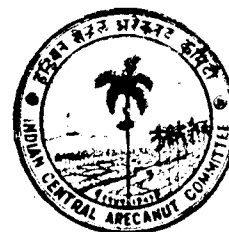


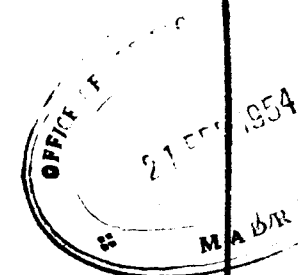
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ARECANUT BULLETIN

DECEMBER 1954—Vol. V.—No. 10.



Report on the Scheme for Collection of
Statistics of Area under and Production of
Arecanut (Supari) in West Bengal.

- 2) Growing Better Bananas.
- 3) "Compost" Your Phosphatic Fertilizers.

1013
1-55



Arecanut Seedlings about Six months Old.

ISSUED BY

THE INDIAN CENTRAL ARECANUT COMMITTEE,

(Under the Ministry of Food & Agriculture, Government of India)

KOZHIKODE, (Malabar)

Annual Subscription Annas 12.

INDIAN CENTRAL ARECANUT COMMITTEE.

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Shri K. SHAMANNA, B. A., LL. B.

As the information in this Bulletin has been collected from various sources, the Indian Central Arecanut Committee cannot take responsibility for its correctness.

"ARECANUTS IN MALAYA"

BY

K. K. NAMBIAR,

Secretary, Indian Central Arecanut Committee,
CALICUT.

A lucid account of the agricultural conditions with special reference to arecanuts in Malaya & Singapore.

Price As 8 only—Postage extra.

A Report on the Scheme for Collection of Statistics of Area under and Production of Arecanut (Supari) in West Bengal.

At the instance of the Indian Central Arecanut Committee, the Directorate of Agriculture was entrusted by the Agriculture and Co-operation Department of this Government with the task of carrying out a survey in order to determine the area under and production of arecanut (supari) in West Bengal. Accordingly, a scheme involving an expenditure of Rs. 8,800 was drawn up. It was decided that the scheme would be financed jointly by the Indian Central Arecanut Committee and the State Government, each bearing 50% of the cost. The scheme was implemented in July, 1953 and was due to terminate on the 31st December of the same year. But the survey could not be completed within the stipulated period due to other duties of the Union Agricultural Assistants and Agricultural Inspectors. And as such an additional amount of Rs. 2,600 was sanctioned for the continuance of the scheme for a further period of two months i. e. up to 28th February, 1954. The scheme terminated on the expiry of this period.

Design of Survey:—Random sampling method was not considered suitable for collection of statistics of area and production of arecanut for the following reasons:—

- 1) Its cultivation is small in this State and scattered in small plots,
- 2) Arecanut orchards are generally mixed up with other plantations.

Under such circumstances method of Sample Survey would have needed large number of samples. Consideration of the technical complications and cost involved in the process did not permit us to use it. Thus considering the nature of arecanut cultivation in this State, it was decided to have a census of the arecanut trees. The survey was divided into two stages. The first stage related to the collection of statistics of the number of arecanut trees by actual counting, the second related to the estimation of acreage and production of arecanut. The detailed procedure adopted in arriving at the estimates

has been laid down in the following paragraphs:

Field work. As has been stated, the actual survey was carried out by the Union Agricultural Assistants. Field work consisted mainly of three operations:—

- i) Enumeration of the arecanut trees.
- ii) Estimation of acreage under arecanut.
- iii) Estimation of production.

A. Enumeration of arecanut trees. In the first phase of the survey, the U. A. A's were asked to enumerate the arecanut trees and classify them into two main categories viz:— (1) trees grown in arecanut orchards and (ii) scattered trees i. e. unplanned cultivation of arecanut trees. Each of the two categories was subdivided into three classes viz:—(a) bearing trees, (b) non-bearing trees, and (c) saplings. Arecanut trees in West Bengal are generally grown in gardens along with other trees. A garden having cent per cent arecanut trees in

rarely found. For the purpose of this survey, gardens having plantation of 90% or more of arecanut trees were recorded as arecanut orchards. Gardens having lesser percentages of arecanut trees were accordingly recorded as scattered ones. This procedure of recording orchards was followed mainly for two purposes

- 1) to earmark and locate the intensively grown tracts under arecanut.

