

PROGRESSIVE FARMING

Prospects for Food . . .
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Rural Mailbox

THE Philippines as everybody knows is basically an agricultural country. As the saying goes, "farming is the backbone of the country." If so, how strong is our backbone? We have to admit that our farming methods are not up-to-date as may be desired. The same practices and crude tools used in the past are still found in many of our farms. We are behind in adopting useful, up-to-date information. New ideas are looked upon by most farmers with suspicion and they are reluctant to change.

If we are to develop our farms in a progressive way, we must think hard, plan out our work and put these plans into practice. The plans for our farm work must be based on modern farm practices. Modern farm practices is scientific farming. "Scientific" does not mean something supernatural or mysterious. It is not necessary for a small farmer to go to college to understand the meaning of scientific farming. It merely means in a nutshell, the organization of farm work into a detailed plan using available latest findings on the particular subject at hand. It means making every inch of land yield the maximum at the most economical way under given conditions. To sum it up, we must know at the outset, *what* we want, *why* we want it for, *when* we want it, and *how* we intend to produce it. If we can answer these things in detail, we have a fairly good idea of a scientific method.

It is not the object of this column to encourage farming in a grand style but rather to put some light on common farm problems to help the development of the small farms into profitable enterprises. If we could help the farmer do small things in a profitable way we are more than recompensed in helping him.

While we shall take the initiative in discussing in this department, problems about the daily work of the farmer, we request the farmers all over the country to cooperate by sending us their knotty problems, or suggestion they have discovered that can be useful to other farmers.

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labor conditions in the farm districts. Tractors and threshing machineries, trucks and warehouses were destroyed during the Japanese time. Containers like jute sacks, even used ones, have practically disappeared from use. Not less than ten million sacks should be made available to move the crop and store it. Warehouse facilities to accommodate six million cavans are needed to safely handle the next crop before the rainy season. Some two hundred outfits of tractors and threshing machines would be needed to speedily harvest the crops. Not less than 2000 two and ½ ton trucks are required for hauling rice from the fields to warehouses. The corresponding oil and fuel to mobilize all the mechanized units must be made available. All these essential needs require financing and the farmers do not have the means now. Farmers' only money made from sales of crops during the last three years has no value.

The food situation, however, will not be any more serious in 1946 as in 1945, the period just about to terminate, because both transportation greatly improved and importation possible from different sources as Burma, Siam, French Indo-China and the United States food can be made available.

The most sound course to follow would be for a more general use of locally grown corn, camote and cassava, as between utilizing our own crops, saving our money and importing rice and flour to sending away money, the latter is the more sound economy. This calls for a more comprehensive government leadership and direction. The farmers have already started the planting of corn, camote and cassava and they should be encouraged by having their crops profitably marketed. Already the Batangas farmers have announced surplus cassava harvest without market. Laguna, Cavite, Tayabas, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan and Pangasinan are also producing corn, camote and cassava. Unless an organized attempt is made to market their crops, there will be great losses and the farmers may be discouraged from further cultivation of rice to the prejudice of self-sufficiency essential to a stable Philippine economy.—
Silagram

Inquiries received from farmers shall be given prompt attention unless the answer is not readily available—in which case, it will be referred to an authority on the subject. The information will immediately be published. The following questions were placed in our hands just as we were going to press. Answers will be published in the next issue along with answers of questions that will be received next month.

1. Where can I buy white leghorn chicks for my foundation stock? Is fish meal available now for feeding layers? Is the much publicized Sta. Maria Poultry Raisers Association still alive?

2. Where can I secure onion seeds, and what is the best variety to grow?

3. Can we grow pop corn in the Philippines?

4. Before the war, the Bureau of Animal Industry helped poultry raisers to avoid losses from chicken plague by vaccinating hen and roosters. Is there any private party that will give the same service and what is the cost? Can I buy the vaccine from the government and do my own vaccinating?

