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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

372

Press

B.P. No.

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Dated

24. 2. 1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 11th September 1873.

Read the following letter from C. G. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chatterpore, 9th August 1873, No. 1,801:—

As called for in Board's Miscellaneous No. 4,517, dated 19th July 1873, communicating G. O., dated 9th idem, No. 70, I have the honour to report on the results of the experimental cultivation in this district of the Manilla tobacco seed, a quantity of which was supplied to me for the purpose with G. O., Revenue Department, dated 20th February 1872, No. 320.

2. A small quantity of the seed was sent to each of the Divisional Officers and to the Overseer of the Gumsur and Surada Forests. This latter officer seems to have taken a personal interest in the matter and some pains in the cultivation; the other officers distributed their shares of the seed among their taluq subordinates.

3. The mode adopted in the cultivation seems to have been that customarily practised in the case of the indigenous tobacco in this district, which is briefly as follows:—

The seeds are sown in nursery-beds well manured, and, when the plants attain a sufficient height and are vigorous enough to bear transplanting, are removed and planted at intervals of a cubic apart on dry or on garden land irrigable chiefly by tanks, the land having for two months previous to the transplantation been well manured with cattle refuse and well ploughed up, usually about twenty times. Transplanting begins about a month and-a-half after the seeds are sown, and the plants are always watered by hand and never by picottahs, as too much and too long-standing water are detrimental to the plants. August is the month in which the seeds are put into the ground, and the plants sprout up in about eight days. After transplantation, either in September or October, and when the plants have grown to some height, they are topped by the tender leaves being picked off by hand (never cut), and this process is carried on three or four times until the leaves, as they ripen, are all plucked, and the plants allowed, when they begin to blossom, to run to seed. The leaves begin to ripen about the end of January, and are plucked for curing between January and March.

4. The experiment made here with the Manilla seed might perhaps have been productive of better results had it not been for the (to tobacco) unseasonable heavy rains which fell at a time when in some cases the seed was in the ground and in others when the plants had but recently sprouted, so that both seeds and plants suffered damage to some extent and were lost. Mr. MacCalley's 200 plants suffered from a heavy fall of hail, which cut up many of the leaves.

5. The Principal Assistant Collector gave a small quantity of the seed sent to him to the Chicacole Tahsildar and the Purlakimedy Manager for trial. The Chicacole Tahsildar entrusted the experiment to certain ryots of Pata Chicacole and Arsavelli. The seed seems to have been sown on well-manured and fertile dry land; the earth was moistened after sowing. A few plants appeared above ground in both villages, but when two or three inches high they rotted from excessive rains.

6. The seed sent to the Kimediy Manager was sown in backyards, the land having been manured and well ploughed beforehand. The seed was all sown in seed-beds so that the plants might be transplanted afterwards. The plants did well in the seed-beds. After they were transplanted they were watered twice a day for twenty days; some of the plants, however, suffered from blight afterwards. The whole of the tobacco produced weighed when raw 24 seers (each seer of 24 Rupees weight) and when dry 8½ seers. Half a seer of this tobacco in a separate packet, labelled as being of the growth of the Purlakimediy Town, is sent as a sample with others.

7. The Senior Assistant reports that the seed supplied him was distributed to several subordinate officers but in two places only was it successful, viz., Aska and Itchapore:—

"At Aska, a ryot, named Kasmir Kamboo, raised the seed. A quarter tolah's weight was sown in the month of October last. The rains which fell soon afterwards destroyed two-thirds of the crop, but one-third thrived. The young plants were transplanted in land ploughed over ten times; the earth was subsequently loosened (ಕುಳಿಪುಡಿ) twice and also cleaned. Insects attacked the young plants in their growth. The plants were ready for cutting on the 20th April. The drying process occupied twenty days, and, when so, the leaves were pressed and ready on the 20th May. The weight of the tobacco was 5 viss and 3 seers. Nine tolahs' weight is herewith sent as a sample. The total cost of cultivation including kist was Rupees 1-12-0. The value of the tobacco (calculated at ordinary native tobacco rates) is Rupees 3-2-4, and, deducting cost of raising, the profit to the ryot is Rupees 1-6-4. Six tolahs of seed were kept for next year's sowing.

"In Itchapore the seed was sown in the lands usually set apart for tobacco. It was sown in August and cut in March, and treated in the same way as the country tobacco. The country tobacco usually yields nine leaves for each plant, but the Manilla yields only three leaves. The weight of tobacco obtained from forty-five plants was 2½ seers. The yield of country tobacco is five seers."

