# The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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International Coconut Community

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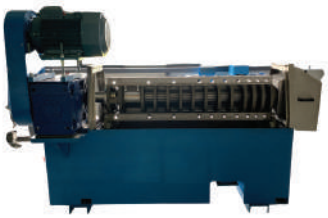

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# Think Coconut. Think T & I Global.

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS ...

***"Is it Probable for Coconut Oil to Simultaneously Contribute in Addressing Global Issue of Non-renewable Energy while Sustaining Food Security?"***

Non-renewable energy and food insecurity are two of the main global issues deserve profound and collaborative efforts to address. The non-renewable resources do not recharge in a short period of time to compensate for their consumption. On the other hand, renewable resources can be regenerated straightforwardly. According to some publications, if energy demand will double by 2050, oil reserves will be depleted by 2043. The reason why the new sources of energy is urgently needed is not only because these resources will be running out, but also because of the serious environmental impact of non-renewable energies on our planet and future generation. According to FAO, more than 193 million people are affected by food insecurity and malnutrition and 3 billion people are unable to afford healthy diet.

Coconut oil has been justified as source of medium-chain fatty acids, essential source of energy and beneficial to health. Based on the biochemical and metabolic property, the Lauric acid (C12) as major component of coconut oil has rapidly metabolized for energy, is not stored in fat, increases ketones, and has anti-microbial property. Coconut oil has been consumed as traditional and modern diet in many tropical and temperate countries. In addition to the essential health benefit contained in coconut oil, this oil is also a great source of energy that is renewable and environmentally friendly. The C10 to C16 is the most required fatty acids for the bio-jet fuel processing, and about 90% of coconut oil contain these fatty acids. Some investors have been interested to develop sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) as business opportunity that could sustain coconut industry. The energy transition is the only way forward if we want to limit the rise in the temperature of the planet and to create a global energy system that is stable, sustainable and affordable.

Although most coconut oil currently used in oleochemical industries is for generating the cosmetics products, development of coconut oil-based SAF shouldn't compromise the critical role of coconut oil as food-based products to support achievement of SDG #2 zero hunger. All the United Nations member countries have adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including SDG number 1 (no poverty), number 2 (zero hunger) and number 13 (climate action). To optimize the critical role of coconut oil as both food and non-food sources, increased coconut palm productivity per ha and improved global production is a must to meet the market demand of both products. Another alternative is to separate good quality of nuts as requisite for food industry from the low quality of nuts for non-food products such as SAF. A Globally accepted standard should be made to sustain the markets.

Development of high-yielding coconut varieties through exploration, selection, conservation, germplasm exchange, hybrid development, and tissue culture technology optimization are urgently needed to proactively sustain the coconut industry amidst global economic, political and climate uncertainty. ICC through its technical working group technically supported by the coconut genetic resources (COGENT) and collective underpinning by private sectors and member countries could accelerate the advanced technology optimization for sustaining raw material availability in terms of quality, quantity, reasonable affordability, and short timescale.

**DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW**
Executive Director

# PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

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

**COPRA:** The price of copra in Indonesia was US$547/MT in November 2022, which was higher than previous month's price. Compared to the same month of last year the price was US$358/MT lower.

In the domestic market of the Philippines (Manila), the price increased by US$47/MT from US$605/MT in October 2022 to US$652/MT in November 2022. The price was US$352/MT lower compared to the price of US$1,004/MT in November 2021.

**COCONUT OIL:** The average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) increased to US$1,167/MT in November 2022. However, this price was 40% lower than the price in November 2021 at US$1,939/MT.

The average local price of coconut oil in the Philippines was US$1,183/MT in November 2022. The price was US$679/MT lower compared to the price of US$1,862/MT in November 2021. Meanwhile, the average local price of coconut oil in Indonesia increased to US$1,072/MT in November 2022 from US$1,011/MT in October 2022. The price was US$523/MT lower compared to the price of US$1,595/MT in November 2021.

