

BULLETIN

ISSUED BY

THE INDIAN CENTRAL COCONUT COMMITTEE

Vol. I

ERNAKULAM, MAY, 1948

No. 10

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE INDIAN CENTRAL COCONUT COMMITTEE

A plea for encouraging the cultivation of *Crotalaria Striata* as a green manure for coconut trees was made by SARDAR BAHADUR SIR DATAR SINGH presiding over the seventh meeting of the Indian Central Coconut Committee at Ernakulam on the 17th April 1948. Sir Datar Singh said that in the present context when all the available artificial manures were needed for essential food crops, growers should concentrate on producing as much green manure as possible for their trees. The following are extracts from Sir Datar Singh's address:—

Homage to Gandhiji

"We are meeting today under the shadow of a great national tragedy which is barely 80 days old. The foul assassination of Mahatma Gandhi has shocked and grieved us beyond measure, but as he in his own life showed, when his own near, dear and intimate ones passed away, we may not indulge in too much mourning. Rather, let us, as he himself would have

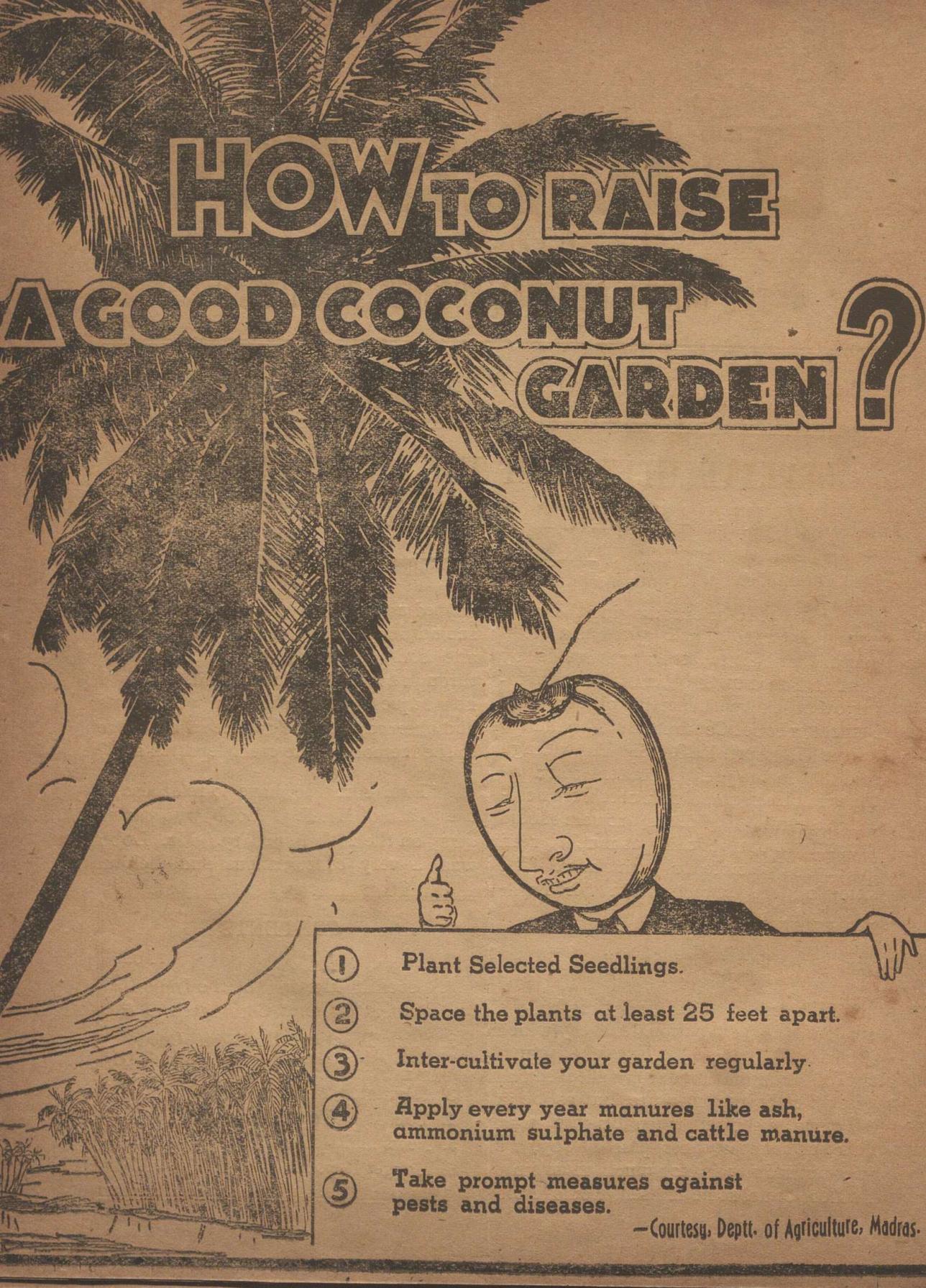
wished us to do, gird up our loins to pursue unflinchingly the grand trail of truth and non-violence he has blazed for us through a world full of turmoil. May I now request you to stand in your seats and observe a minute's silence in homage to the memory of the great departed soul?

