The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

Vol. LII No. 7 ISSN 0215 - 1502 July 2022

International Coconut Community

@CoconutCommunity

COMPLETE ENGINEERING, DESIGN, MANUFACTURING, & INSTALLATION OF PLANTS FOR THE COCONUT INDUSTRY

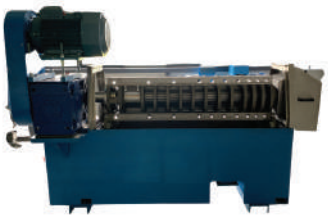
T & I Global Ltd.

www.coconutmachineryindia.com
marketing@tiglobal.com

Complete Processing Lines

Combination Dryer for DC, VCO, Chips & Flakes

Apron type Band Dryer



Virgin Coconut Oil Expellor

Filter Press

Vaccuum Dehydrator

Oil Storage Tank

Deshelling Machine

Milk Extractor

Scan for more information

Single Point Solution for Coconut Processing • Turnkey Processing Solutions

100+ Installations Worldwide • 50+ Years of Experience • ISO 9001 :2015 Certified

Think Coconut. Think T & I Global.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE LIST

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS ...

"Traceability in The Coconut Supply Chain"

Traceable coconut product supply chains from coconut farms, the very start of the supply chain, to the end-users have become a critical part of the overall food quality assurance system in the global market and achievement of the sustainability goals. Traceability technology could connect end consumers of coconut products with validated data and information about the products, producers, and supply chains. Understanding the universal traceability standards is essential to assist the processing industries in finding and preventing any unacceptable practices and enabling them to take the necessary precautions and address potential issues effectively to ensure product safety and compliance.

International food safety standards were firstly established in the Codex Alimentarius by members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and detailed requirements for the product traceability have been created in The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), Food Safety system certification 22000 (FSSC 22000) and BRC Global Standards (BRCGS) and Current Good Manufacturing Processes (cGMP). Traceability as one of the important global market requirements might provide reliable product information to consumers. The benefits of implementing traceability include increasing customer trust and confidence so that it can provide added value to the traced products and thus increase the product market prices or global competitive advantage. However, several challenges have been reported in the implementation of traceability in coconut value chains. Some of them include practical, logistical, system malfunction and security issues, limited infrastructure, and lack of technology. Other important challenges are the need for audits, verification, or third-party assurance.

As more than 95% of the coconut plantation is owned by smallholder farmers, training for the producers and other actors involved in the value chains such as collectors, local/small traders, wholesalers, and processors is needed. A better understanding among the coconut industries, scientists, farmers, and government of the importance and implications of traceability in the coconut supply chain to achieve sustainability goals, is important. Researchers and industries could assist in identifying technological challenges and the required interventions. Assistance on digitalization, financial and policy supports are needed to ensure more resilient and cost-effective implementation of traceability technology.

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 Indonesia but increased in Sri Lanka.

COPRA: The price of copra in Indonesia was US$761/MT in June 2022, which was lower than previous month's price. Compared to the same month of last year the price was US$ 155/MT lower.

In the domestic market of the Philippines (Manila), the price decreased by US$ 44/MT from US$1,010/MT in May 2022 to US$966/MT in June 2022. The price was US$1/MT lower compared to the price of US$967/MT in June 2021.

COCONUT OIL: The average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) declined to US$1,688/MT in June 2022. However, this price was higher by 3.5% as opposed to the price in June 2021 at US$1,631/MT.

The average local price of coconut oil in the Philippines was unquoted. Meanwhile, the average local price of coconut oil in Indonesia decreased to US$1,481/MT in June 2022 from US$1,510/MT in May 2022. The price was US$3/MT higher compared to the price of US$1,478/MT in Jun 2021.

COPRA MEAL: The average domestic price of the commodity in the Philippines at selling points was quoted at US$238/MT. The price was US$5/MT higher compared to the previous month and was US$24/MT lower than the price a year earlier.

The average domestic price of copra meal in Indonesia was US$314/MT which was lower than previous month. The price was US$18/MT higher than last year's price.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in June 2022 was US$2,408/MT, which was 8.5% lower than previous month price and US$113/MT lower than the price of the same month last year.

In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in June 2022 was US$1,952/MT or US$146/MT higher than in May 2022. Meanwhile, the price of DC in the domestic market of Philippines in June 2022 was US$2,039/MT, which remained the same as previous month's price. Indonesian price (FOB) of DC in June 2022 was US$1,713/MT which was lower than price in May 2022, and was lower compared to last year's price of US$2,450/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In Philippines, the average price of the commodity in June 2022 was US$385/MT which was lower than price in May 2022. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price slightly decreased from US$576/MT in May 2022 to US$571/MT in June 2022. Moreover, compared to last year's price, the price was lower by US$30/MT. Sri Lankan's price in June 2022 was US$374/MT which was lower than last month's price.

COIR FIBRE: Coir fiber was traded in the domestic market in Sri Lanka at US$65/MT for mix fiber and US$284/MT-US$486/MT for bristle in June 2022. Meanwhile, the Indonesian price for mixed raw fiber was US$190/MT in June 2022 which was lower than price a year earlier at US$330/MT.

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

Products/Country	2022 Jun	2022 May	2021 Jun	2022 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	182	214	222	220
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	231	254	207	241
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	136	154	289	215
India (Domestic Kerala)	417	450	558	467
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	966	1,010	967	1,097
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	761	782	916	939
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	920	1,029	1,914	1,316
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,084	1,145	1,589	1,202
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,688	1,720	1,631	1,993
Philippines (Domestic)	n.q.	n.q.	1,696	2,093
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,481	1,510	1,478	1,679
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,928	2,095	3,488	2,631
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,882	1,948	2,502	2,031
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,408	2,631	2,521	2,618
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,975	1,806	2,747	2,094
Indonesia (FOB)	1,713	1,850	2,450	1,976
India (Domestic)	1,484	1,577	n.q.	1,730
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	238	233	262	231
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	212	189	347	241
Indonesia (Domestic)	314	324	296	317
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	385	393	517	399
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	376	366	516	432
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	571	576	601	586
India (Domestic)	450	458	n.q.	505
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	64	70	143	96
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	273	379	576	450
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	486	491	876	611
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	190	190	330	225
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,555	1,811	1,419	2,085
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,501	1,717	1,017	1,591
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,752	1,963	1,420	1,781

Exchange Rate

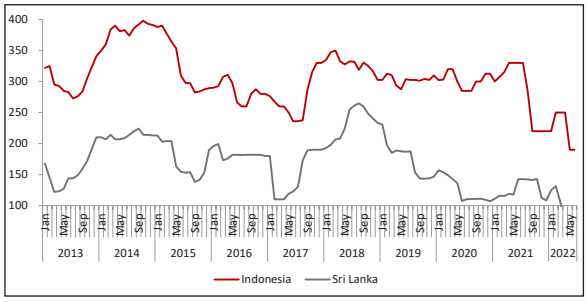
Jun 30, '22 1 US$ = P54.97 or Rp14,934 or India Rs79.03 or SL Rs358.00

1 Euro = US$1.05 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF COIR

Global market of coir products showed a bearish market in the first half of 2022. Export price of coir showed a decreasing trend in almost all main exporting countries. In Sri Lanka, price of coir fibre dropped from US$124/MT in January 2022 to US$64 in June 2022. Similarly, price of coconut fibre from Indonesia declined by 14% in the same period. Difficulties faced by Sri Lankan and lower demand for Indonesian fibre products worsened by global economic uncertainty have negatively affected price of the products and it is expected to remain weak until end of the year.

Figure 1. Average Monthly Price of Coir Fibre, January 2013 – June 2022 (US$/MT)



Benefitting from low price, Sri Lanka boosted exports of coir products to global market despite difficulties faced by the country. In the beginning 2022, Sri Lankan export earnings of coir products an increase of 41% as opposed to previous year's value. Total export value of the products reached Rs 28,580 million or equivalent to US$80.47 million during January-May 2022. Moulded coir products used for horticulture were the country's highest contributor to the export revenue during the period. Export value of moulded coir products which were mainly used for horticulture was US$58.13 million, accounting for more than 72% of the total export value of coir based products. The export value was 57% higher compared to the previous year's value though in terms of volume, export of the product was slightly lower by 0.7% compared to the volume a year earlier. Other products that significantly contributed to the export earnings were mattress fibre, and coir twine.

Sri Lankan coir products were shipped to more than 117 countries around the globe. Mexico,

Table 1. Exports of Coir Products from Sri Lanka, January-May 2021/2022

Fibre Products	Volume			Value (Rs million)		
	Jan-May 2021	Jan-May 2022	% Change	Jan-May 2021	Jan-May 2022	% Change
Mattress Fibre (MT)	33,718	35,579	6	1,670	2,356	41
Bristle Fibre (MT)	680	891	31	169	304	80
Twisted Fibre (MT)	10,778	6,566	-39	695	655	-6
Coir Yarn (MT)	564	484	-14	98	102	4
Coir Twine (MT)	3,040	3,623	19	750	1218	62
Tawashi Brushes (Pcs '000)	8,969	8,072	-10	308	360	17
Coir Brooms & Brushes (Pcs '000) (Other than tawashi)	5,720	5,397	-6	767	1048	37
Rubberized Coir pads & Mattress for Bedding (Pcs)	433,492	772,803	78	80	77	-4
Coir Mats & Rugs (M2)	216,684	196,794	-9	192	244	27
Coir Mattings (M2)	3,031	-	-	1	-	-
Coir Fibre Pith /Dust (MT)	20,403	14,783	-28	1,078	949	-12
Husk Chips (MT)	1,078	1,029	-5	85	114	34
Geo Textiles (MT)	1,950	1,715	-12	427	509	19
Moulded coir products for use in Horticulture (MT)	134,344	133,425	-1	13,114	20,644	57
Total				19,434	28,580	41

Source: CDA, Sri Lanka

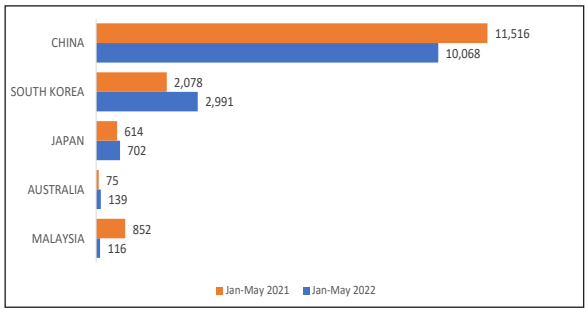
Japan, USA, and China were the main destinations of coir products from Sri Lanka. Total quantity of the products shipped to these countries were 21,075 tons, 13,917 tons, 13,143 tons, and 12,529 tons respectively during January-May 2022.

