M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-23

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 526 — Press / ~~Mis.~~

Dated 11 - 3 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 149. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd February 1862, No. 739:—

Read the following Tabular Summary of the Reports of the several Collectors on the experimental cultivation of Imphee in their respective Districts, with the seed forwarded to them with the Board's Circular, No. 381, dated 2nd February 1859:—

Districts.	By whom and in what parts of the District the experiment was tried.	The season when the seeds were sown, and the time the plants took to arrive to maturity.	The height to which the plants grew, and their condition generally.	Whether any saccharine matter was extracted from the stalks, and if so, its quality.	Its merits as fodder for cattle compared with the Cholum, &c.	General Remarks.
1. Ganjam.....	By Natives as well as Europeans.	——	The Natives invariably stated that the seeds did not germinate; those sown by the others grew luxuriantly.	A quantity of the stalks was milled at Aska and the juice boiled yielding "a thick sort of mucus."	Doubts it superiority to Cholum, the straw of which the Collector believes is equally nutritious.	Is of opinion that it will not yield any sugar, but may be cultivated wherever Cholum flourished under the same conditions.
2. Vizagapatam.	The experiment was made through the Assistant Agent, who made no report to the Collector's office, and is at present on sick leave. On his return the Collector hopes to be able to furnish all particulars.	——	——	——	——	——
3. Godavery District.	Among others by the Village Moonsiff of Doddipatla and Mr. Montclair.	——	The Moonsiff got a crop in Fasli 1269, and from the seed saved cultivated nearly an acre of land in Fasli 1270, from which he has obtained 400 seers of seed. He intends continuing the experiment. Mr. Montclair also obtained a very good crop, but his experiment ceased on his leaving the District.	The Moonsiff made some Jaggery, reported to be not good, perhaps from want of due care.	——	A trial made in the Singumputty Táluq entirely failed.

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4. Kistna District...	By Ryots and Engineer Officers in three Táluqs, the soil of the rest being unfit for the experiment.	——	A few grew to the height of 4½ feet, but the ear fell before it was observed. The stalks were not thicker than those of Cholum and Jonna.	——	——	The seed is sweet, and is attacked at once by insects if not kept very carefully, which the Collector believes was the cause of the failure.
5. Nellore	By a few, whom the Collector does not particularize.	In April, on garden land in rows about 6 inches apart, and were watered every other day. The plants ripened in about four months from the time the seeds were sown.	About 8 feet, and were 2½ inches in circumference.	——	——	The quantity of seed received was too small to make an extensive experiment; requests a further supply.
6. Bellary	Mr. Pelly caused the seeds to be sown in some of the gardens at Bellary and Ramandroog, and also in the Táluqs of Madakisira, Hindupur and Alur.	——	From 1 to 6 feet, but yielded neither ears nor grain.	About 3 seers of tasteless Jaggery were prepared.	——	The failure was owing, Mr. Hathaway believes, to the unsuitableness of the soil.
7. Cuddapah ...	In several villages of the western Táluqs where Jonna is grown.	Towards the end of September, the same time as Jonna.	The seed germinated, but died within a week.	——	——	Requests to be furnished with more seed for trial under European superintendence.
8. Kurnool.....	Some of the seeds was sown in the late Collector's garden at Kurnool and on the Nullamalla Hills, and some was sent to Captain Nelson at Siddapur.	The result of the experiment on the Hills and at Siddapur is not known, the gardener at Kurnool states that some of the seeds sown there sprouted, but that only one plant came to ear when it also died away.	——	——	——	Mr. Minchin is of opinion from his experience at Nellore, that this plant could be successfully cultivated under well irrigation in all soils suited for the growth of Jonna.
9. Madras.....	No trace of the seed received by the late Collector can be found in the Kacheri, nor does it appear to have been forwarded to any of the Tahsíldárs for distribution.	——	——	——	——	——
10. North Arcot.	By the Collector at Chittoor and Palmanair, on ordinary Nanja at the former, and on red and gravelly soil at the former. The experiment was also tried in the Táluqs.	In July and the stalks attained their full growth in five or six weeks and burst into ear. The young plants were watered thrice, twice, and once a week according to their growth and strength.	Five to six feet, and strongly resembling the Cholum. They attracted insects from the time they were six inches high, and were swarming with black ants and flies by the time they were fully grown.	The juice was extracted at two different stages when the ear first showed, and again at the end of the third month's maturity. It was of a pale green color, and not very sweet.	The Native farmer would not prefer it to Cholum which is cultivated at small risk and cost, and constitutes wholesome food for both man and beast.	Thinks that the plant has had a fair trial in the District, and is not at all likely to succeed in it.
11. South Arcot.	The seed was distributed throughout the District.	Total failure, either through the inattention of those engaged in the experiment, or from the unfavorable nature of the season.	——	——	——	——

