

COCONUT RESEARCH SCHEME (CEYLON)  
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1931

(In terms of Section 8(2) of Ordinance No.29 of 1928)

THE BOARD

Mr. F.A.Obeysekera became an ex-officio member of the Board upon succeeding Mr. C.H.Z.Fernando as Chairman of the Low Country Products Association of Ceylon. Mr. A.W.Warburton Gray was nominated by the Planters' Association of Ceylon, in place of Mr. J.Sheridan-Patterson who resigned in March. Mr. J.Fergusson's place on the Committee during his absence abroad from March 7 to June 18, was filled by Mr. F.J.Holloway. Mr. W.A.de Silva was nominated by His Excellency the Governor to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. A.Mahadeva upon the dissolution of the Legislative Council. The Hon'ble Mr. D.S.Senanayake, who was re-nominated by His Excellency the Governor upon the constitution of the State Council, resigned in October and Mr. J.L.Kotalawala has been nominated to succeed him.

Meetings of the Board of Management were held on six occasions: January 16, February 12, May 13, August 5, September 16, and December 2.

Staff

Dr. W.E.de B.Diamond resigned the post of Director of Research and left the service of the Scheme at the end of May.

Mr. W.V.D.Peiris, Geneticist, has been in Acting Charge of Bandirippawa Estate from June to December.

Dr. R.Child, Technological Chemist, arrived on October 12 1931, and has been engaged in visiting estates in all the important coconut producing districts. He assumed charge as Chief Technical Officer on January 1, 1932, and officiates as such pending the appointment of a Director of Research.

Mr. P.J.Nonis has held the post of Estate Superintendent from February 1, 1931.

A Provident Fund Scheme has been instituted for the benefit of the permanent staff, who will contribute 5% of their salaries while the Board will contribute a similar percentage and pay interest at 4½% yearly on the sums at credit.

Technical Work.

The work so far undertaken has been only of a preliminary nature. A summary of that work, submitted by the technical staff is appended to this report. The acquisition of 15 acres of Cro land in the vicinity of Bandirippawa for the testing of varieties of seeds is receiving consideration.

The Estate.

The purchase of Bandirippawa Estate, 154A. 2R. 18P., at cost of Rs 187,554.68 was completed, and the Board took possession on January 7. The boundaries of the estate have been completely fenced with barbed wire on iron standards. The entire area of the estate was mamoty-dug uniformly during the year.

The village road reservation running along the eastern and northern boundaries of the estate have been leased from the Assistant Government Agent, Puttalam, on payment of a nominal rental. The produce of this area will be collected with the crops of the estate until such time as the reservations are required for road making.

The crops harvested were as follows:-

	<u>Number of nuts</u>	<u>Value realised.</u>
Crop - February	80,192	Rs 2,318.04
Crop - April	142,837	2,919.10
Crop - June	132,271	2,890.88
Crop - September	111,324	2,074.28
Crop - October	76,904	1,917.26
Crop - December	<u>39,627</u>	<u>1,379.59</u>
Total .. .. .	<u>583,155</u>	<u>Rs 13,499.15</u>

Gross value realised: Rs 23.14 per 1,000 nuts.

The estate expenditure for the year totalled Rs 6,664.19, working out at Rs 11.42 per 1,000 nuts harvested. The nett income averaged Rs 11.72 per 1,000 nuts.

Buildings.-

A Committee consisting of the Chairman, Sir Marcus Fernando, the Mudaliyar A.S.Rajapakse and the Hon'ble Mr. D.S.Senanayake was appointed in February to deal with all details connected with the buildings. The Committee visited the estate on two occasions and held five meetings.

Messrs Edwards, Reid & Booth were appointed architects to the Scheme. Plans and specifications were drawn up, tenders were called for and a contract for the construction of the necessary buildings was entered into with Messrs. D.A.D.Fernando & Co. on November 5. The progress made with each of the buildings is recorded below:-

Director's Bungalow - Excavation completed.

Senior Staff Bungalow No.1 - Brickwork completed up to six feet above floor level.

Senior Staff Bungalow No.2 - Brickwork completed up to floor level.

Senior Staff Quarters No.1 - Brickwork completed up to roof level and roof work commenced.

Senior Staff Quarters No.2 - Brickwork completed up to roof level.

Senior Staff Quarters No.3 - Brickwork completed up to 4 feet above floor level.

Senior Staff Quarters No.4 - Brickwork completed up to floor level.

Sheds for Menial Staff - Brickwork completed up to eight feet above floor level.

Well for Senior Staff - Excavated to depth of 27 feet.

Well for Junior Staff - Excavated to depth of 57 feet.

