

Seed Garden for Quality Seed nuts



While welcoming the distinguished visitors Dr. D. V. Liyanage explained the importance of establishing a seed garden for the production of high quality seed material.

On a request made by the District Minister for Kurunegala, the Hon. Minister of Coconut Industries declared open the memorial plaque of the seed garden and explained the development projects undertaken with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development by his ministry to resuscitate the Coconut Industry which is the oldest plantation industry owned by the Sri Lankans and thanked the President of Sri Lanka His Excellency J. R. Jayawardena for establishing a separate Ministry for the upliftment of the coconut industry.

A coconut seed garden was formally inaugurated on 21 July 1984 by Hon. Harold Herat, Minister of Coconut Industries/Deputy Minister, Janatha Estate Development Board at Mahayaya Estate, Makandura, Gonawila.

Associated with the Hon. Minister were the Minister of Agricultural Research and Development Hon. Gamani Jayasuriya and the District Minister for Kurunegala Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera. Among the other distinguished guests were Mr. D. Wijesinghe Secretary, Ministry of Coconut Industries and Chairman, Coconut Development Authority, Dr. D. V. Liyanage, Chairman Coconut Research Board, Mr. Sumith Silva, Director, Coconut Development Projects, Dr. D. T. Wettasinghe, Director, Coconut Research Institute, Mr. R. I. Fernandopulle, Chairman Coconut Cultivation Board and Mr. W. K. D. J. Waragoda, General Manager, Coconut Cultivation Board.

At the end, the distinguished visitors planted coconut seedlings to commemorate the event.

Reported by S. M. P. Subasinghe

Editors Note.

The Seed Garden consists of 85 acres of seed garden proper enclosed in a barrier of 13 guard rows of elite coconut. The seed garden will be planted with specially selected material from the Isolated Seed Garden and will produce Tall X Tall (CRIC 60) variety.

Planting of the Seed Garden is expected to be completed by the end of the year. When in full production, this seed garden is expected to produce between 400,000 to 500,000 seed-nuts per year.