

OPENING OF PARASITE BREEDING STATION AT BATTICALOA

Wednesday, 17th April 1963, was a unique day for the Coconut Research Institute of Ceylon and for Eastern Province for it was on this date that the CRI Parasite Breeding Station was declared open at Mylambavelly by the Chairman of the Coconut Research Board, Senator Thomas Amarasuriya.

The Chairman, Senator Thomas Amarasuriya and Members of the Board comprising of Dr. M.L.M. Salgado (Ex-officio Member and Director, CRI), Mr. G.M. Sparkes, C.C.S., Mr. W.I. Hugh Fernando, M.P., Mr. C.A.M. de Silva, Mr. C.T. Van Geyzel, J.P., Mr. B. Warusavithane and Mr. Lucian Fernando took the plane at Ratmalana Airport that morning and arrived at Batticaloa Airport. On arrival the Chairman and Members were met by the Colombo Plan Entomologist Mr. Edwin Dharmaraju and introduced to the gathering of Planters of the District, headed by Mr. S.A. Selvanayagam, President of the Batticaloa Planters' Association. Also present at the Airport to receive the distinguished visitors were Mr. S.M. Rasamanickam, M.P., Mr. C. Rajadurai, M.P. and Senator Manickam.

From the Airport the members drove to the Batticaloa Rest House for breakfast and a little rest.

Earlier, the Heads of Divisions of CRI had arrived, by van, at Kalkudah Rest House on the 15th evening. On the 16th, they had a crowded programme visiting coconut estates between Kalkudah and Mankani areas.

CONFERENCE WITH BATTICALOA PLANTERS

At 10.00 a.m. on the 17th, there was a conference at the Batticaloa Kachcheri of Coconut Planters in Batticaloa District with Chairman and Members of the Coconut Research Board and Heads of Divisions of the CRI, presided over by the Government Agent, Mr. C. Ludekens, C.C.S. This Conference was specially arranged by the Government Agent to give an opportunity to the Coconut Growers of Batticaloa District to discuss their problems with the Coconut Research Board and officers of the CRI. On behalf of the Coconut Growers of Batticaloa District a Memorandum was presented by Mr. S.A. Selvanayagam. There was an interesting discussion, in which the Planters, the Government Agent,

the Chairman and Members of the CRB and officials of the CRI participated. On behalf of the Coconut Research Board, the Chairman assured sympathetic consideration of the Memorandum presented by the Planters.

LUNCH BY BATTICALOA PLANTERS

The visitors were then entertained to a sumptuous lunch at the Central Methodist College by the Planters of the District.

After Lunch, short speeches were made by Senator Manickam, Mr. Ariyaratnam, and Mr. Hugh Fernando. One of the Members of the Board Mr. C.A.M. de Silva surprised all those present, by speaking in fluent Tamil, which was much appreciated especially by the Hadjiars present. On behalf of the visitors, the Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Planters of Batticaloa District for the enjoyable lunch.

OPENING OF PARASITE BREEDING STATION

At 4.30 p.m., the Chairman and Members of the Board arrived at Mylambavelly for the opening ceremony of the Parasite Breeding Station. Dr. M.L.M. Salgado, Director, Coconut Research Institute of Ceylon presided over the function.

The function started with the garlanding of the Chairman Senator Thomas Amarasuriya by Mr. Edwin Dharmaraju, Colombo Plan Entomologist, after which Mr. Dharmaraju spoke (vide Text of Address in this number).

The Chairman then addressed the gathering present. (Full text of Address given separately). Dr. Salgado, Director, CRI then presented a pair of scissors and requested the Chairman to declare the Parasite Breeding Station open, which the Chairman did, by cutting the ribbon.

The visitors were treated to light refreshments.

The Chairman and Members of the Board then proceeded towards Passekudah passing through several coconut plantations on the way, on either side of the road. Later in the evening, the Members were entertained to a sumptuous Dinner at the Kalkudah Rest House by Mrs. S. Valliammai Kumaraswamy and her son Mr. S.K. Ganeshanathan.

