



# The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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International Coconut Community



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Executive Director Speaks	
<i>"Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for a Sustainable and Resilient Coconut Industry"</i> .....	2
Prevailing Market Prices of Selected Coconut Products and Oils .....	3-4
Market Review of Coir .....	5-6
Community News .....	7-21
Trade News .....	21-24
Other Vegeoil News .....	24-26
Health News .....	26-27
Coconut Recipe .....	27
Statistics .....	29-30

## TABLE LIST

Table 3. SRI LANKA: Exports of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2020-2022 (In MT)	29
Table 4. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2020-2022 (US\$/MT, FOB Colombo)	29
Table 5. SRI LANKA: Exports of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2020-2022 (In MT)	30
Table 6. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2020-2022 (US\$/MT, FOB Colombo)	30

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS ...

### ***"Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for a Sustainable and Resilient Coconut Industry"***



The extreme weather event due to climate change is a major threat to agriculture including the coconut sector. Typical impacts of climate change including floods, longer droughts, landslides, increased pest populations and disease severity could lead to yield losses and therefore pose challenges for coconut farmers and other stakeholders. Several studies have reported that climate change could reduce crop yields by 1-2 % per decade over the past century, and the adverse impacts are predicted to increase in the future if there are no effective adaptation and mitigation strategies in place.

There is a need to realize the magnitude and potential irreversibility of climate change and the threats and dynamics of extreme climate change impacts. It is also crucial to identify the causes of the vulnerability and points of resilience as well as to identify adaptation and mitigation management interventions, comprehensive standards and policy tools that may assist and accelerate resilience to climate change. The vulnerability of agriculture including the coconut sector to the impacts of climate change and the potential contribution of coconut sector in mitigating the impacts has prompted the International Coconut Community (ICC) to promote ***"Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for a Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Agroindustry"*** as the theme of the 50<sup>th</sup> COCOTECH conference and Exhibition.

The host facilities for the 50<sup>th</sup> COCOTECH conference and Exhibition is provided by the Government of Malaysia through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia from 7-11 November 2022. The first COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition was conceived in 1969 when 25 representatives from six countries and international organizations gathered in Ceylon, Sri Lanka, for one week. It was at the meeting when the six countries approved that there would be a platform for the coconut community to share knowledge, experience & expertise and to cooperate regularly. The International COCOTECH is officially mandated as the Technical Panel for the coconut community at which updated innovative technologies, products, appropriate recommendations and the national and international policies are shared and exchanged to ensure the sustainability of the coconut sector.

We acknowledge and appreciate the participation of various stakeholders in the coconut value chain around the world comprising policymakers, senior government officials, researchers, extensionists, traders, product processors, machinery manufacturers, exporters, importers, farmers, and the friends of coconut. The Community is indebted to the high caliber of eminent resource persons that include experts in the fields of agriculture, industry, commerce, biotechnology, chemistry, clinical science, and much more to provide invaluable inputs to this Conference. Diverse, appropriate and useful information, knowledge, and technologies would be imparted from these resource persons with a great wealth of experience as well as their respective levels of expertise.

a physical exhibition was also arranged in which the development departments, farmer organizations and industry stakeholders showcased the latest technology development of food and non-food products, services, and machinery. A daily business matching to connect (match) companies and people with common business interests, create valuable business relationships, and strengthen business networks was also provided. It is crucial to take a more proactive approach to climate change resilience, reshape the current direction if required, breaking down barriers and working together to sustain coconut sector and fulfill its potential towards greater contribution to the economic, social and environment for the benefit of all, the farmers, industry, national and global community.



DR. JELFINA C. ALOW  
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 India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka, but remained the same in Philippines.**

**COPRA:** The price of copra in Indonesia was US\$502/MT in October 2022, which was lower than previous month's price. Compared to the same month of last year the price was US\$ 415/MT lower.

In the domestic market of the Philippines (Manila), the price decreased by US\$57/MT from US\$662/MT in September 2022 to US\$605/MT in October 2022. The price was US\$348/MT lower compared to the price of US\$953/MT in October 2021.

**COCONUT OIL:** The average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) declined to US\$1,094/MT in October 2022. Moreover, this price was lower by 41% as opposed to the price in October 2021 at US\$1,867/MT.

The average local price of coconut oil in the Philippines was US\$1,103/MT in October 2022. The price was US\$586/MT lower compared to the price of US\$1,689/MT in October 2021. Meanwhile, the average local price of coconut oil in Indonesia decreased to US\$1,011/MT in October 2022 from US\$1,227/MT in September 2022. The price was US\$484/MT lower compared to the price of US\$1,495/MT in October 2021.

**COPRA MEAL:** The average domestic price of the commodity in the Philippines at selling points was quoted at US\$282/MT. The price was US\$39/MT higher to the previous month and was US\$47/MT higher than the price a year earlier. The average domestic price of copra meal in Indonesia was US\$284/MT which was higher

than previous month. The price was US\$17/MT higher than last year's price.

**DESICCATED COCONUT:** The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in October 2022 was US\$1,984/MT, which remained the same as previous month price and US\$513/MT lower than the price of the same month last year.

In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in October 2022 was US\$1,443/MT or 1.6% lower than price in September 2022. Meanwhile, the price of DC in the domestic market of Philippines in October 2022 was US\$2,039/MT, which remained the same as previous month's price. Indonesian price (FOB) of DC in October 2022 was US\$1,250/MT which was lower than price in September 2022, and was lower compared to last year's price of US\$2,250/MT.

**COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL:** In Philippines, the average price of the commodity in October 2022 was US\$364/MT which was lower than price in September 2022. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price decreased from US\$465/MT in September 2022 to US\$435/MT in October 2022. Moreover, compared to last year's price, the price was lower by US\$143/MT. Sri Lankan's charcoal price in October 2022 was US\$394/MT which was lower than last month's price.

**COIR FIBRE:** Coir fiber was traded in the domestic market in Sri Lanka at US\$49/MT for mix fiber and US\$406/MT-US\$510/MT for bristle. The Indonesian price for mixed raw fiber was US\$130/MT in October 2022 which was lower than price a year earlier at US\$220/MT.

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

Products/Country	2022	2022	2021	2022
	Oct	Sep	Oct (Annual Ave.)	
<b>Dehusked Coconut</b>				
Philippines (Domestic)	129	134	195	189
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	138	147	226	178
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	168	166	261	195
India (Domestic Kerala)	380	396	513	436
<b>Copra</b>				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	605	662	953	933
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	502	543	917	801
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	888	887	1,451	1,151
India (Dom. Kochi)	930	1,025	1,365	1,128
<b>Coconut Oil</b>				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,094	1,261	1,867	1,720
Philippines (Domestic)	1,103	1,202	1,689	1,680
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,011	1,227	1,495	1,488
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,623	1,746	2,912	2,279
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,640	1,769	2,297	1,924
<b>Desiccated Coconut</b>				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	1,984	1,984	2,497	2,401
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,443	1,466	2,501	1,843
Indonesia (FOB)	1,250	1,450	2,250	1,747
India (Domestic)	1,294	1,396	2,032	1,591
<b>Copra Meal Exp. Pel.</b>				
Philippines (Domestic)	282	243	235	240
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	248	238	282	241
Indonesia (Domestic)	284	273	267	303
<b>Coconut Shell Charcoal</b>				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	364	371	454	386
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	394	400	573	417
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	435	465	578	546
India (Domestic)	411	518	545	498
<b>Coir Fibre</b>				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	49	60	143	81
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	406	388	576	413
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	510	466	877	554
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	130	130	220	196
<b>Other Oil</b>				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,039	1,249	1,807	1,727
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	889	909	1,307	1,343
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,576	1,548	1,483	1,694

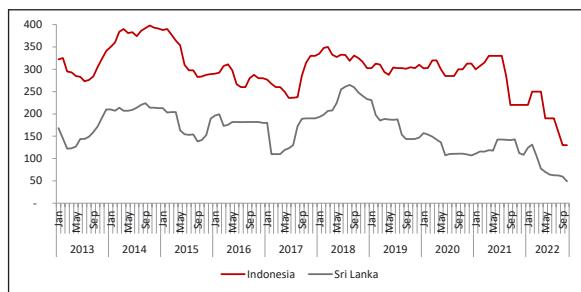
### Exchange Rate

Oct 31, '22                    1 US\$ = P58.20 or Rp15,635 or India Rs82.78 or SL Rs365.51  
                                   1 Euro = US\$0.98 n.q. = no quote

## MARKET REVIEW OF COIR

Until the third quarter of 2022, global market of coir fibre showed a bearish market. Export price of coir fibre showed a decreasing trend in almost all main exporting countries. In Sri Lanka, price of coir fibre dropped from US\$124/MT in January 2022 to US\$49 in October 2022. Similarly, price of coconut fibre from Indonesia declined sharply from US\$220/MT in January 2022 to US\$130/MT in October 2022. Sri Lankan coir products hit by economic difficulties in the country. Meanwhile, lockdown implemented by Chinese Government has negatively affected market for Indonesian fibre products since China is the main destination for the products.

**Figure 1. Monthly Price of Desiccated Coconut (US\$/MT), January 2012- September 2022**



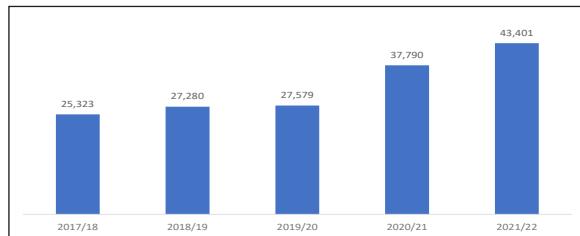
Benefiting from low price, Sri Lanka boosted exports of coir products to global market despite difficulties faced by the country. In the period of January-September 2022, Sri Lankan export earnings of coir products reached Rs 58 billion or an increase of 56% as opposed to previous year's value. During the period, moulded coir products used for horticulture were the country's highest contributor to the export revenue. Export value of moulded coir products which were mainly used for horticulture was US\$41.73 billion, accounting for more than 72% of the total export value of coir based products. The export value was 61% higher compared to the previous year's value though in terms of volume, export of the product was lower by 5% compared to the volume a year earlier. Other products that significantly contributed to the export earnings were mattress fibre, and coir twine.

