

RESULTS OF A FIELD SURVEY FOR EVALUATION  
AND COMPARISON OF THE PERFORMANCE OF TWO  
IMPROVED VARIETIES OF COCONUT

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Two improved varieties of coconut, namely CRIC 60 (tall x tall) and CRIC 65 (dwarf x tall or tall x dwarf), introduced in the nineteen sixties, are presently produced in commercial quantities by the Coconut Research Institute. Although the potential of these varieties is known from research trials, very little information has been available on actual performance under field conditions.

An islandwide field survey was carried out recently on small holdings and larger plantations, both private and state-owned. Yield potential and requirements for cultivation differed widely in the two varieties and were found to influence acceptability and suitability of the varieties in different socio-economic conditions. The hybrid, CRIC 65, was found to be unsatisfactory due to its susceptibility to drought and due to the high incidence of premature nut fall, especially in the stages of bearing. It was more demanding in its requirements and management was consequently more difficult. The improved tall, CRIC 60, generally favour with the growers, due to vigorous growth and satisfactory yields.

Technical, economic and social constraints faced by growers are also highlighted. Some of these are the result of inadequate extension services, nonavailability of planting material & other inputs such as fertilizer at the required time etc. Recommendations for popularising the varieties are made and research needs for the future identified.