

COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWS ITEMS

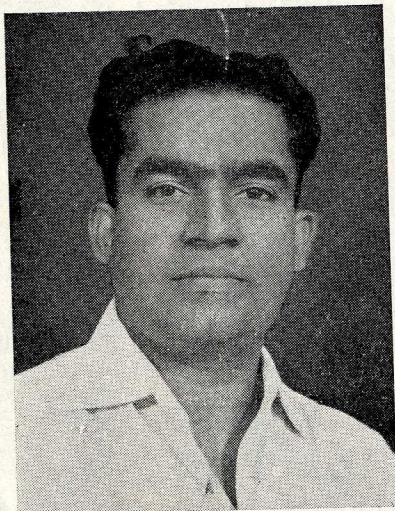
PROJECT FOR THE CONTROL OF THE COCONUT CATERPILLAR PEST IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE

As reported in the First Number of the Ceylon Coconut Planters' Review, the Board has decided to establish a Field Laboratory to form the nucleus of the PARASITE BREEDING CENTRE for the Control of the Coconut Caterpillar Pest in the Eastern Province.

2. While only sporadic attacks of this pest occur in the West Coast of Ceylon and the hinterland of the Kurunegala District, this pest has been *endemic* in the Eastern Province, in particular in the Batticaloa District; and unless a concentrated effort by mass breeding of parasites is made, it would be difficult to control this pest.

3. Mr. Edwin Dharamaraju, whose services have been loaned by the Government of India under the Colombo Plan Technical Aid Scheme (as the Colombo Plan Entomologist to the C.R.I.) and who has several years' experience of controlling this pest in Andhra Pradesh, will be assuming duties in Batticaloa and will establish a Field Laboratory for the mass breeding of parasites.

4. It is hoped that Coconut Cultivators of the Eastern Province will co-operate with him and the Institute in carrying out successfully a campaign for the eradication of this pest; thus it is hoped it will be reasonably controlled within the next few years.



Mr. Edwin Dharamaraju