

CEYLON.



SESSIONAL PAPER V.—1934.

The Coconut Research Scheme for 1933.

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COCONUT RESEARCH SCHEME.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1933.

(In terms of Section 8 (2) of Ordinance No. 29 of 1928.)

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

ON January 1, 1933, the Board of Management consisted of the following members:—

The Director of Agriculture, Chairman (Dr. W. Youngman, D.Sc., Ph.D.).	
The Deputy Financial Secretary (C. W. Bickmore, Esq., C.C.S.).	
The Chairman of the Low-country Products Association of Ceylon (Sir H. Marcus Fernando, Kt.).	
Mr. F. A. Obeyesekere, M.S.C.) Members of the State Council nominated by the Governor.
Mr. J. L. Kotalawala, M.S.C.	
Mr. S. Pararajasingham, J.P.) Representing the Low-country Products Association of Ceylon.
Gata Mudaliyar A. E. Rajapakse, M.S.C.	
Mr. J. Fergusson) Representing the Planters Association of Ceylon.
Mr. A. W. Warburton-Gray, J.P., U.P.M.	
Mr. Graham Pandittsekera, J.P., U.P.M.) Representing the Smallholders.
Mr. E. F. Kannangara	

During the absence on leave from the Island of Dr. W. Youngman, Director of Agriculture, from April 4 to August 6, Dr. J. C. Hutson acted as Chairman in the capacity of Acting Director of Agriculture.

Mr. A. B. Gomes became an *ex officio* member of the Board upon succeeding Sir H. Marcus Fernando as Chairman of the Low-country Products Association. Sir H. Marcus Fernando was nominated by the Low-country Products Association upon the resignation of Mr. S. Pararajasingham in May. Mr. F. J. Holloway was nominated by the Planters Association of Ceylon to act for Mr. A. W. Warburton-Gray during the latter's absence from the Island from April 15, to October 15; and Mr. E. L. Spencer-Schrader was nominated by the same body to act for Mr. J. Fergusson when the latter went on leave on June 1.

Meetings of the Board of Management were held on four occasions: February 1, 1933; June 2, and October 20.

COMMITTEE.

Working Committee.—Personnel: The Chairman, Sir H. Marcus Fernando and Gata Mudaliyar A. E. Rajapakse.

STAFF.

Mr. B. Child, Chief Technical Officer, was on leave from November 6 until December 1. Mr. W. V. D. Pieris, Geneticist, acted as Chief Technical Officer during this period.

Mr. W. L. M. Salgado was selected for the post of Soil Chemist at the Board Meeting on June 2, and assumed duties on July 1. Mr. P. J. Nonis has held the post of Laboratory Superintendent throughout the year.

The following appointments of Laboratory Assistants have been made:—Mr. C. L. ... Assistant to the Geneticist, from December 1, 1933. Mr. E. L. Keegel, ... the Technological Chemist, and Mr. S. Ramanathan, B.Sc., Assistant ... Chemist. The two latter take up their duties in January, 1934. The ... attendants have also been engaged.

The financial and accounting work has been carried out under the supervision of ... Technical Officer.

TECHNICAL WORK.

1. *Technological Chemist*.—The chief investigations in progress in the Technological Chemist's laboratory are—

- (a) Chemical study of the effect of certain moulds on copra. The first part of this study is nearly complete.
- (b) Analyses of all available samples of Ceylon-made soap with a view to suggesting improvements in local soap manufacture.
- (c) Investigation on chemical retting of coir fibre and on coir fibre dust.
- (d) A large number of analyses have been carried out on copra and oil from various sources with reference to variation of oil content of kernels.

Minor work of an advisory capacity has included a short investigation of "drain" oil and analyses of coconut water; some work on drying desiccated coconut; and study of the production of white oil.

