The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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International Coconut Community

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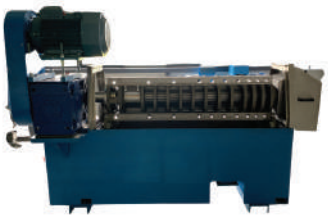

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE LIST

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS ...

"Protecting and Preserving The Tree of Life"

The demand for coconut products is continuously growing. However, pests and diseases reduce the ability of the industry to fully benefit from the market opportunities. The emerging pest and disease incursions in coconut-growing countries result in great economic yield losses and negative impact on the industry, biodiversity loss, and disrupted native and agricultural systems. Repeated use of the same active ingredient of pesticide to control pests and diseases could lead to pest and disease resistance. The inevitable effect of climate change, other environmental factors, and the destruction of natural enemies could trigger incursion and migration of devastating pests and diseases. The massive planting and replanting could create homogeneity in coconut farms, predisposing these to disease infection and pest infestation. The concurrent reported outbreaks of *Brontispa* in Southeast Asia, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, Guam type (CRB-G) in Guam, and Asia-Pacific countries, Coconut Scale Insect in the Philippines, Lethal Yellowing in Jamaica, and Mexico, Bogia Coconut Syndrome in Papua New Guinea, *Sexava* spp., *Rhyncophorus* spp. in Indonesia, and the recognition of the need to develop international biosecurity protocols for safe germplasm exchange have prompted the ICC to hold the 1st IPM symposium.

We are all aware of the need for the systematic and accurate information and technology dissemination and monitoring system to connect research centres to the end users of the technologies. Hence, it is imperative to integrate resources, knowledge, and to digitally connect researchers, agricultural extension officers, decision makers and farmers with validated information and a user-friendly platform. So, Science, innovation, networks, and digital information system are essential to protect coconut palms, prevent the spread and the economic coconut yield losses due to pests and diseases, and promote safe products to local and international consumers. ICC in collaboration with Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) is developing an online COCOPEST Portal for major pests and diseases of coconut. Several key aspects including bioecology, symptoms, distribution, management and expert information portal have been successfully carried out but improvements to include pest & disease mapping, physiological and genomic information, audio animations and video, will continue to be updated annually towards an integrated coconut pest and disease database that may serves as a one-stop portal for all information on pests and diseases and their management.

ICC and the Philippines Coconut Authority (PCA) jointly organized the first International Integrated Pests Management for Coconut conducted virtually to bring together key members of the scientific community for an interactive discussion on emerging issues and advances related to the improved, holistic, and functional IPM for coconut. Adaptable-IPM strategies for coconut that fit local condition and biological and ecological heterogeneity, as well as the economic, current science, and available technology, should be developed and adapted by each country and region since one size doesn't fit all. Collaborative scientific efforts to provide IPM technical and policy guidance are needed to assist farmers and other producers of coconut to save their palms, the environment, the economic life of their families and sustain the industries.

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, India, and Sri Lanka. Price of Desiccated Coconut (DC) decreased in Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka.

COPRA: The price of copra in Indonesia was US$691/MT in July 2022, which was lower than previous month's price at US$761/MT. Compared to the same month of last year, the price was US$ 242/MT lower.

In the domestic market of the Philippines (Manila), the price decreased by US$ 169/MT from US$966/MT in June 2022 to US$797/MT in July 2022. The price was US$127/MT lower compared to the price of US$924/MT in July 2021.

COCONUT OIL: The average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) depreciated by 10% in July 2022 to the level of US$1,517/MT. Compared to the last year price, the price was also lower by 3.9%.

The average local price of coconut oil in the Philippines was US$1,482/MT in July 2022. The price was US$109/MT lower compared to the price of US$1,591/MT in July 2021. Meanwhile, the average local price of coconut oil in Indonesia declined to US$1,331/MT in July 2022 from US$1,481/MT in June 2022. The price was US$165/MT lower compared to the price of US$1,496/MT in June 2021.

COPRA MEAL: The average domestic price of the commodity in the Philippines at selling points was quoted at US$248/MT. The price was US$10/MT higher compared to the previous month and was US$14/MT lower than the price a year earlier.

The average domestic price of copra meal in Indonesia was US$288/MT which was lower than previous month. The price was US$26/MT lower than last year's price.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in July 2022 was US$2,307/MT, which was 4.2% lower than previous month price and US$214/MT lower than the price of the same month last year.

In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in July 2022 was US$1,493/MT or US$482/MT lower than in June 2022. Meanwhile, the price of DC in the domestic market of Philippines in July 2022 was US$2,039/MT, which remained the same as previous month's price. Indonesian FOB price of DC in July 2022 was US$1,540/MT which was lower than price in June 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 July 2022 was US$363/MT which was lower than price in June 2022. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price reduced by 3.7% from US$571/MT in June 2022 to US$550/MT in July 2022. Moreover, compared to last year's price, the price was lower by US$18/MT. Sri Lankan's price in July 2022 was US$385/MT which was lower than last month's price.

COIR FIBRE: Coir fiber was traded in the domestic market in Sri Lanka at US$62/MT for mix fiber and US$324/MT-US$485/MT for bristle. The Indonesian price for mixed raw fiber in July 2022 remained low at US$190/MT. The price was much lower than price a year earlier at US$330/MT.

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

Products/Country	2022 Jul	2022 Jun	2021 Jul	2022 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	158	182	199	221
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	141	231	182	193
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	147	136	283	205
India (Domestic Kerala)	388	417	525	456
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	797	966	924	1,054
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	691	761	933	904
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	887	920	1,532	1,255
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,058	1,084	1,423	1,182
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,517	1,688	1,578	1,925
Philippines (Domestic)	1,482	n.q.	1,591	1,970
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,331	1,481	1,496	1,630
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,775	1,928	3,077	2,509
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,831	1,882	2,328	2,002
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,307	2,408	2,521	2,574
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,493	1,975	2,476	2,008
Indonesia (FOB)	1,540	1,713	2,450	1,914
India (Domestic)	1,442	1,484	2,017	1,689
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	248	238	234	234
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	241	212	279	241
Indonesia (Domestic)	288	314	297	313
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	363	385	500	394
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	385	376	535	425
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	550	571	568	581
India (Domestic)	494	450	558	503
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	62	64	143	91
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	324	273	575	432
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	485	486	875	593
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	190	190	330	220
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,301	1,555	1,271	1,973
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,057	1,501	1,057	1,515
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,533	1,752	1,468	1,745

Exchange Rate

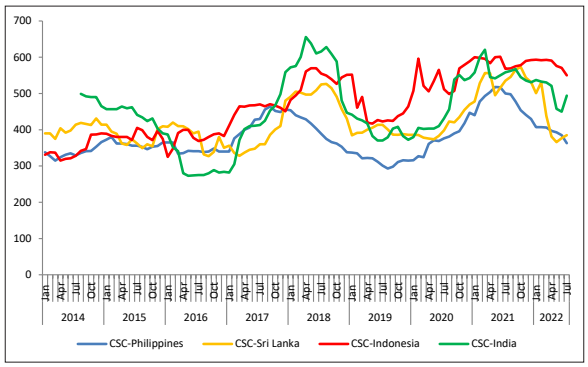
Jul 31, '22 1 US$ = P55.37 or Rp14,952 or India Rs79.634 or SL Rs358.45

1 Euro = US$1.02 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF ACTIVATED CARBON

Lower demand of coconut shell charcoal has put a pressure on price of the charcoal during the first half of 2022. Price of the charcoal in several producing countries showed a downward trend. In July 2022, price of coconut shell charcoal in Philippines was US$363/MT which was 5.7% lower than price a month ago. The price was even much lower than price in December 2021. The price depreciated by 16% as opposed to the price in December 2021. Similarly, price of the charcoal in Sri Lanka showed the same pattern. Lower demand worsened by economic crisis in the country negatively affected price movement of the charcoal. Price of coconut shell charcoal in Sri Lanka deeply fell to the level of US$366/MT in May 2022 and slowly recovered to the level of US$385/MT in July 2022. The price in May 2022 was recorded as the lowest since September 2018. In India, price of the charcoal was also showing a negative trend. The price was US$531/MT in December 2021 and gradually weakened to US$450/MT in June 2022 and went up to US$494/MT in July 2022. In Indonesia, price of the charcoal was decreasing as well amid higher supply of the charcoal. Price of the charcoal in factory gate decreased by 7% during January-July 2022. Difficulties in shipping the coconut shell charcoal-based products from Indonesia has pushed many factories to lower their demand for the charcoal that brought about the price to depreciate.

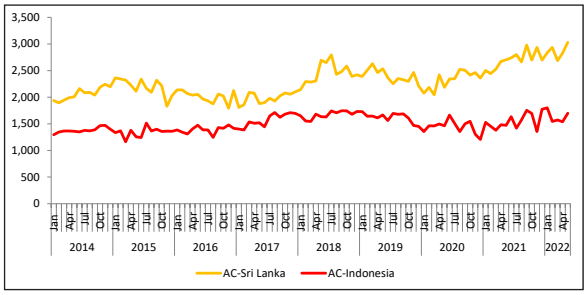
Figure 1. Price of Coconut Shell Charcoal US$/MT (FOB) in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and India January 2014 –July 2022



Source: ICC database

Meanwhile, export price of activated carbon relatively fluctuated during first half of 2022. Price of the carbon in Indonesia was US$1,801/MT in January 2022 and then decreased to US$1,539/MT in April 2022. The price then went up to US$1,700/MT in May 2022. Meanwhile, price of the carbon in Sri Lanka was US$2,834/MT in January 2022 and declined to US$2,685/MT. However, the price then went up again to the level of US$3,031/MT in May 2022.

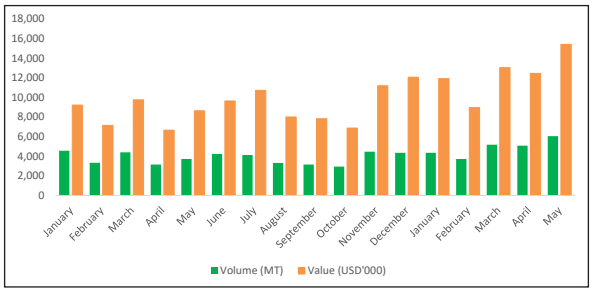
Figure 2. Export Price of Activated Carbon US$/MT in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, January 2014 – May 2022



Source: CDA, Sri Lanka and BPS Statistics Indonesia

Amid global economic uncertainty, international trade of activated carbon showed a positive performance during the first half of 2022. During the period, global imports of activated carbon is estimated to reach more than 1 million tons. The import volume is more than 30% higher than the volume in the previous year. US, the largest importer, received 61,795 coconut shell based activated carbon during January-May 2022 which was 49% higher than the volume in January-May 2021. Meanwhile, another main importing country, Japan, experienced a decrease in import volume of the carbon. During January-May 2022, Japanese imported 29,374 tons of activated carbon to the country. The volume was 10% lower than the import volume in the preceding year for the same period.

