

Inspection of Thundathil Plantations dated 17-11-69

1) The 1969 Plantation at Thundathil. This comprises coupe VII and coupe VIII the former consisting of 8 sub coupes of the latter 7. Coupe VII has been planted with teak and Elavu in alternate lines at an espacement of 2.6 metres by 2.6 metres that is to correspond within the espacement of 8½ ft. x 8½ ft. In coupe No. VIII sub coupes 1 to 3 have been planted with teak and Elavu in alternate lines at an espacement of 2.6 metres by 2.6 metres. Sub coupes IV and V have been planted with Grevillia Robusta. Planting has been done with naked seedlings planted in prepared pits at an espacement by 3 metres by 3 metres. Sub coupes VI and VII have also been planted with Grevillia Robusta at the same espacement but with basketed seedlings.

Both the coupes have been under taungya cultivation with paddy. The paddy has been harvested some time ago, but no weeding has been done in the area with the result that many seedlings are still surprised by wicks. The taungyadars in these coupes have not done weeding. Excepting for a small portion put under gingely the rest of the plantation is full of weeds. The Range officer will send registered notices to all the lessees separately and commence the weeding departmentally at the cost of the lessees after getting the estimates sanctioned by the Divisional Forest Officer. The estimate may also be prepared separately for each of the leased area. The crop of paddy seems to have been particularly heavy and considerable damage has been done to the growth of the plants by the paddy crop

crop falling over the seedlings. In the Grevillia patch the seedlings have established and the average height is about half a metre. But the casualties are heavier in the area planted with naked seedlings. On a rough estimate it appears that the casualties will be between 25 to 30%. In the teak and Elavu area the plantation presents a dismal appearance. It is disappointing to note that the teak has not shot up above an average height of one foot and the Elavu plants slightly less. It is also distressing to note that the casualties in the Elavu rows are particularly heavy. The reasons for such a poor show have to be investigated. The Divisional Forest Officer is requested to look into this matter.

2) Inspection of 1966 Grevillia Plantation

An area of 16 Hectares in sub coupe IV, in coupe XX, No. XVI had been planted with Grevillia Robusta at 3 metres by 3 metres. The average height of plants will be about 12 ft., the taller plants reaching up to about 20 ft. in height. It is found that many plants are dying back, the drying up starting from the leading shoot and spreading downwards. Some of the plants are completely dead and some others are in the process. Both the backward plants as well as the more healthy and taller ones are affected by this phenomenon. On a close of the examination, it is found that in some plants which have already shown a tendency to dry up there have been fissures and cracks on the bark and there is exudation of gum from these fissures. It is suspected that this might be a sort of fungal or vines ^{vines} attack contributing to the drying up of the plants. In some of the dead plants also similar cracks on the bark are seen but the exudation

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visible) had been marked out and the Range Officer has been instructed to identify these trees with special markings and observe these plants every week and note the changes if any in the appearance of the plants and the symptoms. He has also been asked to intimate the position to the Silvicultural Research Officer.

3) Inspection of 1963-64 teak and Elavu Plantations

These Plantations are due for a thinning. It has to be done with a preference to the Elavu Plants.

4) 1959 Elavu Plantation. This is a pure patch of Elavu Plantation at an espacement of 22 ft. by 11 ft. planted on 1959. On account of the heavy growth in the plantation the area was leased out for taungya cultivation during 1967. When the weeds were cleared the Elavu rows were inter-planted with a row of Eucalyptus hybrid seedlings. The growth of these seedlings in 1967 was reported to be promising and many of them had attained a height of 15 to 20 ft. But, at present, the majority of these plants appear to be dying off. The reason for this failure is not explicit.

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CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.

To

The Divisional Forest Officer,
Chalakudy.

Range Officer, Thundathil Range.

Copy submitted to Chief Conservator of Forests for
information.

Copy to Conservator of Forests' file.

Copy to P.C. section for necessary further action.