

The Coconut Industry 1967

Dr. W. R. N. NATHANAEL

General

An all-time record in Coconut production estimated at 3,148 million nuts was recorded in 1964. The estimated production for 1967 however is 2,577 million nuts, representing a decrease of 18.1% from 1964 and 9.9% from the average production (of 2,860 million nuts) for the past 5 years. The decrease from the preceding year's production (estimated at 2,621 million nuts) amounts to 1.7%.

The decrease in production during 1967 is also reflected in the steep decline in the volume of exports for the year. These represent decreases of 41.5% and 28.9% from 1964 and the average for the past 5 years respectively. The drop in exports in comparison with the preceding year is 7.6%.

The value of exports during 1967 averaged Rs. 178.88 per 1,000 nuts representing a decrease of 7.6% from 1966 and 30.7% from the previous record of Rs. 258.29 reached in 1961. In terms of the average value of exports for the past five years (Rs. 176.92) however, the figure for 1967 represents an increase of 1.1%.

Coconut Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme

The supply of fertilizers under the Government Subsidy Scheme on permits issued by the Commissioner of Coconut Rehabilitation continued during 1967. Under this Scheme, as in previous years, *Estates* (i.e. coconut lands over 20 acres in extent) received a Government grant amounting to one-third the cost of fertilizer, while small-holdings (i.e. coconut lands 20 acres or less in extent) received a subsidy amounting to half the cost of fertilizer.

Whilst all estate owners had to make application direct to the Commissioner, in the case of small-holders this was made optional, so that by choice they could obtain their fertilizer requirements through Co-operative Societies, Co-operative Agricultural Production Societies, Multi-Purpose Co-operative Societies or through Coconut Producers' Co-operative Societies. The Ceylon Fertilizer Corporation (set up under the State Industrial Corporation Act No. 49 of 1957) continued to remain responsible for the distribution of fertilizer.

Expanded Programme for Rehabilitation

The six-member Committee appointed by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Food to study the Memorandum on the proposed Expanded Programme for Coconut Rehabilitation submitted its report during the middle part of the year. In this connection, the planting bodies have stressed the need for both rehabilitation and measures for improving the productivity of coconut lands, particularly after the cyclone damage during October.

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 1967. There were no complaints from overseas buyers regarding contamination with *Salmonella* or other pathogenic organisms.

Fermentation Industry

It is maintained that the manufacture of arrack has dropped by nearly 100,000 gallons since 1963. Lack of skilled toddy tappers would appear to be the principal reason for the large drop in the number of trees tapped and the consequent decline in the production of coconut arrack.

In spite of the fact that the Department of Rural Development and Small Industries has already trained more than a thousand toddy tappers at their 20 training centres there has been no tangible improvement in the toddy supply position. The Ministry of Home Affairs has therefore decided that a further batch of 1,500 tappers should be trained at these centres, twelve of which have been established in the Chilaw/Puttalam districts and eight in the Kalutara/Colombo districts. The immediate object is to increase the number of palms that are being tapped by 50,000.

Fibre Industry

The coir fibre industry faced a crisis during the year and more than 200 mills were actually shut down. The All-Ceylon Fibre Millers' Association have expressed the view that a Fibre Board should be established to deal with all aspects of the industry and in particular to introduce measures for restoring markets for the various grades of fibre and coir products manufactured in Ceylon.

Miscellaneous

(1) *Working Group on oils and Fats Industry.* Consequent on a report submitted by ECAFE expert Mr. C. Reddy, a Working Group was appointed by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Food to examine the Oils and Fats Industry with particular reference to coconut production.

Apart from other things the Group is expected to review the various recommendations that have been made by different experts regarding the technical, economic and commercial aspects and problems of the Seeduwa Mills of the Oils and Fats Corporation. The Working Group is also expected to define the future role of the Seeduwa Mills in the development of the local oils and fats industry and the animal feed industries.

(2) *Export of Glycerine and Fatty Acids.* The Oils and Fats Corporation introduced a scheme to salvage coconut waste—'Pol Kudu', from kitchens all over Ceylon. It is reported that the response has been good and over 2,500 persons have already applied to supply "pol kudu" to the Corporation.