5. How can I secure nitrogen bacteria to inoculate the seeds of soybeans before planting?

6. Can I plant camote after harvesting palay in December? (See Suggestions to Rice Growers)

7. Can I produce onion seeds and how?

8. How can we farmers of the locality form a Farmers Cooperative Association?

9. Where can I secure ramie seedlings?

10. What is the UNRRA, the ECA and the FEA and what are they doing for the farmers of the Philippines?

11. Harvesting and threshing rice in all Central Luzon will be in full swing by December. As the Japanese soldiers commandeered all tractors and threshers, where can the farmers secure these facilities now? Are the Companies dealing in farmers' machineries now open for business?

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The governing body of the said corporation shall consist of a Board of Governors composed of a chairman and four members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the Congress of the Philippines. The members of said Board who are not in the employment of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines shall each receive a per diem of not exceeding fifteen pesos for each meeting actually attended by them. The Chairman of the Board of Governors shall appoint such technical and subordinate personnel as may be necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the corporation and shall fix their salaries subject to the approval of the Board.

The Office and principal place of operation of said non-stock corporation shall be in the City of Manila, and branch offices shall be established in such places as may be selected and determined by the Board of Governors.

The corporation herein created shall exercise the powers and duties contained in the articles of incorporation and by-laws to be approved by the President of the Philippines and the rules and regulations that may be issued by the President from time to time in conformity with the provisions of section six of Commonwealth Act Numbered Five hundred and sixty-five.

SEC. 2 The sum of five million pesos is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury which, together with the other funds mentioned in section seven of Commonwealth Act Numbered Five hundred and sixty-five, will constitute a special fund to be known as the National Cooperative Fund and will be placed at the disposal of the Board for the promotion of cooperative enterprises in the Philippines. All incomes or receipts derived from the operation of the special fund herein created shall accrue to and form part of the same and shall be available for expenditure and/or investment as the Board may direct for the purpose of carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
Approved.

Progressive Farming . . . (Continued from page 21)

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH RICE LANDS?

A Silagram

Listen, Rice Growers:

If Europe did not change from simple growing wheat to a cropping system of wheat, turnip and clovers, European farmers today would still be farming the primitive way. Now if rice growers do not change the present system of planting only one crop of rice a year and waiting one half year doing nothing, they will remain the same primitive farmers for the next twenty or fifty years. Many things have already been tried with success and it is only necessary to adopt them into a system or definite farming scheme. Mongo for example has been used to plant after a rice crop. Camote has been tried with gratifying result to follow a rice crop. Soybeans have also been successfully grown after a rice crop. Corn, cotton, gabi and cow-

pea have also been cultivated with satisfactory results after harvesting rice, especially when irrigation facilities are available. Sitao also has been successfully planted on "pilapil" during the growing season of rice, thus rendering the unprofitable "pilapil" serve a double purpose and making it possible to create additional income to the rice farm.

The proposition is as follows—to plant rice from June to November, utilizing a medium late variety. Immediately after cutting the rice, the land should be prepared and planted to camote. The result would be a harvest of camote in March and April. A green manure crop of sesbania or mimosa or soybeans planted in April can be plowed under in June and July. The result will be proper conservation of soil fertility, increased production of food, employment of the farmer throughout the year and an increased income for farm labor.

Let us figure down the advantages. As it is now, the only income of one hectare of rice farm for one year is 40 cavanes a year.

As it will be after adopting the suggested cropping system, the yield of the land will be—

40 cavanes of palay and three tons of camote.

Under present prices of palay at P20.00 a cavan and camote at 15 centavos a kilo, the income from one hectare is P800.00 for rice and P450.00 for camote. Well cultivated camote planting has given as much as nine tons per hectare.

Further advantages of the proposed cropping system is that hog and poultry enterprises will be encouraged because of additional available food and the farmer will be occupied throughout the year on profitable work.

Naturally the adoption of the proposed cropping system involves changes in habits and customs and investment on better equipments to facilitate speedy preparation of the ground. The tenants will have to work harder, the land owner will have to invest in equipments. Apathy to these changes have always been the obstruction to progress. But it is the change with all the accompanying sacrifices that made the difference be-

tween the European farmers of the Middle Ages and those of today.