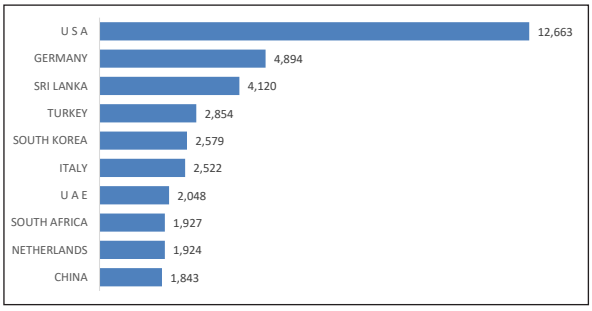
Figure 3. US Import of Coconut Shell Charcoal based Activated Carbon, January 2021- May 2022



Source: US Census Bureau

The export performance of the carbon in several main producing countries indicated a positive signal in the first half of 2022. In the period of January-May 2022, India exported 63,469 tons of activated carbon valued US$130.14 million which was 32% higher than export volume a year earlier with USA as a major destination. USA absorbed more than 20% of Indian activated carbon during the period. Other major destinations of activated carbon from India were Germany, Sri Lanka, Turkey, South Korea, Italy, and UAE.

Figure 4. Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from India, January-May 2022 (MT)

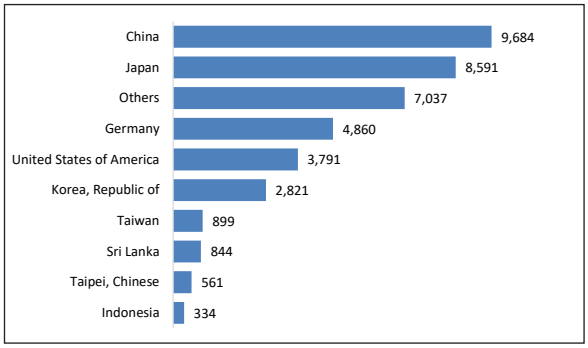


Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India

At the same time, Sri Lanka shipped 21,760 MT of coconut shell charcoal based activated carbon to the global market creating export earnings of US$62.3 million. The export earning leveled up by more than 13% as opposed to previous year's volume for the same period. Main destinations for the activated carbon from Sri Lanka include USA, China, Germany, UK and Japan.

The increase in export of activated carbon was also found in the Philippines. During period of January-May 2022, Philippines shipped 39,422 tons of the activated carbon to global market. The volume jumped by 59% as opposed to the 2020's export volume of 70,863 tons. During the period, major importing countries of the product from Philippines were China, Japan, Germany, USA, and South Korea.

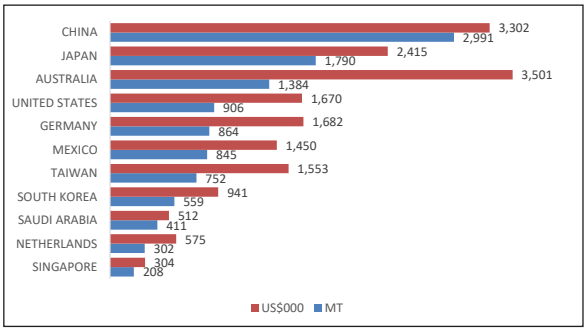
Figure 5. Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from Philippines, January-April 2022 (MT)



Source: UCAP

Similarly, export of activated carbon from Indonesia started to recover during first half of 2022. During January-May 2022, export of activated carbon from Indonesia was 11,011 tons which was 4% higher than the export volume during January-May 2021. The export resulted in export earnings of US$17.9 million.

Figure 6. Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from Indonesia, January-May 2022 (MT)



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

COMMUNITY NEWS

COCONUT CONSERVATION CONFERENCE AT BALIKPAPAN

The Samarinda State Agricultural Polytechnic (Politani Samarinda) and the Coalition of Coconut Producing Districts (Koalisi Kabupaten Penghasil Kelapa/KOPEK) held the Coconut Conservation Conference with the theme "Coconut for Conservation and Conserving World Coconut", at Novotel Hotel, Balikpapan 29-30 June 2022. The event was attended by central and local governments, coconut industries, MSME business actors, academics, coconut activists, university students, and coconut farmers, with the purpose to build national and international awareness of the importance of conserving coconut commodities and germplasm, the use of coconut in land rehabilitation, and environmental conservation efforts. Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, was invited as the keynote speaker in the event.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Dr. Ir. H. Nelson Pomalinggo, M. Pd., Chairman, KOPEK, offers coconut as a solution to environmental problems in Kalimantan and Indonesia. Coconuts can grow on less fertile land used for mining activities, such as in East Kalimantan and coconuts can improve the soil. As a contribution and support for the upcoming new Indonesian Capital City (Ibukota Nusantara-IKN), KOPEK will plant all Indonesian coconut varieties in the conservation area, the Borneo Orangutan Samboja Foundation (BOSF), located in the IKN. This area will be used as the center of the archipelago's germplasm. In the next five years, this coconut garden could become a coconut agro-tourism area in IKN.

The Coconut Conference received appreciation from Hon. Minister Suharso Monoarfa, Ministry of National Development Agency of Republic, Indonesia, represented by the Director of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Anang Nugroho. He appreciated the enthusiasm of the members of KOPEK. He explained that although Indonesia's coconut production continued to decline, according to 2020 data, coconut exports is high and become the largest foreign exchange earner in Indonesia. He hoped that this conference could provide ideas to rejuvenate coconuts, and encourage the conservation of Indonesian coconuts

The Conference commenced with the national anthem and traditional East Kalimantan Dance. Dr. Heriad Daud Salusu, S. Hut., M.P, Committee Head delivered his report. The Opening Speech by Mr. Hamka S.TP., M. Sc., M.P., DIrector, Politani, Samarinda; and Mr. Ujang Rahmat, M. Si., Head of Plantation, East Kalimantan Province on behalf of Dr. Ir. H. Isran Noor, M. Si., Governor of East Kalimantan Province. There were five keynote speakers presented in the first session.

The first Keynote Speaker, Prof. Dr. Ir. H. Nelson Pomalinggo, M. Pd., Chairman, KOPEK, presented the role of KOPEK in bringing back the greatness of Indonesian Coconut. He explained challenges in the coconut sector, which included coconut land decreases due to land conversion, low rejuvenation, low productivity, pest and diseases, climate change, and coconut farmers' socioeconomic condition. He proposed the need for a coconut agency that would be farmers and business-oriented, adaptive, and inclusive. He also explained the role of KOPEK in coconut genetic conservation.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw introduced the ICC Profile and presented the coconut genetic resources conservation and use, wherein she explained the ICC's promoting efforts to increase coconut productivity and production, capacity building and technology transfer (tissue culture), the importance of coconut genetic conservation and use, Indonesian and global coconut contribution, Indonesian and global export trend and production, the International coconut gene banks, ongoing ICC's projects programs, challenges, and way forward.

Ir. Yohanes Samosir P., Dip. Agr. St. Ph.D., Advisor, Coconut Knowledge Center, presented on the coconut world concept, a coconut-based park for tourism, research education, and promotion to integrate various coconut potentials in appealing ways as an agro-tourism destination as well as contributing to society and coconut farmers. Integrated coconut garden and processing, culinary, tour, festival, and museum.

Dr. Steivie Karouw, S.Tp., M.Sc., Head of Indonesian Palm Crops Research Institute, presented the coconut genetic resources conservation in Indonesia wherein she presented the current status of coconut genetic resources, several Indonesian superior and high yielding varieties, coconut seed production in some provinces, a future scenario of coconut conservation and sustainable development, and action plan. She emphasized the urgency of collaboration between research institutes, the private sector, universities, and ICC member countries to accelerate the mass propagation of coconut seeds with high-yielding varieties.

Mr. Awaluddin Djafar, Indonesian Husk Association (AISKI), presented on the processing of the coconut husk. The main value-added coconut products, he mentioned, are coco peat for plant media, coco fiber for geotextile, and baby fiber for fertilizer.

The last keynote speaker, Mr. Viraj Bagaria, Director, T&I Global, India, presented on the value addition and processing solutions for the coconut industry, wherein he explained how to set up processing factories to convert coconut into value-added products.

There was a second parallel session with various topics besides the coconut sector. One of which is on the digital marketing platform for coconut products that connect coconut farmers and buyers, either in B2B or B2C platforms, and the formation of the National Coconut Council.

Along with the Conference, KOPEK also declared Indonesian coconuts as an archipelago crop and developed sustainably, at the epicentrum of Indonesian Capital City (Ibukota Nusantara/ IKN) on June 30, 2022. Seven regents and two vice-regents signed up for the Declaration: Prof. Dr. Ir. H. Nelson Pomalingo, M. Pd, (Gorontalo Regency), Ir. H. Hamdam Pongrewa (Penajem Paser Utara Regency), Dr. Rinny Tamuntuan (Sangihe Regency), H. Mursil S.H., M. Kn (Aceh Tamiang Regency), Femmy Luther, S. KM. (Nagan Raya Regency), Ilham Lawidu, S.H. (Vice Regent of Tujo Una-Una Regency), H.M, Jamin Idham, S.E. (Nagan Raya Regency), H. Muhammad Adil, S.H. (Meranti Islands Regency), Fahrur Rofi (Vice Regent of Sambas Regency). Also signed up the Declaration were H. Hassani, S.P., M.MA (Head of Agricultural Agency, Polewali Mandar Regency), and Hamka, S.Tp, M.Sc, M.P. (Politani Samarinda Director). The purpose of the declaration is to gain support for coconut in the national priority programs. *(ICC News)*

AIMING FOR CERTIFIED, SUSTAINABLY OBTAINED COCONUT OIL, BASF CHANGES THE MARKET

The production facility in Cassina Rizzardi, Italy, where BASF produces its products, has been accredited, making BASF the first chemical business to offer certified sustainable personal care components based on coconut oil. The business received accreditation under the Mass Balance Coconut certification program of the Rainforest Alliance. A supply chain approach called mass balance (MB) promotes the physical movement of Rainforest Alliance Certified coconuts and copra while the farmers profit from the sale of these products.

We have developed another supply chain based on renewables with the certification of our first manufacturing site and the provision of Rainforest Alliance Certified personal care ingredients to our consumers, in addition to palm and castor oil. As a result, we have made significant progress toward converting the market to certified, sustainably sourced oleochemicals, according to Jutta Stute, manager of sustainability for BASF's Care Chemicals division.