"I am sorry to have to refer also to the death of Mr. F. G. Lobb who passed away on the 26th February. Mr. Lobb was a very conscientious and helpful

CONTENTS

	PAGES
1. Seventh Meeting of the Indian Central Coconut Committee	1 & 3
2. Some Practical Hints on Coconut Cultivation -A. G. Soans	4-5
3. Regulated Markets for Copra	6-8
4. You Ask, We Answer.	9
5. News and Notes.	11-12
6. Market Report.	13-14

HOW TO RAISE A GOOD COCONUT GARDEN ?



- ① Plant Selected Seedlings.
- ② Space the plants at least 25 feet apart.
- ③ Inter-cultivate your garden regularly.
- ④ Apply every year manures like ash, ammonium sulphate and cattle manure.
- ⑤ Take prompt measures against pests and diseases.

—Courtesy, Deptt. of Agriculture, Madras.

member and we miss him very much indeed. You would no doubt want to place on record our sense of loss at his passing away and convey to his relations the Committee's heart-felt condolences.

New Members

"We have now some new members. Shri P. Govinda Menon and Shri Satish Chandra Samanta have come to us from the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative), Maharaj Nirmalanandaji is the nominee of the West Bengal Government and Mr. Venkatappa a nominee of the Mysore Government. Mr. Giles who takes the place of the late Mr. Lobb is not altogether new to the Committee, for he was the nominee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce until he left India on long leave in January 1946. In welcoming the new members I wish to express the hope that the knowledge and experience they bring us will help the Committee greatly in its labours.

"We have some important matters to discuss and take decisions upon. You have, for example, before you the report of the Special Sub-Committee you set up at the last meeting to suggest amendments to the Indian Coconut Committee Act. Some of the amendments have far-reaching significance, for instance, the one amending the definition of the term 'mill' so as to bring under it all copra crushing establishments using power.

Price Stabilization

"You may remember setting up another Special Sub-Committee at the last meeting to go into the question of the stabilization of prices. A questionnaire to

collect information regarding costs of cultivation, production etc., has been issued and it is to be hoped that the response to it will be encouraging. Having regard to the complexity of the question and the lack of adequate statistical data it is feared that the completion of the work of the Sub-Committee may take some more time. It is hoped that they would be able to send in their report for the next meeting of the Committee.

"Since addressing you last, the prices of coconuts and coconut products have declined considerably. It has been a steady downward course. For the better part of March oil at Cochin is reported to have been quoted at less than Rs. 1000 per ton. At one time it was as low as Rs. 913. Towards the end of March coconuts were quoted at Rs. 105 per thousand.

Green Manure Crops

"The 'Grow More Coconut' campaign has yet to get under way. The only important scheme in furtherance of the campaign we have received is the one from the Madras Government for the multiplication and distribution of seeds of *Crotalaria Striata* for raising green manure on coconut lands. Apart from any consideration of the comparative merits of organic and inorganic manures, the cultivation and application of a green manure to coconut trees is to be welcomed and encouraged, as all the chemical fertilizers available are required for raising food crops. The propagation of *Crotalaria Striata* as a green manure may be undertaken in Travancore and Cochin and the Committee will no doubt be prepared to consider schemes for the purpose".

