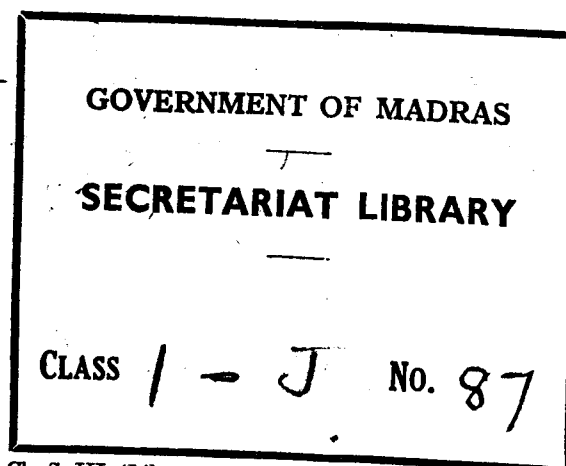




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**Report on the work of the Provincial Fodder and
Grazing Committee, Bombay Province,
1940-41.**

1. During the year 1940-41, the Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee met once, on the 6th June 1940. The proceedings of this meeting have already been recorded in last year's report.

2. The following action has been taken on the subjects discussed in the last meeting :—

(1) *Survey of grass lands.*—The Sub-Committee, appointed to investigate this question, met on the 25th August 1940 and submitted its detailed report for the consideration of the Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee. This report will be considered by the Provincial Committee at its next meeting.

(2) *New Forest Grazing Rules.*—The Chief Conservator of Forests was requested to expedite replies from the District Forest Advisory Committees. His report in the matter is still awaited.

(3) *Proposal for the improvement of wells and tanks.*—As proposed by the Committee, the Chief Conservator of Forests submitted a scheme to Government for approval and financial sanction. Government orders are awaited.

(4) *Note on Cattle Breeding in relation to grazing areas.*—The Livestock Expert to Government was requested to select a few typical areas in which existing grass lands might be put to better use than is at present being done by the villagers in order to carry out demonstrations on such areas. This subject will be included for discussion at the next Provincial Committee meeting along with consideration of the survey mentioned in (1) above.

(5) *Experiments on Kiwae tree and Giant Star Grass.*—The Economic Botanist to Government is continuing his trials with both these plants and his report will be submitted later.

3. As a result of the Committee's recommendation, the following two schemes have been approved, the first one being financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, and the second by the Bombay Government :—

(i) *Grass Drying Scheme.*—Sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 7,400 for a period of 3 years for trials at Poona and Kandivalee, to be undertaken by the Livestock Expert to Government, Bombay Province, Poona.

(ii) *Reclamation of marl lands.*—Sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,990 spread over a period of 3 years, to be carried out in Pandharpur Taluka of Sholapur district, under the supervision of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Southern Division, Dharwar.

4. *Exchange of literature on fodder and grazing problems between Provinces.*—The suggestion of Mr. E. J. Bruen, O.B.E., the then Joint Secretary of the Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee, for exchange of literature dealing with fodder and grazing problems, including the prevention of land erosion, between Provinces, was accepted by the Central Fodder and Grazing Committee. Up-to-date, the Governments of Assam and the United Provinces have agreed to send the required number of copies of such publications issued by them to the Bombay Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee. The Governments of Madras and the Punjab have been requested to do likewise and their replies are awaited. The Bombay Province, in turn, will comply with the requirements of other co-operating Provinces. So far, only the United Provinces and the Assam Governments have communicated their requirements.

5. *Change in the Joint Secretary of the Committee.*—In view of the fact that there is one representative of the the Bombay Province, viz. Prof. L. S. S. Kumar, Economic Botanist to Government, on the Central Fodder and Grazing Committee of the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, it was thought desirable that he should be one of the Joint Honorary Secretaries of the Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee. The Government of Bombay accordingly instructed Mr. E. J. Bruen, Livestock Expert to Government to hand over charge of the Joint Honorary Secretary of the Committee to Prof. L. S. S. Kumar, on the 19th May 1941.

