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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 918 Press ~~Mis.~~

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Dated 24—4—1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th April 1867.

Read the following letters:—

No. 331. From the Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Chittoor, 26th March 1867, No. 20½.

1. I have the honour to report the results of the local experiments made with the Carolina paddy seed, forwarded with your predecessor's letter of the 11th May last.

2. The quantity of seed received was 60 lbs.; reserving one-third of the seed for trial at head-quarters, I sent the Sub-Collector and Head Assistant 20 lbs. each, with a request that they would severally make an experiment in the manner directed by Government.

Mr. Barlow has not sent me any report on the subject, but Mr. Wilkinson gives the results of his experiment in a letter dated 28th January last, No. 44. Of this I beg to forward copy for the perusal of Government.

3. Of the seed retained by myself, 12 lbs. were sown in a plot of Nunjah land near Chittoor, measuring ⅛ cawny, under river-channel irrigation, and rated 7th class in the accounts. The experiment was conducted in the following manner. The land was first ploughed thrice on the 28th June, and flooded to the depth of two inches.

After standing thus for two days until thoroughly saturated, the ridges were formed, and water was again let on to the field to the depth of two inches. On the following day, the 2nd July, the land was again ploughed thrice, and the mire left to stagnate for two days, after which (viz., on the 5th July) it was manured with street-sweepings, cattle-litter, &c. On the 6th, the field was again ploughed three times, watered to the depth of one inch, the surface smoothed by means of a plank drawn by a pair of bullocks, and the whole manured with fifteen bundles of leaves which were trodden in and puddled in the ordinary way.

4. The seed was sown broad-cast in the evening of the 7th July, after having been first prepared in the following manner. After the seed had been exposed to the sun for a day, an earthen jar or pot was filled three-fourths full of it, and water poured in until the vessel was nearly full. The mouth was then stopped with straw; and thus secured, it was turned upside down, and the water left to draw off gradually during the night. This process was repeated the following day. On the third day the seed was removed to a basket in an incipient state of germination, and was sown broad-cast on the same day, viz., the 7th July.

5. The field was not again watered until the evening of the 12th, or five days after it had been sown, when water to a depth of an inch was let on. From this day forth the young crop was watered twice a day, except when it rained. By the 10th or 15th October, or just three months after the seed was first sown, the crop had attained its growth and came out into full ear. From the 27th October the field was only watered every alternate day to the depth of an inch, and from the 6th November no further irrigation was required, as the crop was near maturity. On the 12th November the crop was reaped.

6. The yield was thirty-one fold, or 123⅓ seers. The value of this at 11 seers per Rupee, the average selling price, would be Rupees 11-3-8. The return in straw was six bundles, which at three bundles per rupee, the market price, gives 2 Rupees. The value of the aggregate out-turn was thus 13-3-8.

7. For the sake of comparison I had a plot of like extent in the same field, prepared in a similar manner, and sown simultaneously with "Bangaruthigai" paddy, a four months' crop, and one of finer indigenous paddies. The yield from eight measures sown (being twice the quantity of Carolina seed sown in the adjoining plot of like extent) was 255 measures, or twenty-nine fold. The out-turn in straw was twelve bundles, which bears the same proportion to the seed sown as did the yield in straw in the experiment with the Carolina variety.

8. The more fully to test results, I had 6 lbs. of the Carolina seed, remaining from the earlier experiment, sown in one patch, and 2½ lbs. of it in another patch, in one and the same field. These plots measured $\frac{1}{16}$ and $\frac{1}{32}$ of a cawny respectively, and were likewise under river-channel, although at some little distance from scene of earlier experiment. The *modus operandi* was precisely the same as that adopted in the first experiment. The seed in these two experiments was sown on the 8th August. The crop on the plot of $\frac{1}{16}$ cawny was cut on the 11th December, and that on the plot of $\frac{1}{32}$ cawny on the 17th January following. The out-turn in one case was 44½ measures, or twenty-two fold, and in the other 9 measures, or eleven fold. Both crops suffered more or less from disease, and this of course affected the out-turn.

9. I have had a measure of the Carolina product weighed with a similar quantity of the indigenous paddy, and find that the former weighed one Pollum or 3 Rupees weight less than the latter.

