

COCONUT RESEARCH
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INDIAN CENTRAL COCONUT COMMITTEE

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT (1st April, 1948 to 31st March, 1949)

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THE INDIAN CENTRAL COCONUT COMMITTEE

Fourth Annual Report.

(1st April, 1948 to 31st March, 1949)

CHAPTER I.

This is the fourth annual report of the Indian Central Coconut Committee and covers the year 1st April, 1948 to 31st March, 1949.

I. ADMINISTRATION.

During the year under report Mr. K. Gopalan, M. A., B. Com. (Manch'r) continued to function as the Committee's Secretary.

II. PERSONNEL.

A list of the members of the Committee as on the 31st March, 1949, is given in Appendix I.

The composition of the various sub-committees as on the same date is given in Appendix II.

Sardar Datar Singh, Vice Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, was **ex-officio** President of the Committee during the year, except for two short periods, one between the 29th May 1948 and 5th July 1948 and the other between 9th November 1948 and 29th December 1948. During the former, Mr. S. Basu, I. C. S., who was appointed to officiate as Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research was the President of the Committee, and during the latter Mr. N. T. Mone, I. C. S., who was appointed as Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, was the President.

Rao Sahib A. K. Menon was the Vice-President of the Committee throughout the year under report.

III. MEETINGS.

The seventh and the eighth meetings of the Committee were held during the year, the former at Ernakulam on the 17th April, 1948 and the latter at Trivandrum on the 15th October, 1948.

Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, presided over both the meetings.

The Seventh Meeting (17th April, 1948)

At this meeting the Committee considered the report of the special sub-committee that had been set up at the previous meeting to propose amendments to the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944.

The inclusion of coir and coir products within the purview of the Committee, was one of the amendments suggested by the special sub-committee, but, as coir and coir products had been originally kept out of the Committee's purview, out of deference to the wishes of the Government of Travancore, it was decided to request the Government of India to negotiate with the Government of Travancore at high level, with a view to persuading the latter to agree to the suggestion of bringing coir and coir products within the scope of activities of the Committee.

Among other amendments which the Committee agreed to recommend to the Government of India was one to alter the definition of the term 'Mill' occurring in the Act, so that all mills driven by power would be brought under the term and made liable to pay cess on the copra crushed by them, instead of only mills coming under the definition of the term 'Factory' in the Factories Act as provided in the existing Act.

In the course of the discussion on the proposed amendments, Mr. K. R. Narayana Iyer, a member, suggested that cess might be levied on "ball" copra in addition to that levied on the copra crushed in the mills. The Committee, thereupon, asked Mr. Narayana Iyer to present a detailed note on the subject for its consideration at the 8th meeting.

At the seventh meeting the Committee also decided :

(1) to request the Provincial / State Governments to take up more vigorously demonstration work on coconut cultivators' plots and to ask their Directors of Agriculture to report the results to the Committee every year;

(2) to sanction a 5-year scheme of the Madras Government for the multiplication and distribution of seeds of **Crotalaria striata** to raise green manure crops in coconut gardens on the West Coast, the Committee bearing 50 per cent of the net expenditure;

(3) to sanction the establishment of a coconut nursery at Balia in Orissa for a 5-year period, on the usual terms and conditions, provided the Joint Director and Coconut Pathologist, Central Coconut Research Station, Kayamkulam, on an inspection of the site, recommended its setting up; and

(4) to supply free of charge literature and advice to recognized coconut growers' associations in furtherance of their activities to improve coconut cultivation.

The Committee also passed a resolution recommending to the Government of India "that all facilities and high priority be given for the transport of coconuts and coconut products by rail and that they be put on the same level as food grains".

The Eighth Meeting (15th October, 1948)

At this meeting the Committee considered a note by Mr. K. R. Narayana Iyer on the proposal made by him at the previous meeting that cess should be levied on Mysore 'ball' copra. After an exhaustive discussion, the Committee decided to set up a three-man **ad hoc** sub-committee to go into the **pros** and **cons** of the subject and make recommendations on the following points :—

- (1) Should edible copra be taxed or not ?
- (2) If edible copra is to be taxed, should all forms of edible copra be taxed, or only the 'ball' copra of Mysore ?
- (3) If it is decided to tax edible copra how should the cess be collected ?