2) to calculate the total acreage under arecanut trees and to calculate the total production of arecanut trees.

The field staff were instructed to complete this counting operation as early as possible and to despatch their returns as recorded in the proforma.

B. Estimation of acreage under arecanut:—Arecanut trees are not generally grown as single crop. They are often found to grow along with other crops and as such they do not cover the whole plots. Roadsides, court-yards etc. are also very often used for growing arecanut trees. Unassorted and unplanned cultivation rendered the process of estimation of area rather difficult.

Every plot on which arecanut orchard was found was identified with the help of Cadastral Survey map and the area of the plot was ascertained with reference to the record of rights. Portion of the plot covered by arecanut trees was ascertained by eye estimation and expressed as a fraction of the whole plot. The area under arecanut was determined by multiplying this fraction with the total

area of the particular plot. In this way area under each orchard in each P. S. was ascertained. For every police station, the average area covered by each tree was calculated by dividing the total area of the orchards by the total number of trees grown in all the orchards of the P. S. The total acreage covered by all arecanut trees grown in orchards as well as at places in scattered manner was then obtained by multiplying the average coverage of a single tree thus deduced with the total number of arecanut trees enumerated in that P. S.

C. Estimation of production:—The production of each orchard was ascertained by interrogating the owners. Data were collected under two broad heads 'nuts with shell', and 'nuts without shell'. In the northern districts of the State, it is the usual practice to get the nuts with shell fermented. Fermentation is done by burying the harvested nuts under earth for some time and peeling is done thereafter. In southern districts no fermenting process is usually adopted and peeling is done after drying the nuts with shell. Nuts processed through fermenting are comparatively heavier than non-fermented nuts. In the final statement enclosed herewith, the harvested nuts with shell have been expressed in terms of 'dried nuts without shell'. This necessitated the use of some conversion factors so that the available yield data under different headings (viz. dried nuts with shell, green nuts with shell, fermented nuts with shell, etc.) can be expressed under the heading "dried nuts without

shell". In view of this the special investigators were asked to perform a number of experiments with several lots of nuts under different headings and determined the conversion factors] necessary to express yield data under each heading in terms of "dried nuts without shell". The total yield of all the orchards was thus deduced in term of dried nuts without shell for each P. S. The average yield rate per bearing tree for that P. S. was then calculated by dividing that yield by the total number of bearing trees of the orchards of the P. S. This yield rate per tree was then applied in estimating the total production of the scattered bearing trees of the P. S. The total production of all bearing arecanut trees of the P. S. was arrived at by adding up the total yield of trees grown in orchards and the yield of scattered trees.

Supervision, checking and submission of returns. The actual survey was conducted by the Union Agricultural Assistants. The Agricultural Inspectors posted to police stations duly supervised their work. The Special Investigators, appointed under the scheme, also made extensive tours and gave practical guidance in the matter of collection of statistics. The returns were submitted by the Union Agricultural Assistants to the Agricultural Inspectors. The Agricultural Inspectors in their turns checked up these figures, prepared unionwise consolidated statements and sent them to the Special Investigator of their Range. The Special Investigators scrutinised the data and in cases of erroneous or doubtful returns referred

the cases back to U. A. A's for check up and rectification. Data thus checked up at two stages, reached the Headquarters for compilation and tabulation.

Compilation and Tabulation. Field work having been completed, the Special Investigators were asked to come to Head-

quarter with the original primary records. Here the data were subjected to a final scrutiny, after which the figures were compiled for getting the thanawise, Sub-divisionwise and districtwise estimates.

Results of the survey. The detailed estimates regarding areca-

nut trees have been presented in Table I. The survey discloses that there are 3,261,009 arecanut trees in West Bengal of which 1,274,342 are grown in orchards and 1,986,667 are isolated. The total number of trees classified under bearing, nonbearing and saplings indicate the following position.

	Grown in orchards.	Grown isolated.	Total.
Bearing.	883,135	1,107,982	1,991,117
Non-bearing.	84,338	134,380	218,718
Sapling.	306,869	744,305	1,051,174
	<u>1,274,342</u>	<u>1,986,667</u>	<u>3,261,009</u>

The total acreage under arecanut comes to 4,466.82 acres and yield is estimated at 51,441.77 maunds of dry nuts without shell.

