



The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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International Coconut Community



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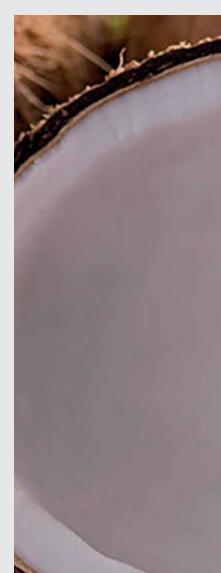


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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS ...

"More Intensive Collaborative Efforts for 2022"



Welcoming 2022 with positive enthusiasm and new opportunities to carry out programs as part of the vision and missions of the International Coconut Community despite the big challenges of unprecedented COVID-19 and various new variants. The outlook of coconut product demand in global markets grow at a compound annual growth rate of about 13% from 2020 to 2026. The forecast of rising market demand of coconut-based products draws our attention to meeting market opportunities through collective action of science, knowledge, skills, experience and political will since we are all aware of challenges across value chains.

Downstream problems including low productivity due to pests and diseases, senile palms, and low maintenance of coconut plantations that cause insufficient raw materials for the processing industry require comprehensive efforts from coconut stakeholders. Coconut production can be increased by increasing the rate of replanting of senile trees, new planting with good quality and elite planting materials, managing pests and diseases, and implementing smart or precision agriculture.

At the upstream level, raising quality standards to comply with established standards is critical to improving product quality, meeting customer expectations, avoiding food adulteration, protecting consumer health, increasing global acceptance, increasing export revenues, and making important contributions to long-term revenues and profitability. When people produce good quality and safe products, it means they protect humans from toxic foods that can bring the economy closer to optimal well-being. The increasing demand for coconut products is due to the healthy, socially impactful, and environmentally friendly aspects of coconut. Therefore, policy support to ensure coconuts as a high priority program in the national development plan can promote the success of increasing coconut production, thus ensuring sufficient raw materials and support for the coconut industry and improving farmers' livelihoods. Coconut polyculture cultivation systems with specific intercrops have the potential to increase farmers' incomes and create good quality ecosystems. Collaborative efforts to integrate resources must be intensified by 2022 to achieve sustainable development goals and deliver tangible benefits to coconut farmers, consumers, countries, and global communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW".

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

Price of Coconut Crude Oil (CNO) decreased in Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Price of Desiccated Coconut (DC) decreased in Philippines and Sri Lanka, but increased in Indonesia.

COPRA: The price of copra in Indonesia was US\$948/MT in December 2021, which was higher than previous month's price. Compared to the same month of last year the price was US\$ 94/MT higher.

In the domestic market of the Philippines (Manila), the price decreased by US\$ 63/MT from US\$1,004/MT to US\$94/MT. The price was US\$21/MT higher compared to the price of US\$920/MT in December 2020.

In Sri Lanka, price of copra was slightly increased from US\$1,561/MT in November 2021 to US\$1,564/MT in December 2021.

COCONUT OIL: The average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) for December 2021 decreased to US\$1,782/MT in December 2021. However, this price was higher by 22% as opposed to the price in December 2020 at US\$1,459/MT.

The average local price of coconut oil in the Philippines in December 2021 was no quoted.

The FOB price of coconut oil in Indonesia in December 2021 scaled down by US\$8/MT compared to the previous month from US\$1,595/MT to US\$1,587/MT. December 2021 price was US\$194/MT higher than last year's which was US\$1,393/MT.

COPRA MEAL: The average domestic price of the commodity in the Philippines was quoted at US\$202/MT. The price was US\$26/MT higher compared to the previous month price and was US\$79/MT lower than the last year price for the same month.

The average domestic price of copra meal in Indonesia was US\$309/MT which was higher than previous month price. The price was US\$28/MT higher than last year's price in the same month.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in December 2021 was US\$2,546/MT, which was lower than previous month price and US\$77/MT higher than the price of the same month last year.

In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in December 2021 was US\$2,510/MT or US\$158/MT lower than in November 2021. Meanwhile, the price of DC in the Philippines domestic market in December 2021 was US\$2,039/MT. The price was the same as price in November 2021, but higher than the price in November 2020. Indonesian price of DC in December 2021 was US\$2,450/MT. The price was lower compared to last year's price of US\$2,488/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In Philippines, the average price of the commodity in December 2021 was US\$430/MT which was lower than previous month's price. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price slightly increased from US\$590/MT in November 2021 to US\$592/MT in December 2021. Moreover, compared to last year's price, the price was higher by US\$3/MT. Sri Lankan's price in December 2021 was US\$531/MT which was lower than last month's price.

COIR FIBRE: Coir fiber was traded in the domestic market in Sri Lanka at US\$108/MT for mix fiber and US\$546/MT-US\$869/MT for bristle. The Indonesian price for mixed raw fiber was US\$220/MT in December 2021 which was the same as price in November 2021.

Price of Coconut Products and Selected Oils (US\$/MT)

Products/Country	2021	2021	2020	2021
	Dec	Nov	Dec	(Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	213	213	190	219
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	223	243	234	215
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	283	303	n.q.	282
India (Domestic Kerala)	533	518	740	582
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	941	1,004	920	922
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	948	905	854	890
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,564	1,561	1,501	1,615
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,335	1,377	1,815	1,581
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,782	1,939	1,459	1,619
Philippines (Domestic)	n.q.	n.q.	1,413	1,425
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,587	1,595	1,393	1,461
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,985	3,035	2,635	3,012
India (Domestic, Kerala)	2,228	2,303	2,799	2,534
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,546	2,548	2,469	2,521
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,040	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,510	2,668	3,093	2,718
Indonesia (FOB)	2,450	2,375	2,488	2,350
India (Domestic)	n.q.	2,122	2,543	2,214
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	202	228	281	223
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	297	297	270	310
Indonesia (Domestic)	309	307	281	289
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	430	441	447	479
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	531	544	470	535
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	592	590	589	588
India (Domestic)	531	536	543	561
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	108	112	107	126
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	546	572	521	584
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	869	846	908	856
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	220	220	313	284
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,861	2,069	1,193	1,533
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,270	1,348	979	1,133
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,411	1,440	1,023	1,336

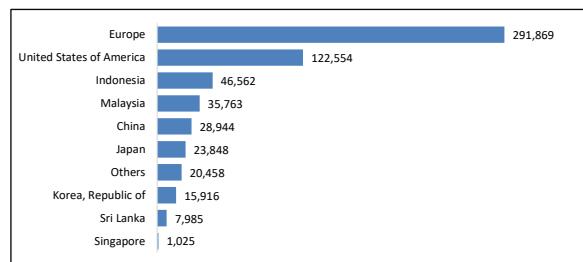
Exchange Rate

Dec 31, '21 1 US\$ = P51.07 or Rp14,235 or India Rs74.50 or SL Rs202.92
 1 Euro = US\$1.14 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF COCONUT OIL

Global trade of coconut oil during the year 2021 faced some challenges especially delays and higher costs of shipments. Philippine Statistics Authority reported that during the period of January-October 2021, coconut oil exports from Philippines dwindled to 594,924 metric tons from 721,570 metric tons in January-October 2020. Demand from European countries and USA, the traditional market for coconut oil from Philippines, lessened during the period. Export of the oil to European countries declined from 359,658 in 2020 tons to 291,869 tons in 2021. At the same time, export to US market dropped from 133,864 tons to 122,554 tons. Philippines most likely will experience a downswing in export volume of the oil in 2021.

Figure 1. Export Destinations of Philippines' Coconut Oil, January-October 2021

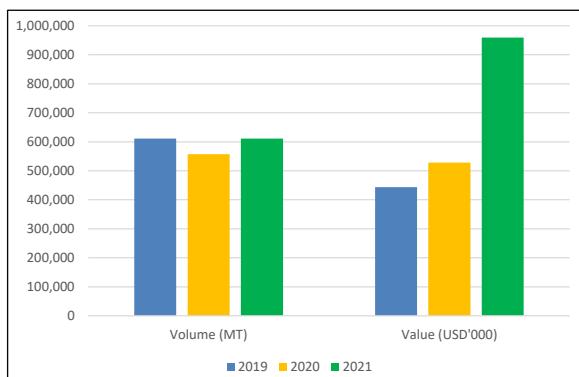


Source: UCAP

Meanwhile, export coconut oil from Indonesia is recorded a higher volume during 2021 taking advantage of lower export from the Philippines. During the period January-December 2021, Indonesia shipped 611,448 MT coconut oil to global market. The export was 9.8% higher as opposed to the previous year's volume. Major markets for Indonesian coconut oil were United States, Malaysia, China, and Netherlands. Export volume to these four countries constituted for more than 70% of the total export.

As the global economic is recovering, demand of lauric oils started to improve during 2021. During January-November 2021, US import of coconut oil was recorded a significant upsurge to level of 771,459 MT meaning an increase of 62.4% compared to the volume a year earlier. At the

Figure 2. Export of coconut oil from Indonesia, January-December 2019-2021



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

November 2020 to 457,126 MT for the same period in 2021. Hence, total imports of lauric oils by US market rocketed to 1.23 million tons which was 60.5% higher than the previous year's volume.

Table 1. US Imports of Lauric Oils, January-November 2020/2021

		Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2021	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	475,000	771,459	62.4
	Value (USD'000)	403,921	434,788	7.6
PKO	Volume (MT)	290,348	457,126	57.4
	Value (USD'000)	345,805	356,053	3.0

Source: The U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Indicators Division

Table 2. European Union (EU28) Imports of Lauric Oils, January – August 2020/2021

		Jan-Aug 2020	Jan-Aug 2021	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	472,753	466,905	-1.2
	Value (USD'000)	602,068	953,805	58.4
PKO	Volume (MT)	305,891	332,777	8.8
	Value (USD'000)	494,311	736,974	49.1

Source: ITC

An increase of shipments of the oils was also observed in European market. During period of January-August 2021, imports of lauric oils by European countries was 799,682 which was 2.7% higher than the volume a year earlier. Import of palm kernel oil contributed to the higher import of the oils. Import volume of the oil rose by 8.8% during the period. Meanwhile, coconut oil import by European countries weakened by 1.2% during the period of January-August 2021. Moreover, demand of lauric oil is expected to continue recovering in 2022 following global economic recovery and higher production of the oils.