**COPRA MEAL:** The average domestic price of the commodity in the Philippines was quoted at US$301/MT. The price was US$19/MT higher to the previous month and was US$73/MT higher than the price a year earlier.

The average domestic price of copra meal in Indonesia was US$287/MT which was higher than previous month. The price was US$8/MT lower than last year's price.

**DESICCATED COCONUT:** The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in November 2022 was US$1,957/MT, which was lower than previous month price and US$591/MT lower than the price of the same month last year.

In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in November 2022 was US$1,435/MT or lower than in October 2022. Meanwhile, the price of DC in the domestic market of Philippines in November 2022 was US$2,039/MT, which remained the same as previous month's price. Indonesian price (FOB) of DC in November 2022 was US$1,275/MT which was higher than price in October 2022, and was lower compared to last year's price of US$2,375/MT.

**COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL:** In Philippines, the average price of the commodity in November 2022 was US$373/MT which was higher than price in October 2022. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price increased from US$435/MT in October 2022 to US$447/MT in November 2022. However, compared to last year's price, the price was lower by US$143/MT. Sri Lankan's price in November 2022 was US$355/MT which was lower than last month's price.

**COIR FIBRE:** Coir fiber was traded in the domestic market in Sri Lanka at US$39/MT for mix fiber and US$387/MT-US$488/MT for bristle. The Indonesian price for mixed raw fiber was US$90/MT in November 2022 which was much lower than price a year earlier at US$220/MT.

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

| Products/Country | 2022 Nov | 2022 Oct | 2021 Nov | 2022 (Annual Ave.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dehusked Coconut** | | | | |
| Philippines (Domestic) | 132 | 129 | 213 | 184 |
| Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use) | 129 | 138 | 243 | 174 |
| Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use) | 178 | 168 | 303 | 193 |
| India (Domestic Kerala) | 400 | 380 | 518 | 433 |
| **Copra** | | | | |
| Philippines (Dom. Manila) | 652 | 605 | 1,004 | 908 |
| Indonesia (Dom. Java) | 547 | 502 | 905 | 778 |
| Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo) | 927 | 888 | 1,561 | 1,131 |
| India (Dom. Kochi) | 1,055 | 930 | 1,377 | 1,122 |
| **Coconut Oil** | | | | |
| Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.) | 1,167 | 1,094 | 1,939 | 1,669 |
| Philippines (Domestic) | 1,183 | 1,103 | 1,862 | 1,625 |
| Indonesia (Domestic) | 1,072 | 1,011 | 1,595 | 1,451 |
| Sri Lanka (Domestic) | 1,713 | 1,623 | 3,035 | 2,228 |
| India (Domestic, Kerala) | 1,716 | 1,640 | 2,303 | 1,905 |
| **Desiccated Coconut** | | | | |
| Philippines FOB (US), Seller | 1,957 | 1,984 | 2,548 | 2,360 |
| Philippines (Domestic) | 2,039 | 2,039 | 2,039 | 2,039 |
| Sri Lanka (Domestic) | 1,435 | 1,443 | 2,668 | 1,806 |
| Indonesia (FOB) | 1,275 | 1,250 | 2,375 | 1,704 |
| India (Domestic) | 1,444 | 1,294 | 2,122 | 1,577 |
| **Copra Meal Exp. Pel.** | | | | |
| Philippines (Domestic) | 301 | 282 | 228 | 246 |
| Sri Lanka (Domestic) | 257 | 248 | 297 | 243 |
| Indonesia (Domestic) | 287 | 284 | 307 | 301 |
| **Coconut Shell Charcoal** | | | | |
| Philippines (Domestic), Buyer | 373 | 364 | 441 | 385 |
| Sri Lanka (Domestic) | 355 | 394 | 544 | 412 |
| Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer | 447 | 435 | 590 | 537 |
| India (Domestic) | 398 | 411 | 536 | 489 |
| **Coir Fibre** | | | | |
| Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre) | 39 | 49 | 112 | 77 |
| Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie) | 387 | 406 | 572 | 411 |
| Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie) | 488 | 510 | 846 | 548 |
| Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre) | 90 | 130 | 220 | 186 |
| **Other Oil** | | | | |
| Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.) | 1,062 | 1,039 | 2,069 | 1,667 |
| Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.) | 946 | 889 | 1,348 | 1,307 |
| Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill) | 1,652 | 1,576 | 1,440 | 1,690 |