For the chemical industry, coconut oil is a crucial feedstock. In addition to food goods, BASF also uses coconut oil to create chemicals for cosmetics, detergents, and cleaning products.

One recent illustration of how BASF's Care Chemicals Division is addressing upcoming difficulties is certified coconut oil from sustainably sourced coconuts. The main pillars of Care 360° - Solutions for Sustainable Life are sustainability, digitization, innovation, and new methods of teamwork.

With the help of the Rainforest Alliance and the Philippine Coconut Authority, a development partnership between BASF, Cargill, The Procter & Gamble Company (P&G), and the German government agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH made it possible to certify coconut oil. The project's goal was to encourage a sustainable certified coconut oil supply chain in order to raise the income and financial independence of smallholder coconut producers in the Philippines and Indonesia. More than 4,100 coconut farmers received training in farm management, good agricultural practice (GAP), and good processing technique between November 2015 and October 2018. The Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard has been certified, and additional training has been provided to almost 1,600 farmers. The average income of trained and certified farmers is 47 percent more than that of non-participating farmers.

The aim of BASF is to develop chemistry for a sustainable future. BASF has a duty to carefully manage its supply chain as a global corporation. The company is actively engaged in a number of programs to raise the proportion of components derived from nature in its product line, improve the sustainability of farming methods, and improve the wellness of farmers and employees. Examples include SuCCESS and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) (Sustainable Castor Association). *(BASF)*

UNILEVER IS USING "MINI" COCONUT TREES TO PROTECT SUPPLY

Indonesia, which has the largest coconut-growing regions in the world, ahead of the Philippines and India, values coconut as a social and economic product.

Around 6.4 million smallholders in the nation depend heavily on the palm, and products made from coconuts including oil and sugar are utilized in a wide range of foods, drinks, and cosmetics. Included in this is the Unilever brand of Bango sweet soy sauce, a daily necessity for millions of Indonesian households.

According to data from Fortune Business Insights, the global market for coconut derivatives is expected to increase from US$11.6 billion in 2020 to US$23.32 billion in 2027 at a CAGR of 10.54%. Growth in sectors like plant-based nutrition, which frequently includes coconut oil, and in healthful beverages like coconut water and milk, encourage this.

The pressure on coconut productivity is present, though. According to Statista data, the output of coconuts decreased by roughly 12% between 2012 and 2021. Without taking steps to address the structural problems the industry is facing, according to projections provided by Unilever, overall tree production in Asia is expected to decrease by more than 80% by 2027.

What is affecting coconut production?

According to the International Coconut Community, Indonesia's low productivity can be attributed to the type of coconuts grown there, the proportion of older trees in plantations, land conversion, climate change, dated agronomic methods, the presence of pests and diseases, and the variety of coconuts grown there. In a sector characterized by price volatility and high logistical expenses, farmer livelihoods are also an issue, particularly in remote rural areas.

Unilever has discovered another problem that it thinks is detrimental to the welfare of coconut farmers, the majority of whom are smallholders. Since coconut trees typically reach a height of 30 meters, gathering the sap needed to make coconut sugar "takes a lot of labour" and can be hazardous.

According to Unilever, this circumstance indicates that "many of the plantations have been abandoned."

Introducing the Genjah Kuning Bali, a potent weapon

Unilever, which has been collaborating with the Indonesian National Coconut Institute since 2015, has launched what it calls a "industry-leading" program in an effort to find solutions.

A new variety of coconut is being bred by the Institute with the cooperation of the corporation, and it is hoped that this would increase the productivity of the Indonesian coconut industry. These coconut trees are promoted as a commercial cultivar by the Indonesian Coconut Institute. In conjunction with Indonesian farmers, we ran plantation pilots with them and scaled up our coconut suppliers, according to Clement Jaloux, Unilever's Procurement Manager, Supplier Development South East Asia.

The end product is the coconut tree cultivar known as Genjah Kuning Bali. Unilever and the Indonesian National Coconut Institute, it turns out, weren't interested in creating seeds that resulted in high-yielding plants; instead, they were interested in another parameter. We concentrated on these trees' tendency toward height, Jaloux said.

Unilever believes it has created a plant by focusing on height that will make sap collection easier and safer for smallholder farmers, particularly women.

These "small" coconut trees reach a height of about ten meters, making it possible to harvest the sap without needing to climb. Short stem coconut trees, according to Jaloux, "lower the chance of farmers falling, making their labor easier and encouraging younger farmers to continue working in their parents' plantations from a safety standpoint."

Despite the fact that some Genjah Kuning Bali trees may yield less than other species because of their smaller stature, their cultivation is anticipated to increase productivity as a whole. Unilever expected that farmers will be able to gather more sap every day, improving their output and profits. Despite the fact that each tree will produce less due to its size, Jaloux continued, "this is offset by a larger density per hectare."

The smaller variety matures quicker, which is another major benefit. Farmers will be able to begin harvesting from the Genjah Kuning Bali trees sooner, removing a barrier to replanting old and unproductive trees. According to Jaloux, the shorter coconut trees reach maturity (begin giving fruit) after four years, while their taller counterparts reach maturity after seven.

Increasing supply

A 100-hectare pilot plantation was developed by Unilever in 2017, and since then the initiative has been gradually expanded up in three growing regions: Lampung in South Sumatra, Sukabumi, and Pangandaran in West Java.

In partnership with 3,600 smallholder farmers, Unilever had planted Genjah Kuning Bali trees on the equivalent of 3,300 hectares as of June 2022.

On already-existing plantations, planting is done to replace either old coconut trees or other cash crops. Unilever anticipated that the initiative will increase smallholder incomes and resilience, which would assist about 5,000 Indonesian households. "Rejuvenating coconut trees is what we're doing for farmers of all stripes. Many farmers that grow them alongside their other

taller trees profit from this invention. According to Jaloux, some farmers are replacing traditional perennial crops like cocoa while others intercrop coconut trees with profitable crops like bananas and peanuts.

Short-stemmed coconut trees in the initial batch have begun to produce sap, and Unilever is already receiving coconut sugar from these farms at its Bango factory. According to Unilever, the output from these plantations would rise year over year and reach a high in 2026. From that point forward, the company intends to source 50% of its supply of coconut sugar from this novel species of tree.

Technology and education for a sustainable supply of coconuts

In addition to its planting program, Unilever is concentrating on providing technology and training to support the development of the Indonesian coconut industry.

However, Jaloux emphasized that innovations like these must go hand in hand with training, services (such as access to finance and fertilisers), and community empowerment. "Crop science like this is crucial for improving biodiversity and helping farmers adapt to climate change and build resilience," Jaloux said.

The company launched SmartFarm Plus, a new smartphone app, last month to assist the nation's coconut producers.

The platform, created for Unilever's field teams by agritech company Cropin, is updated with details on plantations when the field teams visit farms, including the maturity of the trees and any productivity issues. The app then compiles the information to offer site-specific guidance that the Unilever teams subsequently relay to the farmers. This enables Unilever to monitor output projections for coconut sugar, enhancing the robustness of its own supply chain.

To provide smallholder farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge, farmer training is also offered in topics like fertilizer distribution and other agricultural techniques. For 1,000 smallholder farmers, Jaloux said, "We have designed courses to educate them good agriculture techniques, from how to take care of the trees to climate resistance measures." *(Food Navigator)*

BOI PHILIPPINES APPROVES A PROJECT TO PLANT 924 MILLION COCONUTS

Consolidated Coconut Corp.'s P924 million project, which is expected to increase desiccated coconut exports from the nation, has received approval from the Board of Investments (BOI).

The BOI stated in a statement that the initiative is anticipated to support the nation's export of desiccated coconut, with target markets in numerous nations.

The facility, which is located in Plaridel, Misamis Occidental, is to start operations in September and will have an annual capacity of 93,750 metric tons (MT) of dehydrated coconut.

With Consolidated Coconut Corp.'s acceptance of the project, we are moving forward in maintaining Philippine exports, notably desiccated coconut. Since the Philippines is the world's top producer of this good, we are really utilizing the opportunity, said Ceferino Rodolfo, managing director of the BOI and undersecretary of trade.

The project takes advantage of the nation's comparative advantage in the production and export of desiccated coconut.

The Philippines is the largest exporter of desiccated coconut in the world and has the highest capacity to compete in the international market, according to the Philippine Coconut Farmers and Industry Roadmap (2021–2040).

High-quality food-grade desiccated coconut will be produced and exported by Consolidated Coconut to its target markets in North and South America, Europe, China, Asia, Australia, and the Middle East.

The business currently manufactures coconut goods like desiccated coconut, breaking into the manufacturing sector. It purchased brand-new equipment for P430 million ($7.78 million) that was brought from Singapore, Sri Lanka, and India.

The company will use a variety of locally obtained machinery to make dehydrated coconut, including a biomass boiler, shelling machine, paring drier, generator set, and steam system control.

The laboratory equipment, desiccated coconut dryer, and paring machine will also be imported, from Singapore, India, and the respective countries.

Over the course of the first five years of its commercial operations and construction, the coconut project is anticipated to create 475 employment.

The initiative will use raw materials, mainly coconuts from coconut growers in Misamis Occidental and neighboring provinces that have been dehusked.

The total weight of desiccated coconut exports worldwide in 2020 was 438,052 MT.

The US, Netherlands, Australia, the UK, and Russia are the top five countries where desiccated coconut is exported from the Philippines, which holds the top spot with 147,000 MT of exported product, accounting for 33.56 percent of global exports.

The nation boasts the second-biggest coconut production in the world, accounting for a 23.4% share of worldwide production, and the largest geographical area devoted to coconut fields in the world.

The initiative will help the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) achieve its objective of fostering integrated processing methods to maximize the use of coconut.

With 3.6 million hectares planted in 2020, or about 26% of all agricultural areas in the nation, coconut is the second-largest crop sector in terms of area. *(Philstar Global)*

INDIAN COMPANY CHANDIGARH MC CONVERTS COCONUT SHELLS INTO FUEL AND ROPES

The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation is now gathering and processing coconut shells from all throughout the city, which were previously ending up useless at the trash, to create useful commodities.

In the city, more than one tonne of coconut shell is produced every day, mostly by roadside vendors. The demand for coconut water is consistently high throughout the year, although it increases significantly in the summer.

Anindita Mitra, MC commissioner, stated that since the project began in June, MC has collected more than 29 metric tonnes (MT) of coconut shells, of which 8 to 9 MT have been put into the coconut crusher at the municipal solid waste processing plant.

Eight of the civic organization's waste collection vehicles have been sent out to collect coconut shells from 26 locations around the city. They are being used by MC to produce and sell refuse-derived fuel (RDF), and ropes will be made from the fibers of crushed coconuts.

According to Mitra, "We are progressing toward creating coir bales, which are used by numerous businesses."