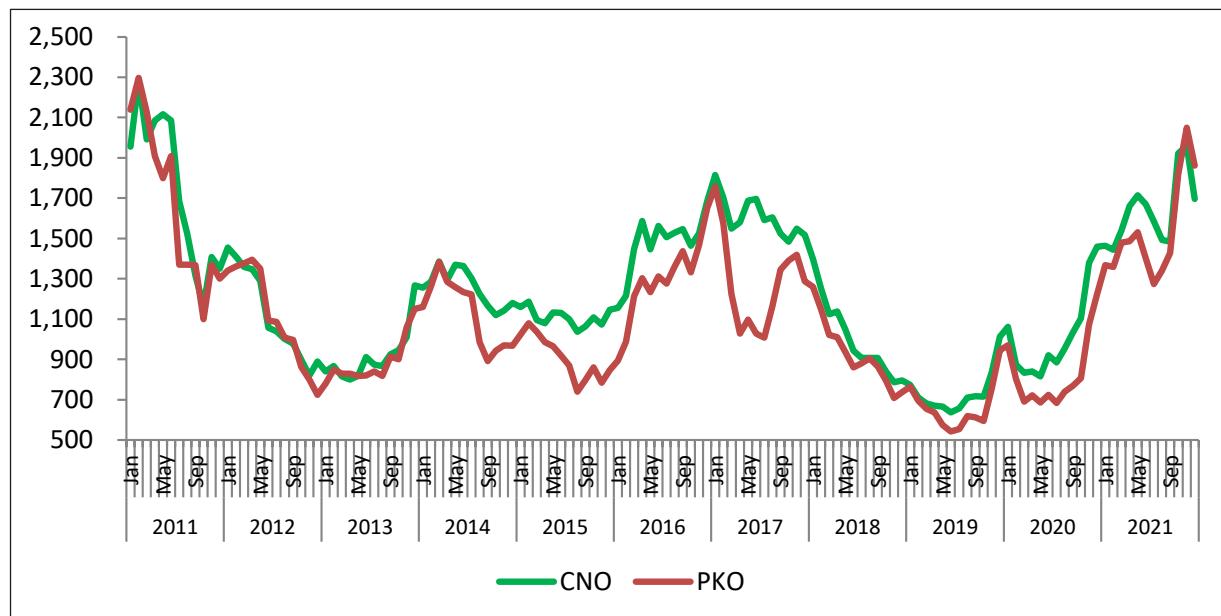
Global production of coconut oil is expected to improve in 2022 following foreseeable preferable weather condition and controllable COVID pandemic especially in South East Asia. Production of coconut oil during October 2021-September 2022 is forecasted to reach 2.95 million tons or level up by 11.3%. At the same time palm kernel oil production is estimated to go up by 4.5% to reach 8.28 million tons. Therefore, overall production of lauric oils in 2022 is expected to reach 11.23 million tons meaning an increase by 6.2% as opposed to the previous year's production.

As supply of the coconut oil is expected to improve, global trade of coconut oil is expected to continue

recovering in the coming year. Oil World forecasted that export of coconut oil from Philippines in 2022 will reach 1.05 million tons. This means an increase of 22% as opposed to the export volume a year earlier. The increase is also attributed the expected economic recovery, especially in China, US and Europe. Likewise, Indonesia is most likely to experience higher export of coconut oil in 2022. Export of coconut oil from Indonesia is estimated to reach 640 thousand tons during the year.

Prices of lauric oils are expected to ease following foreseeable higher production during first quarter of 2022 assuming normal weather conditions and controllable COVID pandemic in producing countries such Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines. Price of the lauric oils have showed a downward trend since the last month of 2021. Price of coconut oil reached its highest level of US\$1,961/MT in November 2021, but then dropped to US\$1,696/MT in December 2021. Similarly, price of palm kernel oil reached its peak in November 2021 at US\$2,050/MT and went down in December 2021 to US\$1,861/MT. It is worth noting that price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil ended in November 2022. This the first time since March 2014 that price of coconut oil is lower than palm kernel oil. This is expected to bring about a shift in demand from palm kernel oil to coconut oil.

Figure 3. Price of Lauric Oils, January 2011 – December 2021, (USD/MT)



Source: ICC

COMMUNITY NEWS

TECHNICAL PANEL DISCUSSION OF THE WEBINAR ON COCONUT HUSK, COCOPEAT, AND ACTIVATED CARBON

International Coconut Community (ICC) in collaboration with International Trade Centre (ITC) organized the follow up panel discussion on 2 November 2021 to clarify and reinforce learning on "Coconut husk, Cocopeat and Activated Carbon", webinar which was held on 12 October 2021. There were 55 people who participated in the discussion, including senior officers, industry development partners, and farmers from the African and Caribbean countries.

The webinar was the second of the series of training and webinar lined up, as part of the MoU executed between ICC and the ITC with the purpose to establish a framework of engagement and cooperation between ITC and the ICC to develop mechanisms for transferring technology relating to value-added coconut products, under the project "Alliances for the Coconut Industry Development Expansion and Enhanced Support for the Caribbean". The other partner collaborator of this series is CARIFORUM financed by the European Union and implemented by ITC, CARDI, and important Alliances partners, ACP, and Coconut Industry Board.

The discussion started with the introductory remarks by Mr. William Castro Rodriguez, ITC and the welcome remarks by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC. The resource speakers participated in the discussion were the speakers who presented in the webinar conducted on 12 October Mr. Chetiya Dharmadasa, Divisional Manager, HAYCARB PLC, Sri Lanka; Mr. S. Mahendran, Chief Executive Officer, Lanktrad International (Pvt) Ltd., and President of Sri Lankan Coir and Allied Products Manufacturers Association, Sri Lanka; and Mr. Radhakrishnan. A., Assistant Director, National Coir Training and Design Centre, Coir Board (Government of India), Kerala, India.

In the panel discussion, the resource speakers addressed the questions asked by the participants based on the webinar held on 12 October 2021. The major questions and topics discussed included: environmental issues of the charcoal processing, granulating mechanism of gas plant, steam, boiler, and thermal; possibility of use of green coconut husks as a raw material; best method to produce soft coir without causing a damaging rotting process; the use of microbial enzymes; physical, microbiological, and chemical process and their effects on the coir products; various application of coir; technology for small scale cocopeat production and investment; the machinery and production process: from coconut shell, charcoal, to activated carbon.

In her closing remarks Dr. Jelfina Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, expressed her appreciation to the resource speakers for sharing their invaluable knowledge, substantial input and experience to the participants. She also mentioned the possibility of the participants to visit the processing units in Sri Lanka, India, Philippines and Indonesia which are the major producers of these products and can learn more about the technologies and machineries.

There was an in-depth discussion on the topics, and the speakers addressed the queries. This technical panel discussion was moderated by Mr. William Castro Rodriguez, ITC. (ICC News)

ICC ATTENDED THE COCONUT COMMODITY MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP FORUM, MOROTAI ISLAND REGENCY

Following up on the results of the working visit of the Minister of National Development Planning/Head of Bappenas to North Sulawesi during November 2020, in a series of working visits, Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda) and National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), in collaboration with the Morotai Island Regency Government have formed a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (Kerja sama Multi-Pihak/KMP) Forum in the coconut sector.

The result is an action plan of improving coconut farmers' welfare through replanting and rehabilitation programs for superior coconut varieties, including Kelapa Bido in the Morotai Island Regency. In this regard, a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Forum (KMP) in the Coconut Sector Commodity in Morotai Island Regency conducted a hybrid dialogue, took place on the Second Floor of the Morotai Island DPRD Office Hall, North Maluku, which was also conducted in the online platform, on 2 November 2021.

This activity will be a pilot South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) with countries in the Pacific region as ProPN Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas. ICC was invited to the Forum. Previously, in March 2021 the ICC Executive Director and Assistant Director of ICC together with a team of researchers from the Indonesian Palm Crop Research Institute visited the Bido village, 30 km away from the Pandanga, Morotai, North Maluku, where the variety of Bido was planted, and collected plant and insect's samples in areas in Morotai showing a phytoplasma-related symptom to be identified in a laboratory in Bogor.

In his welcome address, Morotai Island Regent, Mr. Benny Laos underlined the advantages, research and development, and prospects of Bido coconut, as a value-added product that can be an alternative for copra commodities whose prices fluctuate. He mentioned, "Bido coconut can be a solution for the welfare of coconut farmers in Morotai because Bido coconut is faster to bear fruit. People are also easier to manage because the trees are short and easier to harvest, bear fruit faster, and the fruit size is bigger. We will rejuvenate the Bido coconut in Morotai."

Dr. Ir. Slamet Soedarsono, Vice Director of Politic Law Defense and Security, National Development Planning Agency, delivered the opening speech. He mentioned, "Bappenas considers that coconut tree is a strategic commodity that needs to be prioritized because Indonesia is one of the world's largest coconut

producers. The Multi-Stakeholders Partnership is an acceleration of inclusive development, one of which is by downstreaming the process, to increase the Bido coconut population as an accelerator to improve people's welfare."

In her remarks, Dr. Katinka Weinberger, Chief of Environment and Development Policy, UNESCAP, appreciated that Bappenas had led the way by establishing a National Multi-stakeholder Partnership Initiative in late 2019. There's a very good potential for partnership models in key sectors in Indonesia, and then to be used in other parts of Indonesia. Partnerships for coconut Bido can become a partnership model in the future of Indonesia, which creates a wider impact across the society that would not have been achieved otherwise, if any of the partners worked alone. Partnerships along the agricultural value chains are especially important. They can change livelihoods and help to create prosperity and stability.

The panel discussion moderator was Head of Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda), Morotai Island Regency, Ir. H.M. Thamrin Fabanyo M.T.P. During the event handed over 400 Bido Dalam coconut seeds to representatives of the Farmer Groups of the Morotai Island Regency. (ICC News)

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE COURSE FOR COCONUT DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS CONCLUDED

The 23 days virtual International Certificate Course for Coconut Development Officers has been concluded on 5th November. The course was organized in collaboration between the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka (CRISL) and the International Coconut Community (ICC) which started on 4th October 2021.

The closing function started with the welcome address by Dr. Athula Nainanayake, Course Director, CRISL, followed by the views of the participants. Almost all participants shared their experience and appreciated the organizing

of the course virtually by CRISL and ICC. The lecturers provided will help them to update their knowledge and the developments happened in the sector. The information's they gained will enable them to apply in their work sector where they are posted.

In his address, H.E Ambassador Diar Nurbintoro, Acting Director, NAM CSSTC, hoped that participants can apply these experiences and knowledge to their work and share them with colleagues in their home country. This is the beginning of collaborative efforts with the new networks, either with fellow participants or with trainers, to support the capacity needed to further revitalize coconut cultivation. He hoped that participants can create a platform where they can continue to share information and experiences. NAM Centre ensures to continue promoting capacity-building activities in developing countries to improve agriculture.

