

Coconut Research Institute

Bandirippuwa Estate, Lunuwila

Brief History

The Coconut Research Institute (CRI) was founded in 1929 as the Coconut Research Scheme under the Coconut Research Ordinance No. 24 of 1928 and later enacted by the Coconut Research Act No.37 in 1950 as Coconut Research Institute of Ceylon. Under the Coconut Development Act No. 46 promulgated in 1971, the Coconut Research Board was set up in 1972 to function as the Board of Management of the CRI. The Coconut Research Institute is at present a semi-autonomous research institution coming under the purview of the Ministry of Plantation Industries.

Main Divisions

Main Station - Bandirippuwa Estate, Lunuwila

Sub Station - Middeniya

Objectives

- 1) Conducting and furthering of scientific research in respect of growth and cultivation of the coconut palm. Growing of other crops and engaging in animal husbandry in coconut plantations and the prevention and cure of diseases and pests.
- 2) Establishment and maintenance of research Institutes, experimental stations and nurseries.
- 3) Conducting and furthering of scientific research in connection with the processing and utilization of coconut products.
- 4) Establishment and maintenance of pilot plants for processing of coconut products and fabrication of experimental processing equipment.
- 5) Training of advisory and extension workers to assist the coconut industry.
- 6) Guiding and advising the coconut industry on all matters of technical nature.

Activities

- 1) Creating in depth understanding on the genetics of the coconut palm and developing cultivars capable of producing high yields with greater tolerance to environmental fluctuations and promoting the use of high quality planting material to replace senile plantations. Increasing genetic diversity and coconut production by introducing new cultivars through inter and intra varietal hybridization, germplasm exchange, clonal propagation and evaluating physiological and biochemical characteristics.
- 2) Developing cost effective fertilizer recommendations for different cultivars of coconut based on soil types and agro-ecological conditions to achieve maximum productivity. Improving soil fertility and remedy nutrient deficiencies by promoting use of organic fertilizer instead of inorganic fertilizer application and promoting soil

moisture conservation, rain water harvesting and irrigation systems to increase production

- 3) Increasing the productivity and profitability of coconut lands, on sustainable basis through development of appropriate technologies for coconut farming
- 4) Crop diversification and integrated farming in coconut lands to maximize productivity
- 5) Introducing new processing technologies for value addition and product diversification to increase income from coconut
- 6) Managing pests and diseases using rational and integrated methods and thereby reducing crop losses and damages to palms
- 7) Predicting climatic effects on the yield and to develop appropriate methodology for crop forecasting
- 8) Evaluating economic feasibility existing practices and impact assessments of appropriate technologies
- 9) Introducing effective transfer of technology through training the trainers, and using new methodologies

Contact Persons

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