as a panorama of events on the silver screen. The students of the final year returning recently after the tour could feel with Wordsworth:

"To the solid ground of Nature trusts the mind
That builds for age."

To see places of importance is itself a great opportunity. Then again we learnt a lot as outgoing students of the Agricultural College, Coimbatore. The achievements in Agricultural Science at the Research Institute could be compared with that of the various Research Stations we visited. The insight and inspiration into the progress of research did make us feel proud of our achievements in the comity of nations.

Before this tour we were under the impression that weaning of calves is harmful to the proper growth and development of the young stock. But we were impressed by the results at the Military Dairy Farm at Hebbal and the Indian Dairy Institute at Bangalore. The progress achieved by hand feeding proper adjustment was quite marked. The only point of importance is the need to maintain scrupulous cleanliness all

round and adopting scientific care in feeding and rearing the calves. The betterment of our livestock and Dairy Industry is dependent on this prime factor.

The volume of work done at the Dairy Institute is outstanding. They have practically completed the whole analysis of the Vitamin (B) Complex in milk. It is stated that goats' milk is superior to all other milks. One could see the preference and particularity of the Father of the Nation for the goat's milk.

The experiment on milch cows is again interesting. These cows are made to work in the field and are given 2 lb. of additional concentrates with a basic ration of 1 lb. for every $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. milk production. The results show that some of them give increased milk yields. This is of special interest to us because cows can also be put to work without loss of milk. Humanity itself, keen on fundamental rights, can take a lesson that irrespective of caste or sex, all can work fostering the food cycle to gather more food.

We saw the students of the Hebbal Agricultural Collage working earnestly in the fields like actual mazdoors. We could hardly believe our eyes or forget our experience at Coimbatore. We learnt later that they are permitted to enjoy the produce got from their plot cultivation, free of cost, as the fruit of their bodily labour. This practical policy of the Mysore Government can also be adopted by the Madras State to make better farmers and better farming possible.

Our visit to Tanjore, the granary of the south is a memorable event. The brilliant achievements of the scientist-cum-administrator Sri. K. Ramaswamy, Superintendent, Agricultural Research Station, Aduthurai are of epoch making importance in the history of Indian Agriculture. The economic method of rising green manure crops for higher rice production and cotton cultivation are not small achievements in the most conservative stronghold of South India. The feasibility of growing cotton after a paddy crop is a real boon to the delta ryots and the Agricultural Department has made successful demonstrations in this direction. Pillipesera and some other suitable fodder crops with the available plentiful supply of paddy straw will open a new line in the field of agro-industrial development like dairying. This rich rice district can produce more and more of rice and cotton and dairy produce to meet our immediate future requirements. This endeavour not only results in the betterment of the people of the locality besides reducing the food and clothing deficit of the State which may become more acute after the separation of the Andhra State.

The picturesque live fence of Commiphora Caodata at Malliam impressed the students as a suitable hedge plant for orchards, equally well appreciated by the mirasdars.

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The specialists at the Poultry Research Stations alone made the students critical of the contradictory conclusions arrived at by the different stations. This seems inevitable under the present circumstances where specialisation leads one to know more and more about less and less in the words of the humourist. But this will not happen with an all round and comprehensive collaboration of research workers with the practical farmers of the land to inaugurate a new era in agriculture where students also have an intelligent role to play with their minds receptive to progressive ideas on practical problems

Research Note

A Note on the Propagation of Rattan Cane (*Calamus Rotang*, Linn.)

By

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The genus *Calamus* is mostly tropical. There are about thirty species, comprising mainly, *Calamus rotang*, Linn, *Calamus latifolius* Roxb., *Calamus andamanicus*, Kurz., *Calamus guruba*, Buch. and *Calamus acanthaspathus*, Griff. They are distributed in Assam, Andamans, Malabar, Coorg, Travancore and Ceylon. *Calamus rotang* is of economic importance due to the erect cane the plant produces in about five years. This plant grows wild on the sides of the Coleroon river in the Shiyali taluk of Tanjore district and in this locality there is an established cottage industry for the manufacture of the well known designs of attractive furniture and boxes by making use of this cane.

A trial on the propagation of this cane was done at the Central Banana Research Station, Aduthurai during 1951 and the results are given below :-

The planting materials, cutting of root suckers and seeds were collected from the banks of the Coleroon river. After the cutting of the canes with its whip like thorny leaves, the root suckers are excavated.