Sri Lankan coir products were shipped to more than 117 countries around the globe. Mexico, China, Japan, USA, and South Korea were the main destinations of coir moulded products used for horticulture from Sri Lanka. Total quantity of the products shipped to these countries were accumulated for 48% of the total export volume of the product during January-September 2022.

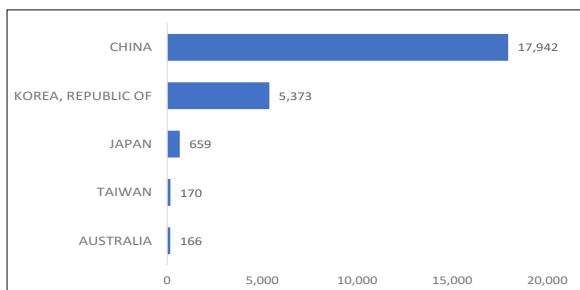
**Table 1. Exports of Coir Products from Sri Lanka, January-September 2022**

Fibre Products	Volume			Value (Rs million)		
	Jan-Sep 2021	Jan-Sep 2022	%Change	Jan-Sep 2021	Jan-Sep 2022	%Change
Mattress Fibre (MT)	58,872	58,977	0.2	3,023	4,275	41
Bristle Fibre (MT)	1,352	1,674	24	349	608	74
Twisted Fibre (MT)	17,102	10,856	-37	1,193	1,290	8
Coir Yarn (MT)	956	789	-17	162	190	17
Coir Twine (MT)	5,554	6,761	22	1,424	2,662	87
Tawashi Brushes (Pcs '000)	16,272	16,617	2	554	961	74
Coir Brooms & Brushes (Pcs '000) (Other than tawashi)	10,169	9,995	-2	1,334	2,199	65
Rubberized Coir pads & Mattress for Bedding (Pcs)	663,895	948,733	43	132	177	34
Coir Mats & Rugs (M2)	336,193	311,067	-7.5	313	407	30
Coir Mattings (M2)	5,733	1,188	-79	4	2	-49
Coir Fibre Pith /Dust (MT)	32,249	27,775	-14	1,753	2,116	21
Husk Chips (MT)	2,203	1,761	-20	167	221	32
Geo Textiles (MT)	3,484	3,093	-11	775	1,123	45
Moulded coir products for use in Horticulture (MT)	250,915	237,328	-5	25,947	41,731	61
<b>Total</b>				<b>37,130</b>	<b>57,963</b>	<b>56</b>

**Figure 3. Export Earnings of Coir Products from India in Last 5 Years (Million Rs)**



**Figure 4. Top 5 Export Destinations of Coir Products from Indonesia, January-October 2022 (MT)**



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Meanwhile, India exports of the products during April 2021 to March 2022 showed an positive growth. During the period, both export volume and value indicated an increase trend. Export earning went up by 15% and export quantity rose by 6% compared to the export value and volume in April 2020 to March 2021. Powerloom mats and geo-textiles were the main contributor to the total coir export revenue. The two products contributed to more than 72% of total export earnings. In terms of quantity, export share of

the two products was more than 65%. Other main coir products from India traded globally were geo-textile and coir fibre.

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

It is worth noting that export of coir products from India has shown a positive trend during the last 5 years. During 2017/18 to 2021/22, export earnings from coir products jumped from Rs 25.3 billion to Rs 43.4 billion with CAGR of 11%. This is a positive sign of Indian coir industries amid many challenges faced by the industry due to global economic uncertainty.

During 2022, Indonesian coir industry suffered from global economic uncertainty and lockdown imposed by Chinese government since Indonesian coir market heavily depends on Chinese market. During the period January-October 2022, export of coir products from Indonesia to China was 17,942 tons or dropped by 24% as opposed to the volume of 23,568 tons in January-October 2021. This brought about the total export volume of the products to decline by 18% to 24,798 tons during the period.

**Table 2. Export Volume (MT) of Coir Products from India, 2021-2022\***

Products	2020/2021		2021/22		Growth (%)	
	Volume (MT)	Value (Rs million)	Volume (MT)	Value (Rs million)	Volume	Value
Coir Pith	399,428	6,366	354,123	6,289	13	1
Tufted Mats	4,285	333	3,849	292	11	14
Coir Fibre	21,079	2,617	20,527	2,466	3	6
Handloom Mats	408	75	65	11	531	608
Geo-Textiles	92,810	10,011	81,799	8,069	14	24
Coir Yarn	1,110	142	1,418	171	-22	-17
Curled Coir	4	1	11	2	-67	-50
Handloom Matting	6,978	617	8,583	706	-19	-13
Rubberised Coir	580	86	327	43	77	101
Coir Rugs and Carpets	716	65	505	49	42	32
Coir Other Sorts	9,943	262	9,381	242	6	8
Coir Rope	644	110	982	132	-34	-17
Powerloom Mats	696,175	22,592	680,898	19,197	2	18
Powerloom Matting	696	123	744	120	-7	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,234,855</b>	<b>43,401</b>	<b>1,163,213</b>	<b>37,790</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>

\*) April - March

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### 50<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL COCOTECH CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2022

International COCOTECH Conference and Exhibition is the largest technical conference conducted once in every two years and dedicated solely to showcasing the different development activities in the coconut sector. This conference is organized by the International Coconut Community (ICC) together with the ICC member country that offers hosting facilities. The 50<sup>th</sup> International Cocotech Conference and Exhibition is organized by ICC in association with the Government of Malaysia through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries from 7-11 November at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia with the theme *"Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for a Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Agroindustry"*.

Dr. Viliami Toalei Manu, Chairman of the International Coconut Community, in his conference address expressed his happiness to meet all physically after the pandemic and requested all to take as much advantage of this conference and exhibition and take back home the knowledge and technologies from the speakers of this conference and also share skill and experience with all.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC delivered the conference introduction. She mentioned that 39 eminent speakers are going to share their knowledge and experience at this biggest technical conference. The expected output from this conference are causes of vulnerability and points of resilience identified; Adaptation & mitigation management interventions identified and promoted; Comprehensive standards & policy tools that may accelerate resilience to climate change determined; Decarbonization of key sectors

including shifting to renewable energy sources & Degradable products promoted.

The 50<sup>th</sup> International COCOTECH Conference was well attended by over 900 participants including the daily visitors to the exhibition from 52 countries who joined physically. This was one of the biggest events organized by ICC after two years of the pandemic.

The conference was for 5-days in which four-day classroom session was arranged and on the fifth day delegate tour was organized to two locations Linaco Manufacturing Unit Batu Pahat, Johor, and Jorak Agriculture Centre-Smart Irrigation System with IoT Pagoh, Johor.

The conference covered eight technical sessions by 39 eminent resource speakers, where they shared their ideas, knowledge, and experiences with the latest technologies and development. The subjects covered during the Conference assisted in preparing farming communities to counter the challenges and maximize benefits from the opportunities that are presented. One session was exclusively arranged as a parallel session wherein call for papers were invited from the researchers of universities and research institutes who are involved in the research on the coconut sector. Ten such presenters presented their work at the conference.

A physical exhibition was also arranged in which the development departments, farmer organizations and industry stakeholders showcased the latest technology development of food and non-food products, services, and machinery, and build brand proximity. A daily business matching to connect (match) companies and people with common business interests, create valuable business relationships and strengthen business networks was also provided. 40 exhibitors from 7 countries participated in the exhibition, which includes India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Papua New Guinea.

The recommendations emanating from COCOTECH were endorsed by the plenipotentiary delegates; session chairs and resource speakers from the countries for implementation by the member countries.

Many International partner organisations, research institutes and commodity boards of the member countries participated in the Conference, they were United Nations Economic and Social Commission Asia and The Pacific (UN-ESCAP), Non-Aligned Movement-Center for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC), Coalition of Coconut Producing Districts (KOPEK), The Pacific Community (SPC), Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique Pour le Développement (CIRAD), Coconut Development Board (CDB) of India, Indonesian Palm Crops Research Institute (IPCRI), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Coconut Development Authority (CDA) of Sri Lanka, Coconut Research Institute (CRI) of Sri Lanka, Coconut Cultivation Board (CCB) of Sri Lanka, Coconut Industry Board (CIB) of Jamaica, Centre de Investigaci'on Cient'fica de yucat'an (CICY) of Mexico, Conservation and Development of Coconut Oil Forum of Thailand (CDCOT), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA-FAO), International Trade Center (ITC), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), ICAR-Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, BRIN, and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

The four days Conference concluded with the adoption of the policy recommendations crafted from the presentations and discussions for the implementations by the member countries. (ICC News)

## **ONE MILLION COCONUT TREES PROGRAM SEES 100% GROWTH IN INDONESIA**

Indonesian President Joko Widodo's campaign supporting the planting of one million early

mature coconuts across Indonesia has achieved good results, with 100 percent growth, and has even sprouted additional shoots.

In a statement received, director general of plantations at the Agriculture Ministry, Andi Nur Alam Syah, said that the planting of early maturing coconuts in Solo Raya, Central Java, was part of the food security program as well as measures to boost people's income.

"Solo Raya must be successful, maintenance and other demands must be provided, not to be lacking," he stressed.

By providing support for seeds to develop 110 thousand early maturing coconut trees in Sukoharjo Regency, 58 thousand trees in Boyolali, and 59 thousand trees in Karanganyar, the ministry hopes to plant 1 million early coconuts over the 2022–2023 period.

The seed help was delivered during the declaration of the "One Million Stem Early Coconut Planting" by President Widodo in mid-August 2022.

The ministry is doing monitoring and assessment to make sure the program is operating well in order to create an early-maturing coconut area that can boost local incomes and the economy as a whole.

Syah added that Solo Raya, notably Sukoharjo, has been adopted as an example for other places.

Good plant development cannot be isolated from people's enthusiastic response when planting and maintenance, he noted. In Solo Raya, especially in Sukoharjo, coconut is processed into palm sugar and coconut oil.

He stated that Sukoharjo would receive the majority of the remaining 100,000 coconut seeds for this year.

The Sukoharjo government also has a strong commitment to follow through on it, he continued, "since there is still a lot of space

available and the public's response to planting with serious upkeep is very high."

Some of the early types of coconut that have been chosen for the program are entog, yellow nias, yellow bali, pandanus aromatic, and kopyor. Genjah coconuts can be harvested within three to four years from the time of planting.