Although the journey from Kalkudah to Batticaloa is not a very pleasant one due to the bad condition of the roads, still the members enjoyed the return journey very much, thanks to the lively entertainment of folk-lore provided by Mr. Hugh Fernando, Mr. Warusavitana and Mr. G.M. Sparkes. It was past 11.00 p.m., by the time Batticaloa was in sight.

On a suggestion made by Mr. Dharmaraju, the members-motored to Kalladi Bridge, over the Batticaloa Lagoon, to here the famous 'Singing Fish'. Although it was not a full-moon night, the Members were lucky to hear the sweet stringed music emanating from the Lagoon. The Members enjoyed their appointment with the 'Singing Fish' and as Mr. C.T. Van Geyzel, a member of the Board, remarked "it was truly a great and memorable experience".

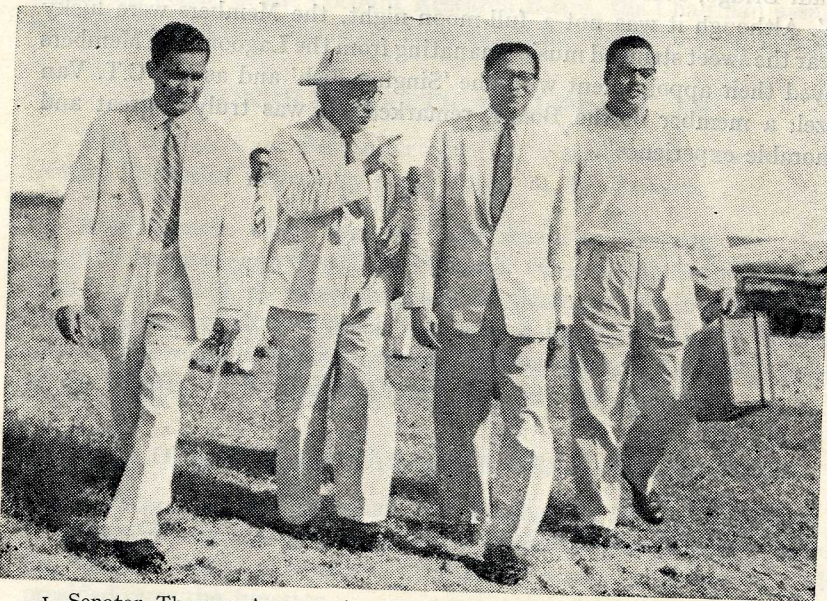


The Chairman and Members of the Coconut Research Board, Batticaloa, on their way to Kalladi Bridge, over the Batticaloa Lagoon, to hear the famous 'Singing Fish'.

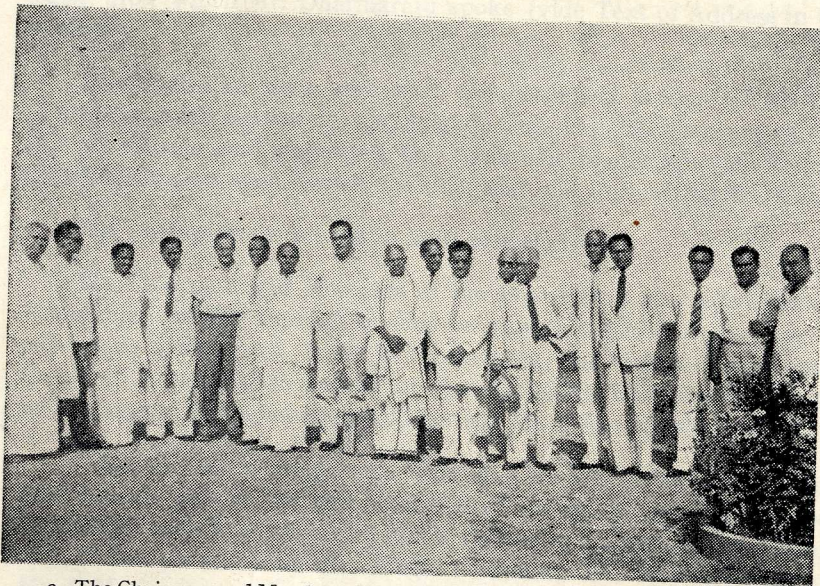


The Chairman and Members of the Coconut Research Board, Batticaloa, on their way to Kalladi Bridge, over the Batticaloa Lagoon, to hear the famous 'Singing Fish'.

