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Coconut Research In Madras Presidency - A Resume*

II

By C. M. JOHN, OIL SEEDS SPECIALIST, GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Yield

DETAILED yield records are being maintained for each of the bearing trees on all the Coconut Research Stations for more than a quarter of a century. The following are the salient points resulting from the study:-

i) The yield though considerably influenced by seasonal conditions is an inherent character.

ii) Trees of the typical West Coast variety can be classified into three ecotypes, viz., the heavy, medium and poor bearers. The poor and medium bearers respond better to manurial and cultural treatments than the heavy bearers.

iii) The co-efficient of variation for yield from year to year is very high for

poor bearers and low for heavy bearers.

iv) Among the West Coast variety, there are regular, irregular and alternate bearers.

v) A study of the relationship between rainfall and yield has shown that yield in any particular year is influenced by the January to April rains for the two years prior to harvest and for the year of harvest.

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*The I Instalment of this article was published in the June, 1948 issue of the "Bulletin"

vi) The best yields are obtained in the summer months and the poorest in the cold months.

vii) Correlations were worked out between the yield and a number of characters of the palm. Significant correlations were obtained between yield and (1) the number of functioning leaves in the crown (2) length of the trunk, (3) number of leaflets and (4) catalase activity.

Germination Studies

The germination of nuts has been studied in relation to a number of factors like the yield of the parent trees, size, shape and weight of nuts, the position of the nut in the bunch, the month of harvest, etc. The salient points are summarised below:-

i) The nuts harvested in the summer months of March, April and May show high percentage of early and total germination.

ii) Nuts harvested from trees giving high setting percentage are distinctly superior to others in respect of early germination.

iii) Nuts obtained by crossing the ordinary Tall type with the Dwarf show a high percentage of early germination.

iv) Nuts from bunches having large number of nuts show a higher total germination than those from bunches having fewer nuts.

v) More early germination is found in spherical nuts than the oblong nuts.

vi) The percentage of germination is more in medium sized nuts than big or small sized nuts.

vii) Heavy nuts (weighing more than 1 lb. 8 oz.) show a higher percentage of germination than light nuts.

viii) Nuts with very thin husks give lower percentage of germination than those with thin or thick husks.

ix) The percentage of germination of nuts in the top and bottom portions of the bunch is poor, when compared to that of the nuts in the middle.

x) Nuts with little or no water within give only low percentage of germination when compared with those having plenty of water.

xi) There is no difference in the percentage of germination between nuts planted horizontally and those planted vertically. But the latter has to be preferred because of the ease in picking and transport of seedlings.

5. Seedling Studies

(a) Correlations: Multiple correlations worked out between the weight of seedling and other factors as independent varieties indicated that for selection of seedlings both girth at collar and height of seedlings are of primary importance but that girth is the more important of the two.

(b) Comparative Study:

(i) Early germinated seedlings are superior to those germinated late in point of root development and rate of production of leaves and general growth.

(ii) More vigorous seedlings have their leaves split earlier and *vice versa*.

(iii) Seedlings raised from nuts from

high yielding trees are more vigorous than those from poor yielders.

(iv) Seedlings raised from nuts obtained by cross and natural pollination are more vigorous in growth than those obtained from selfed nuts.

(v) Comparative performance of seedlings from 'early heavy' and 'early poor' bearers, was studied. It was found that there was no appreciable difference in growth, vigour, etc., between seedlings obtained from the two types of bearers, indicating thereby that it is not possible to distinguish the two types in the nursery.

Selection and Breeding

(A) Selection of parent trees, seednuts and seedlings. Criteria for the selection of parent trees, seednuts and seedlings have been established by an extensive study of seedlings raised from nuts harvested from a large number of parent trees. They are indicated below:-

(a) Selection of Parent trees:-

(i) The best parent trees are met with in gardens which contain healthy, middle aged and properly bearing trees.

(ii) Regular bearers, yielding heavy crops every year instead of in alternate years with a thick-set crown, spherical in outline, having many leaves borne on short, thick stalks with stout peduncles or stalks of bunches have been found to be ideal parent trees.

(iii) Trees having medium sized nuts with nearly round shape are better than the others because such nuts are associated with heavy yield and high copra content.

