

SECTION E

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON YIELD OF TODDY AND ITS ALCOHOL CONTENT IN COCONUT PALMS (*COCOS NUCIFERA*)

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Coconut palms are tapped on a large scale for production of toddy in Kalutara District. The major portion of toddy produced is distilled in six private distilleries located in different places to produce coconut arrack. The palms licensed for distilleries are tapped from end of March to December which is generally referred to as "the season" and the period from January to March is referred as the off season or recess period. These distilleries manufacture arrack during the period April to December only.

Production of high strength coconut spirits is done in these distilleries under the direct supervision of the State Distilleries Corporation or Excise Department. The State Distilleries Corporation keeps a record of the number of trees licensed for tapping and the number of trees tapped and the total of toddy supplied to the distilleries. A record of the alcohol content of toddy, arrack produced etc. for these distilleries is also kept. In this paper an attempt is made to study the average yield of toddy per tree per day for different months of the year from 1977 to 1980 based on data maintained by the State Distilleries Corporation. Furthermore the monthly changes in alcohol content of toddy during different months of the year April to December were also studied. Monthly rainfall values in these areas were obtained from the Metereology Department and their influence on yield as well as alcohol content of toddy was also examined.

These studies revealed that there is a wide variation in yield of toddy obtained from the coconut palms in the Kalutara District during different months of the year, and it is highest in June or July and lowest in December and November. Further it was observed that generally rainfall does not make any significant impact on yield of toddy but it effects the strength of toddy to a great extent.