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12. Tanjore.....	By Mr. Kohlhoff and several Natives in seven Táluqs where the soil appeared best adapted for the experiment.	In four Táluqs they did not germinate, the seeds having been bad. Mr. Kohlhoff sowed them in the early part of March and also in April, and on both occasions they came up and grew luxuriantly. He is of opinion that they should be sown in January as then they would escape the unsettled state of the weather in March and April; the dew in January, he thinks, will not prove unfavorable as a species of Cholum is then cultivated.	Mr. Kohlhoff considers the grain of the Imphee to be valuable for the following reasons:—Cholum produces but one ear, the Imphee several, and a second crop is obtained from it though not so bulky as the first, whereas Cholum will wither after yielding one crop if not cut down previously.	—	Mr. Kohlhoff states that the stalks are not so dry and hard as those of the Cholum, and bullocks that are accustomed to be fed with straw will not eat the Cholum stalks, whereas they will eat the Imphee stalks with avidity. He has tried it with his bullocks, and found it to be the case.	The Collector has personally inspected a crop raised by a large Mirásidár, and is of opinion that the Imphee is likely to prove a valuable addition to the products of the Districts. Trusts to be able to repeat the experiment already made under more favorable circumstances, as the heavy rain and storm in April destroyed almost the whole crop.
13. Trichinopoly.	By large landed proprietors in three villages.	They were sown at the proper season and germinated in only two villages, and came to maturity in only one. The yield is very poor, and the product deemed unproductive. Forwards a small quantity of the grain and several of the ears showing them to be quite empty of grain.	—	—	—	—

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18. North Canara	By the Collector in his garden at Honore.	In July the plants flower in about two months and the seed ripens within three months from time of sowing. Nobody below the Ghâts would try the experiment. Has about five pounds of seed which he intends to distribute for further trial.	—	—	—	—
19. South Canara	In the Government garden as well as other parts of the District by a few inhabitants, but the seed failed to germinate. The Collector is of opinion that the climate is not suited to it, judging from the fact that no Jonna is grown in the District.	—	—	—	—	—
20. Malabar	By the Collector, by Mr. Brown and some other persons.	Mr. Brown sowed the seeds in June and they sprung quickly. The Collector was also successful, but the second sowing which took place in the ordinary upland soil abounding in the District was a failure.	Mr. Brown sowed in June. The plants grew to seven feet, but as they began to flower at the joints from the time they were three feet high and continued doing so all the time until they attained their greatest height, Mr. Brown ascribes the want of sap in the stems to premature and profuse flowering. The Collector, however, found considerable saccharine matter in the stems of his plants. The seeds attracted squirrels and black ants by which they were eaten up.	—	The stems the Collector states were eaten up greedily by cows and sheep.	The impression left on the Collector's mind is that it would grow well in those parts of the country in which Cholum is raised.

14. Madura	By several Ryots.	It failed to germinate in some cases, in others it grew well. On the whole the Ryots deemed the experiment unsatisfactory.	There is no seed at present in the District.
	By three Natives and by Mr. Levinge, who sowed them in his garden at Palamcottah.	The seeds generally germinated and the plants came to maturity within three months.	The seed sown has been destroyed by insects.
15. Tinnevelly. .	By Mr. Koe, Mr. Lascellas, and Lieut. Beddome as well as by the Collector.	The seeds sown by Mr. Koe in the neighbourhood of Coimbatore attained the height and appearance of ordinary Cholum in three months. The Natives all say that it is precisely the same as the Cholum grown about Ettymady and near Walliar. Mr. Lascellas tried some in Wainád, but it failed owing probably to the excessive wet. He intends to try it in August and September if he can get seed. His trial in Coimbatore has so far succeeded that the plants grew luxuriantly, and at the date of his letter even six feet high, but had not yet produced head. He thinks it valuable as a forage plant, but that it wont succeed as a ceral for sundry seasons. Intends to report further as to the result of his experiment. Lieut. Beddome tried half the seed he got in July in his garden in the forest, but it failed to germinate probably on account of the very heavy rain at the time. He has sown the remaining half of the seed.	—
16. Coimbatore .	By Mr. Fischer and one or two others, but the experiment was a thorough failure. Mr. Fischer ascribed it to want of rain at the proper time, and intended to try the seed next season which however proved unfavorable for such trial.	—	—
17. Salem	Some juice was extracted, but it contained a very small quantity of sugar.	—	—
	Two individuals made an experiment by boiling the juice, one of them stated that he obtained some sugar, but the other failed.	—	—