Truck Gardening Notes

WITH the rehabilitation of speedy transportation from provinces to Manila, farmers will have extra good opportunity to sell fruits and vegetables to Manila market. To illustrate Manila's large market of vegetables, it is only necessary to state that the daily needs of Manila's population for fresh vegetables is around ninety tons. A daily haul by fifteen six-ton trucks would be just about right to meet Manila's daily needs. The vegetables most needed in Manila are, pechay, mustards, camote tips, malunggay tips, kangkong, sitao tips, calabasa, radish, turnips, sincamas, carrots, chayote, gabi, camote, cassava, onions, tomatoes and green corn.

November is the best time to plant for the dry season crops, where irrigation facilities are available; planting can be done until February.

We emphasize tomato and onion planting as these two crops will be on top prices at harvest time.

If you have any question about planting directions, fertilizing guide and harvesting methods write the editor of "Farming and Cooperatives" and the reply will be gladly sent to you promptly.

The farmers of the truck garden land of Marikina valley, Laguna lake shores, the Tumanan land of Baliwag, Bustos, Gapan, Cabanatuan, the bottom lands in Candaba, and river bank lands in Pangasinan should take early steps to plant vegetables this season. While the American soldiers are still in Manila, there will be good markets for all truck garden products.

Suggestions

FOR good results, upo and calabasa should be started early in November and December. Dig square holes one foot wide and a foot deep, two meters apart and fill with well rotted horse or carabao manure. Plant two or three seeds in every hole. When

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Best Wishes to the PHILIPPINE FARMERS ASSOCIATION and to FARMING and COOPERATIVES

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two or three seeds in every hole. When the plants are about one foot high, eliminate the poor plant and leave only the healthy plants one or two to grow up. The upo should be made to climb on strong trellis. A four by five meters "balag" from two hills of plants will produce as much as fifty upo fruits during the growing season.

Poultry

EGGs are still at a premium. What are the Sta. Maria poultry raisers doing? Feed now is abundant and transportation is available. There are many buyers of white leghorn chicks but they seem still to be scarce. The "Farming and Cooperatives" will be glad to help prospective poultry raisers in securing stock and feed. If you have chicks to sell, let us know and we shall pass the word around to our friends who are poultry raisers. If you need fish meal or other concentrates let the "Farming and Cooperatives" help you.

A Word about the Hog

ONE of the best allies of the farmer is the hog. The pig helps the farmer save a lot of farm wastes. It can consume spoiled palay or corn; it can feed on culled camotes, calabasa and camoteng kahoy. It utilizes kitchen waste. One of the most economical ways of raising a pig is to feed it principally with leaves and stem of camote and "darak." Experience points that a farmer having a patch of camote of three hundred square meters will have enough leaves and stems to raise a pig. Start with a feeder three to four kilos in weight. Feed with camote leaves and stems and darak, occasionally with corn and camote until it is twenty kilos in weight. Then fatten it by giving it all it can eat of cracked corn, camote, or camoteng kahoy. At this age it will put 1 kilo of live weight for every six kilos of grain eaten.—R.R.A.

S—(a) Ang e sa dakong unahan ng salitang hiram ay nagiging i: ceballos—sibuyas, ventana—bintana, Enero—Inero, Felipe—Pilipe

(b) Ang o sa dakong uná'y nagiging u, at sa dakong huli'y w: bombero—bumbero, soldado—sundalo, Mindanao—Mindanao, Lanao—Lanao

(k) Ang r sa unahan ay nagiging d, at sa hulihan ay l; repikar, ñapical, rezar, dasál, lugar, lugar

T—Sa mga dalisay na salitang tagalog, aling mga titik ang nakakapalitan?