Represented The representative of NLOs, Mrs. Supatra Lertwattanakiat, Senior Fruit Expert, Horticulture Research Institute, Department of Agriculture, Thailand and Mrs. Deepthi Nair S., Deputy Director, Coconut Development Board, Government of India addressed the participants and appreciated the efforts of CRI and ICC.

Dr. Saranga Alahapperuma, Chairman, CRISL in his address expressed his happiness to hear the trainee's testimonials that they were extremely happy with the way CRI conducted the program and hoped that they have absorbed the knowledge and experience the CRI scientists have shared. He added that the participants will be able to implement what they gained during these 23 days in their countries for the betterment of their country, people, all human being, and the environment. In this pandemic situation, this is one of most successful virtual training programs conducted by CRI SL as the first coconut dedicated research center. He also proposed to arrange in trainee's countries this kind of training program, so they can gather more officers in their areas with a less cost, in which CRI's experts can enter to their countries, and apply their knowledge. He

assured that when the situation allows the participants were invited for a one-week practical session at CRI Campus.

Dr Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, in her remarks, emphasized that information and technologies are essential in the entire value chains from the upstream to the downstream process and the development of strong science technology and innovation capacity are some of the keys to address many of the persistent and emerging challenges associated with the low coconut productivity poverty of small-scale farmers, climate change problems, that coconut producing countries are facing. Competent coconut development officers are very essential to facilitate linkages in the capacity building and technology transfer program to farmers to micro and small enterprises in collaboration with other actors, such as private companies and local government. The certificate of participation in this course will be more beneficial if it can be transformed into a real and significant contribution to the sustainability of coconut sector development. Substantial knowledge technology shared in the training will enable coconut development officers to be applied not only to themselves, or the organization who nominated them but also to other stakeholders, so there will be multiplying effects to many beneficiaries, including our beloved farmers. With the spirit of coconut, we are united in global solidarity to address challenges in the coconut sector.

The function was concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Nayanie Aratchige, Deputy Director (Research), CRISL. (ICC News)

LABORATORY OF PLANT CELL CULTURE & MICROPROPAGATION, BOGOR-STATE OWNED ENTERPRISE

As part of the collaborative programs and to know the different tissue culture techniques followed by government and private laboratories here in Indonesia, Dr Jelfina C.

Alouw, Executive Director along with Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director, Mr. Alit Pirmansah, Market and Statistics Officer and Ms. Maria Widiastuti, Secretary, ICC visited the Laboratory of Plant Cell Culture & Micropropagation, Bogor on 8th November 2021. This is part of the activity under ITAG 1 In situ and Ex situ Conservation of ICC -COGENT program.

Dr. Imron, in charge of the laboratory welcomed the team. Dr. Jelfina briefed him about the purpose of the visit of the team. Mr. Imron explained the activities of the laboratory. He informed that the laboratory was established in 1998 and was earlier working under Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Indonesia, but now it is an independent laboratory working directly under the Government as part of the state-owned enterprises.

In the laboratory they are producing different tissue culture plantlets including Kopyor variety of coconut and Entog Variety, a superior dwarf variety which has larger fruit size. The demand for the Kopyor TC seedling is very high and the laboratory is not able to meet the increasing demand. The techniques used is embryo culture and per day around 100 embryos are transferring into the culture. The raw materials i.e., embryo of Kopyor variety is being collected from their own garden established in an area of 24.6 ha where more than 3,000 Kopyor palms are maintained. The entire process takes around 14 months which includes transferring the embryos to media; monitoring in the controlled laboratory condition; transferring to greenhouse condition for 12-14 weeks and after observing the acclimatization period to farmer's field. The success rate is around 90-95%. So far more than 26,000 seedlings of the Kopyor TC distributed from the laboratory and it is being planted in almost all parts including Sumatera, Kalimantan, and Sulawesi. Mr. Imron mentioned that presently they are using 1:1 embryo culture technique which is very slow and not sufficient to meet the demand, but other fast multiplication techniques including Somatic

Embryogenesis (SE) are under trial and hopefully it will be adopted soon.

The team visited the laboratory, green house, and the Kopyor and Entog coconut garden along with Mr. Imron and he explained the different procedures they follow. The visit was very informative. The discussion ended with the vote of thanks extended by Dr. Jelfina. She presented the token of appreciation and publications of ICC to Mr. Imron. (*ICC News*)

ICC-ITC 3RD WEBINAR ON COCONUT DESICCATED POWDER, GRATED FROZEN COCONUT & COCONUT FLOUR

The third webinar on 'Coconut Desiccated Powder, Grated Frozen Coconut & Coconut Flour conducted by International Coconut Community (ICC) in collaboration with International Trade Centre (ITC)-Alliances for Action "on 9th November. There were 125 registered participants attended the event

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, in her welcome remarks hoped that the webinar will inspire excellent ideas and fruitful discussions around the development of business plans for coconut desiccated powder, grated frozen coconut and coconut flour for the local and global markets for the benefit of coconut farmers and for supporting the resilient and sustainable coconut industries in the Caribbean and also in other coconut producing countries.

Mr. Tomas B. Medina, President & CEO, Brand Exports, the Philippines, presented the processing, production and marketing of coconut flour, which included information on integrated coconut processing plant facilities, coconut flour specification and processing flow methods. In the marketing aspects he explained the opportunities and challenges of the coconut flour market.

Mr. Sree Kumar Poduval, Former Deputy Director, Coconut Development Board, India,

presented the production and marketing of frozen grated coconut, in which he explained the global coconut scenario of production and exports, export trend for coconut products, frozen grated coconut nutrition facts, capital investment, plant and machinery, market size and trend analysis and related informations.

Mr. Henry Yonathan, Marketing Manager, Triputra Group, Indonesia, presented the processing, production, and marketing of desiccated coconut and covered the availability of raw materials, market potential, quality standard and certification informations, B2B and B2C markets.

There was an in-depth discussion on the topics, and the speakers addressed the queries. This webinar was moderated by Mr. William Castro Rodriguez, ITC. (ICC News)

ALIET GREEN YOGYAKARTA - MOVING TOWARDS GREEN

With the purpose to know how coconut farmers, MSMEs and other coconut industry survive during COVID-19 pandemic, broaden the knowledge about production of coconut sugar and related products and the challenges faced by the units involved in this sector, ICC team under the leadership of Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, visited the Aliet Green coconut sugar processing unit at Bantul, Yogyakarta on 10th November 2021. She was accompanied by Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director, Mr. Alit Pirmsah, Market & Statistics Officer and Mr. Klaudio D. Hosang, Administrative & Finance Officer.

As we all heard about the proverb that Where there's a will there's a way and Ms. Lastiana Yulianderi, Director of Aliet Green is the right example for that. She always determined to do something and find her own way to accomplish it regardless of any obstacles. with this will power she started this unit of coconut sugar production in 2009. Basically, she is a graduate with English literature but her strong will power

to do something for the society bring her into this sector. She used to collect the raw materials from the farmers in the nearby villages. Three farmers group covering around 1,900 farmers who used to supply the neera for her unit. Processing is done at the unit and the final product coconut sugar is exported mainly to North America and Europe. Total production capacity of the unit is 350 ton per month and nearly 15 containers of sugar are exported every month. Altogether 113 employees are working in the unit of which majority are women. She always trying to motivate the women to come forward so that they can be self-sufficient and can earn for their families too. The product is organically certified and having good demand in the global market. Though Covid-19 did not affect her business, but the transportation cost had been increased many folds for the exporters.

During 2019 her company has been sanctioned with a climate change project by the Dutch government with total project of 1 million Euro. The project period is for five years but amid covid -19 the project could start implementing from 2020 only and so far, an amount of 1.4 billion Rupiah spent. For implementation of the project, she selected the villages of nearby area where the farmers group are working. The field level workers have been named as green warriors and 19 such warriors are deputed in the field to implement the Fair-Trade fund project. The warriors mainly motivating the farmers to go for high yielding coconut varieties to increase their production and income and maintaining the good quality of products. They have been convinced to take up intercropping in their coconut garden for more income. Aliet Green selected some demonstration plot to plant high yielding dwarf variety mainly Entog variety from Kebumen to motivate the farmers and around 600 seedlings of the Entog variety have been distributed to the farmers. Aliet Green is working and supporting for an inclusive, resilient and sustainable coconut development.

Ms. Lastiana taken the ICC team to the farmers field and had a discussion with green warriors and the women farmers who are into sugar

processing. Generally, in a family the male member goes for harvesting of neera and the females are into the processing. The demonstration plots where the Entog varieties are planted also visited. During the course of discussion Dr. Jelfina advised to go for more dwarf varieties which is good for sugar production as per the research conducted by Balit Palma. Executive Director further added that now government of Indonesia also encouraging coconut cultivation and replanting program so Aliet Green through the green warriors get trained and can encourage more farmers to go for the planting in near future. She assured the full support of ICC in this regard in coming years and appreciated the work carried out by Ms. Lastiana and her team and mentioned that she is a good example for millennial generation and as an women entrepreneur in the coconut sector. During the visit Dr. Jelfina presented ICC plaque of appreciation and publication to Ms. Lastiana. (ICC News)

KOPYOR COCONUT GENE BANK – A TREASURE OF UNIVERSITY OF MUHAMMADIYAH, PURWOKERTO

With the purpose to strengthen the relationship between ICC and University of Muhammadiyah, Purwokerto in supporting an inclusive, resilient and sustainable coconut development, and to broaden the knowledge about the development of tissue culture and micropropagation of coconut in University of Muhammadiyah, Purwokerto, ICC team had a discussion and field visit to the Kopyor Coconut Field Genebank on 12th November 2021.

The team of ICC lead by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director and was welcomed by Prof. Dr. Sisunandar. Dr. Aman Suyodi and Dr. Ahmed Darmawan as vice rector of the university also joined in the discussion and filed visit. The other members of ICC team accompanied was Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director, Mr. Alit Pirmansah, Market and Statistics Officer and Mr. Klaudio. D. Hosang, Administrative & Finance Officer.

Prof. Dr. Sisunandar explained the different activities of the Coconut Research Centre of the UMP. They are following the embryo culture technique for multiplication of the Kopyor variety. Prof. Sisunandar shared his experience that for commercial production of the variety he found 1:1 embryo culture is more successful with 90-95% success rate. There is a good demand for the seedlings produced by the Centre. The university is maintaining two genebanks in an area of 150 ha having different cultivars of Kopyor from different regencies including Pati and Banyumas. Different trials and experiments are going on to assess the production level, inputs intake by the palms and other characteristics like water quantity and endosperm quality.

There was a detail discussion on different challenges faced by the centre and how to resolve it. Dr. Jelfina shared the activities of ICC and how ICC-Cogent program can be associated with the tissue culture programs of the university. The team of the university also joined in the discussion. She added that in 2022, ICC-Cogent is scheduled to organise TC symposium with CICY Mexico and TC workshop and training with CPCRI, India. She invited Prof. Sisunandar to be part of the programs and can share his long experience in the embryo culture of Kopyor variety.

