

(f) *Coconuts.*

57. Work has been continued in the Coconut Station on the West Coast on the lines laid down in former years and a valuable set of records are being obtained. The Station at Kasaragod continues to improve under the method of cultivation adopted while the new plantations at Nileshwar and Pilicode are making remarkably rapid growth under the system of intercultivation and manuring which has been adopted. At Pilicode a new method of planting was adopted this year, viz., to put out three months old seedlings in October. This plan was adopted with a view to avoiding the setback usually caused by the monsoon and its water-logging effect. The seedlings established themselves more quickly under this method of planting, but were unable to resist the attacks of termites. At Nileshwar, however, where this pest is not present, due to the more sandy condition of the soil, the later planting was a complete success.

58. Systematic manurial experiments were begun during the year to test the value of different manure and methods of cultivation on the trees at Kasaragod.

59. A nursery has been established of seed nuts from selected trees at Nannunda, Calicut taluk, and a detailed study was made of their germination. 692 seedlings for this nursery have now been planted out to ascertain whether there is any relation between rapidity of germination and future vigour of growth.

60. The studies of relation of date of harvest of nuts to yield of oil and copra are being continued and indicate that the April-May harvest yields the largest number of nuts and these are also biggest in size, the December-January harvest being the smallest. This is probably due to the fact that in the former case the spadices were produced in the rainy season and in the latter during the dry season. The greatest oil content is, however, found in the nuts of the December-January harvest.