

COCONUT DISEASE IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE

Professor Walter Kubierna & Prof. T. Davis Co-operates with Coconut Research Institute.

Prof. Walter Kubierna, Professor of Soil Science in the University of Hamburg who arrived in Ceylon last Friday along with Dr. Schmidt-Lorenz of the Hamburg Research Council visited the Coconut Research Institute of Ceylon on Saturday, October 27th, 1962 and had discussions with Dr. M.L.M. Salgado, Director, on the investigations now being carried out by the Scientific officers of the Institute into the disease of coconuts in the Gonapinuwela area of the Southern Province.

International Authority

Prof. Kubierna is an international authority on the relation between plant disease as influenced by soil conditions. He has developed the techniques of *Micropedology* according to which very thin sections of the soil are examined microscopically. This technique which was published in 1938 has now been further improved with the use of modern instruments now manufactured in Germany. Recently he has successfully applied this technique to the elucidation of the *Panama Disease* of bananas in Liberia and in Ecuador.

Coconut Disease in Togoland

Before he came to Ceylon Prof. Kubierna and Dr. Schmidt-Lorenz have been working on the soil factors associated with the *Kaincope* disease of coconuts in Togoland, the former German Colony in West Africa.

Prof. Kubierna and Dr. Schmidt-Lorenz visited coconut estates on 27th and 29th October with Dr. Salgado and Dr. Nethsinghe the Soil Chemist and took samples which will be examined in his laboratories in Hamburg by his *microtechnique*.

Prof. Kubierna left on Tuesday night for New Zealand where he is taking part in a Soil Conference after which he will return to Hamburg in November via Hawaii and San Francisco.

PROFESSOR KUBIENA AT MUDUKATUWA ESTATE
MARAVILA



Dr. Schmidt-Lorenz has remained behind and took soil samples in Gonapinuwela area (Southern Province) where he continued the investigations with the Soil Chemist and Officer-in-Charge of the Crop Protection Division of the Coconut Research Institute.

Dr. Abeygoonewardene, Acting Pathologist of the Department of Agriculture who is co-operating in these investigations was also in the team of Scientists who visited the diseased area.

Seminar at C.R.I.

At a Seminar held at the Coconut Research Institute, Prof. Kubierna explained his technique which was illustrated with coloured slides of the micro photographs of soils studied by him in connection with the *Panama Disease* of bananas and the *Kaincope* disease of coconuts.

Ceylon the Coconut Paradise

Prof. Kubierna who explained the technique of soil sampling at Mudukatuwa Estate, Marawila described Ceylon as the COCONUT PARADISE.

Dr. Schmidt-Lorenz proceeded from Ceylon to Kerala in South India for similar investigations on the *Will Disease* of coconuts in South India.

All Resources Mobilised

Prof. T.A. Davis who was formerly attached to the Indian Central Coconut Research Station in Kerala and is at present in Calcutta arrived in Ceylon on the 5th December for a fortnight during which he co-operated with the Director and Research Officers of the Institute in connection with the investigations at present being carried out on this disease.

Dr. K.V.P. Menon, Director of the Indian Central Coconut Station has also been invited to visit Ceylon in connection with this problem and a request made to the Government of India to release him for consultations.

The Chairman of the Coconut Research Board and the Director, Coconut Research Institute on the advise of the Board have taken prompt measures to mobilise all the available resources of local and foreign talent to investigate this disease of coconuts.