

COIX LACHRYMA JOBI.STUDIES AND SELECTION WORK ON THE CROP IN TRINIDAD.INTRODUCTION.

Coix occupies a minor place amongst the grain crops of the East classed under the general heading of Millets. Within the last few years this plant has been studied and its possibilities noted at the Buitenzorg Experimental Station, and the U.S. Bureau of Agriculture in the Phillipines. Investigators at Manila are enthusiastic as to the future of the crop as a grain food for the Tropics, and especially as a substitute for upland rice in the Phillipines.

Trinidad, and its rice eating Population, is comparable with the Phillipines and if the crop is as prolific here, there is a chance of it replacing a portion of the 12,464 tons of rice annually imported.<sup>(1)</sup>

Possibilities of improvement have been suggested by many Botanists and Agriculturists, though until 1928 no selection beyond that practiced by semi wild Tribes, seems to have been made.

In 1925 the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture obtained a supply of seed from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in the Phillipines.

In the Spring of 1928, single Plant Selections were made from the crop. The seed from these selections was planted on November 1st 1928.

The following is a brief description of the plant in general, and an account of selection work and studies carried out from October 1928, to June 1929.

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