

# COCONUT GROWERS TO BENEFIT FROM FARMER'S PENSION AND SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME

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The farming community performs a noble task of feeding their countrymen. However, often the farmers have no security during the old age, particulars if they have missed saving opportunities.

In contrast, employees in the Public Sector, Government Corporations and Statutory bodies enjoy many privileges. They benefit from Pension and Provident Fund Schemes and hence are guaranteed of an income during retirement.

In this context, the importance of operating a Pension and Social Security Scheme has been felt a necessity for farmers to be self dependent during old age.

The benefit of this scheme are four fold.

1. A farmer is entitled to a life pension on completion of his 60th year.
2. On permanent disability, payment of full compensation or payment in instalments until death, will be made.
3. Payment of compensation in case of partial disability.
4. In the event of death, payment of death gratuity to legal beneficiaries.

Payments will be made as follows:

Age on date of disablement (Years)	Full disability compensation (Rs.)	Partial disability compensation (Rs.)	Death gratuity (Rs.)
Up to 33 <del>18-30</del>	50,000	25,000	25,000
<del>34-43</del> 31-35	40,000	20,000	20,000
<del>44-51</del> 36-40	30,000	15,000	15,000
<del>52-56</del> 41-45	20,000	10,000	10,000
<del>57-60</del> 46-60	12,000	6,000	6,000
	6,000	8,000	8,000

A farmer gaining membership between his 55-59th year is entitled to receive the following amounts for full or partial disability occurring prior to his date of pension entitlement.

	Full disability compensation (Rs.)	Partial disability compensation (Rs.)	Death gratuity (Rs.)
From 55th year up to the qualifying stage for pension	12,000 8,000	6,000 4,000	6,000 4,000

The following basic requirements are necessary for membership.

- i. Should be over 18 and below 59 years of age.
- ii. Owners of holdings who farm for the following crops for their livelihood, farmers on leased holding and farmers who cultivate others lands on Ande (work-produce sharing basis) system qualify for membership.

Crops:

- \* Paddy and other cereals
- \* Food crops and vegetables
- \* Yams
- \* Fruits
- \* Betel vine
- \* Sugarcane

In addition to the above, it has also been decided to include, Tea, Rubber, Coconut and mixed crop growers, farmers involved in animal production and labourers engaged in agricultural produce in this scheme. However, once necessary regulations are finalised owners

of coconut holdings not exceeding 5 ac. in extent will also qualify for enrolment in this scheme.

- iii. Government pensioners, Corporations or private sector employees who have received benefits via provident fund payments etc, after their service, shall not qualify for membership.
- iv. Applicant or his/her spouse who is entitled to any pensions or provident fund benefits shall also not qualify for membership.

- v. Area under highland cultivation by either spouse shall not exceed 10 ac.
- vi. Should not be receiving an adequate assessed income thereby making liable for income tax payment.

This request is to the Coconut small holders to join the Farmers' Pension and Social Security Benefit Scheme and thereby to build up a secure future. For further details please write to Director (Farmers Pension) Agricultural Insurance Board, No. 267, Union Place, Colombo 2.

*Agric. Insurance Office  
Divine Scientist*

## ADVISORY SERVICE TO THE ESTATE SECTOR

The Coconut Research Institute has been entrusted with the responsibility of providing technical and advisory assistance to the coconut estate sector (50 acres and above) by the Ministry of Coconut Industries. Under this scheme the Coconut Research Institute endeavours to provide advice on cultivation aspects.

The estate sector was requested by a newspaper advertisement to register with the Coconut Research Institute for the above service. If you have not done so yet, please write to the Director, Coconut Research Institute, Lunuwila, giving the following information for registration.

- (a) Name of the Estate
- (b) Location
- (c) Name and address of the owner
- (d) Person to be contacted at the estate
- (e) Extent under coconut.