Each variety has its advantages, for instance, the entog variety has the potential for bearing 95 fruits per tree each year, with the number of fruits per bunch ranging from 6 to 7. Meanwhile, the sweetness of the fruit juice is 6 percent Brix, the weight of the fruit meat is 437 grams, and the fruit can be harvested in the fourth year.

The yellow nias variety yields 60–120 fruits per tree per year, the weight of the fruit meat reaches 159 grams, and the oil content is 62 percent. Nias yellow early coconut can be harvested after it reaches the age of 4 years.

The potential output of the yellow bali cultivar is 60–110 grains per tree per year. The fruit meat weighs 177 grams, and it contains around 61 percent oil. This kind of coconut can be harvested from the fourth year.

Meanwhile, the juice of the Genjah pandanus coconut species has a sweetness of 6.25 percent Brix.

Young fruit flesh has a flavor and perfume similar to pandan, and the fruit water is flavorful and aromatic. It may be harvested starting in the fourth year and produces 151 grains per tree per year. (*Antara News*)

### **SUN GRO HORTICULTURE BOOSTS ITS PEAT AND COCONUT COIR OFFERINGS**

Sun Gro Horticulture, a North American manufacturer and marketer of growing media products, has closed a transaction to buy Pelemix Mexico and Pelemix USA.

The company also announced that it has chosen Sun Gro's Export Sales Vice President, Kirk Johanson, to oversee the Pelemix Mexico, Central and South America, and Caribbean divisions. The Mexican activities, including its distribution facilities, will continue to be administered from their existing office in Guadalajara, Mexico. The Pelemix U.S. and Canadian operations will be merged within Sun Gro's existing organizational structure in both countries.

Sun Gro will continue to work closely with Pelemix to utilize their global operations and acquire high-quality coir and finished goods from the Pelemix factories in Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand.

"Sun Gro Horticulture is an industry leader in growing media and growth media product innovation," says Phil Jones, CEO of Sun Gro. "Similarly, Pelemix is a global leader in the coconut coir substrate industry. This acquisition will allow Sun Gro to expand its increasing media capabilities, adding coconut coir substrates, and expand its geographical footprint further into Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean to satisfy the rising needs of all our customers."

Pelemix coir is used worldwide as a growing substrate for hydroponic crops, plant propagation, fruit and vegetable production, and potted plant and bedding plant production. The combination of Pelemix USA and Mexican enterprises with Sun Gro increases both product portfolios and enables clients to have a single supplier for all their Coir and Peat needs.

Customers in the Americas will find it simple to transact with one provider for all of their requirements for peat- and coconut-based professional growth medium, according to Sun Gro Marketing Director Bruce Adams. "With peat and coir-based mixes, our grower specialists can offer growers industry-leading scientific expertise to assist improve crop output."

"We understand our customers' expectations and the need to give all producers with a

selection of products to enable them to grow the optimal crop," Jones says. "This means guaranteeing the finest quality growth material and maintaining a stable supply chain. The inclusion of Pelemix supports Sun Gro's commitment to farmers to be the growing media supply partner of choice, and we will continue to explore for opportunities and collaborations that will support our long-term growth trajectory." (*Greenhouse Grower*)

## **COCONUTS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA GAIN POPULARITY IN CHINA**

As a coconut enthusiast, Zhuang Yong purchases imported coconuts from Thailand in a variety of ways, including everyday shopping, online purchasing, and show sales.

Nanning is the capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in southern China. Zhuang, a native of Nanning, characterized the flavor of coconut as "fresh and delicious."

Recently, Southeast Asian coconuts have gained popularity in China, where they are widely used in baked goods, coffee, and even hotpots. Diverse coconut products have improved the palates of Chinese consumers and created new business opportunities.

In the cold storage of a fruit wholesale market in Nanning, coconuts from Thailand were neatly arranged, destined for restaurants, beverage stores, supermarkets, and consumers nationwide.

"After being harvested in Thailand, coconuts are sorted and packaged by local manufacturers before being shipped to China," said Mo Jiaming, deputy manager of a trade company in Guangxi. Mo remarked that they had traveled to Thailand multiple times and had previously established cooperative agreements with Thai firms to ensure coconut supply.

Livestreaming on Chinese e-commerce platforms has become an essential tool for

fruit merchants seeking to expand their distribution networks.

The online sales of Southeast Asian coconuts are rising. "In the past, to drink fresh coconut water, we had to drill a hole in the coconut with a knife, which was difficult and dangerous. Now, with the easy-opening tool attached to the coconut, it is more convenient to consume coconut water" Mo commented.

In addition to drinking fresh coconut water, consumers in China favor a hotpot made with coconut water and chicken "My family and I often eat coconut chicken hotpot every month. Otherwise, I would miss it." Nanning resident Lu Shuai observed that the ingredients in the hotpot are fresh. In accordance with the principles of consumption enhancement and healthy dining, coconut chicken hotpot satisfies all client requirements. A number of coconut goods, including coconut milk, coconut jelly, and coconut ice cream, simultaneously satisfy a variety of customer needs.

China's demand for Southeast Asian coconuts continues to rise due to the rising popularity of fresh coconuts and the diversification of coconut-based goods. Mo noted that the company's total imports of coconuts from Thailand will likely exceed 28,000 containers this year, and that the average annual growth rate in prior years has been approximately 10%. He believed that the entire volume of coconut imports would continue to rise in the future.

China bought 566,000 tonnes of coconuts from January to July of this year, an increase of 35.3% compared to the 418,000 tonnes imported during the same period last year. During the first seven months of this year, the majority of the coconuts imported into China came from Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam, accounting for 48.6%, 32.5%, and 18.8%, respectively.

Regional transportation and logistics have improved as a result of the development of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor (a trade and logistics corridor) and the

implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

Transporting fruit from Asean countries to China is possible via road, rail, sea, and air, and multimodal transport can also be tailored to meet specific requirements.

Wanlada Ratanapanich, the commercial consul of the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Nanning, remarked that the volume of imported Thai fruits to China is dominated by coconuts. The Chinese consumer market is large, in great demand, and has promising future potential. Thai businesses must concentrate on the continued optimization and diversification of Thai coconut products and use live streaming, Chinese holidays, Thailand shopping carnivals, and other promotional events to attract the attention of consumers. (*Bangkok Post*)

### **TAMIL NADU IS A LEADER IN COCONUT PRODUCT EXPORTATION**

Tamil Nadu is a prominent supplier of coconut byproducts such as activated carbon, coconut oil, and coconut shell charcoal, Indian Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said.

Speaking at a farmers' meeting held by the Coconut Development Board, he said 4.44 lakh hectares was under coconut cultivation in the State (2.11 million acre in the country), with productivity of 11,526 nuts per hectare, which was better than the national average of 9,123 nuts per hectare. Of this, 88,467 hectares was under coconut in Coimbatore district.

Tamil Nadu is leading in coconut processing operations with a significant number of units making activated carbon, virgin coconut oil, packaged tender coconut water, etc. Globally, India is positioned third in the overall area under coconut farming and has 31% of the annual world coconut production. Export of coconut products, excluding coir products, exceeded ₹3,236.83 crore last financial year, marking 41% rise over the previous year. Activated carbon,

coconut oil, dried coconut, frozen grated coconut, dehydrated coconut, fresh coconut and virgin coconut oil are the key coconut goods exported from India, he said.

M.R.K. Panneerselvam, Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, said the State had so far procured 25,000 tonnes of copra from farmers through the marketing committee at 41 places for ₹105.90 a kg.

The Central government has allowed buying of 50,000 tonnes. The State is willing to acquire copra throughout the year provided the Union government permits and it should boost the procurement price to ₹150 a kilogram, he said. The State government will research coconut growers' requests for coconut oil to be supplied to PDS stores. However, strategies to increase the shelf-life of coconut oil should be studied, he noted.

The Coconut Development Board, according to Horticulture Commissioner Prabhat Kumar, administers ten programs to promote value addition, quality seed sowing, etc. The country's 12 clusters, including the banana cluster at Theni, Tamil Nadu, are being developed by the Horticulture Department.

Mr. Tomar met farmers of the Velliangiri Uzhavan, a farmer producer organisation, during his visit to Isha Yoga, and later met farmers of FPOs in Pollachi. (*The Hindu*)

### **300,000 SEEDLINGS ARE PLANTED BY AKWA IBOM TO INCREASE COCONUT PRODUCTION**

Governor Udom Emmanuel of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, has initiated the planting of an additional 300,000 seedlings around the state to increase the availability of raw materials for the State-owned Coconut Oil facility.

At the event commemorating the state's Coconut Day in 2022, held in Mkpu, Itu Mbonuso, Ini Local Government Area, the Governor highlighted the coconut planting effort as the highlight of the state's 35th anniversary celebrations.

With the availability of raw materials to increase production at St. Gabriel's Coconut Oil Factory in the state, he is optimistic that the state will become a major economic hub.

"Of all the activities commemorating the 35th State Anniversary, this is one of the most noteworthy; today we wish to inaugurate the initial phase of this Local Government."

Based on our research, Ini will provide us with a very high yield of hybrid coconut.

"As declared in all 31 Local Government Areas, we will plant 300,000 coconut seedlings simultaneously between now and 2 p.m."

"Before I give over the reins to the incoming governor in December, we will have planted two million coconut seedlings," he guaranteed.

The governor urged the people to safeguard the project, adding that the coconut plantation will create revenue for the state because virgin coconut oil fetches a higher price on the international market than crude oil.

Earlier in her remarks, Offiong Offor, the Agriculture commissioner, praised Governor Emmanuel for facilitating the project, which she acknowledged has been a challenge in terms of growing the coconut oil factory's raw materials.

Offor stated that as the state celebrates coconut day by planting seedlings, numerous employment opportunities for youths will be established, and cash will be generated through the manufacture of coconut oil.

In a message of goodwill, former Commissioner for Agriculture in the state, Glory Edet, praised the innovations in the agricultural sector by Governor Udom Emmanuel, adding that the vision to plant coconut trees will increase the availability of raw materials, thereby boosting the Coconut Factory's output.

Emmanuel Ekpenyong, who represents the Ini State Constituency in the House of Assembly,

praised the state government for its dedication to food sufficiency.

He said that the Governor had not only provided Ini's citizens with fish, but also taught them how to fish.

Edidem Etim Umoette, the paramount ruler of the region, praised Governor Emmanuel for the numerous development initiatives implemented throughout the state.

