

8-05 **EFFECT OF HUSK BURIAL IN COCONUT LANDS ON SOIL MOISTURE CONSERVATION —  
TENSIO METER APPROACH**

**K. S. Jayasekera and P. Loganathan**  
*(Coconut Research Institute, Lunuwila)*

Moisture conservation practices in coconut lands have shown an important role due to the long dry spells observed during the last few years. Though large amount of coconut husks are being buried to conserve soil moisture, its beneficial effects have not been clearly established and a study was conducted using tensiometers in order to find the effectiveness of this long standing practice.

Husks were buried in  $8' \times 5' \times 1\frac{1}{2}'$  pits midway between the two coconut palms and covered with a layer of soil. Tensiometers were installed between the palms and the edge of the husk pits, and also in the bare sites. Soil moisture tensions were recorded daily and it was found that the soil close to the husk pits took about 5 weeks more to reach the same moisture level compared to the bare sites. This effect was higher at close proximity to the surface than at a depth of 18 inches.

## **SECTION B**

The results showed that the duration of soil moisture stresses observed by the coconut palms in a land with husk pits were less compared to the palm in a bare land and this indicated the beneficial effects of husk burial on soil moisture conservation.