From the study of the number of trees grown in different districts, certain points can be noted.

	Orchard trees.	Scattered trees.	Total trees.
Jalpaiguri.	720,646	388,580	1,109,226
Cooch Behar.	541,951	719,201	1,261,152
	<u>1,262,597</u>	<u>1,107,781</u>	<u>2,370,378</u>

In fact, total number of trees grown in orchards of Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar is 99.68% of the total number of trees grown in orchards in the whole State. Considering total number of arecanut trees grown in Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar, it is seen that it is 72.69% of the total number of arecanut trees of the State. Regarding other districts, it may be said that the number of trees grown in orchards are small in some districts and in some districts there are no orchards at all.

Average yield rate per bearing tree (in terms of dry nuts without shell) for the State comes to be 1.04 seers. It is apprehended that arecanut trees do not receive proper care in many cases and as such average yield rate is not high.

On the average, number of arecanut trees per acre comes to be 730 for the State.

Aduthurai and there are two sub-stations, one at Chinsura, West Bengal, and the other in Poona, Bombay State. Co-ordinated work is being carried out in these three stations.

COMMERCIAL VARIETIES.

India has a top quality banana under commercial cultivation over an area of about 10,000 acres in the Lower Palani and Sirumalai Hill ranges of Madurai District, known as Virupakshi. This is the main ingredient for the famous panchamritam of the Palani Temple. Except for a little smallness in size, this fruit is not excelled in other fruit qualities like taste, texture of the pulp, aroma and keeping quality by the world's leading commercial banana varieties like Gros Michel, Lacatan and the dwarf bananas. The annual production of this quality fruit is estimated at about ten lakhs of tons.

Fruits are available throughout the year. There is a well-established market for this fruit in all the principal cities of South India. Many of the growers own large plantations and if well guided are capable of entering the international trade in the United States of America, Canada and England.

There is scope for increasing the production of this fruit by adequate manuring and also by extending the area under cultivation in similarly placed hill ranges of the Union.

POOVAN.

Poovan is the foremost commercial variety of this State as well as West Bengal where it is known as Champa, and Andhra State where it is known as Karpura Chakkara-kali. It is the most cosmopolitan variety covering an area of over

75,000 acres in the Indian Union. The bunches are heavy, yielding up to 60 lb. The fruits have good keeping quality and the loss in storage is negligible.

When grown under wet land conditions, rotated with paddy, the grower can expect a net income of Re. 1 per plant. With a spacing of eight feet between plants, an acre will hold 680 plants. Generally one to two ratoon crops are taken. The Poovan banana is highly resistant to the wilt disease, a serious disease which is devastating the Gros Michel Banana plantations in the West Indies and Central America.

MONTHAN.

Monthan, the culinary banana variety, ranks second in order of importance in South India. It is a hardy variety capable of withstanding drought to some extent. The bunches are heavy (30-40 Lb.) and the big sized fruits command an easy and steady market in all localities where it is grown. There are several types of which Pacha Bontha Batheesa, Booditha Bontha Batheesa, and Sambrani Monthan are recommended for commercial cultivation.

Its synonyms are Ponthan (Malabar), Kancha Kela (West Bengal), Bunkel (Bombay), Bontha (Andhra State), Bainsa (Bihar), Madhuranga Bale (Mysore). The perennial banana areas in Tanjore District contain about thirty per cent of the plants under Monthan. Under wet land conditions one to two ratoon crops are taken.

PACHA VAZHAI.

The dwarf banana known as Pacha Vazhai (Mauritius) is another important dessert variety. The

main advantages of its cultivation are that the damage to the crop by strong winds is nil; there is no expenditure on propping; they can be planted closer at a spacing of six feet between plants, providing 1,200 per acre; the plants yield heavy bunches weighing about 30 Lb. each.

The dwarf bananas are shorter in duration than the tall varieties and within a year after planting the entire crop can be harvested. The area under this variety is increasing in this State. The Basrai dwarf is the leading commercial variety of Bombay State. The produce from over 20,000 acres in East Khandesh District is profitably marketed in Delhi and Punjab. In West Bengal also the Kabuli dwarf banana is an important commercial variety in the Calcutta market.

PROCESS OF CULTIVATION.