The royal father remarked that massive investments in agriculture continue to be a panacea for food security. The highlight of the celebration was the planting of coconut saplings by government officials. (*Business Day NG*)

#### **A CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR COCONUT IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY**

As part of an effort to promote green leaf manuring for coconut, the Agriculture Department of Kerala, India, has began distributing Sheemakonna (*Gliricidia sepium*) cuttings.

The distribution is being conducted on a campaign basis in conjunction with the ongoing "Kera Raksha Vaaram" (coconut protection week) in the state.

In promoting 'Sheemakonna' as a source of green leaf compost for coconut plantations, the government has revived a 1950s and 1960s-era campaign prevalent in Kerala.

Through agro-service centres, MGNREGA, Kudumbashree, and the Karshika Karmesena groups, the campaign will distribute 50 lakh cuttings to farmers at a cost of 2 each this year.

The purpose of coconut protection week is to promote the use of integrated coconut management techniques. During 2022 and 2023, panchayats selected for the Keragramam scheme will be the focus of this campaign.

As part of the 'Kera Raksha Vaaram,' the department is also subsidizing the cultivation of pulses and other crops in addition to coconut. The department is merging numerous coconut-related programs, including as those under the Kerala Gramam, Coconut Development Board, local governments, and the "Njangalum Krishiyilekku" initiative. (*The Hindu*)

### **RECLAIM GALAMSEY LANDS FOR COCONUT CULTURE**

David Korboe, the chairman of the African Coconut Group, has requested the government to restore galamsey lands for coconut cultivation.

According to him, Ghanaian coconuts are in high demand internationally; therefore, it is essential to reclaim sufficient land to fulfill rising demand.

Mr. Korboe made the request at the second international coconut festival held in Accra and organized by the Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA) and the African Coconut Group (ACG).

The objective of the 2022 International Coconut Festival, with the topic "Repositioning Ghana's Coconut Sector for Accelerated Industrialization," was to examine possibilities of accelerating the expansion of the sector by adding value to the coconut raw materials.

The three-day event, which brought together farmers, exporters, exhibitors, students, governmental officials, and traditional authorities, aims to encourage more Ghanaians to enter the coconut industry in order to increase output and exports.

As a result of its strong global demand, GEPA has launched a number of measures that are intended to strengthen the country's position as the ninth-leading producer in the world.

Since 2017, GEPA has distributed 600,000 disease-resistant seedlings to coconut producers in an effort to improve the business.

Samuel Dentu, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of GEPA, stated on the sidelines of the closing ceremony that Ghana seeks to enhance its part of the worldwide coconut production market.

"Some seedlings that were planted roughly two years ago are close to bearing fruit. Thus, by the next year, there will be a great deal of production online. We want to inch closer to the top spot," he revealed. (*GhanaWeb*)

### **COCONUT WHITE FLY MENACE RETURNS**

As a result of the Coconut White Fly invasion, coconut cultivations in numerous regions have been seriously harmed.

The Coconut White Fly, which was discovered in Sri Lanka's Kegalle region for the first time in 2019, is currently widespread in other districts.

Dr. Nayani Arachchige, Deputy Director of the Coconut Research Institute, indicated that the Coconut White Fly has seriously impacted coconut agriculture in the districts of Kalutara, Gampaha, and Colombo.

She also reported that the Coconut White Fly has expanded to the districts of Kurunegala, Kandy, Galle, Matara, Ratnapura, Puttalam, and Hambantota.

The Coconut Research Institute reports that the Coconut White Fly has attacked a huge number of coconut trees and king coconut trees.

As a result of the Coconut White Fly's attacks on the tree, the leaves grow less green and the tissue turns yellow, resulting in a loss in productivity.

Whiteflies can be controlled with soapy water, pesticides, and coir oil.

The Coconut Research Institute warns coconut growers that if they suspect the spread of whitefly, they must immediately notify the local coconut development officer. (*News 1<sup>st</sup>*)

## **AGRICULTURE MINISTRY ACQUIRES 10,000 BRAZILIAN DWARF COCONUT SEEDNUTS TO PROMOTE INDUSTRY**

In an effort to stimulate the economy, the Belizean Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise (MAFSE) has acquired 10,000 Brazilian dwarf coconut seednuts.

"We have begun our efforts to diversify agriculture in the North by planting 10,000 seednuts of the Brazilian dwarf coconut." We are collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture and the SIRDI, as stated by MAFSE Minister Jose Abelardo Mai.

Mai stated that the seednuts were acquired from Sergio Marroquin's Blue Creek farm.

According to Breaking Belize News, the Brazilian dwarf coconut is in high demand due to its high yield and high-quality water production.

The Brazilian dwarf coconut seednuts were acquired earlier this week and are currently being planted at the SIRDI station in Buena Vista, Corozal, and the Yo Creek agriculture station in Orange Walk, Belize. The Ministry stated that the seedlings will be offered at a reasonable price to farmers interested in producing coconut water, especially in northern Belize, at the beginning of the following year. (*Breaking Belize News*)

## **DAVAO ORO FORUM PROMOTES COCONUT SECTOR INVESTMENTS**

The Department of Trade and Business in Davao Region (DTI-11), Philippines, conducted the Davao de Oro Investment Conference in order to promote investments in the province, notably in the coconut industry (DDOICON).

The two-day forum highlights critical investment areas in the coconut industry, as well as the poultry-rearing and logistics industries.

The provincial director of DTI-Davao de Oro, attorney Lucky Siegfred Balleque, stated that

this year's conference will emphasize various market potential for coconut-based products and will be attended by a Chinese commercial counselor based in Beijing.

"Local coconut processors or farmers and Chinese purchasers will be matched on the market. This is intended to encourage and motivate our coconut farmers to produce sufficient quantities of high-quality coconut goods, consequently improving their life" Balleque remarked.

Balleque stated that the DDOICON hopes to generate investment leads of PHP500 million, help 60 investors, and generate PHP200 million in domestic sales.

William Moralta, division chief of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), stated that the event will assist coconut farmers in pursuing value-adding opportunities for their products.

"In fact, we have already begun production of more items, including copra, virgin coconut oil, coco sugar, coco water, and coco husk. This will greatly assist them in locating their market" he stated.

Approximately 35,712 coconut farmers cultivate a total of 67,174 hectares in Davao del Oro.

According to data from the DTI-Davao de Oro, the province has gathered 249,844 metric tons of coconut this year.

Demy Calsadora, president of the Small Coco Farmers Organization in the city of Compostela, stated that the conference has taught them the significance of adding value to their products.

"Before, our focus was solely on copra and coco juice, but this time we learnt that coconuts can be used to make many other items," he stated.

Calsadora stated that the event also provides an opportunity for them to voice their concerns, such as the rising price of farm inputs.

Meanwhile, DTI-11 Director Maria Belenda Ambi stated that the province's annual investment conference generated over PHP1.2 billion in investments between 2016 and 2019.

During the assault of the pandemic in 2020-2021, she observed a decline in investment due to different government restrictions and lockdowns.

Ambi stated, "Our ultimate goal is to create employment opportunities and strengthen the economy of Davao de Oro." (*Philippine News Agency*)

### **EDIBLE PLATES, DRINKING STRAWS FROM COCONUT FROND WIN ENTREPRENEURS A MEETING WITH PM**

Edible dinner plates made from wheat bran and drinking straw made from dried coconut fronds are among the ideas that have won hearts, business orders, and an invitation from the office of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a group of young Keralan entrepreneurs.

Approximately 300 entrepreneurs from across the nation gathered with the Prime Minister.

The five entrepreneurs who have been invited to Delhi, along with dozens of others from the state, are among those who incubated their company ideas at the newly-established Agri-Business Incubation Centre at Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) in 2017.

Vinay Balakrishnan from Aluva, who has developed and is marketing edible dinner plates and hopes to launch edible cutlery soon; Saji Varghese from Bengaluru, who has developed drinking straws from dry coconut fronds, which are in high demand abroad; Rijish Rajan from Palakkad, who has developed an app that can be used by illiterate farmers; and Manas Madhu from Alappuzha, who has developed a device.

The director of the incubator, K.P. Sudhir, has also been invited to the meeting with the Prime Minister.

According to him, the plates were in high demand in northern India, while buyers in the state occasionally placed lesser purchases. The lead products consist of 10-inch and 6-inch plates. He anticipated launching cutlery soon. He said that the plates were manufactured by robots under sterile circumstances and could be safely consumed after the meal.

Dr. Varghese is an English literature professor at Christ College in Bengaluru. He stated that the coconut fronds had inspired him and that he believed he could construct something inventive from them. Rajkumar Vaniyan, who supervises the production of drinking straws (brand Sunbird), is based in Kasaragod, where production occurs. Mr. Vaniyan noted that the product was in high demand in the U.K., France, and Germany, among other countries, but there was a product shortage in the U.S. (*The Hindu*)

### **BBM DIRECTS FAST DELIVERY OF COCONUT PROGRAMS**

As directed by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., the Department of Agriculture, through the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), will expedite the programs for coconut farmers, which will be instrumental in raising millions of coconut farmers out of poverty.

In a recent briefing in Malacanang, DA Undersecretary Kristine Evangelista stated, "We have been instructed to expedite the execution of any programs that will assist coconut farmers, whether in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry or not."

"Regarding value addition, we have programs in place. Additionally, we are considering shared facilities for our coconut growers. Additionally, credit would be made available to coconut producers, she stated.

2.9 million of the 3.1 million coconut farmers listed in the National Coconut Farmers Registry System (NCFRS) have been selected by the PCA as qualified beneficiaries of programs under the

Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP). (*The Manila Times*)

### **CAGAYAN-DPWH'S P10.35-M FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD SUPPORTS COCONUT GROWERS**

The Philippine Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has finished the farm-to-market road project in Sanchez Mira, Cagayan. According to the DPWH, the route was constructed to assist coconut producers in the province.

The recently completed Manila North Road to Callungan-Masisit Road was constructed by the DPWH-Cagayan Second District Engineering Office (DPWH-CSDEO) with financing from the General Appropriations Act of 2022 totaling P10.35 million.

The road project falls under the Convergence and Special Support Program – Construction/Improvement of Access Roads Leading to Trades, Industries, and Economic Zones, according to DPWH-CSDEO District Engineer Oscar Gumiran.