The **ad hoc** sub-committee was directed to submit its report so as to make it available for consideration by the Committee at its 9th meeting.

The Committee also decided to demonstrate the efficacy of prophylactic measures against diseases of the coconut palm by applying them on a 10-acre plot each in Cochin and Travancore on ryots' lands.

At this meeting, among other things, the Committee further decided :

(1) to sanction a 5-year scheme of the Madras Government to set up three Regional Coconut Research Stations, one each in the Malabar, Tanjore and East Godavari Districts, the Committee meeting 50 per cent of the recurring expenditure and appropriating 40 per cent of the receipts;

(2) to sanction a 5-year scheme of the Coorg Administration to set up a coconut nursery with an annual output of 1,400 seedlings at Ponnampet on the same basis as above of sharing the recurring expenditure and the receipts;

(3) to sanction a 6-year scheme of the Cochin Government for the multiplication and distribution of **Crotalaria striata** seeds among coconut growers, meeting 50 per cent of the net expenditure on the scheme ;

(4) to sanction a 5-year scheme of the Travancore Government to increase the output of the existing two coconut nurseries in the State

and to start four new ones, the recurring expenditure and receipts being shared by the Committee and the Travancore Government in the proportion of 50 : 50 and 40 : 60 respectively;

(5) to appoint a Marketing Officer to draw up schemes for the organisation of regulated markets for copra; and

(6) to approve of the Committee's Budget Estimates for 1949-50 and Revised Budget Estimates for 1948-49.

IV. MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES.

The Agricultural Research and the Marketing and Economics sub-committees met twice during the year under report, once in connection with the seventh meeting and again in connection with the eighth meeting. The Scientific Appointments sub-committee met twice, once on the 19th July 1948 at New Delhi to interview candidates for posts at the Central Coconut Research Station, Kayamkulam, of Soil Chemist, Entomologist, Plant Physiologist and Junior Research Assistants in Entomology and Plant Physiology and again on the 14th October 1948 to interview fresh candidates for the post of Junior Research Assistant in Plant Physiology at the same Station.

The Finance Sub-Committee met four times in the year, once each in connection with the seventh and the eighth meetings, on the 28th June, 1948 and on the 7th February, 1949.

V. SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES.

The special sub-committee which had been set up by the Committee at its sixth meeting to go into the question of the stabilization of the prices of coconuts and coconut products and make recommendations for the Committee's consideration, met on the 28th July, 1948

The *ad hoc* sub-committee which had been set up at the eighth meeting to make recommendations on the question of levying cess on edible copra met on the 20th November, 1948.

A conference of the officers in charge of coconut nurseries of Provinces / States was held in the Committee's office on the 4th February, 1949, to take stock of the work already done, discuss problems of common interest and suggest ways and means of stepping up the output and distribution of quality Coconut seedlings.

VI. FINANCE.

Receipts: The receipts from coconut cess during the year amounted to Rs. 5,31,160-3-1 as against Rs. 3,27,580-2-8 in 1947-48. Receipts by way of subscriptions to the monthly "Bulletin" issued by the

Committee and "The Indian Coconut Journal", sale of pamphlets and charges for advertisements published in the two periodicals amounted to Rs. 2,981-6-6 as against Rs. 1,067-9-0 in the previous year. Receipts from the Central Coconut Research Station, Kayamkulam, amounted to Rs. 13,088-0-8 as against Rs. 5,321-0-8 during the previous year and those from Kasaragod to Rs. 14,000-14-0 as against Rs. 2,020-13-6 in 1947-48 (16th November, 1947 to 31st March, 1948).

Expenditure : The expenditure on administration during the year amounted to Rs. 75,129-7-3 as against Rs. 52,870-2-0 in the year 1947-48. The travelling allowance paid to non-official members and non-officials travelling in the interests of the Committee amounted to Rs. 15,442-3-0 as against Rs. 9,189-3-0 during the previous year.

