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THE

Indian Central Coconut Committee

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COVER PICTURE: A Coconut Garden on Bunds

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Secretary,
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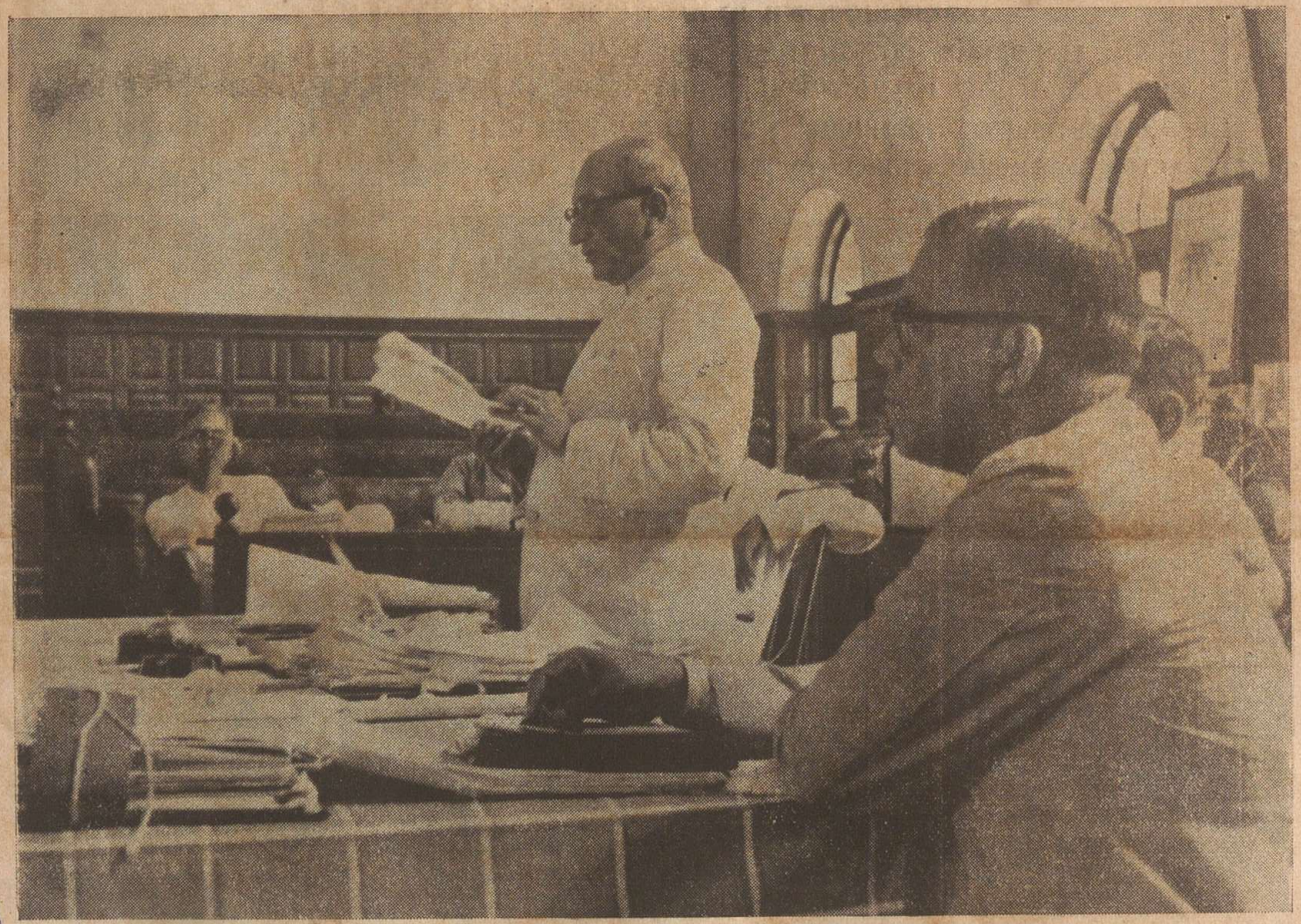

Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture, inaugurated the 17th meeting of the Indian Central Coconut Committee, at Ernakulam on the 8th April 1953. Dr. Deshmukh is seen here addressing the meeting.

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Sri K. R. Damle, I C. S., President, Indian Central Coconut Committee, delivering his presidential address at the 17th meeting of the Committee. To his right are, the Hon'ble Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture, and Sri K. P. Madhavan Nair, Vice President and to his left Sri K. Gopalan, Secretary of the Committee.

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THE INDIAN CENTRAL COCONUT COMMITTEE

VOL. VI. | ERNAKULAM, APRIL 1953. | NO. 9.

Indian Central Coconut Committee's Activities

Dr. Deshmukh's Appreciation

"THERE is no short-cut to useful results in the domain of research and particularly agricultural research. It requires long and patient investigation. In the case of a perennial tree like the coconut, the duration of research may be longer than that for an annual crop. It is, therefore, refreshing to note that undeterred by these obvious limitations the Committee is going ahead with its schemes of research in various aspects of the problems facing the coconut industry," observed Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture, inaugurating the 17th meeting of the Indian Central Coconut Committee at Ernakulam on the 8th April, 1953. The Hon'ble Minister stressed the need for stepping up the production of coconuts in India to keep pace with the increasing demand for the commodity and urged the Committee to make available to coconut growers, in the different regional languages, the results of researches.

The following is the full text of the Hon'ble Minister's speech:-

"It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate the 17th meeting of the Indian Central Coconut Committee which has been working hard to serve the cause of improvement and development of the Coconut Industry during its short span of life. As you are aware, India, though she ranks second only to Philippines in the production of coconut crop, faced an acute shortage of copra and coconut oil during the war when supplies from abroad were almost completely cut off. The Indian Central Coconut Committee was set up to initiate and co-ordinate plans to

intensify production of coconut crop, to meet immediate demands created by the war and also to assist in the rehabilitation of the industry which did not have full scope for development in the past owing mainly to the competition from abroad.

Supply of Quality Seedlings

"I am glad to note that the nursery schemes of the Committee are capable of supplying at a modest price about five lakhs of quality seedlings of coconut per annum to growers in various parts of the country. Considering that the coconut palm is a perennial tree, I think the Committee has been well advised to launch schemes for the supply of seedlings of guaranteed quality in various parts of the country where coconuts are grown.

Work of the Central Research Stations

"It is also gratifying that the Committee is devoting its energies to conduct fundamental research in connection with coconut growing as well as in the particular problems facing the industry. At the two Central Coconut Research Stations of the Committee at Kasaragod and Kayangulam an impressive list of problems is being tackled. Studies regarding exotic varieties of coconut, hybridisation of coconuts, study of button-shedding and the occurrence of barren nuts, soil moisture studies, potash fixation experiments etc., are being conducted at Kasaragod while studies on the role of seednuts in the transmission of disease from generation to generation, the evolution of disease-resistant varieties of coconut, studies of the effect of the application of micro-nutrients to diseased palms and of the application of plant hormones on button-shedding and studies on the pests of the coconut palm are being carried on at Kayangulam.

"At the Regional Coconut Research Stations functioning in the States under schemes sanctioned by the Committee important cultural and manurial experiments are being carried out, the results of which will prove to be of great use to growers of the regions concerned.

"The fact, however, remains that there is no short-cut to useful results in the domain of research and particularly agricultural research. It requires long and patient investigation. In the case of a perennial tree like the coconut, the duration of research may be longer than that for an annual crop. It is therefore, refreshing to note that undeterred by these obvious limitations the Committee is going ahead with its schemes of research in various aspects of the problems facing the coconut industry.