The building of a Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (PCCP) with a total length of 375 linear meters and a width of 6.70 meters and a thickness of 280 millimeters began on February 3 of this year.

The road project was constructed with concrete retaining walls and RC pipes with headwalls to provide a durable erosion control system.

"Coconut growers in Sanchez Mira will now have an easier and quicker means of transporting their products to the market and other trade hubs across the nation," said Gumiran.

The road's purpose is to enhance Cagayan's agricultural sector, as the Philippines is the second-largest producer of coconut products and Sanchez Mira is the capital of Cagayan's coconut industry. (*Manila Bulletin*)

### **P2.5 MILLION IN SALES ARE ANTICIPATED AT THE E. VISAYAS COCO EXPO TRADE FAIR**

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) of the Philippines is anticipating PHP2.5 million in sales from a four-day trade expo of coconut-based and other indigenous items from various parts of Eastern Visayas.

30 beneficiaries of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Program (CFIDP) and 26 other micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the region are on display at the recently inaugurated trade expo.

Through the CFIDP, this will boost the production of high-value coconut products in the region. Director of DTI 8 (Eastern Visayas) Celerina Bato stated at the program's inauguration at Robinsons Place Tacloban that the program's goal is to raise the total productivity and revenue of coconut farmers through research, marketing, and marketing promotion of local coconut products.

Virgin coconut oil (VCO), VCO-based soap, coco coir – orchid hangers, pole ladders, and logs, coco wine, coco vinegar, coco flour, desiccated coconut, and coconut-based native delicacies are displayed at the fair.

Supporting the development of other coconut-based products, according to Philippine Coconut Authority 8 manager Joel Pilapil, has encouraged more coconut farmers to explore into the manufacturing of other goods.

"We are pleased that some of our farmers have learned to develop coconut goods with added value. Copra is the most frequent product in the region, but its price fluctuates since it is reliant on the price of coconut oil on the international market, as Pilapil explained.

Other traditional delights available at the fair included green banana flour, turmeric tea, Robusta coffee, calamansi concentrate, and plant-based chips.

There are also practical handicrafts made from coconut, bamboo, rattan, nito, and romblon that are sourced locally.

The name of the promotional event is Bahandi Coconut Expo.

Bahandi, the native word for riches, is the name of a regular trade fair held by the DTI in National Capital Region and this city's shopping complexes. (*Philippine News Agency*)

### **DISCUSSES POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS FOR COCONUT HUSKS**

After husks were transported to India for testing, the board chairman of Coconut Miller Fiji Ltd, Raj Sharma, revealed that Fiji possesses some of the greatest and finest coconut husks.

"We are in discussion with our Indian counterparts to determine how we may utilize coconut husks," he said.

"Tests revealed that Fiji's coconut husks are among the best and finest, so the Fiji High Commission office in India is exploring how we might expand this initiative with partners."

In addition to husks, Mr. Sharma stated that they have begun bottling and selling coconut water in supermarkets.

"We have begun selling coconut water in several Suva supermarkets as part of our growth strategy," he explained.

"For reasons of cleanliness, we have also invested \$70,000 in a new paved area to keep all the coconuts brought in by farmers. The price per tonne of coconut has jumped from \$1000 to \$1350, and we appreciate the government's assistance."

Regarding the copra replanting initiative, Mr. Sharma stated that farmers who had not yet received compensation began receiving them in August of this year.

Farmers were given seeds and will split the cost of \$15,000, he added.

"Because some copra plantations were devastated by Typhoon Yasi, we are assisting farmers by offering them free seedlings so that our industry may survive. In addition, we have invested \$40,000 in six dryers for the mill." (*The Fiji Times*)

### **ANDHRA PRADESH: COCONUT TREE CLIMBERS AND FOCT TRAINEES ARE COVERED BY INSURANCE**

The Indian Coconut Development Board, which falls under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, has solicited applications for the Kera Suraksha Insurance Scheme from coconut tree climbers. The purpose of the program is to provide insurance coverage against major and small accidents for all traditional coconut tree climbers and Friends of Coconut Tree (FoCT) trainees.

Beneficiaries must pay a premium of only Rs 99 for a Rs 5 lakh insurance policy. Under the program, Rs 1 lakh would be reimbursed for hospital bills. To enroll in the program, the tree climbers must submit the required paperwork. The completed application form and 1999 demand draft must be forwarded to the Chairman of the Coconut Development Board, Kera Bhavan, Kochi. Further information is available at [www.coconutboard.gov.in](http://www.coconutboard.gov.in). (*The New Indian Express*)

### **HOSORORO COCONUT SEEDLING NURSERY ESTABLISHED**

The Guyanese Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, inaugurated a new nursery for coconut seedlings in Hosororo Village, Barima-Waini.

The Region One nursery, located on the grounds of the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), cost \$4.3 million to construct and stock.

At full capacity, the nursery will be able to produce approximately 206 thousand seedlings per year, according to a Ministry of Agriculture press statement.

Mustapha also commissioned many new pieces of equipment for NAREI's spice processing facility, in addition to the nursery. This equipment, consisting of a ginger washer, ginger slicer, ginger grinder, and a vibro sifter, was purchased for \$9,747,756.

"Today is an outstanding day for us. Here to inaugurate a new coconut nursery. We are aware that many farmers in the region would often drive to Georgetown in order to obtain high-quality seedlings. Following discussions, we have decided to create one so that you can obtain the same services as farmers in Georgetown and other coastal locations. Not only will this facility minimize the cost of procuring the necessary planting materials, but it will also help us boost our national output levels. This is part of our decentralization program for coconuts," Mustapha explained.

While acknowledging that access to markets remains a problem in the region, Mustapha stated that the government, through the New Guyana Marketing Corporation, has been successful in locating markets for farmers in other distant areas of the country. According to the announcement, Mustapha informed the farmers that the government is now negotiating with CARICOM Member States to remove non-tariff barriers on a number of Guyana's traditional products.

Representative of CARDI in Guyana, Juman Kundun, remarked that the demand for coconuts in the area and worldwide is always growing. In addition, the CARDI Director stated that Guyana is one of three major coconut-producing countries in the region, producing approximately 20% of the region's need while the Dominican Republic produces approximately 59% and Jamaica produces approximately 12%.

Ricky Roopchand, General Manager of Hope Estate, stated that the initial batch of seedlings will be available for purchase by the end of December. (*Stabroek News*)

## **COCONUT FOOD PRODUCERS FROM THE PHILIPPINES ATTEND EXPO IN MALAYSIA**

According to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Philippine Trade Investment Center in Kuala Lumpur led 17 producers of coconut, coffee, and cacao goods to the 8th Selangor International Expo in Malaysia. According to the DTI, Selangor International Expo 2022 is a "prominent" food and beverage trade show that focuses on the global food and beverage industry. The Selangor State Government hosts and fully supports the event, which is driven by Invest Selangor Berhad.

DTI stated that the effort is part of the department's contribution to the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan's Research, Marketing, and Market Promotion component. Under the strategy, the Export Marketing Bureau of the agency is tasked with overseeing the promotion of Philippine coconut exports and developing and implementing export plans, among other responsibilities, in conjunction with the Foreign Trade Service Corps. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

## **RISE COCO PROJECT WILL REBUILD TYPHOON RAI-DAMAGED COCONUT FARMS IN BOHOL**

Cargill Philippines has partnered with CARE Philippines, Cebu-Bohol Relief and Rehabilitation Center (CRRC), and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) to replant 100,000 coconut seedlings in devastated local communities as part of the RISE Coco (Recovery Intervention for Severely Affected Coconut Farming Communities of Bohol by Typhoon Odette) program.

In February, the Bohol provincial PCA office has already committed to replacing downed coconut

palms with 500,000 saplings of dwarf variety. This cultivar produces fruit in three to four years, but the hybrid variety requires five years. There were extremely few coconut seedlings available, and only a few municipalities received them. To address this issue, coconut farmers aided by this project have established their own community-based seedbeds for propagating coconut seedlings for replanting.

Through the RISE Coco Project, which was formally started on September 15, around 1,000 coconut farming households in the municipalities of Calape, Catigbian, Loon, and San Isidro will be able to restore and sustain their livelihoods. The project focuses on the replacement of damaged coconut trees, the training of farmers in sustainable agriculture, the provision of alternative livelihoods while waiting for the coconut trees to bear fruit, and the organization of farmers into cooperatives to facilitate their access to markets and corporate buyers. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### **INDONESIAN MINISTRY WILL CONSTRUCT A COCONUT PROCESSING PLANT IN THE MINAHASA DISTRICT**

The Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs will construct a production facility to process coconut goods in the South Minahasa District of North Sulawesi Province. Eventually, cooperatives will operate the production house to expedite the downstream distribution of coconut products owned by farmers.

Teten Masduki, the Minister of Cooperatives and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, stated that the establishment of a production house was a significant step towards the downstream processing of products, as farmers could not independently process products due to the high cost of the necessary technology. He noted that, if successful, the government will likely construct similar production facilities in other regions of the country, each adapted to the local products.

The minister stated that coconut production has not yet directly benefited small farmers. He gave the example of converting the entire nut, which sells for Rp2,000, into virgin coconut oil, which may then be sold for Rp12,000 per unit. Similarly, he underlined the necessity of utilizing additional coconut pieces for added value, such as coconut husk processed into coir and coir fiber, coco peat, and coconut shells for charcoal briquettes. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### **DESICCATED COCONUT PRODUCER IN THE PHILIPPINES INTEGRATES CLIMATE ACTION INTO OPERATIONS**

Axelum Resources Corp., one of the Philippines' largest makers of desiccated coconut, has made considerable strides toward climate change resilience by improving operational efficiency. The company reported that it was able to lower its direct greenhouse gas emissions from production operations by up to 19 percent last year, primarily due to more efficient diesel consumption.

Axelum stated that it could recycle up to 20% of wastewater for other purposes, such as groundwater replenishment and cleaning of production regions. Recently, the company improved its state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility to ensure compliance with international effluent regulations. Regarding waste management, Axelum employed almost 44,000 metric tons (MT) of coconut shells as fuel for industrial boilers that produce culinary-grade steam.

