Malacca planters, Lee Keng Liat and Koh Seck Chuan, did introduce eighty-six Indian immigrants to work on their tapioca estates in November, 1888, but the experiment failed and no further attempts were made by the Chinese to introduce Indian immigrant labour for this purpose.

Land was also more carefully and scientifically managed on the European estate. Cameron, writing in the early 1860s, remarked that on the Chinese estates,

"... a piece of jungle is cut down and fired, and as soon as the brushwood is burned away the planting commences, amid all the confusion of fallen half-charred logs and stumps."25

In contrast, on the European estates the land was carefully prepared and banked prior to planting; moreover, manure, although expensive, was applied to the growing plants and, as the reference to Chasseriau's Singapore estate shows, “fallow” land was not abandoned as it was on the Chinese plantations. Finally, the European tapioca planters invested much more money and attention in processing than their Chinese counterparts were wont to do; all their factories were driven by steam or gas, and all were equipped with modern, imported, machinery.

Thus, although these European planters adopted a crop more usually cultivated by the Chinese, they did not adopt the Chinese methods of cultivation and processing. Rather they applied their concept of plantation agriculture, based on the idea of land development through investment, to an industry that, under the Chinese pioneers, was characterised by land clearance, cultivation and abandonment in rapid succession.


HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

The 1926 Flood in Kuala Lumpur.
H.H. Sultan Idris of Perak during his visit to London for the Coronation of King Edward VII in 1902.

Standing. Left to Right.
Raja Alang Iskandar, (later Sultan Iskandar: then at Balliol College, Oxford.)

Sitting:
H.H. Sultan Idris.

Seated on the floor:

Photo. Skeat Collection
Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Cambridge.