M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 160 Press Mis.

284-85 Dated 26-1-1820 N

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th January 1870.

No. 284. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th December 1869, No. 9,286:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 20th October 1869, No. 237.

I SUBMIT to the Board copy of a report,* received from the Deputy-Collector in charge of a division of this district, on the subject of the experimental planting of Carolina paddy-seed.

* Dated 8th July 1869, No. 206.

2. The information disclosed in this letter illustrates the peculiar genius of the native ryot, and shows how strange are still the idiosyncracies of the cultivating classes, generally, in regard to their position with, and treatment by, the Government; and it seems almost incredible that in the present day, and with all the means of intercourse with European and educated Native officials enjoyed by the people, any but the most boorish and uncivilized should be found to express the sentiments entertained by the ryot, Kistniah, who, to avoid being over-reached as he thought by the officers of Government, has attempted to deceive by rendering a false account of the results of his experiment with the Carolina paddy-seed given to him freely for testing its comparative value with the common paddy of the country.

3. I must refer the Board to the letter of the Deputy-Collector, reporting on the experiment by this very man and by others, and which will be found recorded in Board's Proceedings of 25th June last. The ryot, Kistniah, stands No. 4 in the marginal list, appended to paragraph 2 of the Deputy-Collector's letter, and the Board will observe that he gave a more detailed history of the system he had pursued than any other of those who experimented. The falsity of his first statement having now been admitted by himself, it becomes requisite to test the truth of the account he has since given of the results of his cultivation of the Carolina paddy-seed. As far as this may be applied by the results obtained elsewhere in this district, where experiments have been carefully conducted, there would seem as little reason to believe the one statement as the other. But the Deputy-Collector in paragraph 3 mentions that the yield was two hundred and fifty fold, and further that, although a portion of the grain harvested had been expended at the time when what remained with the ryots was measured, there were 46 merkals or 138 measures which Kistniah had intended for planting in 5 cawnies or 7 acres of his land in the current year. It is also stated, by the ryot, that there were 300 grains in a single ear of the Carolina paddy against 250, the largest known yield from the country paddy.

4. Consequent on these disclosures, it is necessary to revert to the various experiments made with the Carolina paddy-seed from its first introduction, and to compare the results arrived at by other experiments with those now adduced, when the difference will be found very striking.

5. I beg to draw attention to the Proceedings of Government of the 21st June 1865, No. 429, with orders thereon of the same date, No. 1,379. The experimenter, in the case reported on by me, was Mr. Keess, a man of considerable enterprize and Indian agricultural knowledge. Mr. Keess experimented with

three sorts of paddy, or as he mentions with two, since the seeds labelled "North Carolina," "Kandanghani," and "Indromayoe," were found by him to be identically the same, though it is observed that the yield varied greatly. The following table gives the quantity of seed sown, date of sowing, and date of harvesting and the yield:—

Seed.	Quantity sown.	Date of Sowing.	Date of Reaping.	Yield.
North Carolina Paddy.	2¼ Measures ... 1¾ do. ... 1½ do. ...	16th December... do. ... do. ...	20th April ... 8th May ... do. ...	38 Measures. 56½ do. 34 do.

I will not here enter on other particulars of this experiment, as they do not bear on the immediate object of my letter, though it will be seen from paragraph 18 of Mr. Keess' letter how highly thought of by the Natives was this paddy, and how eager all were to obtain seed, while Mr. Keess himself expressed the belief that it would prove very remunerative.

6. The next experiment reported on by me will be found recorded in the Proceedings of Government, under date 8th January 1866, No. 112, with orders of same date, No. 58, and communicated to me through the Board of Revenue on the 23rd idem, No. 531. The experiment on this occasion was made by my former Sub-Collector, Mr. Whiteside, and all particulars connected with it are given in his letter to my address, recorded in the Proceedings as above, under date 4th December 1865. I extract below the same items of information as given in regard to results of the experiment by Mr. Keess, premising that the seed experimented with was only designated Carolina paddy:—

Seed.	Quantity sown.	Date of Sowing.	Date of Reaping.	Yield.
Carolina Paddy	¼ Measure...	31st May	10th October.....	80 Madras measures, or 320 seers.

