

COCONUTS IN 1961

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GENERAL

As a result of the well distributed rainfall of 1960, and the cumulative effects of manuring under the Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme, Coconut production during 1961 reached a peak.

Unfortunately prices throughout the year were very low and averaged Rs. 148/- per candy compared to Rs. 188/- for 1960.

Coconut Board Sales Room

During the course of this year there was a change in the composition of the Coconut Board and Mr. Upali Dias was appointed Chairman in succession to Mr. C.T. Van Geysel.

The major problem that engaged the Coconut Board was the question of measures to prevent the infection of D.C. with Salmonella. Legislation has been finalised in connection with the improved manufacture and the sanitary precautions to be adopted by D.C. Mills. Representatives of the D.C. Trade from England visited the Island and inspected some of the factories where the new methods have been adopted.

Government has also agreed to grant loans for carrying out the necessary improvements in factories.

A record quantity of copra was sold at the Sales Room during this year, amounting to 797,583 candies.

Government Subsidised Manure Scheme

The data for 1961 regarding the quantity of fertilizer issued under the Subsidy Scheme are not available at the moment of writing. In 1960, the tonnage issued in respect of Estates was 21,520 and for Small Holdings 20,656. It is however feared that during 1961 in view of the decline of the price of copra, there has been a considerable decline in the quantity of manure utilized, particularly by Small Holders.

Prices of Coconut Products :

The comparative prices of copra, coconut oil and D.C. for 1961 and 1960 are given below :

	Copra per candy		Coconut Oil (Ton)		Desiccated Coconut (lb.)	
	1961	1960	1961	1960	1961	1960
	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.
January	146.02	248.11	889.32	1504.21	.34½	.58
February	159.06	245.25	993.00	1480.75	.34	.59
March	158.29	235.81	970.91	1409.34	.34	.55¾
April	146.37	216.19	915.26	1261.84	.33½	.52
May	140.18	208.52	908.64	1231.57	.33	.51
June	138.11	185.28	881.00	1032.38	.33¼	.43¼
July	137.86	177.91	879.05	1058.75	.34¼	.43.8
August	135.71	174.14	885.68	1048.00	.34.9	.42
September	131.50	152.41	853.00	986.50	.35	.39.8
October	133.25	153.25	828.00	996.19	.35½	.39.5
November	135.36	148.48	830.57	950.00	.36½	.33½
December	133.28	136.26	827.63	876.42	.33¼	.32.6

Reference was made in last year's report to the effect of the release of the American Stock Pile of oil and particularly of sales of Soya Bean oil under Public Law 480 on the coconut oil market. Since then the matter was taken up at the F.A.O. Working Group meeting on Copra at Trivandrum by the Ceylon Delegation, and subsequently the Government of Ceylon has made representation to the U.S. Government on this matter.

Coconut Production in 1961 :

The summary of Production of Coconut and Coconut products during 1961 compared to those in 1960 are given below :

I. PRODUCTION

1. Production in 1961 2,796 million nuts
2. Production in 1960 2,362 ,,
3. Average production for the last 5 years .. 2,390 ,,
4. Previous production record in 1955 .. 2,746 ,,
5. Increase over 1960 18.4%
6. Increase over last 5 years average .. 17.0%
7. Increase over previous record of 1955 .. 1.8%

II. EXPORTS

(i) By Volume

(a) Amount		Nut. Equivalent
1. 1961		1,373,297,463
2. 1960		974,887,640
3. Average for the last 5 years		1,079,191,307
4. Previous record in 1955		1,541,901,641
5. Increase over 1960		40.9%
6. Increase over last 5 years average		27.3%
7. Decrease over previous record of 1955		10.9%

(b) Distribution

	Coconut Oil	Copra	Fresh Nuts	D.C. Nuts
1960	46.2%	14.9%	—	38.8%
1961	54.3%	20.0%	1.4%	24.3%