Meanwhile, India exports of the products during 2021 showed an impressive growth. During period of January-November 2021, exports of coir products from India reached 1.15 million tons which went up by 10% compared to the volume a year earlier. It created an export revenue of US$512.80 million during the period. Powerloom mat and coir pith were the main contributor to the total coir exports. In terms of quantity, export share of the two products was more than 88% which contribute to more than 66% of the export revenue. Other main coir products from India traded globally were geo-textile and coir fibre.

Indian export destinations of coir products cover more than 100 countries worldwide. China and South Korea are the main importers in the Asian continent followed by USA in the American continent. Meanwhile, Netherlands and Spain are the biggest importers in Europe.

Unlike India and Sri Lanka, Indonesian export of coir products showed a negative trend in the beginning of 2022. International shipments of the products from Indonesia were accumulated for 14,321 tons during January-May 2022. The export volume was 6% lower than the volume in 2021 for the same period. Indonesian coir industry suffered from lockdown imposed by Chinese government since China is the major destination for coir products from the country. During the period China received 10,062 tons of fibre products from Indonesia. This was a drawback of more than 12% as opposed to the volume of 11,516 in January-May 2021.

Figure 2. Top 5 Export Destinations of Coir Products from Indonesia, January-May 2021/22 (MT)



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 2. Exports of Coir Products from India, 2020-2021*

Products	2020		2021		Growth (%)	
	Volume (MT)	Value (Rs Lakh)	Volume (MT)	Value (Rs Lakh)	Volume (MT)	Value (Rs Lakh)
Coir Pith	300,205	51,608	336,466	56,545	12	10
Tufted Mats	3,129	2,300	4,187	3,238	34	41
Coir Fibre	16,473	19,815	20,844	25,231	27	27
Handloom Mats	27	37	287	536	946	1,358
Geo-Textiles	63,263	62,104	89,873	94,092	42	52
Coir Yarn	1,119	1,369	1,266	1,537	13	12
Curled Coir	11	18	6	13	-45	-29
Handloom Matting	7,329	5,941	6,923	5,912	-6	-1
Rubberised Coir	284	390	541	750	90	92
Coir Rugs and Carpets	499	476	627	576	26	21
Coir Other Sorts	9,258	2,308	8,379	2,301	-9	0
Coir Rope	762	1,022	812	1,266	7	24
Powerloom Mats	639,290	162,973	680,351	215,884	6	32
Powerloom Matting	540	906	660	1,134	22	25
Total	**1,042,191**	**311,267**	**1,151,229**	**409,013**	**10**	**31**

**) January-November*

COMMUNITY NEWS

MOU BETWEEN GOVERNOR OF NORTH SULAWESI AND ICC TO DEVELOP A SUSTAINABLE COCONUT SECTOR

With the aim of developing a sustainable coconut sector in North Sulawesi, on June 8, 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of North Sulawesi Province and the International Coconut Community. The signing was carried out by Mr. Olly Dondokambey, S.E., Governor of North Sulawesi and Dr. Jefina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, at North Sulawesi Governor's Office at the Bank Sulut Go, Ravindo Tower, 5th Floor, Jl. Kebon Sirih No. 75, Central Jakarta.

The signing of the MoU witnessed by Dr. Ir. Saleh Mokhtar, M.P., Director of Seeds for Estate Crops, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ir. Syafaruddin, Ph. D., Director of the Indonesian Center for Estate Crops Research and Development, Ministry of Agriculture, and Yeittij Roring, S.P., Head of Estate Crops Department, North Sulawesi.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to build an effective relationship between the two parties in technology transfer efficiently and to increase capacity in various aspects of coconut sector development.

The meeting also discussed strategies to address the challenges facing the coconut sector in Indonesia in general, and in North Sulawesi in particular. Various challenges faced by the coconut sector include limited coconut seeds to rejuvenate senile and unproductive coconut plants, low production and productivity, land use change, scarcity in raw materials, tariff barriers for coconut exports, supply chain, logistics, and efforts to increase the added-value of coconut products.

Governor Olly Dondokambey also expressed his support for providing nursery land and empowering local farmers to develop coconut hatcheries, while Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw conveyed ICC's commitment to providing international experts in the field of seedling technology using tissue culture methods to provide training and technology transfer for North Sulawesi researchers to accelerate the multiplication of coconut seeds, which currently does not meet the national coconut seeds needs.

Through this memorandum of understanding, both parties are committed to strengthening cooperation in supporting the government in establishing policies for the development and implementation of its programs in the coconut sector. *(ICC News)*

EXPLORING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SRI LANKAN AND INDONESIAN COCONUT INDUSTRIES

To strengthen and exploring relationship between Sri lankan and Indonesian coconut industry, H.E. Yasoja Gunasekera, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Indonesia and ASEAN has visited the ICC Secretariat, on 9 June 2022. One of the agendas for the meeting was also to discuss the potential partnership and investment between the major coconut industry of Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Join with Her Excellency Ambassador, was Heshani Kaushalya, Third Secretary Embassy of Sri Lanka (Commercial). The ICC Secretariat team was led by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director and joined by Mr. Alit Pirmansah Market & Statistics Officer, Mr. Klaudio D. Hosang, Administrative & Finance Officer, and Mr. Otniel Sintoro Publication Officer, of ICC.

In her welcome address, Dr. Jelfina expressed her appreciation towards the initiative of the embassy of Sri Lanka in Jakarta to visit the ICC for a discussion about the coconut sector and she also expressed her appreciation to the Government of Sri Lanka for organizing the International Training Course for Coconut Development Officers in 2021, the ICC's regular

program for member countries in collaboration with CRI Sri Lanka (CRISL). She also thanked the Government of Sri Lanka for supporting the Tissue Culture Symposium and Workshop in 2022 as part of ICC-COGENT program funded by ACIAR and DFAT, by appointing a TC expert as one of the resource speakers at the events.

Dr. Jelfina also shared ICC's programs that could be of benefit to promoting the coconut industry in Sri Lanka, one of which is the 50th COCOTECH in November 2022, where the Sri Lankan coconut producers can participate and promote their products and keep up with the latest technology in the coconut industry.

H.E. Ambassador Yasoja Gunasekera showed her interest in trade fairs like COCOTECH where the Sri Lankan coconut industries could promote their products. She also shared her gratitude that amid the pandemic the coconut sector in Sri Lanka is still increasing, especially VCO and coconut milk, and, during the economic restructuring, several Sri Lanka's companies want to expand their market and production, therefore they showed interest in investing and seek for B2B partnerships in Indonesia.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw mentioned that ICC could facilitate both parties, to see what opportunities are available in Indonesia or other member countries. She also invited coconut industries in Sri Lanka to visit the leading Indonesian coconut manufacturer to explore best practices in coconut processing and develop partnerships. Sri Lanka as a member country also eligible to utilize all of ICC's statistics and market information available on the ICC's website, publications, and database.

There were in-depth and productive discussions on the potential collaboration and strategic implementation between both countries. The meeting concluded with thanks to the Ambassador and her team. *(ICC News)*

EXPOSURE VISIT TO MACHINE MANUFACTURERS AND COCONUT INDUSTRIES OF INDIA

India is one of the leading country in coconut with highest production and productivity. Many industries are established in India for the coconut processing and for machine manufacturers for coconut based industry. To know more about the strengths and challenges of the coconut industries during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, and to know strategies for addressing problemss as well as to share ideas and knowledge, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC along with Ms. Mridula Kottekate , Assistant Director, Mr. Alit Pirmansah, Market & Statistics Officer and Mr. Klaudio Hosang, Admn and Finance Officer visited some of the machine manufacturing companies and processing industries in Coimbatore, India on 24th and 25th May 2022.

The first company visited was of Essar Engineers, promoted in the year 2001 as a company to manufacture the machineries required for coir pith product manufacturing industries to meet out the international Quality Standards. The promoter K.Rajarathinam is an experienced designer with more than 27 years in the field of machine tool designing and manufacturing equipment for coconut husk, coconut shell and coconut food processing etc. The company installed equipment's for processing coconut husk, coconut peat, coconut shell, coconut kernel and coconut water, virgin coconut oil, desiccated coconut powder processing machines. They have done around 700 installation in coconut growing countries like India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Mozambique, Ivory Coast, Thailand and Vanuatu. Though the company started as manufacturing of machines but later on to coir processing and other products of coconut. He exports the processed coir fibre products in the form of cocopeat to many countries which includes China, Korea, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, African and Caribbean Countries. He is a regular participant of ICC 's International Cocotech Conference and could

establish a wide range relationship between the coconut growing country representatives and able to share his knowledge and experience with other country members. This helped him a lot in expanding his business as well as knowledge in the sector. He has gained a wide knowledge in coconut based products by constantly travelling, presenting papers and installing machines in almost all the coconut growing countries.

Essar Engineering also encouraging precision farming in the name of "Farmagain" which is a smart agriculture using IoT & Artificial Intelligence. In this technology taking care of irrigation, productivity and fertigation.

He mentioned that the major challenges he experienced in this sector is lack of proper research and development. There is a gap between the research done reaching to the actual beneficiaries. Besides short of sufficient fund to take up the research activities. He further added that the policy makers and beaurocrats needs exposure to coconut industry for better understanding of the challenges faced by the farmers and the entrepreneurs.

He expressed his future planning of establishing a training institute for the budding engineers and industrialist who can practice and do their initial training on the processing of various coconut products and learn the things before they go for establishing their own processing units.

The second industry visited is of Food Protech, manufacturer of machines for the Desiccated Coconut Powder and Virgin Coconut Oil Processing Solutions. The team met with Mr. Rakesh, the manager of the company. He explained the functioning of the company and informed that they mainly exporting the machines to Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Ivory Coast and Brazil.

It was a very thrilling experience for the team to visit one of the biggest coconut oil processing unit Marico under the brand "Parachute", located in Perundurai, Coimbatore, India established in the year 1990 occupying 63% of the market share in the coconut oil category. One out of 10 coconuts grown in India are used by Marico. More than 1.5 Billion packs sold every year. During the visit ICC team could able to meet a team of management of Marico led by Mr. Arun V. Head-Copra Buying and Mr. P.J.Subin, Buying Manager, who shared the activities and functioning of Marico. The ICC team could see all the processing including quality analysis of copra, crushing, processing and filtering of the coconut oil. The oil is mainly processed by making white copra collected from the farmers. The final product before going to the customers is passing through different quality check so that the customer can have the best quality coconut oil for their daily use.