SOME PRACTICAL HINTS ON COCONUT CULTIVATION

(BY A. G. SOANS, BASEL MISSION FARM, MOODBIDRI, S. KANARA Dt.)

EVERY coconut grower knows that his success depends largely on the soil and the atmospheric conditions. In a poor soil the trees make only slow progress while a rich soil under well drained conditions give them quick, vigorous growth. Again a very cold or an extremely hot or an extremely dry climate proves unsuitable for successful coconut farming.

It is not possible to deal with the subject in detail within the limited scope of the "Bulletin". From time to time articles in these columns have been throwing light on such aspects of coconut cultivation as the selection of seeds, seedlings and mother trees, spacing and depth of planting and therefore I shall not traverse that ground over again. I shall, in the following paragraphs, touch only upon the important role which water plays in the life of a coconut plant.

Even the illiterate coconut cultivator knows that coconut trees are very sensitive and respond wonderfully to the various treatments given to them. Too much of water in the soil for too long a time makes the trees sick, while scarcity of water in the soil affects them adversely.

Conservation of Moisture

According to Copeland a mature coconut tree transpires about 22,630 lbs. of water in a year. Taking the average number of coconut trees in an acre of land as 75 the loss of water through transpiration alone comes to $22,630 \times 75$, that is, 1,697,250 lbs, or 179,725 gallons from an acre of coconut garden in a year. All this water has to be absorbed by the trees

from the soil. Further, the above quantity is not all the water that a tree absorbs from the soil. Transpiration is only the excess given out of water within the body, while a great deal is required to carry on the various functions of the tree and build up its different parts. All this water is to be found from the soil. The importance of water in the soil for the growth of the coconut tree can thus be easily understood.

During the monsoons, the soil is wet and the plant suffers from no shortage of water; moreover the humidity of the atmosphere is then high and consequently the rate of transpiration is low. It is during the hot weather that the coconut trees begin to suffer from dearth of water. The best way of making up this shortage is by irrigation. But when he is denied irrigation facilities the coconut grower has to be very careful. The more moisture he succeeds in conserving in the soil the more successful and paying his gardens will be. A deep rich soil is able to retain more moisture than a poor shallow soil and thus the conservation of moisture means enrichment of the soil.

Importance of Tillage

The soil consists of organic and inorganic matter. The former is derived from plants and animals while the latter consists of pieces of rock varying from colloids to gravels in size. The organic matter improves the texture of the soil and helps it to retain more moisture as sponge holds water within its pores. Every particle of soil in a properly drained

condition, is surrounded by a thin film of water called capillary water. The greater the surface area of the soil particle, the larger the amount of water it can hold around it. While tilling the soil the particles are broken with the result that their surface area is increased and more water adheres to them which is retained in the soil for use in summer months. That is why considerable importance is attached to the tilling operation in a coconut plantation. A little better knowledge of tillage will enable the coconut gardener to increase the efficiency of his farming. The land is tilled by hand labour, or ploughing or by tractors. Usually one deep ploughing during the monsoon and a few subsequent harrowings or rakings to create a soil mulch during the dry season has been found to be very beneficial. Mulching the surface soil prevents loss of water by evaporation besides destroying the weeds. A liberal application of organic matter to the soil prevents its excessive heating during summer thereby helping to reduce the loss of water and save the bacteria which improve the soil condition. In a well-tilled area the sub-soil is aerated and thus the tendency of the roots to come to the surface is reduced, and they are able to confine themselves to the sub-soil where there is more moisture than in the surface soil.

Prevention of Erosion

While it is true that tillage occupies a very important place in coconut farming, a well-tilled garden has to guard against the dangers of erosion also. When the monsoon sets in the loose surface soil has to be protected from erosion; otherwise the gar-

den will be depleted of its surface soil, as a result of which the yield of coconut will suffer. Proper bunding and cultivation of quick growing cover crops for green manuring will be the most efficient way of guarding against erosion. Quick-growing leafy crops like sunnhemp or cowpea have been found to be very efficient in this regard. The first deep ploughing and subsequent mulching help the soil to absorb almost all the water the land gets from the first few showers and the cover crops should be grown as quickly after the first rains as possible. The leaves of such crops protect the soil against the dripping of the rain water and the roots bind the soil particles against erosion. It has been observed in my farm, that during very heavy showers, the leaves of cowpea begin to shed and adhere to the surface of the soil just as oil paper covers a lump of butter when wrapped round it and the surface water run-off has been as clear as the rain water before it reaches the ground.

