

# THE REPLANTING SCHEME

## A REVIEW

By O. B. M. CHEYNE,

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THE need for replanting of coconuts in Ceylon is beyond question. It has been estimated that if we allow the coconut palm an economic life of 70 years, one-seventieth of the area or about 15,000 acres would become due for replanting each year.

The Planting Division came into being in October, 1948, when a clerk was appointed. The following January, Mr. O. B. M. Cheyne was appointed Replanting Officer and Mr. P. D. Laurence Fernando as Assistant Replanting Officer (in April).

The Planting Division is financed by a special vote from the Department of Agriculture (and administered by the Coconut Research Board). Funds for the establishment of nurseries for Co-operative Societies were originally provided by a special vote from the Department of Commodity Purchase.

The Annual votes from the Department of Agriculture are given below :—

1948/49 (January/September)	..	..	..	..	Rs. 137,468.00
1949/50 (October/September)	..	..	..	..	„ 179,300.00
1950/51 (October/September)	..	..	..	..	„ 410,000.00
1951/52 (October/September)	..	..	..	..	„ 520,500.00

Staff.—The present staff now consists of :—

- 1 Planting Officer,
- 1 Assistant Planting Officer,
- 8 Field Assistants, and
- 12 Nursery Attendants.

In addition the Advisory Field Officers supervise the selection of seedlings issued and follow-up the progress of seedlings after planting.

Nurseries.—Besides nurseries established for the Coconut Producers' Co-operative Societies, (particulars of which are given below) the following statement shows the position of other nurseries established since the inception of the new organisation :—

### Coconut Research Institute Nurseries.—

Nursery	1948/49				Capacity	Nuts
	Situation					
Ratmalagara	..	..	..	Madampe	..	22,975
Carmel	..	..	..	Kurunegala	..	25,000

		1949/50					
Nursery		Situation		Capacity		Nuts	
Ratmalagara	.. .. .	Madampe	.. .. .	77,204			
Carmel	.. .. .	Kurunegala	.. .. .	32,200			
St. Anne's	.. .. .	Puttalam	.. .. .	40,000			
Labuduwa	.. .. .	Galle	.. .. .	35,000			
Walpita	.. .. .	Kotadeniyawa	.. .. .	41,900			
Hettipola	.. .. .	Hettipola	.. .. .	13,750		204,054	
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		1950/51					
Ratmalagara	.. .. .	Madampe	.. .. .	109,356			
Carmel	.. .. .	Kurunegala	.. .. .	31,704			
St. Anne's	.. .. .	Puttalam	.. .. .	67,298			
Labuduwa	.. .. .	Galle	.. .. .	30,251			
Walpita	.. .. .	Kotadeniyawa	.. .. .	47,837			
Hettipola	.. .. .	Hettipola	.. .. .	32,800			
Palugaswewa	.. .. .	Rajakadaluwa	.. .. .	30,000			
Pappamodai	.. .. .	Mannar	.. .. .	10,000			
Tharakundu	.. .. .	Mannar	.. .. .	15,000			
Bandirippuwa	.. .. .	Lunuwila	.. .. .	6,400		380,646	
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		1951/52					
Bandirippuwa	.. .. .	Lunuwila	.. .. .	6,400			
Ratmalagara	.. .. .	Madampe	.. .. .	130,000			
Carmel, old	.. .. .	Kurunegala	.. .. .	30,000			
Carmel, new	.. .. .	Kurunegala	.. .. .	30,000			
St. Anne's	.. .. .	Puttalam	.. .. .	75,000			
Labuduwa	.. .. .	Galle	.. .. .	35,000			
Walpita	.. .. .	Kotadeniyawa	.. .. .	40,000			
Hettipola	.. .. .	Hettipola	.. .. .	45,000			
Palugaswewa	.. .. .	Rajakadaluwa	.. .. .	40,000			
Pappamodai	.. .. .	Mannar	.. .. .	10,000			
Tharakundu	.. .. .	Mannar	.. .. .	15,000			
Kalawewa	.. .. .	Kalawewa	.. .. .	75,000			
Bedigama	.. .. .	Tangalla	.. .. .	75,000			
Killinochchi	.. .. .	Killinochchi	.. .. .	10,000		616,400	
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### Co-operative Societies' Nurseries

**Assistance.**—As stated earlier in this review, the establishment of nurseries for Coconut Producers' Co-operative Societies is undertaken by the Planting and Advisory Division of this Institute which supplies these Societies with selected seed-nuts, barbed wire, and fence posts (these fencing materials remain the property of the Coconut Research Institute).