Marico having products in the category of value added hair oils, skin care and related products. Marico aspires to be a leading emerging market MNC with a leadership position in the categories of leave in hair nourishment, Foods, skin care and male grooming in a few chosen markets in Asia and Africa. The company also exports its products to markets in the India-sub continent such as Nepal, Bhutan & Sri Lanka as well as Indian Diaspora markets across the globe.

To make a positive difference to the coconut farmers, Parachute Kalpavriksha Foundation was launched in September 2, 2017 on World Coconut Day for improving yield, imparting scientific knowledge and implementing precision farming. Under this program learning, enabling, transforming and train the farmers to be self-capacitated in handling their farms. Introduced digital channels to reach farmers and thru kalpavriksha Mobile application so that the farmers can share their problems and discuss various issues related to coconut cultivation, by means of scientific based farm management, market trends, and integration of other stakeholders in value chain.

By doing this Marico directly linked with famers through sustainable development and social upliftment of farming community. This is one of the unique example of linkage between farmers and a private sector company.

The last company visited was of T&I Global Ltd, manufacturing integrated coconut processing solutions. The company supplying machines mainly to the southern part of India. Mr. Karthik J. GM Marketing briefed the activities of the company. The coconut processing machines are also exporting to countries like Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea.

During the visit to all the four units, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director presented ICC plaque of appreciation and publications.

The visit was quite learning experience for ICC team and was very productive and useful. *(ICC News)*

"THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY AND GOVERNMENT POLICY IN SUSTAINABLE COCONUT DEVELOPMENT"

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, delivered a scientific oration on the topic: "The Role of Technology and Government Policy in Sustainable Coconut Development" in the 62nd Anniversary of Sam Ratulangi University, Manado. The occasion held on May 30th 2022, at the Auditorium of Sam Ratulangi University. She shared the challenges faced by the coconut sector globally, where there is an imbalance between the availability of raw materials for the coconut processing industry and the global market demand for coconut products. Global market demand for coconut products increases from year to year, while coconut production tends to decrease every year.

In Indonesia, low productivity is the result of ageing plants and not being followed by a structured rejuvenation program. Other causes are pest and disease attacks, where lack of maintenance and the varieties used are not liable and susceptible to biotic and abiotic stresses. Another challenge is to maintain reasonable price stability for farmers as producers of raw materials, and for the industry itself.

Another challenge is logistics problems which cause production costs to be higher, especially in isolated and difficult to reach areas. In addition, the global market demand for certified products is another obstacle in the Indonesian coconut sector. Several certifications like USDA Organic, Fair Trade, etc., make it difficult for MSMEs to be able to compete with large industries in the global market.

Dr. Jelfina mentioned that the sustainable development of coconut needs to be carried out with the support of technology, funds, mutualism synergy, and multilateral collaboration between stakeholders as well as policy support from the government by prioritizing the coconut sector as one of the national priority programs.

Dr. Jelfina added that the FAO One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) program might be implemented at the provincial level by mobilizing each district to identify potential main products (One District One Priority Product/SKSPP) so that in one provincial area there are one or more integrated coconut industries. and integrated.

Present at this event, Rector of Sam Ratulangi University, Head of North Sulawesi Police Department, Head of the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Agriculture, Regent of North Minahasa, Deputy Major of Tomohon, Deputy Regent of Minahasa, Deputy Regent of Mitra, Regional Leadership Coordination Forum of North Sulawesi, Chair of Manado Family Welfare Movement, Treasurer of the Association Alumni of the Faculty of Agriculture, Chair of the Sam Ratulangi University Senate and Chair of the Faculty of Agriculture Senate, Dean of Faculty of Agriculture Sam Ratulangi University, Professors of Unsrat as well as lecturers of the Faculty of Agriculture Sam Ratulangi University, Manado. *(ICC News)*

LOOKING FORWARD TO SUSTAINABLE COCONUT INDONESIAN COCONUT PROCESSING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Indonesian Coconut Processing Industry Association (HIPKI) had a meeting with Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, and the Secretariat team on 25th June 2022. The association of companies engaged in the coconut processing industry and strongly supports every effort made by stakeholders to restore the performance and sustainability of coconut in Indonesia.

From HIPKI, attended the meeting were Mr. Jeffrey Koes Wonsono (Vice Chairman I/PT Pacific Eastern Coconut Utama), Mr. Rudy Hadiwidjaja (Chief Executive/PT Pulau Sambu), Mr. Dippos Naloanro (Head of Various Coconut Products Industry/PT Mega Innovation Organic), Mr. Erwan Bambang (Deputy Head of Carbon, Briquette and Coconut Coir Industry, CV ECO Indonesian Products), Mr. Indra Satiragani (Head of Coconut Water Industry/PT Sari Segar Husada), Mrs. Heryana Pranayasa (Deputy Chair of Inter, Agency Cooperation and Relations/ PT Sari Segar Husada), Mr. Michael Darwis, Deputy Chair III, PT Ikaindo Indonesia Carbonic Industry, Mr. Michael Darwis (Deputy Chair III/ PT Ikaindo Indonesia Carbonic Industry). While attended via an online platform were Mr. Hadi Santoso (Member/PT Sasa Inti) and Mr. Amrizal Idroes (Head of Inter-Agency Cooperation and Relations).

Mr. Rudy Hadiwidjaja, Chief Executive, HIPKI delivered the opening speech. Mr. Jeffrey Koes Wonsono, Vice Chairman, HIPKI, shared challenges in the national coconut sector that have not received comprehensive attention and action from all stakeholders. Some of the problems include a decrease in the area of coconut plantations and coconut productivity due to old and ageing palms, low replanting, and high import duty rates imposed on processed coconut products from Indonesia to importing countries such as the European Union and China, and high logistics costs.

The conditions above in the long term will have an impact on the sustainability of the coconut ecosystem in Indonesia. Therefore, the Association of Indonesian Coconut Processing Industries emphasized the urgent need to establish a forum of coconut sustainability development platform that is able to accommodate all coconut stakeholders (farmers, processing industries, government institutions, private sector, academics, NGOs, MSMEs, and other beneficiary groups). The platform is expected to be able to play a holistic role in overcoming the problems, from the upstream to the downstream practices.

Dr. Jelfina mentioned that the discussion has provided information, input, and opinion of the Association, and global insight from the ICC. As an intergovernmental organization of coconut producing countries, ICC supports program of any legal institutions or associations that have clear objectives to support the implementation of sustainable development goals (SDG) for the coconut sector.

Mr. Michael Darwis, Deputy Chair III, HIPKI, the discussion and underlined the importance of both parties working together for the sustainability and the future of the coconut sector. *(ICC News)*

REDUCE WORKLOAD IN COCONUT PLANTATIONS: INDONESIA INNOVATION

An excellent method for counting objects has been created by Yogyakarta-based startup Widya Robotics. The coconut plantations that produce hundreds of coconuts per day can use this technique.

The tedious procedure of counting thousands of coconuts can be solved, claims Ruby Abdullah, Head of AI Division at Widya Robotics, increasing production capacity by up to three times. To count the number of coconuts that travel through the conveyor, Widya Robotics created the Coconut Counter Vision Intelligence (VI) solution.

In a press statement, he stated, "Through Coconut Counter, we applied technology, item identification, object tracking, and object counting."

The process entails first detecting the object and then tracking its progress. The object will be counted if it passes the line. This could facilitate labor, increase computation accuracy, shorten workdays, and conserve workers' energy.

In November 2021, Widya Robotics started working on the Coconut Counter, which is already being deployed in a Bintan Island coconut processing facility. This technology is open source and might be modified to suit a variety of requirements. According to him, this technology was developed "so that not only the coconut industry, but other industries that need computation solutions, could use it, and so that any changes in the business process could be accommodated by this solution." *(Liputan 6 Jateng)*

A PORTABLE, UNIVERSITY-DEVELOPED COCONUT DEHUSKER ARE READY FOR COMMERCIAL DEPLOYMENT

The SAFitek Coco Dehusker, a newly created, locally produced coconut dehusker has been approved for commercialization by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Philippines. The team is now searching for commercial fabricators to whom they may license the technology.

Researchers from Zamboanga del Norte's Jose Rizal Memorial State University's Tampilisan Campus created the dehusker. The unit can dehusk more than 500 coconuts every hour, according to the researchers, and is made to accommodate all shapes and variations of Philippine coconuts. The machine's mobility is another selling point, according to the team. Its body weighs 75 kilos, which is far less than the average weight of dehuskers now on the market, which can range from 350 to 750 kilograms. Dehuskers that are currently on the market are cumbersome for farmers to carry.

The researchers added that the device may help the nation's 2.5 million coconut producers, who presently rely mainly on manual dehusking and are at a higher risk of injury. According to the team, the device will also speed up the process.

The team's entrepreneurial head, Yhebron Lagud, stated: "We are looking for business partners, fabricators, and distributors who want to create and distribute the SAFitek Coco Dehusker."

A group of engineers led by Kalfred Doydora, Jeward Dagodog, and Jayrald Misperos created SAFitek. Yhebron Lagud, director of the research division at JRMSU-TC, Jariet Adriatico, from the JRMSU Innovation and Technology Support Office, and Ma are working with the team to commercialize the device. JRMSU's Knowledge and Technology Transfer Office's Corina E. Camazo

The innovation won the 2019 Regional Invention Contest and Exhibit on a regional level (RICE). The technology became the first from the university to earn intellectual property protection thanks to the assistance of the DOST-IX and DOST's Technology Application and Promotion Institute in obtaining a utility model certificate from the Intellectual Property Office.

A P1.2 million grant from the DOST-IX, in addition to the team's aspirations to market the dehusker, will enable the technology to be used in a few provinces "to further popularize and test" it. *(Rappler)*

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WILL PRESENT COCONUT PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS

Over 2.5 million Filipino coconut farmers make up the lowest of the poor in the nation, and Agriculture Secretary William Dar is well aware of their suffering.

As a result, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) immediately developed the programs and projects under the five-year Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) that will be funded by the P75 billion Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund after President Rodrigo Duterte signed Republic Act 11524, or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act, into law on February 26, 2021 (CFITF).

The creation and implementation of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act (RA 11524) will change the game and help millions of marginal coconut farmers and their families become more productive and earn more money, according to Secretary Dar.