(iv) Trees that shed their nuts or produce barren nuts i. e., nuts which are empty or do not contain well developed kernels inside, are undesirable.

(b) Selection of Seednuts:

(i) Seednuts which are medium sized, round and fully but not dead-ripe, are best for raising seedlings.

(ii) Nuts from the top and bottom portions of the bunch and also others having cracks or unhealthy symptoms about them give rise to weak or unhealthy seedlings.

(iii) Nuts which contain little or no water within and those having loose kernel (ball copra) inside give poor or no germination.

(iv) Nuts ready for harvest during the months of February to about the middle of May are the best for seed purposes as they give high percentage of germination and produce vigorous seedlings.

(v) A method of preserving seednuts in sand to prevent their getting dry from the time of harvest to sowing in the nursery was devised. The nuts could be satisfactorily preserved without affecting germination for about six months by this method.

(c) Selection of seedlings:

(i) Healthy, vigorous and robust seedlings with large number of leaves, good girth at the base, short, thick leaf-stalks and large number of roots are best for planting.

(ii) Early germinated nuts give better seedlings than the late-germinated and are associated with early bearing.

(iii) Early splitting of leaves into leaflets is a good sign of vigour.

(d) Seed supply:

The above criteria are being adopted at the Coconut Research Stations for selection of planting material. Several thousands of selected seednuts and seedlings were distributed in the Province. Their performance is highly satisfactory.

(B) Breeding

The object is to produce vigorous, early bearing and high yielding progenies with high copra and oil content. The commonly cultivated variety is a late bearer.

(C.) Intra-variatal hybrids

(1) *Cyclic crosses.* Cyclic crosses involving all important economic characters of the ordinary West Coast Variety, viz., high yield, high production of female flowers, high setting percentage, thick meat and big size of nut were effected. Study of the progenies has shown that certain parental combinations are decidedly better than others. Hybrids of the cross between parents with 'high female flower production' and 'high setting percentage' are found to be early bearers. Progenies of the crosses, 'high yield x thick meat, and large sized nut x high female flower

production' are also promising.

(ii) *Study of selfed, crossed and naturally pollinated Seedling of the West Coast variety:* About 600 seedlings obtained by different methods of pollination viz., 'self', 'natural' and 'cross' from different yield groups of the ordinary West Coast variety have been planted out in randomized and replicated plots for a comparative study of their future performance as adult trees with a view to determine the best planting material. The planting was done in 1942 and the progenies are under study. Study of the morphological character of the seedlings show that seedlings obtained by selfing and from poor yielders are the least vigorous.

(D) Inter-variatal hybrids:

Crosses were effected between distinct varieties. When Tall (mother) was crossed with the Dwarf, the hybrids showed considerable hybrid vigour. The progenies are further found to combine the desirable features of both the parents viz., the early bearing nature of the Dwarf and nut size, good quality of copra and oil of the Tall variety. A comparative idea of the performance of the hybrid trees can be had from the data furnished below:—

Characters of hybrid trees and selfed progenies of parents (63 months old)

Particulars	Tall parent	Hybrid	Dwarf parent
Height of trunk above ground level	No trunk formed	1'-1"	0'-2"
Girth	..	2'-11"	2'-1"
No. of leaves in the crown	11	27	22

Mean length of leaf	...	12'--3"	13'--0'	10'--10"
Age at first flowering	...	Not flowered	50 months	49 months
No. of female flowers produced in a year	...	--	433	375
Setting percentage	...	--	11.7	5.6
Yield of nuts per year	...	--	51	20
Copra content per nut	...	--	165.0 gms.	20.7 gms
Quality of copra	...	--	good	poor
Percentage of Oil	...	--	70	70

NOTE: The reading for items 6 to 11 for the tall parent trees used for the crossing and which is about 50 years old are --No. of female flowers produced in a year -226; setting percentage -34.7; yield of nuts per year-81.8; copra content per nut-206.6 gms; quality of copra--good; percentage of oil- 71.2

(To be Continued)

--The Indian Coconut Journal

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Coconut Poonac as a Food for Live-stock

By M. CRAWFORD, M. R. C. V. S., DEPUTY DIRECTOR, (ANIMAL HUSBANDRY)
& GOVT. VETERINARY SURGEON (CEYLON).