More Green Manure, Better Crops

India is a country mostly of uneducated poor cultivators who waste a great deal of wealth through their ignorance. It will not be an exaggeration to state that our poverty is directly proportional to the wastage that takes place around us today. It is very encouraging to note that the Madras Agricultural Department have taken urgent steps to encourage the cultivation of green manure crops. A coconut grower who takes advantage of the green manure crops will, at the same time, conserve more moisture in his soil and get better yield from his coconut trees.

REGULATED MARKETS FOR COPRA

It is a notorious fact that conditions of marketing obtaining in most parts of India at present do not enable the agriculturist to secure a fair price for his produce. Between the primary producer on the one hand and the ultimate buyer on the other there are so many middlemen well-versed in so many trade tricks that even when commodity prices are high, the agriculturist does not derive from them as much benefit as he should. All our exhortations to the agriculturists that they should adopt modern methods of cultivation and that they should try to produce more, will fall on deaf ears, unless they are assured of a fair price when they take their produce to the market. The Royal Commission on Agriculture in India who went into this question, among others, was of the opinion that some of the abuses of the existing markets could be successfully avoided by the establishment of regulated markets. Such markets, it is claimed, will help seller and buyer alike. While they would enable the farmer to get a fair price, they assure the latter of the satisfactory quality of the stuff he purchases.

Evils of Unregulated Market

We shall in this article deal with the evils prevalent at present in a typical copra market, like the one at Alleppey and show how they could be overcome by the establishment of a regulated market.

Alleppey is the most important copra market in Travancore and over 80% of the copra trade in the State passes through this market. Careful enquiries have brought to light that the producer gets only 10 to 11 annas in the rupee (of the price) which the miller and exporter at Alleppey are prepared to pay and a much

lower proportion of the price paid by the consumer. It is true that the producer cannot get the whole of the price paid by the consumer for the reason that the cost of transport and a fair return for the services of the middlemen must be allowed, but if the abuses to which the producer is invariably a victim and the numerous charges which are levied from him almost often in kind, under one pretext or other, are removed or properly controlled, appreciably higher prices could be secured for him.

Customary Deductions

The sale transactions of copra brought to the market by the village manufacturers and growers are conducted through the medium of commission agents or brokers who are numerous in the field. Charges are levied by them in the name of various items of expenditure, charity etc., and deductions made on account of drage and weighment during each transaction. These practices have the sanction of long usage and tradition and are found to have a tendency to grow. The following are the customary charges and deductions prevailing in the Alleppey market:-

Paid by the seller

- (i) Commission - 4 As per candy (65⁴ English pounds)
- (ii) Brokerage - 2 As. per candy.
- (iii) Weighman's charges - 3 to 4 pieces of copra.
- (iv) Cooly and Watcher's charge - One piece from every client.
- (v) Deductions for expenses and charity - 4 to 8 As. per candy.
- (vi) A charge of one chakram (7 pies) from every client for writing bill.
- (vii) The buyer takes one piece of copra for every basket weighed.

This amounts to 10 pieces per candy.

- (viii) In case the copra is not properly dried the buyer deducts one pound per Ida (60 lbs.) for dry-age i. e. 10 lbs. per candy.

Different methods of weightment and varying systems of weights in vogue lend themselves to dishonest practices. Dutch Rathal (42 tolas) and Avoirdupois pound (38 8/9 tolas) are in use for weightment of copra at Alleppey. The producers know neither the exact weight of a candy nor of the pound or rathal used. They are thus now at a serious disadvantage in the matter of getting a fair price for their produce.

Indiscriminate mixing of inferior qualities of copra with superior qualities and the consequent inability of the purchaser to satisfy himself that the consignment he ultimately buys will correspond to the sample from bulk shown to him and on the basis of which price has been fixed and sale negotiated is a serious defect in the present marketing.

