M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1648 Press Mis.

403 : 404

Dated 20 - 2 - 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 20th July 1867.

No. 403. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th July 1867, No. 4,241.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Point Calimere, Tritrapundi Talook, 8th June 1867, No. 103 :—

1 I have the honour to submit the following report on the result of the experimental cultivation of Carolina paddy in this district during the past season.

2. The seed received from the Secretary to Government in the month of May 1866 was distributed throughout the district to nineteen different persons; but, as will be seen by the enclosed tabular Statement, it is only in two that the experiment can be said to have been attended with success. In one of these two cases, the cultivation was conducted under the immediate superintendence of the late Sub-Collectors Messrs. Hutchins and Comyn, and the Salt Deputy Collector Mr. Ricketts, and in the other by a private proprietor under his own superintendence. In the case first mentioned, and which will be more fully detailed hereafter, the outturn was 22½ fold, and exceeded by about one-third the average yield of the adjoining lands cultivated with indigenous paddy; and it is believed that under more favourable circumstances, the outturn would have been still larger. In the other case, the outturn was eighteenfold and less than the average produce of similar lands by about three-eighths.

3. Of the remaining seventeen cases; in two, the experiments entirely failed, the seedlings having perished soon after shooting; and in the other fifteen, the outturn was extremely scanty. It is to be observed that, in four of the cases last mentioned, the cultivation was conducted under the superintendence of the Officers of Government.

4. The reason generally assigned for the unsuccessful result in all those cases, is deficiency of rain during the early part of the season, and too much during the latter part; it is in several instances attributed also to the attack of grubs and insects, as also to the fact of the seedlings having, in like manner with the indigenous paddy, been transplanted; an operation now generally believed not to be adapted to this species. I think, however, that it is want of proper care on the part of those to whom the seed was intrusted for cultivation, that accounts generally for the very poor results obtained in the majority of instances.

5. Considerable doubt seems to exist as to whether the method of planting out from seed-beds should be followed in the cultivation of this Carolina paddy or not. The mode of culture adopted in North America, as particularly described in the two works noted in the margin, leaves no doubt as to the seed being there only sown broadcast; while, from Mr. Keess' report* on the successful results of the cultivation of the acclimatized seed as conducted by him in South Arcot during the year 1865, I observe that the seedlings were planted out. Again, Mr. Bullard, Collector of Malabar, in his report† on the experiments made in his district during the past season states that the most favourable results followed where the seedlings were transplanted.

Russell's North America, its agriculture and climate, pages 173 to 175. Tropical Agriculturist, by G. R. Porter, page 184.

* Circulated with the Proceedings of Government, dated 17th May 1866.

† *Vide* Board's Proceedings, 25th April 1867, No. 2,535.

6. Neither do the actual comparative results of the experiments, made in this district during the past season, lead to a satisfactory conclusion on this point; for, while the meagre results are generally attributed to the transplanting, it is not found that a different result followed where the seed was sown broadcast; the two cases in which the experiments have proved successful being those where the operation first mentioned was followed. It is nevertheless a fact, that the roots of the plant strike deep into the soil, besides also spreading widely, and that they are consequently very liable to be injured when pulled out of the ground.

7. In order, therefore, to this point being definitely set at rest, I purpose during the present season to have two large plots of ground in all respects equally situated, cultivated by both the methods in question, under the direct superintendence of one of my Deputies and of a Sub-Magistrate,

who will, I am sure, pay proper attention to the subject. The result will be reported to the Board in due course.

8. A detailed account of the successful experiment conducted under the superintendence successively of Messrs. Hutchins, Ricketts, and Comyn, as recorded from memoranda left by those gentlemen, is contained in the following paragraphs of the report submitted by the late Sub-Collector, Mr. Agnew, on the result of the experimental cultivation of the Carolina paddy in the Sub-division:—

6. "On the 26th July, in Mr. Hutchins's presence, five pounds of Carolina paddy, measuring three and half measures before and four and half measures after soaking, were sown in three gulies of land in Palaiyur belonging to Vadagudi Mirasidar, Subba Pillay.