(This article originally published in a Ceylonese Journal for the people of Ceylon is being reproduced in the "Bulletin" as we feel that conditions in this country and in Ceylon are not dissimilar as far as the question of the utilization of coconut poonac as feed for cattle, poultry etc., is concerned. In view of the prevalent popular notion that Chekku poonac is superior to mill poonac, readers will take note of the author's warning against an overdose of the former. As we have already pointed out in these columns, the presence of a smaller percentage of oil in mill poonac only makes it more suitable as food for cattle. —Ed.)

T breeders of livestock in Ceylon coconut poonac is of special interest because it is produced locally and in large quantities. At a time such as the present when supplies of imported foodstuffs are precarious, it becomes of even greater interest and importance. With shortage of supplies and rising prices of other foodstuffs coconut poonac will of necessity have to enter even more largely than in normal times into the rations fed to livestock.

It is of value at such a time to consider how best this foodstuff can be utilised for various classes of stock.

It is hardly necessary to state that there are two important types of coconut poonac available in Ceylon, namely, chekku poonac produced by crushing copra in the local type of press or chekku operated by bulls and mill poonac produced by crushing copra by various types of machinery in modern mills.

Analyses of both types are given below. It will be seen that the most important difference between the two types is that chekku poonac contains a very much higher percentage of oil than mill poonac. Indeed the proportion of oil is so high that it makes chekku poonac definitely unsuitable for feeding in any considerable amount to some classes of livestock.

This type of poonac is produced in small quantities as compared with mill poonac and finds its greatest use as a food for cart bulls engaged in heavy work. If used for dairy cattle the amount fed per day should be limited as large quantities are likely to depress the milk yield and lead to an overfat condition of the cows. It may be used more liberally for young growing cattle but any tendency of the cattle to become overfat, especially in the case of heifers, should be checked as soon as noticed by reducing the quantity. As a food for pigs, chekku poonac is definitely

unsuitable for the production of the best quality pork as the carcass of pigs fed largely on it will be excessively fat. It is also unsuitable as a food for hens for the same reason.

With these few remarks about chekku poonac we will pass on to mill poonac which is available in much larger quantities and is more generally used.

Mill Poonac—Physical Characteristics:

Coconut poonac differs from other poonacs such as gingelly, earth nut, linseed etc., as it is much softer and absorbs water very readily. On account of this its keeping qualities are not so good as of other harder poonacs. Unless stored in a very dry atmosphere it is apt to become rancid and mouldy rather rapidly.

For this reason it is not wise to lay in large stocks unless a good dry store-room is available.

When soaked in water it swells very considerably. If fed dry in large quantities there is danger of the stomach becoming over-distended. To avoid this it is the usual practice to soak it well before feeding.

Coconut poonac has a very distinct taste and smell of its own. Livestock which have not been accustomed to it often refuse to eat it at first, but they soon become used to it and eat it readily.

Chemical Composition

The composition of an average good sample is given in the table.

This shows that coconut poonac falls into the class of foodstuffs moderately rich in protein such as palm-nut cake or uncorticated cotton cake. It contains considerably less protein and more carbohydrate than such foods as gingelly, earth nut or linseed poonacs. The oil content is roughly the same as in linseed cake. The total mineral content is round about the same as in most other oil cakes or poonacs. A feature of the mineral content which requires to be borne in mind is that it is very poor in calcium. Coconut poonac is a good source of supply of phosphorus but a poor source of calcium.

The oil contained in this poonac is a "hard" oil. Butter made from the milk of cows fed on it will be firm in consistency as will the fat of pigs which have been fed largely on coconut poonac. This is a valuable property especially in a warm climate.

An interesting fact about the composition of coconut poonac is that its nutritive ratio, that is, the proportion of protein to carbohydrate and fat, is 1 to 4. This one to four ratio is the generally accepted correct ratio for a balanced ration for milk production in cattle, for young growing pigs, and for egg production in poultry. In other words coconut poonac is in itself a balanced ration and can be added to any balanced mixture of foodstuffs without altering the nutritive ratio. Any livestock owner who is using a mixture of foodstuffs which has been compounded so as to form a balanced ration can add coconut poonac to the

mixture in any quantity required without the necessity of working out rather complicated calculations.

