

B-17: Physiological adaptation of the coconut palm to soil water deficit

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Response of coconut palm to seasonal variations in soil water and vapour pressure deficit were studied for 2 consecutive years. Field measurements were made of leaf water potential, stomatal conductance, leaf photosynthesis and root water uptake for 15 year old *dwarf x tall* coconut hybrid (CRIC 65) palms growing in an experimental field at *Bandirippuwa* Estate, Lunuwila. Water relations and gas exchange characteristics were compared during wet and dry seasons in the years 1991 and 1992 to evaluate the physiological adaptation of the coconut palm to contrasting environmental conditions.