Approximately 71 percent of spent Tetra packing materials were reused into 2,183 pieces of standard-sized chipboards, which acted as an alternative to plywood and table dividers within the premises. Axelum is now investigating additional renewable energy sources for its Medina plant in order to support peak operation hours and reduce reliance on conventional power. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

## **TOMAR INAUGURATED A MEETING OF COCONUT FARMERS IN COIMBATORE**

Coimbatore farmers' gathering was organized by the Indian Coconut Development Board in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Agriculture University and the ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute.

The event was started by the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.

According to a release, the meeting was followed by interactions between farmers and scientists to share first-hand information on the challenges and opportunities associated with coconut growing.

With a coconut production area of 4.44 million hectares and a yield of 11,526 nuts per hectare, Tamil Nadu holds a large share of the global coconut market. The state contributes approximately 20% of the land and 26% of the production under coconut and is the leader in the building of coconut processing units. With 88,467 hectares of coconut-growing land, Coimbatore ranks first in India.

Tamil Nadu is the third most productive state in the country. Farmers have also engaged in value addition and processing. Tamil Nadu is home to approximately 70% of the nation's coconut processing units, which include milling copra, activated carbon units, virgin coconut oil units, packaged tender coconut water units, spray dried coconut milk powder units, coconut milk units, and numerous other innovative value-added coconut product units.

A regional office and a demonstration-cum-seed production centre of the Board operate in the state to promote coconut farming and support farmers by implementing CDB's initiatives and providing guidance in scientific cultivation methods and marketing it.

The Board has spent ₹290.82 crore between 2014-15 and 2021-22 on field-oriented programmes,

the creation of coconut processing units, and insurance schemes. In the fiscal year 2022-23, ₹14,17 crore would be allocated to various field-level coconut development programs.

Tuticorin and Chennai ports export a significant portion of coconut goods. Tamil Nadu's ports account for sixty percent of the nation's total exports. The state ranks first in the export of activated carbon coconuts, coconut oil, and coconut shell charcoal, and second in the export of dried coconut. Pollachi is becoming a significant export hub for coconut and coir goods and supplies the nation's demand for tender coconut. (*The Hindu Business Line*)

## **SALCEDA ASSERTS THAT COCONUT OIL PRODUCTION HAS TO BE INCREASED**

Anticipating a rise in the international price of palm oil, Joey Salceda, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, requested the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) to increase coconut oil production and marketing, stating that it may serve as a "substitute good."

According to Salceda, the cost, insurance, and freight (CIF) price of coconut oil is currently \$1,100, while the CIF price of palm oil is \$1,065. He stated that future palm oil prices have already increased by 20% this month.

"Coconut is the nation's main agricultural export. We have the best coconut production in the world. So this is a fantastic harvest for us. The vice chairperson of the House agriculture and food committee stated, "And the opportunity is presenting itself."

Salceda stated that the PCA can utilize cash from the Coconut Industry Development Trust Fund or the Coco Levy funds "to establish export development and marketing programs to capitalize on this window of opportunity."

"Therefore, I am urging the Philippine Coconut Authority to find ways to advertise Philippine coconut oil as a viable alternative to palm oil as

futures prices continue to rise, and to assist our coconut farmers get into the export trade or at least benefit from it," he said. (GMA News)

## TRADE NEWS

### INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

The vegetable oils market was generally firmer during the week.

Earlier in the week, turnovers on the coconut oil market in Rotterdam were recorded at \$1,030-1,130/MT CIF, compared to \$1,090-1,130/MT CIF the previous week. In accordance with the palm oil market, opening quotations were higher at \$1,087.50-1,145.00/MT CIF for positions from November/December through April/May 2023, but subsequently softened. The market, however, rebounded strongly over the weekend, mirroring the strength of other vegetable oils, to close the week well above its starting levels. Close levels ranged from \$1,135 to \$1,180/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market was less active compared to the previous week and to coconut oil, despite the latter's wider discount. Last week, reported transactions were finalized at \$975-1,055/MT CIF versus \$970-1,000/MT CIF this week. The majority of opportunities from November/December 2022 to April/May 2023 began the week with offers ranging from \$997.50-1,032/MT CIF. Prices generally followed the course of coconut oil and settled higher, with 2023 positions substantially above opening values. Closing bids ranged from \$980 to \$1,100/MT CIF.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil widened appreciably to no lower than \$100 across all positions but one. Consequently, the average premium for the week surpassed \$100, rising to \$102.75/MT from \$84.04 the previous week. Despite this, there were more coconut oil transactions than palm kernel oil

transactions this week. Premiums per position are displayed below: November/December: \$104.50 (\$85.25 in the previous week); December/January: \$103.50 (\$84.50); January/February: \$98.50 (\$80.50); February/March: \$100.00 (\$81.00); March/April: \$104.50 (\$83.25); April/May: \$105.50 (\$83.75).

The palm oil market was buoyed by advances in CBOT soybean oil futures and a weak Malaysian ringgit compared to the US dollar over the week. Concerns over the impact of unfavorable weather in Malaysia on the nation's output boosted market sentiment. The market closed more steadily as participants awaited Indonesia's palm oil export policy adjustments with bated breath. The impending snap election in Malaysia also put players on edge.

Prices of tropical oils for shipping in the near future continued to exhibit diverse tendencies. Coconut oil remained stable from the previous week at \$1,095/MT CIF, whilst lauric partner palm kernel oil decreased by \$15.50 from \$1,006/MT CIF to \$990.50/MT CIF now. The price of palm oil rose \$54.50, from \$998.50 to \$1,053.00/MT CIF. Therefore, the price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil increased significantly to \$104.50/MT from \$89 per metric ton one week earlier, whilst the margin over palm oil shrunk significantly to \$42.00/MT from \$96.50 per metric ton. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### FOCUS ON THE MARKETING OF COCONUT OIL

Earlier in the week, the coconut oil market in Rotterdam was active, but slowed down for the remainder of the week. The recorded trades were \$1,080 and \$1,030 for November/December; \$1,060 and \$1,090 for December/January and January/February; \$1,120 and \$1,130/MT CIF for March/April and April/May, respectively. The market concluded at \$1,135/MT CIF for November/December, \$1,140/MT CIF for December/January, \$1,150/MT CIF for January/February, \$1,160/MT CIF for February/March, \$1,170/MT CIF for March/April, and \$1,180/MT

CIF for April/May. Only early 2023 positions priced at \$1,090/MT CIF for December/January, \$1,100/MT CIF for January/February, \$1,110/MT CIF for February/March, and \$1,130/MT CIF for April/May attracted attention from buyers. May/June and June/July buyers submitted bids of \$1,140 and \$1,150, respectively, but were unable to entice sellers.

The FOB coconut oil market was closed.  
(UCAP Bulletin)

#### **ACCORDING TO TNAU EXPERTS, AN INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR COCONUT DURING FESTIVAL SEASON WILL NOT RESULT IN A PRICE INCREASE**

According to the projections of specialists from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), India, coconut and copra prices will remain unchanged through December.

Farmers' hopes that the festival season will enhance the prices of coconut and copra have been dashed by the prediction.

According to the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies' (CARDS) Irrigated Agriculture Modernization (TN-IAM) project-funded price forecasting methodology, a kilogram of high-quality coconut will fetch Rs 13–14, but a kilogram of copra will get just Rs 77–80.

Farmers have been concerned about the declining copra price. The central government has come to the aid of farmers by purchasing copra through procurement centres at a price of Rs 105.90 per kilogram and Rs 110 per kilogram for ball copra.

The projection was based on a 15-year analysis of coconut and copra prices at Avalpoonthurai Regulated Market in the district of Erode and Perundurai Cooperative Marketing Society.

In 2021-22, Tamil Nadu produced 35.15 lakh tonne of coconuts from a cultivable area of 4.44

lakh hectares. Coimbatore, Tirupur, Thanjavur, Dindigul and Kanyakumari are key coconut producing districts.

The festival season will increase demand for coconut on the domestic market, but the current season's surplus output in the state and other states will prevent prices from increasing.

The price of copra was Rs 100-102 per kilogram in December of the previous year and Rs 80-82 per kilogram in June-September of 2022. (*The Times of India*)

#### **A KOZHIKODE COCONUT FARMER WHO WON A STATE AWARD DECIDES TO LEAVE AGRICULTURE**

Abraham Mathew, a resident of Kozhikode who has received multiple prizes, including the state government's Kera Kesari Award for best coconut farmer, has announced his intention to leave the agricultural industry.

"I am fed up. I have stopped agriculture. The prices of agricultural items, such as coconut, have decreased. "The government, which ought to lend a hand, is turning a blind eye," Abraham exclaimed in disgust. Moreover, he described how pitiable his coconut farming has been.

This year, I simply participated in the cultivation of kanthari (an indigenous chili pepper). Likewise, this will conclude. Since five years ago, I have not picked coconut. I only collect coconuts that fall on the ground. When it becomes a mound, I will sell it for whatever price is offered. Occasionally, a coconut will sprout. I am not paying attention. Interestingly, he chose agriculture as his profession at the age of sixteen. He has worked in the industry for over 57 years. He traveled to seventeen nations and implemented the methods he learned from his travels.

He won the renowned Kera Kesari prize in 1995. He has also been recognized by the Limca Book

of Records and the United Nations. However, he became one of the individuals who battle to survive in Kerala's agricultural area. According to Abraham, many abandon agriculture owing to poor conditions.

"Every crop is seeing losses...The price increase of chemical fertilizers became a significant burden. 50 kilograms of potash costs approximately Rs 1700. The same holds true for Factamfos, he noted. (*Mathrubhumi*)

### **SRI LANKAN IMPORTS HIT INDIAN DRIED COCONUT POWDER BUSINESS**

According to Indian desiccated coconut makers, unrestrained imports of desiccated coconut (DC) powder from Sri Lanka are damaging the native business. The flavor of coconut is imparted to savory and sweet recipes with the use of DC powder.

As a result of massive imports at ₹80-90 per kilogram, the domestic price of DC powder has decreased to ₹110 compared to the production cost of ₹130. Vice-President of the Federation of Indian Desiccated Coconut Manufacturers VA Dakshina Moorthy stated that the cheaper cost of shipping has enabled food and confectionary companies and even households in northern India to depend more on imports.

There is already a minimum import price (MIP) of ₹150 per kg for DC powder. To avoid this, imports are done under the cattlefeed category, where the tariff is 8% under SAFTA and 0% under the Indo-Sri Lankan Free Trade Agreement. Furthermore, the Sri Lankan DC powder is low in fat because the coconut's milk and oil are removed, but the local product is strong in fat and has a pleasant aroma.

