Second Flowering in *Oryza sativa* (var. *indica*)

In India rice is normally harvested when ripe by cutting off the leaves and stems near ground-level. Shortly before this operation the field is allowed to dry. There is very little regeneration, though it is well known that rice can be propagated vegetatively by 'ratooning'. In 1958 three small plots of 5·2 square metres each at Giridih in Bihar were planted with the *aus* (rapidly maturing) variety *CH*-10 in July. Owing to the late monsoon the crop was poor. Instead of drying and cutting as usual, the plots were not allowed to dry, and the ears were plucked by hand on October 10. The plots produced a second crop which was harvested on November 23 by the usual method. Table 1 shows the yield of paddy for two harvests of the three plots.

The total yield was thus increased by 117 per cent, that is to say, more than doubled. The second crop was harvested at the same time as the *aman* (slowly maturing) rice in the neighbouring plots.

Table 1. Yield of paddy (dry weight, gm.) for three plots each 5·2 square metres in area for the first and the second crop

Plots / Yield	1	2	3	Total
First crop	2·3	605·4	673·0	1,280·7
Second crop	660·2	650·8	187·8	1,498·8

Regeneration was found to occur in two ways—through the formation of new tillers at the base and new branches at some nodes of the stems of the harvested plants. Both the new tillers and the new branches flowered and thus produced the second crop.

Experiments are being made this year on a large scale with numerous varieties to determine the economic value of this method of harvesting.

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