The PCA will oversee the following programs as required by law:

- Manufacture, replanting, and research of hybrid coconut seedlings;
- Instruction in farm schools for coconut farmers and the members of their families who are recognized in the coconut farmers registry.
- Coconut marketing, research, and promotion;
- Provision of farm equipment, the adoption of crop diversification, and the intercropping of coconuts with the production of cattle, dairy, poultry, coffee, and cacao;
- Shared facilities for processing coconuts;
- Establishing and strengthening associations for coconut farmers;
- Credit provision through the Philippine Development Bank and Land Bank of the Philippines;
- Infrastructure development;
- Scholarship initiatives for young people, rural women, and children of farmers;
- Programs for farmers' families' health and medical care;
- Crop insurance

The PCA established the CFIDP-Trust Fund Management Committee to oversee how the P75 billion CFITF is invested.

According to PCA Administrator Benjamin Madrigal Jr., the organization created a Coconut Farmers and Industry Roadmap, or CocoFIRM, before RA 11524 was passed in order to evaluate the coconut industry's situation at the time and establish its capabilities. This endeavor served as the model and foundation for choosing the CFIDP's programs and projects.

He continued by saying that the PCA had made important organizational changes to become more effective, responsive, and pro-active in growing the nation's coconut business.

As the Duterte administration draws to a close, this will be the president's lasting legacy in terms of enhancing the lives and livelihood of our dear coconut farmers, according to Administrator Madrigal. "After more than 40 years of waiting, the law for the management and utilization of the coco levy fund that was enacted last year will now be finally implemented in fulfillment of President Duterte's campaign promise to our coconut farmers," she added.

The CFIDP has been approved by President Duterte, allowing the incoming government of Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. to begin allocating cash for the program's numerous programs and activities. Following is the timeline for the release of the monies under the CFITF: P10 immediately after the coco levy act is passed; P10 billion in the second year; P15 billion in the third year; P15 billion in the fourth year; and P25 billion in the fifth year, plus any amount accruing, including interest.

According to Secretary Dar, the CFIDP will boost the Philippine coconut industry's contribution to total agricultural gross value added (GVA) and maintain the nation's position as the top exporter of coconut goods in the world in addition to raising productivity and incomes for coconut farmers. *(Manila Times)*

SINGH CONSIDERES COCONUT WATER INDUSTRY

The revival of the coconut sector could be "significantly beneficial" for Trinidad and Tobago as demand for its goods develops on a worldwide scale.

Avinash Singh, a minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, and Fisheries (MALF), Trinidad and Tobago, made this statement while speaking at a workshop on coconut sensitization that was organized in conjunction with the ministry by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

According to Singh, T&T stands to benefit significantly from the sustained revitalization of the coconut industry, whose products and byproducts have surged in demand and continue to command a favorable price globally.

At the workshop, which was conducted at the Sugarcane Feeds Centre in Longdenville, Chaguanas, the management of the South American palm weevil and "Lethal Yellowing" were the main topics of discussion.

Considering the recovery of the industry globally and the rising demand for its goods and byproducts, Singh stated that the MALF was targeting the development of local coconut production as one of its key commodities.

Market worth $4.27 billion US

According to him, the market for coconut water was estimated to be worth $4.27 billion globally in 2019 and is projected to increase at a rate of 16.1% each year between 2020 and 2027.

The indigenous coconut business was receiving special attention due to its potential to positively impact T&T's Gross Domestic Product and its alignment with the expanding demands of a network of health-conscious customers.

Despite being the primary driver of economic activity and the growth of rural villages along Trinidad's east coast, Singh claimed that the coconut sector experienced a decrease in the 1970s and 1980s.

This resulted from the introduction of pests and diseases, specifically Cedros Wilt and Red Ring disease, as well as the trend away from using coconut oil in favor of soy oil.

The under-cultivated fields, abandoned estates, and aging plantations that resulted from these conditions, according to Singh, "left us essentially unprepared for any eventual/ actual recovery which would take place within the sector."

Singh said: "Since the 1990s, there has been a spectacular surge in demand for tender coconut water and other by-products of coconut, leading to huge price hikes. The demand for coconut by-products has grown more rapidly than our existing supply since they are now recognized as being good for human health and wellbeing on a local, regional, and global scale.

In order to maintain a healthy lifestyle, people all over the world have been adopting more and more nutritious drinks in recent years, and coconut water is by far the most popular plant-based water that is sold.

Singh praised the workshop as the latest in a string of CARDI-led partnerships aimed at revitalizing coconut estates all over the region.

According to him, the goal of the workshop was to aid in the conceptualization of a development plan for Trinidad and Tobago's coconut industry.

A technical expert team from the University of Florida, the Coconut Industry Board (Jamaica), and the International Trade Centre led the session.

According to a press statement from the Ministry of Agriculture, it was sponsored by the European Union as part of the Alliances for

Coconut Industry Development Expansion and Enhanced Support for the Caribbean (ACIDEES) initiative. *(Trinidad Express)*

TRA VINH TO INCREASE THE VALUE OF COCONUTS AND SATISFY EXPORT REQUIREMENTS

The province of Tra Vinh in the Mekong Delta intends to increase the value of its coconut goods in order to increase farmer incomes and satisfy export demands in the years 2022–25.

According to a plan recently authorized by its People's Committee, investment in coconut production and the creation of connections between diverse producers and consumers are planned.

With connections, businesses can ensure a supply of clean coconuts for processing, and farmers can have outlets and incomes that are assured.

The province will offer support programs for small and medium-sized processors to increase their competitiveness while also assisting the businesses in producing goods that fulfill import market requirements and international standards.

With assured purchases from businesses, it will create concentrated coconut-growing zones that adhere to organic standards and Vietnamese good agricultural practices (VietGAP).

It will work with the province of Ben Tre and institutions to discover high-quality coconut varieties that can be farmed there and construct infrastructure for such locations.

It will investigate biological controls for illnesses and pests that affect coconuts.

It will help farmers and cooperatives create new coconut-growing regions and enhance the quality of those that already exist.

After its neighbor Ben Tre, Tra Vinh is the nation's second-largest producer of coconuts.

Le Van Dong, the deputy director of the province's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, claims that there are about 90,000 households in the province, and there are 25,000 ha of coconut fields there that produce 300 million nuts annually.

The districts of Cang Long, Tieu Can, and Chau Thanh are mostly where coconuts are farmed. Four enterprises in the province operate in 13 organic farming zones totaling 4,012ha, all of which adhere to international standards.

By 2025, it intends to double this area, with 6,000 ha meeting standards for international certification.

Additionally, it seeks to have at least ten businesses collaborate with farmers to grow coconuts and prepare them for export.

To grow organic coconuts, certain Ben Tre-based businesses have already formed partnerships with Tra Vinh farmers.

For instance, the Cang Long and Tieu Can districts' Ben Tre Import and Export Joint Stock Corporation has partnered with local farmers to develop 1,383 acres of organic coconut that satisfies global standards.

Farmers receive 10–20 percent more for their nuts than they would if they were grown conventionally.

This year, Tra Vinh has launched a campaign to encourage Ben Tre processors to increase their investment in the production of organic coconuts. *(Vietnam Plus)*

SALCEDA TO BBM: DON'T FORGET THE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS

Rep. Joey Salceda of Albay is requesting that the administration of the Philipines President-elect

Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. make sure that "marginal farmers" or small coconut farmers who are not members of coconut farmer associations can still gain access to the P75 billion Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund.

The Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), which was authorized by President Duterte under Executive Order No. 172, s., was approved by Salceda, who is also the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, in a statement. Salceda expressed his hope that the incoming Marcos Jr. administration will be open to "tweaking" the CFIDP. He signed the agreement on June 8th, 2022.

The Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan, which serves as the general framework for the usage of the Coco Levy Trust Fund, "identifies two sectors that are not particularly well-articulated. The poorest of the poor, both nationally and as a segment of the coconut business, are marginal or small-scale farmers. Crop diversification and intercropping, which is the best approach to increase coconut farmers' productivity and profitability per peso, are the second area of concern, according to Salceda.

Under Republic Act No. 11524, the P75 billion Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund was established last year.

With the approval of the CFIDP, which would serve as the overall utilization plan for the coco levy revenue, Duterte issued EO 172 series of 2022.

The coco levy fund will be used by the CFIDP for the following national initiatives: creation of community-based businesses; provision of social protection for coconut farmers, farmworkers, and their families; organization and development of coconut farmers; conducting cutting-edge research on the production, distribution, and processing of coconuts; and integrated processing of coconut and downstream products.

According to Salceda, one of the biggest employers in the province of Albay is the coconut industry.

Salceda stated, referring to discussions at a UP-Los Baos convocation where he was the keynote speaker this week: "I have recently had a consultation on the agriculture sector with major agriculturists, including national scientists, agricultural economists, agri-engineers, and others.

"We have determined that crop diversification, which would make them less susceptible to the industry's price 'cyclicalities,' is the greatest approach to pull coconut farmers out of poverty. According to estimates, 50 percent of coconut producers live in poverty. double the national average or more. As a result, helping the coconut business also means helping the farmers who grow the crop.

"With an estimated P15 billion in annual exports, we are either the greatest or second-largest exporter of coconut products worldwide. And value-added can help us do better. However, you cannot add value if farmers are not bankable, and in order to be bankable, farmers must at the very least not be impoverished. Therefore, Salceda continued, "farmer income is essential to strengthening the coconut sector.

Salceda contends that either agricultural consolidation or "cooperativism"—helping small farm owners consolidate—should be the responsibility of the government. That suggests that we might need to send some farm managers or experts to regions that produce coconuts, he said. *(Business Mirror)*

COCONUTS ARE BEING USED TO STRENGTHEN AGRICULTURE

Contrary to popular belief, the Philippines largest agriculture subsector in terms of farmers is the coconut industry. It supports 3.6 million hectares of crop planting and 2.5 million farmers.

According to data from the Philippine Coconut Authority, the average national farmgate price is currently hovering around P37 per kilo, up from the 2019 number of roughly P15 to P20 per kilo. Mill gate prices are currently at approximately P45 to P47, up from P22 to P23 per kilo in 2019. (PCA 2019 Annual report). In 2018, there were 14.7 million metric tons produced annually. In the country, 69 of the 82 provinces grow coconuts, with Mindanao having the highest coconut production rates.

Nevertheless, we excel in growing the crop of coconut, ranking among the top five coconut producers worldwide.

Farms' expanding potential

What makes the coconut palm unique? In that we harvest its fruits and other byproducts to make it productive, coconut is a perennial crop. Since coconuts are a perennial crop, we don't need to replant them every year, exposing soil to erosion. Many coconut lands are sloped areas not as conducive to other food crops. Additionally, under the shade of the coconut tree, farmers can raise farm animals and grow other cash crops like corn, cacao, and coffee, providing them with additional income. Coconut farms with more electricity and diversification have the potential to boost Philippine agriculture and agricultural revenues overall.