Notably, MC cleared out 300 MT of residual waste at the Sector 25 solid waste processing facility to create additional room for drying the wet waste before it can be fully processed. The

plant's ability to process wet waste has risen after the legacy garbage was removed.

A wet waste shredder device that is presently being used to handle the coconut shells was buried beneath the legacy debris.

Since October of last year, MC has almost doubled its ability to treat moist trash. The factory is being rebuilt and repaired by MC, and processing capacity has grown from the initial 70 MT per day to 150 MT. *(Hindustan Times)*

POLLACHI COCONUT FARMERS ARE SEEKING MEASURES TO CONTROL PRICE DROP

At a protest in Pollachi, about 1,000 coconut farmers from Pollachi, Udumalpet, and surrounding areas demanded action to stop the decline in coconut prices.

According to Amirtharaj, a farmer in Kinathukadavu, the Federation of Coconut Growers Organizations called the protest in order to draw attention to the struggles and concerns of coconut farmers.

A trader pays farmers at the farm between $8 and $9 per piece for coconut. However, the farmers won't consider it profitable unless they receive at least $15 per head.

The groundwater level has increased and the rains are wonderful. Production of coconuts is also strong. But prices for labor, fertilizer, and insecticides have skyrocketed. However, he noted that the cost of coconuts had fallen and has remained low for almost three months.

The federation made a request to the government to act to stop the price decrease of coconuts, buy directly from farmers, distribute coconut and coconut oil through the Public Distribution System, and lengthen the government's time of copra procurement. The Pollachi Sub-Collector received a copy of the demands made by the federation delegates. *(The Hindu)*

COIMBATORE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SEEKS EXTENSION OF TIME FOR COPRA PROCUREMENT AS COCONUT PRICES REMAIN LOW

The Coimbatore district administration has written to the State government requesting an extension of time to purchase copra from the farmers as the farm gate price for coconuts continues to be less than ₹9 a piece.

One of the nation's major centers for coconut cultivation is Coimbatore. The State government purchases the copra under the price-supportive program from the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED). Between January and June of this year, the district government was required to purchase 10,000 tonnes of milling copra and 400 tonnes of ball copra from the controlled markets in Senjeri and Negamam. The district began purchasing at Anamalai, Kinathukadavu, Thondamuthur, Annur, and Pollachi as well due to the rising demand. It had paid ₹46.04 crore for 3,535 tonnes of grinding copra from 2,602 farmers. Of this, farmers received payments totaling ₹17.65 crore.

The district administration recently drew attention to the fact that under the copra procurement system, only 25% of an acre's worth of produce (216 kg) can be bought from farmers, who are paid ₹105.90 for a kg of milling copra and ₹110 for a kg of ball copra.

However, the district has a large production of coconuts because to the cultivation of several types and the use of technology for irrigation. Farmers have stocks of copra, but they are unable to obtain marketable prices this year.

Therefore, it recommended that the government allow for the purchase of up to 50% (or 400–500 kg) of the production per acre, with the purchase to last through the end of this year's December.

A coconut farmer in Kinathukadavu claimed they can sell coconuts for ₹7 to ₹9 per piece and can sell copra for ₹75 to ₹80 per kilogram

on the open market. Given that input costs have multiplied, these pricing are no longer realistic.

Anupriya Patel, the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, responded to K. Shanmuga Sundaram's question in Parliament about government support for coconut exports by stating that the Coconut Development Board, which also serves as the Export Promotion Council for coconut products, organizes international trade shows, buyer-seller gatherings, etc. to market coconut products in foreign markets. In value terms, exports of coconut and its products climbed 30.23% in 2020–21 from the prior year. *(The Hindu)*

INDIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROCURE COCONUTS

To prevent the farmers in Tamil Nadu from falling into poverty, the Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, a member of the Communist Party of India's All India Kisan Sabha, has requested the state government to purchase coconuts.

The demonstrators who took part in a coconut-breaking protest sponsored by the TNVS in Kumbakonam asserted that small and marginal coconut growers were burdened by financial issues since they were unable to obtain a fair price for their produce.

The protesters urged the Tamil Nadu government to emulate the neighboring Kerala government's buying of raw coconuts in order to protect the coconut growers.

They wanted their produce to be purchased in Tamil Nadu for Rs. 50 per kg, although raw coconut cost roughly Rs. 30 per kg in Kerala. In addition, they had asked for a reasonable payment of Rs. 150 per kilogram for the copra.

Ramalingam of Keezha Thirupoonthuruthi in the vicinity of Thiruvaiyaru, incidentally, recently cut about 150 coconut trees that he had grown on about two acres of land in the hamlet. He argued that the trend in tender coconut prices was forcing him to take this drastic action.

He claimed that in order to better his family's financial situation, he planned to start growing other income crops like plantains, greens, etc.

Additionally, the protesters begged the State government to switch to coconut oil from the imported cooking oil currently being given via the public distribution system. *(The Hindu)*

FIGHTING HAWAII'S INVASIVE COCONUT RHINOCERUS BEETLE WITH DRONES

The University of Hawaii has brought drones to the battle against the invasive coconut rhinoceros beetle using airborne technology.

At the Hawaii Country Club, where CRB Response Team officials believe the new treatment efforts are looking to be safe and effective, this new technology was put into use.

Hawaii's coconut trees have been devastated by the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

Treatment coordinator Dan Jenkins said, "If you let them go long enough, if they get lucky enough, and if there are enough of them, it's likely to produce lethal damage."

Together with the Hawaii CRB Response team, UH-Manoa flew to get a fresh viewpoint on the state's ever-escalating issue.

Jenkins continued, "So this is a much more focused application right in the crown. It's sort of a surface treatment. I suppose counting the one we found today, we've hit 80 the previous two days. Exactly where the bugs bore.

An experimental application of a pesticide meant for termite extermination was dropped straight atop more than 50 afflicted trees at the Hawaii Country Club after receiving Department of Agriculture emergency permitting.

Researchers claim that the greater safety and effectiveness of this technique could transform this struggle as compared to earlier treatment methods, which included injectable insecticides and external traps.

Fallen beetles are sent to a lab in the meantime to learn more about the species and prevent their spread to other areas of the island. *(KITV)*

COLLABORATION BETWEEN SEARCA AND UPLB FOR BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF QUEZON'S COCONUT INDUSTRY

University of the Philippines Los Baños with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) (UPLB). prepared a workshop for the province of Quezon's baseline assessment of the coconut sector.

Interns from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at UPLB and representatives from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) of Quezon province and the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist (OMA) of Catanauan town took part in the two-day event, which was held on July 5 and 6.

The training, which was held at the Searca Residence Hotel, was designed to help the participants become comfortable with the survey instrument and equip them with the technical know-how and abilities necessary for the real survey.

Dr. Pedcris Orencio, Program Head for Searca's Research and Thought Leadership Department (RTLD), Blanquita Pantoja, Technical Coordinator and University Researcher from UPLB, and Pauline Gonzales, Program Specialist and Project Associate of Searca's RTLD, assisted in leading the activity.

On behalf of Searca Director Glenn Gregorio, Searca Deputy Director for Administration Joselito Florendo welcomed the attendees.

Florendo highlighted that Searca undertakes capacity building to reinforce value chains and agricultural commodity systems, which will promote inclusive growth and the development of smallholder farms. Florendo is a staunch believer that knowledge creation should be a dispersed process.

He also acknowledged the significance of cutting-edge agribusiness models, which are one of Searca's priorities in its 11th Five-Year Plan and can boost farmer productivity and revenue.

Orencio gave the overview during the training, while Pantoja moderated the debate about the survey form that will be used.

In collaboration with the City Agriculture Office, 11 members of the Samahang Magniniyog ng San Pablo also participated in the exercise, according to Searca, who claimed that the participants were given permission to really interview the coconut farmers in San Pablo City, Laguna.

The exercise provided a venue for participants to pick up knowledge and skills in preparation for the baseline evaluation of the coconut sector in the province of Quezon.

Around 80 coconut growers and/or processors in Barangay San Antonio Pala in Catanauan town are anticipated to participate in this activity, according to Searca, who also noted that student interns and the chosen representatives of the OPA-Quezon and OMA-Catanauan will be deployed from July 20 to 26.

The SEED Guidebook: Scaling and Expanding for Effective Development Experiences and Learning, which was developed as a result of Searca's strategy for commodity-specific intervention, was cited as the basis for the statement that the activities are a part of scaling the processes.

According to Searca, this will now be utilized in the creation of a project for the Province

of Quezon's coconut industry growth zones, beginning with the Municipality of Catanauan. *(The Manila Times)*

THE USE OF COCONUT SHELLS IN NURSERIES IS PROPOSED BY THE BJP

In order to support efforts to make Chandigarh plastic-free, the Chandigarh BJP has written to administrator Banwari Lal Purohit asking him to issue directives ordering the use of coconut shells rather than plastic pouches in all nurseries run by the municipal corporation, forest department, and Chandigarh administration, India.

Shakti Parkash Devshali, a BJP leader and former municipal councilwoman, wrote to Purohit to complain that Chandigarh and the rest of the world were having difficulty getting rid of plastic. According to the BJP, campaigns are being run at different levels to rid the city of single-use plastic.

"Lots of saplings are planted each year to keep Chandigarh green. These are raised in nurseries managed by the Chandigarh government, the municipal corporation, and the forest department. The efforts of a plastic-free Chandigarh failed since these plants are grown in plastic pouches and a substantial amount of plastic is consumed in this activity, according to Devshali.

Devshali asserted that coconut shells are a superior alternative to plastic bags for gardening purposes. These initiatives have been successful in various regions of the nation. Chandigarh locals use "coconut water" as a cooling beverage and discard the coconut shell after drinking it, incurring significant costs in the process.

He said that using coconut shells for plastic bags when growing plants in nurseries would help Chandigarh become plastic-free. *(The Times of India)*

GOVERNMENT REQUEST FROM COCONUT FARMERS IN TAMIL NADU

Coconut farmers have urged the Tamil Nadu government to keep their growing operations under the control of the Agriculture Department.

The Nasuvini Riverbed Farmers Welfare Association wrote to Chief Minister M. K. Stalin with the information that the growers had learned from trustworthy sources that it had been suggested to bring coconut growing under the horticulture department.

Association president V. Veerasenan has appealed that the Agriculture Department continue to oversee coconut production, pointing out that the department's extensive field-level network has assisted them in resolving challenges and problems, particularly following the Gaja cyclone.

