

THE COCONUT INDUSTRY 1970

DR. W. R. N. NATHANAEL¹

GENERAL

Ceylon's peak production of coconut estimated at 3,148 million nuts was recorded in 1964. The estimated production for 1970 is 2,605 million nuts representing a decrease of 17.3% from 1964 and 2.9% from the average production (of 2,683 million nuts) for the past 5 years. However, the production figure for 1970 constitutes only a small decrease of 0.4% from the preceding year, which has been estimated at 2,616 million nuts.

The reflection of the decrease in production in 1970 (from the preceding year) on the volume of exports amounts to 5.1%. In terms of the record and the average for the past 5 years the exports are lower by 47.1% and 18.4% respectively.

As regards the value of exports for 1970 a 1,000 nuts have averaged Rs. 279/28. The record for prices amounting to Rs. 302/62 having been registered in 1968, the figure for 1970 represents a decrease of 7.7% from this but an increase of 12.3% over the previous year.

COCONUT FERTILIZER SUBSIDY SCHEME

The Commissioner of Coconut and Cocoa Rehabilitation has been responsible for the operation of the Coconut Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme. The response to the Coconut Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme since its inception has been very encouraging. Prior to the introduction of this Scheme in 1956, the quantity of fertilizer used on coconut lands was about ten to twelve thousand tons. The records show that this figure has progressively risen since then and is now equivalent to a five to six fold increase over the original consumption level.

Final figures for fertilizer used during 1970 are not available yet, but according to data so far received approximately 60,000 tons of fertilizer have been drawn for 12 months of the year, excluding 714 tons of free fertilizer issued to owners of uneconomic Citronella lands planted with Coconut under the Citronella Subsidy Scheme.

In addition to these standard C.R.I. Mixtures three 'U' mixtures containing UREA as source of Nitrogen were introduced to the public.

The prices of these "U" Mixtures are given below:—

<i>Name of Mixture</i>	<i>Present price per ton</i>
1. 'U' 1 Mixture	Rs. 584/-
2. 'U' 2 Mixture	Rs. 592/-
3. 'U' 3 Mixture	Rs. 598/-

1. Director, Coconut Research Institute, Ceylon.

Details pertaining to the issue of fertilizers under the Subsidy Scheme to permit holders during, 1968, 1969 and 1970 are as follows:—

<i>Details pertaining to Fertilizer Distribution</i>	<i>Estates over 20 acres</i>		<i>Small holdings under 20 Ac.</i>		<i>Co-operative Societies</i>	
	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970
No. of Permit Holders	2,431	2,568	2,537	20,038	18,547	18,387
Acreage in respect of which applications were received	216,793	231,197	222,162	105,969	94,741	97,119
Quantity of Fertilizer Applied for (Tons)	43,296	48,010	48,975	31,583	30,762	30,712
Quantity of Fertilizer Actually drawn (Tons)	31,463	34,459	32,926	21,395	18,021	18,956

The prices of the CRI Standard Fertilizer Mixtures issued during the year under the Subsidy Scheme, were as follows:—

<i>Fertilizer Mixture</i>	<i>Price per ton Rs.</i>
General Mixture for young palms	482.00
C.R.I. Mixture 'A'	493.00
C.R.I. Mixture 'B'	498.00
C.R.I. Mixture 'C'	502.00

The Policy under the Scheme has been for the Government to meet half the cost of the Fertilizer used on coconut lands regardless of the size class of holding.

Desiccated Coconut

The laboratories set up by the Ceylon Coconut Board, for stepping up the scope of chemical and bacteriological control on desiccated coconut manufactured in Ceylon, continued to function effectively during 1970.

In all, 77 mills manufactured desiccated coconut during the year, and routine sampling was carried out on a 10% basis for both bacteriological and quality examination, of all the manufactures. Manufactures where salmonella contaminations were detected on the routine examination, were subjected to 100% resampling and examination.