**GLIMPSES FROM THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
PARASITE BREEDING STATION AT BATTICALOA**



1. Senator Thomas Amarasuriya, Chairman of the Coconut Research Board, Dr. M.L.M. Salgado, Director, CRI and Mr. G.M. Sparkes, C.C.S. on arrival at Batticaloa Airport with Mr. Edwin Dharmaraju, Colombo Plan Entomologist.



2. The Chairman and Members of the Coconut Research Board with the Coconut Planters of Batticaloa District on arrival at the Batticaloa Airport.

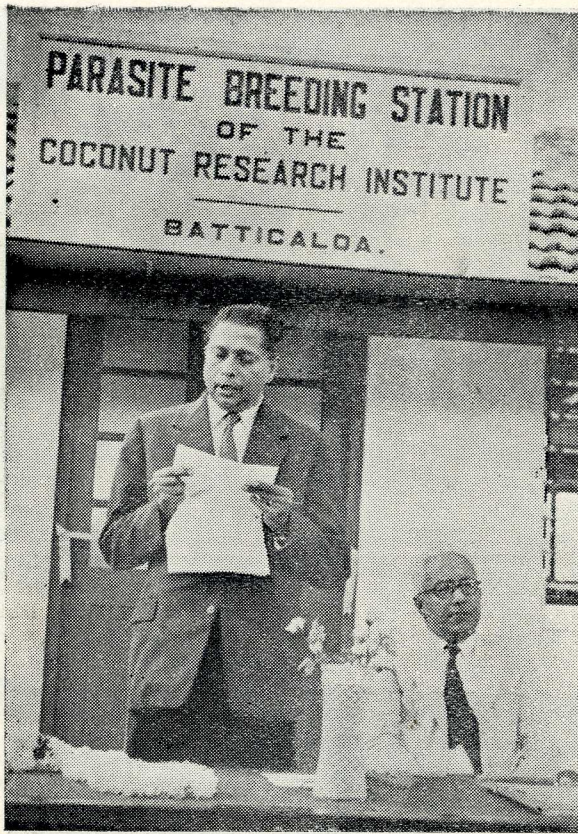
Left to Right : Mr. S.A. Selvanayagam, Mr. W.I. Hugh Fernando, *M.P.*, Mr. C. Rajudurai, *M.P.*, Mr. V.T. Gnanasuriyam, Mr. C.T. Van Geyzel, Senator Manickam, Mr. S.M. Rasamanickam, *M.P.*, Mr. G.M. Sparkes, *C.C.S.*, Mr. Selladurai, Mr. Selvaratnam, Mr. Edwin Dharmaraju, Mr. Ariyaratnam, Dr. M.L.M. Salgado, Director, CRI, Mr. C.A.M. de Silva, Senator Thomas Amarasuriya, *O.B.E.*, Chairman, Coconut Research Board, Mr. L.W.A. Fernando, Mr. B. Warusavitana and Mr. S.M. Theophilus.