**Exchange Rate**

*Nov 30, '22* 1 US$ = P56.51 or Rp15,700 or India Rs81.43 or SL Rs368.38

1 Euro = US$1.03 n.q. = no quote

# MARKET REVIEW OF ACTIVATED CARBON

Amid global economic uncertainty, international trade of activated carbon showed a positive performance until the third quarter of 2022. During the period January-October 2022, global imports of activated carbon is estimated to reach more than 1 million tons. US, the largest importer, received 56,330 tons of coconut shell based activated carbon during January-October 2022 which was 52% higher than the volume in January-October 2021. At the same time, another main importing country, Japan, experienced a slight increase in import volume of the carbon. During the period, Japanese imported 71,908 tons of activated carbon to the country. The volume was 1.6% higher than the import volume in the preceding year for the same period.

The export performance of the carbon in several main producing countries indicated a positive signal until the third quarter of 2022. In the period of January-October 2022, India exported 131,634 tons of activated carbon valued US$266.7 million which was 26% higher than export volume a year earlier with USA as a major destination. USA absorbed more than 19% of Indian activated carbon during the period. Other major destinations of activated carbon from India were Sri Lanka, Germany, Turkey, South Korea, Italy, and Netherlands.

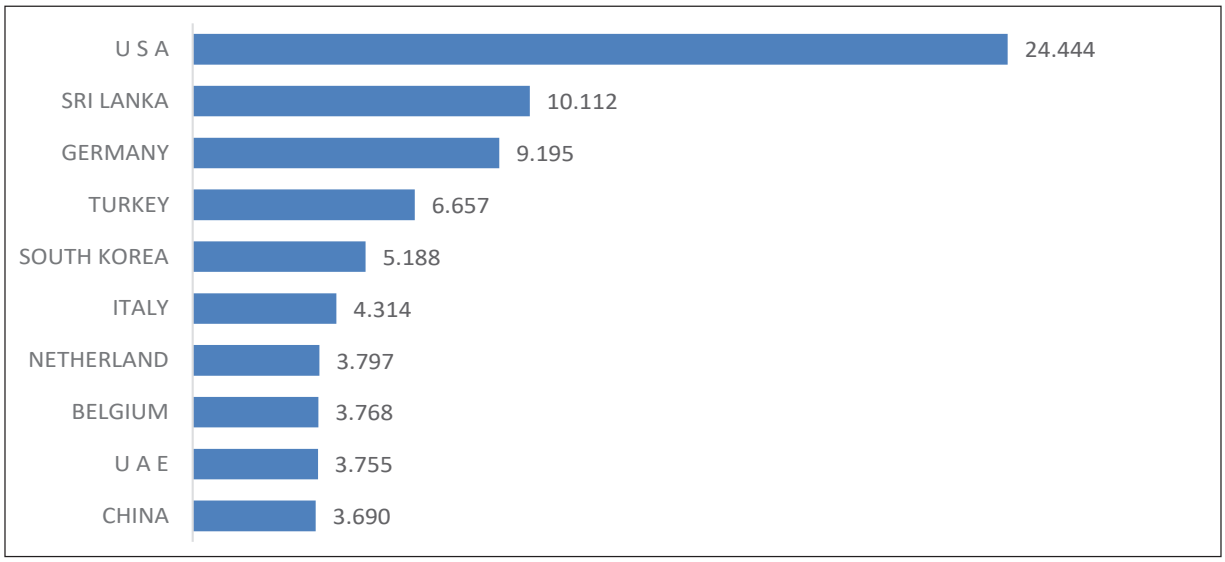
At the same time, Sri Lanka shipped 47,240 tons of coconut shell charcoal based activated carbon to the global market creating export earnings of US$118.4 million. The export earning rocketed by more than 91% as opposed to previous year's volume. Main destinations for the activated carbon from Sri Lanka include USA, China, Germany, UK and Japan.