A total of 16,089 samples were examined in the Bacteriological laboratory of the Board during the year and salmonella contaminations, were detected only in about 0.5% of them, 12 serotypes of salmonellae were identified in the samples examined.

A total of 16,089 routine samples were tested in the Quality laboratory of the Board during the year. They were examined for moisture content, parings and specks, colour, odour, grading and oil separation. Out of the samples tested, 1909 were found to be sub-standard in respect of one or more of the quality requirements. Approximately 12% of the routine samples examined for physical quality were subsequently resampled on higher percentages, on account of being found defective on first examination.

Fermentation Industries

There were eight private distilleries and one Co-operative Distillery in the Kalutara District and the State Distillery at Seeduwa functioning in 1970. The distilleries in the Kalutara District tapped 153,128 palms and obtained 6,161,966 gallons of toddy and manufactured 752,866 proof gallons of arrack in 1969/70.

For the State Distillery at Seeduwa 16,500 palms were tapped in the Chilaw District, and 169,310 proof gallons of arrack were manufactured there from 1,591,100 gallons of toddy during 1969/70.

The rates paid for the supply of a proof gallon of arrack to distillers in the Kalutara District in 1970 was Rs. 14.10 as against Rs. 13.40 in 1969. The rate paid for a gallon of pure toddy supplied to the State Distillery in 1970 remained at Rs. 1.45, the same as in 1969. There was an improvement in the supply position of toddy.

The training of local tappers under the supervision of the Department of Rural Development was continued during the year.

There were eight Vinegar factories operating in Chilaw and Kalutara Districts for which 1,612 trees were tapped. 81,638 gallons of toddy were received which on conversion yielded 77,090 gallons of vinegar.

The tapping for the State Distillery Seeduwa (in the Chilaw District), was during the period 1st May to 31st January. The Colombo toddy taverns too tapped toddy in the Chilaw District. Towards the end of the rent year and the beginning of the next rent year (which commences on 1st October) it was observed that the toddy meant for the State Distillery was being diverted to toddy taverns. To overcome this difficulty, the State Distillery, on the advice rendered by the Institute changed the tapping season to the period 1st March to 30th November. The change over took place in 1970 and no change in the yields has been observed. Actually there has been a slight increase.

Coconut Production in 1970

1. Production

				Nut Equivalent
1. Production in 1970	..	..	..	2,605 million
2. Production in 1969	..	..	..	2,616 "
3. Aver. production last 5 years	..	..	..	2,683 "
4. Previous production record (1964)	..	..	..	3,148 "
5. Decrease from 1969	..	..	..	0.4%
6. Decrease from 5 year average	..	..	..	2.9%
7. Decrease from previous record	..	..	..	17.3%

2. Exports

By volume—

(a) Amount

1. Exports in 1970	..	..	..	859,614,729
2. Exports in 1969	..	..	..	905,658,058
3. Average for last 5 years	..	..	..	1,053,329,000
4. Previous record (1964)	..	..	..	1,625,806,000
5. Decrease from 1969	..	..	..	5.1%
6. Decrease from 5 year average	..	..	..	18.4%
7. Decrease from previous record	..	..	..	47.1%

(b) Distribution

	C'nut Oil	Copra	D.C.	Fresh Nuts
1970	54.0%	8.9%	36.4%	0.7%
1969	49.5%	10.5%	38.8%	1.2%

By Value—

(a) Amount

				Rs.
1. 1970	..	..	..	240,074,561
2. 1969	..	..	..	225,328,217
3. Average last 5 years	..	..	..	241,325,202
4. Previous record (1968)	..	..	..	333,819,816
5. Increase over 1969	..	..	..	6.5%
6. Decrease from 5-year average	..	..	..	0.5%
7. Decrease from record	..	..	..	28.1%