Originally the expenses in connection with the establishment of Co-operative Nurseries were met by the provision of a special vote of Rs. 20,000 from the Commissioner of Commodity

Purchase but during the year 1949 this vote was exhausted and not renewed. Since 1st October, 1949, expenditure on this account has been met by the Planting and Advisory Division from the funds allocated to it by the Department of Agriculture.

Seed-nuts are delivered to Co-operative Societies' nurseries free of cost and we also pay for the construction of the beds, laying down of the nuts and erection of the wire fence; thereafter the up-keep of the nursery is the responsibility of the Society.

When the plants are ready for distribution, our Officers see to the selection of good and rejection of bad seedlings and the good seedlings are then handed over to the Society who pay us for them at the rate of 25 cts. each (present price). Rejected seedlings are destroyed.

So far this scheme for assistance has been working satisfactorily but there are one or two Societies who have been unable to dispose of their last season's seedlings and who still owe us money on this account.

### Nurseries Established To-date

The following is a statement showing the nurseries established by us for the Coconut Producers' Co-operative Societies since 1st October, 1948,\* and the number of seed-nuts laid down:—

1948 '49		1949 '50		1950 '51		1951 '52	
Bolgoda ..	1,000	Bolgoda ..	1,000	Bolgoda ..	2,000	Bolgoda ..	2,000
Sandalankawa ..	20,000	Batticaloa ..	24,000	Batticaloa ..	15,000	Batticaloa ..	15,000
Dunugaha ..	10,000	Gokarella ..	5,000	Gokarella ..	5,000	Gokarella ..	5,000
Mutugala ..	20,000	Madampella ..	20,000	Madampella ..	25,000	Madampella ..	25,000
Veyangoda ..	10,000	Kurunegala ..	17,000	Madampe ..	15,000	Madampe ..	20,000
		Sandalankawa ..	20,000	Mundel ..	15,000	Mundel ..	20,000
		Mutugala ..	20,000	Nattandiya ..	20,000	Nattandiya ..	20,000
		Veyangoda ..	10,000	Puttalam ..	20,000	Puttalam ..	20,000
		Dunugaha ..	10,000	Kurunegala ..	16,196	Kurunegala ..	15,000
				Veyangoda ..	7,000	Veyangoda ..	10,000
				Dunugaha ..	25,000	Dunugaha ..	25,000
				Mutugala ..	20,000	Mutugala ..	20,000
				Sandalankawa ..	18,000	Sandalankawa ..	20,000
<b>Total Nurseries 5— 61,000</b>		<b>9— 127,000</b>		<b>13— 203,196</b>		<b>13— 217,000</b>	

The average quantity of good selected seedlings obtained from the seed-nuts laid down is about 60%.

**Block-nuts.**—In addition seed-nuts have been supplied for nurseries established by Government Agricultural Stations and Colonisation Schemes and 140,000 seed-nuts were supplied for a nursery at the Government Farm at Bibile in 1949.

Fifty thousand seed-nuts were also supplied for the nurseries at Paragahakelle for the planting up of 400 acres of coconuts at Wawinna in the Gal-o-ya Valley.

\* (Financial year of the Planting and Advisory Division is from 1st October to 30th September).

It is essential that only the best planting material available should be used. First quality nuts come from "Mother Palms" which have a consistent yield record of 80 nuts or more per palm per annum. Such palms are few and far between and would not supply more than a fraction of the quantity required.

For this reason the practice of using "Block-nuts" has been followed; these are the very best nuts which can be selected from the heaps of nuts derived from fields or blocks on estates with sustained records of a high annual yield of nuts per palm, and a good copra out-turn over a period of five years or more.

Not many estates come up to this high standard.

The subject of seed-coconuts has been discussed by the writer in the previous number of the *Ceylon Coconut Quarterly* (Vol. III, No. 2).

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