It has been found that the cultivation of banana is comparatively easy and it yields a quick return. A rich soil with good drainage and irrigation facilities is required for starting a banana plantation. It is one of the few fruits which, due to the restricted root zone, can thrive in wet land areas and yield heavy crops. While it is desirable to select a high lying block of wet land to ensure perfect drainage, shallow soils need not be rejected as being unfit for bananas, provided the soil is rich in plant food and is of a good loamy or heavy type. Banana comes up even in stiff clay soils with good drainage and timely cultural operations.

Selected lands are ploughed four to five times before planting. During this period, a basal dressing of about thirty cartloads of cattle

manure may be incorporated. This basal dressing has to be given about a month prior to planting.

DIGGING PITS.

Next, pits are dug giving a spacing of eight feet between plants (680 plants per acre) for tall varieties. It is desirable to allow the pits to weather for about a month. The dimension of the pits may be $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ feet. After filling up the pit with surface soil, the soil has to be allowed to set. For dwarf varieties 5 to 6 feet spacing is sufficient. The season of planting varies in tracts depending on the rains or the irrigation facilities one has to take up preparation of the soil sufficiently in advance. Cold and hot weather periods may be avoided for planting.

The suckers for planting should be healthy and selected from disease free and high yielding clumps. What are termed sword suckers with well-developed and thick base are to be selected and they must be of three to four months of age.

PRUNING AND TOPPING.

Pruning of roots and topping of pseudo-stem, keeping a height of about two feet length for three to four month old suckers, are done prior to planting. At the time of planting, remove only that amount of soil from the covered pit necessary to accommodate the rhizome of the banana suckers. Press the soil well all round the sucker after planting.

In wet land banana culture soon after planting, one digging is given to the entire area. Casualties, if any, have to be immediately replaced. The area must always

be kept free from weeds. Clean cultivation is essential for the success of the crop. The second bits of rhizome are cut to pieces and spread round the clump with the mattock.

digging is given about two or three months after planting. At this time basins are formed round the plants and the first doze of manure mixture applied.

In areas subject to heavy winds, the pseudo-stems are propped at the time of emergence of the bunch with bamboos. The cost of bamboos to prop one acre of bananas will work out to about Rs. 300 for five years.

DESUCKERING

Along with propping it is desirable to combine the operations of desuckering also, for both the operations are done at the time of flowering of the banana plants. The recent trials at the Central Banana Research Station, Aduthurai, have shown that removal of all the suckers up to the flowering of the plant and maintaining only one follower afterwards is the best desuckering practice which has given maximum crop yields.

After harvest of the bunches it is worthwhile to retain the pseudo-stem which may be cut and removed in about three stages after harvest. This operation is called mattocking. This term has its origin in an implement called the 'mattock', a combination of an axe and a hoe, extensively used by all growers in Jamaica. This is done with a view to allow the follower to get uninterrupted growth keeping the parental reserve food healthy and intact. The last bit of the parent pseudo-stem is removed only after about three months from the date of harvest. The old rhizome and

Poovan and Monthan bunches become available for harvest after about eleven months after planting. The harvesting continues for a period of about three months.

The perennial cultivation of bananas in the paduga or high level areas surrounded by wet lands is a peculiar feature of Tanjore District. Some of these plantations are reported to be more than fifty years old. The soil being silt deposits, is naturally very rich. The spacing given is about eleven feet and the planting season is December-January. Poovan and Monthan are the main varieties planted with a sprinkling of Rasthali and Peyan.

The routine cultural operations comprise a deep digging during December to January, followed by a surface digging in February and further seasonal digging, about three more in number, one in May-June, prior to the receipt of water in channels and two more during the months of August to October. Desuckering and separation of extra suckers for sale and incorporation of dry banana leaves and old pseudo-stems are done at the time of deep digging.

PEAK PERIOD.

The peak period of production of bananas in these areas is during December-January and the deep digging follows the harvest. One aged follower and a small peg sucker is retained after harvesting the mother plant in one clump. The perennial areas are in convenient blocks with channels demarcating

"COMPOST" YOUR PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZERS

(The Indian Farming, November 1954, Vol. IV, No. 8)

Not many of our farmers use phosphatic fertilizers to the same extent as they do nitrogenous fertilizers.

One reason for this is the smaller response crops show to phosphates as compared with nitrogen. This is partly because plants absorb phosphates in lesser quantities than they absorb nitrogen. Again, because most soils lack in organic matter and nitrogen, greater stress is laid on nitrogen as a limiting factor in crop production.

