

CHILLIES.

ARTICLES describing the experiments carried out by officers of the Department of Agriculture on the cultural and manurial operations in chilli cultivation have been published in recent numbers of *The Tropical Agriculturist*. As it may be of interest to the readers of this journal to know the actual results obtained in cultivating chillies at one of the major experiment stations of the Department, we present below the Cultivation Sheet in respect of an area of three acres under this crop at the Experiment Station, Anuradhāpura.

The preparation of the land, the various cultural measures adopted between the planting and harvesting of the crop, the yields obtained, and the income derived are described in the Cultivation Sheet in concise form. In addition to the artificial fertilizers mentioned in the Cultivation Sheet, some farm-waste and cattle dung collected at the Station in a pit was applied.

While an area of three acres is hardly sufficient to demonstrate the commercial possibilities of the cultivation of this crop, the figures published will, no doubt, serve to give some indication of the yields and income which might be expected.

With regard to the value of the crop shown in the Sheet, a brief explanation is necessary. The total value of the harvest is stated as Rs. 166·19 per acre or Rs. 498·59 for the whole area of three acres. Of this amount the actual sum of money realized was Rs. 188·06, being the value of 15 cwt. 78 lb. 8 oz. of green chillies which were sold as shown below :—

	Rs. c.
9 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. at Rs. 12 a cwt. (wholesale) .	.. 117 0
4 cwt. at Rs. 12·50 a cwt. (wholesale) .	.. 50 0
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. at Rs. 10 a cwt. (wholesale) 15 0
— 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. at Re. 0·12 a lb. (retail)	.. 6 6
15 cwt. 78 lb. 8 oz.	188 6

The greater portion of the crop was converted into dried chillies, but the Manager, Experiment Station, Anuradhāpura, was unable to sell the dried produce as he required seed for distribution in the district. He had an offer of Rs. 18 a cwt. for the stock of 15 cwt. 99 lb. 4 oz. of 1st grade dried chillies from a local market keeper, but he declined the offer for the reason

mentioned above. Had he disposed of the dried chillies at this price, he would have realized Rs. 285·95.

Similarly, he had an offer of Rs. 8 a cwt. for a quantity of 3 cwt. 8 lb. 2 oz. of 2nd grade dried chillies. This offer, too, was not accepted as he had decided to retail this quantity to the labourers at the station at 10 cents a pound. The income that would have been realized had he sold the 2nd grade produce at Rs. 8 a cwt. would have been Rs. 24·58. For practical purposes, therefore, the total income derived was Rs. 498·59 for the whole plot of three acres.

The cost of cultivation was Rs. 319·85 for the total area. The profit derived from the cultivation, therefore, works out at Rs. 178·74 for the plot, or Rs. 59·58 per acre. It is believed that this profit is a substantial one for a crop of this nature.

CULTIVATION SHEET.

Maha : 1938—1939.

ANURADHAPURA AGRICULTURAL STATION.

Crop : Tuticorin Chilli.

Experiments : Rotation crop unirrigated for trial as to its possibilities in the District and to obtain seed for distribution.

No. of Field or Plot : 30.

Area in Acres : 3.

Cost of Cultivation.	Per Plot.		Per Acre.	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
Share of Permanent Improvement	—	..	—	..
Preparatory Cultivation	23	25	7	75
Manure and Manuring (Manure used 6 cwt. nitrate of soda at Rs. 6·55 a cwt.)	59	50	19	83 $\frac{1}{3}$
Seeds and sowing (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. seeds at Rs. 2 a lb.)	24	90	8	30
Transplanting	22	50	7	50
After cultivation	66	40	22	13 $\frac{1}{3}$
Watering	9	0	3	0
Harvesting, Threshing, Cleaning, &c... .. .	108	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	36	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Spraying and dusting	5	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total	319	85	106	61$\frac{2}{3}$

Produce.	Yield.				Value.			
	Per Plot.		Per Acre.		Per Plot.		Per Acre.	
	Cwt.	lb. oz.	Cwt.	lb. oz.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1. Green chillies	15	78 8	5	26 2 $\frac{2}{3}$	188	6	62	68 $\frac{2}{3}$
2. Dried chillies 1st grade	15	99 4	5	33 1 $\frac{1}{3}$	285	95	95	31 $\frac{2}{3}$
3. Dried chillies 2nd grade	3	8 2	1	2 11 $\frac{1}{3}$	24	58	8	19 $\frac{1}{3}$
Total value per acre					166 19$\frac{2}{3}$			
Less expenses per acre					106 61$\frac{2}{3}$			
Balance, profit					59 58			

Rates.

1. $9\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. green chillies at Rs. 12 per cwt.
 2. 4 cwt. green chillies at Rs. 12.50 per cwt.
 3. $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. green chillies at Rs. 10 per cwt.
 4. $50\frac{1}{2}$ lb. at 12 cents (green chillies).
 5. At Rs. 18 per cwt. 1st grade
 6. At Rs. 8 per cwt. 2nd grade
 7. Seed at Rs. 2 per lb.
- } Dried chillies.

Date.	Description of Work.	Bullock pairs at Re. 1.	Men at 60c.	Women at 30c.	Boys at 45c.	Cost of Work. Rs. c.
August	..Preparing beds for nurseries					
	3 × 30' 12 beds manuring, &c	—	7	—	—	4 20
Do.	..Sowing and covering seed	—	2	—	—	1 20
Do.	..Upkeep of nurseries	—	7	—	4	6 0
September	Do. ..	—	10	—	10	10 50
Do.	..Ploughing main field	4	8	—	—	8 80
Do.	..Harrowing ..	2	4	—	—	4 40
Do.	..Transporting and spreading manure compost	4	4	12	—	10 0
October	..Lining out and blocking out Experiment areas and lines for transplanting	—	13	—	3	9 15
Do.	..Levelling Experiment plots..	—	5	13	7	10 5
Do.	..Transplanting, uprooting, and transporting seedlings	—	—	14	6	6 90
November	Do. ..	—	—	14	5	6 45
Do.	..Filling vacancies	—	—	5	2	2 40
Do.	..Watering ..	—	—	10	—	3 0
Do.	..Inter cultivating	3	6	—	—	6 60
Do.	..Weeding and earthing	—	—	58½	6	20 25
Do.	..Spraying and dusting	—	2	—	—	1 20
Do.	..Manuring manurial plots artificial..	—	2	—	—	1 20
December	..Watering ..	—	—	6	—	1 80
Do.	..Cultivating	4	8	—	—	8 80
Do.	..Weeding ..	—	—	29	2	9 60
Do.	..Manuring and forking man- ure artificials	—	15	—	—	9 0
January	..Picking ..	—	—	57½	8	20 85
Do.	..Weeding and earthing	—	—	40½	—	12 15
Do.	..Spraying and dusting	—	2	—	1½	1 87½
February	..Picking ..	—	—	63	15½	25 87½
Do.	..Weeding and earthing up	—	—	16	—	4 80
Do.	..Watering ..	—	—	11	2	4 20
Do.	..Spraying ..	—	4	—	—	2 40
March	..Picking ..	—	—	100½	17	37 80
Do.	..Weeding ..	—	—	6	—	1 80
April	..Picking ..	—	—	21	4	8 10
Do.	..Drying and sorting	—	—	48	4	16 20
Total		17	99	525	97	277 55