7. "On the third morning, shoots an inch long were visible. These were four or five inches high on the 4th August, eight inches or more on the 13th August flourishing famously, blade broader than country paddy.

8. "On the 25th August, the plants, then over eighteen inches, were transplanted into 16½ gulies of land. It was then seen that the roots were very long and difficult to pull up, in many instances over six inches. Although not nearly so thickly planted as the surrounding nursery beds, it took eight men for half an hour and thirteen men for another half hour to take up the plants from the three gulies. The plants themselves are described as very hardy and prolific; in many cases three or even four distinct stems, likely each to have an ear, proceeding from one seed.

9. "On the 6th September the paddy looked very sickly; on the 19th it seemed to have recovered, looked generally strong and vigorous, and a few ears were observed to have formed. Mr. Hutchins's farewell remark on the 20th October is, getting on splendidly and ears sprouting out everywhere, will be ready to reap in thirty days."

10. "On the 4th November Mr. Comyn reports the crop looking strong and well generally, but the ear partly eaten by a small black grub." On the 17th crop nearly ready for reaping, in some places swamped by heavy rain and trailing in the water. Black grub gone.

11. "On the 21st November it was cut and threshed in Mr. Comyn's presence. Outturn 19¼ morcals, or at the rate of about 200 Kalams to a veli, the produce of the adjacent lands not averaging as much as 150 Kalams per veli."

9. Mr. Agnew concludes with an expression of his opinion that "this experiment may, "therefore, be deemed a decided success, and the more so because it was Mr. Comyn's opinion that "the field could have borne a much thicker and larger crop, only half of it having been closely planted." Mr. Agnew adds, "the experiment seems to have been nuplatable to the Mirasidars generally, and "both the gentlemen above referred to (Messrs. Hutchins and Comyn) consider Subba Pillay entitled "to much credit for the interest in it taken by him in spite of the odium he had to endure."

10. This last remark accords with my own observation. The more ignorant classes of land-holders look upon all such experiments generally as indications that an enhancement of assessment is in contemplation, and no amount of assurance to the contrary is found sufficient to effectually remove this erroneous impression from their minds. Neither do the people of this district really believe that the Carolina species possesses any marked superiority, whether as regards quality or the proportion of outturn, over the indigenous paddy, and so far as the experiments hitherto made go, they are indeed not such as can convince them to the contrary. I trust, however, with the paddy lately sent to me, and the assistance of the officials mentioned in paragraph 7 of this report, to be able to make a really favourable report next year.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Statement showing the result of the experimental cultivation of Carolina Paddy, in the District of Tanjore, in Fasly 1276, *A. D.* 1866-67.

Name of the village.	Area of the plot cultivated.	Description of soil.	Quantity of seed put down.	Whether sown broadcast, or transplanted from seed-beds.	Time occupied between the date of sowing and reaping.	Outturn.	Proportion of outturn to seed put down.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Palaiyur Vadapadi, Negapatam taluk.	·053	Moist.	1¼	Transplanted ...	118 days.	39½	22½ fold.	This is one of the two successful cases noticed in the report. In this case, the cultivation was conducted under the superintendence successively of Messrs. Hutchins, Ricketts, and Comyn.
2. Pappakóvil do. ...	·084	Black.	1¾	Do. ...	90 do.	1	.....	The roots of the young plants were longer than those of indigenous paddies, and were injured in the pulling up. The plants were stronger with wider blades, bigger stalks, and longer ears than the adjacent ordinary paddy-plants. The Tahsildar and Mirasidars interested attribute the poor outturn to the fact of the ears and stalks both being peculiarly sweet, the former having been devoured by red insect, and the latter by water rats, the outer covering of either being very delicate.
3. Vadakkuveli do. ...	·059	Do.	1¼	Do. ...	90 do.	1½	.....	
4. Elaiyur, Nannilam taluk.	·033	Red.	1	Sown broadcast.	Not stated.	5	5	In these cases the poor result is attributed to a heavy fall of rain just when the seed germinated; also to the ravages of insects.
5. Nannilam do.	·029	Do.	¾	Do.		5	10	
6. Narasingampettai do.	·016	Do.	1	Do.		3	3	
7. Kodavassel do.	·016	Black.	1	Do.		2	2	
8. Tambikkinallanpatam, Mayaveram taluk.	·014	Do.	8	Transplanted. ...	Do.	4	.....	In this case the experiment was conducted under the superintendence of the Acting Head Assistant Collector.
9. Rajendram, Tanjore taluk.	·049	Do.	1¾	Do. ...	Not stated.	½	.....	