Bridging Gulf between Demand and Production

"The progress already made by the infant Coconut Committee augurs well for the future; but the country has still much leeway to make to reach

the stage of self-sufficiency in the production of coconuts. There was a time, before the first World War, when India used to export copra and coconut oil to foreign countries on account of lack of demand in our own. But since then the picture has changed considerably. Our industries consuming coconut oil, particularly those connected with the manufacture of soaps and toilet articles, have been growing at a fast rate and a large demand for coconut oil, estimated at 1,98,000 tons has developed in the country itself, whereas our production is estimated at 1,13,000 tons. We have not only to bridge the gulf between that demand and production but, if I may look ahead a few years, to step up production so as to keep pace with the continually increasing demand. This is no doubt a vital problem and it is obvious that the country attaches great importance to it. When recently I piloted the Indian Coconut Committee (Amendment) Act, 1952 during the last session of Parliament, a large number of members of both Houses exhibited great interest in the coconut grower and coconut growing. Seeing their concern over the matter, I called them all together along with your well-known and conscientious Vice - President so that any complaints they have may be looked into and suggestions they have may be duly considered. This gave me a welcome opportunity to study the working of the Coconut Committee and to see if any changes or modification of activities in any particular field was necessary and called for. As a result of these deliberations, it is proposed that we should undertake setting up Seedling Growing Farms in coconut growing areas, where such farms do not exist already, celebrating a "Coconut Day" on the lines of 'Vana Mahotsava', opening of regional research stations in various parts of the country and publishing the results of important researches carried out by the Committee in various regional languages etc. I have no doubt the Committee will give its due thought to these and other similar suggestions. I am sure your deliberations will greatly assist Government in taking such decisions as will bring the country nearer the ultimate goal of self--sufficiency in the production of coconut oil and copra. I would like the Committee also to consider if in their opinion there is need to increase the growers' representatives on the Committee.

Representation to Growers

"In the course of the debates in the Parliament it was suggested that greater efforts should be made to introduce a system of election so far as representation of the various interests of the commodity committees were concerned. I had promised sympathetic consideration of this view point especially so far as the growers were concerned. With this object in view we decided to try in the first instance with the Arecanut and Coconut Committees. The State of Madras have already framed a register of Arecanut growers. We are thinking of taking advantage

of this and frame our proposals so as to secure our objective without duplication and at the same time without incurring any larger expenditure. By these means we intend to organise or assist the organisation of growers of these two commodities so as to give them direct representation on these Committees. I expect this will secure us at least two advantages. One would be that the growers will have a representative on the Committee of their own choice and secondly this very fact will make the deliberations of the commodity committees of greater interest and possibly greater benefit to the growers. We will then be able to do away with the system of nomination which we have now to adopt.

"Criticism has also been heard in regard to the financial assistance given by the Committee to Copra Marketing Societies for promoting co-operative effort among growers of coconuts. These societies made a good initial start but later, it seems, got into trouble and, therefore, the Committee stopped its share of the grant to them. As you are, no doubt, aware, the Committee has no administrative control over such societies which function under the aegis of the State Governments concerned with whom the Committee shares the cost on 50:50 basis. But I have no doubt that if any loopholes exist in the matter of grant of financial assistance to such societies those will be rectified by the Committee.

Propaganda Among Growers

"Another very important side of the work of the Committee relates to educating the growers of the need of greater production and to make available the results of various researches carried on in the technique of quality production of coconuts. The Committee is already taking measures for the promotion of the green manure habit to improve the soil fertility and texture; it also provides an Information Service to farmers through propaganda officers, exhibitions, radio talks, monthly Bulletins in Malayalam, Kannada and English and the Coconut Journal in English, pamphlets and handbooks in English and regional languages on scientific cultivation of coconut.

"I have no doubt that the Committee will take steps to have the literature on the subject published in as many regional languages as possible, which are spoken in coconut-growing areas of the country. The constructive and almost pioneering work that the Committee has been engaged upon, has to be taken almost to the door steps of growers. I would venture to suggest that an important link between the Committee and the growers can be provided by initiating their representatives in the Parliament, State Legislatures, members of the Fourth Estate and other interested persons to see for themselves and learn at first hand what is being done at our research stations.

"If only the coconut growers of Kerala and elsewhere are stimulated to follow the technical advice and guidance of the coconut committee and adopt measures to increase production— and I am assured that by regular intercultivation and manuring existing production can be increased by about 50%- there would be little or no need for imports at all in the years to come.

"I hope that the recent amendment of the Indian Coconut Committee Act will bring you increased revenues and thereby enable you to expand the scope of your research and development programmes. I should like to assure the Committee that any suggestions put forward by them will receive due consideration at our hands.

Planning For Self-sufficiency

"One of the subjects on your agenda which particularly attracted my attention was subject No. 64, which refers to fixation of a five-year target for stepping up the production of coconut and devising the ways and means for the purpose. As you well know and as has been referred in the note on the subject, the Planning Commission has fixed an additional production target of 3·75 lakh tons for oilseeds. Although the Planning Commission has not worked out a definite target for coconut growing for making the country self-sufficent, it has been, I believe, correctly estimated that the deficit production to be made up should be one lakh tons in terms of copra. At the rate of 6,773 nuts per ton of copra, we shall require an additional production of 677·3 million nuts, which is about 20 per cent of the existing production of 3,399 million nuts. It is also common knowledge that by regular cultivation, manuring and timely control of pests and diseases, the average additional production can be of the order of anything between 25 to 50 per cent. As in the case of other crops, we come back to the same thing in respect of coconut also. All that we need do is to resort to better cultivation on as large a scale as possible.

'If you will permit me, I would like to express my sincere sense of gratification and thankfulness to all the State Ministers and their officers of all ranks for taking up better cultivation of paddy and resorting to some of the more important items in the so-called Japanese method. If we could arouse public enthusiasm and try to help the growers of coconut in the same way as we are proposing to do the grower of paddy, we could make considerable progress without adding much to the area under cultivation itself. But I do not mean to suggest that larger cultivation should not be aimed at simultaneously. I must also pay my tribute to the Indian Press. It is most heartening to see how they have taken up the matter with utmost seriousness. I think it is no exaggeration to say that the Indian Press has become intensely agriculture-minded.

I do not think in any previous period of time our Press devoted so much space to agriculture. The Japanese method, although I know some of them do not like the name, is everywhere given the highest priority. I would like to thank them all most heartily from the smallest to the biggest.

"I am glad this item is on your agenda and I hope you will chalk out some practical scheme which may take us nearer the target. Just as in the case of paddy, we want to concentrate more on irrigated areas so far as coconut is concerned, it would be sufficient if we concentrate utmost of our energy in the States of Madras and Travancore-Cochin. These are our biggest producers of coconut and in such educationally advanced States as Travancore-Cochin and Madras, our propaganda should reach the grower more quickly and methods of better cultivation preached to them should find a readier response. I have no doubt the Governments of those two States will co-operate with any efforts that the Committee has to suggest whole-heartedly. May I, therefore, look forward to some achievements in better cultivation of coconut within not more than a year or two everywhere but more particularly in Madras and Travancore-Cochin ?

"I hope too that through your labours you will be able to touch the lives of the coconut growers at many points so that the name of your Committee may be to them a benediction and a blessing. I do not wish to keep you any longer from the work awaiting you and wish you godspeed in your endeavours. *Jai Hind.*"

NOTICE

Applications are invited for the purchase of coconut seedlings of the Coconut Nursery Scheme, Assam, Kahikuchi at annas 8 per seedling during the planting season of 1953. About 1500 seedlings will be available. The applications will be received up to 30th June 1953 by the Horticultural Assistant, Coconut Nursery Scheme, Assam, Kahikuchi P. O. Ajara. The seedlings will be available from 15th June, 1953. Advance payment will have to be made by the successful parties on hearing from the Horticultural Assistant, Coconut Nursery Scheme, Assam, Kahikuchi P. O. Ajara.

Stepping Up Coconut Production

Central Coconut Committee's Short And Long Term Measures.

THE most important problem that the Indian Central Coconut Committee was facing at present was the question of stepping up coconut production in India and the Committee had adopted a number of short-term and long-term measures to achieve this end, observed Shri K. R. Damle. I. C. S., President, Indian Central Coconut Committee, addressing the 17th meeting of the Committee (held at Ernakulam on the 8th April 1953) and requesting the Hon'ble Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture, to inaugurate the session.