But there are areas, like the red soil regions as in eastern Madhya Pradesh or South Bihar and the lateritic zones as on the West Coast, where the quantity of available phosphorus in the soil is much too small to meet the demands of crops. In such soils a combination of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers gives a much higher yield

each block and surrounded by wet land all round. From end of June to February water from the river (Cauvery irrigation system) flows in the channels and thereby sufficient moisture supply is maintained in the banana plantations.

During July-August some growers apply about 50 Lb. cattle manure or tank silt per clump. The frequent and systematic cultural operations and the richness of the soil contribute to the steady productivity of the plantation over continuous periods of fifty years or more.

than when nitrogen is applied alone.

The quantity of available phosphorus in most soils is sufficient to meet the needs of a small-sized crop, yielding, say, 1,200 Lb. of paddy or 800 Lb. of wheat or 20 tons of cane per acre, but when a higher level of production is desired, the supply of available phosphates becomes much too small and it is necessary to give an extra quantity in the form of fertilizers.

When phosphates are added to the soil they easily get converted into insoluble and unavailable forms because of the action of soil minerals, and as such the full effect of the fertilizer added is not felt. Nitrogenous fertilizers, on the other hand, remain in a soluble form in the soil and are available to crops to an extent of 50 to 80 per cent. In the case of phosphatic fertilizers, the crop is usually able to utilize about 10 to 12 per cent only of the quantity added, the rest being converted into a form not readily available to the plants. This difficulty is more serious in certain types of soils.

There are many types of phosphatic fertilizers available in the market, the more important of them being raw bone-meal (unsteamed) steamed bone-meal, rock phosphate, single superphosphate, ammoniated superphosphate, ammonium phosphate, triple superphosphate, basic slag, bird guano, meat-meal and fish-meal.

The most naturally occurring phosphatic fertilizers such as rock phosphate bone deposits and guano have but a slow effect on plant growth because of the insoluble form of phosphates they contain. Though attempts are made to make the phosphates contained in such fertilizers more soluble by treatment with acid and conversion into superphosphates, the phosphates revert to the insoluble form in the soil.

PLACEMENT OF FERTILIZER.

Attempts are being made to get over this difficulty by recommending the 'placement' method of application wherein the phosphatic fertilizer such as the superphosphate is applied in lines and at suitable depths so as to be near the root zone of the growing crop. This method, no doubt, helps increase the quantity of phosphate absorbed by the crop, but it is applicable mainly for line-sown crops, and especially so where the lines are wide-spaced as in cotton or corn. It becomes less useful for broadcasted crops like small grains or the fodders and transplanted crops like rice.

The 'placement' method also causes an excessive concentration of the one nutrient, the phosphate, in the root zone of the plant, which is detrimental to the absorption of other essential plant foods in the soil.

Experiments at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, show that the process of reversion or fixation of superphosphate in the soil, can, to a certain extent, be reduced by mixing the superphosphate with 20 to 50 times

its weight of compost or farmyard manure before applying it to the field. This way, the absorption of phosphate and crop growth have been noticed to increase a great deal.

Best results, however, are obtained by composting the superphosphate with actively fermenting organic refuse.

THE COMPOSTING METHOD.

This is done by spreading the superphosphate powder in thin layers, say, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, over alternate layers of say, six inches, of mixed cattle-shed refuse or other compost material. The heap or trench so filled up is allowed to ferment for four to six months after which the manure is well-mixed and applied to the field. The fermentation becomes quicker when the mixed refuse contains a sufficient amount of available nitrogen in the form of cattle urine or nitrogenous fertilizers.

Crop trials at the Institute show that when such composted superphosphate is applied to crops, the growing crop takes up a greater quantity of phosphorus and yields higher than when phosphate is applied with an equal quantity of cattle-shed compost, without fermenting the two together. Moreover, laboratory experiments show that the composted superphosphate is protected to a great extent, from being fixed or converted into insoluble forms by soil minerals.

NINE FOOT LONG SNAKE GOURD

(*Trichosanthes Anguina* Linn.).

Reproduced from the Madras Agricultural Journal, November 1954, Vol. XLI, No. 11.

