

The Coconut Industry 1971

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GENERAL

Ceylon's peak production of coconut estimated at 3,148 million nuts was recorded in 1964. The estimated production for 1971 is 2,799 million nuts representing a decrease of 11.1% from 1964 and an increase of 6.1% from the average production (of 2,637 million nuts) for the past 5 years. In relation to the production during the preceding year (2,605 million nuts) the figure for 1971 constitutes an increase of 7.4%.

The reflection of the increase in production in 1971 (over the preceding year) on the volume of exports amounts to 18.5%. In terms of the average for the past five years the exports are higher by 5.1% but lower by 37.3% in relation to the 1964 record.

As regards the value of exports for 1971, a 1,000 nuts have averaged Rs. 274/84. The record for prices amounting to Rs. 302/62 was registered in 1968. In relation to this, the figure for 1971 is lower by 9.2%, and also lower by 1.6% in comparison with the previous year. The 1971 value however is higher than the average for the past five years by 14.2%.

A major threat to the coconut industry of Ceylon was posed by the outbreak of a leaf-miner beetle pest in the Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia and Kalubowila areas. This was identified during the early part of the year as *Promecotheca cumingi*. From this epicentre the spread and dispersal of the pest have followed two patterns viz. (a) gradual advance all along the periphery of its distribution and (b) a rapid advance in pockets along major rail and road communication lines.

The beetle was declared a pest under the Plant Protection Ordinance of Ceylon and all available resources and man-power were deployed to combat the pest and check its spread. The Ministry of Plantation Industries set up a Campaign Committee comprised of all the entomologists in the Island with the Commissioner of Coconut Rehabilitation for coordinating field activities. A Special Biological Control Laboratory was set up in Colombo and the services of an expert from the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control were secured to assist in the programme for the breeding and field release of parasites.

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Coconut Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme

As in previous years the Commissioner of Coconut and Cocoa Rehabilitation continued to be responsible for the operation of the Coconut Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme. The response to the Coconut Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme since its inception has been very encouraging. Prior to the introduction of this Scheme in 1956, the quantity of fertilizer used on coconut lands was about ten to twelve thousand tons. The records show that this figure has progressively risen since then and is now equivalent to a five to six fold increase over the original consumption level.

Final figures for fertilizer used during 1971 are not available yet, but according to data so far received approximately 48,680 tons (47,991 t) of fertilizer have been drawn for 12 months of the year.

Details pertaining to the issue of fertilizers under the subsidy to permit holders during 1969, 1970 and 1971 are as follows:—

Details per training to Fertilizer Distribution	Estates (over 20 acres)			Small-holdings (under 20 acres)			Co-operative Societies		
	1969	1970	1971	1969	1970	1971	1969	1970	1971
No. of Permit Holders	2,568	2,537	2,557	18,547	18,387	18,429	714	645	600
Acreage in respect of which applications were received	231,197	222,162	215,744	94,741	97,119	98,244	43,737	35,213	34,974
Quantity of Fertilizer (tons) applied for (t)	48,010	48,975	49,183	30,762	30,712	32,058	12,394	11,967	10,500
Quantity of Fertilizer (tons) Actually drawn (t)	47,252	48,202	48,406	30,276	30,227	31,552	12,198	11,778	10,340
Quantity of Fertilizer (tons) Actually drawn (t)	34,459	32,926	27,323	18,021	18,956	15,330	8,421	8,197	6,027
Quantity of Fertilizer (tons) Actually drawn (t)	33,915	32,406	26,892	17,736	18,657	15,088	8,288	8,068	5,932

[1 Metric tonne (t) = 0.98421 long tons = 1000 kg.]

The prices of the CRI Standard Fertilizer Mixtures issued during the year under the Subsidy Scheme were as follows:—

Fertilizer Mixture	Price per ton (Rs)	Price per 1000 Kg.(t)
General Mixture for young palms ..	482/-	474/-
C.R.I. Mixture 'A' ..	493/-	485/-
C.R.I. Mixture 'B' ..	498/-	490/-
C.R.I. Mixture 'C' ..	502/-	494/-

As an alternative to these standard C.R.I. Mixtures three 'U' mixtures containing Urea as source of Nitrogen are also available to the public.