#### **Appeal to CDB**

Numerous small and medium-sized industries have already been negatively impacted by the unabated imports. These industries are highly

labor-intensive and have a turnover of between 5 crore and 50 crore. Imports totaled 7,000 tonnes in 2021, 6,000 tonnes through August of this year, and are projected to grow further until the end of the current fiscal year, he said.

The members of the federation have already contacted the Coconut Development Board in an effort to restrict unlawful imports from Sri Lanka. According to reports, CDB authorities have asked Chennai Customs to prohibit the import of low-fat DC powder. Members of the Federation noted that Sri Lankan DC powder is not the only product entering India from the island nation; coconut flour and coconut cake are also gaining traction on the Indian home market, impacting the domestic industry.

If the import duty on DC powder is raised or imports of coconut goods are prohibited, domestic producers will receive a higher price. India is the world's largest producer of coconut, and DC powder has become a key value-added commodity. M Arun Kumar, another vice-president of the federation from Karnataka, asserts that DC powder adulteration is increasingly prevalent on the domestic market due to the import of low-fat DC powder at a lower cost.

He stated that the appropriate procedures may be made to test and confirm the fat content of each sample of all DC powder shipments imported under distinct HS codes. Imports of desiccated coconut powder should be prohibited in the benefit of indigenous industry, rural employment, and farmers. (*The Hindu Business Line*)

### **COCONUT-BASED PRODUCT PRICES EXPECTED TO GO UP**

As the current monsoon season may impact production at the farms, the price of coconut-based products in Malaysia is projected to increase significantly.

Mohd Hafiz Ramly, deputy director for development in the Johor Agriculture Department,

stated that production will be impacted since coconut growers would be unable to harvest the fruit during the rainy season.

This will increase the price of coconut-based items such as coconut milk.

Due to their shallow root systems, coconut trees are susceptible to falling in high winds.

Also, two-year-old coconut trees would die if they are submerged for longer than three days," he warned when called.

He noted that coconut-processing firms will also be impacted because they demand a consistent, substantial supply.

"These companies rely on imported coconut, and the monsoon season typically affects neighboring coconut-producing nations like Thailand and Indonesia," Mohd Hafiz explained.

According to him, the state produced 106,723 tonnes of coconut in 2020, representing 19% of the national total of 560,988 tonnes.

"Batu Pahat had the largest yield with 54,138 tonnes, followed by Pontian (25,544 tonnes) and Muar" (11,207 tonnes).

"The department also has a recovery program for monsoon-affected coconut farms through the incentives offered to coconut growers," he said.

These incentives include infrastructure development and improvement, such clearing and cleaning the drainage system and plantation roads.

It also includes replanting of coconut seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and integrated plants, as well as the provision of farming equipment.

Mohd Hafiz also disclosed that the annual demand for coconut in the state was approximately 105,000 kilograms and that the department would need an extra 2,650 hectares to accommodate the demand.

To accommodate the increased demand, the state administration plans to introduce 265 hectares of new coconut plantation over the next five years.

"The plan also calls for boosting the annual production of coconut seeds from 28,000 to 53,000," he added, adding that the Federal Government has committed RM500,000 for tree replanting projects this year.

The reforestation project will encompass 463 hectares of plantation.

"The state government has also funded RM400,000 for a tree recovery project on 96ha of land, in which unproductive trees will be replaced with new hybrids like as the 'matag' and 'pandan' kinds," he stated. (*The Stella*)

## OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

### KTC EDIBLES OIL BUSINESS JOINS SUSTAINABLE COCONUT AND COCONUT OIL ROUNDTABLE

KTC Edibles Ltd, an independent manufacturer and distributor of edible oils situated in the United Kingdom, has demonstrated its commitment to sustainable products by joining The Sustainable Coconut and Coconut Oil Roundtable.

The company has signed the sustainable coconut charter, a voluntary framework that establishes a global standard for sustainable coconut origins.

The Sustainable Coconut and Coconut Oil Roundtable is committed to ensuring a fairer and more sustainable future for coconut buyers, processors, and suppliers. It was established to address the production issues connected with the coconut sector. Key objectives include promoting the livelihoods and incomes of smallholders, replanting

trees, increasing productivity, enhancing traceability, and decreasing deforestation and encroachment.

By signing the charter, KTC Edibles is actively demonstrating its support for the cause and agreeing to a set of particular principles and objectives that will contribute to the continued development of more sustainable practices throughout the coconut sector.

This also includes addressing production issues such as aging trees, natural disasters, disaggregated and complex value chain structures, and producers' restricted access to market, technical, and financial information. Overcoming these problems will assist to solve stagnated yields, low income and a limited incentive to invest in coconut farming.

Gary Lewis, Chief Commercial Officer at KTC, stated, "We're committed to being an industry leader in terms of sustainability, and our participation in the Sustainable Coconut and Coconut Oil Roundtable is essential to this effort."

We spend substantially in decreasing the environmental impact of our operations whenever possible, therefore we are thrilled to collaborate with other industry leaders to make sustainable coconut oil the norm throughout the whole supply chain."

The organization's decision to join The Sustainable Coconut and Coconut Oil Roundtable builds on its prior sustainability achievements. In September 2022, KTC Edibles fulfilled its goal to the RSPO Shared Responsibility Initiative to sell only 100 percent segregated, certified sustainable palm oil to its clients.

The accreditations and compliances of KTC Edibles, which include certifications from The Soil Association, The Vegan Society, and RSPO, demonstrate the company's commitment to lowering its environmental effect (The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil).

KTC Edibles, which was founded in 1972, employs more than 275 employees across two UK locations in Wednesbury and Liverpool. Each year, the company provides more than 250 million litres of cooking oils to customers of various sizes in the UK food industry. All of KTC's palm oil is RSPO-certified as sustainable. (*Confectionery Production*)

## **FIVE COUNTRIES THAT IMPORT PALM OIL HAVE FORMED AN INDUSTRY ALLIANCE**

The main edible oil industry associations of five major palm oil importing countries in Asia, namely India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal, have formed the Asian Palm Oil Alliance for the first time (APOA). The statement from India's edible oil industry association The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) reads, "APOA pledges to work globally to ensure that palm oil is recognized as a high-quality, cost-effective, and healthful vegetable oil and to remove its negative image."

In the ensuing year, membership would be expanded to include other select enterprises or industry organizations active on the continent in the production and processing of palm oil. The statement indicated that the SEA will initially handle the APOA secretariat. During the first meeting of the Alliance, Atul Chaturvedi, the president of the South East Asian (SEA), was elected as the first chairman of the Asian Pacific Oceania Association (APOA). The next APOA meeting is anticipated to be held in Indonesia at the beginning of next year, according to the statement. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

## **BUNGE, OLLECO JOINT VENTURE TO COVER FULL LIFE-CYCLE OF EDIBLE OILS**

Bunge, the global leader in oilseed processing, and Olleco, the renewables subsidiary of ABP Food Groups, have decided to launch a joint venture that will encompass the whole edible oil value chain. The joint venture will collaborate with foodservice and food manufacturing

clients in Europe, except the United Kingdom and Ireland, to supply oils and collect wasted cooking oil for use as a feedstock in the creation of renewable fuels.

The Amsterdam, Netherlands-based 50/50 cooperation is anticipated to use Bunge's client relationships, footprint, and global knowledge in vegetable oil production, as well as Olleco's market model in the supply, collection, and conversion of cooking oils. Olleco is the major provider and collector of spent cooking oil and food waste in the United Kingdom. The gathered oil is processed into high-quality biofuels, while the collected food waste is converted into renewable energy and fertilizer. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

#### **MPOC SUPPORTS ENFORCEMENT OF "NO PALM OIL" LABELS**

The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) has indicated its support for enforcement proceedings against supermarkets and retail outlets that display and sell products labeled "No Palm Oil." The MPOC stated in a statement that discriminatory palm oil labeling can be seen on food, personal care, and household products.

The use of discriminatory labeling against palm oil is forbidden under the Trade Description Act of 2011, with a maximum fine of RM250,000 or a maximum prison sentence of five years for violations, according to the report. The majority of products having such labeling contain fats and oils, primarily vegetable oils.

In 2021, the MPOC performed a survey to identify products on the Malaysian market that have discriminatory labeling against palm oil. Eighty percent of the 251 establishments surveyed in the Klang Valley were found to carry products labeled "No Palm Oil." The majority of these stores are located in Petaling Jaya, Subang Jaya, Kuala Lumpur city center, and Cyberjaya. It was also discovered that the majority of corporations were aware of the anti-palm oil marketing strategies employed by the brands,

yet continued to import the products in order to cater to specific demographics. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

## **HEALTH NEWS**

### **5 BENEFITS OF REGULARLY CONSUMING COCONUT OIL**

Coconut oil is gaining in popularity due to its numerous health advantages. Coconut has become more popular in our kitchens and bathrooms, whether through the usage of coconut water, the application of coconut oil as a moisturizer, or the addition of a teaspoon of coconut to baked goods. Due to its numerous benefits and applications, it is sometimes described to as "the lifeblood of health." Coconut oil is extracted from the nut (fruit) of the Arecaceae plant family member coconut palm. The phrase "coconut" stems from the Old Portuguese word coco, which meaning "head" or "skull." In Hindu traditions, coconut holds an important cultural and religious position.

Functional Nutritional Therapy Practitioner Meg Langston revealed five benefits of daily coconut oil use in an Instagram post.

**1. Coconut oil promotes healing by:** Coconut oil, unlike unsaturated fats, is a beneficial saturated fat that promotes healing in the body. Over 80 percent of coconut oil is saturated fat.

**2. Coconut oil promotes fat burning:** Because of its anti-inflammatory qualities. This can be quite advantageous, as decreasing inflammation in the body can reduce thyroid and metabolic activity. Therefore, due to its antibacterial and antioxidant qualities, it can aid in weight loss.

**3. Coconut oil reduces blood glucose:** Medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), which comprise two-thirds of coconut oil, improve glucose tolerance. This is because MCTs bypass the digestive tract and enter the liver without being broken down by bile. They are then

utilized for energy, as opposed to being stored in the body like other fats.

**4. Coconut oil aids in the battle against infections:** Coconut oil includes lauric acid, and the body converts lauric acid to monolaurin, which has antibacterial properties and is effective at combating bacteria that has multiplied.