Warehousing Facilities

Another factor which contributes to the producer not obtaining a legitimate price for his goods is the absence of proper warehousing or storing facilities in the market. What often happens now is that a producer laboriously bringing his goods from his distant village to the market is forced to sell his wares at whatever price is offered to him during the day owing to his inability, through lack of storing facilities, to decline to sell and wait for better prices. The seller is thus often placed at the mercy of the buyer. Even in the matter of fixing the prices of the copra brought to the market the producers are usually on the losing side as they are not fully acquainted with the market prices or conditions.

What a Regulated Market is

A regulated market designed to combat such evils can be organised under an Act passed by a Provincial or State Government. The Act provides for the setting up of a Market Committee which exercises control over the market. There is representation on the Market Committee for growers, traders, officials, local authorities and other interests. Usually not less than half the members of the committee are elected by the growers. The Market Committee is authorised to issue licences to brokers and weighmen and to cause weights and scales to be inspected through duly empowered members and inspectors. According to the Act the market charges are clearly defined and prescribed and posted in conspicuous places in the market. Provision is also made for the control of buying and selling, use of standard scales and weights, and for the keeping of returns or accounts in such a way as to render their submission practicable, daily or monthly as the Market Act may require. The organisation of the regulated market facilitates competition among buyers. The prices fixed are declared so that the growers would be able to find out whether they have obtained correct prices by comparing their prices with those of their neighbours. It also enables the organisation of market intelligence services with regard to prices, supplies, sales, stocks, etc.

An area which may vary in size from one Province or State to another is usually declared as the notified area under the Act. In each market centre, a market yard under the direct control of a Market Committee is provided where sales take place by auction. The markets and yards are under the immediate charge of a Superintendent while the administration of the Market Committee is entrusted to

a Secretary. The committee discharges its functions through sub-committees such as Disputes Sub-Committee, Executive Sub-Committee, Control Sub-Committee, etc.

What They Have Done Elsewhere

It may be of interest to note that regulated markets for agricultural commodities have been established in Bombay, Central provinces, Madras, Hyderabad State, etc. In the Bombay presidency regulated markets for cotton have been functioning under the Bombay Cotton Markets Act, 1927. In the Central Provinces and Berar there are cotton and grain markets administered under the Berar Cotton and Grain Markets Law, 1897 and also the Central Provinces Agricultural Produce Markets Act of 1935. In the Madras Presidency, under the Madras Commercial Crops Act, regulated markets have been established in the Coimbatore, South Arcot and Guntur Districts for cotton, groundnut and tobacco respectively. There are quite a number of regulated markets in the Hyderabad State established under the Hyderabad Agricultural Produce Markets Act.

From all accounts, such regulated markets have enormously benefited the

growers concerned and it may reasonably be expected that the establishment of regulated markets for copra is sure to do good to the coconut growers too, by uprooting the various malpractices of which they are now the victims.

As has already been mentioned in these columns, the Indian Central Coconut Committee is moving actively in the matter of the establishment of regulated markets. In continuation of the conference held in this connection in the office of this Committee on the 31st March 1948, a report of which appeared in the April issue of the "Bulletin", a conference of members of the Committee from Cochin, Travancore, Malabar, Mysore and other places was held on the 17th April, 1948 under the presidency of Dr. T. G. Shirname, Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India. The meeting was representative of growers and the oil industry and the general opinion was that regulated markets for copra should be established as early as possible. The conference recommended that a marketing officer be appointed under the Indian Central Coconut Committee for a period of six months to study the existing copra markets and make concrete proposals to the Governments concerned in the matter of setting up regulated markets.

"The Indian Coconut Journal"

Published Quarterly by

THE INDIAN CENTRAL COCONUT COMMITTEE

Annual subscription Rs. two only payable in advance by
M. O. Journal not sent by V.P.P. Excellent medium for advertisements.

For further details write to:

The Secretary,
Indian Central Coconut Committee,
Ernakulam.

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

Q. Should green manure be applied to coconut trees annually? Or is it enough if it is applied in alternate years?

A. If the soil is sandy, green manure may be applied every year for some time till its organic content becomes satisfactory. In other kinds of soils green manure need be applied only in alternate years.

Q. If, any portion of the manure applied during the previous year remains unassimilated will it not be lost by the soil being cultivated during the following year?