The prices of these 'U' mixtures are given below:—

			Price per ton	Perice per 1000 Kg.
1.	'U' 1 Mixture	Rs. 584/-	575/-
2.	'U' 2 Mixture	Rs. 592/-	583/-
3.	'U' 3 Mixture	Rs. 598/-	589/-

The policy under the Scheme has been for the Government to meet half the cost of the Fertilizer used on coconut lands regardless of the size class of holding.

Desiccated Coconut

The laboratories set up by the Ceylon Coconut Board, for stepping up the scope of Chemical and bacteriological control on desiccated coconut manufactured in Ceylon continued to function effectively during 1971.

In all, 78 mills manufactured desiccated coconut during the year and routine sampling was carried out on a 10% basis for both bacteriological and quality examination of all the manufactures. Manufactures where salmonella contaminations were detected on the routine examination, were subjected to 100% re-sampling and examination.

A total of 16,297 routine samples were examined in the bacteriological laboratory of the Board during the year and salmonella contaminations were detected only in about 0.4% of them. 11 serotypes of salmonella were identified in the samples examined.

A total of 15,126 routine samples were tested in the Quality laboratory of the Board during the year. They were examined for moisture content, parings and specks, colour, odour, grading and oil separation. Out of the samples tested, 2,135 were found to be substandard in respect of one or more of the quality requirements. Approximately 14% of the routine samples examined for physical quality were subsequently resampled on higher percentages on account of being found defective on first examination.

Fermentation Industries

There were 6 private distilleries and one Co-operative Distillery in the Kalutara District and the State Distillery at Seeduwa functioning in 1971. The distilleries in the Kalutara district tapped 138,736 palms and obtained 6,288,405 gallons of toddy and manufactured therefrom 755,338 proof gallons of arrack in 1970/71.

For the State Distillery at Seeduwa 17,000 palms were tapped in the Chilaw District and 179,395 proof gallons of arrack were manufactured from 1,622,760 gallons of toddy during 1970/71.

The rates paid for the supply of a proof gallon of arrack to the distillers and for the supply of a pure gallon of toddy to the distilleries in the Kalutara District in 1971 were Rs. 14.10 and Rs. 1.41 respectively, the same rate as in 1970. The rate paid for a gallon of pure toddy supplied to the State Distillery in 1971 remained at Rs. 1.45, the same as in 1970. There was an improvement in the supply position of toddy.

There were nine vinegar factories operating in the Chilaw, Kalutara and Matara Districts for which 3,923 trees were tapped. 93,383 gallons of toddy were received which on conversion yielded 66,036 gallons of vinegar. The vinegar licence for the Matara District was issued for the first time in 1971.

The tapping season for the State Distillery Seeduwa which was changed to the period 1st March to 30th November in 1970, continued to be so in 1971. There has been a slight increase in the yields.

COCONUT PRODUCTION IN 1971

1. Production	<i>Nut Equivalent</i>
1. Production in 1971	2,799 million
2. Production in 1970	2,605 „
3. Avr. production last 5 years	2,637 „
4. Previous production record (1964)	3,148 „
5. Increase over 1970	7.4%
6. Increase over last 5 years' average	6.1%
7. Decrease from previous record	11.1%

2. Exports—by Volume

(a) Amount

1. Exports in 1971	1,018,616,628 nuts
2. Exports in 1970	859,614,729 „
3. Avr. for last 5 years	969,557,303 „
4. Previous record (1964)	1,625,806,000 „
5. Increase over 1970	18.5%
6. Increase over last 5 years average	5.1%
7. Decrease from previous record	37.3%

(b) Distribution

	<i>C.Oil</i>	<i>Copra</i>	<i>D.C.</i>	<i>Fresh nuts</i>
1971 ..	55.4%	8.5%	35.3%	0.8%
1972 ..	54.0%	8.9%	36.4%	0.7%

Exports—by Value

(a) Amount

1. 1971	279,952,182
2. 1970	240,074,561
3. Average for last 5 years	233,699,671

4. Previous record (1968)	333,819,816
5. Increase over 1970	16.6%
6. Increase over last 5 years' average	19.8%
7. Decrease from previous record	16.1%