The points to be observed when feeding coconut poonac to various classes of livestock are summarised below:-

For cattle

It has been stated above that coconut poonac is in itself a balanced ration for milk production. That means that it contains protein in the correct proportion to carbohydrate and fat. It is not, however, safe to assume that coconut poonac alone as the concentrate ration will be ideal for dairy cattle. For instance such a ration would certainly contain too little calcium to supply the needs of a milking cow.

There are many cows in Ceylon which receive little else than coconut poonac as a concentrate ration. Such cows may milk well and look well as a rule, but it is not uncommon to hear their owners complain that they experience difficulty in getting such cows to calve regularly. The cause of this difficulty is most likely the deficiency of calcium and possibly in addition an overfat condition of the cows as a result of depending too much on coconut poonac alone. The deficiency in calcium can be corrected by adding a simple mineral mixture such as two parts of ground limestone or coral and one part of common salt to the poonac and it is strongly recommended that in all cases where coconut poonac forms a large part of the

ration such a mineral mixture should be used. Three pounds of the mixture of limestone and salt should be added to each 100 lb. of poonac.

The deficiency of calcium in coconut poonac can also be corrected by including in the diet some foodstuff which is rich in calcium. Prominent among foods which can be added to coconut poonac for this purpose are gingelly poonac, any of the pulses such as dhal husk and gram.

This method of correcting the deficiency of coconut poonac is better than the addition of a mineral mixture because the calcium as contained in such foods as gingelly is more readily assimilated by the cattle than when it is in the mineral or inorganic form. The obvious drawback, of course, is the higher price of gingelly poonac as compared with the cost of a mineral mixture and in wartime the fact that the bulk of our supplies of gingelly poonac have to be imported.

For feeding of pigs

Coconut poonac is very largely used as a pig food in Ceylon. Pigs are often reared on a diet which consists largely of coconut poonac and water grass.

Such a diet may give satisfactory results if the pigs are allowed free range and so enabled to supplement the diet by other foods which they root up when foraging. For pigs which are kept confined in styes this diet is not quite adequate. It supplies all the protein fat and carbohydrates required, indeed rather too much fat, but it does not supply sufficient

calcium and iron. The rate of growth of young pigs on such a diet is often slow and older pigs often develop stiffness on the joints which is usually attributed to rheumatism. This slow growth rate and stiffness are both symptoms of calcium deficiency and indicate the desirability of supplementing the diet with calcium. This can be done by adding the mixture of salt and limestone mentioned above at the rate of 3 lb. of the mixture to each 100 lb. of poonac.

For Horses

Coconut poonac is seldom or never fed to horses in Ceylon, but it has been used in other countries with satisfactory results. It may be substituted for oats in approximately equal quantities.

It is not likely to prove a good food for race horses, but could safely be used for hacks and polo ponies.

For poultry

Coconut poonac is not suitable to form any considerable proportion of the diet of laying hens because of its fattening properties. This applies especially to hens kept in confinement. It may be used to supplement other food-stuffs but should not form more than 10 per cent of the mash.

For young growing cockerels it may be used more freely and for such birds it is a useful food.

Analysis of Mill and Chekku Poonac

	MILL POONAC per cent	CHEKKU POONAC per cent
Water	11.4	12.4
Oil	8.0	15.0
Protein	21.2	18.0
Carbohydrate	42.4	41.0
Fibre	11.5	5.6
Ash	5.5	8.0

Summary

To sum up we have in coconut poonac a very valuable foodstuff suitable for many classes of livestock.

Livestock owners can use it more largely than in normal times and should bear in mind when doing so its special qualities as described above. The main points to bear in mind in order to get the best results from coconut poonac are as follows:-

- (a) Do not store it in a place where it may become damp.
- (b) Remember that while it is rich in other food constituents coconut poonac is not a good source of calcium. Therefore give along with it either some food which is rich in calcium for example gingelly poonac or dhal husk or add a mineral mixture containing calcium.
- (c) Do not use coconut poonac too liberally for laying hens especially for laying hens which are confined to small runs.