Industries downstream will increase jobs

The coconut sector has the ability to increase employment levels and improve Philippine agriculture more broadly, in addition to farming the commodity itself. Expect an increase in demand for the product from farms if manufacturing and processing industries of many types (not just copra, desiccated coconut, and oil) like oleo chemicals, biodiesel, and soap, coir and dust for soil conditioning, flour, and activated carbon for filters and face masks. The farms and everyone else along the value chain benefit financially as a result.

I anticipate farm gate prices to remain stable over time, and the number of families earning from coconuts and these other industries dependent on coconuts to rise even further, attracting more people to do a "balik probinsya" and leave congested Metro Manila. If more of these industries are promoted and established in the countryside, particularly in the major coconut producing regions in Mindanao.

Therefore, it is important that we continue to encourage investment in growing these businesses. Republic Act 1154 Republic Act No. 11524, the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Trust Fund Act will pave the way for utilising the coconut levy fund, and the recently signed Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) can be our a roadmap for development. If aggressively pursued, this development of the downstream coconut industry will be our "agroindustrial complex".

What else is possible?

It is obvious that growing coconuts will be profitable, and this profitability will increase if downstream enterprises that add value to the crop's processing are developed nearby, particularly in the Mindanao region. Perhaps regional chambers of commerce, trade associations, and farmers cooperatives can actively collaborate to promote investment opportunities in the processing and manufacturing of coconuts in many regions. This will increase crop demand, encourage higher yields, encourage the use of technology, and result in higher farm incomes. To spread awareness of these prospects, investment roadshows and events might be marketed. It is now. *(Manila Bulletin)*

RUE FALL IN PRICES FOR COCONUT FARMERS; COLLECTOR ADVISES VALUE ADDITION

The Madurai, India, district has some areas where coconuts are produced, but the farmers there claim that the crop doesn't fetch a high

price. At the grievance meeting, they expressed their problems to Dr. Aneesh Sekhar, the district collector, and claimed that the majority of the coconuts they grow are standard size, not the larger ones that sell for a lot of money. Nagendran, a coconut farmer, pleaded with the district administration to create a procurement center-like system to solve their problems. *(Times of India)*

WORLD RECORD SET BY COCONUT-BASED DISHES FROM BEN TRE

On June 27, the World Records Union (WorldKings) and the Vietnam Records Organization (Vietkings) recognized the 222 dishes made with coconut that were prepared at an occasion that took place in the province of Ben Tre in the Mekong Delta.

The province People's Committee was informed of the recognition decisions at the event, which was held to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Vietnamese poet Nguyen Dinh Chieu (1822 -2022).

Speaking at the event, Nguyen Thi Be Muoi, the vice chairwoman of the provincial People's Committee, said that the recognition helps to promote Ben Tre's culture and tourism.

The dishes showcase the chefs' creativity in coming up with delicious, visually appealing, and healthy fare.

Due to the coconut tree's saltwater resistance and climate change adaptation, Ben Tre, the nation's largest coconut-producing region, aims to expand its organic coconut cultivation.

One of the key components of its agricultural restructuring program is coconut, for which organic standards have been developed to satisfy the needs of both domestic and international markets. *(Vietnam Plus)*

THROUGH THE BILATERAL COOPERATION PROJECT WITH MEXICO, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HOSTS A FIVE-DAY TRAINING FOR COCONUT FARMERS

At the Ministry's Agro-processing Unit in Central Farm, the Ministry of Agriculture, Belize, is organizing a five-day training for coconut growers as part of the Bilateral Cooperation Project with Mexico.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise (MAFSE), the training is being conducted in collaboration with the Mexico National Research Institute of Forestry, Agriculture, and Livestock, the Mexican International Agency for Cooperation and Development (Amexcid), and the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (INIFAP).

According to MAFSE, "the training's goal is to strengthen the coconut value chain by implementing good manufacturing practices in the processing of products and byproducts, as well as to consolidate the coconut production chain by diversifying the market opportunities.

According to Barry Palacio, the national coordinator for non-traditional fruit trees, "the one-week training exercise is looking at the processing of coconut water, the pulp, and the husk for both green and dry coconuts, as well as coconut oil and other byproducts from coconut."

According to Palacio, 23 people are taking part in the training led by INIFAP researchers Justo Abelardo Tepal Chale and Octavio Rojas Rodrguez in Mexico.

Palacio stated, "We have employees from the agro-processing lab itself, technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, and processors from various regions of the country.

In a sense, it's a training of trainers exercise, as the Ministry will continue to provide this training for the producers in Belize after they depart.

Due to its hardiness and capacity for traveling great distances while floating in the sea, according to MAFSE, the coconut tree is cultivated in 93 different nations.

"Every part of the plant has the potential to be used, giving its producers sustenance, food, shelter, and a place to live. According to MAFSE, the bulk of farmers live in rural areas with very little additional land for their production.

Palacio reaffirmed that INIFAP and the Ministry of Agriculture are working together to provide the training. Other parties that collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture are also involved, he said.

"Overall, the Ministry is making a concerted effort to communicate with various stakeholders, including the International Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), and the International Trade Center (ITC), in order to better assist farmers. Along with pineapples, passion fruit, and soursop, the Ministry of Agriculture has designated coconuts as a priority commodity. Therefore, we are focusing on those commodities and allocating resources to be able to better serve the farmers.

Palacio stated that the Pesticide Control Board and the Belize Agriculture Health Authority (BAHA) are also working together (PCB).

He stated that "these agencies will work together throughout the entire value chain in the manufacturing of these goods."

Palacio noted that the start of the training program was attended by Miriam Villanueva, Head of the Chancellery at the Mexican Embassy. *(Breaking Belize News)*

PALM AND COCONUT TREES ARE RE-INTRODUCED BY SOLUDO AS THE FUTURE HOPE OF THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY

As the future of crude oil continues to deteriorate, Anambra State Governor Chukwuma Soludo has predicted that palm oil and coconuts will eventually return because they might stay in the South-East economy like in the past.

As he officially began the wet season farming in Anambra State in 2022, Soludo shared his opinion, placing special emphasis on regenerative agriculture, the coconut and palm economies.

Governor Soludo said during the flag-off event that his administration is committed to rekindling the state's palm revolution. The ceremony's theme was "Empowering Women and Youth via Regenerative Agriculture for Sustainable Development."

Insisting that Anambra will fully utilize its potential in the agricultural sector, Governor Soludo urged youth and women to seize the chance.

He described agriculture as the "traditional economy," pledged that the Anambra State Government would support agricultural-based economic diversification, and urged farmers in the state to keep growing their businesses by assuring them of the government's backing.

In addition, Soludo emphasized the necessity of promoting Anambra-made goods in all contexts and his determination to make agriculture the cornerstone of the state's economic growth.

The Federal Director of Agriculture in Anambra State, Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar, who served as the minister for agriculture,

Comrade Arthur Mbuba mentioned Anambra's accomplishments in agriculture and expressed optimism that the state will continue to prosper in this area under the Soludo government.

He said the federal government is working hard to promote productive wet and dry season farming throughout the nation with the goal of raising the gross domestic product and adding to the number of jobs. *(Independent)*

THREATS TO THE LOCAL COCONUT INDUSTRY IN SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

In addition to attempting to recover from the nearly crippling effects of the 2021 volcanic eruptions, the local coconut industry is currently threatened by diseases that have the potential to destroy the industry.

Currently, red palm mites, a species of weevil that affects palm trees, including coconuts, are attacking nearby coconut plantations.

Lethal Yellowing, a disease that destroys coconut trees, is now now being kept an eye on in trees.

Osborne Labban, an agricultural officer in the Plant Protection Unit, stated that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has not been confirmed to have Lethal Yellowing (SVG).

To prevent the disease from spreading to SVG, ministry of agriculture officials are keeping a close eye on the situation.

According to Labban, if the Red Palm Mite, which is present here, becomes seriously infested, trees could perish.

According to Labban, this has an impact on the leaves and makes them turn yellow before eventually falling off.

He revealed that the Ministry of Agriculture is considering using a biological substance to introduce control measures that would destroy the insect.

The alternative, according to Labban, would be to spray pesticides on the coconut trees to eliminate the Red Palm Mite.

He noted that this is not a viable option due to the height of many of the coconut trees around St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Already, the lack of easily accessible dried nuts is causing complaints from traffickers and other individuals involved in the coconut industry.

Given that "almost 70% of our coconut trees were in the red and orange zones," the local coconut sector was negatively impacted by the volcanic eruptions last year, according to Minister of Agriculture Saboto Caesar.

In areas from Orange Hill to Fancy, as well as on plantations on the Leeward end of the country, he claimed that many of these trees collapsed due to the weight of heavy volcanic ash.

The sweltering heat during the past few months was another challenge for the trees that survived the ash.

Minister Caesar acknowledged that "this has had a negative impact on our production."

He said that the effort to replant coconut trees, which started six months before the eruptions, is still going strong thanks to the support of the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

Caesar is advising farmers to pick up their coconut trees from the ministry of agriculture as a result.

The minister stated that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has come to be known as the breadbasket of the Southern Caribbean through time, a title it must work to uphold.

Many people, mostly women, rely on coconuts to create oil, and the lack of coconuts is having an impact on even this cottage sector.

Caesar reported that the volcanic explosion also killed nearly 90% of the ackee trees that were planted in the red zone on the Leeward side

of the continent, in addition to destroying and damaging coconut estates. *(Searchlight)*

THE RHINOCEROUS BEETLE POSES A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE COCONUT TREES IN PNG

In numerous remote areas during the past few weeks, many candidates for this year's national general elections will have traveled the arduous, lonesome, and dusty journey.

High peaks, dense jungle, swift rivers, deep oceans, mosquito-infested marshes, and remote islands will make the going extremely difficult.

But one must go to the residence of the voter. Where the formerly inaccessible are now unexpectedly accessible, one must go! The neighborhood coconut wireless has been working nonstop for the last four weeks.

Under the cover of the coconut palms, it has been singing an election-related tune, enticing and attracting everyone who can be seduced by 'kulau' juice.

Many people will hang their posters from high, visible, and ideal viewing locations.

Many people will decide that the soaring palm is the best place to hang their posters and fix their dreams of gaining the support of the copra producers. But do they have any knowledge of the common coconut tree?

The lowly coconut tree has supported rural populations for ages, particularly those living along the coast and on islands.

Coconut palm fronds can be made into fans, hats, and brooms, while coconut stumps can be used to build sturdy house posts, pig fence, and mats and baskets. Depending on the nut's age, the fruit's fluids are delectable, and the flesh is delicious.