(b) Distribution

		C. Oil	Copra	D.C.	Fresh nuts
1971	..	53.1%	8.6%	36.9%	1.4%
1970	..	48.5%	9.5%	40.8%	1.2%

3. Average Value of Coconut Products

	Rs. per 1000 nuts
1. 1971	274.84
2. 1970	279.28
3. Average for last 5 years	240.65
4. Previous record (1968)	302.62
5. Decrease from 1970	1.6%
6. Increase over last 5 years' average	14.2%
7. Decrease from previous record	9.2%

4. Exports of Coconut Products 1971

Item	Quantity	Value (Rs.)	Nut equivalent
Fresh nuts ..	8,565,574 (no.)	3,845,248	8,565,574
D.C. ..	1,043,168 (cwt.)	103,286,497	359,892,960
Coconut oil ..	1,388,463 (cwt.)	148,731,500	564,063,094
Copra ..	344,380 (cwt.)	24,088,937	86,095,000
Total ..	2,776,011 (cwt.)	279,952,182	1,018,616,628
C. Poonac ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mattress Fibre ..	1,307,263 (cwt.)	27,227,727	Nil
Bristle Fibre ..	534,079 (cwt.)	27,245,522	—
Total Fibre ..	1,841,342 (cwt.)	54,473,249	—
Grand Total ..	4,617,353 (cwt.)	334,425,431	1,018,616,628

5. Percentage Distribution of all products by value

	C. Oil	Copra	D.C.	Fresh nuts	Fibre
1971 ..	44.5%	7.2%	30.9%	1.1%	16.3%
1970 ..	40.5%	7.9%	34.2%	1.0%	16.4%

6. Copra Sales

	Sales
Total copra sales 1971 ..	589,207
Total copra sales 1970 ..	449,991

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

RAINFALL (STATIONS IN COCONUT GROWING AREAS) 1971

Month	Chilaw	Madampe	Puttalam	Kurunegala	Lunuwila
January	.. 2.27	3.47	3.88	3.86	5.41
February	.. 1.94	3.68	0.69	12.26	4.73
March	.. 0.71	0.95	2.61	4.93	3.74
April	.. 9.84	6.26	5.84	21.14	7.86
May	.. 4.50	4.98	4.57	5.91	5.61
June	.. 5.96	8.49	2.38	12.21	9.85
July	.. 1.08	0.97	0.02	2.94	5.85
August	.. 1.80	2.42	0.79	8.81	2.15
September	.. 4.56	5.70	1.53	12.92	11.32
October	.. 3.97	13.98	6.40	11.54	10.64
November	.. 0.90	0.70	5.58	2.74	2.33
December	.. 2.17	2.61	6.93	12.06	6.50
Total	.. 39.70	54.21	41.22	112.32	75.99

MONTHLY AVERAGE PRICES OF COCONUT PRODUCTS 1971

Month	COPRA Per Candy		C'OIL Per Ton		D.C. Per lb.	
	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971
January	.. 264.04	250.53	1,583.57	1,545.24	.71	.64
February	.. 164.01	244.17	1,550.00	1,535.00	.65	.56
March	.. 281.61	237.31	1,663.63	1,526.30	.66	.52
April	.. 257.40	214.60	1,520.25	1,469.44	.65	.52
May	.. 235.75	211.10	1,422.50	1,392.20	.59	.56
June	.. 227.53	205.67	1,388.09	1,329.75	.59	.59
July	.. 237.70	211.30	1,427.27	1,388.00	.63	.65
August	.. 232.58	210.38	1,420.75	1,414.77	.62	.67
September	.. 234.85	207.24	1,465.00	1,405.68	.63	.61
October	.. 247.42	203.75	1,577.73	1,359.50	.63	.55
November	.. 238.06	186.75	1,533.64	1,285.00	.63	.52
December	.. 251.35	174.95	1,567.77	1,251.00	.66	.54
Average	.. 247.69	213.15	1,510.44	1,408.49	.64	.58
% Departure	..	-13.9		-6.7		-9.4