

on storage, so that old rice is able to imbibe more water and expand more on cooking.

The recent investigations have traced the changes in quality of rice to the changes in particles size and shape of starch.

## A Note on Sorghum Nitidum, (Vahl) Pers

By

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The purpose of this note is to supplement certain data wanting in the paper by Ayyangar and Ponnaiya (1941) which have led to some misreading of their paper. The statements by these authors that (p. 17) "The *Para-sorghums* are distinguished.....and the reduced number of chromosomes being  $2n = 10$  as against  $2n = 20$  in the latter"; the subsequent inclusion of *S. nitidum* in the list of species and with regard to the location (p. 21) "the species is found in the Western Ghats of South India at elevations of 1000 to 7000 ft." have led Garber (1950) to read that the authors found *S. nitidum* also to have  $2n = 10$  chromosomes and to state that "no other collector has reported this species from Western India" and "Unfortunately efforts to get a collection of *S. nitidum* from Western India have been unsuccessful". A communication from Sri. Ponnaiya showed that no counts of chromosome numbers of this species had been done. Fresh collections of the species from the same source and also another hill were done. The numbers determined showed that these species also had  $2n = 20$  agreeing with Garber's (l. c.) findings. The authors have given only the general characteristics as mentioned in Snowden (1936) for *Parasorghums* and distribution as in Gamble (1934). The specimens were originally collected by them near Coimbatore from the hills which form the Eastern spurs of the Western Ghats. The Madras Herbarium gives the distribution of the species as Coorg, Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Palni hills and Tinnevely. Too much generalisation has thus unfortunately led to misreading of the authors' intentions. Our thanks are due to the Government Lecturing and Systematic Botanist for permitting us to consult the relevant herbarium sheets.

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## Crop Reports

**Gingelly 1952-'53—Intermediate condition Report:** Sowings of late gingelly are reported to have commenced in the districts of South Arcot and North Arcot and completed in most districts of the State. The crop is reported to have been affected by inadequate rains in Salem District. The late gingelly crop has failed in parts of Ramanathapuram district due to inadequate rains received during the growth. The wholesale price of gingelly seed per maund of 82-2/7 lb. or 3,200 tolas as reported from important market centres on 31-1-1953 was Rs. 29-8-0 in Tiruchirapalli, Rs. 29-0-0 in Rajahmundry, Rs. 28-1-0 in Kakinada and Rs. 27-8-0 in Vizianagaram. Compared with the prices published in the corresponding period of last year, these prices reveal a decrease of 13 per cent in Tiruchirapalli and Kakinada and 12 per cent in Vizianagaram.

**Forecast—Paddy—Third or Final Forecast report 1952-'53—Madras State.** The total area sown with paddy in 1952-'53 in the Madras State is estimated at 9,993,000 acres as against the finally recorded area of 10,041,000 acres for the previous year, representing a decrease of 0.5 per cent. Compared with the final area of last year, an increase in area is estimated in the districts of Anantapur, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Tiruchirapalli and South Kanara and a decrease in area in the other districts of the State except the Nilgiris district, where the area is estimated to be the same as in the previous year.

The yield per acre of the first or main, the second and third crops is expected to be below the normal in all the districts of the State due mainly to inadequate rains during the growing periods of the crop. The condition of the standing crop is reported to be not satisfactory in Rayachoti, Pulivendla and Jammalamadugu taluks of Cuddapah district, parts of Chittoor and Visakhapatnam districts due to inadequate supply of water. Drought conditions are reported to prevail in Dharapuram, Tirupur and Udumalpet taluks of Coimbatore district. Withering of crops is reported in parts of Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli districts. In Tanjore district, the cyclone in December 1952 adversely affected the crop in the flowering stage, but rains during that month generally proved beneficial to the paddy crop.

Attacks on paddy crops by insect pests and diseases have also been reported in parts of Nellore and Tanjore districts. The Seasonal Factor for the State as a whole works out to 80 per cent of the normal for the first and second crops and 71 per cent for the third crop as against 83 per cent, 73 per cent and 72 per cent respectively estimated for the final estimates of the previous year. On this basis, the total yield is estimated at 4,033,000 tons in terms of rice. Compared with the final estimate of yield of 4,117,000 tons for the previous year, this is a decrease of 2.0 per cent. The average wholesale price of paddy second sort, per Standard Maund of 82 2/7 lb. (equivalent to 3,200 tolas) as reported from some important market centres on 31st January 1953, was Rs. 8-2-0 at Cuddalore Rs. 8-7-0 at Mangalore, Rs. 9-6-0 at Eluru and Masulipattan, Rs. 9-7-0 at Vijayawada and Nagapattinam and Rs. 9-9-0 at Vijayanagaram. Compared with the prices published in the corresponding report of the previous year (i.e. those which prevailed on 16th February 1952) the present prices reveal a decrease of 0.4 per cent at Vijayanagaram, 8.3 per cent at Mangalore and an increase of 10.5 per cent at Nagapattinam, 11.4 per cent at Masulipattan, 12.6 per cent at Eluru and 14.9 per cent at Vijayawada.

(From Economic Adviser, Government of Madras)

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