

A FIELD DAY FOR SMALL HOLDERS

A Field day for small holders was organized by the Coconut Research Institute and was held at Isolated Seed Garden, Ambakelle, Rajakadalawa, on 23-07-1984, under the patronage of the Hon. Minister of Coconut Industries, Mr. Harold Herat and Mrs. Herat. From 15 Coconut Development Officers' Divisions in the Puttalam District 75 coconut growers participated. Among the distinguished gathering, were the Secretary, Ministry of Coconut Industries, Mr. D. Wijesinghe, the Chairman of the Coconut Cultivation Board Mr. R. I. Fernandopulle, the Chairman of the Janatha Estates Development Board (v) Mr. L. Ratnaweera, Government Agent, Puttalam Mr. T. Molligoda and officers from the Ministry of Coconut Industries Coconut Cultivation Board and Coconut Research Board.

The field day programme consisted of the following detailed demonstrations.

- i. Emasculation or the removal of the male flowers in dwarf palms, which warrants open pollination only between dwarf and tall for the productions of hybrids DXT
- ii. Establishment of Cover Crops
- iii. Husk burying in coconut lands
- iv. Cattle penning around palms for cattle manure
- v. Selection of seed nuts and establishment of Nurseries
- vi. Transplanting of seedlings.
- vii. Fertilizer application
- viii. Crop Protection techniques

Coconut Bulletin, 1 (1984).



Hon. Minister Mr. Harold Herat and Mrs. Herat with a part of participants.

The Hon. Minister addressing the gathering, after tea break, expressed his appreciation for organizing such a field day for the small holders and stated that this occasion was an addition of a new chapter to coconut research activities and was extremely happy to have associated himself with it. Expressing further he added that this field day fulfilled the long standing need of transmitting the technical know how to small holders.



Demonstration on nursery techniques

The Hon. Minister also stressed that, as coconut land owners are mostly small holders, their interest to intensify coconut production should be increased to a great extent. He concluded with a request that the knowledge, they gained this day through lectures and demonstrations should be conveyed to those who need it in their villages.

After lunch recession, a discussion was held on various problems faced by the coconut growers. Detailed discussions were held on some difficulties in obtaining Bank loans for fertilizer and subsidies for their allotments taken from the Government.

Reported by

✓ P. A. Henry Nimal