The cream's coconut oil is used to make strong body oils and a variety of food preparations.

Coconut trees are always used. It is known as the tree of life in the Pacific, together with the breadfruit.

Coconut is one of the top four agricultural exports from PNG in the present day.

One of PNG's most sought-after exports, along with coffee, cocoa, and oil palm, is coconut and the copra it produces.

A curious little destructive beetle, however, is about to destroy the cherished coconut palm in less than ten years.

The PNG NAQIA has been monitoring the rhinoceros beetle for the past ten years due to its destructive behavior, particularly when it targets coconut trees and other fruit-bearing palm trees.

A multimillion kina industry, copra. In PNG, coconut palms are crucial to many people's lives. The beetle's resistance to viral control will have disastrous consequences.

Copra is the fourth-biggest agricultural export product for PNG and the leading exporter of the crop in the Pacific area.

Nine percent of the gross domestic product in PNG is contributed by copra. Imagine that turning into a vacuum as a result of that pest.

By burrowing into the stem of the plant and eating on the sap, the beetle harms the developing leaves. After a severe infestation, the plant will become defoliated and eventually die.

It is being seen in numerous locations along PNG's coast.

According to a story in the Pacific Advocate online, the South Pacific Community is collaborating closely with governmental

organizations to discover strategies to slow the spread of the insect.

It issues a warning that the Guam strain of the rhinoceros beetle (CRB-G) could destroy copra plantations.

This situation is terrifying. The biological and viral controls that have been successful elsewhere have not been able to control this particular species.

Since the pest lacks natural enemies and is immune to virus-based pest control, it is rapidly spreading to new locations.

The good news is that the PNG National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA) and Kokonas Indastri Koporesen (KIK) have signed a new grant agreement with the Pacific Community (SPC) to support efforts to control the CRB-G.

The SPC has a strategy to combat the rhino beetle, according to Dr. Mark Ero, project manager for Pacific Awareness and Response to Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (PARC).

It is hoped that the newly elected PNG Parliament will view the threat to coconuts as serious enough to demand full support for NAQIA and KIK as they launch their plans to combat this pest. *(Post-Courier)*

FNRI AND PHILBAKING WILL RELEASE COCO PANDESAL

The Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), the Philippines, an organization linked to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), will introduce the coco pandesal together with other partners as part of the DOST's push for wheat substitutes. The FNRI has performed a nutrient analysis for the coco pandesal, which will be created by the Philippine Baking Industry, according to DOST Secretary Fortunato dela Pea (PhilBaking). According to Secretary dela Pea, PhilBaking started the initiative to make coco pandesal with wheat flour and coconut flour.

"The DOST is concerned about the geopolitical factors contributing to the growing price of wheat flour. The DOST held several meetings to determine which of the local flours can be used as an alternative to wheat flour, working with various agencies including the Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry, Philippine Coconut Authority, Virgin Coconut Oil Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines (VCOP), and PhilBaking. He continued that these organizations looked at coconut, sweet potato, and cassava flour as alternatives. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MILLION OF FARMERS WILL BENEFIT FROM COCONUT INDUSTRY EO

Sen. Cynthia Villar claimed that the issue of the Philippines President Duterte's Executive Order (EO) on coconut farmers and the industry development plan would help 3.5 million farmers.

Over the weekend, Villar declared that the EO approving the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) is a "positive development" since it will enable the release of a P75 billion trust fund from assets acquired through the coco tax to finance the expansion of the coconut industry.

Villar, the chair of the Senate agriculture and food committee, claimed that it "marked the fulfillment of President Duterte's vow to return the coco levy revenues to their genuine and legitimate owners — the coconut farmers."

Villar was the author of Republic Act 11524, also known as the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act, which was enacted on February 26, 2021, and took effect on March 13, 2021.

The CFIDP, which was required to be created by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) under RA 11524 and aimed at increasing the

competitiveness of coconut growers in the nation, was approved by Duterte under EO 172.

According to Villar, behind Indonesia, the Philippines is the world's second-largest producer of coconuts. The Davao region continues to be the nation's top producer of coconuts, producing 14.4% of the nation's total production. Northern Mindanao comes in second with 12.9%, followed by the Zamboanga Peninsula with 13.6%. By island group, Mindanao produces 46% of the world's coconuts, Visayas 34%, and Luzon 20%.

The total coco levy cash assets as of December 31, 2020 were assessed to be worth P113.88 billion by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, of which P76.4 billion is cash.

Villar added, "We appreciate President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for this legacy he will leave to the Philippines' coconut sector and the country's farmers and farmworkers.

Villar stated that the EO intends to increase the local coconut growers' level of competitiveness and noted how it would improve the lives of the country's coconut farmers from the 68 provinces that produce coconuts.

The President recognized the value of establishing a strategy for the growth of the coconut industry when he signed the EO on June 2.

The EO stated that approval of the CFIDP was necessary to boost coconut farmers' overall production and income, reduce poverty, and accomplish the twin goals of repairing and modernizing the coconut industry to achieve social fairness.

The coconut industry, according to Villar, has a very high potential for expansion through productivity improvement, industry diversification, and value addition. It can contribute to rural industrialization and employment growth, she said, if properly handled.

However, she acknowledged that the coconut business faces challenges, citing the unstructured supply chain, the vulnerability of coconut to changes in the global price, and low farm productivity as some of them.

This last issue is brought on by cocolisap infestations, the deterioration of the existing coconut tree crop, poor nutrition, insufficient infrastructure assistance, and subpar farm-to-market highways.

The CFIDP will be implemented by the PCA and other pertinent government agencies, according to EO 172.

The CFIDP should be under Section 4 of RA 11524 and take into account how the annual Trust Fund allocation is distributed, including the creation of hybrid coconut seed farms and nurseries for planting and replanting (20%), which will be carried out by the PCA (15%) and the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (5%). *(Phil Star Global)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Vegetable oil prices decreased again.

As prices continued to decline, Rotterdam's coconut oil market was more active than the previous week, with six turnovers recorded as opposed to two. Compared to a week before, when it was $1,610–1,625, the traded level was $1,575–1,820/MT CIF. Lower offers of $1,583.75–1,650/MT CIF for positions from July–August through January–February 2023 were on the market when it debuted. Following that, levels declined even more as a result of falling palm oil and soybean oil prices, but they managed to turn around at close to settle at $1,565-1,650/

MT CIF. At a wider spread, it kept its superior position over palm kernel oil.

Palm kernel oil also witnessed little activity, with reported deals at $1,285-1,330/MT CIF, down from $1,400-1,460 one week earlier. For roles beginning in July/August and lasting through January/February 2023, opening levels were likewise lower, at $1,320-1,360/MT CIF. Values then began to decline even further, with the exception of the closest position, which changed. Level was $1,300-1,372.50/MT CIF at the close.

Coconut oil maintained its pricing premium above palm kernel oil for the third week in a row this week with spreads expanding weekly. At $291.74/MT, the average price premium has significantly increased from $76.64 two weeks ago and $193.65 one week ago. The following spreads per position all remained above $240: June/July $496.67 ($180.75 last week); July/August $275 ($157); August/September $285.50 ($191.20); September/October $265.00 ($201.85); October/November $268.00 ($206.00); November/December $270.75 ($202.50); December/January $263.00 ($200.50); January/February 256.25 ($192.92); February/March 245.00 ($188.

This week saw a decline in soybean futures at the CBOT Soya Complex Market due to a weaker grain market, lower prices for palm oil and crude mineral oil, and worries about a slowing global economy. At the close, however, the market recovered as investors opened up new positions by benefiting from the lower prices. The weather, which was hot and dry, supported prices as well.

The market in the palm oil segment started more easily, continuing the trend from the previous week, and then mostly declined for the remainder of the week. Expectations of increased supply from Indonesia when the nation resumed exporting palm oil, weakness in other markets including petroleum oil and soybean oil, and low demand all put pressure on the market. However, thanks to short covering, the market ended higher.

Prices of tropical oils for the upcoming shipment continued to decline. Coconut oil shed $47.50 from last week at $1,684 down to $1,636.50/MT CIF this week while palm kernel oil sank more steeply by $165.50 from $1,527 to $1,361.50/MT CIF. Like palm kernel oil, palm oil similarly dropped severely by $153.73 from $1,580.00 to $1,426.27/MT CIF. As a result, this week saw a significant widening of the coconut oil price premium. In the current week, the spread against palm kernel oil increased from $157 to $275/MT, while the spread against palm oil increased from $104 to $210.23/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

Even though there were more shipments than the two traded last week, there was still little activity in the Rotterdam market for coconut oil. Trades were reported for June/July at $1,685, $1,820 for October/November at $1,580, and for November/December, December/January, and January/February 2023 at $1,575/MT CIF. Sellers quoted $2,100 for June/July, $1,650 for July/August, $1,630 for August/September, $1,570 for September/October and October/November, $1,565 for November/December and December/January, $1,600 for January/February, and $1,580/MT CIF for February/March 2023 as prices for the remaining months of the year. Only the June/July asking prices of $1,775; $1,550; $1,540; $1,530; October/November asking prices of $1,520; and November/December asking prices of $1,510/MT CIF attracted closing buyers.

The market for FOB coconut oil remained shut. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

INDIA'S COCONUT & PRODUCT EXPORTS INCREASE BY 41% IN FY22 DUE TO ACTIVATED CARBON

The value of India's exports of coconuts and related goods reached Rs 3,237 crore in 2021–22 as a result of increased shipments of activated carbon. In the fiscal year 2020–21, shipments

climbed by more than 41% to Rs 2,295 crore. A cargo of 1,37,363 tonnes of activated carbon brought in Rs 2,064 crore from exports.

According to official sources, the United States continued to be the leading country for exports of activated carbon, a substance used to extract and purify gold. The product was also shipped from Germany, Russia, Korea, the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, and other nations.

Industry sources claim that the expansion of new gold mines and rising gold prices have created a thriving global market for activated carbon. In comparison to other producing nations, India's activated carbon is becoming more and more popular.

A shipment of 16,038 tonnes of coconut oil and fractions brought in Rs 430 crore, according to figures issued by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics in Kolkata, placing it second in the country's export basket. 11,325 tonnes of copra were exported during the period for a total of Rs 139 crore. 7,457 tonnes of desiccated coconut powder were exported, worth a total of Rs 119 crore.

The total value of the products and coconuts imported into the nation during that time was Rs 728 crore. With a total of 2,18,481 tonnes, coconut oil cake and oil cake expeller types accounted for Rs 500 crore. 8,589 tonnes of copra were imported for a total of Rs. 79 crore. A total of 58,648 tonnes of coconut shell charcoal were imported for a sum of Rs. 27 crore.