In the course of his speech Shri Damle said:—

"India has an area of about 1.54 million acres under coconut, but her production is only of the order of 3399 million nuts. This small production has forced the country to import considerable quantities of copra and coconut oil from abroad. The low production in the country became strikingly evident during the war years when supplies from Malaya, the Philippines and other countries were cut off. The shortage of coconut production in the country focussed spotlight on the Indian coconut industry and it was decided that measures for the rehabilitation of this industry which had suffered neglect for a long time should be taken up. The Indian CentralCoconut Committee was, therefore, set up in 1945.

Measures to Step up Production

"The most important problem that the Committee is facing at present is the question of stepping up the coconut production in India so that the gulf between the production in the country and the demand for coconut may be bridged. The Committee has adopted a number of short-term and long-term measures to achieve this end. The short-term measures include intensive propaganda among coconut growers for the adoption of scientific methods of cultivation and manuring, whereby the yield per acre of the existing gardens can be increased; practical demonstration of the value of regular cultivation and manuring and of spraying to control the leaf disease in the areas where it occurs and the promotion among coconut growers of that habit of cultivating in their gardens green manure crops like wild sunn-hemp, have also been some of the items sponsored by the Committee. The Committee has also extended technical support to the scheme sponsored by some South Indian firms for demonstrating in 240 coconut fields in Kerala the value of N. P. K. fertilisers in coconut cultivation and for supplying these fertilisers to coconut growers.

Distribution of Quality Seedlings

"Among the long-term projects which have been undertaken by the Committee are the Central Coconut Research Station at Kasaragod and Kayangulam and four Regional Coconut Research Stations, three in Travancore-Cochin and one in Orissa. Two more stations, one each in Madras and Bombay, are also being set up. The distribution of quality seedlings and propaganda regarding proper methods of spacing and planting of coconut seedlings have also been undertaken by the Committee. As the coconut palm starts bearing only seven or eight years after planting and lives for about 70 or 80 years, it is of the utmost importance that coconut growers are supplied with seedlings which will become good bearers. The Committee, therefore, began from its very establishment to extend grant-in aid to nursery schemes for supplying quality coconut seedlings. Beginning with six such nurseries which had an annual output target of 35,000 seedligs, the Committee is now financing nurseries with an annual production target of 478,000 seedlings. Besides these nuseries, aided by the Committee, there is one at the Committee's Central Coconut Research Station at Kasaragod which produces about 10,000 seedlings every year. The nurseries sponsored by the Committee are situated in the States of Travancore-Cochin, Madras, Bombay, Mysore, Orissa, West Bengal and Assam.

Work at the Central Research Stations

"At the Central Coconut Research Station of the Committee at Kasaragod, problems of fundamental research relating to coconut are being tackled. The Director and a part of the research staff at this Station were appointed only in December 1950 and a fully equipped laboratory has yet to be constructed at the Station.

"At the Central Coconut Research Station at Kayangulam, work is done on problems connected with diseases of coconut, particularly the root and leaf diseases and the pests of the coconut palm. It has been found that the leaf disease which is caused by parasitic fungi could be kept in check by spraying the crowns of the palms with copper fungicides. To demonstrate this, a spraying scheme is being worked by the Central Coconut Research Station at Kayangulam. The etiology of the root disease is still under investigation but the work done so far has shown that by judicious manuring and cultural practices the affected trees can be made to give economic yields. It has been shown that spraying with 0·2 per cent of D.D.T. is effective against the leaf-eating cater-pillar and that spraying breeding places of the rhinoceros beetle with B.H.C. at low concentrations of even up to 0.01 per cent was lethal to the beetle grubs.

Development Schemes

"The Committee has recently sanctioned two coconut development, schemes, one for West Bengal and the other for the Andamans. These have started functioning. Conditions in

West Bengal are said to be eminently suitable for coconut cultivation. Experienced staff for running the coconut development scheme in the Andamans was sent by the Committee about three months back.

Regulated Markets

"On the economic side the Committee has investigated the possibilities of setting up regulated markets for copra in the Travancore-Cochin, Madras and Mysore States. Enquiries into the cost of cultivation of coconuts in the Travancore-Cochin State have been conducted and the results have been published. A similar enquiry is now being conducted in Malabar and South Kanara Districts. In consultation with the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, grade specifications for coconut oil and standard contract terms for milling copra have been prescribed for adoption by the trade. Pilot schemes for the correct estimation of area and yield statistics have been sanctioned for the States of Madras, Bombay, Travancore-Cochin and Mysore. The Mysore scheme has been started and will be completed by the end of 1953.

"On the technological side, the Committee has not been able to do much so far beyond preparing a list of the technological items of work relating to coconut calling for urgent investigation. The Committee has so far been handicapped for want of funds, but with the enactment of the Indian Coconut Committee (Amendment) Act, 1952, which provides for collection of cess from all power mills crushing copra, the Committee's finances are likely to improve and we hope that the Committee will be able to undertake schemes which it could not sponsor for want of funds.

"These, Sir, are in brief some of the activities in which the Committee has been engaged since its establishment. With better financial assistance and larger interest in the affairs of the Committee from those who are at the helm of affairs and the public, we hope that we shall be able to embark upon a more extensive programme relating to the various functions which have been assigned to the Committee.

"Before I request you to inaugurate the 17th meeting of the Committee, I once again express our thanks to you for your presence amidst us in spite of the pressure of a heavy Parliamentary Session. I shall now request you, Sir, to inaugurate this meeting of the Indian Central Coconut Committee."

Essentials of Plant Growth Applicable to Coconut

THE coconut palm is not only useful to man in a wide variety of ways but it bears fruit throughout the year. If properly cared for, a coconut palm could yield up to 150 nuts a year and this would go on for 60 to 80 years. In some places coconut trees properly cultivated and manured have been known to be good bearers even after 100 years.

But many growers are not aware of the proper methods of raising seedlings, planting them or taking care of them. In the Chathamangalam, Puttur, Ilathil, Balusseri, Meppayur and Perambra villages of Malabar District, coconut seedlings are planted in very small pits, often only 9 inches deep. The above places are high and dry and seedlings should be planted in pits which are 3 or 4 feet cube. Only then could the bole of the palm develop properly and, when fully developed, be beneath the soil surface. Such deep planted palms will have 7,000 to 8,000 roots, will be able to resist drought and yield long, that is, for 80 to 100 years. If the coconut palm is surface-planted, part of the bole is exposed above the soil surface and the number of roots is reduced. Such palms will not have more than 1,000 to 2,000 roots and they will be easily affected by drought. Such a small complement of roots is unable to serve the needs of the growing trunk and crown and the tree becomes unhealthy in about 25 to 30 years. Moreover, on account of the poor root anchorage, the tree is likely to get uprooted in strong winds.

If coconut palms are planted in pits of the proper depth and sufficient space is allowed between them, they will grow and bear for about a hundred years. If adequate distance between tree and tree is provided, the palms will grow up straight and gain height slowly.

As most people are not aware of the conditions that make for the proper growth of plants, they are described below.

The first thing to bear in mind is that plants have life as much as animals. They too take in food, breathe, grow and propagate their species and they too require for their growth air, water, light, a suitable climate and proper environments.

Air

A plant takes in air through all its parts. If seeds are dibbled too deep in the soil they rot far lack of soil areation. Tiny seeds like those of greens, chillies,

brinjals, tomatoes etc. should not be covered by more than a ¼" layer of soil. The seeds of bitter gound, snake gound, ash gound etc. should not be dibbled deeper than ½" below the soil surface. If the coconut is planted too deep or if the level of the coconut garden is raised too much by the addition of soil, the roots of the palm are apt to rot and the tree may be ruined. Two years ago, about 100 coconut palms in a garden at Ariyallur in Ernad Taluk (Malabar District) were injured because the level of the garden was raised by the addition of fresh soil.

In low-lying areas, on account of waterlogging, there is inadequate soil areation and cocouut palms standing in such soils deteriorate. There are many such coconut gardens near the backwaters. In such gardens drainage channels should be dug and the excess water drained off. But if the level is too low for drainage channels to be effective, it must be raised gradually by the addition of soil. A 120-acre coconut garden at Vettakkal in Travancore-Cochin has been improved in this manner. The palms which once were having tapering crowns and small nuts have now healthy well formed crowns and the nuts are larger and bigger in number. Without any special manuring and by merely rectifying the condition of waterlogging, the above results were achieved.

