

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2598

Press  
~~Mis.~~

55-56

Dated

2-11-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2598

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
2nd November 1867.*

No. 55. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th October 1867, No. 6,814.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Salem, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 26th August 1867, No. 231 :—

1. With reference to the Board's Official Memorandum, dated 24th instant, No. 882, calling upon me to forward to the Board copies of English Reports on the subject of Carolina paddy cultivation received from the Divisional Officers since my last report on the subject, I have the honor to send those noted in the margin.

2. As the report that had already been transmitted to the Board contained all the substance of those subsequently received by me, I did not consider it necessary to forward either them, or a supplemental report founded on them.

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Salem, to the Collector of Salem, dated Oosoor, 1st May 1867, No. 218.

1. I have the honor to submit my report, with reference to your letter, No. 363, dated 26th March last. The Carolina paddy has been distributed throughout the division in my charge. In Darampury talook alone the experiment has been partially successful. I forward, herewith, two samples, one grown at Verupatchepuram, in which the outturn of half a Madras measure of seed was five Madras measures, and the other grown at Joliputti, where the outturn of the same quantity of seed was seven and a half measures, of which, however, owing to the lateness of the season at which it was sown, five were husk.

2. I have now under cultivation in my garden here a small patch of paddy, which is looking very well, and is just coming into ear. The plants are about three and a half feet high, and look vigorous enough. As the rain fell too late to allow of my trying to grow the paddy as a first crop, I put it down in December, in order to see whether it would succeed as a second, and I am of opinion that it will. After the grain is cut, I will inform you of the result.

3. Beyond the experiments above noted, no others have succeeded, the plants withering off when from four to nine inches high, owing to want for water in the particular tanks under which they were sown.

4. I have procured, through a wealthy ryot in North Arcot, a measure of Carolina paddy seed grown in that district, and if the coming season is favorable, I propose to institute a comparative experiment between this and fresh seed, of which I shall be glad if you can let me have a supply.

From B. C. LEGGATT, Esq., Deputy Collector, to the Collector of Salem, dated Namkul, 1st May 1867, No. 46.

1. I have the honor to report upon the experiment of the cultivation of Carolina paddy in the Namkul division.

2. The seed forwarded by you last year was distributed among a few of the Mittadars and respectable ryots in the Trichengode and Namkul talooks.

3. In the Trichengode talook, the experiment proved very successful; but in Namkul, although the result cannot be characterized a failure, still it was not so successful as in the neighbouring talook. It is to be regretted that the seed furnished was old, (all those to whom it was distributed having reported such to be the case,) otherwise our efforts might have been attended with happier results.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
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4. The mode of cultivation followed was exactly similar to that of the indigenous paddy, with perhaps the exception (unavoidable in some instances) of less water being used. The peculiarities of the Carolina paddy crop, which were pointed out to me, and which I personally observed, were—

*First.*—Its speedy growth—one crop of three month's growth which I visited had been sown a month later than a contiguous crop of native paddy, and the difference between the crops was remarkable. The Carolina plants in appearance were healthier and higher, although they were a month younger than the native plants.

This crop was grown in a Cambay village, at the foot of the Kallay Mullays, in a rich black soil, but it was very little watered.

*Secondly.*—The ears are longer than those of the ordinary paddy, and are more thickly stocked with grain.

*Thirdly.*—The roots of the plants are stouter and more deeply imbedded, and the stalks stronger than the country paddy. This peculiarity is of great advantage, for the plants are not affected by strong winds and heavy rains, and are not broken, as is the case with the country plant, even after a slight shower of rain. Every ryot is aware of the great quantity of grain lost by the "drooping" of the country plant during strong winds and rains.

*Fourthly.*—The straw is coarser than that of the ordinary plant, but I do not know that this is any advantage; it is the only fault that the natives find with the Carolina plant, as the straw must be kept some time before it is used as fodder for cattle.

5. On the whole, those who have tried the experiment are greatly pleased with the results, and they predict that, before many years have passed, the superior quality of the grain, and its many advantages over the indigenous paddy, will insure its general cultivation. I trust in the coming year I may be able to submit a still more favorable report.

From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Sub Collector of Salem, to the Collector of Salem, dated Oosoor, 5th June 1867, No. 357.

1. Adverting to my letter, No. 248, dated the 1st May last, I have the honor to forward a report on the experiment carried out by myself with the Carolina paddy seed.