The activity has been overseen by the Agriculture Department for a longer period of time, and with their assistance, the cultivators have been able to harvest the highest number of coconuts per hectare per year—11,271—compared to Kerala, where they have only been able to harvest 9,175 per hectare per year, despite having a larger area than Tamil Nadu. *(The Hindu)*

EAST BRITISH RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE THE COCONUT FESTIVAL TO HELP ESTABLISH THEIR ECONOMY BY THE TOURISM MINISTER

According to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Investments, and Aviation, Bahama, Chester Cooper, the coconut sector has grown to a $14 billion global market.

In support of the healthy lifestyle movement, he noted that coconut water has grown to be a significant global industry, and that jewelry and other mementos have been made from coconut bark.

Cooper stated this during the opening ceremonies for the annual Coconut Event, which was held on Monday, July 11, 2022, as part of the Independence celebrations. "So, with a festival like the Coconut Fest, Pelican Point and East Grand Bahama may establish its own economy," Cooper remarked.

To communities like Pelican Point and others on The Bahamas' islands, festivals like this are crucial and significant. A spike in economic activity results from them. Therefore, events like these festivals benefit both locals and visitors since they give locals a chance to profit from the event while also giving attendees a chance to interact with Bahamians in their own community.

Despite the difficult period the town has gone through since Hurricane Dorian's damage in 2019, the deputy prime minister claimed that East Grand Bahama has significant economic potential.

Cooper indicated one of the villas on the festival beach and remarked that it resembles a group of villas on Ragged island, which is a little settlement comparable to Pelican Point.

However, he pointed out that guests from the United States, Canada, and the coldest countries in the world—travelers who come to The Bahamas to bonefish and unwind—book those villas on Ragged island year-round.

Cooper remarked, "The same thing can occur here in Pelican Point and in East Grand Bahama."

"We'd love to see more towns like this expand, prosper, and support their own economies. When that occurs, it is simpler for the locals to raise their standard of living, launch new ventures, and strengthen their financial future.

Ginger Moxey, the Minister for Grand Bahama, thanked everyone who helped with setting up the festival grounds in her remarks at the event. She pointed out that one of a government's responsibilities is to provide relief to its citizens and offer them a hand up ather than a handout. She pointed out that the Coconut Festival does precisely that by allowing entrepreneurs to set up food, beverage, and souvenir stalls.

The "Beautiful Grand Bahama" crew, a project started by the Ministry of Grand Bahama to help those who have been jobless since Hurricane Dorian and for those same people to work on projects within their own communities, carried a significant portion of the burden of festival preparation, according to Moxey. *(Eyewitness News)*

5 TIPS HELPING SRI LANKANS SURVIVE THE ECONOMIC CRISIS INCLUDE CHARRED COCONUT SHELL STOVES AND CYCLING

Sri Lanka is going through the worst period in its modern history since the civil war ended in 2009 with an ongoing economic crisis and a government on the verge of collapse after months of turmoil — President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was forced to flee when protesters stormed his official residence and he is expected to resign.

The government has little to no money to purchase necessities like cooking gas, fuel, and gasoline. The price of what little is accessible is prohibitive. In order to save fuel use, schools have been closed, classes have been moved online, and non-essential government employees have been instructed to work from home.

People in Sri Lanka have developed a variety of improvisations and workarounds to survive the crisis.

Stoves made of burned coconut shells in Sri Lanka

This month, the cost of a 12.5-kg cooking gas cylinder increased by 50 Sri Lankan rupees to Rs 4,910. Although it's still on the market, many people have started building stoves that use alternate fuels out of concern that gas will run short.

ThePrint observed a woman selling one-ring stoves that her husband had handcrafted in the Colombo neighborhood of Thalawathugoda. The stoves run on burned coconut shells.

The stove has a power pack that can be put into the electrical outlet in order to ignite the coconut shells. A burner costs 6,500 rupees in Sri Lanka. One stove requires a week to make, according to the woman.

She began using one of them seven months ago, but she didn't begin selling them until July 3rd. On July 10th, she had just six left to sell after having 25 when she had began. *(The Print)*

THE COCO LEVY FUND WILL BE RELEASED, COCONUT FARMERS HOPE MARCOS JR

The Philippines coconut farmers have voiced their expectation that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s new administration will disperse the long-overdue coco levy revenue, which is currently estimated to be worth P100 billion.

There would be legal implementation this year, according to Danny Carranza, secretary general of Kilusan para sa Repormang Agraryo at Katarungang Panlipunan (Katarungan).

The Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund was established by Republic Act (RA) 11524, which was signed by the then-president Rodrigo Duterte before he left Malacanang in June 2022. Its purpose is to "develop the coconut industry using recovered coco levy assets, which were declared state-owned by the Supreme Court less than 10 years ago."

The law charges the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) with creating a plan "that would determine the directions and policies for the development and rehabilitation of the business within 50 years" for coconut farmers and their industry.

In Quezon, a development strategy for the coconut sector and farmers has been unveiled. According to Carranza, the organizations participating in the implementation of RA 11524 presented their respective programs, services, and associated budgets during the launch.

Through taxes, levies, charges, and other fees imposed for the sale of copra, the government of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos started collecting the coco levy funds from coconut growers between 1971 and 1982.

The money was intended to develop the nation's credit services, research on coconuts, and other activities that would help the sector.

It is claimed that the collections were instead used to support the Marcos cronies' commercial endeavors.

The coconut growers filed lawsuits against the Marcos Sr. government and their close allies with the help of the Presidential Commission on Good Government in an effort to recover the cash that were lost in court battles after Marcos and his cronies fled the country in 1986.

Finally, in 2012, the Supreme Court determined that coco levy funds belonged to the public.

The court's ruling made it possible for the national government to use the enormous coco levy cash to create policies that would support the coconut industry.

The fund is currently closely monitored by Marcos Jr., the former strongman's son and namesake.

"And if coconut farmers today are still requesting when they will receive their fair part of the legislation's programs and services, it also indicates that there is a severe communication gap between the law and the communities of coconut growers," added Carranza.

Therefore, the coconut farmer leader added, "making it advantageous to the poorest but most deserving coconut farmers is actually

a matter that the government must handle the soonest."

Carranza claims that many farmers still want additional education regarding the law's provisions, which has led them to ask for a delay in the registration process so they can be included to the list of farmers who are eligible for funding.

The wave of program execution "will stand to benefit those who are registered," he stated.

However, Carranza said in a second article posted on the Catholic news website Licas. News, "the difficulty is how to ensure that the programs and services mandated by the law will reach the poorest coconut producers.

Earlier, after a local official recently made a public comment on the subject, Carranza also voiced concern over the alleged false information regarding the coco levy fund.

"It's difficult to comprehend why lies persist in being circulated, even when the facts are well known. Currently, false information may cause the truth about the coco levy fund to be the next victim, according to Carranza.

The leader of the coconut farmers insisted that it is Marcos Jr.'s responsibility to properly apply the law and "address the wrongs caused by the Marcos regime and its cronies."

The coconut levy monies are thought to support about 3.5 million families that produce coconuts. *(SunStar Philippines)*

TO MARK THE 2022 TREE PLANTING YEAR, THE ROTARY CLUB PLANT COCONUT, LONDON BIRD FLOWERS, AND OTHERS

Hilary Nwawulu, the creative president of the Rotary Club of Lekki Novare in district 9110, organized the planting of trees including coconut, avocado, pear, local apple, palm, and london bird flowers to commemorate this year's tree-planting event.

In an effort to support the environment, the club planted roughly 22 trees in two different schools in the Ajah community as part of its first tree planting project.

At Okun Ajah Community Secondary School in Ajah, Lagos, the club started the tree-planting activity. From there, they traveled to Eti-Osa Community Senior High School in Sangotedo. *(Vanguard)*

AKLAN'S P29-M ROAD OPENS TO SUIT COCONUT FARMERS

Farmers in the town and province will gain from the opening of a new access road in Batan, Aklan, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

According to newly appointed DPWH-Region 6 Director Nerie Bueno, "this is to enable speedy, safe, and effective transport to promote the town's coconut products to the market."

The 2.41 kilometers of Portland Concrete Cement Pavement (PCCP) and structural concreting of a drainage system made up the P29 million project done by the DPWH-Aklan District Engineering Office.

The road supports the town's coconut farmers and the coconut processing business in addition to providing a different route to Capiz through Sapian.

The project is a part of the Roads Leveraging Links of Industry and Trade (ROLL IT) Program, a DPWH and Department of Trade and Industry convergence program (DTI). *(Manila Bulletin)*

FIND FOOD ASIA IN SINGAPORE AND SRI LANKAN TEA AND COCONUT BRANDS IN SPECIALTY

In association with M/s Untitled Untold Pte Ltd, Union Commodities Pvt Ltd of Sri Lanka took part in the Specialty and Fine Food Asia show at the Sands Expo Convention Centre in Singapore.

The exhibition is one of the premier trade events for artisan, exquisite food and drink in Southeast Asia. At the event, 5000 guests, mostly from South East Asian nations, attended over 150 exhibitors from 23 different countries.

At the event, the Sri Lankan company promoted and displayed its brands, Simondu Premium Ceylon Tea and Cocofera Organic Coconut Products, and it also received queries from a range of buyer sectors.

After visiting the booth of a Sri Lankan company in Singapore, the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka decided to support and aid the High Commission in promoting Sri Lankan brands there. The General Manager of Union Commodities Pvt Ltd was also thanked by the High Commissioner for participating in the exhibition at their own expense at this crucial time to help Sri Lanka raise much-needed foreign currency. *(Ada Derana)*

SERVICE DELIVERY IS MADE POSSIBLE BY PARTNERSHIP

The Kokonas Indastri Koporesen (KIK), Papua New Guinea, aims to assist smallholder coconut growers in raising their levels of production.

According to KIK managing director Alan Aku, the cultivation and production of coconuts employs an estimated 35% of all families, or 2.6 million people, making it the fourth most important cash crop in PNG in terms of economic significance.

The rise in production of smallholder coconut growers, according to Mr. Aku, is one of KIK's key areas of attention.

With the help of the National Government's financial support, Mr. Aku said, "We are able to carry out our program activities, with our focus areas on, Coconut Replanting/New Planting program, Downstream Processing and Value addition of Coconut, Research and Development on Pest and Diseases; agronomy and farming systems and breeding."

He claimed that nine (9) of the 14 provinces that cultivate coconuts currently have Coconut Development Offices (CDO) who closely coordinate program activities with the district extension officers and the Provincial Division of Agriculture and Livestock (PDAL).

We have observed an increase in farmers' interest in starting a coconut business thanks to informational sessions we have done on coconut replanting, downstream processing, and the manufacturing of white copra.

