

CULTIVATION OF PADDY

WITH reference to the very divergent views often expressed regarding the average yield of paddy per acre per annum in this country, the cultivation sheets of the *yala* season 1938 and of the *maha* season 1938-39 at the Experiment Station, Anuradhapura, are reproduced for general information. It is necessary to state that the 25 acres brought under the crop in the *yala* season formed part of the 36 acres which were cultivated in the *maha* season. Therefore, taking 36 acres as the size of the farm, and the total yield of the farm in the two seasons as the average, annual yield per acre is a trifle over 70 bushels, and the average cost of production is about Re. 1·37 a bushel, with no allowance for the rent of the land. From these figures it would appear that if the price of paddy is stabilized at about Rs. 2·25, and the water supply is reasonably assured, paddy cultivation is not altogether beneath the notice of the capitalist.

A similar statement relating to the Paddy Station at Paranthan will be published in the next issue of *The Tropical Agriculturist*.

Division : Northern.

Name of Station : Experiment Station, Anuradhapura.

Acreage under Paddy : 36 acres.

Season : Maha 1938/39.

Variety of Paddy : *Vellai Illankalayan* (28061).

I.—LABOUR.—

Operation	Men at 60 cts.	Women at 30 cts.	Boys at 45 cts.	Total. Rs. c.	Cost per Acre Rs. c.
1. Nurseries for transplanting	20½..	2 ..	— ..	12 90..	0 36
2. Ploughing and mudding	174 ..	— ..	27 ..	116 55..	3 24
3. Work on bunds and channels	61½..	148½..	14 ..	87 75..	2 44
4. Mammotying of unploughable areas	31 ..	— ..	36½..	35 2..	0 97
5. Harrowing	95 ..	— ..	— ..	57 0..	1 58
6. Levelling	140 ..	— ..	20 ..	93 0..	2 58
7. Applying manures	10¼..	— ..	— ..	6 15..	0 17
8. Cutting, transporting and applying green manures	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
9. Sowing or transplanting	22¼..	245 ..	— ..	86 85..	2 41
10. Weeding, thinning out and filling vacancies	25 ..	300 ..	— ..	105 0..	2 92

Operation	Men at 60 cts.	Women at 30 cts.	Boys at 45 cts.	Total Rs. c.	Cost per Acre Rs. c.
11. Irrigating and watching ..	333 ..	— ..	— ..	199 80..	5 55
12. Scaring birds and monkeys	— ..	85 ..	— ..	25 50..	0 71
13. Harvesting ..	136½..	62 ..	— ..	100 50..	2 79
14. Transporting and stacking	144 ..	69 ..	10 ..	111 60..	3 10
15. Threshing and winnowing	163½..	82½..	32 ..	137 25..	3 81
16. Drying, measuring, and transporting to store ..	70½..	— ..	— ..	42 30..	1 18
17. Pest and disease work ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
18. Contribution to Communal works ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
19. Fencing including repairs	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
<i>II.—SEED</i> 73½ bushel at Re. 1·40 per bushel				102 90..	2 86
<i>III.—MANURES.—</i>					
Artificial manure : 42 cwt. 40 lb. of Nicifos at Rs. 11·20 per cwt. including transport charges				474 40..	13 18
<i>IV.—DEPRECIATION ON IMPLEMENTS—vide State- ment A</i>					
				55 1..	1 53
<i>V.—COST OF ANIMAL LABOUR.—vide statement B..</i>					
				143 54..	3 99
<i>VI.—OVERHEAD CHARGES.—</i>					
Salary of Conductor for five months at Rs. 40·83 per mensem				204 15..	5 67
<i>VII.—MISCELLANEOUS.—</i>					
Cost of string 18½ lb. <i>theda</i> rope and 2½ lb. C string at 12 cts a lb.				2 52..	0 7
Cost of kerosene 17¾ bottles at 15cts. a bottle				2 66..	0 7
All other unspecified items				— ..	—
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION				2,202 35	61 18

	Maha 1938-39 Bus. Meas.	Maha 1937-38 Bus. Meas.
Total yield	1,584 23½ ..	1,984 20¾
Yield per acre	44 1 ..	46 29
Cost of cultivation per acre ..	Rs. 61·18 ..	Rs. 53·51
Cost of production of 1 bushel of paddy	Re. 1·39 ..	Re. 1·14

Straw

Yield of straw : 35 tons 3 cwt. 14 lb. (i.e., 26,250 bundles of 3 lb. each).
Value of straw : Rs. 393·75 (i.e., Re. 1·50 per 100 bundles—local rate).
Value realized by sale of straw : Nil.