Plans for a main laboratory block are under preparation. It could not be included in the above contract as it was necessary to await the arrival of the Technological Chemist in connection with the points of detail in the design of the laboratories.

The District Road Committee has allowed the road from the Negambo-Chilaw road to Lunuwila, which provides access to the site for a distance of some half a mile, to be taken in hand by the Board for the purpose of immediate improvements to enable the transport of building materials and for its eventual conversion to a metalled road.

#### Finance.

Appended to this report is a Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1931, and a Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year 1931. There remained a cash balance of Rs 206,425/76 in hand on December 31, and the entire assets of the Scheme amounted to Rs 402,326.25.

These accounts have been audited by the Auditor-General.

The estimates of income and expenditure as approved by the Board for the year 1932 are as follows:-

Current Account.

Estimated income (including surplus from 1931)	Rs	276,400
Estimated recurrent expenditure in 1932	78,351	
Amount to be transferred to Capital Account.	<u>137,330</u>	<u>215,681</u>

Capital Account.

First instalment (one-half) of loan of Rs 200,000 provided under Ordinance No.29 of 1928	100,000	
Transfer from Cash Balance	<u>137,330</u>	237,330
Cost of laboratory, bungalows, equipment, &c.		<u>237,330</u>

Sgd. W.Youngman,  
Chairman,  
Board of Management  
Coconut Research Scheme.

Peradeniya,  
18th January, 1932.

COCONUT RESEARCH SCHEME  
SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL WORK DONE IN 1931

Geneticist.

The major portion of the work done in 1931 was confined to the first half of the year. A report of this work has already been submitted. It consisted mainly of the commencement of census investigations on coconut estates, biometrical work on Bandirippawa estate and on certain other estates situated in the North-Western Province. Most of the available literature on the coconut palm was also consulted and abstracted.

A number of visits was paid to the Colaba Museum Library in October 1931, and a considerable number of fresh references to the coconut palm, historical and technical, were collected.

During the second half of 1931 the Geneticist was the sole Technical Officer of the Scheme, and he was necessarily compelled to spend the greater portion of his time in Bandirippawa. During this period yield-record experiments were commenced on 300 trees in Bandirippawa estate. The nuts of 42 trees have been put down in a nursery with a view to making the following studies in germination:-

1. Respective dates of germination of nuts belonging to different trees.
2. Differences in dates of germination due to size of nuts, shape, &c.
3. Relative dates of germination between nuts of the same tree belonging to different bunches.
4. Rate of growth and vigour of seedlings.

A total of 297 visits have been paid to the estate in 1931.

Technological Chemist.-

The Technological Chemist joined the Scheme on January 1, 1931, but did not arrive in Ceylon until October 12, 1931. During the intervening period, one month was spent in obtaining experience of soap technology at the Whitehall Soap Works of Messrs Watson & Co., Leeds, a fortnight in the analytical laboratory and a fortnight on the works.

Despite many efforts on the part of the London Committee, it was found impossible to arrange for a similar or longer period in a margarine factory or oil refinery manufacturing oils for edible purposes, although firms in England, Holland and Italy were approached. However, short visits were paid to margarine factories, oil mills and soap works, and in April a brief visit was paid to Holland where some firms connected with the industry were interviewed.

Chemical literature relating to coconut oil was summarised chiefly at the Library of the Chemical Society, and the Patents Office, London. The references so collected have been combined with those collected by the Geneticist (see his foregoing Report) and a card index is being prepared.

The period from July 13 to September 4, was spent in the Department of Industrial Chemistry of the University of Liverpool. Work was carried out under Professor Hilditch and considerable experience gained of recent methods of investigation relating to vegetable oils.

After arrival in Ceylon the Technological Chemist spent a week in Colombo in consultation with the Scheme's Architects concerning the proposed laboratory structures. Following this week was spent at Peradeniya.

From October 25 to November 22 a tour was undertaken of the coconut producing districts, to obtain experience of methods of cultivation and processes of manufacture of coconut products. This tour was made up of a week spent in each of the following provinces, North-Western, Eastern, Western and Southern. Visits were paid to twenty three estates, four oil mills, two fibre mills as well as two small-holdings, small-scale copra kilns and chokkas and presses.

The Technological Chemist took up residence at Kirinsetiyana on November 23.

In the absence of laboratories, no chemical work has been possible. In consultation with the Geneticist a list of books, periodicals, apparatus and chemicals (the last two based on lists required in England) was submitted to the Board.

Twenty visits were paid to Bandirippuwa estate from November 24, to December 22.

Sgd. W.V.D. Pieris  
Geneticist  
" Reginald Child.  
Technological Chemist.