The fruits of *Trichosanthes anguina* popularly called the snake

Composting also is helpful in increasing the solubility of insoluble phosphates such as rock phosphate and bone-meal. Before composting, however, these must be ground to a fine powder, to pass through, say, a 100-mesh sieve. The method of composting is the same as for superphosphate. It is found that after four to six months of fermentation, 50 to 70 per cent of the insoluble phosphate is converted into more soluble forms which could be absorbed by the plants. Experiments show that as with composted superphosphate, composting rock phosphate or bone-meal also gives a higher yield of crops when applied along with nitrogenous fertilizers.

The practice of composting superphosphate, rock phosphate or bone-meal before application as manure is worth adopting when phosphatic manures are to be applied either for making up phosphatic deficiency of the soil or for increasing crop-yields.

gourd are generally long, varying from about one foot to five feet. The present case recorded in this note, showed a length of 9 feet 1 inch, which appears to be an exceptional one. The fruit was slender and weighed 2 Lb. 10 Oz. This was grown in the kitchen garden of Shri Mangalam Pillai at Coimbatore without any special attention. The vine has so far produced five fruits and as the first three fruits had grown over eight feet and had touched the ground, the vine had to be lifted up with the help of ropes

It may be of interest in this connection to note that a special type of ribbed gourd (*Luffa acutangularis*) called "yard long ribbed gourd" is under trial at some of the Agricultural Research Stations of our State. A few years back, the author had seen a bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia*) which had attained nearly 12 to 15 inches. Since correct information and data on these common South Indian vegetables are not available, it is thought to be worthwhile to have records of these made; further, this will give an inducement for the growing of vegetables with personal interest in kitchen gardens.

D. Daniel Sundararaj.

Botany Section, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Lawley Road P. O. Coimbatore.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, NEW DELHI.

Farm News Release No. 1

FROM 30 MAUNDS TO 80
Unprecedented success
with Japanese System.

New Delhi: How it was possible for a farmer to almost treble his acre-yield of rice in a single year was narrated by him as follows:

The farmer, Sardar Gur Inder Singh of Shamgarh in the Karnal District in the Punjab, said that the Japanese System followed by him last year on three acres gave him 84 maunds of paddy per acre, as against the normal yield of 30 maunds per acre.

He had followed instructions given in a leaflet put out by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, he said. He found that he was more than repaid for the extra dose of manure applied and trouble taken in line planting.

He also revealed that sugarcane grown this year on fields where paddy was grown last year by the Japanese system showed remarkable growth. This was evidently due to the residual effect of the superphosphate applied to paddy. Not only germination of cane was greater by ten to twelve per cent, but the crop had grown six feet high within three months.

Farm News Release No. 4

SUGAR TOPS MAKE GOOD
SILAGE.
Excellent green fodder
at cheap cost.

New Delhi: Sugarcane tops can be profitably used as silage for feeding cattle. Silage prepared with sugarcane tops and dry leaves together with green oats was found to be an excellent fodder for feeding cattle at the Cattle-cum-Dairy Farm at Karnal.

An analysis of the silage made at the Institute showed that it compared favourably with *jowar* silage from the nutritive point of view, and in fact, in some respects better than *jowar* silage.

Sugarcane tops converted into silage also reduce the cost of green fodder required for dairy cattle. At Karnal, the cost worked out to just about a rupee per maund of the silage.

Silage-making with sugarcane tops thus offers a good opportunity to farmers for profitably utilising the tops which otherwise are a waste.

Farm News Release No. 5

NEW FORAGE PLANT
SHOWS PROMISE.

Kudzu favoured
for eroded areas.

New Delhi: All those who are seeking a good fodder plant that

NEWS & NOTES.

1. President, Indian Central Arecanut Committee.

The Government of India in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Agri) have communicated in their notification No. F.2-4.54 Com.1 dated 14-12-1954 that under provision of clause (1) of para 3 of the Resolution of the late Ministry of Agriculture No. F. 43-11 48-Comm dated 21-5-1949 (as subse-

has an exceptionally good growth-rate, and at the same time can tide over droughty conditions with good grace, cannot do better than give the Kudzu vine a trial.

At the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi and other places where Kudzu, called the 'wonder plant' in the United States of America, has been tried, the vine has shown that as an unirrigated crop it stands our conditions marvellously well. It gives out a large number of branches, some of them as long as fifty feet. It forms roots at each node, so that each node with its roots can form a separate plant eventually.