A. Manures applied at the correct time and season will be absorbed into the soil during the period. By digging there is little likelihood of the manure applied during the previous season being lost.

Q. Which is more advantageous, to leave green manure, ash etc. exposed after application or to cover them up?

A. It is better to cover up manure with soil after application.

Q. Is it good or bad to collect and apply to the coconut tree sweepings and other rubbish? Would it be more beneficial if such stuff is converted into ash and then applied?

A. All sweeping and refuse can be converted into compost manure and applied to the trees. If this is not possible, they may be burnt and applied as ash.

Q. A kind of worm is seen in the soil when it is dug up and it appears to eat the tender roots. How can these worms be destroyed?

A. The insects mentioned are the grubs of the rhinoceros beetle. They do not attack the roots of the coconut tree. They enter the soil for pupating. It is only after the beetles emerge from pupae that their parasitic activity commences. The grubs may be destroyed by digging up the soil and exposing them. Manure pits also may be raked up and exposed from time to time.

CROTALARIA STRIATA

THE MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED WEED SMOTHERER AND RICHEST SOURCE OF NITROGEN TO ENRICH THE SOIL. EVERY POUND OF SEED SOWN WILL PRODUCE 800 TO 1200 Lbs. OF GREEN MATERIAL IN SIX MONTHS. SEED RATE PER ACRE 3 TO 5 Lbs.

ONLY A LIMITED QUANTITY IS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION. ORDER YOUR REQUIREMENTS IMMEDIATELY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

S. W. MONSOON PERIOD IS THE BEST TIME FOR SOWING.

Apply to:—

JOHNSON, SONS & COMPANY,
Cullen Road,
ALLEPPEY,
(Travancore).

NEWS & NOTES

THE seventh meeting of the Indian Central Coconut Committee was held on the 17th April 1948 at the Legislative Council Hall, Ernakulam under the presidency of Sardar Bahadur Sir Datar Singh, Vice Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and President of the Committee. The President's opening address to the meeting is printed elsewhere in this issue. The Agricultural Research and Marketing and Economics Sub-Committees met on the 15th and the Finance Sub-Committee on the 16th.

x x x x

Amendments to Indian Coconut Committee Act

One of the important items in the agenda considered by the Committee was the report of the special sub-committee that had been set up at the previous meeting of the Committee to suggest amendments to the Indian Coconut Committee Act of 1944. Among the principal amendments proposed is one which seeks to alter the definition of the word 'Mill' occurring in the Act. This word, as at present defined, covers only copra-crushing establishments which use power and employ 20 or more hands. It is only from such mills that coconut cess can now be collected. This has naturally resulted in the adoption of devices by which payment of cess could be avoided. If a mill employs 18 or 19 hands it need not pay cess while if another employed 20 it must pay cess and yet the difference in the business turnover may not be appreciable at all. The amendment of the definition of the term 'mill' will, however, bring under it all copra-crushing establishments using power irrespective of the number of hands employed. It will not only defeat the cess-dodgers' tactics but will help considerably to increase the Committee's revenue.

Crotalaria Striata for Green Manure

A development scheme of considerable importance sanctioned by the Committee at the last meeting was one for the multiplication and distribution of seeds of *Crotalaria Striata* for coconut gardens in Malabar district. The expenses in this connection will be shared between the Madras Government and this Committee on a 50:50 basis. Manurial experiments conducted over a period of years in the Coconut Research Stations of South Canara district have shown that an application of 3 to 4½ lbs. of ammonium sulphate and 20 lbs. of ash over a basal dressing of about 100 to 200 lbs of green leaves per tree per year, besides regular inter-cultivation of the gardens, increases the yield appreciably. The most economical way of applying green manure is to grow a crop for the purpose during the monsoon rains and incorporate it in the soil by ploughing in.

After a number of trials with crops like cow-pea, sunnhemp, groundnut etc., *Crotalaria Striata*, a common leguminous weed, has been found to be the best green manure for coconut gardens. A pound of its seeds when sown yields from 800 to 1200 lbs. of green manure in about six months. Besides the fact that it grows well under the shade of coconut trees, *Crotalaria Striata* has the following advantages:-

1. The crop is not grazed on by cattle.
2. It comes up well in a variety of soils, including saline soils, and is capable of withstanding extremes of rainfall and drought.