10. I distributed some of the Carolina rice to some reputed good judges, with request that they would try it, and report on it in a cooked state. The Tahsildar reports that all who have tasted it say it is in appearance, flavour, and digestibleness, superior to the ordinary rice of the country varieties.

11. Among the places at which Mr. Wilkinson conducted his experiments was Kaveripak, where there is probably the highest farming in the district. I had occasion to pass a day there as the new crop was coming into ear, and had a long conversation with many of the principal farmers of the place.

Although the new variety was thus brought into comparison with the indigenous kinds, cultivated under the most favourable conditions of soil, water-power, and skilful farming, all were unanimous in ascribing a high relative value to the foreign product. The chief recommendation in their eyes appeared to be that the variety ripens in three and a half months, and at a smaller expenditure of water. The straw is undoubtedly coarser, and the cattle do not eat it so freely as the ordinary paddy straw. This would of course be a very serious drawback to its increased popularity, if confirmed by further experiments. In the meantime, I accept the results of the experiment so far as it goes as decidedly successful; and as we have now a considerable quantity of acclimatized seed, I propose to distribute it before the early rains among a select number of our more enterprizing farmers, in view to a more general, and, perhaps, practical experiment being made than was possible with the small quantity of seed available for the first attempt.

12. Judging from the appearance of the grain reaped, the seed does not appear to have degenerated in size and quality.

13. If the Government desire to have samples, I will despatch them on receipt of their instructions.

P. S.—Since this was written, Mr. Barlow's report has reached this Office, and copy of it will be forwarded in due course.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th April 1867.

From the Acting Head Assistant Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Tuttipett, 28th January 1867, No. 44.

1. In reply to your docket, No. 26, dated 10th instant, I have the honour to submit a report on the experiment made with Carolina paddy in my division.

2. The experiment was tried by the Monegars of Punjee and Maniyampett villages, and in my own compound. Both the Monegars complain that as the seed was old, much of it dropped out of the husk before it was sown, and was in consequence fruitless.

3. In Punjee village 1½ measures of seed were sown in $\frac{1}{16}$th of a cawny of first class Nunjah land (watered by channel) on the 27th August, the seed having been previously steeped in water for four days; in four days it sprouted, and the ears appeared after one and a half months. The paddy was reaped on the 8th December, and after threshing, 27 Madras measures of good seed were obtained. This crop was in an early stage of growth attacked by insects, but the general impression in the village was that it was better paddy than the ordinary Car paddy, the drawbacks being that the straw was coarse, hard to thresh, and that the bullocks refused to eat it.

4. In Maniyampett, ½ seer was sown in first class Nunjah (watered from tank) on the 1st August, and was reaped on the 12th November, when 10 mercals or 2·5 seers of grain were obtained. The average out-turn of common paddy is 30 or 40 seers for every seer sown, whereas this, you will observe, was at the rate of 50 seers for one seer sown.

5. In my compound a piece of marsh land was chosen, watered by a well, and on the 27th of August 2¾ Madras seers were sown. This was reaped on the 21st of December, and 42 Madras seers of seed were obtained. By the side of this crop 1½ seer of Chinnasambah paddy was sown on the 4th of September, in a piece of ground similarly prepared, and of the same extent. This was reaped on the 17th of January, and the out-turn was 40 seers.

6. From the above you will see that the experiment was made in tank-fed, channel-fed, and well-fed lands, and the result seem to shew that the former is the best suited for this sort of paddy. I do not think the experiment quite a fair one, as the seed was old, and no doubt a great deal of it failed to sprout. The ryots universally regard it favourably, and think it superior to the common paddy.

7. I gave some of the rice to some Brahmins, and they inform me that there is less loss in removing the husk than in the common paddy, and that it is far superior as an article of food.

No. 332. From the Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Chittoor, 6th April 1867, No. 123.

In continuation of my letter dated 26th March 1867, No. 20½, I have the honour to forward copy of a report received from the Sub-Collector, dated 22nd idem, No. 95, on the result of experiments with Carolina paddy seed in the Sub-division.

From the Sub-Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Allapuram, 22nd March 1867, No. 95.

1. I have the honour, with reference to your docket No. 26, dated the 10th January last, and the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 9,077, dated the 21st of December last, to forward, for the information of the Board, the report on my experimental cultivation of Carolina paddy in the Sub-division.