The team visited the laboratory and the Kopyor Coconut Field Genebank of the university. The visit was very informative. During the visit Dr. Jelfina presented the plaque of appreciation and publications of ICC to Mr. Amen Suyadi representing the rector and he also presented plaque to Dr. Jelfina. (ICC News)

KOPERASI WANITA SRIKANDI PURWOREJO - A MODEL WOMEN WARRIOR UNIT

During the visit to companies and organizations with coconut related products, ICC team under the leadership of ICC Executive Director Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw visited Koperasi Wanita Srikandi the Organic and Natural Products Manufacturer located in Purworejo city, Central

Java on 12 November 2021. As the name of organisation of "Wanita Srikandi" or Woman Warrior in local terms, Koperasi Wanita Srikandi chaired by a woman Mrs. Sri Susilo Wati SE. The ICC team are welcomed by the Chairwoman, General Manager Mr. Hanggoro Susanto SP, MM and team.

The establishment of the organization is in 2014 as the chairwoman perceived a major opportunity for coconut sugar potency in Central Java. The organization has two coconut sugar factories that also visited by ICC in Purworejo.

Koperasi Wanita Srikandi consists of two parts of management which are saving loan cooperative management and production management. Main product of Koperasi Wanita Srikandi is coconut sugar included branded products and bulk products for both export and local market with capacity of production in total of 300 tons per month of granulated coconut sugar and 20,000 bottles of coconut sap-based syrup. To expand the export as well as local market, Koperasi Wanita Srikandi hold certifications such as USDA organic, COR Canada, and BPOM.

With the mission of realization of welfare and independence through community empowerment, Koperasi Wanita Srikandi has 1,500 fostered farmers with 1 internal control system (ICS) for managing every 50 farmers in four districts Purworejo, Magelang, Wonosobo, and Kebumen. To maintain the supply chain, Koperasi Wanita Srikandi created strategy to conduct regular socialization to coconut sugar farmers, ICS, as well as collectors.

Main challenges of coconut sugar business mentioned are the urgent need of coconut replanting of senile tall coconut trees that created higher risk for farmers, older generation farmers, and trainings to farmers as well as raising awareness and attracting the attention of the young generation to coconut sector. To express the sincere concern of coconut sugar farmers, Koperasi Wanita Srikandi created compensation program in case of work related

accident happened to farmers including injuries, disabilities and death referring the threat of climbing taller coconut trees for sugar farmers, however, the replanting of coconut trees is needed, therefore Koperasi Wanita Srikandi has created demonstration field of planted 300 trees of Genjah Entog not only as a replanting model but also as an education field for visitor as well as coconut sugar farmers. Koperasi Wanita Srikandi also established cooperation with universities for solving issues in their business sector.

Koperasi Wanita Srikandi is working on conforming their business process to get the fair-trade certification as the organization has ensured the essential process of fair trade. Koperasi Wanita Srikandi build upon cooperation with ICC especially follow up challenges as an input to solve the problems in international level and provide training for the farmers and ICS of Koperasi Wanita Srikandi. (ICC News)

TECHNICAL PANEL DISCUSSION OF THE WEBINAR ON COCONUT DESICCATED POWDER, GRATED FROZEN COCONUT & COCONUT FLOUR

International Coconut Community (ICC) in collaboration with International Trade Centre (ITC) have organized a webinar on 9th November 2021 on "Coconut Desiccated Powder, Grated Frozen Coconut & Coconut Flour". Panel discussion on the topics to clarify and reinforce learning was conducted on 23rd November. The webinar is the part of the MoU executed between ICC and the ITC with the purpose to establish a framework of engagement and cooperation between ITC and the ICC to develop mechanisms for transferring technology relating to value-added coconut products, under the project "Alliances for the Coconut Industry Development Expansion and Enhanced Support for the Caribbean".

The other partner collaborator of this series is CARIFORUM financed by the European Union, and implemented by ITC, CARDI, and

important Alliances partners, ACP, and Coconut Industry Board. 55 registered participants attended the event.

The discussion started with the introductory remarks by Mr. Benjamin Morrison, ITC and the welcome remarks by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC. The resource speakers who participated and presented in the webinar conducted on 9th November were: Mr. Tomas B. Medina, CEO, Brand Exports, the Philippines; Mr. SreeKumar Poduval, Former Deputy Director, Coconut Development Board, India; Mr. Henry Yonathan, Marketing Manager, Triputra Group, Indonesia. In the panel discussion, the resource speakers addressed the questions raised by the participants.

The major questions included the quality difference between various freezing processes for coconut shredded coconut and slices, the production process of VCO, medium-chain fatty acid, lauric acid, high value-added products market opportunities in different countries, business model on different coconut products, how Caribbean countries could focus and concentrate on their competitive advantage of each coconut product and how to expand the industries based on the strength of each country, support from the government, availability of raw materials, human resources, infrastructure and technology, diversification and intercropping, quality standards of coconut flour for the local and global market, the marketing strategies, and the best material for the utensils to be used for processing.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, mentioned that webinars are just the first phase of sharing knowledge and technology, she looks forward to collaborating in various other coconut programs in the future including strategies to make sure the three pillars of sustainability the economic, social, and environment are achieved. She encouraged participants to go for more value-added products like coconut flour and protein powder

that can also be enhanced with flavor from aromatic coconut.

This technical discussion was moderated by Mr. Benjamin Morrison, ITC. (ICC News)

HE LOST HIS BEST FRIEND IN A MUDSLIDE. NOW HE'S USING COCONUTS TO FIGHT DEFORESTATION IN WEST AFRICA

Their house was gone. They weren't at the hospital or the morgue. Even as he searched the news for their faces, the teenager knew: His adopted family — the people who'd given him a bed when he was sleeping under a bridge — didn't survive the mudslide.

Three days of downpours, heavy for Sierra Leone's rainy season, had given way to reddish brown muck streaming down the residential slopes of Sugarloaf Mountain. Sinkholes opened. People in this hilly capital reported hearing a crack — like thunder, or a bomb — before the earth collapsed.

Alhaji Siraj Bah, now 22, might have been there that August morning in 2017 if his boss had not put him on the night shift. He might have been sharing a bedroom with his best friend, Abdul, who he called "brother."

Instead, he was sweeping the floor of a drinking water plant when 1,141 people died or went missing, including Abdul's family.

"All I felt was helpless," he said, "so I put my attention into finding ways to help."

Four years later, Bah runs his own business with nearly three dozen employees and an ambitious goal: Reduce the felling of Sierra Leone's trees — a loss that scientists say amplifies the mudslide risk — by encouraging his neighbors to swap wood-based charcoal for a substitute made from coconut scraps. Heaps of shells and husks discarded by juice sellers around Freetown provide an energy source that requires no chopping.

His enterprise, Rugsal Trading, has now produced roughly 100 tons of coconut briquettes, which, studies show, burn longer for families who do most of their cooking on small outdoor stoves. One report in the Philippines found that a ton of charcoal look-alikes fashioned from natural waste was equivalent to sparing up to 88 trees with 10-centimeter trunks.

"My motivation is: The bigger we grow, the more we can save our trees," Bah said on a steamy afternoon in the capital, chatting between coconut waste collection stops. "The hardest part is getting the word out about this alternative. Everyone loves charcoal."

Researchers weren't sure what triggered the worst natural disaster in the West African country's history, but some pointed to Sugarloaf mountain's vanishing greenery. Deforestation not only releases more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere — it weakens slopes. Canopies are critical for soaking up rain and taming floods. Roots anchor the soil together.

But Freetown's mounts were going bald as people collected timber to clear lots for housing and make charcoal, the top cooking fuel in a nation where electricity is often unreliable. Sierra Leone has lost 30 percent of its forest cover over the last two decades, according to Global Forest Watch, an international tracker.

Bah had noticed men in his neighborhood harvesting wood practically every day. Many burned it to produce bags of charcoal. Most people he knew cooked with it.

The idea

Growing up, Bah fixated on inventors. His idol was Mark Zuckerberg, chief executive and co-founder of Facebook. When he was ten, according to his mother, he pledged to create the next big thing. His father, a driver, died two years later, and the family ran out of money to take care of Bah and his sister.

So at 12, he sneaked away from home in his eastern village, hitching a ride to Freetown.

"I saw it as the promised land," he said. "I thought if I could make it here, I could support my whole family."

Bah lived on the streets for four years, washing cars for food. Then he met Abdul on a soccer field and the pair became close. He moved in with the boy's family for nine months before the mudslide struck.

"After that, he was always on YouTube," said Foday Conteh, 23, who met Bah when they were both living on the street. "He became obsessed with looking for ways to stop deforestation."

Bah, 17 at this point, saw a video of a man in Indonesia who crafted charcoal replacements from coconut shells. Others were doing something similar in Ghana and Kenya: Collecting coconut scraps, drying them out in the sun, grinding them down, charring them in steel drums.

He watched the makers mix the blackened powder with binders like cassava flour and then feed the dough into a machine that spits out matte loaves. Next came slicing the loaves into cubes. You could grill with them the same way — except a coconut aroma fills the air.

"It looked like a great business idea," Bah said. "I could make fuel with stuff we find on the street." (*The Washington Post*)

SMALL COCONUT FARMERS ARE KEY DRIVERS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND VALUE CHAINS

Being the 4th largest coconut producer in the world, Sri Lanka is also the 1st in the world for the exports of brown fiber. Coconut is undeniably among the major sources of income for Sri Lanka traditionally. Coconut husk is yet another source of additional income for coconut farmers, and

the manufacture of coco peat is now a standalone industry. The production of coir, fiber, and cocopeat has been identified as initiatives to alleviate poverty in Sri Lanka by contributing to the improvement of the economic well-being of coconut farmers and rural communities.

Wayamba Lanka Coco has been providing employment and livelihood opportunities for over 20 years, using coconut husk in the production of coco peat products and grow bags used as an alternative growth medium to soil worldwide. Currently, the company produces 25 kg coco peat bales, animal bedding, briquettes, coco peat grow bags, discs, and propagation cubes.

The founder and Managing Director of Wayamba Lanka Coco (Pvt) Ltd, Saman Kumara Jayaweera, recalls the humble beginnings of the company which was initiated in pursuit of his entrepreneurial dreams at the age of 17. Twenty years on the organization has its own source of raw materials, facilities and equipment, skilled workers, and market opportunities including exports to Japan, Lithuania, and Korea. He credits the success of the enterprise to being able to identify a global market opportunity and relentlessly pursuing it, even if it meant investing and relying on personal finances at the start.