A capital expenditure of Rs. 4,22,489-1-7 was incurred on the Central Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod, while the capital expenditure on the Central Coconut Research Station, Kayamkulam, amounted to Rs. 1,10,212-15-5. The recurring expenditure on the former station was Rs. 17,239-11-0 while that on the latter was Rs. 52,294-11-1. A sum of Rs. 52,125/- was spent as grants-in-aid to agricultural research schemes, including schemes for the distribution of quality coconut seedlings, and a sum of Rs. 3,850/- as grants to co-operative marketing schemes. The scheme for the drawing up of grade specifications for copra and coconut oil claimed an amount of Rs. 1,426-15-0 while a sum of Rs. 2,218-8-7 was spent on the scheme for the organization of regulated markets for copra.

The statements forming Appendix III of this report shows the Receipts and Payments Account of the Committee and of the Indian Central Coconut Committee Provident Fund for 1948-49.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS.

At the seventh meeting, the Committee decided to raise the membership of the Finance Sub-Committee from nine to ten and to amend suitably the Regulation fixing the number of members of the Finance Sub-Committee as nine. Regulation I of the Committee was accordingly modified by Notification No. F. 35-29-Comm-48 dated the 13th August, 1948 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

CHAPTER II.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ON COCONUT.

I. COCONUT NURSERIES AND DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDLINGS OF GUARANTEED QUALITY.

At the beginning of the year under report nurseries with the annual production targets noted against each were in operation in the following places under five-year schemes sanctioned by the Committee.

Name of Province/State.	Location of Nursery.	Date of starting.	Annual seedlings production target.
Madras	Samalkot (East Godavari Dist)	1-1-1946	5,000
	Pattukottai (Tanjore Dist)	1-1-1946	5,000
	Pattambi (Malabar Dist)	1-9-1946	5,000
Bombay	Kumta (North Kanara Dist)	1-3-1948	6,000
Orissa	Puri & Cuttack	1-1-1946	10,000
Mysore	Arsikere	5-1-1946	5,000
Travancore State	Vaikom	1-1-1946	5,000
	Kazhakuttam	1-1-1946	5,000
Cochin State	Irinjalakuda	1-9-1946	20,000

The comprehensive nursery scheme of the Madras Government which the Committee had approved of at its sixth meeting (November 1947) was started on the 10th November 1948. The two earlier Madras schemes under which nurseries had been started at Samalkot, Pattukottai and Pattambi were merged in this scheme with effect from the 10th November 1948. Under the comprehensive scheme nurseries at the following places with the annual targets shown against each came into existence:-

Location of Nursery.	Annual seedlings production target.
1. Nileshtar (S. Kanara Dist.)	48,000
2. Pattambi (Malabar Dist.)	48,000
3. Pattukottai (Tanjore Dist.)	19,200
4. Samalkot (E. Godavari Dist.)	19,200
5. Maruteru (W. Godavari Dist.)	6,400
6. Anakapalle (Vizag Dist.)	6,400
7. Coimbatore (Coimbatore Dist.)	6,400

The exact location of an eighth nursery with an annual output of 6,400 seedlings which had been originally proposed to be set up at Aduthurai had not been decided on when the year ended.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDLINGS.

Madras: In the Samalkot nursery about 3,500 seedlings were marked out for distribution during June to August 1948, and in the Pattukottai nursery about 5,000 seedlings. The number of seednuts purchased for raising the year's nurseries at Samalkot, Pattukottai and Pattambi were 11,203, 10,553 and 12,700 respectively.

Bombay: The number of seednuts sown in the year's nursery was 3,358.

Orissa: In the Puri and Cuttack nurseries the number of seedlings marked for distribution during the year was 12,925. The number of seednuts collected for raising the year's nursery was 14,757.

Mysore State: In the Arsikere nursery the number of seedlings available for distribution during the year was about 1,300 while the number of seednuts sown was 7,520.

Travancore State: The number of seedlings available for distribution in the Kazhakuttam nursery was about 2,500 and in the Vaikom nursery about 5,500. The number of seednuts collected for sowing in the year's nursery at Kazhakuttam and Vaikom were 6,248 and 6,000 respectively.

Cochin State: The number of seedlings available for sale from the Irinjalakuda nursery was about 4,300. The number of seednuts put in the bed during the year was 9,212.