6. *General.*—The following number of copies were cyclostyled on the Duplicator during the year under report :—

No. of copies.	Particulars.	No. of pages.
400	Of 20 proceedings of the various District Fodder and Grazing Committee meetings.	27
100	Proceedings of the Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee meeting.	3
75	Short summary of the work done by the Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee.	4
40	Proceedings of the Punjab Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee meeting.	3
40	Regarding Co-ordination of work of Fodder and grazing ...	13
40	Communication regarding change of Secretaryship ...	1
20	Survey of Grass Land Report ...	4
20	Scheme for Wells and Tanks ...	22
20	Anti-erosion Scheme, Punjab ...	10
20	G. R. regarding dissolving the Thana District Fodder and Grazing Committee.	1

7. *District Fodder and Grazing Committees.*—During the year under report, each District of the Province has established a District Fodder and Grazing Committee except Sholapur District. The Sholapur District Committee will be formed when non-official members for the Committee are appointed by the Village Improvement Committee. The Thana District Committee was subsequently dissolved in view of the fact that the members of this Committee were the same as were on the District Rural Development Board, and it was found that the latter could manage to carry out the functions of the former.

The number of meetings held by the District Committees during the year are as follows :—

Bijapur, Bombay Suburban, Broach, Dharwar, Kanara, Nasik, Panch Mahals, Poona, Thana and West Khandesh.	1 meeting.
Ahmedabad ...	2 meetings.
Kaira, Satara ...	3 Do.
Surat ...	4 Do.

No meetings were held by the following four District Committees :—

Ahmednagar, Belgaum, East Khandesh and Kolaba.

The business transacted by these Committees at the above meetings is summarised below :—

Bijapur.—An experimental scheme to improve grazing lands and check erosion by digging trenches and planting therein "Agave" or "Alœ" plants and seedlings of babul, neem, tamarind, etc., along the embankments was approved by the District Committee and submitted to the Director of Agriculture. This scheme was placed before the Departmental Fodder and Livestock Committee of the Agricultural Department but this Committee considered that the scheme was not practical or economic and that a better way of improving the grass land in Bijapur District would be by wholesale closures of inferior grazing areas in order to permit the establishment of better grasses, followed by rotational grazing in such areas. These views have been communicated to the District Committee.

Bombay Suburban.—A scheme is being drawn up for the improvement of grazing by closing grazing areas and thus giving adequate time for the growth of grass soon after the first rainfall. Demonstrations to villagers in silagemaking will be conducted by the Assistant Rural Development Inspector after being trained by the Divisional Inspector of Cattle Breeding, Palghar.

Broach.—Proposals regarding the desirability of including groundnut cake in cattle rations as a cheap nutritious cattle food, and the raising of quick growing green fodder crops like *Sundhia jowar*, etc., in lands kept under bare fallow, were accepted and work in these directions is being carried out.

For the storage of grass as emergency fodder supplies at different centres in the District, one grass depot in each Taluka has been proposed to be opened, the management of which will be done on similar lines to grain depots.

Dharwar.—The Committee passed a resolution that the number of cattle on grazing lands should be controlled by permitting to graze only agricultural and milch cattle and decided to conduct propaganda through the Revenue Department and the Village Panchayats to reduce the number of unserviceable cattle and eliminate useless cattle. The Committee was of the opinion that legislation is desirable and necessary for the control of grazing but added that the question of staff needed consideration, as this is dependent upon the funds provided. Fees charged for grazing in the reserved areas should be utilised for the promotion of bunding activities in grazing lands. Progress in these directions is dependent upon the finances available.

Kanara.—The Committee passed a resolution that two typical areas should be selected and experiments made therein in growing grasses and other fodders of nutritive qualities. This resolution has not yet been put into effect.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Southern Division, arranged to supply the seeds of Napier and Guinea grasses to Forest Officers for sowing in fallow lands within forest areas for demonstration purposes.

Nasik.—A preliminary discussion about the aims and objects of the Committee took place and it was decided to obtain detailed information from various Heads of Departments so as to have precise data showing the present position to enable concrete proposals for action to be made in future.

The Agricultural Officer in charge Cattle Breeding, Jalgaon, suggested to the Collector of Nasik the preparation of lithographed maps of blocks or coups in different colours indicating the different periods of opening for grazing and areas reserved and partially opened for grazing. These are to be placed at the Village Chavdis for the information of villagers, as the present marks of the Forest Department do not indicate clearly the boundaries and thus are not effective in preventing animals from entering the adjoining coups when closed.

Panch Mahals.—The Committee resolved to obtain a list of the Gurcharan of every village in the division from the Taluka Officers along with information regarding the number of heads of cattle per village so as to select suitable centres for work on grassland improvement.

