

A NOTE ON E. C. 47 RAGI

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This short note gives particulars of the performance of a variety of Ragi known as E.C. 47, evolved by the Millets Specialist and tried on the Central Farm during the two seasons 1929-30 and 1930-31. Raised on 2.3 million acres out of a total 34.38 million acres under cultivation in the Presidency, Ragi is next to Cholam, the chief millet crop, and its importance to the ryot is considerable. Any method adopted to improve the quantity or the quality of the grain is a step taken in the right direction.

In 1930-31, this variety was cultivated over a fairly large area on the Central Farm. The seed was sown on well prepared nurseries by the 2nd and 3rd weeks of May 1930 at the rate of 1 lb. per cent of nursery area.

The seedlings were ready for planting by the 1st week of June and they had made a very good growth by then. The fields were brought into a state of fine tilth by summer ploughings and well manured with farm-yard manure and well-rotten estate sweepings at 10 tons and 15 tons per acre respectively.

The seedlings were 20 to 25 days old, when they were removed and planted in the prepared fields. The usual attention was given. The seedlings established themselves very well within 10 days after planting.

Due to the failure of the South-West monsoon this year, the crop had to be maintained by being irrigated once in 7 days. June received about 1.16 inches of rain, July was disappointing with only .44 inches, August fared much worse with only .05 inches; September witnessed a fall of 1.66 inches which was not of much use as 0.91 inches fell on the 19th when most of the Ragi crop had almost become ready for harvest; so during the growing period of the crop only 1.65 inches fell and this alone could be utilized by the growing crop. Hence the mhote and engines were kept constantly going during the trying period to keep the crop up. The continued dry weather began to tell upon the crop to a certain extent. Weeds were removed often as they appeared and a hoeing was given when the crop was about 30 to 40 days old. The plants began to tiller about 30 to 40 days after planting. Tillering was profuse, the number of tillers ranging from 20 to 25. The crop flowered when the plants were 70 to 75 days old. The flowering was uniform producing 6 to 7 spikes per head. The spikes were also considerably longer than the local ragi spikes. Maturity of ear-heads was more even. Even with adverse weather conditions the variety pulled up and with the liberal dosage of manure given, easily yielded over 3,500 lbs. grain in a few cases and about 2,500 lb. in others.

From these details one can easily find that while the average yield of Ragi on the Central Farm from an area of 20 to 30 acres is ranging from 1,400 to 1,900 lb. per acre, this year E. C. 47 has easily given more than 2,700 lb. an acre on a total area of 24 acres.

YIELD OF E. C. 47 RAGI IN 1930—CENTRAL FARM, COIMBATORE

| Field No. | Area in Acres | Manure per acre | Planted on | Cut on | Yield per acre | | Previous crop |
|-----------|---------------|--|------------|----------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | Grain in lbs | Straw in lbs | |
| 15a | 2.66 | 10 tons Farm yard manure ... | 9—6—30 | 24—9—30 | 3,492 | 11,755 | Fodder, Maize and Sunhemp. |
| 40 | 2.50 | 15 tons well-rotten Estate sweepings ... | 11—6—30 | 23—9—30 | 3,368 | 11,248 | Fodder Cholam. |
| 43a | 2.00 | 12 tons well-rotten Estate sweepings ... | 12—6—30 | 22—9—30 | 3,253 | 12,091 | Fodder Maize. |
| 54 | 5.00 | 15 tons well-rotten Estate sweepings ... | 13—6—30 | 25—9—30 | 2,951 | 9,468 | Pusa Wheat. |
| 65 | 1.00 | 15 tons well-rotten Estate sweepings ... | 10—7—30 | 26—10—30 | 2,741 | 9,156 | Elephant Grass. |
| 69 | 3.50 | 10 tons Farm yard manure ... | 14—6—30 | 27—9—30 | 2,425 | 11,859 | Cambodia Cotton. |
| 74 | 2.95 | 7 tons Farm yard manure ... | 12—6—30 | 28—9—30 | 2,370 | 5,949 | Local Wheat. |
| 45 | 3.25 | ... | 22—6—30 | 29—9—30 | 1,816 | 9,090 | Cambodia Cotton. |
| Insectary | 0.25 | ... | 2—7—30 | 10—9—30 | 1,728 | 3,840 | Fallow. |
| P. M. Old | 0.43 | ... | 21—6—30 | 8—10—30 | 819 | 3,293 | Cambodia Cotton. |
| | 23.54 | | | Average | 2,713 | 9,821 | |