The plan is to recover by solvent extraction, crude coconut oil from this waste, for chemical splitting into glycerine and fatty acids for export. Samples of these products obtained in this way have already been air-freighted to prospective customers in Europe, the Middle East and Japan who have evinced a desire to buy these products for soap manufacture.

(3) *Cyclone Damage.* Extensive damage was caused to coconut plantations along the coastal belt from Rajakadaluwa to Wennappuwa in the Chilaw District during the 2 day cyclone of October 20th to 21st.

The field staff of the C.R.I. was deployed for conducting a proper survey of the affected areas with a view to assessing the extent of damage caused and to collect reliable statistics for purposes of rehabilitation. The C.R.I. has also issued leaflets and other advisory material indicating the best method for the treatment and disposal of fallen palms which could promote the breeding of coconut pests such as the Red Weevil and the Black Beetle.

MONTHLY PRICES OF COCONUT PRODUCTS (1967)

| Month | Copra/ Candy Rs. c. | C'oil/ Ton Rs. c. | D.C/ 100 lb. Rs. c. | Poonac/ Ton Rs. c. |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| January | 196.37 | 1167.10 | 45.00 | 320.50 |
| February | 206.93 | 1193.16 | 45.30 | 346.58 |
| March | 203.83 | 1194.05 | 46.80 | 348.09 |
| April | 188.08 | 1084.44 | 44.30 | 346.39 |
| May | 173.21 | 1038.50 | 45.00 | 307.50 |
| June | 181.14 | 1089.52 | 46.00 | 246.67 |
| July | 175.87 | 1059.13 | 47.20 | 238.48 |
| August | 179.10 | 1058.41 | 49.00 | 250.68 |
| September | 198.71 | 1143.25 | 52.70 | 329.00 |
| October | 211.17 | 1217.50 | 51.25 | 333.86 |
| November | 235.05 | 1311.66 | 54.30 | 356.00 |
| December | 230.56 | 1322.85 | 57.00 | 379.64 |
| AVERAGE | 198.34 | 1156.63 | 48.65 | 316.95 |

RAINFALL (STATIONS IN COCONUT GROWING AREAS)

| Station | 1966 | 1967 | Average (1957-66) |
|-------------------|-------|-------|----------------------|
| Lunuwila | 65.68 | 92.39 | 79.02 |
| Madampe | 56.68 | 73.84 | 63.78 |
| Chilaw | 47.44 | 77.89 | 62.60 |
| Puttalam | 36.35 | 45.68 | 47.41 |
| Kurunegala | 85.50 | 94.83 | 84.92 |

Copra Sales

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Total Copra Sales in 1967 | 487,100 |
| Total (Est.) Poonac Production | 57,933 tons |
| Quantity exported | nil |
| Available for Internal Consumption | 57,933 tons |

Candies**COCONUT PRODUCTION IN 1967**

| <i>Production</i> | <i>Nut Equivalent</i> |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Production in 1967 | 2577 million nuts |
| 2. Production in 1966 | 2621 " |
| 3. Av. Production for last 5 years | 2860 " |
| 4. Previous Production record (1964) | 3148 " |
| 5. Decrease from 1966 | 1.7% |
| 6. Decrease over last 5 years average | 9.9% |
| 7. Decrease from previous record | 18.1% |

Exports1. *By volume :*

| (a) <i>Amount</i> | <i>Nut Equivalent</i> |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Exports in 1967 | 950,611,000 nuts |
| 2. Exports in 1966 | 1,028,821,000 " |
| 3. Average last 5 years | 1,337,000,000 " |
| 4. Previous record (1964) | 1,625,806,000 " |
| 5. Decrease from 1966 | 7.6% |
| 6. Decrease from 5 years average | 28.9% |
| 7. Decrease from previous record | 41.5% |

(b) *Distribution*

| | <i>C. Oil</i> | <i>Copra</i> | <i>D.C.</i> | <i>Fresh Nuts</i> |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1967 | 57.0% | 8.3% | 33.6% | 1.1% |
| 1966 | 57.5% | 10.1% | 31.2% | 1.1% |