2. *Geneticist. Work on Bandirippuwa Estate*.—The yield recording experiments on Bandirippuwa estate have been continued. The results of the biometric investigations have been embodied in a paper entitled "Studies on the Coconut Palm I," which will be appearing shortly in the *Tropical Agriculturist*.

A series of copra experiments have been carried out in order to ascertain the relations held between such characters as number of nuts, weight of unhusked nuts and weight of husked nuts. The interesting discovery has been made that the weight of copra is equal to approximately one-third the weight of the original husked nut. This result has an important bearing on all experiments concerned with yield.

A number of investigations have been made on the germination of coconuts and the selection of nuts for seed, particularly with a view to studying critically the generally accepted ideas on these matters.

Investigations on Estates.—The work of yield recording on selected high yielding points on estates is now well in hand. At present such records are kept on six estates in the North-Western Province and two in the Western Province. It is hoped that these numbers will be increased during 1934. Figures available up to date indicate that the methods of selection adopted by us were sound and likely to yield good results.

Appointment of Technical Assistant.—Mr. C. L. de Zylva was appointed Technical Assistant to the Geneticist on December 1.

A bibliography of the literature on coconuts up to December, 1932, is in hand and will be ready for publication at an early date.

3. *Soil Chemist*.—The Soil Chemist was appointed as from July 1, 1933. As the Soil Chemist's laboratory not being equipped, the work carried out during the half-year has been of a preliminary nature and included the following programme:—

- (i.) Preparation of indents for chemicals and apparatus, the main consignment of which arrived only in November.
- (ii.) Indexing of literature on coconut soils and general soil, manurial and nutrition problems.
- (iii.) Visit to eight estates in order to get into touch with soil and manurial problems and select suitable estates for co-operative field trial.
- (iv.) Advisory work on systems of manuring, utilization of coconut refuse, composts, manurial value of husk ash, coconut refuse, and coconut manure.
- (v.) Minor investigations on the preparation of coconut husk ash and the manurial value of indigenous leguminous crops growing on coconut refuse.
- (vi.) Statistical analysis of a uniformity trial on coconuts to work out a suitable plot size for field experiments.

* A comprehensive programme of work has been prepared.

4. *Meteorological Observations.*—After consultation with the Superintendent, Colombo Observatory, a regular complete series of weather records was commenced on May 1, 1933—the Chief Technical Officer and the Soil Chemist carrying out the bulk of the observations.

Meetings.—The Chief Technical Officer attended by invitation the four meetings of the Board of Management during the year and acted as Secretary. Three of the meetings of the Building Committee were also attended. The Chief Technical Officer also attended during the year two meetings and two committee meetings of the Chilaw Planters Association; two meetings of the Kurunegala Planters' Association; three meetings of the Coconut Products Investigation Committee; and one meeting of the Standing Committee for Industrial Research and Development.

THE ESTATE.

The estate was given a general application of manure and was harrowed. The crops were a considerable advance on 1932 as follows:—

	Number of Nurs.	Value realised. Rs. c.
1st crop: February ..	65,809 ..	1,071 96
2nd crop: April ..	196,494 ..	2,401 70
3rd crop: June ..	144,991 ..	2,866 35
4th crop: August ..	148,384 ..	2,521 2
5th crop: October ..	91,967 ..	1,404 72
6th crop: December ..	74,551 ..	1,195 58
	<u>692,196</u>	<u>12,152 53</u>

Nuts sold 592,816, whence mean selling price per 1,000 nuts Rs. 20.50.

The estate expenses for the year totalled Rs. 10,340.39, working out at Rs. 16.36 per 1,000 nuts harvested. This included an expenditure on manuring of Rs. 4,788.41.

It should be noted that the income from sales of the 6th crop does not accrue in the financial year under review.

The actual revenue accruing from the estate during 1933 is made up as follows:—

	Rs. c.
From 6th crop (1932) ..	1,850 0
Crops 1-5 (1933) as above ..	10,055 75
Sales of rejection copra ..	130 52
Sales of copra (from experiments) ..	227 47
Sundry sales (seed nuts, leaf butts, &c.) ..	231 60
	<u>13,594 34</u>

The net income (revenue less expenditure) was thus Rs. 3,164.04.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.

