

# REVIEW OF REPLANTING

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## The Replanting Project

The Scheme for the supply of subsidised selected seedlings commenced in the financial year 1948-49. This scheme was first financed from a special vote from the Department of Agriculture with the proceeds from the sale of seedlings reverting to revenue. Up to end of 1954, the production of seedlings depended on this fluctuating vote. At this period the Government approved the following 10 year Replanting Programme.

Table I  
10 Year Replanting Programme

Year	Seedlings	Acres
1955	600,000	10,000
1956	840,000	14,000
1957	1,080,000	18,000
1958	960,000	16,000
1959	960,000	16,000
1960	960,000	16,000
1961	900,000	15,000
1962	900,000	15,000
1963	900,000	15,000
1964	900,000	15,000
Total for 10 years .. ..	9,000,000	150,000

The above programme provides for the supply of planting material sufficient to replant on an average 15,000 acres per annum. To put this programme of work into effect, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, approved a fixed annual vote of Rs. 500,000/- for 10 years. The above programme provided for a replacement of the existing planted acreage at 1.5 per cent and for new planting of suitable lands at 1 per cent per annum.

(The acreage of suitable lands for new planting was taken from the report of the Land Utilisation Commission). (See Table III). With the new Six Year Plan of Development coming into effect, a further sum of Rs. 350,000/- per annum was approved to supply a sufficient quantity of planting material for new planting as well.

*Work done.*—Table II below gives the distribution of all the nurseries established, the number of seednuts laid, the number of seedlings raised and the expenditure incurred for each year up to the end of 1956.

Table II

	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year
<i>Nurseries</i>								
	48-49	49-50	50-51	51-52	52-53	53-54	54-55	1956
<i>Planting Division</i>								
1. Rathmalagara	22,975	74,300	79,960	118,100	114,100	145,880	147,800	156,000
2. Carmel	25,000	32,200	31,704	51,100	41,100	45,000	29,500	30,000
3. St. Anne's	—	40,000	64,600	74,225	46,945	31,800	40,000	70,100
4. Walpita	—	35,900	52,727	25,000	58,450	60,000	118,400	85,250
5. Labuduwa	—	34,000	27,300	21,500	18,500	26,350	32,000	30,000
6. Hettipola	—	3,750	42,800	45,000	47,900	40,000	83,000	60,000
7. Pappamodai	—	—	10,000	—	—	—	—	—
8. Tharakundu	—	—	15,000	—	—	—	—	—
9. Palugaswewa	—	—	30,000	40,000	16,000	—	—	—
10. Bandirippuwa	—	—	6,425	—	—	—	—	—
11. Killinochchi	—	—	—	10,000	40,000	40,000	85,800	75,000
12. Kalawewa	—	—	—	52,000	29,000	72,500	90,000	90,000
13. Dematawala	—	—	—	75,450	56,750	120,100	120,999	124,122
14. Wilpotha	—	—	—	—	131,350	169,370	200,000	200,000
15. Wennappuwa	—	—	—	—	—	25,000	30,000	30,865
16. Karaweddana	—	—	—	—	—	—	140,950	175,000
17. Batticaloa	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,000	11,000
18. Alampil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52,000
19. Mylambavelly	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30,000
20. Eraminigolla	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30,000
21. Koggala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63,100
	47,975	220,150	360,516	512,375	600,095	776,000	1,136,450	1,312,437

*Co-operative Societies*

1. Bolgoda	1,000	—	2,000	—	—	—	—	—
2. Dungaha	10,000	—	35,000	—	20,000	30,000	30,500	—
3. Mutugala	14,800	5,450	20,000	—	—	—	—	—
4. Sandalankawa	14,700	—	18,000	—	15,000	—	—	—
5. Veyangoda	10,300	10,000	—	—	17,000	10,000	—	—
6. Kurunegala	8,750	24,000	16,196	—	12,000	—	—	—
7. Madampe	—	20,000	40,000	—	—	—	—	—
8. Gokarella	—	5,000	5,000	—	—	—	—	—
9. Batticaloa	—	16,000	15,000	—	—	—	—	—
10. Nattandiya	—	—	20,000	18,000	16,000	—	—	—
11. Mundel	—	—	15,000	20,000	—	—	—	—
12. Madampe	—	—	500	20,000	—	—	—	—
13. Puttalam	—	—	20,000	10,000	6,000	—	—	—
	59,550	80,450	206,696	68,000	86,000	40,000	30,500	—

### Department of Agriculture

1. Pasyala	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Bibile	133,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Batticaloa	7,000	65,000	10,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	—	—
4. Ratnapura	2,000	2,000	15,000	—	15,000	—	—	—
5. Wariyapola	10,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Gampaha	—	7,500	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Horana	—	5,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Tangalle	—	10,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Trincomalee	—	250	4,000	—	—	—	—	—
10. Uva	—	—	—	—	4,000	—	—	—
11. Polonnaruwa	5,500	20,000	20,000	20,000	—	—	—	—
	160,500	109,750	49,000	30,000	34,000	15,000	—	—

### Others

Gal Oya D.B.	—	—	14,500	—	38,500	18,500	—	—
Private Estates	6,450	8,900	31,050	4,300	13,100	5,600	7,310	2,500
	6,450	8,900	45,550	4,300	51,600	24,100	7,310	2,500
Total Seednuts	274,475	419,250	661,762	614,675	771,695	855,100	1,174,260	1,314,937

### Approximate No. of

Seedlings (@ 60%)	164,000	252,000	397,000	369,000	463,000	513,000	70,500	79,000
Expenditure : Rs.	137,468	179,269	406,935	354,611	468,261	441,420	538,105	—

To end of 1956, a total of 6,086,144 seednuts were laid down in the nurseries which were sufficient to raise approximately 3,654,000 seedlings for a replacement of about 60,860 acres. In addition to this acreage it would be reasonable to assume that at least another 10 to 15,000 acres would have been replanted during this period by estate owners with seedlings produced in their own nurseries.

