

THE COCONUT INDUSTRY DURING 1965

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General

The total area under coconut today continues to be in the region of 1.1 million acres. There has in fact been relatively no expansion in this for the past 35 years, and the preliminary results of the Agricultural Census of 1962 confirms this.

An all-time record in coconut production estimated at 3,148 million nuts was registered in 1964. The estimated production for 1965 however is 2,835 million nuts, representing a decrease of 9.9% from 1964, and an increase of 1.2% over the average production (of 2,801 million nuts) for the past 5 years.

The decrease in production during 1965 is also reflected in the volume of exports for the year. These represent decreases of 21.4% and 5.0% from 1964 and the average for the past 5 years, respectively. A shortfall in crops (associated partly with the poor rainfall distribution in some coconut growing areas during 1964) may be adduced as the principal factor for the decrease in overall production. The progressive increase in internal consumption (consequent on population increase) on the other hand, would be one of the factors affecting the exportable surplus.

An interesting feature is that increased demand coupled with the low crops has tended towards better prices for coconuts and coconut products. In fact, coconuts were retailed at 30 cents each in some parts of the country and the export values (Rs. 217.61 per 1000 nuts) have registered an increase of 28.3% over 1964 and 32.7% over the corresponding average value for the preceding five years. The record set in 1951 (of Rs. 258/29 per 1000 nuts—which is 15.7% higher) has however not been outstripped.

Government Subsidised Manure Scheme

The supply of fertilizers under the Government Subsidy Scheme on permits issued by the Commissioner of Coconut Rehabilitation continued during 1965. Under this Scheme, Government as in previous years, paid part of the cost of fertilizers used on coconut lands as an outright grant (and not a repayable loan). In the case of ESTATES (i.e. coconut lands over 20 acres in extent) the subsidy was one-third of the cost of fertilizers used and

for SMALL HOLDINGS (i.e., coconut lands 20 acres or less in extent) the subsidy was one-half of the cost of fertilizers used. Subsidies sanctioned on permits issued under the Scheme were principally for purchases from the Ceylon Fertilizer Corporation, which came into being during the year.

With a view to increasing the benefits to coconut growers, proposals were drafted by the Commissioner of Coconut Rehabilitation for an Expanded Subsidy Scheme. A Memorandum on the subject was circulated for the views of all organizations connected with the coconut industry.

Desiccated Coconut

Ceylon has achieved complete success in the elimination of Salmonella infection as regards desiccated coconut.

The laboratories set up by the Ceylon Coconut Board for stepping up the scope of chemical and bacteriological control on Desiccated Coconut Manufacture in Ceylon, continued to function effectively during 1965.

Fermentation Industry

As in 1964, a shortage of toddy supplies to the distilleries continued during the year. Among other factors, the paucity of Indian tappers (who are very skilled in the work) has been adduced by Excise sources as a possible cause for the low supplies.

In this connection, the Labour Department has finalised arrangements for starting a training course for tappers at Panadura, early in 1966. A proposal has also been made to intensify the scheme, whereby a number of training centres could be run by the Department of Rural Development.

Monthly Prices of Coconut Products (1965)

Month	Copra/ Candy	Coconut Oil/ton	D.C./lb.	Poonac
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
January ..	190.13	1213.00	42.69	195.00
February ..	218.47	1402.00	49.67	195.00
March ..	230.37	1482.61	54.14	195.00
April ..	229.56	1461.40	56.33	195.00
May ..	219.41	1399.76	56.50	195.00
June ..	211.59	1381.61	55.40	195.00
July ..	198.29	1252.85	53.60	195.00
August ..	185.91	1116.81	52.31	204.77
September ..	180.90	1086.67	52.05	222.14
October ..	191.95	1170.00	53.05	225.00
November ..	190.95	1139.52	48.90	225.00
December ..	203.43	1175.00	49.30	224.76
Average	204.25	1273.27	52.00	205.56

Rainfall (Stations in Coconut Growing Areas)

Station	1964	1965	Average (1953-64)
Lunuwila ..	77.47	67.97	81.05
Madampe ..	66.34	45.70	65.80
Chilaw ..	66.00	57.23	64.31
Puttalam ..	37.06	47.54	48.32
Kurunegala ..	73.67	81.61	85.15

COCONUT PRODUCTION IN 1965

1. Production

	Nut Equivalent
1. Production in 1965	2835 million nuts
2. Production in 1964	3148 ..
3. Average production for last 5 years	2801 ..
4. Previous production record (1964)	3148 ..
5. Decrease from 1964	9.9%
6. Increase over average last 5 years	1.2%
7. Decrease from previous record	9.9%

2. Exports

I. By Volume

(a) Amount

	Nut Equivalent
1. Exports in 1965	1,278,472,000 million nuts
2. Exports in 1964	1,625,806,000 ..
3. Average last years 5	1,345,454,000 ..
4. Previous export record (1964)	1,625,806,000 ..
5. Decrease from 1964	21.4%
6. Decrease from last 5 years average	5.0%
7. Decrease from previous record	21.4%

(b) Distribution

	Coconut oil	Copra	D.C.	Fresh nuts
1965 ..	55.2%	16.0%	28.1%	0.7%
1964 ..	58.7%	17.9%	22.9%	0.5%

II. By Value

(a) Amount

	Rs.
1. 1965	278,202,217
2. 1964	275,706,451
3. Average for last 5 years	218,485,000
4. Previous record (1951)	322,827,380
5. Increase over 1964	0.9%
6. Increase over last 5 years average ..	27.3%
7. Decrease from previous record	13.8%