The Building Committee consisting of the Chairman, Sir H. Marcus Fernando and Gate Mudaliyar A. E. Rajapakse visited the estate on two occasions and held two meetings.

The Laboratory Building was completed in March, and was formally opened by the Chief Secretary on March 27, when a large gathering was present.

The main approach road to the estate from the old Negombo-Chilaw road has been metalled to an extent of 3,602 feet. Future maintenance will be borne by the District Road Committee.

FINANCE.

The audited Statement of Accounts is attached.

W. YOUNGMAN,
Director of Agriculture,
Chairman, Board of Management, Coconut
Research Scheme of Ceylon.

CEYLON SESSIONAL PAPERS, 1934.

COCONUT RESEARCH SCHEME.

Statement of receipts and disbursements for the year 1933.

Receipts.	Rs.	Cs.	Disbursements.	Rs.	Cs.
Income Account:			Expenditure Account:		
Balance brought forward from 1932	152,571	26	I. Personal Emoluments:		
Government's Annual grant under section 6(1)(b) of Ordinance No. 23 of 1928	62,000	0	Salaries: Senior staff	21,177	8
Grant collections	47,982	64	Subordinate staff	5,309	84
Interest	4,122	20	Provident fund contribution (for 1932 and interest)	1,098	26
Increase from estate	12,534	34			
Grants received	253	97	G. Other Charges:		
			(1) Travelling expenses: Staff	1,095	79
			(2) Board members	252	25
	218,444	67			
Deposit Account:			D. Office:		
Balance brought forward from 1932	17,323	42	(1) Stationery	586	27
Provident fund (reserve account)	2,156	66	(2) Postage, etc.	857	24
Interest on building contractor's deposit	12	75	(3) Printing and advertising	891	19
Passage Fund	1,220	0	(4) Incidental expenses	437	46
Depreciation reserve account	12,870	26	(5) Rent of buildings	160	0
			(6) Telephone	420	0
	29,721	0	E. Laboratory:		
			(1) Upholstery, electrical apparatus, etc.	5,664	20
			F. Buildings:		
			(1) Utilities	280	29
			(2) Insurance	229	80
			(3) Electric plant's running expenses	451	50
			(4) Road grant (outdoor road)	2,088	72
				1,198	60
			G. Estate Account:		
			(1) General charges	1,396	05
			(2) Upholstery	1,051	06
			(3) Cultivation	5,182	0
			(4) Collection	760	82
			H. Research Account:		
			(1) General and nursery	521	50
			J. Loan Account:		
			(1) Repayment of instalment	16,050	0
			(2) Interest	5,080	0
			K. Reserve for Passage Fees	1,250	0
			L. Reserve for depreciation	17,820	00
			A. Capital Account:		
			(2) and (8) Buildings—contract	19,144	25
			(2) Buildings—contingencies	20,178	60
			(4) Laboratory, steel work	492	0
			(5) " masonry	8,222	72
			(6) " fittings, etc.	14,092	11
			(7) " contingencies	3,267	10
			(9) Gas plant	1,102	20
			(10) Equipment of laboratory	7,222	1
			(12) Furniture for office	312	0
			(13) " buildings	458	80
			Deposit Account:		
			Building contractors' accounts and interest	6,212	60
			Balance on December 31, 1933:		
			On fixed deposit	116,612	11
			On current account	25,800	24
			Cash in hand	80	94
				242,492	29
				208,165	67

Checked and found correct
G. E. GOONETILLEKE
Auditor-General.

Audit Office,
Colombo, January 22, 1934.

W. YOT XOMAN,
Chairman, Board of Management, Coconut Research Scheme.

Peradeniya, January 20, 1934.

