

EXCHANGE OF OFFICERS OF THE COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTES OF INDIA AND CEYLON

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An exchange of Scientific Officers between the Coconut Research Institute of Ceylon and the Coconut Research Stations of the Indian Central Coconut Committee was arranged between the two Governments.

It was felt that such visits were of considerable mutual benefit to research workers of both countries in widening their experiences and in establishing useful personal contacts with others working on similar problems.

Under this scheme three Groups of Officers from the Coconut Research Institute left for India in September and October 1955.

Group (1) was led by Dr. D. V. Liyanage, Botanist, C.R.I., accompanied by Mr. M. A. P. Manthirratna, Technical Assistant to the Botanist. They were to study the Breeding and Botanical work at Kasaragod, Pilicode and Coimbotore, Coconut Stations in India.

Group (2) was led by Mr. P. D. Laurance Fernando, Planting Officer, C.R.I., who was accompanied by Mr. D. A. Nethsinghe, Research Assistant to the Soil Chemist. Mr. Fernando visited the coconut areas at Kayangulam and Kasaragod studying the organization of Coconut Replanting in India, while Mr. Nethsinghe studied the organization of the results of 200 N.P.K. Experiments on coconuts in South India carried out in Potaschemie.

Group (3) was led by Mr. W. R. N. Nathanael, Chemist, C.R.I., accompanied by Mr. J. K. F. Kirthisinghe, Technical Assistant (Crop Protection). Mr. Nathanael studied the work on plant nutrients and plant physiology at Kayangulam and the work done on the Technology of the coconut and other foodstuffs at the Food Research Institute, Mysore. Mr. Kirthisinghe studied the work on the control of pests and diseases in South India.

Two batches of officers from Indian Research Stations visited the C.R.I., under the above scheme in mid-November, and the second party in early December. Each batch stayed a fortnight in Ceylon. The first party consisting of Shri M. M. Krishna Marar, Agronomist and Shri H. Sankarasubramony, Senior Research Assistant, Soil Chemistry arrived in Colombo on 15th November, 1955. Proceeding to Bandirippuwa they went round the various divisions of the Institute on the first day. During the fortnight they were here the

visited the Ratmalagara Research Station at Madampe, Isolated Seed Garden at Ambakelle, a few coconut estates in the neighbourhood, the Sandalankawa Co-op. Mills, Highland coconut estates in Kandy District, the New Carmel Nursery at Ibbagamuwa, the School of Agriculture for Girls at Kundasale, the School of Agriculture, Peradeniya, the Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya and the Royal Botanical Garden at Peradeniya, and finally the City of Colombo before they departed on 26-11-1955.

The second group consisted of Dr. K. P. Menon, Director, Coconut Research Station, Kayangulam and Shri E. S. Verghese, Joint Director, Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod.

They were met at Colombo Fort Railway Station by Dr. D. V. Liyanage, Botanist, C.R.I. and Mr. L. R. N. H. Perera, Public Relations Officer. They were here from 9th to 19th December, 1955. They spent the first two days in going round the Research Laboratories and studying the work in progress at the Research Institute at Bandirippuwa. Subsequently they proceeded to Ratmalagara Research Station and on a picnic to the Isolated Seed Garden at Ambakelle. They also visited a few coconut estates in the neighbourhood and a co-operative coconut factory. At Peradeniya they visited the Headquarters of the Department of Agriculture, the Royal Botanical Garden and Kundasale and Peradeniya Schools of Agriculture.

On the 17th they participated in a Technical Discussion at the C.R.I. and on the 18th morning they went down south and gained the opportunity of inspecting the Vinegar Industry at Panadura, and left Ceylon on 19th.