

Pilot Sample Survey to Estimate Area and Yield of Coconut (1961-1963)

The 1946 Census reported that the area under coconut cultivation was 1,070,942 acres of which 70 percent constituted small-holdings under 20 acres in extent. The 1962 Agricultural Survey reported that the extent under coconut as on 1st July 1962 was 1,152,418 acres, broken up as follows:-

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
Holdings under 50 acres ...	843,626	73.2
Holdings 50 acres and over ...	308,792	26.8
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	1,152,418	100.0

Nearly 50 per cent of the coconut area covered by holdings under 50 acres are situated in the Kurunegala and Colombo Districts. These two districts also account for approximately 62 per cent of the acreage covered by coconut estates over 50 acres in extent.

Pilot Sample Survey

In view of the dearth of reliable coconut statistics, a pilot sample survey was conducted under the aegis of the FAO, in collaboration with the Department of Census and Statistics, the Coconut Research Institute and the Department of Coconut and Cocoa Rehabilitation. The survey was confined to the three principal coconut growing districts—Kurunegala, Colombo and Chilaw and the main objectives were as follows:—

- (1) to obtain detailed information on coconut production factors in relation to the prevalent agricultural, agronomical and management practices in the three principal districts which together account for about 2/3rd of the Island's Crop.
- (2) to evolve suitable techniques and field procedures for a large scale survey which will provide reliable and up-to-date statistics of coconut production for the whole Island.

The main findings of the Pilot Sample Survey are reproduced in Tables 1-16, from FAO report No. TA 2313—"Project on the Improvement of Coconut Statistics in Countries of Asia and the Far East", published in 1967.