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3

THE SELECTION OF SEEDS FOR THE SPRING CROP

- North Vietnam -

[Following is a translation of an article by Tran Thien, Engineer, in the Vietnamese-language periodical Khoa Hoc Ky Thuat Nong Nghiep-Loa Cho Hop Tac Xa (Agricultural Sciences and Technology - for Cooperatives) Hanoi, 15 December 1963, pp 26-27.]

"Tra trung tu" seeds: This species has been imported from China. It has several qualities:

- It withstands cold weather better than "Nam Ninh" and "Nong Nghiep" I species. During the seedling stage, a relatively small portion of the leaves get pale during a cold spell. When warm weather returns the leaves become green again quickly if enough care and fertilizer are provided.

- It reproduces more abundantly and earlier than the "Nong Nghiep" I species. Although its ability to reproduce does not match that of "Nam Ninh," the shoots give the highest proportion of ears.

- This species blossoms and ripens four to six days earlier than the two species mentioned above. Hence, it is seldom damaged by the "duc than" worms or exposed to the prevailing Laotian winds. Consequently, the proportion of dry ears and hollow grains is small.

- Its ears are long. The number of grains per ear is less than for the "Nong Nghiep" I species but greater than the "Nam Ninh" species. The weight per 1,000 grains is greater than the other two species, the proportion of hollow grains is the lowest, hence the yield is highest.

- The "Nong Nghiep" I species. Under conditions of the spring crop, it produces few shoots; secondary stalks produce relatively few ears. The number of grains per ear is greater. Due to late blooming, the "Nong Nghiep" species is often harmed by "duc than" worms and the prevailing Lao-tian winds. Consequently, the proportion of dry ears and hollow grains is large.

Under identical conditions of weather and care, the "Nong Nghiep" I species does not withstand cold as well as the other two species, due to attacks by the "chiem lua" disease.

The "Nam Ninh" species: It multiplies extensively but slowly. The ears are short, having only a few grains. The weight per 1,000 grains is low, hence its yield is the lowest.

After three continuous years of investigation, the Thai Binh [work] Camp concluded that the "tra trung tu" gave the highest yield. Cooperatives also noticed that the "tra trung tu" species planted in the spring crop gave higher yields than other species. For the spring crop of 1963 the Dai Thanh (Ha Dong) Cooperative obtained 26.30 piculs per hectare for the "tra trung tu" species; the Hoang Xa (Hai Duong) Cooperative obtained 25.54 piculs; the Hau Thi (Ha Dong) Hau obtained 23.61 piculs. Compare these figures with yields of 23 piculs per hectare at the most for the "Nam Ninh" and "Nong Nghiep" I species.

| ① Năm | ② Giống Nam-ninh | ③ Giống Nông nghiệp I | ④ Giống Tra trung tu |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ⑤ Xuân 1961 | 22,22 tạ | 34,99 tạ | 35,26 tạ |
| Xuân 1962 | 30,55 tạ | 31,09 tạ | 31,09 tạ |
| Xuân 1963 | — | 24,73 tạ | 27,78 tạ |

[Legend]: 1) Year; 2) "Nam Ninh" Species; 3) "Nong Nghiep" I species; 4) "Tra Trung Tu" Species; 5) Spring; 6) piculs.

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