In hard laterite soils, unless the soil is regularly cultivated, it may become caked up and hard and the roots may get damaged for lack of aeration. Soil aeration is essential for the nutrients in the soil to become available for the plants. It is, therefore, quite necessary that the soil should be dug and kept stirred and aerated. This is particularly so in the case of hard laterite soils.

Water

Plants, like animals, cannot subsist without water. It is owing to lack of water that coconut does not thrive well in the loose sandy soil of the stretch of land from Shertallai to Alleppey (Travancore-Cochin), of Idakazhiyur (Malabar) and Trikkarippur (South Kanara). The water-table in these areas is very low and the soil does not have any water-holding capacity. For the coconut to grow well the roots should be enabled to draw in sufficient moisture without being water-logged. The water-table should be neither too low nor too high. During the rainy season the water-table should be at least 4 feet below the soil surface and during the summer it should not be lower than 20 feet.

In areas where the water table is very low and the effects of drought are felt there are two ways of preserving moisture in the soil.

1) Grow a green manure crop in the garden and incorpate it into the soil.

2) Cultivate the soil in November-December and keep the top soil stirred. This will prevent loss of the sub-soil moisture by capillary evaporation.

Light

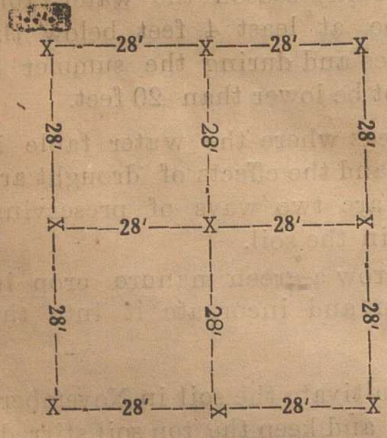
Plants require plenty of light for their growth. If plants exist too close to each other they bend and grow in the direction of the light. It has been recognized from ancient times that trees like mango, Jack and tamarind should be planted 50 feet apart, coconuts 28 feet and arecanut 10 feet. If coconut trees are planted too close to each other, their energy is taken up in gaining height for the sake of light and the yield is poor. In Mysore, only 40 to 50 coconut trees are planted to an acre. The trees there grow straight up without bends and yield well. They gain height only slowly. As trees that stand on the borders of gardens, road-sides and river-sides get plenty of light they yield much better than those in the interior of gardens. The triangular method of planting is better to enable coconut palms to get more air and light. Moreover the triangular method will enable 64 trees to be planted to an acre.

Climate

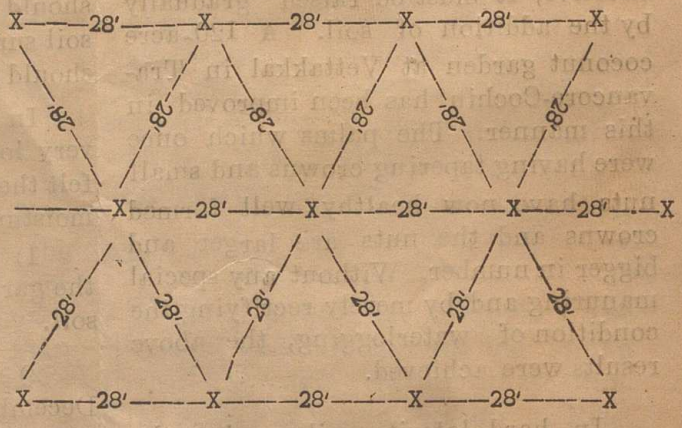
Extremes of cold and heat and excessive rains are conditions unfavourable to plant growth. In the coconut-growing regions of India these conditions do not exist. Although it may not be possible for man to change climatic conditions, the adverse effects of drought could be combated by irrigation, cultivation and the addition to the soil of organic manure.

Food

Plant food is known as manure. Coconut is manured properly by adding to it a complete manure as a basic manure and some modern concentrates. The complete manure is applied more for the purpose of improving the texture of the soil. Only if the texture of the soil is good, can its water-holding capacity be preserved. Cattle manure, compost, green leaves, backwater silt and water weeds are all complete manures which improve soil



SQUARE METHOD OF PLANTING



TRIANGALAR METHOD. OF PLANTING

texture. Any one of these could be applied at the rate of 100 lb. per tree. The actual application is done in broad shallow basins dug round the palms. Over this, ash, prawn dust, groundnut cake or bone meal is applied according to requirements. Anyone of the following manure combinations may thus be applied:-

1)	Prawn dust or fish guano	10 lb.
	Ash	30 lb.
2)	Any oil cake ...	15 lb.
	Ash	30 lb.
3)	Bone meal.... ...	5 lb.
	Ash	30 lb.
4)	Duck's droppings ...	15 lb.
	Ash	30 lb:
5)	Ammonium Sulphate	4 lb.
	Potassium Sulphate	2 lb.
	Super Phosphate ...	3 lb.

After applying a basic manure apply any one of the above manure combinations.

The cost of cultivation surveys conducted by the Indian Central Coconut Committee, in Travancore-Cochin and Malabar go to show that only a small per centage of coconut gardens are properly manured. The number of gardens of which the per acre yield is more than 3,000 coconuts is also very small.

Those who own both coconut gardens and paddy fields apply all available manure to the paddy crop. The coconut is practically neglected.

But growing a green manure crop in coconut gardens and incorporating it into the soil, is something which everyone can do. It will not cost, including the cost of the two ploughings involved, more than Rs. 100 per acre. If green manure seeds do not become readily available, the seeds of cowpea can be sown and the crop incorporated into the soil when it begins to flower. When coconut is planted in virgin soil, the trees may bear well for some time without any special manuring, but gradually the soil gets exhausted and manuring becomes necessary.

Environmnets

Plants become unhealthy and diseased in soils which are water-logged and when they (the plants) stand overcrowded. It is, therefore, essential to keep all gardens, particularly coconut gardens, well drained and free from weeds. The seasonal operations of digging, ploughing, cleaning of canals and tanks, earthing up of bunds and putting up of cross bunds, all should be attended to regularly. If the garden is kept clean, weeds and pests could be checked to a great extent. By stirring the soil it is properly weathered. "Clean cultivation" is the motto of Western farmers and we too should adopt it.

Plantain Cultivation in Mysore Coconut Gardens

In Mysore they plant 45 to 50 coconut palms per acre in river-side gardens and 40 trees per acre elsewhere. Such abundant spacing of palms makes the cultivation of inter-crops in coconut gardens very easy. In riparian areas, plantains are cultivated between rows of coconut palms. At least 3 lines of plantains are planted between coconut rows. Between the lines of plantains shallow trenches are dug which get filled with silt after the floods in the rivers subside. When the silt dries up it is dug out and applied to the base of the plantains. The rest of the garden is dug up well at the beginning of summer and the soil kept loose. The plantains are not transplanted for three years following the first planting. In the fourth year all the plantains are uprooted, the garden dug up afresh and the plantains planted again. Farmers get a net annual profit of Rs. 200-per acre from plantains alone.

Certain good varieties of plantains are grown in coconut gardens situated in areas where facilities for irrigation exist. Two lines of plantains are planted between every two rows of palms. Two trenches 2 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep are opened between the rows of palms leaving a distance of 6 ft. between the trenches and plenty of rubbish and cattle manure put in the trenches, between the suckers away from their bases. In November the sides of the trenches are trimmed. In December watering commences. Watering is done on a liberal scale, once or twice a week. Either an oil engine or an electric motor is used for purposes of irrigation, and as the coconut gardens are situated in valleys the water table is not very low. As the plantains are copiously watered in summer, the bunches they yield are first rate ones.

The plantains are not transplanted for the next three years during which soil is added to them, so that at the end of the period the plantains stand on bunds having channels in between. Watering is done by letting water into the in-between channels. About 250 plantains are planted to an acre. The yield is at the rate of 250 bunches at the end of the 1st year, 400 at the end of the 2nd year and 600 at the end of the 3rd year. Plantain cultivation has a great beneficial effect on the coconuts.