7. I refrain here from discussing the *modus operandi*, or any other particulars connected with this experiment, but will go on to the third experiment reported on by me, and which will be found recorded in Government Proceedings of 17th May 1866, No. 309, with order of the same date, No. 1,175. The results in tabular form similar to the foregoing are as follow:—

Seed.	Quantity sown.	Date of Sowing.	Date of Reaping.	Yield.
Carolina Paddy	20 Measures.	14th September.	25th February ...	150 Measures of bearded paddy.

As regards this experiment it is to be remembered that it was with acclimatised seed of the previous year's growth; and Mr. Keess stated that three-fourths of the plants had been destroyed by a storm and the influx of salt-water, but that the system of culture pursued was as before, and in all respects the same as that followed in the rearing of indigenous paddy. Mr. Keess accompanied his report with 30 measures of the produce for distribution elsewhere.

8. The fourth and last experiment reported on by me was that of the son of the Shrotriemdar of Veerapermalnellur, and will be found recorded in Government Proceedings, under date the 9th July 1867, No. 1,526, communicated to me by the Board under date the 13th idem. Similar particulars as given in the preceding cases are subjoined:—

Seed.	Quantity sown.	Date of Sowing.	Date of Reaping.	Yield.
Carolina Paddy	¼ Cawny ...	September 1866.	February 1867...	12 Cullums and 1½ Merkals on ¼ cawny of land.

9. The months of sowing and reaping in this instance were precisely the same as in the last experiment by Mr. Keess noticed in the preceding paragraph, but the actual quantity of seed sown is not given, and as with Mr. Keess' experiment so in this by the Shrotriemdar difficulties and obstacles occurred to the proper maturing of the crop, but for which the outturn would doubtless have been very different, so that the results in these two last instances hardly afford data on which to base any certain calculations, though they afford sufficient to pronounce most favourably in support of the general introduction of the Carolina paddy.

10. It will thus be seen how far in favourable success over every other experiment recorded has been the result now reported in the case of this ryot, "Kistniah;" and it is probable that the results of like experiments in other parts of the country may be open to the same objection or suspicion of unfair play to which the experiment under notice has apparently been exposed; and the facts now brought to light are, at all events, suggestive of the necessity there is for extreme caution and watchfulness in testing the results of any future experiments reported on by Native agriculturists, and how little otherwise such results are to be relied upon, owing to the influences and superstitious ideas declared by the Deputy-Collector to be so common amongst the ryots of the country. Hereafter every precaution will be taken in this district, and the instructions of Government, recorded in the Revenue Department, dated 25th August, No. 2,413, will be strictly adhered to in all future experiments.

11. I have written to the Deputy-Collector, who will carefully watch the progress of the cultivation and growth of the indigenous Carolina seed recently sown by the ryot Kistniah, and the result, with all the required particulars, will in due course be reported.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. SREEBALIAH, Deputy Collector, General Duties, to the Collector of South Arcot, dated Trikalore, 8th July 1869, No. 206.

I HAVE the honour to report that the results of the experimental cultivation of Carolina paddy in this division have been, as now discovered, far more successful than as reported in my letter, No. 170, dated 24th April 1869, recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 4 577, dated 25th June 1869.

2. The facts are these—

As already submitted seeds were distributed by Sooriamoorty Pillay, and when I joined the division I had to report the results. I was not present when the harvest was gathered. I had therefore to depend on what the Experimenters told me. Kistniah (Experimenter No. 4) gave me a statement that he had realized 22 measures from the 5 measures of seed given him, and as there was no reason to distrust the truth of what he said, I communicated the results in the letter above quoted.

3. This statement has now been discovered to be untrue.

It appears, as now admitted by Kistniah, that the outturn was 7 kalams, i.e., 84 merkals, and, at 3 Madras measures a merkal, the quantity realized was 252 measures. The seed distributed was doubtless inferior in kind, and a large portion of it was without the husk on. Kistniah estimates the germinable seeds at one measure, and if that is correct the yield was two hundred and fifty times. He spent a portion of the paddy harvested, and what he has now with him, and which I have this day seen measured in my presence, and with his permission, is 46 merkals or 138 measures. He intends sowing this seed in 5 cawnies of land (nearly 7 acres), as he is satisfied that this is more remunerative than the cultivation of the indigenous paddy. He also tells me that there were 301 grains in the ears of a single plant against 250 in the best plant of country paddy, and that as the Carolina paddy is of a larger size he expects in the next experiment 100 kalams of produce per cawny against 40 only of the indigenous paddy.

