

The Cultivation of Dry Paddy in the Salur Taluk, Vizagapatam District.

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The hilly tracts and the plains of the Salur Taluk in the Vizagapatam District abound in good dry paddy varieties. Two of these viz., *Vedurusannam* and *Mettu dhanyarasulu* are cultivated on a large scale. There are other varieties, *Mettu prayaga* and *Mettu budagalu*, which are also popular. During recent years *Kasipichodi* and *Seethamma savaralu* (probably *Seethasalo* of Orissa) are found among the dry paddy.

There is an area of about 1,000 acres under dry paddy during the current year in the taluk including the hilly area for which no statistics are maintained. Owing to the fall in the price of groundnut, and on account of propaganda for growing more food crops, the area under food crops has increased, partly replacing groundnut. In the following note the important practices in the cultivation of dry paddy are given together with a comparative statement of the cost of cultivation and yield of groundnut and dry paddy to show the advantages of cultivating the latter in these days.

Climate and rainfall. The average rainfall of the taluk is about 45 in. of which about 26 in. are received during the South West monsoon and about 14 in. during the North East monsoon. Dry paddy is cultivated in the South West monsoon period when the maximum rainfall is received.

Soils, preparatory cultivation and rotations. The soils of the taluk vary from red loams to black clays and in all these soils dry paddy is cultivated. *Mettu prayaga* and *budagalu* are mostly confined to the black clays while *Mettu dhanyarasulu* and *Vedurusannam* are cultivated in red loamy soils. Probably the former require more moisture than the latter and hence their cultivation is largely found in the black clays which are more retentive of moisture than the red soils. The land is ploughed thoroughly with the summer rains, cattle manure is applied and incorporated in the soil. The general practice is to pen sheep in the land, as cattle manure is not available in large quantities. The following is the rotation generally adopted :—

I Year	Groundnut	May to September.
II Year	Dry paddy	June to September.
	Horsegram	} October-January.
	or	
	Greengram	
III Year	Groundnut	May-September.
	Horsegram	October-January.

If dry paddy is intended to be grown after groundnut the land is allowed to weather and is ploughed as often as possible; otherwise a crop of horsegram follows groundnut. Dry paddy is followed by horsegram or greengram.

Seeds and sowing. With the onset of the South West monsoon which is generally in the "*Mrugasira Karthi*" (middle of June) seed is sown broadcast either as a pure crop or as a mixture with *Tella jonna* or redgram and covered with the ordinary wooden plough. When sown pure about 40 lb. of seed is used and when sown as mixture 30 lb. is the seed rate per acre. In some villages there is the practice of raising seedlings in a seedbed and transplanting them. About 10 cents of the seed-bed is well ploughed and manured and about 30 lb. of seed is sown in the middle of June. The field to be planted is ploughed well in the meantime and when it is in the right condition the seedlings are transplanted in the plough furrow behind the plough, another plough following it covering the roots. This practice is similar to the one obtained in the case of *jonna*¹ or *ganty*². As the planting is done in the rainy month of July the seedlings establish themselves well. The advantages of this method over broadcasting are the following:—

Reduction in the quantity of seed used; regularised spacing between the plants, thus giving them more chances for tillering well; and minimising the presence of seeds and thus reducing the weeding expenses. But there is a risk in this method. If there be a failure of rains after transplanting, the crop fails. Hence generally ryofs do not take the risk and broadcasting is the more popular practice.

After-cultivation. Generally weeds crop up from seeds brought in through the manure applied to the land. They are removed about a month after sowing and the land is hoed well. A second hoeing is also given at a suitable time later on.

Harvesting and threshing. The crop comes to harvest by the end of September or in the first week of October. Threshing is done immediately if weather permits or put off to November, when the weather gets cleared. In normal years, about 1,000 to 1,500 lb. of grain are obtained from an acre.

Economics of cultivation of dry paddy and groundnut:

<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Groundnut.</i>			<i>Dry Paddy.</i>					
	Rs.	as.	ps.	Rs.	as.	ps.			
<i>Preparatory cultivation:—</i>									
Four ploughings	3	0	0	3	0	0
<i>Manures and Manuring:—</i>									
Sheep penning	2	0	0	4	0	0
<i>Seeds and Sowing:—</i>									
Kernels 30 lb.; 4 pairs and 4 women	3	8	0			
40 lb. of paddy and 2 pairs				2	0	0
<i>Interculturing:—</i>									
Hoeing I—10 women	1	4	0			
" II—10 "	1	4	0			
Weeding I—10 women				1	4	0
do. II—8 do.				1	0	0

1. Sorghum. 2. *Pennisetum typhoides*.

Expenditure.	Groundnut.			Dry Paddy.		
	Rs.	as.	ps.	Rs.	as.	ps.
Harvesting:—						
For digging 6 men and for picking pods 16 women ...	3	8	0			
For harvesting paddy—8 women ...				1	0	0
Threshing with cattle ...				1	0	0
Land rent payable to the Zamindar ...	1	4	0	1	4	0
Total ...	15	12	0	14	8	0
Receipt:—						
Value of 1250 lb. of groundnut ...	37	8	0			
Value of 1200 lb. of paddy ...				36	0	0
3 cartloads of straw ...				10	0	0
Total ...	37	8	0	46	0	0
Nett profit ...	21	12	0	31	8	0

It can be seen from the above statement that the cultivation of dry paddy is more profitable now, than the cultivation of groundnut. In the latter, there is always the risk of the market getting dull in which case the produce is stored for a long time with a hope of better times which is often not realised. Groundnut cannot be consumed as freely as a food crop. On the other hand, if there is no favourable market for paddy, it can be consumed by the grower.

Selection work has been undertaken in the varieties *Vedurusannam* and *Mettu dhanyarasulu* at the Agricultural Research Station, Anakapalli and some good strains are expected to be released shortly which will replace the local varieties.

Collective Farming ✓

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In the village of Peddaradugur in the Gooty Talukⁿ (Anantapur District) there is an interesting system of collective farming, ideal in its organization and efficient in management. There are 36 acres of wetland irrigated by a spring channel, composed of 44 shares, each share being a unit of one head of working animal (*Tel. Pothu bagamu*). There are now 44 shareholders, some owning single shares, some others a little more or less than a share. One of the shareholders, Bayyanna by name, is the chief man of the organization, by virtue of heredity. For the past several generations Bayyanna's family have been the leaders of this organization. In the village Revenue Registers the *patta* is shown as a common one in the name of "Bayyanna and others". No one member of this organization has any right to any particular portion of this block of 36 acres and cannot say that this portion or that portion of this block is his, or that he would cultivate that area only. Nor has he any right to sell his share of the land; he can sell only his right to his share of the produce, that is to say, on selling his