2. *By Value*

| (a) <i>Amount</i> | <i>Rs.</i> |
|--|-------------|
| 1. 1967 | 170,033,494 |
| 2. 1966 | 199,242,267 |
| 3. Av. for last 5 years | 236,548,654 |
| 4. Previous record (1961) | 322,827,380 |
| 5. Decrease over 1966 | 14.7% |
| 6. Decrease from last 5 years av. | 28.1% |
| 7. Decrease from previous record | 47.3% |

(b) *Distribution*

| | <i>C. Oil</i> | <i>Copra</i> | <i>D. C.</i> | <i>Fresh Nuts</i> |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1967 | 51.5% | 10.9% | 35.8% | 1.8% |
| 1966 | 54.5% | 12.3% | 31.4% | 1.8% |

Average value of Exports

(1000 nuts) Rs. cts.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. 1967 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 178.88 |
| 2. 1966 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 193.66 |
| 3. Average last 5 years | ... | ... | ... | ... | 176.92 |
| 4. Previous record (1961) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 258.29 |
| 5. Decrease over 1966 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7.6% |
| 6. Increase over last 5 years av. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.1% |
| 7. Decrease from previous record | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30.7% |

EXPORTS OF COCONUT PRODUCTS 1967

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Quantity</i> | <i>Value—Rs.</i> | <i>Nut Equivalent</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Fresh nuts | 10,227,408 (No.) | 3,059,732 | 10,227,408 |
| D.C. | 925,709 (Cwt.) | 60,796,342 | 319,369,605 |
| C'nut Oil | 1,334,164 (Cwt.) | 87,652,992 | 542,004,125 |
| Copra | 316,040 (Cwt.) | 18,524,428 | 79,010,000 |
| Total | 2,575,913 | 170,033,494 | 950,611,138 |
| Coconut Poonac | nil | nil | nil |
| Mattress Fibre | 1,064,954 (Cwt.) | 19,428,347 | — |
| Bristle Fibre | 538,039 (Cwt.) | 22,026,825 | — |
| Total Fibre | 1,602,993 | 41,455,172 | — |
| Grand Total... | 4,178,906 | 211,488,666 | — |

Distribution of all products by value :

| | <i>C'Oil</i> | <i>Copra</i> | <i>D.C.</i> | <i>Fresh Nuts</i> | <i>Fibre</i> |
|------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1967 | 41.4% | 8.8% | 28.8% | 1.4% | 19.6% |
| 1966 | 45.8% | 10.4% | 26.4% | 1.5% | 15.9% |

Conversion Rates :—

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------|
| ton of Copra | — | 5,000 nuts |
| ton of C' Oil | — | 8,125 nuts |
| ton of Desiccated Coconut | — | 6,900 nuts |

| |
|--------|
| 178.88 |
| 193.66 |
| 176.92 |
| 258.29 |
| 7.6% |
| 1.1% |
| 30.7% |

RS 1967

| | |
|-------|-------------|
| 9,732 | 10,227,408 |
| 5,342 | 319,369,605 |
| 2,992 | 542,004,125 |
| 1,428 | 79,010,000 |
| 1,494 | 950,611,138 |

Nut Equivalent

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 347 | nil |
| 825 | — |
| 172 | — |
| 666 | — |

| | | |
|------------|------|-------|
| 5,000 nuts | 1.4% | 19.6% |
| 8,125 nuts | 1.5% | 15.9% |
| 6,900 nuts | | |