Expansion

The company recently announced its plans for expansion and commitment to set up an additional factory of 21,000 square feet adjacent to its current plant in Bandarakoswatta, Kurunegala, with a drying floor of 4 acres and 44 perches.

Mr. Jayaweera added: "My involvement in community development work, particularly the establishment of rural-based business enterprises from scratch, exposed me to various challenges commonly faced by startup operations and small and medium enterprises.

Access to capital, know-how in overcoming barriers to entry, innovation, and sophisticated machinery at the time I began was only easily accessed by large companies.

"This experience made me interested to know more about organizational dynamics and performance and incremental process improvement over the years. We began our journey by locally manufacturing machinery and using family members who would contribute tirelessly towards the company's success at a very early stage. The support and advice of my mentors are an ever-present strength in this company."

Producing for a global market

The primary focus of the management continues to be producing quality products that are competitive in a global marketplace. The high-water retention capability of coco peat is attractive to industrial growers, domestic growers, and hydroponic companies due to massive improvements in agricultural yields and cost savings associated with hydrating harvest.

Mr. Jayaweera believes more market access corridors are required to improve global opportunities among agriculture-focused nations gearing up for challenges in food security. These opportunities, he believes, can be made available to coconut farmers and small-time producers who are very often overlooked in the value chain as a driver of economic growth and regional empowerment.

"Identifying local and international market opportunities for coco peat products and showcasing the production capacity of Sri Lanka in this space," he says, "is vital in Sri Lanka's journey to benefit from the ability of coco peat to become a primary earner of foreign exchange." Wayamba Lanka Coco works closely with the Coconut Development Board and the Export Development Board to avail itself of industry expansion and investment plans. (*Horti Daily*)

HOW TO CARE FOR COCONUT PALMS: WATERING, PROPAGATING AND WHERE TO POSITION THEM

The impossible houseplant or possibly not, *Cocos nucifera* or the coconut palm is a common sight in plant shops and garden centers. The tropical allure of fantastic green leaves emerging from a partly buried coconut husk are often short lived.

Keeping the coconut palm alive at home is a labour of love, and not for the faint of plant parenting heart.

How to care for coconut palms

The coconut palm reigns supreme in its native habitat around tropical Australia and the Philippines, and has been successfully exported across the world, introduced and growing freely across much of Central Africa and South America where the sun shines freely, and winter doesn't mean grey skies and shorter days. It's no surprise that the coconut palm hasn't made a home for itself in the UK.

However, for less than £30, you can normally pick up a coconut palm seedling from your local plant shop. These palms, grown in perfect conditions, before being sold, can be kept alive at home, and here is how (for a while at least).

Essential to their success are 3 things: water (but not too much), light (think cactus), and humidity. In the wild coconut palms are the sprinters of the plant world. With access to water, light and heat they rapidly grow from seed (coconut) to tree. One coconut makes one palm tree.

This rapid growth rate is not something to forget about in a hurry. It's easy to underwater your coconut palm if you allow the compost to dry out before watering again. This is because your young palm has only developed a few very thick roots. It's important to keep the compost moist so the palm doesn't dry out.

On the flip side, and somewhat counter intuitively, the roots must never be sat in water, as this could lead to them rotting. The best way to avoid this is by ensuring the pot has plenty of drainage holes, and the palm is growing in a free draining compost mix, similar to what you might use for cactus, 2 parts peat-free compost, to 1-part horticultural sand and 1 part grit.

Second only to watering is light. Coconut palms love light. And so the more light you can give it the better. A south facing window is ideal, anything less may see your palm struggle. In summer you can give it an extra light boost by gradually moving it outdoors over summer.

Humidity is key to keeping your amazing corrugated palm fronds looking their best. Keep the plant in space that is naturally humid, like a kitchen, place it with other plants and sit it over a tray of wet pebbles, creating a microclimate when the water evaporates. Not only will this keep the leaves looking good, but the higher humidity will also keep pests like red spider mite at bay.

How to propagate coconut palms

The *Cocos nucifera* can only be propagated from seed. It's unlikely you'll ever see your own coconut plant produce flowers and seeds in your front room, but you could try propagating a coconut yourself. Though it's not something I've tried, I know you'd need a fresh whole (green) coconut, a sharp knife and somewhere very warm. A quick internet search reveals many videos on how to do this outside in the tropics as a guide.

When it's time to repot your coconut, home grown or shop bought, remember that it needs free draining compost. Thick roots may make it hard to remove from its pot, don't be afraid to cut these to free the palm, a little 'root pruning' will keep the eventual size of the plant in check. *(Evening Standard)*

UNRAVELING GENETIC SECRETS AT COCONUT LEAF TIP

Selecting better varieties of seedlings and taking years to know the productivity of seedlings are the major challenges in coconut cultivation. But from now on, farmers do not have to wait for the coconut to grow and ripen to know the benefits of the seedlings planted.

Even if it is a sprouted seedling, you can know the benefits of coconut by examining the gene in a small part of the plant. This was made possible by the Indian scientist's extraction of the genetic makeup that determines the hereditary characteristics of coconut. 51953 genes have been identified.

This is a breakthrough that will pave the way for a boom in the agricultural sector of Kerala, one of the major crops as coconut. Seventeen scientists from Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Kasaragod, and National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi participated in the research.

The experiment was conducted on Chowghat Green Dwarf coconut, also known as pathonpath Patta Coconut. The green dwarf is a wind-resistant species. 112 genes that provide immunity have been identified. The genes that makeup color, the quality of copra, and coconut oil were also isolated.

What is Genetic Structure?

Genes are the basic units that carry the inherited traits of an organism, and the genes that control and pass on to generations are the parts of the DNA that make up a cell. It is possible to understand what kind of protein a gene makes. A single cell of coconut contains between 25,000 and 30,000 genes. A human can have between 20,000 and 25,000 genes. The discovery of the human genome opened up many possibilities in immunization and drug research.

Benefits of Coconut Genome Sequencing

In 2013, Malaysia discovered the genetic makeup of its main crop, palm oil. If the same path is followed, India can also benefit greatly. It currently takes 14 years to produce hybrid seedlings. The benefits of coconut are well known even when it is a seedling. There is a collection of 454 varieties of coconut seeds at various research institutes in India.

Seedlings can be classified according to their nature, such as height, height, high oil content, green and yellow, and susceptibility to disease. In this way, farmers can select only productive seedlings and avoid diseased or low-yielding seedlings. The additional cost of maintaining unproductive coconuts can be avoided. (*Krishi Jagran*)

NOT FOR SC TO DECIDE HOW A COCONUT SHOULD BE BROKEN

The Supreme Court made it clear that constitutional courts cannot interfere with day-to-day rituals of temples while disposing of a special leave petition challenging an Andhra Pradesh High Court order, which had rejected allegations of wrongful and irregular procedure being followed in the conduct of rituals at the Tirupati temple.

A bench of Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, however, said this does not give a free pass to the temple administration and asked it to give a proper response in to the appellant within eight weeks. "This court cannot entertain this under a writ.

Apart from pooja, if the administration is ignoring rules and regulations or indulging any other violation of arrangements, those are the only areas where we can ask Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) to clarify the issues raised by the petitioner or any other devotee. Other

than this, if we start interfering in sevas, then it will not be feasible. How a coconut should be broken or a pooja done in a temple is not for a constitutional court to look into," the bench said.

Appellant Srivari Dadaa had faulted the procedure to perform Abhishekam Seva, Thomala Seva, Arjitha Brahmostavam, Yekanta Utsavalu (Srivari Varshika Brahmotsavams – 2020) and Maha Laghu Darshan at the temple. The Andhra High Court, in its order, had said the procedure is the TTD's exclusive domain and cannot be adjudicated upon unless it impacts secular or civil rights of others. Activities that fall within ecclesiastical domain are not amenable to writ jurisdiction at the behest of an outsider, the court pointed out. (*The New Indian Express*)

DOST SCIENCE WEEK FOCUSES ON COCONUT, LAGUNDI FOR COVID RECOVERY

The 2021 National Science and Technology Week (NSTW), led by the Department of Science and Technology (DoST), will banner two of the country's natural remedies, virgin coconut oil (VCO) and lagundi, which have been further studied by our local researchers for their uses against Covid-19.

For one, VCO has been known to have effective antiviral compounds that can benefit humans and animals. It is also a popular food supplement that is generally recognized as safe and already widely consumed in many countries.

On the other hand, according to previously published studies, "Lagundi (*Vitex negundo*) tablet/syrup is a proven bronchodilator with its registered indication for the treatment of cough. Several studies have also explained its antipyretic (fever), analgesic (pain) [and] anti-inflammatory activities as well as its antiviral activity."

The alarming number of cases prompted the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development of the DoST-supported projects that aim to repurpose these natural products against Covid-19. Part of the NSTW's celebration

was the webinar, "Repurposing natural resources for Covid-19".

The project to be highlighted in the webinar is the following: virgin coconut oil as adjunctive therapy for hospitalized Covid-19 patients. Results from this study will prove the efficacy of VCO in contributing to the improvement of health status and recovery of a Covid-19 patient. Also, to be highlighted are the beneficial effects of VCO among suspect and probable cases of Covid-19, and two-stage, randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled clinical trials on the efficacy and safety of lagundi tablets/syrup (NIRPROMP formulation) with standard treatment compared to placebo with treatment in patients with mild Covid-19 disease without comorbidities. (*The Manila Times*)

AMALAPURAM: GOVERNMENT RELEASES FUNDS FOR CURE OF DYING COCONUT TREES

The State government has released Rs 1.5 lakh to the Horticulture Research Station for the purpose of investigation on unusual death of coconut palms and Rs 13,86,200 to the treatment for 6,931 coconut palms in Konaseema region of East Godavari district.

Owing to the Black Scorch disease, nearly 880 coconut trees perished in Nellivaripeta and Billakuduru village of Kothapeta mandal in the district.

Unusual death of coconut palms has been happening from January 2021. It started with 10 palms in two farmers' coconut plantations and expanded to 20.03 acres belonging to 25 farmers' fields.

About 1,100 palms died of pest so far and still death of coconut palms is progressing.

According to Horticulture officials, the experts of the Joint Technical Committee which visited the Konaseema area remarked that the coconut trees perished due to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) operations.

Recently, the experts of the Joint Technical Committee led by Horticulture department Deputy Director Dr S Ram Mohan inspected the coconut plants along with Kothapeta MLA and Govt Whip Chirila Jaggireddy in Nellivaripeta and Billakurru village of Kothapeta mandal in Amalapuram Revenue division.