The first Nursery was established at Ratmalagara Estate, Madampe, in March 1949 and the number of nurseries was gradually expanded from year to year to cover practically all coconut growing areas. In the first year of our activities, namely 1948/1949, a special vote of Rs. 20,000/- was given by the Commissioner of Co-operative Development for the purpose of establishing nurseries for some of the approved Coconut Producers Co-operative Sales Societies. In the same year, nurseries were established for 6 Societies and all the 13 Societies participated in this Scheme. When this vote was exhausted, the nurseries established for these Societies were taken over by the Planting Division.

To supply the requirements of the Revenue Officers, the Department of Agriculture maintained a number of nurseries under the supervision of the Divisional Agricultural Officers in different districts for which selected seednuts were supplied by us. In 1951, a nursery was established for the Gal Oya Development Board to supply planting material for their own development work. A few orders for selected seednuts from private estates were also executed.

At the request of the Assistant Government Agent, Mannar, 2 nurseries were opened in the Mannar District at Tharakundu and Pappamodal in 1951, but as the demand for seedlings from this area was extremely poor these nurseries were closed down. In the following year, we went further north and established a nursery at Killinochchi which proved a success. The requirements of the Eastern Province too, were met from the nursery established for the Batticaloa Co-operative Society at Chenkaladi, and also from the nursery maintained by the Divisional Agricultural Officer, Batticaloa.

With the expansion of our own nurseries it was found that it would be more economical to supply seedlings to Revenue Officers and Co-operative Societies from our own nurseries rather than maintain these scattered small nurseries which were gradually reduced.

The demand for seedlings up to 1952 was only fairly satisfactory and in Southern Province in particular, the demand was very poor. Extensive propaganda and publicity had to be carried out in this Province to create a demand. However, with the reduction in the price of seedlings to -/30 cts. in 1953 coupled with the improvement of the Copra Market, the demand for seedlings rose up unexpectedly. From this time onwards, the demand for seedlings exceeded the available supply, the position remaining the same even up-to-date. We were not able to increase sufficiently the seednuts supply programme to meet the ever increasing demand, as our programme of work was based on the available vote which was not increased in proportion to the demand and hence our supply was limited.

#### Distribution of Nurseries

When the new Ten Year Replanting Programme was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in 1954, it was decided to centralise the production of seedlings in 18 large nurseries with a view to have a more stricter supervision and to maintain efficiency with a lower overhead cost of production.

Table III below gives the distribution of coconut areas in the Provinces and the situation of nurseries which are located centrally as far as possible.

Table III

District	Acreages under Coconuts		Location of Nurseries	
	Present	New Areas*	Existing	Proposed
N.W.P.				
Kurunegala	300,000	6,000	1. Kurunegala 2. Hettipola 3.	Dambadeniya
Puttalam	45,000	—	4. Puttalam 5. Bathuluoya	
Chilaw	75,000	—	6. Madampe 7. Bandirippuwa	
W.P.				
Colombo	202,000	—	8. Walpita 9. 10.	Gampaha Kalutara

Table III—Contd.

District	Acreages under Coconuts		Location of Nurseries	
	Present	New Areas*	Existing	Proposed
S.P.				
Galle	.. 33,000	—	11. Galle	
Matara	.. 38,000	—	12. Koggala	
Hambantota	.. 32,000	—	13. Tangalle	
Sabrag. Prov.				
Kegalla	.. 82,000	—	14. Eraminigolla	
N.C.P. & C.P.				
Kalawewa	.. 34,000	—	15. Kalawewa	
N.P.				
Killinochchi	.. 24,000	18,200	16. Killinochchi	
E.P.				
Chenkaladi	.. 22,000	11,000	17. Mylambavelly	
Uva Prov.				
Bibile	.. 15,000	87,000	18.	Wellawaya
Total	.. 934,000	128,200	18 nurseries	

\*Vide Report Land Utilisation Commission—Government Sessional Paper III of 1953, page 53.

The above nurseries were gradually expanded to meet the increasing demand and it is hoped that with the 2 million seednuts supply programme approved for 1957, it would be possible to meet the present demand.

Nurseries in Dambadeniya and Gampaha areas could not be established as suitable lands were not available. However, additional lands were obtained at Kurunegala and Walpita to expand the existing nurseries. In addition to the above list of nurseries, a new nursery was established at Allampil in Mullativu to meet the requirements of new planting in this district, where a large acreage suitable for coconut planting has just been released.

Arrangements are also being made to obtain a block of crown land at Telulla in Wellawaya District for a nursery to supply the requirements of new planting in Uva Province.