The Committee bore 50 per cent of the recurring expenditure in respect of the various nursery schemes. The decision of the Committee at its sixth meeting that seedlings should be sold at eight annas each and that the receipts should be shared by the Government concerned and the Committee in the proportion of 60:40 was given effect to during the year by the Governments concerned. The payments made during the year under report are shown below :—

	Rs.
Madras scheme.	20,200
Bombay ..	5,500
Orissa ..	4,240
Travancore ..	2,885
Cochin ..	1,580.

In the case of the Mysore scheme no payment was made during the year as there was a sufficient balance left over from the previous year to cover the Committee's contribution for 1948—49.

II. THE COCONUT RESEARCH SCHEME, MADRAS.

Started as a 5-year scheme on the 15th September, 1938, and wholly financed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, this scheme was extended up to the 31st March, 1952. During the period of extension, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research agreed to meet the pay and travelling allowances of the Superintendent in the scheme till the 31st March 1949, on condition that the Madras Government consented to meet all other expenses and continued to work the scheme up to the 31st March, 1952. When the Indian Central Coconut Committee was set up, the I. C. A. R's share of liability in respect of the scheme was taken over by it with effect from the 1st January, 1946. An account of the

programme of work carried out under the scheme and the results obtained during the year ending June 1948, is given as Appendix IV.

III. SCHEME FOR INVESTIGATION OF DISEASES OF THE COCONUT PALM IN SOUTH INDIA, TRAVANCORE.

As was indicated in the Annual Report for 1947-48, this scheme which came into being in March 1937, financed jointly by the I. C. A. R. and the Government of Travancore (the I. C. A. R.'s share of responsibility being taken over by the Indian Central Coconut Committee on 1-1-1946) was amalgamated with the Central Coconut Research Station, Kayamkulam, with effect from the 1st April, 1948. An account of the work done under the scheme for the year ending 30th June, 1947 was given in the Annual Report for 1947-48 (from the 1st July, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948). The following is a summary of results for the period 1st April, 1947, to 31st March, 1948.

1. Isolations made from roots showing early stages of infection brought out only such organisms as have already been obtained in the past. No new parasitic fungi were obtained.

2. Inoculation experiments conducted on seedlings in pots gave negative results. Roots of five-year old seedlings were exposed by washing and inoculated with different fungi. Rooting of root tips was observed in a number of cases.

3. Adventitious roots growing from adult trees were inoculated with these fungi. Here also infection was observed in a few cases.

4. Work on soil survey was continued. Thirty soil samples were analysed during the year.

5. The analysis of leaf samples was also continued. An increase in the nitrogen, phosphoric acid and magnesium content was observed in the leaves.

6. The manurial experiment at Kayamkulam on statistical analysis did not show any significant difference between the treatments.

7. Experiments for working out a spray schedule for leaf disease were continued.

IV. THE CENTRAL COCONUT RESEARCH STATION, KASARAGOD.

The Madras Government agreed to sell to the Committee the Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod (which had been transferred to the Committee on the 16th November, 1947) at the book value, namely, Rs. 75,660/- on condition that if at any time the station was not required

by the Committee, the Madras Government should be given the option of buying it back at book value or market value whichever was lower, before it was disposed of otherwise. The Government of India's approval of this condition was obtained and the cost of the station, namely, Rs. 75,660/- was remitted to the Madras Government in March, 1949. The Government of India's approval of the draft sale deed in respect of this transaction had not been obtained when the year closed.

The special staff which had been appointed by the Government of Madras at the Committee's cost to acquire 111.51 acres of land adjoining to the research station had entered on their duties early in 1948. The draft declaration under section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act was published in the Fort St. George Gazette on the 29th March, 1949. Neither the Director and Coconut Specialist, nor the personnel for the Research Sections had been appointed when the year closed. The Farm Assistant, a Junior Research Assistant, a clerk, a fieldman, a peon and 4 permanent coolies constituted the staff of the station during the year.