(b) Distribution

	C'nut Oil	Copra	D.C.	Fresh Nuts
1970	48.5%	9.5%	40.8%	1.2%
1969	47.8%	11.5%	38.8%	1.9%

3. Average Value of Coconut Products

	Rs. per 1000 nuts
1. 1970	279.28
2. 1969	248.80
3. Average last 5 years	229.11
4. Previous record (1968)	302.62
5. Increase over 1969	12.3%
6. Increase over 5-year average	21.9%
7. Decrease from previous record	7.7%

4. Exports of Coconut Products 1970

Item	Quantity	Value Rs.	Nut equivalent
Fresh Nuts	6,321,329 (No.)	2,908,206	6,321,329
D.C.	906,895 (Cwt)	98,070,394	312,878,775
Coconut Oil	1,142,276 (Cwt)	116,376,029	464,049,625
Copra	305,460 (Cwt)	22,719,932	76,365,000
Total	2,354,631 (Cwt)	240,074,561	859,614,729
C'nut Poonac	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mattress Fibre	1,172,670 (Cwt)	24,810,986	—
Bristle fibre	474,083 (Cwt)	22,342,481	—
TOTAL FIBRE	1,646,753 (Cwt)	47,153,467	—
GRAND TOTAL	4,001,384	287,228,028	

5. Percentage Distribution of all products by value

	C'nut Oil	Copra	D.C.	Fresh Nuts	Fibre
1970	40.5%	7.9%	34.2%	1.0%	16.4%
1969	39.1%	9.5%	31.7%	1.5%	18.2%

6. Copra Sales

	Candies
Total copra sales 1970	449,991
1969	530,462

Conversion Rates—

1 ton of copra	5,000 nuts
1 ton of C'Oil	8,125 nuts
1 ton of D.C.	6,900 nuts

RAINFALL (STATIONS) IN COCONUT GROWING AREAS 1970

Month	Chilaw	Madampe	Puttalam	Kurunegala	Lunuwila
January	1.59	1.04	4.64	1.47	8.05
February	7.94	7.57	1.79	12.70	2.80
March	6.80	6.73	3.42	5.10	8.36
April	9.27	7.47	11.26	10.13	11.31
May	13.67	18.99	4.14	10.26	17.96
June	0.35	1.58	0.05	2.14	3.61
July	3.05	3.84	0.37	5.53	4.36
August	0.02	9.05	0.03	0.58	0.30
September	2.58	4.63	—	6.48	3.41
October	—	15.65	5.35	15.67	13.37
November	14.89	12.77	7.47	13.60	14.57
December	2.35	4.18	5.99	6.69	4.64
Total	62.51	84.50	44.51	90.35	92.74

MONTHLY AVERAGE PRICES OF COCONUT PRODUCTS 1970

Month	Copra per candy		C'oil per ton		D.C. per lb.	
	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970
	<i>Rs. c</i>	<i>Rs. c</i>	<i>Rs. c</i>	<i>Rs. c</i>	<i>Rs. c</i>	<i>Rs. c</i>
January	273.07	264.04	1620.24	1583.57	.73	.71
February	272.38	264.01	1601.76	1550.00	.66	.65
March	268.26	281.61	1584.35	1663.63	.63	.66
April	252.20	257.40	1538.12	1520.25	.57	.65
May	240.80	235.75	1457.50	1422.50	.53	.59
June	231.29	227.53	1389.76	1388.09	.54	.59
July	207.78	237.70	1260.00	1427.27	.50	.63
August	209.24	232.58	1280.43	1420.75	.49	.62
September	199.86	234.85	1283.64	1465.00	.48	.63
October	198.12	247.42	1355.91	1577.73	.45	.63
November	226.05	238.06	1474.47	1533.64	.62	.63
December	272.65	251.36	1651.94	1567.77	.74	.66
Average	237.64	247.69	1458.18	1510.44	.58	.64
% Departure		+ 4.2%		+ 3.6%		+ 10.3 %