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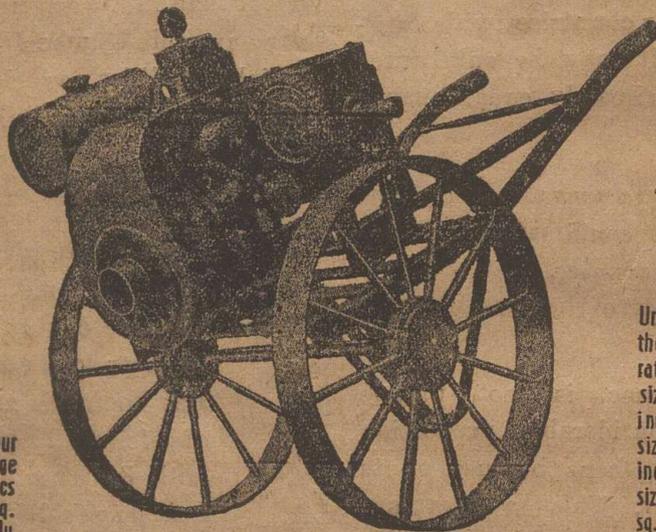
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Inter-Cultivation and Manuring

Q: It is usual in our place (Kai-puzha, Travancore) to prepare at the beginning of the south west monsoon, trenches round the bases of coconut trees and, at the end of the north-east monsoon, cover up the trenches and subject the whole coconut garden to a general digging. Is this practice beneficial to coconut plantations?

A: The operations are beneficial to coconut plantations. Digging aerates the soil and adds organic matter to it when the weeds are turned into the soil. If the operations are regularly carried out every year the yields of the trees in the plantation will improve.

Q: When digging up coconut gardens, quite a large number of roots of the trees are cut. Would not such cutting of the roots adversely affect the trees?

A: The roots of coconut trees that may be cut during the digging operations, are all surface roots and their loss is not detrimental to the trees. It is considered that the root pruning effected, benefits the trees.

Q: Are manures such as bone-meal, cow-dung etc., best applied to the coconut trees by putting them in trenches round the bases of the trees?

A: It is better to apply the manure to the coconut trees at the place where the roots can take it up easily. Such feeding roots are few at the base of the trunk as they are spread all over the field away from the trunk. The manure may be spread over the field and covered by digging the soil or by deep ploughing. When the manures are bulky as when organic manures like green leaf and compost or coconut husk are applied they may be buried in trenches about a foot deep, dug between rows of trees and covered with soil. Feeding roots are more concentrated in between rows of trees than elsewhere.

Q: Which is the proper month for sowing *Crotalaria Striata* seeds? Are they sown after ploughing the garden?

A: On the West Coast, green manure seeds may be sown in general with a good summer shower in May, if not earlier. It is important that the tender seedlings after germination are not caught up in drought. Also they must be sufficiently grown up by the time the south-west

NEWS & NOTES

IT is doubtful if the ordinary run of coconut growers give proper thought and attention to the state of maturity of the nuts that they harvest from time to time. This, however, has a direct bearing on the quantity and quality of copra, oil and fibre and is of great economic importance. Experiments conducted over a period of years at the Madras Government's Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod (now this Committee's Central Coconut Research Station) have shown that the maximum quantity of copra is obtained from fully mature, i. e., 12 months old nuts. It has also been found that the out-turn of oil per nut is most in the fully mature nuts. But the fibre from the husks of fully mature nuts is definitely unsuitable for coir making. It has been observed that fibre obtained from the husks of 11-months old nuts is the best. In the case of 11-months old nuts, however, there is a loss of about 6 per cent of copra. Taking all aspects into consideration, it is therefore thought that, as far as areas where the husks are in demand for the manufacture of coir are concerned, it would be advisable to harvest nuts which are 11 months old. A detailed paper on this subject appears in the April-June (1948) issue of "The Indian Coconut Journal".

The other contents of this issue of the Journal include an article on the Coir

Industry by Mr. K. C. Karunakaran Honorary Secretary, Travancore Chamber of Commerce and a member of this Committee, one on the Co-operative Marketing of Copra by Mr. K. Gopalan, Secretary, Indian Central Coconut Committee and a third on the Coconut Industry in Orissa by Mr. Damodar Chotray, Senior Marketing Officer of the Province.

* * * * *

A Grievance and An Opportunity

Complaints have been heard from coconut growers of the Sakhigopal area in Orissa Province that they are not able to secure sufficient wagon space to export fresh nuts to the consuming zones. This is said to bring about accumulation of stocks in the producing centres with the

monsoon sets in in June. Bearing these points in mind the exact time of sowing should be fixed according to local conditions.

