

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 166	Press
357.358	Mis.
Dated 15 — 1 —	1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th January 1867.*

No. 357. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st December 1866, No. 9,077.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Berhampore, 6th December 1866, No. 3,441 :—

1. I have the honor to report, for the information of the Board, on the result of our local experiments in the cultivation of Carolina paddy.

2. The grain was sown (chiefly by ryots) at various places in this talook, in Chicacole, in Kimeddy, in Goomsoor and Soorada, and at Aska. The plants were treated by the cultivators at their own discretion, but in most cases they were transplanted at the period usual in the cultivation of the superior kinds of paddy; the conditions under which they were grown varied sufficiently to make the results very instructive; in one case the seeds were sown on a rising ground in red soil, and, with the exception of being hand-watered on two occasions, were grown and matured entirely under the influence of a copious monsoon; the plants were remarkably vigorous, and long in the straw (four feet), but the yield did not exceed ten-fold. This was Mr. Lyons's experiment, and afforded much interest to the ryots of the place, who pronounced the paddy to be "*a dry grain crop*." It was cut three months and twenty-three days after sowing, and was never transplanted.

3. About 1 lb. of Carolina seed was sown broad-cast in a low lying corner of the Aska premises, in very good soil which had previously grown Sugar-cane. The seed lay without germinating apparently, (though the soil was damp and rain fell frequently,) from the 23rd July till about the 10th August, when the Factory premises were flooded by the high freshes in the Rooshkoolia: the plot of ground where the paddy had been sown was under water two or three days, and, immediately after the subsidence of the flood, a remarkably fine crop of paddy sprung up, and was cut in three months from the time of its submergence with a yield of 35 lbs. to 1 lb. of seed; later shoots from the same roots are now in the ear, and probably the total yield will be about forty-fold. This paddy was never transplanted, nor artificially watered; but owing to its locality, the soil was still swampy when I saw the crop just coming into ear.

4. But, though the submergence of the seed in this case was followed by such favorable results, the *plant* will not bear as much water as the large paddy of the country, several ryots having reported their plants rotted from flood-water in the Goomsoor Talook; eventually only one plot in this talook has come forward satisfactorily, it is not yet reaped, but the extraordinary return of 48 lbs. on half a pound of seed is expected.

5. The soil of Goomsoor is remarkably fertile, and grows Sugar-cane extensively; the paddy in the case I have described was transplanted at about six weeks old.

6. In Soorada also, only one of our experimental sowings has proved of service, as the grain (a promising crop) was stolen, in two instances, the day before it was to be cut; but, to make up for this disappointment, half a pound of seed, given to one of the renters on the Bodagudda estate (which is close to Soorada, and where the soil is very productive,) has yielded 31 lbs., being sixty-two fold. It was four months and a half on the ground, having been sown 10th June, and reaped early in November.

7. In the Chicacole Talook the experiment has been ~~ruined~~ spoiled by the carelessness, apparently, of the persons entrusted with it.

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8. In Kimeddy the yield has been eighteen to twenty-fold, and at various places in this (the Berhampore) Talook, the yield has been about eight-fold, under no special advantages of soil or irrigation.

9. The most intelligent native opinions on the Carolina seed are very favorable to it, as being a valuable species of paddy, and well adapted to the seasons in this district. There are three kinds of paddy commonly grown in Ganjam.

First.—The principal crop, or great paddy, which requires copious irrigation, and is a five or six months' crop.

Secondly.—The Solakunna paddy, which is cut a month earlier than the above, and requires much less water; it matures in favorable seasons with but little irrigation in addition to the rain-fall.

Thirdly.—The small paddy, which is entirely rain-fed, ripens some three weeks before the Solakunna, and will grow in any situation where the soil retains the water supplied by the rains.

10. The Carolina paddy can be matured under the same conditions as this latter class of grain, and with better returns both in grain and straw; but the most favorable conditions for its cultivation are those which suit the second of these classes called here the Solakunna, and it may be expected in soils of fair quality to yield as good a harvest in four and a half months as the first class of paddy does in from five to six months. Probably the Carolina paddy would succeed admirably on the higher rice lands of Malabar and Canara, where it would neither receive nor require more water than the south-west monsoon would supply, and where it would not be exposed to injury from flood-water.

11. Its successful introduction in this country would, I believe, be a valuable acquisition to agriculture. I have a small quantity now under well cultivation in my garden from the seed raised by Mr. Lyons and cut only a month ago; it is watered twice a week, and looks very strong and healthy.

12. I should add that, in the poorer soils, the Carolina paddy matures more rapidly than in localities where the soil is rich, as in Goomsoor and Soorada. In Carolina it appears to be a six months' crop, but ripens here in from 100 days to 4½ months. The yield of rice on a given quantity of this paddy is larger than is usual with the finer kinds of Indian paddy.

1. Ordered that the foregoing letter be submitted for the information of Government, and that copy be sent to the Farm Committee, the Agri-Horticultural Society, and to all Collectors.

2. The Board are much indebted to Mr. Forbes for the full report of results.

No. 358. ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1867, No. 166.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Reported to England
23 May 1867*

Secretary.

Rev. 1866. Department
Pro of Govt for Jan 1867

No. 29.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
To all Collectors, &c.

Dated 21st December 1866.
Received 21-12-1867

Further Encl 18 of 67
No. 9,077

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, the Farm Committee.
,, the Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society.
,, all Collectors.
Exd. J. Wright.

Submitting for information of Government, and communicating to Farm Committee, Agri-Horticultural Society, and all Collectors the report from Collector of Ganjam, on result of experiments in cultivation of Carolina Paddy.

Recorded. 21-12-1867
J. S. N.

21 Dec 1867 P. 16