

2. A STUDY ON TILLERS OF RICE PLANT BEARING ON THEIR DURATION OF LIFE, PERFORMANCE AND DEATH

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With a view to study the mortality of rice tillers in relation to their time of emergence on the mother plant, relevant data were collected from a pot culture experiment in the Bankura Agricultural Farm. The tillers as they emerged were marked out with a ticket showing the date of emergence and in the event of death the date was inserted on the ticket. The results show that the early tillers contained a greater proportion of grain-bearing tillers than the late ones and that the heavily manured soils always delayed the period of maximum tillering activity compared to the unmanured or light manured ones. It was also found that of the tillers that emerged in the first fortnight of August, 12 per cent. were ineffective ; of the first part of September, 75 per cent. were ineffective, while all subsequent tillers were wastes. The contribution to final yield of the tillers of these four periods were respectively 22, 59, 18 and 1 per cent. The question is asked, whether it would be desirable in the interest of high yield to remove all tillers born in the last two periods.