The committee stated that the coconut trees were dying due to ONGC drilling and consequently the ground water is being spoiled and polluted which is the cause for perishing of the coconut palms in Konaseema region.

Prof Krishna Prasad said that there is a chance for spread of malady to adjacent areas and recommended crown drenching of palms with Tebuconazole 0.2% (5 lit per palm). He asked the Groundwater department and ONGC officials to study the gradient of ground water flow by taking ONGC rig as focal point.

MLA and Whip Jaggi Reddy had instructed the ONGC officials to stop the natural gas production until the issue is cleared. (*The Hans India*)

MEZHUKKATTIL MILLS BAGS INDIA'S FIRST BIS TAG IN COOKING OIL SEGMENT

The Aluva-based Mezhukkattil Mills has received India's first BIS certification in the cooking oil segment for its coconut oil as per the Indian Standard Number 542:2018.

IS 542: 2018 identifies the level of purity of coconut oil with specification for critical chemical requirements and provides strict measures to prevent adulteration and pesticide residues in the oil.

Kerala has over 600 coconut oil making units and is one of the largest consumers of edible coconut oil, but the quality of the commodity is a matter of concern. BIS is committed to consumer safety and takes all measures to bring manufacturers under the certification fold. Many of the coconut oil producing companies are following FSSAI certification

which is reported to be inadequate to curb adulteration in edible oils.

"Having received the BIS certification, the company plans to enter the market with its brand MM Original initially in Kerala. The Kerala market for coconut oil is estimated at 20,000 tonnes per month and the company targets a sale of 120 tonnes for quality-conscious consumers," said Ubais Ali, CEO, Mezhukkattil Mills.

On the coconut oil market, he said prices are moving on a steady range at ₹175 for quite some time following a weather-induced subdued demand in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Despite the relaxations in Covid restrictions and resumption of economic activities, the continuous rain and the scare of floods caused a sluggish demand that led to a slowdown in consumption. A positive sentiment is expected only with bright sunny days, he added.

However, the rains in Kerala and Tamil Nadu have pushed up copra prices by ₹3 and is now hovering in the range of ₹106 per kg. (*The Hindu Business Line*)

COCONUT PLANS FOR HAINAN

The Hainan coconut industry is set to develop its export capabilities under a new five-year plan published by Chinese authorities.

According to a report from TASS, the report from the Provincial Forestry Department outlines the path to Hainan becoming a major international supplier for coconut produce by 2025.

Although the southern island province already accounts for the vast majority of domestic coconut production China, imported fruit from South-East Asia dominates the market.

As part of the plan the government intends to increase the area allocated to coconut

production in the province and a cluster of large industrial enterprises specialising in the processing of coconuts will be constructed.

Another goal is to develop a world-renowned brand for Hainan coconut products, this includes creating special tourist areas on the island, as well as a museum dedicated to the fruit, which is considered one of the symbols of the province.

According to the plan, the local coconut industry is expected to have an annual gross product of more than Rmb 23bn (US\$3.6bn) by 2025. (*Fruitnet*)

A LOVELY BUNCH OF COCONUTS: HOW ONE COMPANY ETHICALLY AND SUSTAINABLY HARVESTS ITS TROPICAL CROP

No one knows for sure when or where coconuts originated, but there is no doubt about their global popularity today. Although they look like an oversize nut, coconuts are a remarkable fruit that offers a rare combination of liquid and food. Refreshing coconut water is an ideal recovery drink after a hard workout. The rich and creamy flavor of coconut milk is a delicious cow-milk substitute and a great alternative for people on a vegan diet or who want to reduce reliance on animal products. Coconut "meat" enlivens a wide variety of foods, from candies, cakes and cookies to stews and curries.

Successfully cultivating and harvesting coconuts can be challenging. Thailand-based Theppadungporn Coconut Company Ltd. (TCC), the world's leading producer of coconut milk, coconut water and other coconut products under the Chaokoh brand, is leading an effort to ensure that commercial coconut operations adhere to ethical and sustainable farming and harvesting practices in Thailand.

Coconuts have to be picked at just the right time. Young coconuts go into producing coconut water. Mature coconuts are turned into TCC's flagship product, Chaokoh Coconut Milk, which is enjoyed around the world. Coconuts

grow in bunches that workers on the ground remove from the tree using long poles with a blade on the end. The bunches fall to the ground and are loaded onto trucks to go to the processing facility. Some coconut growers cushion the fall by creating canals of water between the rows of trees. Harvested bunches of green coconuts drop into the water, preventing bruising and rotting of the young fruit.

Traditional practices in Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries relied on monkeys to harvest coconuts, but TCC's modern approach to harvesting coconuts is vastly different. TCC wants to eliminate monkey harvesting in commercial operations throughout Thailand. The company is pioneering and promoting monkey-free cultivation across the sector by offering innovative, sustainable and ethical alternatives that will improve coconut agriculture overall. This effort includes educating farmers on best practices and distributing new low-growing coconut varieties that are easier for farmers to harvest. TCC also works with farmers to reduce the environmental impacts of their coconut operations.

TCC buys mature coconuts for Chaokoh products from farmers in four Thailand provinces: Samut Songkhram, Ratchaburi, Prachuap Khiri Khan and Nakhon Si Thammarat. All of the company's suppliers' and farmers' harvesting practices are audited before they are contracted with TCC and are required to sign a memorandum of understanding that commits them to monkey-free coconut cultivation and sustainable farming practices. To ensure these standards are met, TCC works with a respected independent third-party auditor, Bureau Veritas. The auditor performs regular inspections at TCC and its contracted coconut farms to ensure compliance with the sustainability and zero monkey-labor standards.

Bureau Veritas' independent audit in 2020 confirmed that TCC had successfully achieved monkey-free cultivation across the audited network in Thailand. The audit found no

evidence of monkey-labor in TCC's supply chain. A second, larger audit is underway, with the final report coming in spring 2022.

TCC has also partnered with an animal rescue organization, the Wildlife Friends Foundation of Thailand, on an initiative to rescue and rehabilitate abused monkeys. Monkeys rescued from abusive farming operations receive any needed treatment and can retire peacefully at a sanctuary with other rescued monkeys.

TCC and its farmers recognize that today's consumers have higher expectations about ethical and sustainable supply chains than ever before. TCC wants to ensure that consumers can enjoy the many pleasures of coconut products confident that the product's journey from a tree in Thailand to their table in a far-away country was handled responsibly, ethically and without monkey labor. (*The Apopka Voice*)

COCONUT PRODUCTS EXPORTERS TO TAP EU VIA PLANT FAIR IN GERMANY

The coconut products sector aims to explore prospects for exports to Europe via the International Plant Messe (IPM) Essen in Germany early next year.

The Coconut Development Authority (CDA) will facilitate the participation of Sri Lanka's coconut-based exporters or manufacturers at the popular trade fair, which will be held from 25-28 January.

Following a one-year break from physical participation at trade fairs, the CDA has decided to take part in IPM Essen, one of the world's leading horticultural trade fairs, which revolves around solutions and innovations in the green sector.

Post-pandemic the CDA has stepped up its efforts to create opportunities for the exporters and manufacturers to meet with global experts, investors, learn about the latest industry trends and explore commercial partnerships, whilst gaining tech know-how which offers vital

support for them to expand their businesses in the international market.

It will part-sponsor firms keen to participate at IPM Essen 2022 and provide space in the CDA stall to exhibit and promote their products. However, the interested firms should be registered with CDA as exporters or manufacturers for this year. The airfare, part of stall construction cost and other expenses, should be borne by the participants as well.

Interested exporters and manufacturers must also have suitable exhibits, exportable and high-quality products made in Sri Lanka. The CDA said branded and innovative products will have an advantage over other applicants to be eligible for the criteria.

According to the Export Development Board (EDB), the first nine-month earnings from coconut and coconut-based products grew by 24.14% to \$ 608.76 million from the same period last year. Earnings from all the major categories of coconut-based products increased from January-September due to the improved performance in the export of liquid coconut milk, coconut cream, coconut milk powder, coco peat, mattress fibre pith and moulded products, activated carbon, coconut oil and desiccated coconut.

The year-on-year export earnings from desiccated coconut, coconut milk powder and coconut cream categorized under the coconut kernel products increased by 9.22%, 10.53% and 29.11%, respectively, in September 2021. However, earnings from the export of coconut oil and liquid coconut milk decreased by 31.47% and 13.04%, respectively, in September 2021.

As the largest contributor to the coconut-based sector, coco peat, fibre pith and moulded products, which are categorized under coconut fibre pith and moulded products, increased by 26.73% to \$ 14.08 million in September compared to the corresponding period a year earlier. Earnings from activated carbon, which is categorized under the coconut shell products

increased by 28.6% in September compared to the same period in 2020.

CDA believes IPM Essen will provide a myriad of opportunities for exporters and manufacturers to meet exhibitors from across the world and develop profitable business relationships. (*Daily FT*)

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Prices tracked higher this week, extending last week's higher close.

In Rotterdam market, trading in coconut oil slowed with only a couple of nearby trades reported, down from last week's seven, concluded at \$1,850 and \$1,960/MT CIF. Traded prices were comparatively higher than previous week range at \$1,750-1,830/MT CIF. Opening quotes were firmer at \$1,870-1,906.75/MT CIF for positions from December/January through to June/July 2022 and continued to head higher until the close influenced by gains in palm oil. By week's end, levels settled firm at \$1,960-2,015/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market similarly was lackluster and like last week, reported only a single turnover done earlier this week at \$2,080/MT CIF, higher than week-ago at \$2,010/MT CIF. Paying level was at \$175 premium over coconut oil for the same nearby traded position. Market likewise opened firmer at \$1,820-2,100/MT CIF for positions from December/January through to June/July 2022 and rose further higher tracking palm oil to conclude the week firm at \$1,890-2,270/MT CIF.

Coconut oil continued at a discount under palm kernel oil for the second week in a row this week, notably in positions up to the first quarter of 2022, at widened spreads currently. Thus, average discount under palm kernel oil dipped

at \$15.05/MT this week from \$11.27 in the preceding week. Price premium/discount per position are shown following: December/January -\$220.95 (-\$128.35 last week); January/February -\$94.50 (-\$26.80); February/March - \$39.65 (-\$21.30); March/April -\$30.15 (-\$13.30), April/May \$2.00 (\$17.20); May/June \$25.00 (\$46.35); June/July \$67.00 (\$47.29); July/August \$170.83 (new position).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures tracked mostly lower this week, after opening in the upside supported by interests in product soybean meal from the animal feed sector. Weakness was tied to bearish export sales report from USDA and decline in Chinese imports compared to year-ago.