The seeds may be sown broadcast and covered by light ploughing.

Q: Which is considered more beneficial - ploughing the garden or digging it?

A: Digging the garden is more thorough and efficient than ploughing particularly for turning down thick growth of vegetation into the soil. Ordinarily deep ploughing with an iron plough is nearly as good as digging and much cheaper.

MARKET REPORT

(JUNE 1948)

Cochin, Alleppey and Calicut

TAKEN all in all, June was a good month. Although the prices of copra and coconut oil dropped slightly in the first week, they picked up during the next three and more than compensated for the earlier fall. Coconuts were quoted at a steady price of Rs. 135/- per thousand for the first three weeks and later at Rs. 136/- and Rs. 137/-.

The following were reported to be the prices as the month opened:-

Prices on 1- 6-1948.

	COCHIN	ALLEPPEY	CALICUT
Coconuts per 1000	132- 0- 0	—	103- 8- 0
Copra per ton.	937-12-0	906- 4- 0	944- 0- 0
Coconut oil per ton.	1381-0-0	1350-14-0	1408-0-0
Coconut oil cake per ton.	238-11-0	239-6-0	304-0-0

round improvement of all crops including coconuts.

inevitable result of depressed prices and damaged stocks. As wagon scarcity may continue for some time to come, growers of Sakhigopal and neighbourhood will do well to cut down the export of fresh nuts to the minimum and start making copra and coconut oil. This will help not only to give them a profitable occupation but enable them to get the benefit of by-products like the husk and coconut shells. We would suggest the problem being tackled through the agency of Co-operative Societies.

Transport Facilities

* * * * *

In the last issue of the "Bulletin" we had published a note on demonstration work on coconut on ryots' plots conducted in Cochin State during 1122 M. E. (August middle 1946 to August middle 1947). We are told that this work was done for 15 years, but that it has been stopped with the year 1122 M.E. A new scheme is, however, under consideration and it is designed to bring about an all-

It will be recalled that the Indian Central Coconut Committee at its meeting held on the 17th April, 1948 had passed a resolution recommending to the Government of India that all facilities and high priority be given by the railways for the transport of copra. Copra dealers in Mysore will now be glad to learn that consequent on the Committee's resolution, the Mysore Railway's quota of two M. G. Wagons has been raised to four M. G. Wagons a day for the movement of copra, on the G. I. P. and B. B. & C. I. Railways and that the G. I. P. Railway have agreed to accept one B. G. Wagon of copra a day for stations north of Bina such as Allahabad, Naini, Kanpur, Delhi etc. Those desirous of booking copra from Mysore may now approach the Mysore State Railway authorities and take advantage of the increased allotment of wagon space.

Although oil was quoted at a slightly higher price on the next day, decline was noticed from the 3rd day of the month and it persisted for the rest of the week. Copra was not affected until the 7th June. Coconuts remained more or less unaffected throughout the month while coconut oil cake price looked up slowly and steadily.

On the 8th June oil at Cochin had reached the lowest level of the month. The price position as reported on that date was as follows:-

Prices on 8-6-1948.

	COCHIN		ALLEPPEY		CALICUT	
	Rs.	as. ps.	Rs.	as. ps.	Rs.	as. ps.
Coconuts						
per 1000	135-	0-0	—		103-4	-0
Copra						
per ton	920-11-	0	905-4-	0	928-	0-0
Coconut oil						
per ton	1346-15-	0	1308-2-	0	1376-	0-0
Coconut oil cake						
per ton	259-2-	0	247-15-	0	304-	0-0

During the 2nd week oil moved to Rs. 1355/8/- and remained stationery at that figure. Copra, however, climbed down.

The price report for the 15th June was as follows:-

PRICES ON 15-6-1948

	COCHIN		ALLEPPEY		CALICUT	
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
Coconuts						
per 1000	135/-		—		109/-	
Copra						
per ton	903/10/-		897/12/-		936/-	

Coconut oil			
per ton	1355/8/-	1308/2/-	1376/-
Coconut oil cake			
per ton	260/-	269/4/-	304/-

The third week registered improvement in the price of oil. It rose to Rs. 1364 on the 17th and again to Rs. 1381/- on the 21st. Copra, however, was as low as Rs. 900/3/- on the latter day.