"Recently, our officers established a coconut model farm in Madang Province in collaboration with local leaders of Murukanam village to show coconut farming systems and seed nut nurseries for seedling distribution to local farmers," said Mr. Aku. According to Alfred Nongkas, general manager for KIK Industry Services, the partnership with the local farmers has also made it possible for other stakeholders like Mi Bank to open and will continue to open bank accounts for the coconut farms. *(Post Courier)*

GREAT EFFORT BY NIGERIA TO GROW ITS OWN COCONUTS

Toyin Kappo-Kolawole runs a small factory that turns coconuts into milk, water, flour, and snacks in the Isolo neighborhood of Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital.

The coconuts for her 2018-launched company, De-Cribbs Cocogry Coconut, came from the

country's coconut industry's hub, the seaside town of Badagry.

She had trouble finding enough coconuts in Nigeria as output increased and had to import the fruit from Ghana.

It raises the price of my product, which means I'm losing clients, she claims.

Ms. Kappo-Kolawole is one of the many businesspeople who are drawn to the sector.

Everything, including the husk and meat, can be processed into a variety of goods, including food, drinks, cosmetics, textiles, charcoal, soil, and even electricity.

Since the early 2000s, the demand for goods made with coconut has been continuously increasing.

As a result, Nigeria has seen an increase of processors looking to capitalize on the industry's numerous potential.

Even during challenging economic times, product demand is steady. As a result, in 2021, at a period of limited worldwide supply, the average price of coconut oil increased by 62% to reach $1,636 (£1,370) per tonne.

Nigeria began planting coconuts in Badagry last month as part of an effort to promote the fruit as a commercial crop.

It is a part of a larger strategy to aid Nigeria in becoming self-sufficient, which is being driven by the National Coconut Producers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria (Nacoppman).

According to official statistics, Nigeria imported more than 500,000 tonnes of coconuts last year to turn into goods including oils, food, and drinks.

I went to a property just two hours from Abuja, the nation's capital, to observe how Ray Davies and her husband, retired army Major General John Davies, entered the coconut farming business.

It was enormous, situated on 150 hectares of land, and in the distance, a wall of mounds was formed by the dry, stony hills typical of the area. However, the ground was covered in green buds that represented the first 4,000 coconut trees.

Six years ago, the pair started the farm, primarily farming fruit and vegetables like lemons, bananas, and soursop. They did, however, add coconuts to the mix in 2021 by sowing seedlings on 20 hectares of land.

Farmers like the Davies want to fill the void left by the compelled importation of the fruit by several manufacturers from nations like Togo, Ghana, and the Ivory Coast.

There is a demand for it here, but we don't have enough to supply our own industry, claims Ms. Davies.

According to Nma Okoroji, president of Nacoppman, more people are beginning to view coconuts as a cash crop.

Coconuts may significantly boost the country's earnings, according to her, and are a substantial source of income for the economy.

"We should be exporting instead of importing because we have the arable land, the labor force, and the favorable weather to plant and get the most out of it," Ms. Okoroji continues.

Ms. Okoroji is working on a government-backed program called Coconut Sufficiency in Nigeria (Cosin), which intends to increase domestic supply by planting 10,000 hectares of coconut trees in the majority of Nigeria's 36 states by 2027.

The availability of high-quality seedlings to assist increase annual harvests once the trees fruit is a significant difficulty for growers.

The hybrid tree, a cross between the native West African Tall and the Dwarf that comes from Asia, is the ideal for commercial farming.

Slower than the dwarf, which bears fruit in two and a half to three years, the hybrid takes four to five years to mature, but researchers particularly created it for commercial farming.

Hybrid seeds should be used, according to Abiodun Oyelekan, owner of a 2.5-hectare farm in Badagry, because of their "extremely high" annual output. However, at about $6 per seed, they are still out of many farmers' price ranges.

According to Mr. Oyelekan, "If you want to [replace] what you have already planted, you may have to invest more therefore you need financial support."

Many smallholder farmers, like Mr. Oyelekan, find it challenging to increase productivity as a result.

Power is needed in coconut manufacturers

The Coconut Development Authority (Lascoda), a division of the Lagos State Government, is charged with assisting the coconut industry in increasing productivity and commercialization.

The state is the largest producer of coconuts in the nation, according to Lascoda general manager Dapo Olakulehin, but output is finding it difficult to meet demand from manufacturers as a result of an increase in processing over the previous 10 to 15 years.

The outcome of this work will start to appear in the following four to five years when the trees are fruiting. "In the last three years, when we observed the increase, we have been pushing a lot of people to go into cultivation to fulfill the processing need."

Lascoda's plantations are utilized to create seedlings that are then distributed to local farmers.

Although resources are scarce, they provided 200,000 free seedlings to coconut farmers last year. They are only able to provide 80,000 seeds this year. As a result, coconut processors will still be importing the fruit for the time being.

According to Kaura Arimiye, a senior official in the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment, the government views the expansion of the sector as a priority in order to combat high unemployment rates and lessen Nigeria's reliance on oil exports as a source of foreign exchange.

"Beyond becoming sufficient in coconut production and consumption, we also want to get to the international market," Mr Arimiye adds.

Ebun Feludu - the founder of JAM The Coconut Food Company, whichmakes premium products from the fruit, including snacks, oil, cosmetics, and charcoal-believes that for the government to achieve its objective it needs to improve basic infrastructure.

Power outages are common in Nigeria, and the country also has poor roads.

Ms. Feludu claims that energy is infrequently available at her factory in the Lagos neighborhood of Ajah.

"I think it's fantastic that the government is really pushing for non-oil exports. But what will help is [addressing] these issues of power and roads, and the costs of getting our products to international markets," she says. *(BBC)*

THE PRODUCTION OF RAW COCONUT GAINS MOMENTUM

Around 1,000 tonnes of nut procured in the State this year

Agencies under the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare, India, have intensified the drive to procure raw coconut (dehusked) across the State. About a thousand tonnes of coconuts have been procured so far this year. Around 2,400 farmers have benefited from the raw coconut procurement drive and they have been paid ₹2.27 crore on this account so far. The raw coconut is procured at ₹32 per kg and the farmers are directly sent the money to their bank accounts.

Mostly in 3 districts

The Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council Keralam (VFPCK), which is one of the key agencies working to procure raw coconut from the market has procured 793 tonnes, mostly from Malappuram, Kozhikode and Palakkad districts. The council has 12 procurement and collection centres in Malappuram, nine centres in Kozhikode and 13 centres in Palakkad district, VFPCK sources said. The procurement drive has helped around 2,300 farmers.

A senior official of the Kerala State Coconut Development Corporation said that procuring raw coconut was more helpful to the farmers because processing coconut during the monsoon season is difficult as there is a shortage of dryers. Unless the coconut is processed in time the farmers can sustain substantial losses, the official added. The corporation has procured around 155 tonnes of raw coconut since January this year.

Plant at Attingal

The corporation has an integrated coconut processing plant at Attingal. There is also a facility at Elathur, near Kozhikode. The official said that the corporation had proposed expanding its procurement network with a view to help more farmers.

The corporation was formed in 1975 with a view to streamline marketing of coconut and coconut products. The corporation manufactures coconut oil, virgin coconut oil, desiccated coconut powder and coconut chips, among other products.

Market intervention

Chairman of KERAFED V. Chamunni said that coconut procured was mostly sent for processing to the coconut farmers' apex co-operative federation. The federation has two expeller oil extraction factories - at Karunagappally, in Kollam district and at Naduvannur in Kozhikode district, he said. He said that the market intervention had been made in districts, mostly in the Malabar area, where the price of coconut has been low with a view to supporting the farmers.

Kerala has a total of around 7.60 lakh hectares under coconut cultivation and the State produces 7,415 million nuts a year according to estimates for 2020-2021. Most of the coconut production takes place in small land holdings owned by individual households. The total area under coconut cultivation in the country is more than two million hectares and the total nut production is 21,129 million. *(The Hindu)*

THE COCONUT COLLABORATIVE UNVEILS DAIRY-FREE DOUBLE CRE&M

The Coconut Collaborative has launched a plant-based Double Cre&m that is designed to behave like its dairy equivalent. Offering a "luxurious thick and creamy texture", the heatstable offering is free from gluten, soy and palm oil, and can be enjoyed with a fruity crumble, in pasta sauce or as a cake topping.

The Coconut Collab Double Cre&m is available at Sainsbury's stores across the UK, as well as from Tesco and Ocado. The new offering was served at this year's Wimbledon tournament. "Being chosen as a cream option for the Wimbledon Championship really shows that plant-based is becoming ever more mainstream. We're hugely proud to have been chosen as a supplier for one of the biggest sporting events of the summer," said James Averdieck, founder and MD.

The dairy-free cream comes in a 220 ml pot for retail and a 400 ml pot for catering and foodservice. The launch comes a year after the brand introduced a plant-based crème fraîche alternative in the UK. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

SPIKED COCONUT WATER AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCED

Osena Beverage, a new drinks company, has announced national availability of spiked coconut water Osena in the US. Osena is made using real coconut water with naturally occurring electrolytes, zero sugar and one hundred calories per 12 fluid ounce can at 5% ABV.

The company launched its first two products, Pure Original and Exotic Pineapple, in the Northeastern region of the US last year to ensure that the better-for-you choice was also a better-tasting one. "Surprisingly, we found that people who may not prefer the taste of coconut water by itself, overwhelmingly enjoyed the refreshing and tropical taste of Osena," said Co-Founder Vicente Surraco.

Osena Spiked Coconut Water is now available in an eight-can variety pack, The Islands Collection, featuring Exotic Pineapple, Ripe Mango, Divine Guava, and Lush Dragon Fruit flavors. It is also available in two-single flavor four packs: Pure Original and Exotic Pineapple. Osena is available in-store in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland and nationwide online. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

The downward price action continued this week.

In Rotterdam, the coconut oil market remained subdued. A couple of turnovers were reported concluded at $1,410 and $1,415/MT CIF, lower than week-ago at $1,450/MT CIF. Opening quotes were firmer influenced by gains in other vegetable oils at $1,450-1,470/MT CIF for active positions from September/October through to November/December. Since then, prices stayed below opening rates in step with other markets. At the close, levels stood at $1,417.50-1,422.50/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market was back in action after two weeks of dullness. Business was moderate with six parcels reported changing hands at $1,175-1,220/MT CIF. Market likewise opened firmer at $1,237.50-1,265.00/MT CIF for positions from August/September through to December/January and afterwards turned easier following other vegetable oils. By week's end, levels stood at $1,150-1,180/MT CIF.

As with last week, coconut oil maintained premium vis-a-vis palm kernel oil of over $200 during the week across all positions, but average slightly improved at $225/MT from week-ago at $217.94. Price premium per position are shown following: August/September $238.50 ($240.50 last week), September/October $228.50 ($201.50); October/November $219.00 ($205.95); November/December $214.50 ($221.76); December/January $224.50 ($220).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures tracked lower after opening in the positive territory tied to concerns about the incoming crop amid hot and dry weather conditions in soya producing areas; high prices of products oil and meal also lent support. The ensuing pressures came from weaker Chinese demand and prospects of rain in some crop

growing areas. Talks later during the week about possibility of export corridors for Black Sea grains added to the negative market sentiment. This should make possible exportation of grains from Ukraine through safe corridors.