The increase in export of activated carbon was also found in the Philippines. During period of January-August 2022, Philippines shipped 65,900 tons of the activated carbon to global market. The volume jumped by 35% as opposed to the 2021's export volume of 48,724 tons. Major importing countries of the product from Philippines were Japan, China, Germany, USA, and South Korea.

Similarly, export of activated carbon from Indonesia showed a sign of recovery. During January-October 2022, export of activated carbon from Indonesia was 21,687 tons which was 13% higher than the export volume during January-October 2021. The export resulted in export earnings of US$36.2 million.

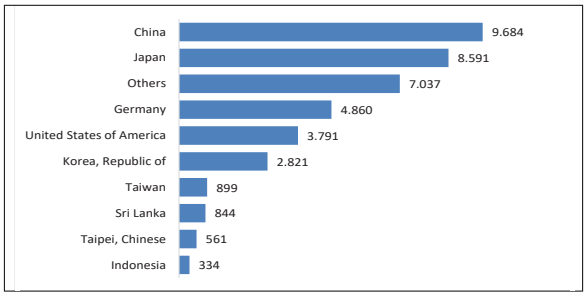
Price of coconut shell charcoal remained low in the last quarter of 2022. Price of the charcoal in several

**Figure 1. Top 10 Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from India, January-October 2022 (MT)**



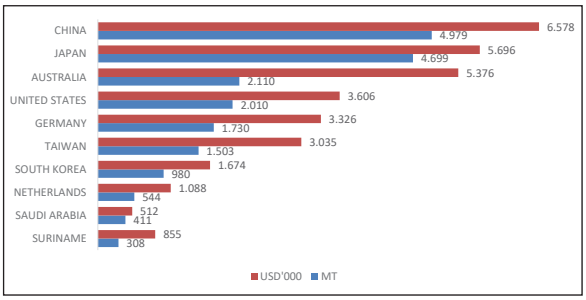

*Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India*

**Figure 2. Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from Philippines, January-August 2022 (MT)**




*Source: UCAP*

**Figure 3. Top 10 Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from Indonesia, January-October 2022 (MT)**

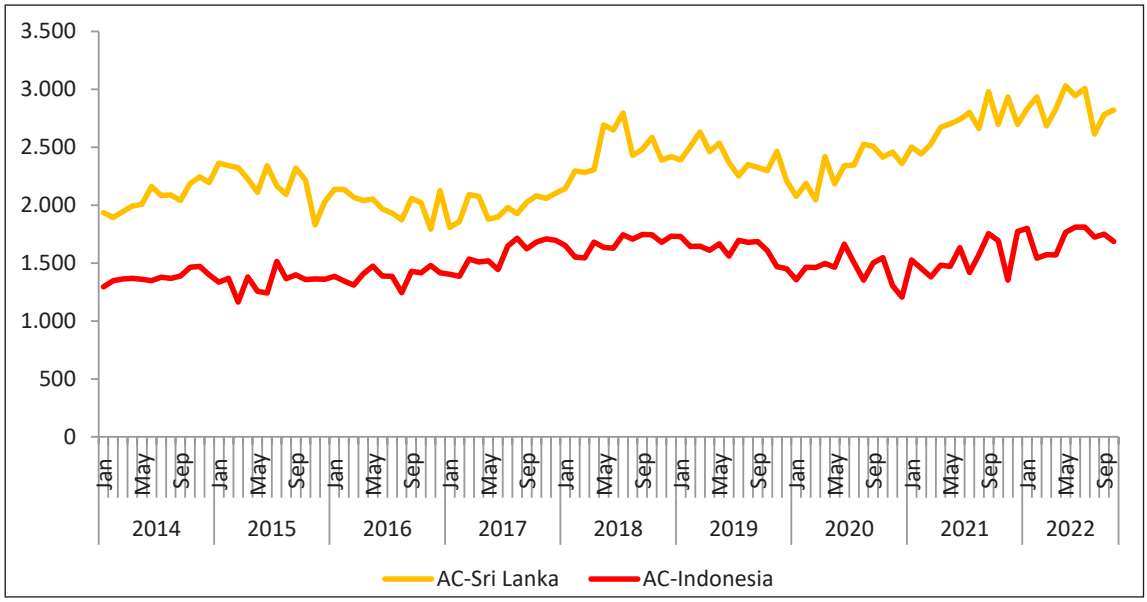



*Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia*

producing countries showed a downward trend. In November 2022, price of coconut shell charcoal in Philippines was US$373/MT which was 13% lower than price in December 2021. Similarly, price of the charcoal in Sri Lanka showed the same pattern. Lower demand worsened by economic crisis in the country negatively affected price movement of the charcoal. Price of coconut shell charcoal in Sri Lanka deeply fell to the level of US$355/MT in November 2022 from US$531/MT in December 2021. The price in November 2022 was recorded as the lowest since July 2018. In India, price of the charcoal was also showing a negative trend. The price was US$531/MT in December 2021 and gradually weakened to US$398/MT in November 2022. In Indonesia, price of the charcoal was decreasing as well amid higher supply of the charcoal. Price of the charcoal in factory gate dropped by 25% during January-November 2022.