Fresh Nuts Fibre

CROP INTELLIGENCE

TABLE 1

By G. KARUNASENA

4th, 5th and 6th Crops of 1967 in different localities

| LOCALITY | CROP | Nuts per Palm | | | Copra Outturn | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| | | Average | This crop | % Departure from average | Average | This crop | % Departure from average |
| Gonawila (1) | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 11.5 | 9.2 | -20 | 1248 | 1372 | -10 |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 11.4 | 8.5 | -25 | 1300 | 1344 | -3 |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 5.4 | 10.0 | +85 | 1293 | 1426 | -10 |
| Gonawila (2) | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 15.5 | 9.9 | -36 | 1222 | 1267 | -4 |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 14.1 | 10.8 | -23 | 1256 | 1274 | -1 |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 9.0 | 9.6 | +7 | 1280 | 1246 | +3 |
| Giriulla | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 15.6 | 11.4 | -27 | 1311 | 1327 | -1 |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 13.0 | 9.3 | -28 | 1389 | 1275 | +8 |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 7.6 | 9.5 | +25 | 1310 | 1305 | +0.4 |
| Kurunegala (1) | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 12.6 | 10.0 | -21 | 1442 | 1441 | +0.1 |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 10.6 | * | — | 1445 | * | — |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 7.4 | * | — | 1434 | * | — |
| Kurunegala (2) | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 13.7 | 12.3 | -10 | 1282 | 1420 | -11 |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 12.3 | 9.9 | -20 | 1283 | 1244 | +3 |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 9.3 | 9.2 | -1 | 1280 | 1221 | +5 |
| Lunuwila | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 13.4 | 8.4 | -37 | 1337 | 1406 | -5 |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 8.7 | 9.3 | +7 | 1354 | 1426 | -5 |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 6.4 | 10.1 | +58 | 1315 | 1440 | -10 |
| Nattandiya | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 14.0 | 7.8 | -44 | 1344 | 1334 | +1 |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 9.2 | 9.4 | +2 | 1394 | 1345 | +4 |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 6.1 | 8.0 | +31 | 1287 | 1345 | -4 |
| Kudawewa | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 14.8 | 13.6 | -8 | 1105 | 1166 | -6 |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 10.3 | 10.2 | -1 | 1086 | 1116 | -3 |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 8.2 | 12.3 | +50 | 1021 | 1142 | -12 |
| Chilaw | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 14.8 | * | — | — | * | — |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 13.5 | * | — | — | * | — |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 9.3 | * | — | — | * | — |
| Bingiriya (1) | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 14.9 | 9.9 | -34 | — | * | — |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 13.0 | 10.6 | -18 | — | * | — |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 8.7 | 8.4 | -3 | — | * | — |
| Bingiriya (2) | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 13.3 | 7.2 | -46 | 1367 | 1332 | +3 |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 8.7 | 8.3 | -5 | 1472 | 1605 | -9 |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 6.4 | 9.6 | +50 | 1416 | 1644 | -16 |
| Rajakadaluwa | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 15.7 | 11.9 | -24 | 1214 | 1444 | -19 |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 14.4 | 10.4 | -28 | 1219 | 1293 | -6 |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 11.5 | 9.1 | -21 | 1188 | 1295 | -9 |
| Madurankuli | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 11.7 | 9.6 | -18 | 1127 | 1258 | -12 |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 10.4 | 8.4 | -19 | 1102 | 1150 | -4 |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 10.7 | 9.3 | -13 | 1102 | 1160 | -5 |
| Negombo | 4th Crop (July-Aug. '67) | 13.9 | 11.1 | -20 | 1177 | 1311 | -11 |
| | 5th Crop (Sept-Oct. '67) | 10.7 | 9.0 | -16 | 1219 | 1276 | -5 |
| | 6th Crop (Nov-Dec. '67) | 7.5 | 8.2 | +9 | 1212 | 1231 | -2 |

* Returns not received.