At the palm oil section, prices tracked higher during the week on improved export demand particularly from major importer India amid seasonal production tightness in both top producing countries Indonesia and Malaysia. Industry reports indicated exports for first half November from Malaysia improved. Moreover, reports from India showed palm oil regained its market share in the country's vegetable oil imports mix in oil year 2020/2021 at 63% after contracting at 55% in prior oil year. In the last three years prior to contraction, its market share had ranged 60-63%. Adding to the positive market sentiment were price gains in competing vegetable oils notably soybean oil. Market, however, closed lower this week tracking reversal in soybean oil trend.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment bounced back this week across the board from respective levels of prior week with lauric oils advancing rapidly. Coconut oil hiked \$122.40 from \$1,835.65 last week to \$1,958.05/MT CIF presently; palm kernel oil leaped \$215 from \$1,964 to \$2,179/MT CIF. Palm oil moderately rose \$11.00 from \$1,381 to \$1,392/MT CIF. With coconut oil's slower pace of price increase, it continued discounted under palm kernel oil, widening the spread from -\$128.35 last week to -\$220.95 in the current week. However, coconut oil maintained its price

premium over palm oil, increasing from last week's \$454.65 to \$566.05/MT this week. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam coconut oil market, business was thin but concluded at higher prices. Only December/January was traded this week at \$1,850 and \$1,960/MT CIF; other positions were quiet. Market was firm this week and closed with sellers at \$2,015 for December/January; \$2,000 for January/February; \$1,995 for February/March; \$1,960 for March /April, April/May, and May/June; and \$1,970/MT CIF for June/July and July/August. Buyers closed at \$1,930 for December/January; \$1,925 for January/February; \$1,902.50 for February/March; \$1,910 from March/April; \$1,875 for April/May; \$1,827.50 for May/June; and quiet for other positions. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

COCONUT, PINEAPPLE PUSH UP PHL FARM EXPORTS TO \$3.7B

The country's agricultural exports from January to September grew by 1.4 percent to \$3.724 billion, driven by double-digit growth in the export receipts of coconut products and pineapple-based items, government data showed.

Latest Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data showed that farm exports during the nine-month period grew by \$50.932 million from \$3.673 billion recorded in the January to September period of last year.

PSA data showed the 43.3-percent and 9.5-percent growth in exports of coconut products and other agro-based products, respectively, lifted the overall farm exports during the reference period.

The agricultural exports accounted for 6.68 percent of the country's total exports in the nine-month period, which reached \$55.679 billion, based on PSA data.

Export receipt from coconut products expanded by \$395.958 million to \$1.310 billion from \$914.28 million last year, with all coconut-based items posting positive growth, based on PSA data.

PSA data showed that exports of coconut oil grew by 43.5 percent to \$963.22 million from \$671.20 million last year while the value of desiccated coconut exports rose by 39.7 percent year-on-year to \$271.55 million. (*Business Mirror*)

SRI LANKA SOE GIVEN IMPORT MONOPOLY ON DESICCATED COCONUT

Sri Lanka's state-run BCC Lanka Ltd has been allowed to import desiccated coconut after paying 1-rupee special commodity levy from November 24, 2021, in a further addition to existing trade controls in the island.

Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa has imposed a 300 rupee import tax per kilogram on desiccated coconut, HS Code 08.01 in the form of the special commodity levy for six months, starting from November 24.

However, from state-run BCC Lanka Ltd only 1 rupee per kilogram tax will be collected and the balance 299 will be waived.

BCC Lanka is the second state owned enterprise to get an import monopoly in recent weeks.

Sri Lanka previously waived a 65 rupee per kilogram tax on imported rice for State Trading Corporation and allowed it to pay only 25 cents per kilogram, creating another import monopoly.

Sri Lanka has been operating a trade control regime for many years partly due to economic nationalism, partly due to lack of knowledge of international trade, and partly to 'save foreign exchange'.

In 2020 import controls went up sharply as money printing and a flawed pegged regime

called a 'flexible exchange rate' put pressure on the rupee as money printing was ratcheted up. (*Economynext*)

FSM PRESIDENT LAUNCHES COCONUT NATIONAL EXPORT STRATEGY

David W. Panuelo, president of the Federated States of Micronesia, has launched the Coconut National Export Strategy CocoNES which was created via presidential order.

During the launch event with the secretary of the Department of Resources & Development Elina Akinaga, and the chief executive officer of Vital/FSM Petroleum Corporation, Jared Morris, President Panuelo explained that "The CocoNES framework, in its entirety, will have a specific mission: to see through the successful design and implementation of the coconut national export strategy, and delivery of its plans of actions. A successful export strategy will result in sustainable supply chains that will bring our very own coconut products from local farmers out to the world. The mission is to make this happen successfully, and to translate that success into sustainable incomes and food security for families across this Paradise in Our Backyards."

The CocoNES framework for the FSM will be comprised of a Task Force called the CocoNES Advisory Body; a Coconut Sector Development Coalition; and a CocoNES Secretariat.

The CocoNES Advisory Body will include the secretaries of the Departments of Resources & Development, Justice, Finance & Administration, Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure, and Foreign Affairs. The CocoNES Advisory Body will be mandated to provide oversight of the CocoNES design and implementation, update the FSM president on a regular basis, and remove roadblocks encountered for a successful strategy design.

The Coconut Sector Development Coalition will include a minimum of eight persons and a

maximum of 12, to be drawn in equal proportions from the public and private sectors, with a minimum of one representative each from the State of Yap, the State of Chuuk, the State of Pohnpei, and the State of Kosrae. The Coconut Sector Development Coalition will create a shared understanding of key market challenges and opportunities facing the coconut industry, build consensus on the best growth path for the coconut industry, set goals and targets that will strengthen the coconut sector's competitive position, and contribute to the identification of resources for implementing priority programs and projects, among other duties.

The CocoNES Secretariat will be comprised of Vital, which is mandated to provide operational and administrative support to the overall CocoNES framework.

"The main idea for the average citizen to take away from all of this is that the FSM wants to encourage local families and farmers to grow and sell whole coconuts to Vital," Panuelo said. "These whole coconuts will then be processed by our local workers into healthy value-added products that will be competitive both in the domestic and international markets. Over time, this will revitalize our coconut industry while providing alternative income streams, good paying jobs, and allow communities to address their priority development needs. Within this value chain, from producers to finished products, we will encourage greater participation in the agriculture sector and hopefully engage our citizens abroad to take interest and return home and participate. We can be one of the best coconut products producers regionally and internationally right here from our Paradise in Our Backyards," Panuelo added.

CocoNES is the FSM's first sector-specific export strategy. The push for a coconut export strategy came from President Panuelo's direction on Jan. 8, 2020, when the president was updated on Vital's Coconut for Life Project prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I said in January 2020 that we look to Vital as the entity within the FSM that can really transform and catapult us into a new level of development, strengthening food security, energy security, and lessening income inequality, among other areas. Vital continues to have the complete and total confidence and support of the Panuelo-George administration, and I call upon all citizens of the FSM who are interested in building back better to work with Vital and the FSM national government as we jointly work together to develop and export coconut products," Panuelo said. (*Marianas Variety*)

producer and encourage development of the downstream palm oil industry, he stated. With land area covering 10% of the global land bank for vegetable oils, Indonesia is able to become the world's largest palm oil producer and hold a 55% share of the global palm oil and vegetable oil market, he noted. In addition, it will be able to produce 40% of the global vegetable oils that play a crucial role in the context of food security, he affirmed. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

FOOD MANUFACTURERS MUST DEMAND PALM OIL CONTAINING LOWER LEVELS OF POTENTIAL CARCINOGENS - MPOB

The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) has urged food manufacturers and palm oil industry players to take heed of the recent issue raised by the recent Hong Kong Consumer Council concerning 60 pre-packaged biscuits made of palm oil. Reports said the Council claimed the biscuits contain cancer-causing substances such as glycidyl esters.

MPOB director-general Dr. Ahmad Parvez Ghulam Kadir in a statement issued last week said palm oil refineries should be firm by requesting palm oil mills to supply crude palm oil (CPO) with lower chloride content to enable palm oil refineries to reduce 3-MCPDE (3-monochloro-propanediol esters) in refined palm oil. "The presence of chloride in CPO is found to be the precursor of 3-MCPDE when the oil undergoes refining at elevated temperatures. CPO washing has shown to be the most effective approach in reducing chloride content in CPO, which in turn allows processed palm oil with lower 3-MCPDE [to be produced]," he said.

According to him, the MPOB maintains high-quality standards throughout the palm oil supply chain through the implementation of strict quality-enforcement procedures, which include regular inspections, spot checks, and routine sampling and testing. To effectively monitor and control export and import of palm oil products, all transaction activities are fully monitored via physical inspections on bulking installations and vessels, he said. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

INDONESIA ROADMAP FOCUSED ON DOWNSTREAM PALM OIL INDUSTRY'S DEVELOPMENT

The Government of Indonesia has prepared a roadmap for developing the downstream palm oil industry to transform it into world's largest producer to weather volatility in crude palm oil prices, according to Coordinating Economic Affairs Minister Airlangga Hartato, reported in Antara News in Jakarta.

The roadmap covers ways to increase productivity; support downstream activities, such as oleofood, oleochemical and biofuel; create an ecosystem; implement good governance; improve capacity building; and develop technology to boost palm oil businesses, the minister said in a statement released in Jakarta. Hartato remarked that palm oil was one of the resilient farm commodities and contributed to the national economic growth in the third quarter of 2021.

The palm oil industry also contributes directly to creating jobs. Hence, the government has adopted a vision to turn the domestic palm oil industry into the world's largest palm oil

SEA MEMBERS REDUCE EDIBLE OIL PRICES

Members of the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) have decided to reduce prices of edible oils by ₹3,000 to ₹5,000 per tonne keeping in mind the Diwali festivities.

SEA President Atul Chaturvedi said in a statement that though SEA members are saddled with high duty paid stocks, they are responding to the needs of consumers, and bringing down the prices. "Our members are also aligned to the proactive decisions of the government and have decided to further reduce prices of edible oils by ₹3,000 to ₹5,000 per tonne keeping in mind the Diwali festivities," he said.

During the last few months, prices of edible oils had skyrocketed and were showing no signs of moderation. With a view to provide comfort to consumers during festive times, the government drastically reduced import duties in the second week of October. This duty reduction has helped control runaway prices and is now reflected in the domestic wholesale bulk prices, he said.

The price of palmolein oil, which was at ₹ 127 a kg on October 10, came down to ₹119 a litre on October 30. The price of refined soya oil came down to ₹125 a litre on October 30 from ₹134 a litre on October 10. In the case of refined sunflower oil, the price came down to ₹128 a litre on October 30 from ₹142 a litre on October 10.

