

Economic Planting of Rice

Transplanting is the normal practice obtaining over the larger part of the area under irrigated rice. Fourfifths of the rice grown in the world is transplanted and almost all countries like Spain, Italy, Japan etc., where the highest acre yields of rice are recorded adopt transplanting. The fact that the yield per acre is increased by transplanting is well recognised.

For a long time past the Agricultural Department has been advocating the economic methods of transplanting rice, by the reduction of the seed rate usually adopted. Sturdy seedlings tiller better producing larger earheads. Sturdy seedlings can be raised only by thin sowing of the nurseries. Thin sown nursery produces a better type of seedlings, than in a thick sown nursery. Their early vigour is reflected in a higher yield. Experiments at most of the Rice Research Stations, Samalkota, Maruteru and Coimbatore over a number of years have shown definitely that the crop grown from thin sown nursery always gave increased yield ranging from 6 to 15 percent, compared to the crop raised from thick sown nursery. The Common practice is to sow thick using $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 lbs. of seed paddy for each cent of nursery and raising about 5 cents of nursery for planting an acre of the field. Some seeds do not germinate, while some that germinate lag behind in growth. The nursery is over-growthed and the seedlings grow lanky and matted together. The women who transplant have a certain "feel" of the thickness of the bunch of seedlings they hold between their fingers, plant only that number of seedlings that give them that correct "feel". Counts have shown that there are as many as 20 seedlings per bunch thus planted. Associated with thick sowing there is a tendency always for the women to plant in bunches wide apart.

In the economic method of planting advocated by the Department only 3 lbs. of seeds are required for sowing in one cent of nursery, 7 to 8 cents of nursery are required for providing enough seedlings per acre in the case of medium duration varieties or 10-12 cents for Kar varieties. The seedlings grown in such thin sown nurseries are robust and thick and fewer number of them give the required "feel" for the transplanting. Generally, for medium and long duration varieties 6"-8" spacing between the plants and for short duration kar varieties 4"-5" spacing is the optimum. Compared with the common practice of thick sown nurseries, the method of economic planting with a reduced seed rate advocated by the Department gives a saving of at least 25 lbs. (10 m.m.) of seed per acre. By adopting the reduced seed rate over the 10 million acres of paddy in the Province, there will be a saving of nearly a lakh of tons of paddy seed. By this simple improvement in cultural practice in Tanjore District alone, there will be a saving in seed paddy that would be enough to feed its entire population for three weeks. Thus sowing thin in the paddy nurseries, besides giving a definite increased yield assures immediately an appreciable saving in seed. (From the Director of Agriculture).

Agricultural News Letter

Rust Resistant Strain of Korra. The Korra crop in the Ceded districts is invariably susceptible to the disease known as *rust*, characterized by rusty brown spots on the leaves. In certain seasons, when the intensity of the disease is high, the yield of the crop is considerably reduced. A selection S. I. 3756 evolved at the Millet Breeding Station, Coimbatore, has been found to comparatively resist the