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By M. J. C. PERERA

Green Manure and Cover Crops—*What is the yield of green matter produce and their importance?*

Venugopalan, S. et. al—Performance of the common green manure crops in coconut plantations. *Madras agri. J.* 1969, Vol. 56 pp. 36-38. Tables ref. 3 (Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam, India).

A trial conducted in India under east coast conditions to study the performance of green crops viz. (*Calopogonium mucunoides*, (Calopogonium), *Vigna catjang* (cowpea), *Crotalaria striata* (Crotalaria), *Indigofera tinifolia*, *Tephrosia purpurea* (Pila) *Sesbania speciosa* (Sesbania), *Crotalaria juncea* (Sunhemp) has revealed that calopogonium has yielded the highest average yield of green manure with 991 kg/acre for the 4 years. The production of green matter has varied from year to year in all crops.

Nursery Techniques—*How to judge quality seedlings?*

Gopalakrishnan, S. et. al—Effect of different methods of seednut planting in *cocos nucifera*. *Madras Agri. J.* 1969, Vol. 56, pp. 120-124. Graph. Tables ref. 11 (Agricultural College and Research Institute, Ciombatore 3).

From a random sample of 200, out of a population of 1,000 seednuts, frequency distribution was drawn for assessing the weight and size (length and breadth) in the choice of a good seednut, criteria for selection of good seedling were arrived at in a similar manner in the matter of height, number of leaves, number of leaves split, girth at collar and number of roots and also the nutrient content of the foliar tissue. "Horizontal", "Vertical," and "Inverted" mode of planting seednuts were compared and judged by the established criteria. The horizontal method proved superior (Authors).

Pest Control—*Oryctes rhinoceros L. (Black Beetle)—How effective is the chemical control?*

Sahasranamam, K. N—Large scale demonstration cum experiment on the chemical control of *Oryctes rhinoceros L.* *Madras agri. J.* 56, pp. 198-205. Graph. Tables ref. 1 (Central Coconut Research, Kayangulam, India).

Heavily infested areas were selected for this experiment. In one centre all the possible breeding places were sprayed with BHC 50 per cent (W) at the rate of 0.01 per cent by weight at quarterly intervals to correspond to periods of fresh stock of breeding material. In the other centre spraying was done by using Aldrex 50 per cent E.C. @ the rate of 0.01 per cent. Pest attack has been significantly reduced in the treated areas.

Pest Control—Rats—How to control them with chemicals?

Thomson, R. W. F.—Major pests and their control—Rats and termites. *Oleagineux*, Vol. 24 pp. 133-136. Illus. (South Pacific Commission, Ranigora, French Polynesia).

Of the four species of rats encountered in the coconut groves of the Cook Islands, two (*Rattus rattus frugivorus* and *R. rattus alexandrinus*) are responsible for most if not all the damage noted (70 to 100 per cent at Rarotonga and Penrhyn). A comparison of methods of control ringing, traps or poisoned bait—resulted in the last named being adopted. Poisoned bait is more effective than ringing the trees and less costly than traps; the cost can be still further reduced if the baits are made on the spot. A method of preparation using grated coconut and monofluorine sodium acetate is described, as well as the way in which the bait should be placed.

The author particularly emphasises the precautions to be taken when preparing these baits and their placing and the need for warning the local inhabitants that this had been done. To be effective, the first application, carried out over the largest area possible, should be renewed 3 to 4 months after, and thereafter regularly every year until the rats disappear completely. (*Oleagineux*, 24, XXXVII).

Weed Control—Herbicides—What effect the herbicides have on the growth of coconut seedlings?

Hoyle, J. C.—The effect of herbicides on the growth of young coconut palms. *Trop. Agriculture, Trin.* Vol. 46 pp. 137-143. Tables ref. 7 (Trinidad and Tobago Coconut Research Institute, Champs Fleurs, Trinidad, W. 1).

Eight different herbicides and two mechanical methods were used to control weeds in coconut palms to see if there was any effect on the growth rate of the palms. It was found that bromacil could damage the palms but that none of the other chemicals, when sprayed on to weed growth around the palms, had any harmful effect on the palms. The use of the herbicides resulted in growth increases, but these were not significant over the control hand cutlassed treatment, observations showed that monthly spraying of 2, 4,-D plus dalapon at high rates had no harmful effect upon the growth of the palm when sprayed on to the ground around coconut seedlings of at least two years old. (Author).

Copra Storage—Paper sacs can keep copra free from infestation.

Mathen, K. et. al—Multiwall paper sacs as possible barriers against entry of insect pests of copra in storage. *J.Fd. Sci. and Tech.* Vol. 5 pp. 195-197. Plates ref. 5.

The performance of multiwall paper sacs and sealing strips of Reed Medway Sacs. Ltd. as possible barriers against the entry of pests of stored copra has been investigated. The results show that all paper bags employed could keep copra free from infestation up to a period of three months and those treated with pybuthrin up to nine months. (Authors).