S—(a) Ang mga patinig na o at u: sampo—sampu, sapól—sapúl

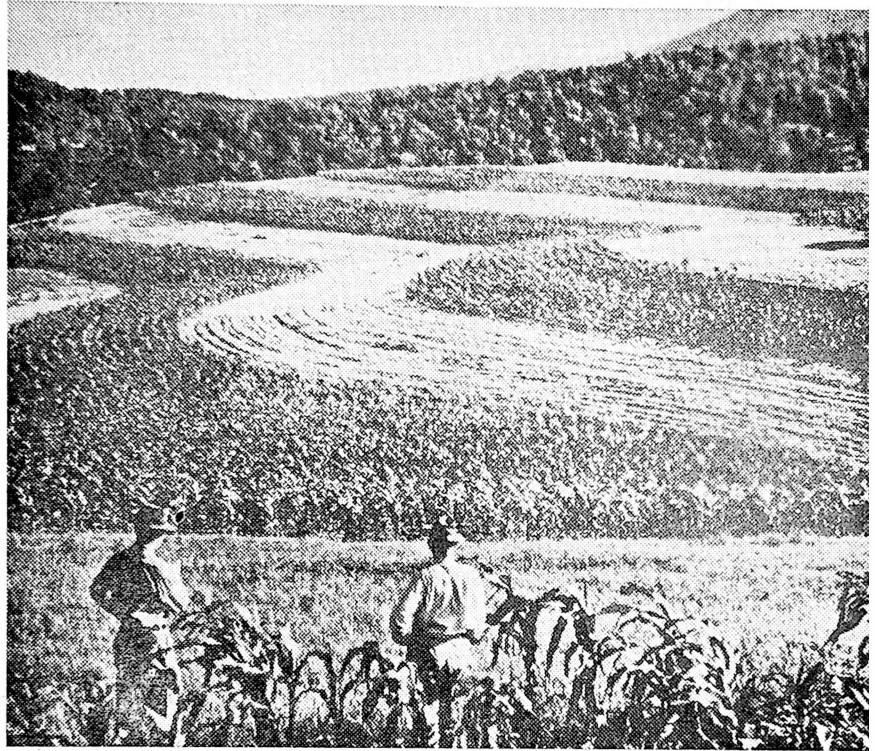
(b) Ang mga katinig na d, l, at r: daw—raw, din—rin, diyán—riyán, lakad—lakarin, buklod—buklura

Sa pagkakapalitan ng d at r ang ganitó ang tuntuning sinusunód. Kapág napagitna sa dalawang patinig, ang d ay nagiging r.

(To be continued)

FARMING AND COOPERATIVES

SCIENTIFIC FARMING IN THE U. S.



Stripped farming as done in the U. S. is one of the most urgent needs of the rolling lands under cultivation in the Philippines. (USIS cut)

How Much Are This and That?

Prices as canvassed by this journal at popular markets in Manila principally Divisoria during the last days of October. Ordinarily prices at Divisoria Market are fifty centavos to one peso lower than other Manila and nearby markets.

These are retail prices:

Rice 1st class	P2.30	to	P2.50	per ganta
2nd class	2.20	to	2.40	" "
Sugar White	3.50	to	4.50	" kilo
Panocha	2.10	to	2.50	" "
Mongo	5.00	to	5.50	" ganta
Camote	.25	to	.50	" kilo
Camoteng kahoy	.25	to	.50	" "
Calabasa	.20	to	.30	" "
Talong (about 6—8 inches)	.08	to	.10	" piece
Tomatoes 6—8 pcs.	1.00	(about P.50 size)		
Upo (about 1½ ft. long)	.30	to	.50	" a piece
Peanuts shelled	4.50	to	5.50	per ganta
unshelled	1.50	to	2.00	" "
Chayote	.25	to	.40	" kilo
Chickens cockerel or young hen	4.00	to	6.00	
big hen	8.00	to	9.00	
Eggs native	.28	to	.50	per piece
white leg-horn	.48	to	.60	" "
ducks	.48	to	.60	" "
balot	1.00	to	1.40	" "