4. These facts came to light in the manner following :—

A few days ago I sent for the man and requested him to inform me when he prepares the land for the next experiment, and in the course of the conversation it was settled that a cawny of land could alone be cultivated with the seed (22 measures) in hand; but it would appear he had never expected that his further cultivation would be watched or observed, and was, therefore, I believe, anxious that I should be informed of the truth, as otherwise I would clearly see on a future day that he had not given out the actual results.

He went to one of my subordinates and told him all that had passed, and the truth was thus brought to my notice.

Kistniah was afraid lest, as he seems to have thought, a moiety of the outturn should be taken from him.

5. My object in submitting these particulars is not only to have the errors in my former report corrected, but also to enable the Government to see whether, from what has now come to light in this instance, it is not necessary to desire the local officers to use more circumspection, and to institute more searching inquiries in ascertaining the results of the future experiments; for, as I am informed, the reluctance to speak the truth in a matter of the kind is general among the cultivating ryots, and the reason assigned is that the results, if reported as they are, might lead to increase of taxation, and it is also the common belief that lands become less fertile if their produce is correctly known to the officers of Government, or seen by their "evil eyes."

THIS report will be submitted to Government, with reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 25th June 1869, No. 4,577.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th January 1870.

2. It appears that the ryot, to whom some Carolina paddy was given for experiment at first, reported an outturn of 22 measures from the 5 measures sown, but now admits that the outturn was 250 measures.

3. He had it seems concealed the facts, fearing that half the produce would be taken from him, and anxious to retain the entire amount of seed for cultivation on a large scale of such a productive crop.

4. On learning, however, that the present Deputy-Collector intended to see with his own eyes the further progress of the experiment, he foresaw the impossibility of successful deception, and made a clean breast of it. The figures now given by the ryot cannot be implicitly adopted, but it may be fairly inferred that instead of a failure the experiment was highly successful.

5. The case shows how essential is careful personal supervision by trustworthy officers to the preparation of statistics of any value regarding the success or failure of agricultural experiments, and the Board resolve to impress on Collectors the extreme disadvantage attaching to the inclusion in their reports of any but the most reliable results of such trials.

No. 285. ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1870, No. 140.

Miscellaneous.

MR. READE's letter tends to show the fallacy of attempting to base an estimate of agricultural products on the unsifted statements of the ordinary class of ryots, and the consequent necessity of attending, in all cases of experiment, to the instructions conveyed in the concluding sentence of G. O., dated 25th August 1869, No. 2,413. The Government observe that the Board have wisely forwarded copies of their Proceedings to all Collectors.

2. Deputy-Collector C. Sreebaliah deserves credit for the useful information which he has furnished.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Honorary Secretary to the Government Farm.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of India 1870 Jan 20

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated Fort St. George, 20th January, 1870.

Read.

G. O., 20th January, 1870, No. 140.

REVENUE.

Vide 20th January 1870, No. 140.

CULTIVATION OF PADDY.—Reports regarding the experimental cultivation in South Arcot, with orders thereon.

Revenue Department.

No. 140.

Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 20th January 1870.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue:

Submitting with remarks Letter from Collector of South Arcot, forwarding copy of one from Dy. Collector on General duties reporting the result of experimental cultivation of Carolina paddy in his division, have been more successful than they were reported to be, owing to the ryot concealing the true out-turn of paddy sown by him from a fear of being deprived of so much by Government.

(R. E. 18th Dec. 1869 No. 9,286.)

Mr. Reade's letter tends to shew the fallacy of attempting to base an estimate of agricultural products on the unsifted statements of the ordinary class of ryots and the consequent necessity of attending

in all cases of experiment
to the instructions conveyed
in the concluding sentence
of G.O. dated 25th August
1869, No. 2413. The Government
observe that the Board have
wisely forwarded copies
of their Proceedings to all
Collectors.

2. Deputy Collector
C. Sreeballiah deserves
credit for the useful
information which he
has furnished.—

C. Gu

Ordered