Other crops :—Next in importance to paddy comes coconut. Every ryot in S. Canara will have a few trees around his house and on the bunds of his paddy lands. This is a very important crop to a ryot and he cannot comfortably get on without it It forms an important part of his diet. There is a good supply of fish all along the district and the coconuts supply the fatty constituent of the food of the poorer and the middle classes of people who are not vegetarians. As the cattle of the district is very poor, much ghee cannot be had. So nature has supplied these people with a cheap form of fatty food. Sugarcane cultivation is slowly coming into prominence in the district. One finds large areas under arecanuts in the interior part of the district.

This brief note on the agriculture of the district is written to remind the students that agricultural practices vary from district to district and certain practices are the outcome of natural surroundings.

K. T. Alwa.

Planting of single seedling of paddy.

The following extract about the paddy seedling experiment taken from the Annual Report of the Chinsurah Agricultural Station for 1912-13 seems to bring to light that success of single planting of paddy depends upon certain conditions.

" Paddy seedling experiment :—The transplanting of one, two and four seedlings was compared during the last three years viz., 1909-10, 1910-11 and 1912-13. In order that one seedling may give its maximum return transplanting should be done sufficiently early to allow the plants to tiller to its greatest capacity.

In the first year one seedling gave the highest outturn, but in the second year when transplanting had to be postponed to

to the end of August four seedlings gave the highest return. In the third year transplanting was done in July and one seedling again gave the highest outturn. In 1912 transplanting was late and again four seedlings were best. The following table shows the average result for 1909, 1911 and 1912 and of original plots only for 1910 in which year the duplicate plots could not be transplanted :—

No. of seedlings transplanted 10" apart.	Average outturn per acre 1909-1910,		Outturn per acre 1910-1911.		Average outturn per acre. 1911-1912.		1912-1913	
	grain Mds.	straw Mds.	grain Mds.	straw Mds.	grain Mds.	straw Mds.	grain Mds.	straw Mds.
One seedling	31⅜	33¾	8⅛	9¼	19	39	20½	20¼
Two seedlings	25½	31¾	12	14½	16	31⅛	22	27 &1/5
4 seedlings	24½	28¾	17 & 7/8	16¼	17⅛	36⅛	30¾	38½

" To determine up to what date transplanting of one seedling may succeed, one seedling was transplanted on 7 different plots every week from the first week of July. The results shown below are striking and explain why one seedling has not been successful in many cases :—

Oneseedling transplanted in	1st week July	2nd week July	3rd week July	4th week July	1st week August	2nd week August	3rd week August
Outturn per acre in mds. grain	32½	27¾	22&2/5	24½	21¾	18⅜	17¾
Outturn per acre in mds. straw	34	32	27	26	23⅛	21¾	18¾

The success of planting singles is bound up with the earliness of the main crop season. There also seems to be a limit in the season for planting singles beyond which the singles will not give good results.

In a way the results of the experiments conducted at the Chinsurah experimental station about the planting of paddy seedlings singles or doubles is quite comparable with the results of the spacing experiments conducted at the central farm Coimbatore. The following table has been compiled from the annual scientific reports of the central farm from 1907 to 1915.

Sinna samba.

'Out-turn per acre in lbs.'

Date and year of transplanting.	07-08 27Au.	08-09 11 Se.	09-10 27 Au.	10-11	11-12 14 Au.	12-13 30 Jl.	13-14- 17 Au.	14-15 22 Au.
Singles 9"	3208	2244	3483	3128	3478	2709	3197	2812
Doubles 9"	3422	2319	3691	3195	3099	2773	3581	2566
Trebles 9"	3509	2508	3843	3631	2905	2813	3297	3226

The dates of transplanting are only approximate.

Though the table is compiled from the results of the spacing experiments, yet it sufficiently and accurately goes to corroborate the results of the Chinsurah experiments.

In the Central Farm the planting has been done at some period between the end of July to the second week of September, and in all years when planting had to be done late either the doubles or the trebles have been giving good outturn. In 08-09 when planting was done about the 11th of September the trebles headed the list. On the other hand in the year 1911-12 when planting was done about the 14th of August, the singles gave the highest return. Again in 1907-08, 1909-10, 1912-13, 1913-14 and 1914-15 when transplanting had to be done some days in the third or the fourth week of August, doubles or the trebles were best. The same table arranged according to the date of transplanting from the earliest to the latest runs as follows :—

'Out-turn per acre in lbs.'

	30 July.	14 Aug.	11-17 Aug.	17.26Aug.	about 27Aug.	28-29 Aug.	11 Sept.
Singles 9"	2709	3478	3197	2812	3208	3483	2244
Doubles 9"	2773	3099	3581	2564	3422	3691	2319
Trebles 9"	2813	2905	3297	3226	3509	3843	2508

From the foregoing table it can be inferred in a way that up to the middle of August or even a little earlier singles seem to give a better outturn. About the middle of August the doubles give good result. But during the third or the fourth week of

August transplanting in trebles seems to be preferable to singles or doubles.

I have noted the above when I was looking after my farm before I joined the college. But I have no figures to give. All the same my early planted paddy gave very good outturn while the crop that had to be planted a month late gave a poor return. Both the early and the late crops were planted in singles.

These experiments and experience refer only to main crop paddy. It may be that the results are of local value and perhaps the results may not hold good anywhere and everywhere, but still this gives us a basis for future accurate trials to substantiate the truth of the fact in different localities for both the main and the second crop.

C. R. Srinivasan.

Notes.

A peculiar Coconut tree :—As a frontispiece to this issue of the Journal is published a picture of a coconut palm noticed by me growing in a friend's house in Triplicane, Madras.

The peculiarity about it is in its inflorescence, which, unlike the ordinary palm, (Cocos nucifera, Linn.) is unbranched, but consists of a fairly thick stalk to which the coconuts are as it were stuck up. I examined about a dozen inflorescences of this tree and noticed from 90 to 130 little coconuts in the early stages and in no case did more than three remain to mature. Enquiry about the origin of this plant elicited no more than the bare fact of its introduction as a novelty by a mahomedan merchant from South Arcot.

I shall be glad to learn if any of the readers of this journal have come across a similar tree. Such information may go to