2. The seed was not a portion of that supplied by the Board, but was obtained by me through a friend.

3. The quantity put down was three-eighths of a Madras measure, and the extent of the ground was 0.2066 of an acre. It was sown on the 16th December 1866, and reaped on the 18th ultimo. The outturn was 39 Madras measures or 104-fold. The straw was very thick and heavy, and amounted to two large bundles. Having no proper appliances I did not weigh it. The height of the stalks varied from three to three and a half feet. The ears were very heavy. I did not consider it necessary to constantly measure the height of the straw, nor yet to weigh or number the grains on an ear as so many people have done this before, and I did not see what was the object of multiplying results which are now pretty well ascertained. The soil in which the experiment was made was poor red sandy loam, and had not been cultivated for a long time. I put on it a moderate amount of ordinary manure, and had a quantity of green weeds and some young shoots of the Pungai tree (Indian beech) worked into the soil. The ground being of too small extent to allow of its being ploughed was turned up with a mamati, and this work, the manuring, sowing, &c., were done under the superintendence of my planting Maistry, who is a North Arcot ryot, and understands thoroughly the native mode of growing rice. To make the experiment a perfectly fair one, I had the land prepared in exactly the same way as it is by the natives themselves.

4. The crop was watered from a well in the garden. In the beginning of the season, this was done once a day, but as the weather became warmer, twice, and I had the ground which absorbs moisture very rapidly well soaked. Three or four days before the reaping, watering was discontinued, and the grain allowed to ripen. The watering which took up only a very short time every day was done by the coolies employed on planting operations, who during the time were at work near Oosoor. The grain was thoroughly dried before being measured.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
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5. I shewed the crop when standing to as many persons as I could, and its qualities have been so much appreciated that I have already had several applications for seed. I have arranged to distribute thirty-eight measures, the remainder being kept for samples.

6. One of the characteristics of the Carolina paddy, noticed by the natives who threshed it, was the firmness with which the grain adheres to the stalk. The Indian variety requires no more than four blows of the sheaf on the ground to knock the grain out, but the Carolina paddy takes six or eight.

7. As the outturn in this talook is, under the most favorable circumstances, at the highest forty-fold, and as a crop of country rice, sown in December, does not turn out more than twenty-fold, I think that the present experiment successfully proves that the Carolina paddy can be grown above the ghauts, and that it will yield here a very much larger outturn than any of the ordinary kinds. I herewith transmit half a Madras measure of the grain for your inspection.

8. I take a great interest in all agricultural experiments, and you may rely upon my making every endeavour, not only to shew that Carolina paddy can be grown here, but also to establish it as a staple product.

9. The distribution of seed which I have made has been with a view to put it into the hands of persons who are likely to give it a fair trial, and in order to my being able from time to time to inspect the crop, and afford the growers such advice and instruction as my experience in the present case has given me.

10. It is my intention to continue the experiment myself, and I hope as this season is more favorable than last, when, as you will recollect, we had no rain until the end of October, to be able to report more favorably than I have done this year.

11. As I have given this experiment my best attention, and have constantly watched its progress in person, I shall feel favored by your transmitting a copy of this report to the Board of Revenue.

Submitted to Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 21st September 1867, No. 6,069.

No. 56. ORDER THEREON, 2nd November 1867, No. 2,598.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government are indebted to Mr. Price for the personal attention he has given to the experiment, and for his detailed report of the results.
2. They request the Board to instruct Collectors that the Government desire to receive through the Board *all* reports of individual experiments in the cultivation of the Carolina paddy, until it has become extensively established.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.  
.. the Agri-Horticultural Society.  
.. the Editors' Table.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

82-2598-3

The Genl. are indebted  
to Mr. Rice for the personal  
attention he has given to the  
experiments & for his detailed  
report of the results -

They request the  
H. L. to instruct others that the  
Genl. desire to receive from  
the H. L. all reports of  
individual experiments  
in the continuation of the  
fawline study. until  
it has become extensively  
established - J. H.

110 Copies to the Col. of Rept. & 100 to the  
1 Copy to the H. L. & 100 to the  
Editor's Table 20 Nov 67

11th October 57 A.D.

Report to Govt 25 Nov/67  
No 64

Rev. 1867. Department  
Govt of India

No 2877. A

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Pro Bd of Revenue to Govt  
6th 1868

Do 17 March 1868 - 9/11  
Do 16 April 1868  
Do 6 May 1868 - 15/2

Dated 19th October 1867.  
Sd/- 24-8-  
R.D. 25-

No 6814.

Submitting to Government in continuation  
of Board's Proceedings of 21st September 1867  
No. 6069 letter from Collector of Salem forward-  
ing copies of English reports on Carolina paddy  
cultivation received from Divisional Officers.

2578-2-10-2

No 35-56.  
22 Oct 67 1868 25/10/67