3. It is not found attacked by any serious pests or diseases.
4. It is not necessary to raise the crop year after year when once it gets established, as satisfactory crops are obtained from self-sown seeds.
5. There is no necessity to raise crops separately for seed production, as a sufficient quantity can be gathered from the early formed pods before the crop is incorporated into the soil.

x x x x

Price of Coconut Seedlings

The Committee decided at the last meeting to raise the price of coconut seedlings sold from nurseries jointly financed by it and Provincial/State Governments from four annas to eight annas each, in respect of all future sales. Taking into account all expenses incurred, the cost of production of a seedling at the above nurseries works out to more than a rupee, and it is at about this price that private nurserymen also sell seedlings of doubtful quality. The Committee, therefore, thought that it was justified in raising the price of seedlings to eight annas.

Committee's Pamphlets

As part of the "Grow More Coconut" campaign it has been decided by the Committee that recognized associations interested in the improvement and development of the coconut industry might be given free of charge pamphlets issued by the Committee for distribution besides advice on matters connected with the coconut industry. Associations that are interested are requested to address the Secretary, Indian Central Coconut Committee giving an account of the work they have already done and are now doing.

x x x x

Priority for Transport of Coconuts and Copra

Representations have been received from those engaged in the copra and coconut trade that difficulties of transport considerably hamper the trade. The matter was considered by the Committee and a resolution recommending to the Government of India that copra and coconuts be given all facilities of transport and high priority and put on the same level as food grains has been passed by the Committee at the 7th meeting.

"GROW MORE COCONUT" CAMPAIGN

In furtherance of the above campaign the Indian Central Coconut Committee has decided to supply Recognised Associations interested in the improvement and development of the coconut industry, free of cost, pamphlets issued by the Committee to help them in their propaganda efforts. The Committee will also be glad to give such associations any other information that they may like to have to help them in their endeavours. Interested associations are requested to contact the undersigned with a brief account of their activities past and present.

SECRETARY,
INDIAN CENTRAL COCONUT COMMITTEE,
Ernakulam.

MARKET REPORT

(APRIL 1948)

Cochin, Alleppey & Calicut

THE month of April was characterised by a steady improvement in the prices of coconuts and coconut products. Much lost ground was recovered and the position at the end of the month was more or less what it was at the end of December, 1947. The main reason for the recovery is said to be the improved caustic soda situation which has enabled the soap industry to take in more coconut oil for its needs.

When the month opened the prices were reported to be as follows:-

1-4-1948	Cochin		Alleppey		Calicut	
	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.
Coconuts per 1000	105	0	-	-	81	0
Copra per ton	733	2	718	3	736	0
Coconut oil per ton	1099	12	1043	2	1072	0
Coconut oil cake per ton	255	12	243	11	320	0

There was a slow but steady upward movement of prices during the days that followed until on the 8th of the month the position was reported to be as below:-

8-4-1948	Cochin		Alleppey		Calicut	
	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.
Coconut per 1000	112	0	-	-	93	8
Copra per ton	784	5	803	11	800	0
Coconut oil per ton	1193	8	1179	14	1184	0
Coconut oil cake per ton	255	12	239	6	288	0

The improvement continued during the 2nd week also and the prices as on the 16th April were quoted to be the following:-

16-4 1948	Cochin		Alleppey		Calicut	
	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.
Coconuts per 1000	115	0	-	-	111	8
Copra per ton	818	6	855	0	864	0
Coconut oil per ton	1308	9	1239	12	1280	0
Coconut oil cake per ton	272	13	256	8	288	0

The third week manifested a slightly bearish mood. On the 17th, oil in Cochin dropped to Rs. 1278-12-0 per ton and at Alleppey to Rs. 1231-13-0. Prices of copra and coconuts, however, appreciated. Coconuts at Cochin were quoted at Rs. 120-0-0 per one thousand and they have not looked back since. On the 20th they touched Rs. 125/-, on the 23rd Rs. 126/-, on the 26th Rs. 127/- and on the 29th Rs. 130/-.