It was mentioned in the last annual report that the control of the technical work at the station was vested in the Oilseeds Specialist to the Government of Madras with the consent of that Government. This arrangement was, however, terminated with effect from the 1st July, 1948, and the Joint Director and Coconut Pathologist, Central Coconut Research Station, Kayamkulam, who had been appointed with effect from 1-4-1948, was asked to be in charge of the technical work at the Central Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod.

The Joint Director paid frequent visits to the Central Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod and supervised the technical work there, ever since the above arrangement came into force.

An account of the working of the station during the year under report is given in Appendix V.

V. THE CENTRAL COCONUT RESEARCH STATION, KAYAMKULAM.

With effect from the 1st April, 1948 the scheme of Investigations on the Diseases of the Coconut Palm was amalgamated with the Central Coconut Research Station, Kayamkulam and Dr. K. P. V. Menon, Plant Pathologist, who was in charge of the scheme was appointed as Joint Director and Coconut Pathologist at the Station. The staff consisting of two Assistants (one in mycology and the other in chemistry), one Laboratory Assistant and a typist-clerk working under the scheme were transferred to the Committee under the appropriate service conditions.

In the course of the year under report the Soil Chemist, two Junior Research Assistants (one in plant physiology and the other in

entomology) three fieldmen and two laboratory assistants were appointed. The appointment of the Plant Physiologist and Entomologist sanctioned for the station had not been made when the year closed.

The construction of the Rest House at the station was completed when the year closed but had not been handed over by the contractors to the Committee in January 1949. The laboratory building had reached first floor level and the masonry work for superstructure of the first floor was in progress when the year under report closed.

An account of the work done at the Central Coconut Research Station, Kayamkulam during the year under report is given in Appendix VI.

VI. REGIONAL RESEARCH STATIONS.

As was mentioned in the Annual Report for 1946-47, the Committee had, at its fourth meeting, (October 1946) approved of schemes for the establishment of three regional coconut stations in Travancore State, one in Orissa Province and two stations and one sub-station in Cochin State.

The Regional Stations in Travancore were decided to be set up one each at Kumarakom, Thodupuzha and Neyyattinkara. The Superintendents of the three stations assumed charge of their duties on the 22nd December 1947, 2nd January 1948 and 14th January 1948 respectively. Kumarakom is representative of the reclaimed clay soils of the backwater area subject to occasional floodings, Thodupuzha of the laterite soils of the hill slopes and Neyyattinkara of loamy soils with an average annual rainfall of 80 inches.

The object of the Regional stations which consist of 60 acre plots each is to conduct studies and experiments on the cultural and manurial aspects of the coconut cultivation in respect of the soil types represented by them so that results of practical value may be made available to coconut growers from time to time.

The Regional station sanctioned for Orissa was set up at Sakhipal as from the 9th October 1948.

The scheme for setting up Regional Stations in Cochin did not materialise as the Government of the State chose to shelve it. The Committee's contribution to the Travancore scheme during the year under report was Rs. 12,000/- and to the Orissa scheme Rs. 2,000/-.

The Committee bears 50 per cent of the recurring expenditure in respect of the regional stations and shares the receipts in the proportion of 40:60 with the Provincial / State Governments concerned.

The officers in charge of the regional stations were given training at the Central Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod for a period of one and a half months from the 15th November 1948, and their assistants for a period of 2½ months from the 15th October 1948. Both the officers and assistants were given training at the Central Coconut Research Station, Kayamkulam and the Agricultural Laboratory at Quilon for 15 days from the 1st January, 1949.

CHAPTER III.

TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

In view of the decision of the Committee at its fifth meeting (*vide* Annual Report for 1947-48) to postpone for the time being the question of the establishment of a technological research laboratory no subject connected with coconut technological research was considered by the Committee during the year under report.

CHAPTER IV.

ECONOMIC AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.

I. STATISTICS OF ACREAGE & PRODUCTION.

Statistics of the acreage under and production of coconuts in the Provinces and States were collected during the year. The figures for 1946-47 are given below along with those for 1945-46:—

ACREAGE UNDER AND PRODUCTION OF COCONUTS IN INDIA. 1945-46 AND 1946-47.