At the palm oil section, prices were firmer at the start of the week in line with gains in rival soybean oil, improved demand from China, and projections of crop losses in Indonesia and Malaysia. Later during the week, however, values turned easier tracking decline is soybean oil. Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment saw lauric oils still in the negative territory for three straight weeks to date. Coconut oil shed $76.00 from $1,514.50 last week to $1,438.50/MT CIF this week and palm kernel oil gave up $74.00 from $1,274.00 to $1,200.00/MT CIF. By contrast, palm oil bounced back from sharp fall last week, advancing $31.75 from $1,197.00 to $1,228.75/MT CIF. As a result, the price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil contracted from $240.50 last week to $238.50/MT this week. Premium over palm oil likewise narrowed from $317.50 to $209.75/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam coconut oil market, business was extremely light with only two trades reported done at $1,410 and $1,415/MT CIF exclusively for September/October delivery. Market opened firmer this week but stayed easier thereafter to settle at close with offers at $1,415 for August/September; $1,422.50 for September/October; and $1,417.50/MT CIF for October/November and November/December. Buyers closed at $1,390 for September/October; $1,380 for October/November; and $1,360/MT CIF for November/December. Other positions were neglected.

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

NORTH SULAWESI EXPORTS COCONUT FLOUR TO 29 COUNTRIES

North Sulawesi province exported coconut flour to 29 countries in the period from January to May 2022.

"The 29 destination countries of North Sulawesi's coconut flour exports included Australia, the Netherlands, Belgium, China, Chile, Finland, and Georgia," Head of the North Sulawesi Industry and Trade Office Edwin Kindangen said.

The other countries included Hong Kong, England, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Italy, Germany, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Egypt, France, Poland, Portugal, Russia, New Zealand, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, and Uruguay.

Kindangen said that a total of 7.78 million tons of coconut flour was exported to the 29 countries and generated US$15.987 million in foreign exchange.

The 29 countries routinely import coconut flour from North Sulawesi as raw material for foods such as bread, pastries, and other dishes, he informed.

Out of the 29 countries, the highest demand of 1,504 tons was from Russia and generated US$3.06 million in foreign exchange.

The second highest demand of 1,147 tons was from Germany and generated as much as US$2.11 million.

Meanwhile, the demand from Australia was pegged at 672 tons and generated US$1.54 million in foreign exchange.

Meanwhile, the demand from other countries was lower than 500 tons.

"We hope that producers will maintain the quality and quantity of this key export product," Kindangen said.

The government will continue to provide technical guidance and training so that exporters from the province can innovate further and create more products, he added. *(Antara)*

PRICE OF COCONUTS DROPS TO ₹22,000 A TONNE IN SALEM CITY OF TAMIL NADU

Following widespread rain, wholesale price of coconuts has dropped to ₹22,000 a tonne in Salem.

Traders fear that the price might decrease further in the future.

In Salem district, people welcome the first day of the Tamil month of Aadi with a custom called Thengai Suduthal (coconut roasting). People roast coconut filled with rice flakes, jaggery, sesame seeds, fried gram and other items in every household on that day. Hence, sale of coconut used to be high on that day.

K.M. Arumugam, a wholesale coconut trader at VOC market, said Salem market got coconuts from Erode and Coimbatore districts. This year, cultivation of coconuts increased with good rain. On the first day of Aadi last year, price of a coconut (weighing 500 g to 800 g) was ₹30 to ₹40. This year, the price of a similar size coconut was ₹20 to ₹22 in the Salem market. The cost of small coconuts (seven numbers) was ₹50, he said.

"Now, one tonne of coconut is sold for ₹22,000. Last year, it was sold for ₹30,000. There will be approximately 3,000 medium-sized coconuts and around 2,000 large-sized coconuts. The traders fear that with the growing areas continuing to get good rain, production will increase and the price may fall further to ₹18,000 to ₹20,000 a tonne in the next 12 months. In the Salem retail market, the price of coconut will fall to ₹10 to ₹12 a piece if this trend continues for a year," Mr. Arumugam added. *(The Hindu)*

BEN TRE SEEKS WAYS TO BOOST COCONUT PRODUCT EXPORT

Director of the Department of Industry and Trade Nguyen Van Be said his department has proposed the provincial People's Committee ask for support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Industry and Trade in this regard.

The department has helped exporters join trade promotion delegations to foreign countries like Turkey, Israel, South Africa, India, Pakistan and Japan in order to meet big distributors there.

Local firms have also been supported to ship their products to China, the official said, adding that a number of workshops on cross-border e-commerce will be held in early August to boost the export of coconut products.

At the same time, the department has assisted local businesses and the coconut sector in general to promote domestic consumption, and provided consultation for the People's Committee in investment attraction in the field.

With 77,000 hectares of coconut, Ben Tre earns US$350 million each year from coconut exports, making up around 30 percent of its total export revenue.

The local agricultural sector urged farmers to expand organic coconut farming which now accounts for only 20.7 percent of the total area, and participate in cooperatives to develop large-scale material areas. *(Saigon Giai Phong Online)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

MCT OIL POWDER MICRO ENCAPSULATED FOR KETO APPLICATIONS

A "ketogenic diet" is a diet that results in ketones, which our liver creates when it breaks down fats. Without being stored as adipose tissue

in our bodies, ketones are a quick and healthy source of energy for the brain and muscles. The body uses MCTs (medium chain triglycerides, or MCTs) as an instant source of energy or swiftly converts them into ketones, making them a special form of fatty acid. MCTs travel directly from the gut to the liver. MCTs' properties make them perfect for ketogenic diets, managing weight, sports nutrition, functional foods, and nutritional supplements. MCTs are mostly found in coconut oil.

Micro-encapsulated MCT oil powders avoid the stomach's natural process of destroying MCT oil granules. Since they produce free-flowing oil with little surface buildup and are more stable, micro-encapsulated oil powders improve customer satisfaction. Additionally, micro encapsulation technology results in no caking, improved production efficiency, and less leak-out. Additionally, the active components are shielded from oxidation brought on by the outside environment by microencapsulation, maintaining product purity and a long shelf life.

Recently, MCB, a Taiwanese business that specializes in microencapsulating MCT oil powder, received USDA Organic Certification. It offers a variety of USDA Organic MCT oil powders with clean labels that are suitable for vegans, as well as a variety of ketogenic multi-fat blends with delightful and creamy flavors that can be used as keto coffee creamers. International distributor of food additives Faravelli, Inc. distributes MCT solutions by MCB throughout North America. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEAVY METALS CAN BE RELEASED FROM CONTAMINATED WATER USING OILSEED MEALS

According to recent studies, proteins derived from peanut and sun flower seed meals can be utilized to filter out heavy metals from contaminated water. Scientists from the Swiss ETH Zurich research center and Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU) collaborated on the project.

The protein chains were first extracted from peanut and sunflower oilseed meal by the researchers, who then wrapped the chains together to form protein amyloid fibrils, which are nanoscale rope-like formations. Activated carbon was subsequently added to these fibrils to create hybrid filtering membranes. These membranes were found to remove up to 99.89 percent of those heavy metals when used to filter water tainted with lead, platinum, and chromium, enabling them to fulfill global drinking standards. The fibrils served as "molecular sieves" that attracted and captured heavy metal ions that were passing by, it was revealed.

The researchers determined that only 16 kg (35 lbs) of sunflower protein would be needed to filter water with a lead contamination of 400 parts per billion, or the size of an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Additionally, once the membranes are saturated, they can be dried out and burned, leaving behind the trapped metals, allowing for the recycling of more expensive metals like platinum. The filtration membranes may therefore be a less expensive alternative to conventional water purification techniques like reverse osmosis, with the added benefit of giving oilseed meals another application. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

RED PALM OIL PRODUCTION COOPERATIVES ARE BEING PREPARED IN INDONESIA

As part of efforts to strengthen the supply chain of cooking oil at the domestic market, Indonesia's Ministry of Cooperatives and Small & Medium Enterprises (Kemenkop-UKM) stated that they are preparing a number of cooperatives that group oil palm smallholders across the country to develop factories that will produce red cooking oil based on the crude palm oil.

The moment has come for oil palm smallholders to contribute to the growth of the downstream palm oil businesses. In a recent meeting with representatives of the Indonesian forum on sustainable oil palm smallholder, Kemenko-UKM

Minister Teten Masduki said, "They can realize it by establishing their own cooperatives that will process the vitamin-A rich CPO into red cooking oil to meet the local need for cooking oil. Additionally, in accordance with President Joko Widodo's instructions, his ministry will construct four plants in the provinces of North Sumatra, Riau, Jambi, and Central Kalimantan to create the red cooking oil.

He claimed that thanks to a technology created by the palm oil research center in Medan, it is now possible to make red cooking oil effectively for relatively little money. According to the minister, the red cooking oil will set a new benchmark for palm oil-based cooking oils because it is not only healthier due to its high vitamin A content but also more effective and price-competitive than traditional cooking oils. Leading soybean exporters adopt a novel strategy to reduce deforestation in the Brazil region. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

NEW METHOD TO CUT DEFORESTATION IN BRAZIL REGION

A new strategy to combat deforestation and grassland conversion for soy crops in Brazil's biodiversity-rich Cerrado region, which borders the Amazon, has been devised by six of the largest food and agribusiness firms in the world. The six businesses are Louis Dreyfus Company and Viterra of the Netherlands, COFCO International of Geneva, Bunge, Cargill, and MN of the United States. The businesses are members of the Soft Commodities Forum (SCF) of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). SCF members are dedicated to ending deforestation and the conversion of native vegetation in their soy supply chains in the Cerrado region, while balancing economic, social, and environmental priorities. While SCF members can more readily trace soybean bought directly from soy farms, tracing soybean bought from indirect sources—which accounts for around 22% of their total soy purchases—is much more difficult. As a result, SCF members created a group mechanism to track and trace soybeans from unreliable sources.

The new SCF protocol for indirect suppliers was created in collaboration with the Brazilian Association of Vegetable Oil Industries (ABIOVE) as a sectoral strategy to assist in providing the intermediary soy resellers with suitable traceability systems. The six SCF members are now able to publicly reveal soy purchases made from 61 focal municipalities in the area, which accounts for 70% of the area at risk for soy-related deforestation. These purchases are deforestation- and conversion-free. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

SMART WAYS TO USE COCONUT HUSK

Coconuts are extremely healthful and versatile. Coconut and its extracts are worth trying for everything from flavoring food with a punch of flavor and texture to giving your hair shine with its oil or turning coffee into a weight loss beverage. However, have you ever tried utilizing coconut husk for regular cooking, cleaning, or treating illnesses? Here are some clever techniques for using coconut husk.