At the beginning of the 4th week the price position was reported to be as under:-

22-4 1948	Cochin		Alleppey		Calicut	
	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.
Coconuts per 1000	125	0	-	-	132	8
Copra per ton	845	10	872	1	864	0
Coconut oil per ton	1304	5	1282	8	1312	0
Coconut oil cake per ton	289	13	290	12	288	0

*Prices as on 23-4-1948.

ARSIKERE & TIPTUR

(Mysore State)

The following report on the conditions of the coconut market in Arsikere and Tiptur during the latter half of March and the first half of April 1948, has been received from the Chief Marketing Officer in Mysore:-

During the third week of March 1948, the prices of copra and coconut oil increased to some extent, as their supply was comparatively less, at both the markets. In the 4th week of March, the price of copra at Tiptur fell down by Rs. 20/- per satta for want of export facilities via Hutgi, the usual route. There was a slight rise in the price of the 1st variety of coconut oil due to the increase in demand. The condition at Arsikere remained the same. During the 1st week of April there was a rise in the prices of Tiptur copra as booking facilities were provided to export the stock on hand to Delhi and Agra. At Arsikere also, booking of copra to Northern India was opened via Khandwa

and Ujjain, but this route was unfavourable to the merchant class. So, the rate of copra at Arsikere continued to be dull. The second week of April again showed a fall in the price of copra at Tiptur as there was no demand from Delhi, Cawnpore, Agra and other places in Northern India, which are the important markets for Tiptur copra. There was no change in the market conditions at Arsikere during this week.

The price position during the period under report was as follows:-

III WEEK OF MARCH 1948

	Tiptur	Arsikere
a) Coconuts per 1100	Rs.100 to 130	Bulk Rs. 130 Small " 90
b) Copra, one satta of 10 mds. or 315 lbs.	Rs.170 to 190	Rs.160 to 170
c) Coconut oil per md. of 24 lbs.		Rs. 12
	I Variety Rs. 13-2-0	
	II " " 11-14-0	
	III " " 11-4-0	

The last week of the month saw some of the best prices offered since the beginning of 1948 and the prices on the 28th April were reported to be as follows:-

28-4-1948	Cochin		Alleppey		Calicut	
	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.
Coconuts per 1000	127	0	—	—	137	8
Copra per ton	954	12	—	—	896	0
Coconut oil per ton	1338	6	1282	8	1344	0
Coconut oil cake per ton	306	14	286	6	320	0

IV WEEK OF MARCH 1948

a) Coconuts per 1100	Rs.120 to 130	Bulk Rs. 120 Small " 90
b) Copra, one satta of 10 mds. or 315 lbs.	Rs. 150	Rs.150

c) Coconut oil
 per md. of
 24 lbs.

I Variety Rs. 15-8-0
 II " " Rs. 11-4-0
 III " " Rs. 10-10-0

Rs. 12

b) Copra, one
 satta of

10 mds. or

316 lbs. Rs. 170 to 180 Rs. 155

c) Coconut oil

per md. of
 24 lbs.

Rs. 12

I Variety Rs. 15/-

II " " 12/-

III " " 11/-

I WEEK OF APRIL 1948.

a) Coconuts

per 1100 Rs. 130

Bulk Rs. 125

Small " 100

b) Copra, one

satta of

10 mds. or

315 lbs. Rs. 180 to 185 Rs. 150 to 160

c) Coconut oil

per md. of

24 lbs.

Rs. 12

I Variety Rs. 15/-

II " " 12/8/-

III " " 11-4-0

IMPORTS OF CEYLON COCONUT OIL

It is ascertained that the quantities of Ceylon Coconut Oil imported at Bombay and Calcutta for which prices were quoted in our last issue, were as follows:-

BOMBAY 225 tons

CALCUTTA 380 tons

No consignment of Ceylon Oil was received during the month at Cochin. In fact, Cochin has not received any Ceylon Coconut Oil since September 1947.

II WEEK OF APRIL 1948

a) Coconuts

per 1100 Rs. 120 to 130

Bulk Rs. 120

Small " 100

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY

K. GOPALAN, SECRETARY, INDIAN CENTRAL COCONUT COMMITTEE,

AT THE DEENABANDHU PRESS, ERNAKULAM.