

Proceedings of the 2nd Quarterly Seminar

The second seminar of the series was held on 6th June 1984 on the theme "Pests, Diseases and Their Control" at which three papers were presented. Dr. R. Mahindapala, Deputy Director (Research)/CRI, reviewed the common diseases in Coconut. He emphasized the factors affecting the spread of diseases and measures to control them. The diseases affecting the bud, stem, roots and leaves were dealt separately by him. Minor diseases affecting seedlings were also presented. Further more, a brief mention was made about the diseases of coconut prevalent in other coconut growing countries, and the importance of quarantine measures in importing material from these countries. In describing the symptoms of Leaf Scorch Decline (LSD) which was originally observed in the southern province of the island, it was mentioned that this disorder associated with root decay. Palms showing very early symptoms of LSD have been successfully treated by soil building.

Dr. P. Kanagaratnam, Head/Crop Protection Division, outlined the damages caused by Red Weevil, Black Beetle and Coconut Scale. Methods of pest control, mechanical, biological and chemical were also presented. The first method includes practices such as burning, collecting, estate sanitation etc, while in the biological method an agent is used to control the pest. Use of chemicals in the control of pests and precautions that should be taken in handling of chemicals were also stressed.

Biological control of the Coconut Caterpillar and the Leaf Miner was outlined by Mr. P. A. C. R. Perera, Assistant Crop Protection Officer. The life cycle of these pests and the biological control techniques were explained. The papers were followed by a discussion where the effects of fungi and mites on immature nut fall received much attention. In estates where organic manure such as cowdung is used, the necessity for proper sanitary measures was stressed.

by

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