He said it is heartening to note that the domestic soyabean and groundnut crops are rebounding this year. Soya crop maybe closer to 120 lakh tonnes and groundnut crop maybe approximately 80 lakh tonnes. Harvesting and marketing is in full swing and putting pressure on the domestic oilseed and oil prices. Both are record crops and augur well for the consumers and will go a long way in reducing the dependence on imports which has reached almost 65 per cent of India's consumption.

Apart from good kharif oilseed crop, the sowing reports coming in for mustard are also bring cheer. The planting numbers could be at

an all-time high and one should not be surprised if the magic number of 120 lakh tonnes is achieved if nothing unforeseen happens till the harvest time, he said.

All these developments as well as proactive actions taken by the government are bound to bring succour to our consumers during the ensuing festive and marriage season, he said. (*The Hindu Business Line*)

HEALTH NEWS

PERTH RESEARCH REALISES COCONUT OIL'S BENEFITS FOR PREMATURE BABIES

Baby Grace was born 14 weeks prematurely, weighing only 870 grams and so small she could fit in the palm of her parents' hands. For her, the peculiar treatment was life-saving.

Her mother Tara Hunter said before the treatment she didn't know whether she would ever take her baby home with her.

"You hear of coconut oil being amazing for everything but you just didn't expect it to be used on babies I guess," she said.

Every year, about one in four premature babies acquire sepsis, an infection which can cause disability or even death.

Australia-wide, there are nearly 27,000 premature births every year, costing hospitals \$2 billion. Using coconut oil is safe and cheap, costing only \$5 per baby per week.

Dr Tobias Strunk from King Edward Memorial Hospital said the fatty acids that made up about 50 per cent of coconut oil were responsible for its strong anti-microbial properties.

A 2016 trial initially proved its effectiveness, but now there are plans to extend the trial with

the Telethon Kids Institute to 15 hospitals across the country. (*WA Today*)

ASIA PACIFIC REGION PLANS TO FALL BACK ON TRADITIONAL MEDICINE POST-COVID-19

As Asia Pacific emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic the region plans to fall back on traditional and complementary medicine to enhance health care delivery with support from the WHO.

At a meeting of the WHO's Western Pacific Region, health ministers adopted a resolution to improve access to safe, effective and "culturally accepted services" to harness the role of traditional and complementary medicine for health and well-being.

Kasai adds that traditional medicine can play a particularly important role in the health and well-being of ageing populations and people with chronic conditions.

WHO will provide technical support to the 37-member states of the region, home to 1.9 billion people, to help develop, update, and implement national guidelines, strategies and tools, increase long-term investments in traditional and complementary medicines and strengthen public and consumer education to enable informed decision-making.

Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa, director of the Philippine's Food and Nutrition Research Institute, says that the WHO commitment to traditional and complementary medicines is a very good move and one that gives importance to age-old knowledge passed on through generations.

For instance, virgin coconut oil (VCO) has been traditionally used in the Philippines with the long-held belief of antiviral properties.

"Using this knowledge, we decided to put this to test and see whether we can use it in the fight against COVID-19," she says. "Results of our

studies have shown that it's possible to use virgin coconut oil as adjunctive therapy for hospitalized COVID-19 patients with those given VCO every meal, three times a day, avoided progressing to severe cases. The intervention resulted to savings of millions of pesos in possible expenses for severe cases." (*News Medical*)

COCONUT RECIPE

SWEET COCONUT RICE WITH PIGEON PEAS

Ingredients

2 cups jasmine rice
1 shallot, finely chopped
1 garlic clove, finely chopped
1 2"-piece ginger peeled, finely chopped
2 5-oz. cans pigeon peas, rinsed
1 13.5-0z. can unsweetened coconut milk
2 Tbsp. Diamond Crystal or 3½ tsp. Morton kosher salt
1 Tbsp. dark brown sugar
¼ tsp. dried thyme
¼ tsp. ground allspice
¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
Chopped parsley (for serving)

Preparation

Step 1

Rinse rice a fine-mesh sieve under cold water runs mostly clear. Transfer to a medium saucepan. Add Shallot, garlic, ginger, peas, coconut milk, salt, brown sugar, thyme, allspice, pepper and 1 ½ cups water. Stir to combine and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover pot, and cook until all of the liquid is absorbed and rice is tender, 18-20 minutes.

Step 2

Fluff rice using a fork. Transfer to a large shallow bowl and top with parsley.
(*Bon Appetit*)

STATISTICS

Table 3. Indonesia's Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2019 - 2021

Month	2019		2020		2021	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US\$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US\$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US\$'000
January	56,095	43,858	56,440	47,671	41,112	58,282
February	57,658	45,230	46,030	41,364	54,471	78,304
March	58,271	43,485	46,854	41,439	42,893	63,982
April	35,877	26,490	46,063	39,796	43,675	65,594
May	61,554	43,647	35,782	29,483	66,712	105,704
June	48,995	33,869	52,717	45,326	48,582	78,866
July	50,533	33,833	66,368	56,217	71,449	113,089
August	44,588	30,072	35,509	32,054	39,908	62,834
September	38,055	26,117	30,193	29,969	47,107	70,877
October	51,608	35,799	45,747	46,675	42,489	67,385
November	44,616	31,236	44,483	50,805	57,478	95,763
December	62,963	49,628	50,872	67,088	55,571	98,543
Total	610,812	443,266	461,704	409,993	611,448	959,223

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 4. Philippines' Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2017 - 2021

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	142,042	83,573	76,557	115,346	52,302
February	72,442	35,743	44,265	59,757	53,704
March	84,355	82,848	122,223	91,762	72,143
April	57,530	69,532	123,057	53,629	58,555
May	57,160	68,968	100,580	61,034	51,927
June	52,277	99,482	135,308	92,625	65,091
July	68,084	46,825	94,690	19,161	78,441
August	90,822	72,360	197,300	85,963	80,111
September	82,537	93,124	75,126	83,382	82,648
October	65,944	80,655	100,758	58,911	93,101
November	73,983	126,627	67,636	63,150	
December	65,456	94,487	101,826	55,353	
Total	912,632	954,224	1,239,326	840,073	688,023

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 5. International Prices of Selected Oils, January 2019 - December 2021, (US\$/MT)

Year	Month	Coconut Phil/Indo (CIF. Rott.)	Soybean Oil Dutch (FOB ex-mill)	Palm Oil Malaysian (CIF. Eur.)	Palm Kernel Oil (CIF. Rott.)	Sunflower Oil EU (Fob. NW. EU)
2019	January	773	748	585	765	688
	February	710	773	603	695	700
	March	679	750	573	655	711
	April	669	734	588	636	713
	May	661	743	563	573	722
	June	636	743	552	542	725
	July	657	748	544	555	754
	August	719	793	586	619	776
	September	724	779	580	613	776
	October	720	771	591	594	776
	November	836	775	683	756	776
	December	1,016	821	770	945	805
2020	January	1,062	874	835	955	807
	February	875	800	729	802	823
	March	834	748	635	689	730
	April	840	680	609	721	732
	May	831	684	574	678	738
	June	920	752	652	761	788
	July	886	821	659	704	833
	August	954	867	703	756	877
	September	1,034	906	741	788	1,041
	October	1,105	915	758	801	1,040
	November	1,380	974	918	1,073	1,176
	December	1,459	1,023	979	1,193	1,241
2021	January	1,463	1,099	990	1,368	1,276
	February	1,445	1,124	1,020	1,360	1,363
	March	1,541	1,285	1,030	1,479	1,611
	April	1,660	1,386	1,078	1,487	1,573
	May	1,715	1,575	1,136	1,531	1,585
	June	1,671	1,518	1,004	1,400	1,297
	July	1,584	1,468	1,063	1,274	1,282
	August	1,494	1,434	1,142	1,341	1,356
	September	1,485	1,399	1,181	1,427	1,310
	October	1,923	1,484	1,310	1,818	1,421
	November	1,961	1,443	1,341	2,050	1,416
	December	1,696	1,411	1,270	1,861	1,362

Source: Cocommunity and Oil World

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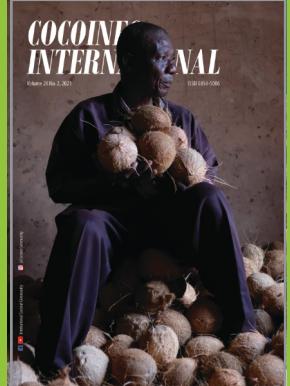
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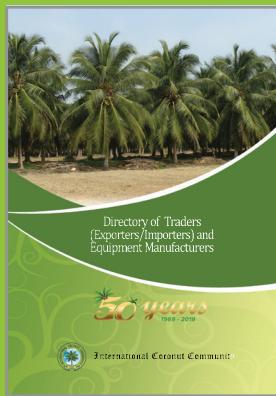
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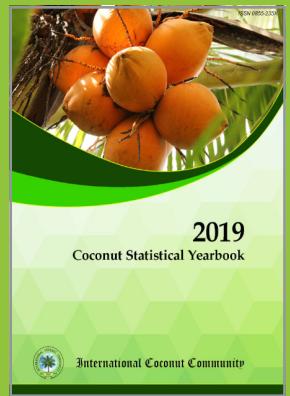
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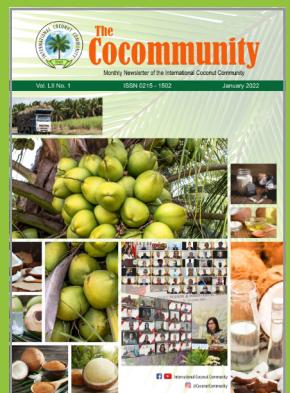
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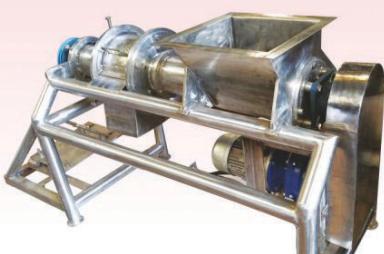
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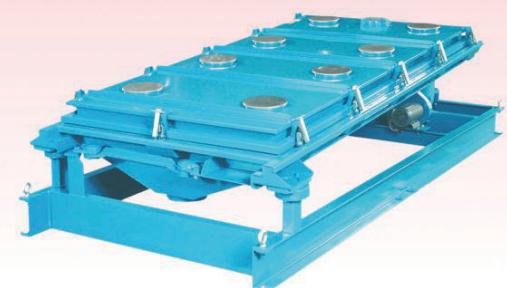
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Established in 1969, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the ICC is an independent regional intergovernmental organization which consists of twenty member countries and accounts for 85-90% of the world production of coconut. The ICC member countries are: the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Phillipines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

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