(ii) By Value

(a) Amount		
1. 1961		Rs. 203,699,497
2. 1960		Rs. 183,426,715
3. Average for the last 5 years		Rs. 193,167,929
4. Previous record in 1951		Rs. 322,827,380
5. Increase over 1960		11.1%
6. Increase over last 5 years average		5.5%
7. Decrease over previous record in 1951		36.9%

(b) Distribution

	Coconut Oil	Copra	Fresh Nuts	D.C. Nuts
1960	43.4%	17.5%	—	39.1%
1961	52.4%	23.5%	0.7%	23.4%

III. AVERAGE VALUE OF EXPORTS PER 1000 NUTS

1. 1961	Rs. 148.32
2. 1960	Rs. 188.15
3. Average for the last 5 years	Rs. 180.47
4. Previous record in 1951	Rs. 258.29
5. Decrease over 1960	21.2%
6. Decrease over last 5 years average	17.8%
7. Decrease over previous record in 1951	42.6%

EXPORT OF COCONUT PRODUCTS 1961

	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Nut Equivalent</i>
Fresh Nuts	{		
		5,601,881 <i>nuts</i>	
D.C. Nuts	83,082 <i>cwts.</i>	Rs. 1,474,474	18,629,139
Copra	966,934 <i>cwts.</i>	Rs. 47,598,713	333,592,230
Coconut Oil	54,987 <i>tons</i>	Rs. 47,800,158	274,935,000
	1,836,655 <i>cwts.</i>	Rs. 106,826,152	746,141,094
Total		Rs. 203,699,497	1,272,297,094
COCONUT Poonac	78,733 <i>cwts.</i>	Rs. 921,856	
Fibre Bristle	395,605 <i>cwts.</i>	Rs. 19,278,491	
Fibre Matters	1,052,412 <i>cwts.</i>	Rs. 20,285,139	
Fibre Total		Rs. 39,563,630	
Grand Total Coconut Products		Rs. 244,184,983	

Distribution

		<i>Oil</i>	<i>Copra</i>	<i>Fresh Nuts</i>	<i>D.C. Nuts</i>	<i>Poonac</i>	<i>Fibre</i>
1960	..	33.7	13.6	—	30.3	—	22.4
1961	..	43.7	19.6	0.6	19.5	0.4	16.2

Conversion Rates

- 1 ton of oil — 8125 nuts (61.5% oil expression).
- 1 ton of copra — 5000 nuts
- 1 ton of oil — 1.625 tons of copra.

Estimated production is calculated from exports of copra, desiccated coconut and oil using the conventional conversion factors and adding the estimated local consumption based on 140 nuts per head of population.

It is possible that the estimated production based on the exports may be on the low side in view of the fact that there may have been little movement of coconut products out of Ceylon during December 1961 in view of the Port Strike.

Compared to the previous year there was a reduction in the proportion of D.C. exported, and a corresponding increase in copra and coconut oil exports.

Coir and Coir Products :

Attention was drawn on last year's report to the importance of coir products in the coconut economy.

The comparative figures for 1960 and 1961 of exports of Bristle and Mattress Fibre are given below :

	Value (Rs.)			
	1960	1961	1960	1961
Mattress Fibre (cwts.)	1,215,272	1,052,412	28,613,125	20,285,139
Bristle " "	489,237	395,605	24,331,651	19,278,491
	<u>1,704,509</u>	<u>1,448,017</u>	<u>52,944,776</u>	<u>39,563,630</u>

Not only was there a decline in the quantity of Fibre exported, and a considerable fall in the value of exports.

The Floor Price Scheme was in operation. Until last year Ceylon supplied all the coir fibre requirements of users all over the world. But recently East Africa has been offering keen competition to our mattress fibre in the London Market. East Africa is said to have an advantage over Ceylon in the matter of costs; her labour is cheap and being closer to London transport costs are lower than from Ceylon.