About Activated Carbon

Activated carbon contains carbonaceous material that was originally part of charcoal. Plant-based organic materials are pyrolyzed to produce activated carbon. Among the materials used are coal, coconut shells, wood, sugarcane bagasse, soybean hulls, and nutshells.

Adverse reactions to activated charcoal are uncommon, and it is typically regarded as safe. However, if sorbitol is also present, it may have some unpleasant side effects, the most typical of which is vomiting. In very few instances, bowel obstructions have been connected to activated charcoal. *(Krishi Jagran)*

VENDORS OF FRUITS, JUICE AND TENDER COCONUTS GENERATE RISKY BUSINESS

The Indian juice stands, fruit vendors, and traders of tender coconuts have been doing a brisk business over the past few days as a result of the severe heatwave and hot weather conditions that are currently present in several mandals of the State.

The kiosks selling water, buttermilk, and soft drinks saw a lot of traffic. Near Rythu Bazaars and at busy intersections, watermelon and ice apple vendors have set up shop.

As the demand for ice apples developed, farmers from Manikonda, Pedda Pulipaka, Srikakulam, Nagayalanka, and other locations brought palm fruits.

Tender coconuts from the Konaseema, Eluru, West Godavari, and East Godavari districts have been supplied by wholesale traders. Huge inventories of watermelons arrived since they are essential for quenching the thirst of many, especially daily wage workers.

"Fruit drinks are becoming more and more popular because of the intense heat and sun. There is a large market for watermelons. A vendor named D stated, "I am selling watermelons, worth more than ₹3,000 each day, up from just ₹500 previously," said a vendor D. Satish.

Fruits, juices, tender coconut water, and soda prices have skyrocketed. According to customers, each delicate coconut was being sold for ₹30.

"Traders are charging ₹50 and up for a watermelon, ₹120 for a liter of tender coconut water, and ₹50 for a dozen ice apples. One

pineapple costs ₹60, twelve bananas cost ₹60, and one kilogram of grapes costs ₹150, according to Ch. Renuka is a housewife.

Since people choose soft drinks, buttermilk, packed juices, flavor-enhanced milk, and drinking water to beat the heat, stores that sell soft drinks and milk parlors are doing good business. *(The Hindu)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

THE INDONESIAN PALM OIL ASSOCIATION WELCOMES THE LIFTING OF THE EXPORT BAN ON COOKING OIL AND CRUDE PALM OIL

The Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI) this week hailed President Joko Widodo's decision to resume cooking oil and crude palm oil (CPO) exports, stating that the move would guarantee the country's palm oil industry's long-term expansion. GAPKI Chairman Joko Supriyono expressed his gratitude to the President for his decision and expressed the hope that trading in palm oil products and derivatives will once again flourish on both the domestic and export markets.

According to Supriyono, the Association has been working hard to ensure that the palm oil industry, which is crucial to the nation's economy, will continue to expand. GAPKI has pledged to support the Indonesian government's policy to provide bulk cooking oil at an affordable price and sufficient supply for the general public.

In a similar issue, reports claim that as of last Monday, businesses were struggling with regulatory obstacles that were impeding the exportation process. Under a Domestic Market Obligation, businesses must set aside a portion of their palm oil exports for the domestic market and sign up for a bulk cooking oil program to help preserve domestic supplies. GAPKI hopes that exports will increase to the 2.3 to 3.0 million tons per month pre-ban level. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

By utilizing products derived from palm oil, the Agriculture and Crop Research Organization's Agroindustry Research Center at the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) has developed a coating solution to preserve freshness and extend shelf life of fruits. According to a statement on the agency's website, Mulyana, the head of BRIN's Agroindustry Research Center, "This palm oil-based coating solution is safe to consume and is listed under the edible coating category."

In comparison to a coating solution manufactured from beeswax, the cost of the coating solution made from goods derived from palm oil is substantially lower, claims BRIN. This is due to Indonesia's abundance of products made from palm oil. According to Mulyana, fruit producers, retailers, and exporters can promote their goods to a wider market, particularly in the Middle East and Europe, by delaying the ripeness of a fruit and extending its shelf life.

The Palm Oil Plantation Fund Management Agency is funding the Agroindustry Research Center's investigation into the creation of a fruit covering solution (BPDPKS). Fruit coating is made using derivatives of palm oil as part of efforts to diversify the product's value proposition. For the period 2015-2021, the agency had distributed research funds worth Rp389.3 billion as part of the institution's efforts to assist the development of national palm oil research and innovation. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

CONCERNS ABOUT CHANGES IN NUTRITIONAL PROFILE ARISING FROM FOOD REFORMULATION DUE TO SUNFLOWER OIL SHORTAGE

The more than three-month-old conflict between Ukraine and Russia has forced food manufacturers to find alternatives to sunflower oil. Although concerns have been made that reformulated foods may have grown unhealthier as a result of the oils' high saturated fat content, coconut oil and palm oil have generally been employed as substitute oils.

Palm oil has begun to take the place of some of the sunflower oil used in the making of crisps by OLW in Sweden, for instance. Iceland Foods, a retailer of frozen goods, has been acting similarly in the UK. Coconut oil is regarded as excellent for high-heat cooking methods due to its increased saturated fat content, which makes it highly resistant to oxidation at high heat.

The French consumer group Que Choisir is concerned that substitution may have an unforeseen effect that modifies the nutrition profile of the food goods, which could lead to changes in labeling and Nutri-Score ratings. Que Choisir had observed palm oil in place of sunflower oil in the taco shell at Old El Paso in France. The raspberry tiramisu sold under the Carrefour brand now uses coconut oil rather than sunflower oil. The tiramisu sold under the Casino brand also uses coconut oil in place of sunflower oil. These substitutions caused the Nutri-Score ratings to drop by one step.

Nutritionists in the UK are concerned about the consumption of saturated fats. Presently, saturated fats make for 12.8% of food energy in British adults, which is beyond the recommended 11%. The British Nutrition Foundation suggested that swapping coconut oil and palm oil for the majority of vegetable oils sold in supermarkets, which include rapeseed oil and sunflower oil and have minimal saturated fat content, could have negative effects (BNF).

While most dietary recommendations from throughout the world urge consumers to cut back on or completely eliminate saturated fats from their diets, not all scientists agree with this recommendation. Researchers made the claim during a recent Competence webinar that saturated fat might not raise the risk of cardiovascular disease. For instance, Francesco Visioli, a professor of human nutrition at the University of Padova in Italy, agreed that there is a connection between eating foods high in saturated fat and having higher blood cholesterol, but he emphasized that there is "no evidence" that doing so increases the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, or cancer. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

SCIENCE REVEALS SURPRISING SIDE EFFECTS OF USING COCONUT OIL

Chances are you've thought about—or tried—using coconut oil in your cooking, whether you've been seeking for vegan substitutes for your favorite animal-based fats or simply love to add a hint of tropical flavor to your recipes.

Additionally, there is research to suggest that coconut oil has numerous benefits for your health and wellbeing, so it should not just be on your menu because it is trendy. Read on to learn the surprising negative effects of using coconut oil before you make your next meal.

It might facilitate weight loss

Making coconut oil a regular part of your routine could help you lose some weight. According to a 2015 meta-analysis that was published in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), a type of fat that is prevalent in coconut oil, are linked to weight loss.

It might assist you in reducing belly fat

It's difficult to lose belly fat, but incorporating coconut oil into your diet may help you do it. According to the aforementioned Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics study, in addition to weight loss, MCTs are also associated with reductions in waist circumference and total body fat.

It might enhance oral health

The secret to getting the white, healthy teeth you've always desired may be closer than you realize.

A 2016 study published in the Journal of International Society of Preventive & Community Dentistry found that, among a group of 50 children between ages 8 and 12, swishing with coconut oil was as effective at reducing counts streptococcus mutans, the bacterium most commonly associated with cavities, as chlorhexidine mouthwash. *(Eat This, Not That!)*

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT MACAROONS

These naturally gluten-free, chewy treats are wonderful with a cup of tea. Make sure your chocolate is gluten-free, if needed.

Ingredients

1. 1 large egg white
2. 30 g caster sugar
3. 1/4 tsp. vanilla bean paste
4. 75 g desiccated coconut
5. 75 g dark chocolate

Instruction

1. Preheat oven to 170°C (150°C fan) mark 3 and line a large baking sheet with baking parchment.
2. In a medium bowl and using a handheld electric whisk, beat the egg white until it holds stiff peaks. Gradually beat in the sugar, whisking until the meringue is thick and glossy. Beat in the vanilla.
3. Using a spoon, mix in the desiccated coconut. Scoop tbsps of the mixture on to the lined sheet, spacing slightly apart. Bake for 10-12min, or until lightly golden. Leave to cool completely on the sheet.
4. Meanwhile, melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water. Set bowl aside to cool slightly.
5. Once the macaroons are cool, carefully dip the bases in the chocolate and place back on the lined sheet, chocolate down. Drizzle over some more chocolate in a zigzag pattern and chill until set. Serve.

