

# NEW TECHNIQUES IN POLLEN COLLECTION AND PROCESSING

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Introduction of improved varieties in one of the important responsibilities of the Coconut Research Institute. In keeping with the changing times, newer techniques have been introduced to increase the efficiency of pollen collection and processing.

In order to produce tall×tall and dwarf×tall varieties and other improved varieties which may be produced in the future, it is necessary to collect and store coconut pollen. The manpower and time required for this purpose could be considerably reduced by using modern techniques. Production of seedlings of high yielding varieties during a relatively short period of time will be economically advantageous to the country.

The method used for collection and storage of pollen had been in practice for the last 30 years. This requires considerable manpower and time.

The following electrically-operated equipment have been introduced to improve the pollen collection and storage.

- (a) Flower stripper to mechanically remove male flowers.
- (b) Fluid bed drier to remove pollen from male flowers and dry them.
- (c) Freeze drier to store pollen in air-free tubes. The pollen is dried at 0° C and tubes sealed.

These techniques have considerably reduced the time required for processing pollen. Also, the pollen prepared in this manner are of superior quality.