In the fourth year the plantains are uprooted and newly planted. Otherwise, some other crops like cabbage or coriander is grown. Any one of the crops brings in a net profit of Rs. 200-300 per acre. All this is possible because coconuts are planted in straight lines and are properly spaced.

June Operations in Coconut Gardens

BEFORE the heavy rains of June and July the cross bunds in the gardens should be repaired and strengthened so that the rain water does not flow off but soaks into the garden itself. This is essential to prevent soil erosion.

Those who cannot afford to raise a green manure crop in their gardens should have broad circular basins about 10 ft. in diameter dug round their palms in June for applying manures. All non-functioning roots of the palms should be cut and removed without injuring the new and tender roots. The manure should be applied in such a manner as not to touch the bole of the palm. A head-load of green leaves and three baskets of cattle manure should be spread in each basin and covered with a 3-inch layer of earth. In August, 1 or 2 tins of ash should be put in each basin and whole basin covered up.

June and July are the months most suitable for the application to newly planted seedlings of special manures which will enable them to grow up quickly. Among such special manures are ammonium sulphate, urine, oilcakes and fish guano. Ammonium sulphate should be sprinkled in the basin round the seedling at the rate of ¼ lb. for one-year old seedlings, ½ lb. for 2-year olds, ¾ lb. for those which are 3-years old and 1 lb. for 4-year old ones. The ammonium sulphate should be sprinkled when it rains heavily, a little away from the bole of the palm. This should be done twice—once in June and again in July.

If there is a school nearby, the urine from the urinal could be collected and applied to the palms. The application may be at the rate of 8 to 32 ounces per tree per week according to the age of the seedling. Oilcakes, prawn dust and fish guano also may be applied at the rate of 1 to 4 lb., according to the age of the seedlings. They should be sprinkled in the basins round the seedling and forked into the soil.

It is during the heavy rains that the incidence of the rhinoceros beetle is the heaviest. When the palms are climbed for collecting nuts the crowns should be cleaned, the beetles taken out of their holes with the aid of a hook and the holes themselves filled with a mixture of sand and B. H. C.

Copra-drying is difficult during the rains and those who own copra kilns are few. The price of coconuts, therefore, suffers a severe decline during the rainy months. During this season coconuts do not mature as quickly as they do in the summer. Therefore, they should be harvested only after they become fully ripe. If they are kept till September good prices may be obtained.

It is in June that inter-crops like cow-pea and ragi are raised in coconut gardens. It is usual for the coconut growers of Ponani taluk to cultivate

(Continued on page 177)

You Ask, We Answer

Manuing Young Coconuts Planted on Hillocks

Question: I have in my coconut garden seedlings aged one year, two years, and three years. The garden is situated on a fairly high hillock, and laterite stone can be seen at a depth of three feet. The seedlings planted by me were obtained partly from the same locality, partly from hilly regions, and partly from the Pattambi Farm. I have applied green leaves and ash to the seedlings. The pits have not been covered up with sand except in respect of the three-year old seedlings of which the pits have been filled up with sand. What manure should I apply to these young coconuts? When and how should the manure be applied?

Answer: The land is not quite suitable for coconut planting since it is a fairly high hillock and there is laterite stone below three feet of the surface. The trees are bound to suffer during the summer months and will take a fairly long time to bear. Coconuts require a fairly deep soil and good soil moisture during the dry months if they are to grow and yield well. This aspect of coconut cultivation has been well emphasized in the handbook on coconut cultivation published by the Indian Central Coconut Committee.

Since you have already planted the coconuts you may adopt the following methods:-

1. The lands may be provided with suitable bunds and terraced so that the rain water may soak through the soil instead of going out as run-off water.

2. A green manure crop of sunnhemp or *Crotalaria striata* may be raised during the South-west monsoon period and incorporated into the soil towards the end of the rains.

3. Green leaf, cattle manure and ash are very good manure for coconuts. Liberal doses of these may be given. The seedlings may be given, as an alternative, about 5 lb. of groundnut oil cake and ½lb. to 1 lb. of ammonium sulphate towards the end of the rains early in September. 10 to 20 lb. of good ash may be applied by October middle and again in April-May. About 1 lb. of bonemeal or superphosphate may also be applied when the green leaf is applied. It may be noted that ash and ammonium sulphate should not be mixed up. There should at least be an interval of about a month between the application of ash and ammonium sulphate.

Cleaning Crowns of Coconut trees

Question: Can the decaying matter at the top of the coconut tree be removed at all times?

Answer:- All the old spathes, stipules and other matter which come off

easily when pulled by hand may be removed at the time of each harvest although cleaning of the crowns of coconut trees is generally done only once a year in September or November-December or in May before the regular monsoon sets in.

Use of Insecticides against Rhinoceros Beetle

Question: Is it not possible to use insecticides to kill the rhinoceros beetle? If so, how?

Answer: Though insecticides like B. H. C., D. D. T. etc. have been found to be definitely lethal to the rhinoceros beetle under laboratory conditions, it has not yet been possible to use them for the control of the beetle under natural conditions. This is due to the fact that the beetles burrow into the axils of leaves and when they are in the burrows they don't come into contact with the insecticides in sufficient quantities to get killed. Further the effect of the insecticides is rapidly lost under natural conditions. However, trials have shown that B. H. C. 5 per cent dust, when mixed with equal quantity of sand and applied in the leaf axils, prevents the attack of the beetle for two or three months. Regular spraying of the crowns with 0.025% B. H. C. may also serve to prevent the attack of the beetle. The best way to tackle the beetles is to kill them in the grub stage in breeding places, such as manure pits, compost heaps etc. Spraying compost heaps and manure pits with. 0.025% B.H. C. is found to kill the grubs of the beetles.

[*Continued from page 175*]

cowpea and ragi in their gardens. They prepare raised beds and plant the ragi seedlings 18" apart. Between the ragi seedlings cowpea seeds are dibbled. In some coconut gardens of Mysore intercrops of ragi and corn are raised. Corn is planted in rows 10 ft. apart and ragi is planted between these rows. Corn is cut down before the ears are formed to serve as cattle feed.

In newly planted coconut gardens tapioca is planted in June. The planting beds should have a width of 1½ ft. at the base and 1 ft. at the top. They should be 1 ft. high and the distance between beds should be 2 ft. Ash is the most important manure for tapioca. If properly planted and manured 10,000 to 15,000 lb. of tapioca can be collected from an acre of land. In the eastern parts of Malabar and South Kanara districts people from Travancore plant coconut and cultivate tapioca as above. The cost of planting coconuts is realised from the sale of the tapioca crop.

News and Notes

THE seventeenth meeting of the Indian Central Coconut Committee was held on the afternoon of the 8th April, 1953 in the Law College Hall, Ernakulam under the presidentship of Shri K. R Damle, I. C. S., President of the Committee.

The meeting was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture. The Hon'ble Minister expressed gratification at the work the Committee was doing in the matter of the distribution among coconut growers of quality seedlings, fundamental research at the Central Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod, investigations of the pests and diseases of the coconut palm at Kayangulam etc. and declared that the progress already made by the infant Coconut Committee augured well for the future. They had not only to bridge the gulf between demand and production but also step up production so as to keep pace with the continually increasing demand. The Hon'ble Minister suggested to the Committee the celebration of a "Coconut Day" on the lines of "Vana Mahotsava", starting of coconut nurseries where they do not exist at present, opening of regional research stations in various parts of the country and publishing the results of important researches carried out by the Committee in various regional languages. Concluding, the Hon'ble Minister expressed the hope that the Committee, through its labours, would be able to touch the lives of the coconut growers at many points so that the name of the Committee may be to them a benediction and a blessing. (Full text of the Hon'ble Minister's speech may be seen elsewhere in this issue).

* * *

Earlier, Shri K. R. Damle, President of the Committee requesting the Hon'ble Minister to inaugurate the meeting referred to the circumstances in which the Committee was set up in 1945 and the short-term and long-term measures adopted by it since, to step up the production of coconuts. (The text of the President's speech is also published elsewhere in this issue).