Though the vine forms seed in the third year, farmers need not wait for the seed for multiplying the crop. On the other hand, the swollen nodes can be successfully planted.

Apart from being a quick-growing forage crop, Kudzu is also an excellent soil-binder and soil builder. Kudzu is being recommended for growing even in washed and barren lands found in many States and which are normally unfit for profitable utilization.

quently amended), Shri P. A. Gopalakrishnan, I. C. S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, has been nominated as President of the Indian Central Arecanut Committee with effect from 7-12-1954 vice Shri K. R. Damle, I.C.S., resigned.

2. North Malabar Nursery.

An Arecanut Nursery has been started under the direct control of the Committee at Kunnoth, in North Malabar District. 50,000 seedlings are expected to be raised for sale distribution.

3. Inspection of Mysore Regional Arecanut Research Station.

The Secretary, Indian Central Arecanut Committee was on tour of Shimoga District during the month when he inspected the Regional Arecanut Research Station at Thirthahalli and also visited important arecanut growers in the neighbourhood.

4. Exhibition.

The Indian Central Arecanut Committee has participated in the Health, Education and Cultural Exhibition organised by the Board of Management of the Local Guruvayurappan College, Kozhikode from 18th December '54 to 4th January 1955.

5. Adulteration of Arecanut:—

Adulteration of arecanut has become a wide-spread practice and owing to the absence of any act to prevent the adulteration it was found difficult to check the practice. Now the Government of India have put on the statute the Food Adulteration Act of 1954 (Act No. 37 of 1954), recently passed by the Parliament.

According to this Act unless the context otherwise requires an article of food shall be deemed to be adulterated:—

a. If the article sold by a vendor is not of the nature, substance, or quality demanded by the purchaser and is to his prejudice or is not of the nature, substance or quality which it purports or is represented to be;

b. If the article contains any other substance which affects or if the article is so processed as to affect injuriously the nature, substance or quality thereof;

c. If any inferior or cheaper substance has been substituted totally or in part for the article so as to affect injuriously the nature, substance, or quality thereof;

The term 'food' has also been defined as—

any article used as food or drink for human consumption other than drugs and water and includes:—

a. any article which ordinarily enters into or is used in the composition or preparation of human food and

b. any flavouring matter or condiments.

According to the act, it will be possible for the state Governments to punish the persons who adulterate arecanuts with sago palms and other materials.

MARKET REPORTS

Average Weekly Prices of Arecanut during the month of December 1954.
(Price in Rupees per Maund of 82-2/7 Lbs.)

I. At SHIMOGA market in MYSORE STATE.

Name of quality	WEEK ENDING			
	4th	11th	18th	25th
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Pheeton	141 9	141 9	142 6	140 11
Deshawaram	141 9	141 9	141 9	140 11
Rajalu	132 8	133 5	132 8	132 8
Vanti Bette	107 0	107 0	107 13	107 13
Gorabalu	60 1	60 1	61 1	61 11

II. IN BOMBAY STATE.

Name of market	Name of quality	WEEK ENDING			
		4th	11th	18th	25th
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Bombay	Mangalore Navi Vachar Best	95 0	95 0	105 0	105 0
	Sirsi Toanchi	230 0	217 8	212 8	212 8
	Sirsi Safed	110 0	105 0	105 0	N. A.
Foreign nuts (in Bombay market)	Ceylon	100 0	100 0	108 0	108 0
	Singapore	102 8	102 8	102 8	102 8

III. In WEST BENGAL STATE.

Name of market	Name of quality	WEEK ENDING				
		2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
Calcutta	Sundried (sliced)	100 0	100 0	100 0		
Foreign Nuts (in Calcutta market)	Ceylon	112 0	112 0	115 0		
	Singapore	110 0	110 0	110 0		
	Penang	109 0	110 0	110 0		

IV. In TRAVANCORE-COCHIN STATE.

Name of market	Name of Quality	WEEK ENDING			
		4th	11th	18th	25th
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Trichur	Erasal.	170 2	170 2	170 2	162 3
	Iylon.	146 6	146 6	146 6	155 1
	Choor.	154 4	154 4	154 4	158 4
Alleppey	Assorted	N. R.	71 4	69 13	69 13
	Garbled	N. R.	73 8	72 0	70 8

V. In HINDUPUR market in ANDHRA STATE.

Name of quality	WEEK ENDING			
	4th	11th	18th	25th
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Billa	146 9	151 11		
Chura	149 2	148 5		
Podi	92 9	89 2		

VI AVERAGE WEEKLY PRICES OF ARECANUT DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1954.

