

# RAINFALL, CROPS AND EXPORTS—1956

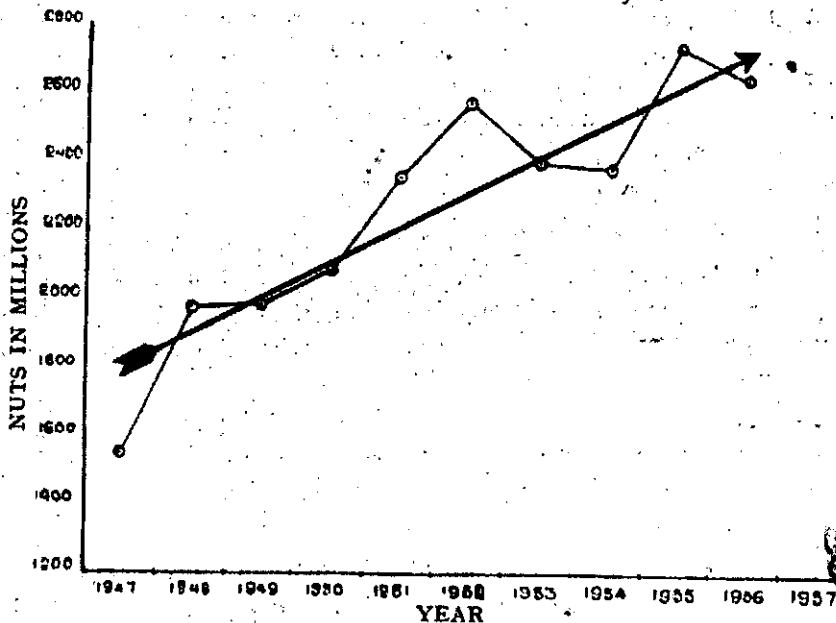
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## Production Trends (Estimated)

During the last decade, the Coconut Industry has to its credit a remarkable record of progress from the point of view of overall production. As against an average production of 1,788 million nuts in the earlier decade of 1936-1946, the Industry has touched an average of 2,268 million nuts in the last decade of 1947-1956. The year 1955 with 2,745 million nuts was the highest on record.

Estimated Production of Coconuts in Ceylon



The trend of production in the last decade (vide arrow in figure) shows an environment of continued progress through (1) the use of fertilizers (2) application of scientific cultivation and (3) new planting to a certain extent.

The production in 1956 was however lower than the record year of 1955. This is doubt due to the weather. A drought reported to be the worst of its kind in the century was ranging throughout the whole Island during the year 1955 especially in the latter stages, due to the carry over effects of the excellent rainfall in 1954 and the unsatisfactory rainfall of 1955. The production was really 3 per cent below that of 1955. The increasing trend is clearly shown by it being nearly 5 per cent above the average for the five years.

## Crop Prospects for 1957

From a general analysis of only the rainfall records with respect to several coconut growing in the Island, the crop prospects for 1957 can reasonably be expected to be as follows:—

The first two bimonthly crops (i.e. upto about April) of 1957, should be higher than the corresponding crops of 1956 and equal to if not higher than the average for the corresponding period during the last five years. Really the total rainfall in the first half of 1956 which primarily controls the crops in the early part of 1957, was lower in most areas than the total rainfall in the first half of 1955 which controls the early crops of 1956. The general expectation would therefore be that early crops of 1957 would be lower than those of 1956. But it would be interesting to note that the distribution or spread\* of rainfall of 1956 was definitely better than in 1955 (Table I). And with our knowledge that a perennial of this type is controlled by the total rainfall and in fact to a greater extent by its distribution, one can safely expect the early crops of 1957 to be better than those of 1956.

TABLE I  
Rainfall First Half of 1956

Area	January-June Total Rain		January-June Spread*	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
Lunuwila ...	40.59	30.07	1.03	1.82
Wewa ...	38.46	29.32	1.03	1.63
Madampe ...	30.11	31.83	0.95	2.72
Kudawewa ...	48.33	28.81	1.39	1.78

\*The spread is indicated by an adhoc mathematical index, viz. the reciprocal of the coefficient of variation ( $\sigma/\bar{x}$ )—the higher this value, better the distribution.

The crop prospects for the balance part of 1957 are pretty gloomy. A severe drought was experienced in the middle of last year. The North-East monsoon rains of 1956 too failed. The monsoon rains that preceded it too were not sufficiently heavy to transfer any carry-over by way of finding relief to the palms at least during the early part of the drought. In the latter half of 1956, the rainfall was much lower than the corresponding period for 1955. For example, the comparative rainfall figures for the second half of 1956 as against that of 1955 are: 29.97" against 43.25" for Madampe, (2) 14.37" against 39.20" for Kudawewa, and 28.81" against 42.92" for Lunuwila, etc.

It is important to point out herein that when the difference in total rainfall is very large or when the total rainfall gets below a certain minimum, the spread of rainfall would not help to indicate the extent and therefore no attempt is made to calculate an index for spread of rainfall. It is therefore out of place herein to explain the method of calculating this index of spread, its importance and its implications. In fact there are modifications for this index in certain circumstances.

Therefore, one can safely predict that crops in 1957 from the month of May onwards will be appreciably low—much lower than the average for the last five years. There is of course, a possibility of the last crop of 1957 being satisfactory and closer to average, provided there is sufficient rain throughout the year 1957.

Statistics for 1956

Production (estimated)

Production in 1956 .. .. .	2,661,006,000 nuts
(Previous record) in 1955 .. .. .	2,745,762,000 nuts
Decrease over previous year .. .. .	3.1 per cent

Exports

Major Products

(1) Volume

(a) Total

1956 .. .. .	1,429,146,000 nuts
1955 .. .. .	1,541,902,000 nuts
Decrease .. .. .	7.3 per cent

(b) Distribution

	C. Oil	Copra	D.C.	Fresh Nuts
1956 .. .. .	48.3	20.2	30.7	0.8
1955 .. .. .	51.2	22.2	25.9	0.7

(2) Value

(a) Total

1956 .. .. .	Rs. 215,756,882
1955 .. .. .	Rs. 228,328,729
Decrease .. .. .	5.5 per cent

(b) Distribution

	C. Oil	Copra	D.C.	Fresh Nuts
1956 .. .. .	46.0	22.7	30.0	1.3
1955 .. .. .	49.6	25.1	24.0	1.3

Average value of exports per 1,000 nuts

	Rs. Cts.
1956 .. .. .	150.97 per 1,000 nuts
1955 .. .. .	148.08 per 1,000 nuts
Increase .. .. .	2.0 per cent

Conversion Rates

1 ton of copra—5,000 nuts.      1 ton of oil—8,125 nuts.      1 ton of D.C.—6,000 nuts