Province/States	Area in Acres		Production of coconuts in thousands	
	1945 - 46	1946 - 47	1945 - 46	1946 - 47
Madras (including Pudukottai)	6,15,566	6,20,337	15,36,557	15,39,457
Travancore	5,76,882	5,76,612	12,11,453	12,10,886
Mysore	1,75,796	1,76,068	2,81,272	2,89,560
Cochin	64,988	64,924	1,29,976	1,16,306
Bombay	24,675	24,658	53,000	53,000
West Bengal	16,448	16,448	22,205	22,205
Orissa	10,949	10,949	19,073	19,073
Assam (excluding Sylhet)	3,600	3,573	21,534	21,912
Others	1,000	1,000	2,000	2,000
Total	14,89,904	14,94,569	32,77,070	32,74,399

II. STATISTICS OF COPRA CRUSHED, OIL EXTRACTED AND CAKE PRODUCED IN "FACTORY" MILLS.

Statistics of the quantities of copra crushed, oil extracted and cake produced in the copra crushing mills coming within the purview of the Indian Coconut Committee Act and the parallel Acts in the States were also collected during the year. The figures for 1947-48 and 1948-49 are given in Appendix VII.

III. GRADE SPECIFICATIONS.

As was mentioned in the last annual report a scheme for the analysis of samples of copra and coconut oil, for drawing up grade specifications for the two products, was started on the 10th July 1947 under the control and supervision of the Oilseeds Specialist, Coimbatore. The scheme which was originally for a period of 10 months was extended by a further period of 3 months. The analysis was completed in July 1948 and the final report on it was received from the Oilseeds Specialist in September 1948.

In all 125 samples of mill (cup) copra, 94 samples of edible cups, 80 samples of edible balls and 103 samples of coconut oil (including both mill and **chekku** oil) were analysed. A few samples of imported copra and coconut oil also were analysed. Since the quality of copra varies to a certain extent according to the season of production, arrangements were made to collect representative samples from the various important producing areas at four different times of the year, that is, in January, April, July and October. The samples were analysed for the following quality factors :-

- Copra :-**
- (1) Size—height, diameter & thickness.
 - (2) Weight.
 - (3) Volume.
 - (4) Colour (inside, outside and cross section)
 - (5) Cleanliness.
 - (6) Mouldiness.
 - (7) Crispness.
 - (8) Moisture.
 - (9) Oil content.
 - (10) Acid value, and
 - (11) Taste.

- Coconut Oil :-**
- (1) Refractive index.
 - (2) Saponification value.
 - (3) Colour.
 - (4) Turbidity.
 - (5) Acid value.
 - (6) Odour and (7) Taste.

The report of the Oilseeds Specialist on the analytical work was forwarded to the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India for drawing up tentative grade specifications. The report was still under the Agricultural Marketing Adviser's consideration when the year under report closed.

IV. CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING OF COPRA.

At its seventh meeting the Committee had decided that the Registrars of Co-operative Societies, Travancore & Cochin and the Secretary of the Committee should confer and suggest ways and means of improving the working of the Copra Marketing Co-operative Societies at Vaikom and Narakkal which were being financed jointly by the Committee and the concerned State Government under schemes sanctioned for the purpose. A meeting of the Registrars of Co-operative Societies of the two States and the Committee's Secretary was held on the 17th May 1948 and a copy of the proceedings of the meeting forwarded to the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India for suggestions regarding revision of the **modus operandi** of the two societies. The agricultural Marketing Adviser's recommendations were as follows:-

(1) If the members are not prepared to pool their produce and wait for payment, the society should arrange to sell the members' produce immediately on arrival on commission basis.

(2) If the members are agreeable to pool their produce and accept the final price on **pro rata** quality and quantity basis, the society should advance a certain percentage of the market price at the time of delivery.

As the scheme under which the Copra Marketing Co-operative Societies at Vaikom and Narakkal functioned were due to terminate, the first on the 31st December 1948 and the second on the 25th January 1949, the Committee considered at its 8th meeting proposals received from the Travancore and Cochin Governments, for extension of the schemes. The Committee sanctioned extension of the schemes by 2 years on condition that the **modus operandi** of the societies was revised as recommended above by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India. The Committee agreed to bear 50 per cent of the recurring expenditure on the schemes, the other 50 per cent being borne by the Governments concerned.