	Rs. c.
<i>Approximate value of straw used at the station</i>	30 0 (for thatching threshing sheds)
	120 0 (for feeding cattle)
<i>Approximate value of straw reserved for Polon- naruwa</i>	243 75
Total	393 75

STATEMENT B

Cost of Animal Labour

1.—Bulls

Description	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	No.	Cost of each Rs. c.	Estimated length of life. Years	Depreciation per annum $\frac{A \times B}{C}$ Rs. c.	Food cost per annum Rs. c.	Cost of cattle keepers per annum Rs. c.	Total cost per annum $D + E + F$ Rs. c.	No. of working days per annum	No. of working days for <i>maha</i> 1938-39 season	Nett cost for <i>maha</i> 1938-39 season $\frac{G \times I}{H}$ Rs. c.
(a) Kangayam bulls Nos. 13 and 14 ..	2	100 0	8	25 0	82 25	36 50				
(b) Ditto Nos. 15 and 16 ..	2	80 0	8	20 0	82 25	36 50	423 75	210	30	60 53
(c) Ditto Nos. 18 and 19 ..	2	90 0	8	22 50	82 25	36 50				
(d) ..										
Total ..										60 53

2.—Buffaloes

(a) Buffaloes, Single ..	6	25 0	8	18 75	—	147 27	166 02	Per two sea- sons	Per one sea- son	83 1
(b) ..										
(c) ..										
(d) ..										
Total ..										83 1

Total cost of bulls and buffaloes for *maha* 1938-39 season Rs. 143·54

Division : Northern.

Name of Station : Experiment Station, Anuradhapura.

Acreage under Paddy : 25 acres.

Season : Yala—1938.

Variety of Paddy : *Pachai Perumal* (2462/11).

I.—LABOUR.—

Operation.	Men	Women	Boys	Total.	Cost per Acre.
	at 50 cts.	at 30 cts.	at 45 cts.		
1. Nurseries for transplanting	—	..	—	..	—
2. Ploughing and mudding	173	..	—	..	86 50.. 3 46
3. Work on bunds and channels ..	66	..	100½	..	63 15.. 2 52
4. Mammutying of unplough- able areas ..	—	..	—	..	—
5. Harrowing ..	52	..	—	..	26 0.. 1 4

Operation	Men at 50 cts.	Women at 30 cts.	Boys at 45 cts.	Total Rs. c.	Cost per Acre. Rs. c.
6. Levelling ..	76	—	—	38 0..	1 52
7. Applying manures ..	6½	—	—	3 25..	0 13
8. Cutting, transporting and applying green manures	—	—	—	— ..	—
9. Sowing ..	6½	—	—	3 25..	0 13
10. Weeding and filling vacan- cies ..	9	58	—	21*90..	0 88
11. Irrigating and watching ..	239	—	—	119 50..	4 78
12. Scaring birds and monkeys	—	66½	—	19 95..	0 80
13. Harvesting ..	75½	44	—	50 95..	2 4
14. Transporting and stacking	88½	63	19	71 70..	2 87
15. Threshing and winnowing	97	61	—	66 80..	2 67
16. Drying, measuring, and transporting to store ..	39	—	—	19 50..	0 78
17. Pest and disease work ..	4	—	—	2 0..	0 8
18. Contribution to Communal works ..	—	—	—	— ..	—
19. Fencing including repairs	—	—	—	— ..	—
II.—SEED 52½ bushels at Re. 1.40 per bushel				73 50..	2 94
III.—MANURES.— Artificial manures 25 cwt. of Nicifos at Rs. 11.20 per cwt. ..				(a) 280 0..	11 20
IV.—DEPRECIATION ON IMPLEMENTS vide State- ment D ..				36 29..	1 45
V.—COST OF ANIMAL LABOUR vide Statement E ..				125 36..	5 1
VI.—OVERHEAD CHARGES.— Salary of Conductor for 4 months at Rs. 39.16 per mensem				156 64..	6 27
VII.—MISCELLANEOUS.— Cost of string 20½ lb. at 12 cts. per lb. ..				2 46..	0 10
Cost of kerosene 10½ bottles at 15 cts. a bottle ..				1 54..	0 6
All other unspecified items ..				— ..	—
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION				1,268 24	50 73

	Yala—1938 Bus. Meas.	Yala—1937 Bus. Meas.
Total yield ..	950 27	733 22
Yield per acre ..	38 1	36 22
Cost of cultivation per acre ..		Yala 1938. Rs. 50.73
Cost of production of 1 bushel of paddy ..		Yala 1938. Rs. 1.33

Straw

Yield of straw : 20 tons 1 cwt. 88 lb. (15,000 bundles of 3 lb. each).

Value of Straw : Rs. 150 (Re. 1 per 100 bundles—local rate).

Value realized by sale of straw : Nil.

	Rs. c.
Value of straw used at the station	(30 0 (for thatching threshing sheds)
	(120 0 (for feeding cattle)

Remarks

(a) Cost of 25 cwt. Nicifos calculated including transporting charges.

STATEMENT E—*contd.*

Cost of Animal Labour

2.—Buffaloes.

Description	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	No.	Rs. c.	Estimated length of life. Years	Rs. c. $\frac{A \times B}{C}$	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c. $D + E + F$	No. of working days per annum	No. of working days for Yala season	Rs. c. $\frac{G \times I}{H}$
(a) Light brown pair ..	2	25 0	8	6 25	Nil	147 27	166 2	Per 2 seasons	Half the total cost per annum	83 1
(b) Brown pair—straight horns	2	25 0	8	6 25						
(c) Ditto—stout horns ..	2	25 0	8	6 25						
(d) "										
Total ..										83 1

Total cost of bulls and buffaloes for *yala* season Rs. 125·36.