Meanwhile, export price of activated carbon relatively fluctuated during first half of 2022. Price of the carbon in Indonesia was US$1,801/MT in January 2022 and then decreased to US$1,539/MT in April 2022. The price then went up to US$1,811/MT in July 2022 and again weakened to US$1,686/MT in October 2022. Meanwhile, price of the carbon in Sri Lanka was US$2,834/MT in January 2022 and declined to US$2,685/MT in March 2022. However, the price then went up again to the level of US$3,009/MT in July 2022 and declined again to US$2,820/MT in October 2022.

**Figure 4. Price of Coconut Shell Charcoal US$/MT (FOB) in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and India January 2014 –November 2022**




*Source: ICC Database*

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 58TH ICC SESSION AND MINISTERIAL MEETING

ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting is the highest decision-making body of the Community and is held annually to discuss, deliberate and take policy decisions on the activities to be undertaken by the Community for the sustained development of the global coconut sector. The countries are represented at the Session by the Honourable Ministers of Agriculture/Trade/Commerce, Plenipotentiary Delegates authorized by the National Governments and Senior Officials from the concerned Ministries.

The three-day-long 58th ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting was conducted virtually from 28th-30th November 2022. The Government of Kingdom of Tonga held the Chair of the International Coconut Community (ICC) for the CY 2021-2022 and was the host for the 58th ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting. For the third time consecutively, Session & Ministerial Meeting convened virtually.

The inauguration is an official opening ceremony organized by the host Government of Kingdom of Tonga. Dr. Viliami T. Manu, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests delivered the greeting remarks followed by the National Anthem of Kingdom of Tonga, and Prayer of Thanksgiving by Father Lutoviko Finau Parsh Priest, Nuku'alofa.

In absence of Hon. Mr. Lord Fohe, ICC Chair & Minister of Agriculture Food and Forests Government of Kingdom of Tonga, Dr. Manu read his welcome address. The official opening of the session was done by H.E. Hon. Hu'akavameiliku., Prime Minister Government of Kingdom of Tonga as Chief Guest. Introductory Remarks delivered by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC with the soft launching of the Cocopest portal.