The following was the price report for the beginning of the fourth week:-
PRICES ON 22-6-1948.

	COCHIN		ALLEPPEY		CALICUT	
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
Coconuts						
per 1000	135/-		—		110/-	
Copra						
per ton	934/4/-		914/13/-		936/-	
Coconut oil						
per ton	1381/-		1368/-		1392/-	
Coconut oil cake						
per ton	289/13/-		265/-		304/-	

The fourth week was a week of good prices for oil, copra, cake and coconuts. The price position was reported to be as follows on the 28th June:-
PRICES ON 28-6-1948.

	COCHIN		ALLEPPEY		CALICUT	
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
Coconuts						
per 1000	137/-		—		109/8/-	
Copra						
per ton	971/13/-		974/11/-		1008/-	
Coconut oil						
per ton	1457/12/-		1436/6/-		1440/-	
Coconut oil cake						
per ton	315/6/-		299/4/3		9/31/--	

ARSIKERE & TIPTUR

(Mysore State)

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

The prices of coconuts remained almost steady both at Tiptur and Arsikere during the second fortnight of May 1948. But the prices of coconut declined considerably during the first fortnight of June 1948, mostly on account of stoppage of booking facilities via, Harihar and Hutgi. The prices of copra and coconut oil remained more or less same during the period under report. The price position during the above period was as follows:-

III WEEK OF MAY 1948

	TIPTUR	ARSIKERE
(a) Coconut per 1100 Rs. 120 to 130		115/-
(b) Copra, one satta of 10 mds. or 315 lbs. Rs. 158 to 165		145/-
(c) Coconut oil per md. of 24 lbs.		
	I Variety Rs. 16/-	15/-
	II " Rs. 15/-	
	III " Rs. 13/8/-	

IV WEEK OF MAY 1948

(a) Coconuts per 1100 Rs. 120 to 125	115/-
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(b) Copra, one satta of 10 mds. or 315 lbs. Rs. 150 to 155	150/-
(c) Coconut oil per md. of 24 lbs.	
	I Variety Rs. 16/-
	II " Rs. 15/-
	III " Rs. 13/8/-

I WEEK OF JUNE 1948

(a) Coconuts per 1100 Rs. 115 to 120	80/-
(b) Copra one satta of 10 mds. or 315 lbs. Rs. 155/-	150/-
(c) Coconut oil per md of 24 lbs.	
	I Variety Rs. 15/10/-
	II " Rs. 15/-
	III " Rs. 14/6/-

II WEEK OF JUNE 1948

(a) Coconuts	No transaction	
per 1100	during the week	75/-
(b) Copra, one satta of 10 mds. or 315 lbs.	do.	148/-
(c) Coconut oil per md. of 24 lbs.		
	I Variety	do. 16/-
	II "	
	III "	

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GALCUTTA

(FROM THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE
 WEST BENGAL).

Prices of coconuts and copra that prevailed in the Calcutta markets on the 25th May, 1st June and 8th June 1948 are given below:-

	15th May	1st June	8th June
Coconut (green) per 100	Rs 20	20	20
Coconut (husked) per 100	Rs. 24	24	25

Coconut (unhusked)

per 100	Rs. 22	22	23
Copra (Calicut) per md.	Rs. 58	60	60
Copra, (Bombay) per md.	Rs. 75	75	75

IMPORTS FROM CEYLON

According to the Ceylon Trade Journal (April-May, 1948) the following quantities of copra & coconut oil were exported from Ceylon to India during 1947:-

Copra	16, 634 tons.
Coconut oil	11, 280 tons.

BOMBAY

(FROM THE OIL MERCHANTS' CHAMBER, BOMBAY)

The following were the prices quoted for copra and coconut oil in Bombay during the month of June:-

Oil (Cochin or Bombay). (per quarter.)	Office copra. (per candy of 630 lb.)	Edible copra (Malabar) (per candy of 630 lb.)
1st June Rs. 19/-	Rs. 295/-	Rs. 310-340/-
8th " Rs. 19/-	" Rs. 295/-	Rs. 310-340/-
15th " Rs. 20/-	" Rs. 305/-	Rs. 310-340/-
22nd " Rs. 20/-	" Rs. 310/-	Rs. 310-340/-

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