The Committee unanimously re-elected Shri K. P. Madhavan Nair, Member, Council of States, as its Vice-President for one year from 1st May 1953. The Committee also appointed the Finance and other sub-committees for 1953-54.

Arising out of a discussion on a resolution moved by a member that the imports of coconuts and coconut products be restricted, the Committee decided to recommend to the Government of India that the imports of copra and coconut oil be limited to 50,000 tons during 1953-54 in terms of copra.

The Committee considered the question of fixing a 5-year target for stepping up the production of coconuts in the country and of devising ways and means for the purpose and dicided to set up an *ad hoc* sub-committee consisting of the Directors of Agriculture, Madras, Travancore-Cochin, Mysore, Bombay and

Orissa or their representatives, the Director, Central Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod and the Secretary of the Committee to suggest concrete proposals for stepping up the production of coconuts in the country during a disignated period of time.

The Committee had, since August 1952, enhanced the annual subscription of its popular monthly "Bulletin" from 6 annas to 12 annas. It had, however, been represented to the Committee that having regard to the valuable nature of the service rendered by the Bulletin it would be useful if the subscription was retained at the old rates. The Committee, therefore, decided to reduce with effect from August, 1953 the annual subscription of the Committee's monthly Bulletin from 12 annas to 6 annas and to appoint a specially trained officer to stimulate and promote the circulation of the publication so that it could reach a larger percentage of coconut growers and result in the adoption of better methods of cultivation by an increasing number of growers. Pests of the coconut palm like the rhinoceros beetle, the leaf-eating caterpillar, the red palm weevil etc. are responsible for a considerable reduction in the yield of coconut palms and the Committee decided to publish and distribute free of cost pamphlets on the control of the pests of the coconut palm in the regional languages of the coconut growing States of India.

Among other things, the Committee resolved to recommend to the Government of India that, during the half-year ending December 1953, copra and coconut oil of the order of 25,000 tons in terms of copra might be allowed to be imported and that restrictions on the import of potash be removed in view of its growing demand in the country for use in the cultivation of coconuts.

* * * *

The Hon'ble Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Minister for Agriculture, Government of India who inaugurated the 17th meeting of the Indian, Central Coconut Committee on the 8th April 1953, arrived at Cochin by air on that day and was received at the aerodrome by Messrs. K. P. Madhavan Nair & K. Gopalan, Vice President and the Secretary respectively of the Committee. He left Ernakulam for Madras by air on the 9th April.

Shri K. R. Damle, President of the Committee arrived at Ernakulam on the 6th April 1953 and was received at the aerodrome by Shri K. Gopalan, Secretary of the Committee. He visited the office of the Committee and the Coconut Nursery at Parur on the 9th instant and left for Bombay on the 10th April 1953.

* * * *

Among distinguished visitors to the Central Coconut Research Station, Kayangulam, during March 1953 was Dr. D. J. Finney, F. A. O. expert in statistics and Mr. M. Lury, Chief Engineer of Messrs. Pest Control Ltd., of Cambridge (U. K). Dr. Finney evinced great interest in the trace element manurial experiments that are proposed to be started at the station in the coming season. Mr. Lury was greatly impressed by a demon-

stration of spraying and dusting of coconut palms.

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Under the spraying scheme implemented by the Central Coconut Research Station, Kayangulam 11,445 trees were sprayed for the leaf disease, during February 1953 in the taluks of Meenachil, Kunnathur, and Kottayam in the Travancore-Cochin State. The number of trees sprayed from the 1st December, 1952 to 28th February, 1953 was of the order of 35,878.

* * * *

Shri R. Venkatasubba Reddy of Tindivanam, a member of the Indian Central Oilseeds Committee and Indian Central Sugarcane Committee visited the Central Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod, in March 1953. He expressed great appreciation of the work done at the station and felt that the station would prove an important one not only for India but for all coconut-growing countries.

Two parties of students from local High Schools accompanied by their teachers also visited the station in March 1953, and were shown round the farm.

* * * *

A meeting of the special Sub-Committee which has been constituted to scrutinise and approve of plans and estimates for works at the Central Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod met at the Station on the 18th March, 1953, to consider plans and estimates for the laboratory and office and other works at the station.

* * * *

The Horticultural Assistant, Coconut Nursery Scheme, Assam, has reported that during the month of February, 1953 fiftyfive coconut seedlings were sold from the nursery at Kahikuchi functioning under the joint auspices of the Assam Government and the Indian Central Coconut Committee. During the four months from November, 1952 to February, 1953 the total number of seedlings distributed from this nursery was of the order of 561.

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The Director of Agriculture and Food Production, Orissa has reported that during January, 1953, 100 coconut seedlings were distributed among 12 growers from the nursery at Balia. There was no distribution of seedlings from the nurseries at Puri and Cuttack during the month. The total number of seedlings supplied from these three nurseries which are run under the joint auspices of the State Government and the Indian Central Coconut Committee for the period of ten months from April, 1952 to January, 1953 is of the order of 12,722.

* * * *

Superior types of plants are likely to be developed as scientists study the effects of atomic radiation upon plant reproduction and growth. Scientists

believe that changes brought about by exposure of seeds to atomic radiation will eventually improve plant strains and increase crop yields, says a reported in "U. S. in Review".

One of the most promising experiments is being carried out at the Brookhaven National Laboratory of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. By exposing maize kernels to atomic radiation scientists are creating mutations, or changes in hereditary characteristics.

Atomic radiation provides a means of creating a great number of mutations in a short time, and scientists at Brookhaven are now studying the first and second generation offspring of irradiated plants. They are seeking desirable mutants of characteristics which could be developed on a commercial scale.

These studies are based on the science of genetics, one of the great sciences of our time. Each living cell, plant, or animal contains thousands of specialised chemical units called genes. These determine the physical inheritance of offspring. They are the basic regulators of processes involving the life, growth, and health of each living thing.

Each of the multitude of genes normally reproduces itself faithfully from generation to generation-except about once in every million times. Then a chemical or physical change occurs which results in a changed individual or mutation. These mutations may be inherited.

By using radiation, the geneticist can induce a variety of mutations. Sometimes the new strain produced is more valuable than the original. By in-breeding the new strain with the best of the old strains an entirely new and better plant is developed.

Research workers at Brookhaven hope to speed the incorporation into hybrid maize of a genetic mutation which will result in a shorter hybrid plant with a higher proportion of grain to stalk. This desirable mutation appeared in a sweetcorn line and has been incorporated into several in bred strains of field corn.

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Shri S. K. Kallapur (Growers' representative), Shri K. P. Madhavan Nair and Mr. C. E. Bingham (Coconut Oil Industry representatives), the Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India, the Director of Agriculture, Mysore and Shri V. J. Joseph (Representative of the Travancore Chamber of Commerce) have been renominated to the Committee for a period of three years with effect from the 1st April 1953.

In the place of Sri V. R. Nayanar who represented the growers of coconut on the Committee since 1945, Shri A. Appu, M. L. A. (Madras) has been nominated for the same period and in the place of the Director of Agriculture Madras, the Oilseeds Specialist, Coimbatore.

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Mr. J. Malcolm Orchard, Agricultural Information Adviser to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New

Delhi came down to Erankulam in the last week of March 1953, at the invitation of the Indian Central Coconut Committee to advise the Committee on ways and means of improving the contents, get-up and circulation of the Committee's monthly "Bulletin". Mr. Orchard's suggestions were considered by the Committee at its meeting held on the 8th April and many of them were accepted. It is accordingly proposed to have a young agricultural graduate with a flair for salesmanship trained in the latest American methods of circulation promotion, so that a higher percentage of literate coconut growers could become subscribers to the "Bulletin" and results of scientific research on coconut taken to as large a number of growers, as possible.

* * * *

The Indian Coconut Committee (Amendment) Act, 1952 enacted by Parliament at its last Winter session has come into force since the 1st April 1953. According to the Amendment Act *all* power mills crushing copra irrespective of the number of hands employed by them will be obliged to pay cess on the quantities of copra crushed by them at the rate of 4 annas per cwt It may be recalled that, under the original Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944, cess could be collected only from mills coming under the purview of the Factories Act and that this restriction led to a diminution in the Committee's revenue as more and more mills were struck off the register of factories.