The 58th ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting was attended by Delegates and participants included Senior Government Officials of ICC member countries and Official Observers from the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), The Pacific Community (SPC), Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Bioversity International, Non-Alligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) and International Trade Centre (ITC), Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), Department of Science and Technology, Philippines and Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI). The Governments of Guyana, Kiribati, and Vanuatu were not represented. A total of 76 participants registered for the Session. *(ICC News)*

## A'IBOM WILL PRODUCE TWO MILLION COCONUTS DAILY

The government of Akwa Ibom State asserts that it has put in place the necessary measures to reach the two million per day refining capability of St Gabriel Coconut Refinery by December of this year.

Dr. Offiong Offor, the commissioner of Agriculture, provided the guarantee while interacting with reporters. Amidst rumors that the Coconut Oil Refinery in Mkpat Enin Local Council may be underutilized due to insufficient coconut fruits to match its daily capacity of two million coconuts for refining.

In a renewed effort to meet the refinery's needs, she reported that more than one million hybrid seedlings had already been planted in various areas across the state during the past six years.

She highlighted that new plantations had been constructed in Okobo, Ini, and Eket Local

Government Areas to supplement the primary plantation located between Eastern Obollo/ Mkpat Enin/Ikot Abosi.

The commissioner reported that the program to encourage the cultivation of the plant in public secondary schools had been expanded to include public primary schools, local government councils, and the traditional rulers' council. *(Punch NG)*

**KARA WINS INDONESIA ORIGINAL BRAND AWARD AGAIN**

KARA Indonesia earned the Indonesia Original Brand award, which was sponsored by SWA Magazine and Business Digest, at the end of 2022.

The Indonesia Original Brand Award is a ceremony honoring original Indonesian brands that have obtained positive customer ratings in terms of satisfaction, brand loyalty, and brand advocacy.

Receiving two prestigious awards simultaneously on November 22, 2022, in the Coconut Cream and Coconut Cooking Oil categories, and being selected as one of the winners in the Indonesian Original Brand segmentation demonstrates KARA's real commitment as a pioneer in the coconut derivative product industry in Indonesia, which continues to grow rapidly and improve performance so that it becomes a popular option among the Indonesian population.

Dwianto Arif, manager of corporate communication for Sambu Group, expressed thanks for the accolades obtained by KARA Indonesia in these two categories for the community, as they continue to be the first option as the original Indonesian brand and the preference of the Indonesian people.

This accomplishment is also a benchmark for the success of Sambu Group, a manufacturer of KARA, in managing the brand performance of the company and contributing to the Indonesian coconut ecosystem.

In both the Coconut Cream (Coconut Milk) and Coconut Cooking Oil (Coconut Cooking Oil) categories, KARA achieved the title of CHAMPION, i.e. the category's highest score.

"This award will also continue to motivate us to uphold the quality of every KARA product. Moreover, it is a challenge for KARA to continue to sustain this accomplishment in the future. And continue to provide loyal customers with the finest and highest-quality coconut derivative products, "said Dwianto Arif.

KARA has also bestowed this honor upon all Indonesian coconut farmers. This is because the finest coconuts grown by coconut farmers are used to manufacture KARA.

The reliance between KARA and coconut farmers has resulted in a beneficial product synergy. Dwianto Arif ended, "Thank you, Indonesian coconut growers, and thank you, faithful KARA customers." *(Kontan)*

**KARACHI IS GOING COCONUTS**

One had to seek out coconuts in order to enjoy fresh, refreshing, rehydrating coconut water at the time. The only regular contact with the fruit would be at traffic signals, where sellers would attempt to sell you khopra pieces. Alternatively, you might get dried coconut from dried fruit shops.

Thankfully, times are currently changing. Suddenly, you keep running into so many shops and carts selling you tender coconuts. They are everywhere in town. The cost of these coconuts depends on their size. A large, fatty one will cost Rs300, while a somewhat smaller one will cost Rs250. And the smallest one offered would be Rs200.