In MADRAS STATE.

Name of market	Name of variety	WEEK ENDING			
		6th	13th	20th	27th
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Mangalore	Supari New	80 13	97 6	86 12	88 3
	Supari Old	123 7	119 1	115 0	115 12
	Koka	N. Q.	N. Q.	N. Q.	N. Q.
Palghat	Choor	144 0	N. R.	150 0	153 10
	Choorkottai	94 7	N. R.	98 7	107 3
	Iylon	128 13	N. R.	151 10	152 0
	Iylonkottai	89 10	N. R.	101 10	112 0
Foreign nuts (In Madras State)	Singapore	115 3	115 3	115 3	115 3
	Colombo	118 8	118 8	118 8	118 8

Statement showing the quantities of arecanut (betelnut) imported into different ports in India and their value during the month of November 1954.

Ports to which imported	Places from which imported							
	CEYLON		SINGAPORE		Federated Malaya States		TOTAL	
	Quantity cwts.	Value Rs.	Quantity cwts.	Value Rs.	Quantity cwts.	Value Rs.	Quantity cwts.	Value Rs.
Bombay								
Calcutta	3,044	1,11,004	26,761	9,60,447	652	24,635	30,457	10,96,086
Madras	3,328	1,89,298	1,240	52,623	4,722	1,58,075	92,90	3,99,996
Saurashtra								
Total								

FOREIGN MARKETSI. Average weekly prices of arecanut in Ceylon during December 1954.
(Price in Indian Rupees per Maund of 82-2/7 lbs.)
Name of market: COLOMBO.

Name of quality.	WEEK ENDING			
	4th	11th	18th	25th
<i>A. Whole arecanuts.</i>				
Average quality.	15 7	15 7		
Whole No. 5.	19 2	19 2		
Whole No. 6.	18 0	18 0		
Whole No. 7.	18 0	18 0		
Vedial.	1 13	1 13		
<i>B. Split arecanuts.</i>				
1st Grade	86 5	84 8		
2nd Grade	64 5	66 2		
3rd Grade	49 9	53 4		
Vettai 4A	23 14	16 8		
Vettai 4B	16 8	13 15		

II. Average weekly wholesale prices of arecanut in East Pakistan during October 1954.
(Price in Indian Rupees per Maund of 82½ Lbs.)

Name of market.	Week ending dates				
	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Dacca	108 0	100 13	100 13	103 11	103 11
Narayanganj	100 13	99 6	100 13	112 5	103 11

III. Fortnightly prices of arecanut in Singapore during November 1954.

Name of variety: Split Bukit Batu.

Price in Dollars per picul.

Date	Price in dollars.
1-11-1954.	20.00
15-11-1954.	22.00
30-11-1954.	21.00

(1 picul = 133½ lbs. and 1 Malayan dollar = 1.54 Indian Rupees)

IV. Monthly prices of arecanut during the months of September and October 1954
in INDONESIA.

(Price in Rupiahs per 100 Kgs.)

Name of town.	September.	October.
Djakarta.	387.50	337.50
Makassar	200.00	200.00

1 Indian Rupee – 2.4 Indonesian Rupiahs.

2,124,058 Kgs. valued at 2,805,092 Rupiahs were exported from Indonesia during August 1954, while the exports during September 1954 amounted to 1,935,262 Kgs. valued at 30,573,121 Rupiahs.

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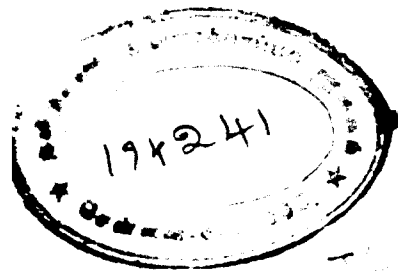
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SECRETARY,
INDIAN CENTRAL ARECANUT COMMITTEE
P. B. No. 14, Kozhikode- 1.



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By Sri. K. Kunhikannan Nambiar, B. Sc. (ag.)

Secretary, Indian Central Arecanut Committee, Calicut.

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