The Amendment Act makes it obligatory on the owners of such mills as were in existence at the time the Act came into force to furnish to the Collector of Central Excise concerned, within 14 days of coming into force of the Act, particulars of the name and situation of the mill, name and address of the owner, address to which communications relating to the mill may be sent and the total capacity of the mill to crush copra. The owners of the mills which are set up after the coming into force of the Amendment Act should furnish the above particulars within 14 days of their establishment. Failure to furnish the above particulars is punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to Rs. 500 or with both.

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The Committee is participating in the following three exhibitions which are being held during the periods noted against each:

All India Agricultural, Industrial and Educational Exhibition, Trichur.	17th April 1953 to 30th April 1953.
S. N. D. P. Golden Jubilee Exhibition, Quilon.	3 weeks from 17th April, 1953.
Health, Education and Industrial Exhibition, Kozhikode.	11th to 26th April, 1953.

MARKET REPORTS

I. COCHIN, ALLEPPEY & CALICUT.

The daily prices of coconuts, copra, coconut oil and coconut oil cake at Cochin, Alleppey, and Calicut from the 11th March to 10th April 1953 are given below:—

Date	Coconuts per 1000			Copra per ton			Coconut oil per ton			Coconut oil cake per ton		
	Cochin	Alleppey	Calicut	Cochin	Alleppey	Calicut	Cochin	Alleppey	Calicut	Cochin	Alleppey	Calicut
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
11-3-53	162-8	*	152- 8	1275- 5	1248- 5	1248	1896.13	1889. 9	1920	362- 5	342	352
12-3-53	165	*	167- 8	1271- 1	1248- 5	1256	1892- 9	1881	1920	358- 1	342	352
13-3.53	170	*	167. 8	1268- 8	1248- 5	1248	1888- 4	1889- 9	1896	358- 1	342	352
14-3-53	170	155	170	1268- 8	1282- 8	1240	1888- 4	1916-15	1920	358- 1	342	352
15-3-53					SUNDAY							
16-3-53	170	*	163-12	1287- 4	1273-15	1256	1918- 2	1902- 6	1920	358- 1	342	352
17-3-53	170	*	167- 8	1300- 1	1282- 8	1256	1935- 3	1923-12	1920	362- 5	342	352
18-3-53	175	170	167- 8	1278-12	1282- 8	1280	1905- 5	1915- 3	1936	358- 8	342	352
19-3-53	172-8	*	167- 8	128 3	1282- 8	1264	1909-10	1910-15	1936	362- 5	342	352
20-3-53	170	*	162- 8	1265-15	1248- 5	1248	1884	1902- 5	1936	358- 1	342	352
21-3-53	170	167-8	161- 4	1254-14	1239-12	1232	1867	1795- 8	1904	358- 1	337-12	352
22-3-53					SUNDAY							
23-3-53	170	*	150	1242-15	1231- 3	1224	1845-11	1863-14	1888	358- 1	333- 7	352
24-3-53	165	*	150	1237-13	1214- 2	1208	1845-11	1846-13	1888	353-13	324-14	344
25-3-53	165	160	155	1242- 1	1197	1200	1849-15	1846-13	1872	353-13	324-14	336
26-3-53	165	*	155	1248-15	1214- 2	1232	1858- 7	1868- 3	1888	349- 8	333- 7	336
27-3-53	165	*	157- 8	1258- 5	1248- 5	1232	1875- 8	1898- 2	1888	349- 8	333- 7	336
28-3-53	160	162-8	155	1256- 9	1248- 5	1232	1871- 4	1872- 7	1888	353-13	333- 7	336
29-3-53					SUNDAY							
30-3-53	165	*	155	1260	1239-12	1232	1875- 8	1881	1888	353-13	333- 7	336
31-3-53	170	*	152- 8	1276- 3	1238- 1	1232	1892- 9	1872- 7	1872	353-13	333- 7	328
1-4-53	170	160	160	1257- 7	1239-12	1248	1867	1863-14	1872	358- 1	342	328
2-4-53	170		165	1249-12	*	1248	1858	*	1872	358- 1	*	328
3-4-53	*		165	*	*	1216	*	*	1872	*	*	328
4-4-53	170	160	168-12	1257- 7	1239-12	1240	1867	1863-14	1872	358- 1	342	336
5-4-53					SUNDAY							
6-4-53	170		163-12	1245-15	1231- 3	1232	1858- 7	1846-13	1872	353-13	342	336
7-4-53	170		162- 8	1242-15	1222-10	1232	1844-13	1855- 6	1872	353-13	342	336
8-4-53	170	160	162- 8	1246- 6	1222-10	1232	1854- 3	1855- 6	1872	353-13	342	336
9-4-53	170		155	1240- 6	1222-10	1232	1845-11	1846-13	1862-6	353-13	342	336
10-4-23	170		157- 8	1243-13	1222-10	1224	1854- 3	1846-13	1872	349- 8	342	336

* No report

Trend of Coconut Oil Price in Cochin

(From Our Correspondent)

Cochin, 11th April, 1953.

SINCE sending my last despatch on the 6th March, the price of coconut oil in this market improved till the 17th of the month when it stood at Rs. 1935 per ton. From the 18th, however, it began to decline and was Rs. 1845-11 per ton on the 24th. There was, however, some improvement subsequently and the quotation at the end of the month was Rs. 1892-9. The downward price trend since the 17th March has been attributed to large deliveries in Bombay of oil contracted for in February, the uncertainty caused by the Korean Peace Plan and the reaction on coconut oil of an easing in the price of groundnut oil.

The downward price trend has remained since the commencement of the current month. The arrival of considerable stocks in the Cochin as well as Alleppey markets on the eve of the Easter holidays has aggravated to some extent the above trend which is expected to continue till about 15th instant, that is, until after *Vishu*.

The price of oil at Cochin on the 1st April was Rs. 1867 and on the 11th Rs. 1858.

The situation, however, could have been easily worse but for certain relieving factors of which mention may be made of the steadiness of the London market during the last few days, the appreciation of prices in the Colombo market on account of bulk purchase by the Chinese Government and the demand for oil from Northern Indian markets. It is reported that the number of waggons of coconut oil booked for Upper Indian destinations during the first quarter of 1953 was 443 as against 320 for the corresponding period of last year. The power cut continues to be the cause of shortage in ready stocks of oil. The prospect for the rest of the month appears optimistic.

II. BOMBAY

The weekly wholesale prices of coconuts, copra, coconut oil and coconut oil-cake at Bombay during the month of March 1953 are given below:-

Date	Coconuts per 1000						Copra per candy of 22½qrs.			Coconut oil price naked per quart.	Oil Cake per bag of 168 lbs.
	New			Old			Milling	Edible			
	Small	Medium	Large	Small	Medium	Large		Rajapur	Alleppey		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
5—3—53	225	250	235	*	275	300	375	375	365	24-12	29
12—3—53	230	260	240	*	285	310	385	370	360	25- 8	30
19—3—53	240	280	250	*	295	325	395	385	370	26- 0	29
26—3—53	235	265	240	*	285	315	375	380	365	25- 2	28

III COLOMBO

The weekly prices of Coconuts and Coconut products at Colombo during the month of March 1953 are given below:-

COMMODITY	UNIT	2-3-53 Rs Cts	9-3-53 Rs. Cts	16-3-53 Rs. Cts.	23-3-53 Rs. Cts	30-3-53 Rs Cts.
Fresh Coconuts (Husked) used for Copra making and local consumption.	per 1000 nuts	170.00 to 175.00	170.00 to 175.00	175.00 to 180.00	180.00 to 185.00	180.00 to 185.00
Copra—Estate No 1 Quality at Buyer's Stores.	PerCandy of 560 lbs.	192.50	202.50	215,00	215.00	212.50
Desiccated Coconut—Wharf delivery or Buyer's stores—Medium and fine 50%.	Per lb.	0.48	0.49	0.52	0.53	0.52
Coconut oil—white, naked, wharf delivery	Per ton	1250.00	1,300.00	1400.00	1,425.00	1400.00

Commodity	Unit	7-3-53 Rs. Cts.	14-3-53 Rs. Cts.	21-3-53 Rs. Cts.	28-3-53 Rs. Cts.
Coconut (Husked) for export at Buyer's stores	Per 1000 nuts	315.00	317.50	325.00	325.00

IV. Malabar Markets

Arrivals and sales of coconuts and copra in the different markets in Malabar during March, 1953.