The question of the improvement of Gurcharans will be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on receipt of the above information.

Poona.—The Committee was of the opinion that strict control over grazing is essential and, under the present conditions resulting from the abolition of grazing fees, legislation in this connection would be necessary. It was further agreed that the improvement of Gurcharan lands in Poona district is only possible if controlled and rotational grazing is enforced.

Experiments towards the prevention of soil erosion are already being done at various places in the district and the Committee suggest that such work should be extended and demonstrated to the people.

Thana.—Wire fencing to protect grazing areas, contour trenches to prevent soil erosion, and closing of grazing areas for one and a half months after the start of the rains, were some of the improvement measures dealt with by this Committee. The Committee has since been dissolved and its work entrusted to the District Rural Development Board.

West Khandesh.—As recommended at the first meeting of this District Committee, proposal regarding the formation of more grass Kurans out of Reserved Forest has been submitted to Government by the Chief Conservator of Forests. The Committee has also approved the rules drafted by the Collector for rotational grazing in Gurcharans. These rules were considered by the Departmental Fodder and Livestock Committee, and were approved with certain modifications. The District Committee hopes that if these proposals are approved by Government, they will be put in operation immediately so that improvement can be made so far as the district fodder supply is concerned.

Ahmedabad.—A scheme for the improvement of *bir* lands at Chandkheda and Hathijan by providing adequate water facilities, and other possible improvements of grazing lands in the district are under consideration by this Committee. A sub-committee was appointed to go into these matters in the first instance and to obtain details of the area, assessment, and realisation from the *bir* lands in question during the past five years.

The Committee also resolved that the Rural Development Board should obtain about 5 lbs. of *Anjan* seeds for free distribution through the Assistant Rural Development Inspector.

Kaira.—With regard to proposals made in its previous meeting, the undernoted were carried out :—

Permission was granted for one year to the Gram Panchayat of the Village Kunjerao, Anand Taluka, to get the grazing area sown with fodder crops. The profit derived from the cultivation of the said area will be utilised for further development of the grazing area.

An experiment on the removal of *Bordi* shrubs was made in the grass areas of seven villages in the District but the result was not wholly satisfactory.

Napier grass seed was purchased from Mysore from a grant placed at the disposal of the Rural Development Board. The seed was tried at the Agricultural Institute, Anand, and the Bidar.

Sabarmati Ashram, and it was decided that a systematic scheme for its cultivation should be drawn up. The Committee also propose to draw up a scheme for constructing silo pit to encourage the preparation of ensilage in villages.

Satara.—With a view to improve the supply of milk in cities and towns, the Committee recommended the transfer of grazing areas for management to the Municipalities and a reference has been made to this effect to the Commissioner, Central Division.

Work done by the Forest Department regarding protection of land from soil erosion is in progress at Chimangaon.

Opinions have been called for from the Agricultural Department on the establishment of demonstration plots for growing *Shevri* in water-logged areas and on the introduction of rotational grazing on Government waste land for demonstration purposes.

Introduction of Dry Napier grass on grassland is proposed to be done through Taluka Development Associations and through the Agricultural and Forest Departments. Distribution of fodder growing crop seeds at half rate was recommended by the Committee to encourage the agriculturists to grow more fodder.

Surat.—The Committee made a proposal that pupils of primary schools should be taught something about the improvement of grassland. The Livestock Expert to Government, in consultation with the Economic Botanist to Government, suggested that this should be done by ocular demonstration. The District Committee was of opinion that, to organize ocular demonstrations, would be impracticable. It therefore approved of an article on "Cattle and Fodder" written in simple style by one of its non-official members and published it in one of the local papers which could be used for the purpose of instructing students, etc.

The Committee considered two experiments for the improvement of grass land—one to get leading agriculturists to experiment on small pieces of land with *Sundhia jowar* as a substitute for grass, and a second, to let out Government land purely for growing fodder crop at concessional rates for some period. On enquiries, it was reported that, only in Olpad Taluka, were there suitable areas in villages for giving out at concessional terms for fodder crop experiments. This question is pending further consideration by the Revenue Department.

The list of road-side trees sent by the Provincial Committee has been sent on to District Local Board and the Public Works Department for necessary action.

L. S. S. KUMAR,

Economic Botanist to Government, B. P. and
Joint Honorary Secretary, Provincial Fodder
and Grazing Committee, Poona.

Poona, 1st June 1941.