The Committee paid on the recommendation of the Orissa Government a subsidy of Rs. 500/- to the Sakhigopal Coconut Growers' Co-operative Society, Orissa during the year under report.

V. PRICES.

Mention was made in the Annual Report for 1947-48 of the fall in the prices of coconuts and coconut products after a temporary period of soaring prices following the lifting of price control on copra and coconut oil on the 20th June 1947. Lack of adequate transport facilities and the short supply of caustic soda for the soap industry (which reduced the usual large flow of coconut oil to that industry) were said to be responsible for the slump in prices. With the commencement of the year under review, however, the price position improved considerably. Much lost ground was recovered, thanks mainly to the improvement in the caustic soda supply position. The improvement became more marked as the year advanced. The best prices for the year were obtained during December 1948. Except for minor variations there were no serious set-backs in the price position.

The average monthly prices for coconuts, copra and coconut oil at Alleppey, Cochin and Calicut during the period under report is given in Appendix VIII.

As was said in the last Annual Report, the Committee had at its sixth meeting (November 1947) set up a special sub-committee to go into the question of the stabilization of the prices of coconuts and coconut products. The sub-committee met on the 28th July 1948. Having considered the replies to the questionnaire that had been issued to ascertain the views of the interests involved in the matter of the stabilization of prices, the sub-committee expressed the view that it was extremely difficult to stabilize the prices of coconuts and coconut products by means of control of prices, having regard to the previous experience in the matter of price control and the costly administrative machinery that would be required to enforce control. The sub-committee, therefore, recommended the setting up of a commercial corporation to regulate the import and distribution of foreign coconuts and coconut products so that the prices of the indigenous products might not be adversely affected by cheap foreign stuff being dumped into the country.

The Committee at its eighth meeting considered the sub-committee's report and decided to ask the Secretary of the Committee to collect full details regarding the functioning of commercial corporations elsewhere and submit them for its consideration.

VI. REGULATED MARKETS.

In the last Annual Report it was said that with a view to consider the question of the establishment of Regulated Markets for copra in Cochin, Travancore and Malabar, it was proposed to hold at Ernakulam on the 17th April, 1948, a conference of the representatives of the coconut industry (including growers, merchants, millers and others) in Cochin.

Travancore and Malabar. The conference was accordingly held on the above date. Dr. T. G. Shirname, Agricultural Marketing adviser to the Government of India, who was present at Ernakulam on that day, presiding over it. The conference was of the view that it was essential to set up regulated markets for copra and that to expedite their establishment a Marketing Officer should be appointed for a period of six months to draw up schemes for the establishment of regulated markets in Cochin, Travancore, Madras and Mysore.

At its eighth meeting the Committee approved of the proposal to appoint a Marketing Officer for a period of six months. Mr. M. I. Patel, Assistant Marketing Officer under the Government of Bombay, whose services were made available to the Committee for appointment as Special Officer for Regulated Markets for copra entered on his duties on the afternoon of the 15th December 1948. When the year under report closed Mr. Patel had concluded his investigations regarding Travancore and Cochin and was drafting his reports and recommendations in respect of those two states.

VII. PROPAGANDA.

The monthly "Bulletin" in English and Malayalam and "The Indian Coconut Journal" (quarterly in English) were published regularly during the year. The following numbers of the above publications were brought out :-

"Bulletin" (English & Malayalam.)	} Vol. I Nos. 9 to 12 and Vol. II Nos. 1 to 8.
"The Indian Coconut Journal"	} Vol. I Nos. 3 and 4 and Vol. II Nos 1 and 2.

Through the kind courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Travancore, copies of the "Bulletin" and "The Indian Coconut Journal" were exhibited for sale in the Departmental stall at the Sri Chitra Exhibition, Trivandrum from the 30th October to the 11th November 1948. Quality seedlings from the Central Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod, were also placed on show at the Exhibition.