(b) Distribution

	Coconut oil	Copra	D.C.	Fresh nuts
1965	51.9%	17.4%	20.6%	1.1%
1964	55.7%	20.0%	23.4%	0.9%

III. Average Value of Exports (per 1000 nuts)

	Rs./1000 nuts
1. 1965	217.61
2. 1964	169.62
3. Average last 5 years	164.00
4. Previous record (1951)	258.29
5. Increase over 1964	28.3%
6. Increase over 5 years average	32.7%
7. Decrease from previous record	15.7%

EXPORTS OF COCONUT PRODUCTS 1965

Item	Quantity (Cust.)	Value (Rs.)	Nut Equivalent
Fresh nuts ..	8,642,700 (No.)	2,955,340	8,642,700
D.C.	121,976	82,316,523	359,056,680
Copra	1,040,744	48,525,788	204,730,000
C. oil	818,920	1,44,404,566	706,043,000
	1,737,952		
Total	3,719,592	278,202,217	1,278,472,380
Coconut Poonac ..	186,989	3,147,624	—
Mattress Fibre ..	1,301,821	26,492,020	—
Bristle Fibre ..	446,676	23,240,387	—
Total Fibre ..	—	49,732,416	—
Grand Total	—	331,082,257	—

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1967



Distribution of all products by value

		Coconut Oil	Copra	D.C.	Fresh nuts	Poonac	Fibre
1965	..	43.6%	14.6%	24.9%	0.9%	1.0%	15.0%
1964	..	45.6%	16.5%	19.1%	0.7%	1.4%	16.9%

Copra Sales

		Candies
Total copra sales in 1965	..	772,896
Total (Est.) Poonac production	..	73,500 tons
Quantity exported	..	8,500 tons (11.6%)
Available for Internal Consumption	..	65,000 tons

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

CROP INTELLIGENCE

V. Abeywardena

TABLE 1
The first and second crops of 1966 in different localities

LOCALITY	CROP	Nuts per palm			Copra Outturn		
		Average	This crop	% departure from Average	Average	This crop	% departure from Average
Gonawila (1) ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	6.1	3.5	-43	1257	1369	9
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	8.0	5.0	-38	1240	1332	7
Gonawila (2) ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	7.5	4.9	-35	1184	1324	12
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	9.3	4.0	-57	1139	1254	10
Giritulla ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	6.2	4.4	-29	1220	1416	16
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	8.3	5.1	-39	1193	1328	11
Kurunegala (1) ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	5.2	3.6	-30	1359	1366	-0.5
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	7.7	9.0	+17	1398	1461	5
Kurunegala (2) ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	5.9	7.8	+32	1196	1276	7
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	5.9	7.9	+34	1196	1187	+0.8
Lunuwila ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	7.5	4.9	-35	1197	1418	18
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	11.6	7.4	-36	1226	1339	9
Nattandiya ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	6.4	2.6	-59	1202	1433	19
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	13.0	9.2	-29	1227	1295	6
Kudawewa ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	7.9	8.2	+4	987	1051	6
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	11.3	10.6	-6	988	1048	6
Chilaw ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	10.2	7.1	-30	—	—	—
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	13.0	10.1	-22	—	—	—
Bingiriya (1) ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	6.2	4.3	-31	—	—	—
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	10.2	8.5	-17	—	—	—
Bingiriya (2) ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	7.9	5.4	-32	1245	1405	13
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	13.2	10.0	-24	1346	1448	8
Rajakadaluwa ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	10.3	8.3	-19	1151	1308	14
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	12.4	10.2	-18	1143	1224	7
Madurankuli ..	1st Crop (Jan-Feb. '66)	8.9	9.0	+1	1063	1115	5
	2nd Crop (March-April '66)	10.8	13.0	+20	1066	1075	1

TABLE 2

Rainfall of different localities in 1965

Month	Gonawila	Girivilla	Kurunegala	Lanuwila	Nattandiya & Kuda- wewa	Chilaw	Bingriya	Rajakadu- lura	Maduren- kuli	Negombo
JANUARY	3.31	0.80	1.84	0.45	1.40	0.03	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.22
FEBRUARY	1.61	3.97	4.00	0.58	0.64	0.75	1.78	0.62	0.00	0.73
MARCH	4.34	7.21	4.23	1.29	1.03	1.43	0.36	1.19	1.28	1.11
APRIL	7.18	6.39	11.57	5.09	4.08	8.86	5.39	8.22	12.52	5.25
MAY	10.58	14.58	8.83	9.16	11.80	8.48	5.32	7.07	3.52	11.61
JUNE	7.58	3.49	4.54	1.53	3.68	1.19	1.46	1.69	0.00	2.95
JULY	4.25	1.43	0.78	1.92	1.45	0.57	0.09	0.84	0.00	1.80
AUGUST	2.86	12.39	8.40	11.66	5.45	3.31	1.79	3.67	1.75	8.07
SEPTEMBER	5.74	4.49	3.85	3.57	3.89	5.20	0.78	2.57	1.78	5.69
OCTOBER	12.48	20.04	16.63	20.67	21.43	11.94	15.85	16.06	13.13	22.25
NOVEMBER	13.73	11.79	11.02	3.42	5.74	7.06	6.30	5.67	12.08	9.42
DECEMBER	4.08	9.32	5.92	8.63	6.36	8.41	6.77	7.34	10.81	9.35
TOTAL	78.34	95.90	81.61	67.97	66.95	57.23	45.80	55.72	56.87	78.45