2. The seed sent in two batches with your letters noted in the margin* was planted at Arugandumpundi, a suburb of Vellore, and at Melmanur, a village of Vellore talook; my late Acting Sheristadar supervised the former experiment, and the latter was conducted by the Monegar of the village, named "Parushuramier," to both of whom my thanks are due.

* From Collector, to Sub-Collector of North Arcot, No. 325, dated 19th May 1866.
From do. to do. No. 340, dated 30th July 1866.

3. At Arugandumpundi $\frac{1}{32}$ of a cawny was sown, two-thirds with the seed sent with your first letter No. 325, and one-third with the second batch of seed. The ground selected was ordinary wet land (Nunjah, class 10; Assessment, 8 Rupees per cawny), and was manured and prepared

precisely as for Tiyamalli Samba, a crop much raised in these parts, no special extra expense being incurred; the seed was sown broad-cast on the 24th of August, and germinated in five days; in a month the plants were a foot and a half high, and were then well weeded; by the 2nd of November the paddy was four feet high, and the ryots then remarked that the growth was so rich and thick that the out-turn of grain would be scanty. At this time, however, ears began to appear, and on the 24th of December the crop was reaped; it had then attained a height of five feet with magnificent ears, a few of which of the average size are sent as a sample.

4. The seed sent with your first letter succeeded rather the best, the two-thirds of the plot planted with it producing 31¼ Madras measures, while the one-third planted with the other kind produced 13¾ measures. The total out-turn of the $\frac{1}{3}\frac{1}{2}$ of a cawny was 45 Madras measures, which gives about 1,440 measures of produce to a cawny; 1,375 measures is a fair yield in these parts for a crop of Tiyamalli Samba. The whole time occupied from planting to reaping was four months.

5. At Melmanur $\frac{1}{16}$ of a cawny of Nunjah was sown in land classed No. 4, assessment Rupees 12 per cawny, the seed used being only that sent with your letter No. 325; it was sown on the 11th of August (the land having been again prepared as for Tiyamalli Samba), and harvested the middle of January, by which time it was five and a half feet high; the total yield was 76 measures, or 1,216 measures per cawny, the out-turn being a little below the average of a Tiyamalli Samba crop; this yield being smaller proportionately than that at Arugandampundi, is easily accounted for by the young plants having been inundated and somewhat damaged by the flood in September. A measure of this paddy weighs about 3 Rupees a measure less than Car, and the same as Tiyamalli Samba.

6. I think the experiment, as a whole, may be considered a success; the ryots complain of the straw as being coarse for fodder, unless kept some time, but the rice is highly appreciated; the grains are very large, and when boiled are considered to have a peculiarly fine flavour; this rice will command a high price. The out-turn, in one case, was heavier than an ordinary Tiyamalli Samba yield, and this is our most valuable crop; but even should the out-turn be equal or a little less, the Carolina paddy has the advantage over Samba of rapid growth, the first experiment only occupying four months, and the second, though kept back by the inundation above alluded to, five, while Tiyamalli Samba always takes six months.

As the best proof that the rice is appreciated, the ryots are most anxious to obtain the seed. I have now 71 measures by me, which I shall distribute to the numerous applicants.

No. 333. ORDER THEREON, 24th April 1867, No. 918.

Miscellaneous.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Revenue Board, the Sydapet Farm Committee, and the Agri-Horticultural Society, and that copy be laid on the Editors' Table.

2. The Government are much indebted to Mr. Robinson for so carefully recording the details of his experiment and so fully reporting the results. They will look with interest for the report of the further experiment with the acclimatized seed. The favourable opinion expressed by natives of the produce as an article of food is very satisfactory.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Reported to England
per 23rd May No. 32 of 1867
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Rec'd 1867 Dispatch
Pro: of Govt. for Appeal
No. 854.
From The Colonial
Office
To The Secretary
to Govt
C-1:
Fort St. George

Dated 26th March/67
Rec'd 1st Apl.
No. 284

Reports the results
of the Local Inquiries
which were made with
the Concurrence
recommended
by Sir. Lewis Latter
dated 11th May last
No 918 - 24th Apl

J. 331 K 333

C. 12th Sept/67 R 16th