CHAPTER V.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

I would like to avail of this occasion of presenting the Committee's Fourth Annual Report to place on record my gratitude to the President of the Committee, Sardar Datar Singh, to Messrs. S. Basu and

N. T. Mone who acted as Presidents on different occasions when Sardar Datar Singh had gone abroad, and to Mr. A. K. Menon, the Vice-President, for their valuable advice and guidance from time to time. I would also tender thanks to the members of the Committee and the public for helping me in one way or other in the discharge of my duties. I would thank too the officers and staff of the Committee for their co-operation, loyalty and devotion to duty.

K. GOPALAN,

Secretary.

APPENDIX I.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN CENTRAL COCONUT COMMITTEE
AS ON THE 31ST MARCH, 1949.

1. Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (President *Ex-officio*).
2. Sri V. R. Nayanar, Bar-at-law, Vengayil House, Thalavil, Mathamangalam, nominated by the Government of Madras to represent the growers of coconut in India.
3. Mr. K. T. Alwa, retired Deputy Director of Agriculture, Bijai Post, Mangalore, nominated by the Government of Madras to represent the growers of coconut in India.
4. Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, Landlord and Advocate, Kottayam, nominated by the Government of the State of Travancore to represent the growers of coconut in India.
5. Mr. M. L. Janardana Pillai, Ex-M. L. A., Chairman, Alleppey Chamber of Commerce, Alleppey, nominated by the Government of Travancore to represent the growers of coconut in India.
6. Mr. S. K. Kallapur, B. A., LL. B., nominated by the Government of Bombay to represent the growers of coconut in India.
7. Mr. Rajani Kanta Pramanick, M. L. A., 4/1, Mohan Bagan Lane, Calcutta, nominated by the Government of West Bengal to represent the growers of coconut in India.
8. Sri Jagannath Misra, Chairman, District Board, Puri, nominated by the Government of Orissa to represent the growers of coconut in India.
9. Mr. V. Venkatappa, Member, Mysore Representative Assembly, Channapatna, nominated by the Government of the State of Mysore to represent the growers of coconut in India.
10. Mr. B. M. Peter, Ex-M. L. C., Andikadavu, Cochin State, nominated by the Government of the State of Cochin, to represent the growers of coconut in India.
11. Mr. A. K. Menon, Retired Superintendent, Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, nominated by the Government of Madras, to represent the coconut oil industry.
12. Mr. A. R. Sulaiman Sait, Alleppey, nominated by the Government of the State of Travancore, to represent the coconut oil industry.

13. Mr. K. P. Madhavan Nair, B. A., B. L., Ernakulam Mills, Ernakulam, nominated by the Government of the State of Cochin to represent the coconut oil industry.
14. Mr. K. M. Antia, B. A., LL. B., General Manager, Tata Oil Mills Co., Ltd., Bombay, nominated by the Indian Merchants' Association, Bombay to represent the coconut oil industry.
15. Mr. C. E. Bingham, Messrs. Lever Brothers Ltd., Bombay, nominated by the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, to represent the coconut oil industry.
16. The Director of Agriculture, Madras, appointed by the Government of Madras, to represent that Government.
17. Mr. P. H. Rama Reddy, C. I. E., I. A. S., (Retd), Director, Agricultural Research Institute and Principal, Agricultural College, Hebbal Bangalore, appointed by the Government of Mysore to represent that Government.
18. Mr. C. Kumara Das, Secretary to the Government of Travancore, Development Department, Trivandrum to represent that Government.
19. Mr. K. C. Karunakaran, Honorary Secretary, Travancore Chamber of Commerce, Alleppey, nominated by the Travancore Chamber of Commerce.
20. Mr. P. Govinda Menon, M. A., B. L., Advocate, Chittoor Road, Ernakulam, elected by the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative).
21. Mr. A. Karunakara Menon, Member, Constituent Assembly of India, (Legislative) Ambalakat House, Calicut.
22. Sri Satish Chandra Samanta, elected by the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative).
23. Mr. K. R. Narayana Iyer, Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Travancore, nominated by the Government of the State of Travancore.
24. Mr. D. S. Mallappa, M. L. C., Tiptur, nominated by the Government of the State of Mysore.
25. Mr. M. Sankara Menon, Director of Agriculture, Cochin, nominated by the Government of the State of Cochin.
26. The Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India.

