

Maximising Production and Development of Uganda - 1 Cotton Strain in Madras State *

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The introduction and functioning of the Certification Scheme presents a very favourable opportunity to maximise production and development of the improved Cambodia strain, Madras Uganda 1, in a pure state, on a large scale in a short period. The provisions of the Cambodia Co. 4 production and certification orders which are based on the conditions prescribed in notifications issued by Textile Commissioner, Bombay under the Cotton Control Order, require that the Uganda seeds sown by growers should be duly approved and supplied by the Department of Agriculture of the State, and the crop so raised alone is entitled to be certified by the scheme for purposes of exemption from price control. This proviso would naturally force the large number of Uganda growers in the concerned districts to approach the Department for supply of pure seeds during the coming season and consequently the demand for seeds would be heavy and the department should be in a position to maintain adequate stocks of pure seeds to meet the entire needs of the cultivators.

During 1951-'52 winter and 1952 summer seasons, the scheme registered for Certification, Co. 4 cotton crop raised both from Departmental seeds as well as from seeds of other sources, without any distinction being made and the crop was certified provided the minimum standard of 95% purity prescribed in the order was satisfied. A review of the purity of the crop raised from seeds of Departmental and non-departmental sources showed generally a higher level of purity in the former group. Nevertheless, the seeds procured could not possibly be of uniform purity in all cases, as they represented different lots obtained from different sources and places. The crop raised by the ryots from seeds of non seed farm origin supplied by the Department was in many cases far below the standard of purity prescribed for certification and the growers were unwilling to remove the off-types on the ground that the seed was supplied by the Agricultural Department and they were not responsible for the rogues, if any, were found in the crop. On the other hand the crop raised by many assiduous growers from their own stock of seeds or from seeds obtained from certain reliable private sources has been remarkably good with regard to purity.

What is therefore emphasized is that the Department should altogether give up the procurement and distribution of Uganda seeds of non-seed farm crops whose purity is invariably a doubtful factor. During 1952-'53 winter and summer seasons, it is estimated that an area of 67,000 acres would be sown to Uganda 1 crop both in the Southern and

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Northern zone together, for which about 17,000 bags of seeds would be required on the basis of a liberal seed rate of one bag for 4 acres. If the officers in charge of Uganda 1 seed multiplication and distribution schemes in the two zones can procure this quantity of pure seeds exclusively from seed farm crops and stock it for distribution to the cultivators in the next season, the problem of maximising the production and the development of the improved strain Madras Uganda 1, can be solved easily almost in one step. If however this target in the procurement of pure seeds is not attainable, the gap should be made up by arranging to procure seeds of crops raised by registered growers which have been inspected and examined in the field and assessed for purity and certified by the scheme. Further the kapas of such registered and certified crop would be ginned under the Departmental supervision only in specially licensed ginneries, where the produce will be examined again for quality and purity. Seeds of such desirable lots can be procured by the Department to augment its stocks to meet the entire demand from growers for supply of pure seeds giving up altogether procurement of seeds from non seed farms and from crops of unknown origin. Such a step would contribute towards maximising the production and development of Uganda 1 cotton in the Madras State in a pure state in a short period.