Commodity and Market	Carry-over	Arrivals	Sales	Balance
Coconuts (in thousands)				
Kozhikode	811	4,391	4,659	543
Badagara	708	1,662	1,889	481
Ponani	278	683	548	413
Tellicherry & Dharmadam	203	814	996	21
Copra (in candies of 700 lb)				
Kozhikode	1,207	7,611	7,541	1,277
Badagara	1,790	5,136	5,214	1,712

Weekly prices of coconuts and copra in some of the Malabar markets during March, 1953

Commodity and Market	1st week Rs.	2nd week Rs.	3rd week Rs.	4th week Rs.
Coconuts Husked (for 1000)				
Badagara	120	120	120	125
Ponani	157½-160	160-165	155-165	160-162½
Tellicherry & Dharmadam	147½-150	170-172	170-180	172½-180
Copra at Badagara Market per candy of 700 lbs.				
Office	372	372	375	372
Edible Copra				
Dilpas	375	377	375	375
Madras	380	380	380	380
Rajapur	400	400	400	400

V. Straits Settlements

The weekly prices of coconut products at Singapore and Penang during the months of January and February 53 are given below.

	Singapore		Penang	
	Copra	Coconut oil	Copra	Coconut oil
January 1953	$	$	$	$
1st week	40.50	57.50	40.25	57.00
2nd week	43.00	59.50	43.00	59.25
3rd week	40.00	57.75	39.50	57.75
4th week	37.50	55.00	37.50	55.00
February 1953				
1st week	38.50	56.00	39.00	56.00
2nd week	39.00	58.00	39.00	58.00
3rd week	40.50	59.00	40.50	59.00
4th week	39.50	58.50	39.00	59.00

Coconut Oil Cake: Prices remained at $ 12.00 per picul during January 1953.

The prices quoted above are per picul f. o. b. Singapore and Penang inclulusive of cost of containers, *i. e.* second hand steel drums in the case of coconut oil and gunny bags in the case of copra.

One picul=133⅓ lbs. One M. Doller=Rs. 1—9—0

VI Imports of coconuts, copra and coconut oil into India during the month of January 1953.

COMMODITY AND SOURCE	STATE INTO WHICH IMPORTED								TOTAL FOR ALL STATES FOR THE MONTH		TOTAL FROM THE BEGINNING OF APRIL, 1952	
	TRAV-COCHIN		MADRAS		BOMBAY		WEST BENGAL					
	QTY.	VALUE Rs.	QTY.	VALUE Rs.	QTY.	VALUE Rs.	QTY.	VALUE Rs.	QTY.	VALUE Rs.	QTY.	VALUE Rs.
Coconuts Nos.												
Copra (in cwts.)												
Ceylon	....	....	....	....	5,080	327,850	....	...	5,080	327,850	269,640	13,946,342
Maldives	....	....	....	....	...	...	....	...	...	...	700	28,885
St. Settlements	....	....	....	....	*	6	...	...	*	6	18,100	8,47,480
Seychelles	....	....	....	....	8,500	502,012	...	...	8,500	502,012	52,000	2,801,074
F. M. S.	....	....	....	....	...	...	...	...	...	....	8,500	560,700
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	13,580	829,868	...	....	13,580	829,868	348,940	18,1 4,486
Coconut Oil (in cwts.)												
Ceylon	....	....	....	...	...	...	13,700	1,158,695	13,700	1,153,695	150,660	11,332,342
St. Settlements	....	....	....	....	...	...	6,580	510,804	6,580	610,804	134,580	10,034,655
F. M. S.	....	....	....	....	500	38,920	...	....	500	38,920	17,500	1,574,400
Philippines	....	....	....	....	...	...	...	...	....	....	31,580	1,995,778
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	500	38,920	20,280	1,669,499	20,780	1,708,419	334,320	24,937,175

N. B. There were no imports of Coconuts during the month.

* Quantity less than 1 cwt.

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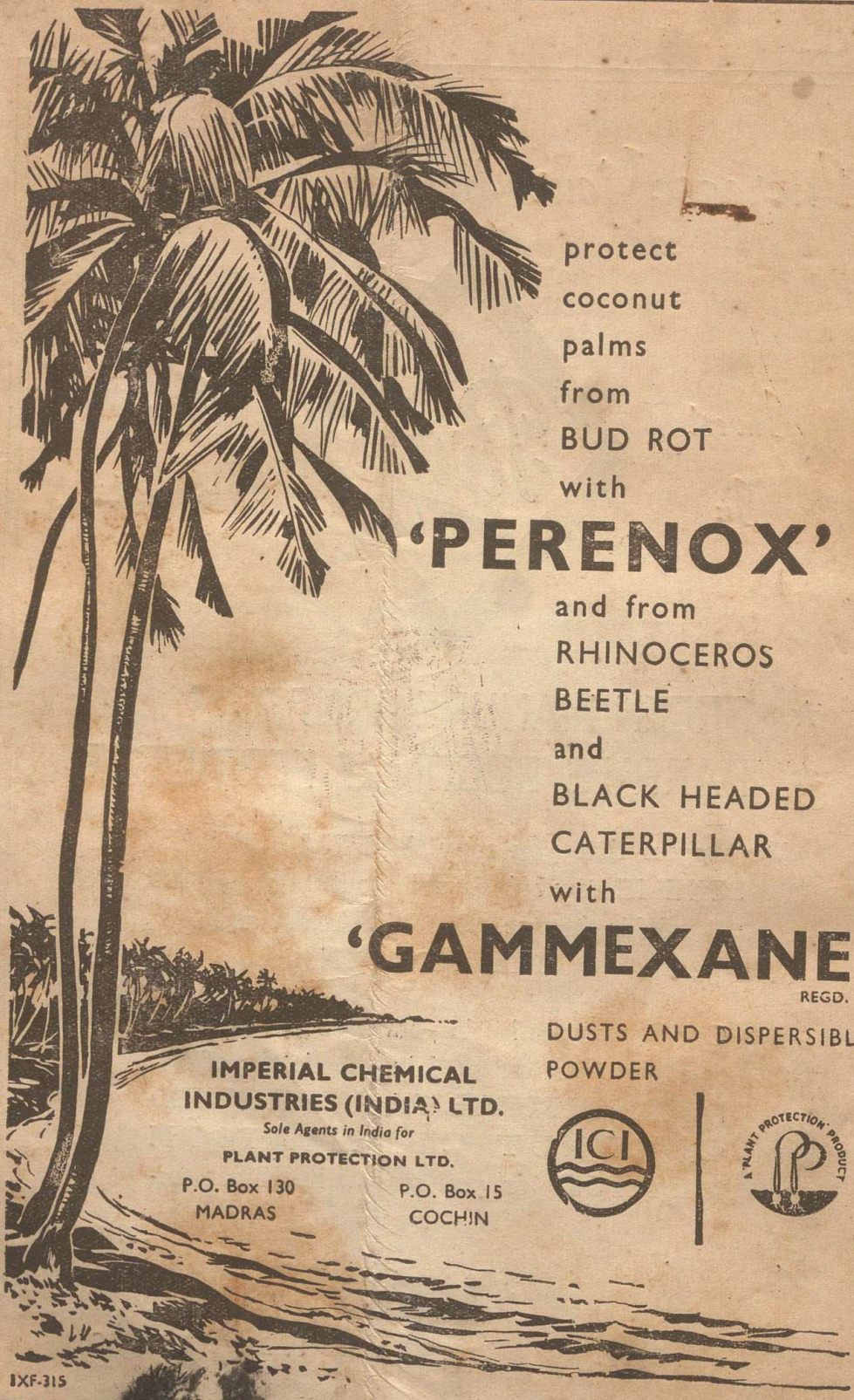

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