Diarrhea

Coconut husk water aids in bettering digestion and stopping diarrhea. This has historically been thought to be the greatest treatment for an upset stomach in several regions of Brazil. The coconut husk is neatly separated, scrubbed, and sanitized. These husks are then heated in water, filtered, and administered to persons with diarrhea, loose stools, and stomach infections.

Husk tea for pain

Drinking this ancient remedy will aid your condition if you have arthritis and experience physical pain. Coconut husk's anti-inflammatory qualities can aid in easing arthritis-related pain and swelling.

Coconut husk for cleaning agent

Historically, cleaning utensils involved using coconut husk. The separated strands are combined with lemon juice and charcoal powder. In addition to using these as scrubbing pads, you can also wrap up several strands and use them to clean the utensils.

Eliminates odor

In most Indian households, placing coconut husk in a vintage brass cup is another time-honored method of preventing odor and scent. When camphor is put to the husk and burned by fire, the odor from the kitchen and house is eliminated. It also serves as a deterrent for mosquitoes.

Plating

The coconut husk strands are worth conserving if you enjoy plating meals in interesting ways because you may use them to present desserts and other exotic foods. *(Times of India)*

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT FLAN

Yield
One 9-inch flan

Ingredients
1. 1 cup sugar
2. 3 cups full-fat coconut milk
3. 1 cup sweetened condensed coconut milk (see Note)
4. ½ teaspoon kosher salt
5. 1 teaspoon almond extract
6. 5 large eggs
7. 5 large egg yolks
8. Hot water
9. ½ cup unsweetened coconut flakes, toasted, for serving

Instruction
1. Preheat the oven to 325°F.
2. Set a 9-inch cake pan or pie plate inside a roasting pan.
3. In a small saucepan, combine ½ cup of the sugar and 3 tablespoons of water and bring to a boil over medium heat—do not stir. Cook, undisturbed, until the caramel is deep copper.
4. Pour the mixture into the cake pan, tilting the pan so the caramel coats the bottom. Return the cake pan to the roasting pan and let the caramel cool slightly.
5. In a medium saucepan, combine the coconut milk, sweetened condensed coconut milk, and the remaining ½ cup sugar. Cook over medium heat, stirring, until the sugar has dissolved, 3-4 minutes.
6. Watch carefully so the mixture does not boil over. Remove the saucepan from the heat and stir in the salt and almond extract. Let cool slightly.
7. In a large heatproof bowl, whisk the whole eggs and egg yolks until smooth. Add ½ cup of the hot milk mixture to the eggs, whisking constantly, to warm the eggs. Once the egg mixture is warm, stream in the remaining milk mixture and whisk to combine.
8. Strain the milk mixture through a fine-mesh sieve into the cake pan to cover the caramel.
9. Transfer the roasting pan to a pulled-out oven rack. Pour enough hot water into the roasting pan to come as high up the sides of the cake pan as possible. Bake until the flan is fully set but jiggles slightly in the middle, 45 minutes to 1 hour.
10. Remove the flan from the oven and let cool for about 30 minutes, then cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 6 hours or up to 24 hours.
11. To serve, run a knife around the edge of the flan before inverting it onto a large platter. Top with the toasted coconut and serve immediately.

(Thrillist)

STATISTICS

Table 1. Monthly Export of Coconut Shell Charcoal by Selected Countries 2020 - 2022 (In MT)

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2020[r]	2021[r]	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
January	15,984	16,585	17,456	6,006	5,273	7,395	757	709	930
February	15,668	15,357	13,596	7,629	6,230	10,228	935	1,045	943
March	17,184	12,288	16,535	9,887	10,382	11,694	876	882	1,050
April	15,214	15,430	13,639	4,405	8,979	9,429	917	548	1,576
May	9,526	11,241	7,376	6,449	9,457		1,554	991	1,211
June	17,808	9,869		9,182	9,182		953	412	
July	20,174	9,253		9,469	9,439		1,121	733	
August	16,154	10,019		854	10,071		837	489	
September	12,554	10,319		8,334	13,049		1,202	484	
October	17,100	13,270		8,313	9,390		1,096	547	
November	13,078	14,877		7,077	12,311		1,048	818	
December	15,912	16,016		7,120			742	697	
TOTAL	**186,357**	**154,524**	**68,601**	**84,725**	**103,763**	**38,746**	**12,038**	**8,355**	**5,710**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia, UCAP, and Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka r: revised figure

Table 2. Monthly Export of Activated Carbon by Selected Countries 2020 - 2022 (In MT)

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
January	2,171	1,415	2,184	6,819	6,170	5,873	4,177	4,311	3,918
February	2,326	2,250	2,239	7,328	5,616	6,229	3,233	3,701	3,529
March	2,412	2,609	2,327	6,991	7,193	19,865	2,738	5,050	4,424
April	2,691	2,379	2,419	4,592	5,782	7,455	2,271	3,579	5,093
May	2,256	1,929	1,842	5,782	5,865		3,784	4,781	4,796
June	2,359	1,720		6,873	5,642		4,425	4,491	
July	2,404	1,925		7,896	7,071		4,395	4,025	
August	2,208	1,550		6,499	5,385		4,080	3,805	
September	2,325	1,799		6,864	6,876		4,054	4,435	
October	2,130	1,607		6,506	6,030		4,206	4,555	
November	2,133	2,348		4,713	6,450		3,771	4,650	
December	2,199	2,280		6,116			4,172	5,336	
TOTAL	**27,614**	**23,812**	**11,011**	**76,979**	**68,080**	**39,422**	**45,306**	**52,719**	**21,760**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia, UCAP, and Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 3. Export Destination of Activated Carbon from India and Indonesia, January-May 2022

India			Indonesia		
Country of Destination	**Volume (MT)**	**Value (US$ 000)**	**Country of Destination**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value (US$ 000)**
1. U S A	12,663	29,740	1. CHINA	2,991	3,302
2. GERMANY	4,894	10,540	2. JAPAN	1,790	2,415
3. SRI LANKA	4,120	9,290	3. AUSTRALIA	1,384	3,501
4. TURKEY	2,854	3,510	4. UNITED STATES	906	1,670
5. SOUTH KOREA	2,579	5,130	5. GERMANY	864	1,682
6. ITALY	2,522	3,690	6. TAIWAN	752	1,553
7. U A E	2,048	3,430	7. SOUTH KOREA	559	941
8. SOUTH AFRICA	1,927	4,370	8. SAUDI ARABIA	411	512
9. NETHERLANDS	1,924	4,140	9. NETHERLANDS	302	575
10. CHINA	1,843	5,750	10. SINGAPORE	208	304
11. OTHERS	26,096	49,450	11. OTHERS	845	1,450
Total	**63,469**	**129,040**	**Total**	**11,011**	**17,907**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia and Department of Commerce, India

Table 4. US Imports of Coconut Shell Charcoal based Activated Carbon, 2020-2022

Month	2020		2021		2022	
	Volume (MT)	**Value US$'000**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value US$'000**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value US$'000**
January	3,861	8,822	4,569	9,221	4,365	11,919
February	3,771	8,205	3,334	7,157	3,733	8,962
March	5,373	10,810	4,413	9,764	5,178	13,039
April	4,274	8,697	3,155	6,673	5,081	12,464
May	4,569	9,133	3,728	8,645	6,063	15,411
June	4,722	9,754	4,245	9,641		
July	5,424	10,675	4,130	10,727		
August	4,375	8,756	3,316	8,017		
September	4,545	9,403	3,165	7,833		
October	4,502	9,650	2,950	6,881		
November	3,285	6,981	4,470	11,197		
December	3,632	7,041	4,353	12,074		
Total	**52,334**	**107,927**	**45,830**	**107,831**	**24,420**	**61,795**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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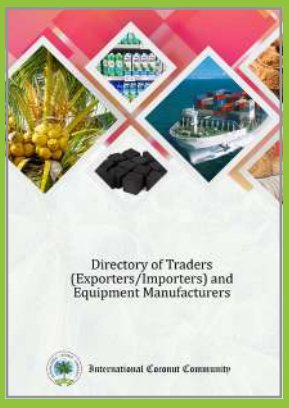

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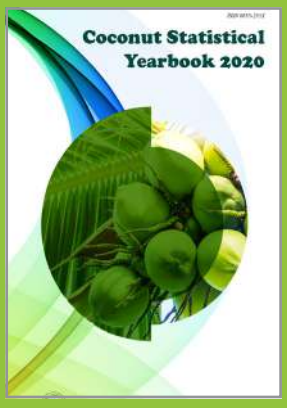

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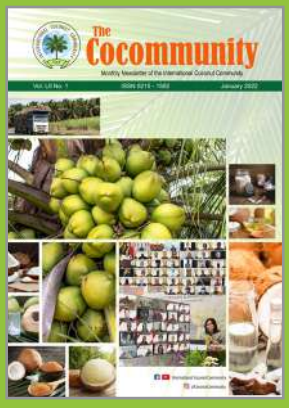

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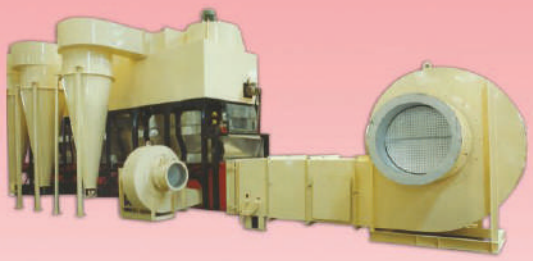

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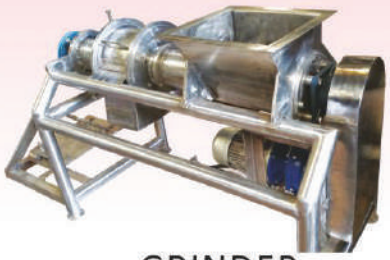

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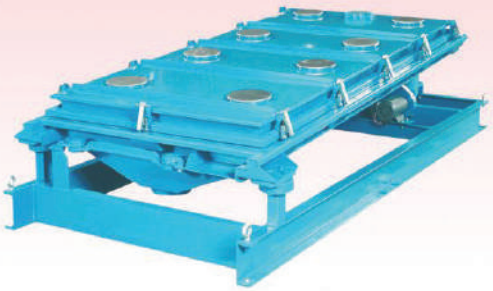

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The ***COCOMMUNITY*** is the monthly Newsletter of the INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY (ICC) incorporating current news, features, statistical data, business opportunities, and market information relating to the world coconut industry.

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.

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