

✓ A NOTE ON AN IMPROVED STRAIN OF COCONUT SEEDLINGS

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Using the techniques of controlled pollination described in the previous number of the Planters' Review,* the Institute is producing a limited quantity of an improved strain of coconut seedlings. This strain has been developed by pollinating selected high yielding palms (as the female parent) with pollen collected from a prepotent palm.

A prepotent palm is one that is able to transmit the character high yield of copra to the offspring inspite of open-pollination. From progeny trials a few palms have been identified as prepotent and all the pollen grains available from them are collected and stored under deep-freeze conditions. This pollen is used exclusively as the male parent on selected female parents. Since both the parents are selected and one of them at least is known to be a transmitter, it is likely that resultant progenies would be high-yielding.

In order to distinguish these hand pollinated seedlings from the ordinary selected seedlings, the former are referred to as C.R.I.C. 60 seedlings. A limited quantity of them will be issued to the Industry for the first time in May/June 1961.

*Method of Artificial Pollination of Coconut Palms by M.A.P.P. Manthiriratne and D.V. Liyanage. *The Ceylon Coconut Planters' Review*, Vol. I, No. 2, pp. 3-10.