Statement showing the result of the experimental cultivation of Carolina Paddy.—(Continued.)

Name of the village.	Area of the plot cultivated.	Description of soil	Quantity of seed put down.	Whether sown broadcast, or transplanted from seed-beds.	Time occupied between the date of sowing and reaping.	Time occupied between the date of transplanting and reaping	Outturn.	Proportion of outturn to seed put down.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10. Agraharam Tirupandurti taluk.	·046	Red.	1¼	Transplanted.	Not stated.	90 days.	2¾	2⅕	
11. Siralur taluk ...	·033	Black.	1	Do.	Do.	140 ,,	4½	4½	
12. Ramapuram do. ,,	...	.....	1¼	.....	.....	...	...	.....	In this case the seedlings decayed three days after sprouting.
13. Vallam Pudur Setti do.	·066	Black.	1⅕	Sown broadcast....	145 days.	...	4¾	2½	In this case the operations were conducted under the superintendence of the Sub-Magistrate.
14. Palamkalattur, Mannargudi taluk.	·039	Do.	1	Transplanted ...	126 days.	90 ,,	18	18	This is the other successful case. The experiment was conducted by a private landholder under his own superintendence. In this case the crops throve well from the very commencement.
15. Mullavassel taluk ...	·036	Do.	1½	Do.	127 ,,	95 ,,	3	2	In this case the plants never seemed healthy; neither did the ears appear on the whole area.
16. Nenuneli do ...	·049	Do.	1½	Do.	132 ,,	100 ,,	9½	6⅓	In this case three-fourths of the plants withered within one month of transplanting.
17. Kunniyur do ...	·049	Do.	1½	Do.	.....	...	...	.....	The plants totally withered within one month of transplanting.
18. Needamangalam do ...	·028	.....	1¼	Do.	.....	...	1	.....	In this case the operations were conducted under the superintendence of the Sub-Magistrate.
19. Kunamjeri, Combaconum taluk.	·059	.....	5½	Do.	150 days.	120 ,,	7½	.....	In this case the experiment was conducted under the superintendence of the Superintendent of the Rajah's Chuttrums.

N. B.—In all these cases, except No. 13, the cultivation was conducted under river irrigation, and in Case No. 13 under the irrigation of a tank.

POINT CALIMERE, TRITRAPUNDI TALUK,
8th June 1867.

(Signed) G. L. MORRIS,
Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 20th July 1867.

Submitted for the information of Government.

The Board regret that so limited a success attended the experiment in the district, and that looked upon with distrust by the people.

They hope that the Collector's proposed arrangements for the next trial will prove more

ORDER THEREON, 20th July 1867, No. 1,618.

Sealaneous.

1. The Government will look with interest for the promised report on the further experiment.

2. Under the unfavourable circumstances of the year, the partial that was attained on the occasion under report, can scarcely be deemed discouraging. The prejudices of the people will doubtless be dissipated by success, should that be

The Government trust that the Collector may be able to enlist the interests of the more el Mirasidars in the trial of the seed, which has produced such extraordinary results in es.

The Report will be communicated to the Secretary of State.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

(True Extract.)

ard of Revenue.

Augustin.

Reported to England
D/26th July No 42 of 1867
Sec.

Rev 1867. Department.
Bd of Court for July

No. 1800.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 6th July 1867.

No. 4,241.

Submitting for information letter from Collector of Tanjore reporting on result of experimental cultivation of Carolina Paddy in district, and stating that Board hope that Collector's proposed arrangements for next trial will prove more encouraging.

Pp 403-404

Pp 1038-20 July