To store

Once set, keep in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 3 days. *(Good Housekeeping)*

STATISTICS

Table 1. SRI LANKA: Exports of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2020-2022 (In MT)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
January	7,141	4,832	6,161	127	112	206	3,225	3,475	1,436
February	2,812	6,810	9,765	61	232	155	2,164	2,359	1,580
March	3,794	10,169	9,714	103	135	249	1,259	2,125	1,322
April	4,640	5,475	4,796	68	88	138	1,894	1,415	1,012
May	4,947	6,432	5,143	157	113	143	2,366	1,404	1,216
June	6,402	6,333		99	157		2,979	1,608	
July	8,202	6,953		84	204		3,440	1,855	
August	7,129	5,111		103	185		2,814	1,230	
September	6,443	6,757		115	126		2,643	1,631	
October	7,514	5,674		121	151		2,997	1,181	
November	6,355	4,416		105	107		2,605	1,325	
December	6,225	4,530		87	175		2,347	1,112	
Total	**71,604**	**73,492**	**35,579**	**1,231**	**1,785**	**891**	**30,733**	**20,720**	**6,566**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 2. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2020-2022 (US$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
January	244	253	270	1,421	1,308	1,380	317	305	432
February	259	250	277	1,240	1,398	1,288	306	301	353
March	228	251	255	1,467	1,263	1,310	337	359	393
April	244	254	255	1,369	1,125	1,434	273	359	387
May	248	256	243	1,379	1,119	1,160	297	376	364
June	244	265		1,377	1,432		313	362	
July	239	282		1,586	1,197		306	381	
August	236	268		1,529	1,446		304	398	
September	235	256		1,266	1,271		329	432	
October	243	258		1,450	1,315		302	396	
November	242	281		1,441	1,666		315	439	
December	249	265		1,395	1,432		336	395	
Average	**243**	**262**	**260**	**1,410**	**1,331**	**1,315**	**311**	**375**	**386**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 3. SRI LANKA: Exports of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2020-2022 (In MT)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
January	65	115	82	1,000	909	800	3,069	4,000	3,119
February	114	112	76	463	603	609	3,326	4,011	3,411
March	56	117	172	181	682	625	2,694	5,569	3,360
April	38	146	57	97	194	1,049	1,904	3,027	2,319
May	78	74	97	461	652	540	3,914	3,796	2,574
June	83	111		625	517		4,367	3,052	
July	124	137		806	540		4,225	3,108	
August	96	55		722	874		2,873	2,870	
September	113	89		842	583		2,758	2,816	
October	83	69		935	809		3,604	3,871	
November	111	23		647	728		2,864	3,197	
December	32	61		489	1,100		2,928	3,250	
Total	**993**	**1,109**	**484**	**7,268**	**8,191**	**3,623**	**38,526**	**42,567**	**14,783**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 4. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2020-2022 (US$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
January	1,025	990	992	1,325	1,231	1,374	227	251	253
February	913	797	879	1,331	1,263	1,611	225	328	232
March	881	790	670	1,308	1,363	1,144	241	265	226
April	882	1,022	774	1,223	1,216	1,136	252	259	266
May	819	796	813	1,230	1,221	1,211	252	245	258
June	832	841		1,326	1,304		266	277	
July	874	796		1,353	1,352		249	248	
August	656	777		1,342	1,309		279	280	
September	678	807		1,352	1,394		259	336	
October	713	751		1,272	1,216		238	300	
November	932	804		1,318	1,518		253	273	
December	774	750		1,296	1,420		252	235	
Average	**832**	**827**	**813**	**1,306**	**1,317**	**1,211**	**249**	**275**	**258**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

50th International Cocotech Conference & Exhibition

"Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for a Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Agroindustry"

- CONFERENCE
- EXHIBITION
- BUSINESS MATCHING & NETWORKING
  WITH COCONUT PRODUCERS, EXPORTERS, AND IMPORTERS
- FIELD TRIP
  PILOT PROJECT FOR SMART IRRIGATION SYSTEM AT PAGOH AGRICULTURE CENTER, JOHOR

November 7-11 2022

Kuala Lumpur Convention Center, **Malaysia**

CALL FOR PAPERS

To be presented in the conference & published in

IOP Publishing
SCOPUS-Indexed Publishing

Cord
Coconut Research and Development
(Honorarium **US$100**)

COCOINFO INTERNATIONAL
A popular journal of the International Coconut Community
(Honorarium: **US$50**)

Submission deadline:

16 August 2022	16 September 2022
Abstract submission	***Paper submission***

Paper submitted to cocotech@coconutcommunity.org

IOP Publishing DOAJ
GARUDA CABI
Google Scholar

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION
WWW.COCOTECH.COCONUTCOMMUNITY.ORG

ORGANIZER

WORLD COCONUT DAY AWARDS 2022

"Growing Coconut for a Better Future & Life"

Categories:

- Best Innovative Farmer
- Best MSME
- Best Coconut Farmer Organization
- Best Coconut Scientist
- Coconut Song Writer & Composer

Total Prize

US$ 2,500

More Information:

Mr. Otniel: otniel@coconutcommunity.org
Mr. Klaudio: klaudio@coconutcommunity.org
Mr. Bahari: bahari@coconutcommunity.org
Email: wcd@coconutcommunity.org
Website: www.coconutcommunity.org

ICC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Promoting Smart Farming, Ecofriendly and Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Coconut Development - Proceedings of the 49th COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition, 2021

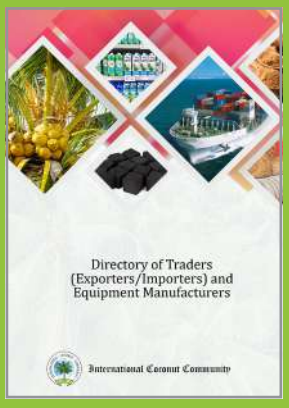
Price: US$50

COCOINFO International Vol 28 No. 2, 2021 – A semi-annual, scientific and semi-technical based in order to disseminate useful information of the coconut sector, around the globe.

Annual subscription price:
US$50 (ICC Member Countries)
US$60 (Non-Member Countries)

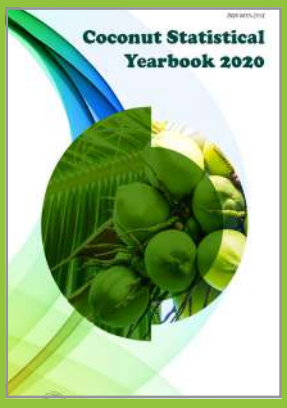
Directory of Coconut Traders & Equipment Manufacturers

Price: US$50



Coconut Statistical Yearbook 2020

Price:
US$50 (ICC Member Countries)
US$60 (Non-Member Countries)

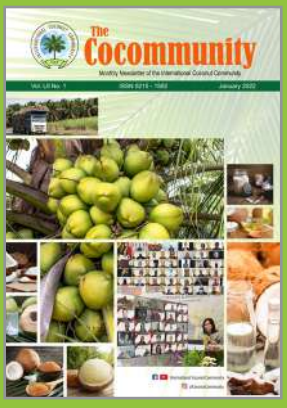


CORD Vol. 37, 2021 – An annual international journal on Coconut Research & Development

Price:
US$40 (ICC Member Countries)
US$50 (Non-Member Countries)

Cocommunity – Monthly newsletter of the International Coconut Community

Annual subscription price:
US$50 (ICC Member Countries)
US$60 (Non-Member Countries)



** All prices are excluded from shipping charges*

Order via website www.coconutcommunity.org or write e-mail to icc@coconutcommunity.org
Payment can be made by PayPal & wired bank transfer

GOMA

Our Next Big Thing For Coconut Industry

ELEFANT SERIES HOMOGENISER

FEATURES

- Robust & Reliable
- SS 304/316/Duplex
- Digital Pressure Gauge
- Pressure upto 1500 bar
- Capacity 5-20000 LPH
- Pneumatic/Hydraulic design
- Stellite/Tungston Carbide Valves & Valve seat

GOMA GROUP OF COMPANIES: MAJIWADA, THANE - MUMBAI (INDIA)

CONTACT: +91 93226 54235 / 6 / 2 | EMAIL ID: exports.pte@goma.co.in | www.goma.co.in

India | Nepal | UAE | Sri Lanka | Malaysia | Egypt | Kenya | Ethiopia | Nigeria

DESICCATED COCONUT PROCESSING MACHINERY

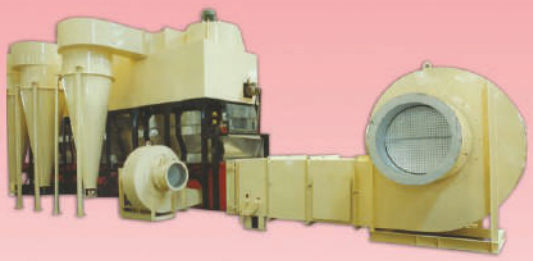
"Over 100 machines in operation worldwide"

BAND DRYER (APRON/CONTINUOS TRAY DRYER)

for Desiccated Coconut Granules, Chips & Toasted D/C
Output Capacity : 1000 to 2500 Kgs/hr.
Two Stage and Three Stage Dryers.
Apron width : 2640mm and 3250mm

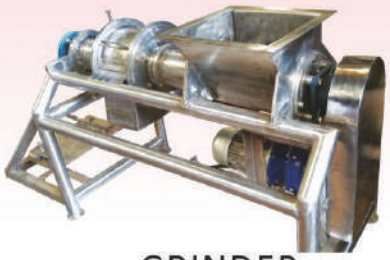
COMBINATION DRYER

for Desiccated Coconut Granules, Chips,
Toasted D/C & Parings.
Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.



VIBRATORY FLUID BED DRYER

for Desiccated Coconut Granules & Parings.
Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.

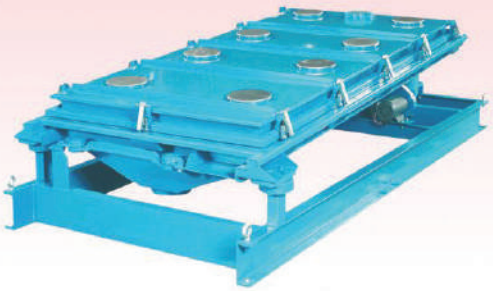


GRINDER

Output Capacity:
1000Kgs/hr.

BLANCHER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 4000 Kgs/hr.



NOVATEX SCREENER/GRADER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 1500 Kgs/hr.

DESHELLING MAHINE
Output Capacity :
250 to 300 nuts/hr.

DEHUSKING MACHINE
Output Capacity :
1200 nuts/hr.

OIL EXPELLER

RADIATOR
Extruded Fins or
Plate Fins Type

STAINLESS STEEL PERFORATED APRON TRAYS
Width: 2640mm & 3250mm

STAINLESS STEEL CHAIN

GEMTECH PROJECTS LLP.
10/C, Middleton Row, 3rd Floor, Kolkata - 700 071, India
Tel: +91-33-2217 7328 (4 Lines) | Mobile: +91 9831173874, +91 9831131196 | Fax:+91-33-2217 7333
E-mail: info@coconutprojects.com | sg@gemforgings.com | www.coconutprojects.com

INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY
PO Box 1343
JAKARTA - INDONESIA

PRINTED MATTER

BY AIR MAIL

The ***COCOMMUNITY*** is the monthly Newsletter of the INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY (ICC) incorporating current news, features, statistical data, business opportunities, and market information relating to the world coconut industry.

Established in 1969, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commision for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the ICC is an independent regional intergovernmental organization which consist 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.

The subscription rates for the *Cocommunity* inclusive of postage are: US$50.00 per year for ICC member countries, US$ 60.00 for non-ICC member countries.

For subscription, please write to:

INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY
8th Floor, Bappebti Building, Jl. Kramat Raya 172
Central Jakarta10430, Indonesia
or P.O. Box 1343, Jakarta 10013, Indonesia
Phone : (62-21) 3100556-57
Fax : (62-21) 3101007
E-mail : icc@coconutcommunity.org or apcc@indo.net.id

www.coconutcommunity.org