**5. Coconut oil reduces cholesterol:** Regular consumption of coconut oil reduces cholesterol to normal levels by encouraging its conversion into pregnenolone and progesterone. (*Hindustan Times*)

#### FIVE UNKNOWN HEALTH BENEFITS OF COCONUT WATER

Coconut water is a highly nourishing beverage. Young, green coconuts are nourished by the liquid present in their centers. As the coconut matures over the course of 10–12 months, a portion of the liquid remains while the rest ripens into the fruit. Coconut water is frequently referred to as the "life-giving fluid." However, the beverage is not merely a naturally sweet refreshment. It contains several vital nutrients, including minerals required by the human body. Coconut water has a reputation for being low in calories and fat-free.

Here are five advantages of coconut water you should be aware of:

**1. Good post-workout drink:** Added sugars and flavors are abundant in sports drinks, making them a good choice for a post-exercise beverage. While coconut water is similar to sports drinks, it is extremely low in calories and carbs. It is additive-free as well. Coconut water is an electrolyte elixir. These are electrically charged minerals that are required for many bodily activities.

**2. Keeps your heart healthy:** Coconut water may play a significant role in the prevention of cardiac problems. Due to its high potassium

content, it assists in regulating blood cholesterol levels and preserving heart health. In addition, coconut water helps increase levels of good cholesterol, which in turn reduces the risk of numerous heart ailments.

**3. Reduces chronic inflammation:** When your body is exposed to high levels of inflammation for an extended period of time, it can lead to chronic diseases and cognitive loss. Consuming antioxidant-rich foods and beverages, such as coconut water, reduces the risk.

**4. Prevents the production of kidney stones:** When consumed in moderation, coconut water prevents the formation of kidney stones. In addition to its other benefits, coconut water may help eliminate chlorine and citrate via urine.

**5. Promotes weight loss:** Coconut water promotes weight loss. It aids in hydrating the body. Many individuals mistake thirst for hunger and consequently overeat. Drinking coconut water in such instances helps as it is low in calories. (*Firstpost*)

#### COCONUT RECIPE

#### ITALIAN-INSPIRED SHRIMP AND COCONUT SOUP WITH BACON AND SPINACH

##### Ingredients

1. 6 strips bacon, diced
2. 1 large onion, diced
3. 4 medium-sized new potatoes, scrubbed clean and diced
4. Salt to taste
5. Freshly ground black pepper to taste
6. 1 quart chicken stock
7. 2 cups baby spinach, rough chopped
8. 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
9. 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
10. 1/2 teaspoon granulated garlic
11. 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
12. Dash of red pepper flakes
13. 1 (19-ounce) can coconut cream or milk (usually found in the Asian section of the

grocery store, not the overly sweet variety in the drink mixers section)

14. 3/4-1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined

**Directions**

1. In a Dutch oven or soup pot, cook the bacon over medium-high heat until browned. Remove the bacon to a plate lined with a paper towel to drain.
2. Remove the bacon fat except for 2 tablespoons. Add the onion and sauté until softened, about 3-4 minutes.
3. Add the potatoes and cook 3-4 minutes, until starting to brown. Season with salt and pepper to taste during cooking.
4. Add about 1/2 cup of the stock and stir to deglaze the bottom of the pot, about 1-2 minutes.

5. Add the spinach, basil, oregano, garlic, thyme and red pepper flakes and stir. Cook for 1 minute.
6. Add the remaining stock and coconut milk.
7. Bring just to a boil and reduce heat to medium or medium low. Let simmer until potatoes are almost fork tender, about 10 minutes. Do not let soup boil.
8. Add shrimp and bacon and continue to simmer until shrimp is cooked through, about 5-8 minutes, depending on size of shrimp. Taste and adjust seasonings. Yields about 6-8 servings.

*(Abilene Reporter News)*

## STATISTICS

**Table 3. SRI LANKA: Exports of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2020-2022 (In MT)**

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
January	7,141	4,832	6,161	127	112	206	3,225	3,475	1,436
February	2,812	6,810	9,765	61	232	155	2,164	2,359	1,580
March	3,794	10,169	9,714	103	135	249	1,259	2,125	1,322
April	4,640	5,475	4,796	68	88	138	1,894	1,415	1,012
May	4,947	6,432	5,143	157	113	143	2,366	1,404	1,216
June	6,402	6,333	6,648	99	157	181	2,979	1,608	966
July	8,202	6,953	5,189	84	204	242	3,440	1,855	1,280
August	7,129	5,111	6,329	103	185	230	2,814	1,230	1,066
September	6,443	6,757	5,232	115	126	130	2,643	1,631	978
October	7,514	5,674		121	151		2,997	1,181	
November	6,355	4,416		105	107		2,605	1,325	
December	6,225	4,530		87	175		2,347	1,112	
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,604</b>	<b>73,492</b>	<b>58,977</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>1,785</b>	<b>1,674</b>	<b>30,733</b>	<b>20,720</b>	<b>10,856</b>

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

**Table 4. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2020-2022 (US\$/MT, FOB Colombo)**

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
January	244	253	270	1,421	1,308	1,380	317	305	432
February	259	250	277	1,240	1,398	1,288	306	301	353
March	228	251	255	1,467	1,263	1,310	337	359	393
April	244	254	255	1,369	1,125	1,434	273	359	387
May	248	256	243	1,379	1,119	1,160	297	376	364
June	244	265	240	1,377	1,432	1,420	313	362	360
July	239	282	222	1,586	1,197	859	306	381	514
August	236	268	231	1,529	1,446	1,042	304	398	342
September	235	256	212	1,266	1,271	1,067	329	432	399
October	243	258		1,450	1,315		302	396	
November	242	281		1,441	1,666		315	439	
December	249	265		1,395	1,432		336	395	
<b>Average</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>1,218</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>394</b>

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

**Table 5. SRI LANKA: Exports of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2020-2022 (In MT)**

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
January	65	115	82	1,000	909	800	3,069	4,000	3,119
February	114	112	76	463	603	609	3,326	4,011	3,411
March	56	117	172	181	682	625	2,694	5,569	3,360
April	38	146	57	97	194	1,049	1,904	3,027	2,319
May	78	74	97	461	652	540	3,914	3,796	2,574
June	83	111	87	625	517	945	4,367	3,052	3,784
July	124	137	75	806	540	561	4,225	3,108	3,035
August	96	55	52	722	874	628	2,873	2,870	3,324
September	113	89	91	842	583	1,004	2,758	2,816	2,849
October	83	69		935	809		3,604	3,871	
November	111	23		647	728		2,864	3,197	
December	32	61		489	1,100		2,928	3,250	
<b>Total</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>7,268</b>	<b>8,191</b>	<b>6,761</b>	<b>38,526</b>	<b>42,567</b>	<b>27,775</b>

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

**Table 6. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2020-2022 (US\$/MT, FOB Colombo)**

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
January	1,025	990	992	1,325	1,231	1,374	227	251	253
February	913	797	879	1,331	1,263	1,611	225	328	232
March	881	790	670	1,308	1,363	1,144	241	265	226
April	882	1,022	774	1,223	1,216	1,136	252	259	266
May	819	796	813	1,230	1,221	1,211	252	245	258
June	832	841	951	1,326	1,304	1,337	266	277	249
July	874	796	856	1,353	1,352	1,266	249	248	278
August	656	777	775	1,342	1,309	1,317	279	280	244
September	678	807	627	1,352	1,394	1,194	259	336	225
October	713	751		1,272	1,216		238	300	
November	932	804		1,318	1,518		253	273	
December	774	750		1,296	1,420		252	235	
<b>Average</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>248</b>

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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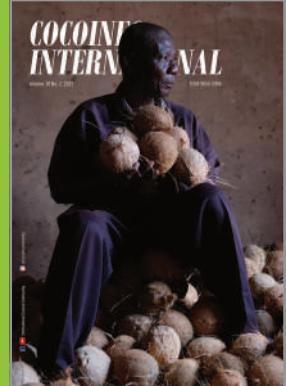
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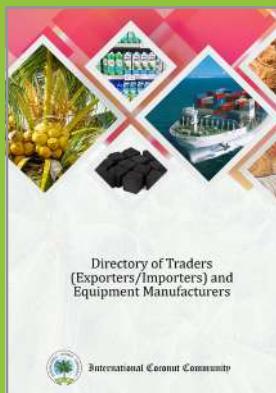
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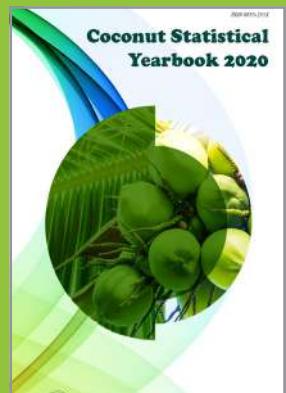
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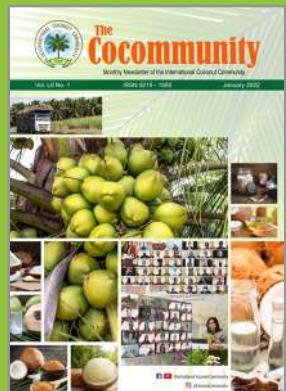
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Output Capacity : 1000 to 2500 Kgs/hr.

Two Stage and Three Stage Dryers.

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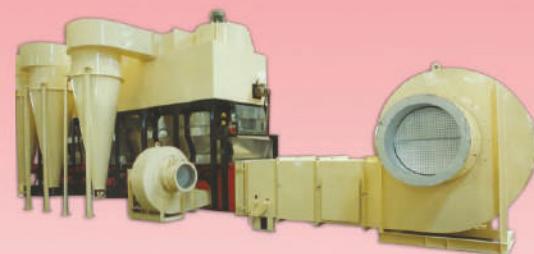


## COMBINATION DRYER

for Desiccated Coconut Granules, Chips,

Toasted D/C & Parings.

Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.



## VIBRATORY FLUID BED DRYER

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Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.



## GRINDER

Output Capacity:  
1000Kgs/hr.



## BLANCHER

Output Capacity :  
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## NOVATEX SCREENER/GRADER

Output Capacity :  
1000 to 1500 Kgs/hr.



## DESELLING MAHINE

Output Capacity :  
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Output Capacity :  
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## OIL EXPELLER



## RADIATOR

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

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