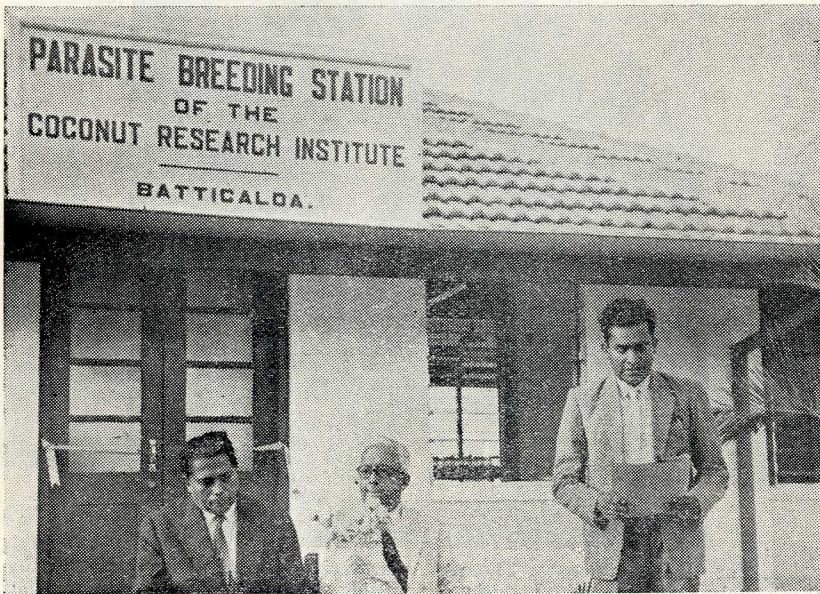
3. At the Lunch given by the Coconut Planters of Batticaloa District to the Chairman and Members of the Coconut Research Board.



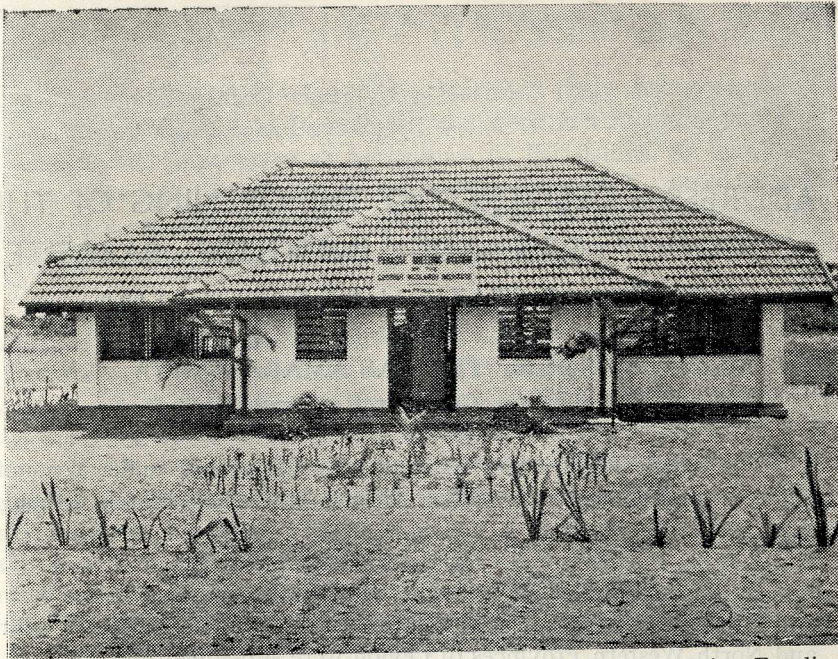
4. The Chairman Senator Thomas Amarasuriya, O.B.E., being garlanded by the Colombo Plan Entomologist during the opening ceremony of the Parasite Breeding Station at Mylambavelly.



5. Senator Thomas Amarasuriya, Chairman of the CRB addressing the gathering before declaring open the Coconut Research Institute Parasite Breeding Station at Mylambavelly.



6. Mr. Edwin Dharmaraju, Colombo Plan Entomologist speaking on the occasion.



7. The new building of the Coconut Research Institute Parasite Breeding Station declared open by the Chairman of the Coconut Research Board, Senator Thomas Amarasuriya at Mylambavelly on 17-4-1963.



8. The Colombo Plan Entomologist showing the Chairman and others the parasites under rearing at the Station.