TABLE 2
Rainfall of different localities in the second half of 1967

| Month | Gonawila | Giriulla | Kurunegala | Lunuwila | Nattandiya & Kuda- wewa | Chilaw | Bingiriya | Rajakada- lawa | Maduran- kuli | Negombo |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|---------|
| JULY | 4.33 | — | 4.52 | 4.22 | 3.38 | 3.12 | 2.19 | — | 3.08 | 4.64 |
| AUGUST | 5.67 | 3.90 | 4.38 | 3.26 | 2.61 | 1.28 | 0.88 | 1.09 | 0.00 | 2.85 |
| SEPTEMBER | 6.99 | 5.27 | 3.61 | 11.51 | 8.03 | 8.40 | 6.98 | 9.93 | 2.62 | 8.61 |
| OCTOBER | 19.90 | 20.98 | 15.85 | 26.54 | 25.39 | 29.29 | 25.94 | 27.96 | 11.55 | 22.49 |
| NOVEMBER | 13.12 | 16.02 | 13.81 | 15.06 | 10.49 | 7.98 | 6.56 | — | 9.72 | 16.50 |
| DECEMBER | 4.19 | 5.28 | 9.78 | 4.69 | 6.14 | 7.94 | 12.63 | — | 7.58 | 4.12 |
| TOTAL FOR SIX MONTHS | 54.20 | 51.45 | 51.95 | 65.28 | 56.04 | 58.01 | 55.18 | 38.98 | 34.55 | 59.21 |

PRICE TRENDS AND SALES OF COCONUT PRODUCTS

By
RANJITH FERNANDO

TABLE 1

Average prices of coconut products for the second half of 1967

| Month | Week | <i>Estate Copra Market Price per Candy</i> | <i>oil Price per Ton</i> | <i>Poonac Price per Ton</i> | <i>Desiccated Coconut Price per Pound</i> |
|-----------|------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | Rs. cts. | Rs. cts. | Rs. cts. | Rs. cts. |
| JULY | 1st | 181·60 | 1094·17 | 240·00 | ·47 |
| | 2nd | 178·00 | 1077·50 | 240·00 | ·47 |
| | 3rd | 177·88 | 1060·00 | 239·00 | ·48 |
| | 4th | 167·67 | 1005·00 | 235·00 | ·47 |
| AUGUST | 1st | 170·55 | 1033·00 | 237·00 | ·47 |
| | 2nd | 175·67 | 1046·67 | 244·17 | ·48 |
| | 3rd | 181·55 | 1070·00 | 255·00 | ·49½ |
| | 4th | 187·62 | 1081·67 | 265·00 | ·51 |
| SEPTEMBER | 1st | 194·10 | 1132·00 | 290·00 | ·53 |
| | 2nd | 206·05 | 1180·00 | 343·00 | ·54 |
| | 3rd | 198·05 | 1129·00 | 346·00 | ·52 |
| | 4th | 196·65 | 1132·00 | 337·00 | ·51½ |
| OCTOBER | 1st | 196·65 | 1165·00 | 332·50 | ·51 |
| | 2nd | 206·75 | 1217·00 | 323·00 | ·50½ |
| | 3rd | 212·10 | 1219·00 | 332·50 | ·50½ |
| | 4th | 230·05 | 1269·17 | 348·00 | ·53½ |
| NOVEMBER | 1st | 239·30 | 1315·00 | 350·00 | ·54 |
| | 2nd | 229·55 | 1271·00 | 358·00 | ·53 |
| | 3rd | 221·75 | 1260·00 | 350·00 | ·53 |
| | 4th | 241·60 | 1408·33 | 366·67 | ·58 |
| DECEMBER | 1st | 234·30 | 1310·00 | 377·50 | ·55½ |
| | 2nd | 227·75 | 1306·00 | 380·00 | ·56 |
| | 3rd | 230·25 | 1338·00 | 380·00 | ·58 |
| | 4th | 229·00 | 1340·00 | 380·00 | ·58 |

TABLE 2

Monthly sales of coconut products for the second half of 1967

| Month | <i>Copra in tons</i> | <i>Oil in Tons</i> | <i>D. C. in Pounds</i> |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| JULY | 12610·8 | 6644 | 11,595,693 |
| AUGUST | 12111·2 | 5050 | 11,638,285 |
| SEPTEMBER | 12130·5 | 5557 | 12,415,195 |
| OCTOBER | 10753·5 | 7416 | 11,043,435 |
| NOVEMBER | 9255·2 | 5180 | 9,035,605 |
| DECEMBER | 8088·5 | 3321 | 8,828,420 |

(Figures obtained from the Ceylon Coconut Board)