1. From the above summary of the Reports of the several Collectors, it appears that the Imphee seed received by the Board from Surgeon Major Balfour, when that Officer was in charge of the Government Central Museum, and distributed by them on the 14th January 1858 to all the Districts for trial, was duly tried by Europeans as well as Natives with various results, apparently tending to show as far as the experiment has gone that wherever the seed was good when if was sown and proper care exercised as to the time of sowing, &c., it grew well but that the saccharine matter extracted from the stalks in the few Districts* in which the operation was tried, was of a very inferior character. The Collector of Ganjam who had a quantity of the stalks milled at Aska, is of opinion that it will not yield any sugar, but that it may be cultivated wherever Cholum flourishes and under the same conditions.

Vide Board's Circular, No. 381, dated 2nd February 1859.

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Bellary.
North Arcot.
Madura.
Tinnevelly.

2. Mr. Kohlhoff in Tanjore, to whose opinion the Collector attaches much weight, states from the results of the trials made by him, that the product in question is likely to thrive in the District, and would be a valuable addition to its present cereals, as unlike the Cholum it throws out several ears at time, and yields a second crop though not so heavy as the first. The stalks he adds, are not so dry and hard as those of the Cholum, and bullocks that are accustomed to be fed with straw eat them with avidity while they refuse Cholum stalks. The Collector of Malabar also alludes to the partiality of cattle for the Imphee stalks, but the saccharine matter contained in them and to which the preference is attributed, is stated in some of the Districts to lead to the destruction of the ears by insects.

3. The Collector of Ganjam doubts the superiority of the Imphee to Cholum, the straw of which he believes is equally nutritious, and the Collector of Coimbatore is of the same opinion as from a trial made in his garden with both grains sown side by side he found that the Cholum surpassed the Imphee in height, weight, straw and grain. Mr. Lascellas, who experimented in the same District, considers the Imphee to be a valuable forage plant.

4. Some of the Collectors have saved seed for further experiment, and the Board have also forwarded a fresh supply subsequently received from the Secretary to the Agri- Horticultural Society, to the Officers named in the margin who with the exception of the Collector of North Arcot, whose Report has been noticed in the above summary, have not yet reported the results of the further trial, and it is to be hoped that the experiment will not be abandoned until they are able to arrive at somewhat more positive conclusions than they have as yet had opportunity for doing, owing to the small quantity of seeds originally supplied and to other unavoidable causes.

Board's Proceedings, No. 3,658, dated 11th July 1861.
Do. Letter, No. 3,935, dated 23rd July 1861.

Collectors of
Nellore,
Cuddapah,
Bellary,
Kurnool,
Madras,
North Arcot,
Trichinopoly,
Madura,
Tinnevelly,
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Salem.

5. Resolved that a copy of these Proceedings be submitted for the information of Government, and also that copies be forwarded to Surgeon Major Balfour and to the Secretary of the Agri-Horticultural Society for any remarks they might wish to offer.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 150. ORDER THEREON, 11th March 1862, No. 526.

The Government approve of the Board's Proceedings. The result of the further experiments contemplated by the Board will be reported in due course.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

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(A true Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to Surgeon-Major Balfour.
" to Rev. J. R. McFarlane, Secretary Agri-Horticultural Society.
" to all Collectors.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Copy in a Letter to England
Dispatch April 1862

Rev: 1862 Department.
Proc: of Govt. for March.

No. 464.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 3rd *February* 1862.

Despatched 18th —

Received 19th —

No. 739.

Submitting, with remarks, summary of the Reports of Collectors on the Experimental Cultivation of Imphee.

No. 526 — 11 March

W. Mayne

Nos 149 & 150.

Ct 1st February 1862

Letter

W. M.

Fort St. George
11th March 1862

4 Copies to the
Bd of Rev.
Dispatch

W. 526.

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L. D.