

## VISIT OF PROFESSOR AND MRS. J. B. S. HALDANE AND PARTY TO THE COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Professor & Mrs. Haldane (Dr. Helen Spurway), Mr. Davies (Plant Physiologist of the Indian Coconut Station at Kayangulam, India) and Mr. Dronaraju, arrived in the company of the Director from Colombo, visiting the Seeduwa Fats and Oils Corporation on the way.

On arrival, after the Heads of Divisions had been introduced to him, Professor Haldane in a short speech proposed the toast of the Coconut Research Institute, with libations of fresh TODDY supplied by the Chemist, Mr. Nathanael.

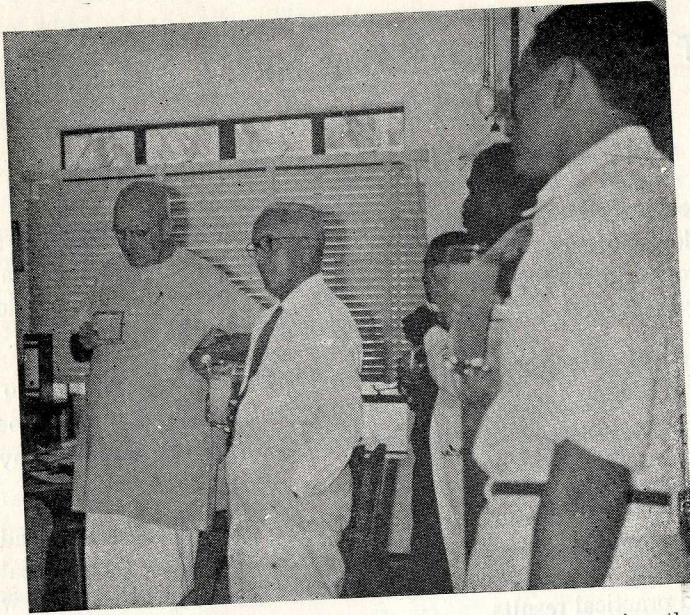
In the course of a short address, he stated that the Research and Research Programmes of a Crop Research Institute needed a proper balance between pure research which is fundamental and applied research which produced practical results.

It was the duty of the Director to hold the balance and unless practical results were produced in reasonable time, the research workers may get into trouble.

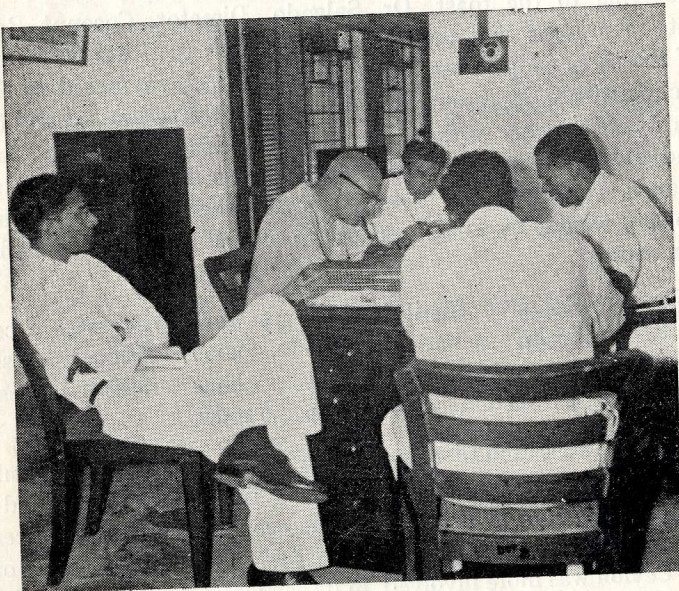
In replying to the toast, Dr. Salgado, Director, Coconut Research Institute mentioned that the Coconut Research Institute was the Cinderella of the three Crop Research Institutes in that, compared to the Tea Research Institute its resources and funds were very limited and that as from this year we were working on a deficit budget, and that he had just prepared and submitted a financial statement to the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Irrigation and Power, showing that this year's deficit of Rs. 500,000, would, by 1964, amount to almost an alarming deficit of 1 million rupees.

The Coconut Research Institute, 28 years ago started with a cess of Rs. 60,000/- and a Government Grant of Rs. 30,000/-. While the cess had been increased, realising in an average year about 1 million rupees, the staff had increased from a mere 25 or so to 250 today.

While the Tea Research Institute had an income of nearly 2½ to 3 million rupees, the Coconut Research Institute was a pauper at present, and that while he (Dr. Salgado) conceded that the economy of Ceylon in certain aspects was linked with the prosperity of Tea, the ultimate destiny of the people of Ceylon was more involved, in its economic, social and nutritional aspects on the prosperity or failure of the copra market. While the Tea



Professor Haldane addressing the Senior Staff and toasting the Coconut Research Institute



Professor Haldane and Party in discussion with Botanist

Industry in particular and to some extent, the Rubber Industry, was organised on Capitalist Plantation Economy, the Coconut Industry representing the largest acreage of million acres compared to a bare 500,000 acres of Tea, was more broadbased, covering 65 per cent as Small-holdings below 20 acres, and the fall in copra price by Rs. 100/- during the last 6 months affected not merely the ultimate economy of Ceylon, but the economy and budgeting of the Coconut Research Institute as well.

Dr. Salgado in concluding said that he hoped that the visit of Professor Haldane may be an auspicious sign of the recognition of the Coconut Research Institute and the scientific and economic appreciation of its work.