Two plants are sent for the Board's inspection.

8. The Special Assistant sent his supply of seed to the five Sub-Magistrates under him. As he gives no details of the experimental cultivation it is presumed that the ordinary country process, already briefly adverted to, was adopted in the rearing of the Manilla tobacco. He informs me, however, that the cultivation at Surada was a failure on account of excessive rain, but has sent specimens of the result from Russelcondah, Udayaghiri, Baligudah, and Katingia, which are also forwarded in a duly-labelled packet. He adds in his letter to me that the Baligudah Patro speaks very highly of the tobacco.

9. The Assistant Collector forwards three samples of the tobacco (also sent to the Board in a separate packet duly labelled) of Manilla tobacco grown in Gumsur, and reports as follows:—

"The tobacco seed was grown in three villages—Podalo, Tengadabadra, and Bavatimbee. The tobacco seed in Podalo was sown on the 26th August 1872, was transplanted on the 20th October, and was cut on the 10th February 1873. The seed rotted in consequence of excessive rain, and only twenty-eight plants came up. The seed was sown in Bagayet land and was watered every four days. After the tobacco was cut it was dried in the sun for six or seven days, water was then sprinkled over it, and it was heaped for four or five days.

"The seed in Tengadabadra was sown on the 11th August, was transplanted on the 15th October, and was cut on the 10th January. The seed rotted through excessive rains, and only fifty plants came up, of which only twenty finally attained maturity.

"In Bavatimbee the seed was sown on the 18th August, was transplanted on the 9th October and again on the 6th November, and was cut on the 6th and 25th February, respectively. Here also the seeds rotted, and only twenty plants ultimately came up."

10. Mr. MacCalley's experiments with the seed are thus detailed by himself:—

"A small quantity of seeds was sown in beds in August and September 1872 at Russelcondah, but not one germinated; probably from the heavy showers of rain that had fallen the seeds may have become decayed.

"The remaining seeds were sown on the 3rd November 1872; of these, only 200 germinated. The germination began on the 13th November, the tenth day."

"These 200 plants were daily watered, morning and evening, regularly, and each singly. They were transplanted on the 19th January 1873. The ground was weeded, and the plants occasionally topped and leaf-buds pinched. The plants were very slow in their growth and the leaves torn much by a few heavy showers of hail during the hot season. When the leaves began to ripen they were picked on the 23rd April 1873, then packed in small oblong bundles, and suspended to a bamboo horizontally placed—the leaves then weighed twelve pounds. They were then left exposed to the air in an open verandah, and, when they became of a yellow hue and quite crispy, were sprinkled with water, and, on being pliant, packed together under, and in, straw with heavy boards as a press. They were then occasionally removed and the position of the leaves changed, sprinkled with water, and left packed in straw to undergo the process of fermentation, which I found to be very slow as all the leaves have not yet become quite black, which I have been anxiously expecting them to become before their being forwarded to you. They have, however, to this date the tobacco scent and flavour, and may become quite black in time if carefully kept.

"The produce of the tobacco weighs now only two pounds, and of this I beg to send you, by this day's post, 1½ pounds in a small parcel for your inspection.

"I have endeavoured to gain the secret of making tobacco here, if there is a secret, but have been unsuccessful, as I find that the tobacco-makers, who especially attend to it, keep it confined to themselves."

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Samples of Tobacco.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government with reference to G. O., dated 9th July 1873, No. 70.

2. The results in Ganjam do not differ widely from those in other districts. It is evident that if carefully cultivated in a good soil it will thrive.

3. The samples from Ganjam are forwarded to Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

H. Goodrich

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with samples. *sent by Bagayet*

Copy to the Collector of Ganjam.

.. to the Superintendent of Government Farms.

.. to the Honorary Secretary of the Agri-Horticultural Society.

Ed. A. S. Rodgers.

Recd 1873 Oct 11
1873/933

BOARD of BEHEMUE,
MADRAS.

2 Shals

PROCEEDINGS, 11TH SEPTEMBER 1873, No. 1,796.

Quoted 16-84/11/73
Encl. 1

Received

20

RECORDED.

SEPTEMBER.

No. 1,796.

*Manilla Tobacco:—*Report from Collector of
Ganjam on experimental cultivation of — in that
district, submitted to Government.

1873/932

Manilla Tobacco