Some of the bigger businesses offering the same will also have chilled coconuts. Fortunately,

they do not charge extra for refrigeration. The coconut, which also contains cream, can be eaten for no additional cost, as the same axe will be used to crack it open for the cream that was used to remove the top and insert drinking straws.

Most merchants can determine if a coconut is ripe or tender based on the presence of water and soft cream, if it is semi-ripe and you can chew on the dry khopra inside, or if it is fully dry and people burst it apart by hitting it on the ground during festivals and religious ceremonies.

"It is pretty easy. You just shake it to know," explains one coconut vendor. "Which option will it be?" You indicate a medium-sized one for yourself when he inquires.

You can also purchase imported coconuts from Sri Lanka, however almost majority of the coconuts sold in the city nowadays are locally cultivated. Most people with coconut trees at home here also buy coconuts from the sellers or they bring them their own home-grown ones because they don't have the requisite tools to chop off the top or break open the hard surface of the fruit.

Some can't even reach the coconuts growing on their palms. They often have fruit vendors paying them visits to buy the coconuts from them. The sellers have agile climbers who can reach the fruit in seconds to break them off the palms before flinging them down. Then the very same coconuts bought at Rs50 or Rs70 a piece are sold at the vendors for Rs200 to Rs300.

In terms of health, it is worthwhile. Coconuts are extraordinarily nutritive. Antioxidants, amino acids, enzymes, vitamins, including B-complex and vitamin C, as well as iron, calcium, potassium, magnesium, manganese, and zinc are contained in these foods. And they are quite low in calories.

Though the papaya leaf has gained much popularity for the cure of dengue, drinking coconut water can also help the body cool down, detoxify and stop bleeding. Not only can coconut water's natural sweetness replenish the body, but the nutrients listed can also lower fever and treat a variety of diseases. *(Dawn)*

**COCONUT DOWNSTREAM TRAINING**

Young men and women in Rabaul district, East New Britain province, Papua New Guinea, who attended a course on processing virgin coconut oil were urged to apply their knowledge to improve their lives.

At the completion of the course, Rabaul district administration's coordinator for economic sector and fisheries officer, Eliaser Mutumut, set the challenge to more than 30 participants from chosen wards along the corridor of Balanataman LLG.

The district administration paid for the Kokonas Inastri Koporesen to enable a two-day course (KIK). The instruction covers goods such as soap and infusion oil.

He instructed the participants to utilize the key skills acquired throughout the course, as well as the processing kits provided.

He stated that individuals who attend trainings and get new knowledge frequently return home and sit on the information.

Mr. Mutumut stated that the district administration intends to implement life skills training in the four LLGs of Rabaul as a supplement to programs begun by separate ward development committees to promote ward governance.

Jessie Herman, a participant, praised the training personnel but stated that a market must be created for their products in order to strengthen their efforts to make coconut-based products.

Theresa Yareng, regional manager of KIK, stated that virgin coconut oil is not yet available on the market, but similar to the white copra

agreement, KIK will purchase products and make payments to MiBank bank accounts.

She stated that there are future plans to build marketplaces, but the current training focuses on empowering individuals to make their own products rather than purchasing expensive soap and oil from stores. They are able to gather coconut and produce their own goods.

The district administrator, Benedict Mode welcomed the training staff stating it will empower them with abilities in manufacturing useful and quality things to market to sustain their family.

He stated that promoting locally produced goods would enhance the local economy of the district. *(Post Courier)*

## PHILIPPINE COCONUT PRODUCTS GAIN SPOTLIGHT AT IFEX 2022

With the growing difference between importation and exportation in the previous few years, the local manufacturing industry has been feeling the pinch. Aiming to increase exports and enhance the Philippine food trade industry, the recent International Food Exhibition (IFEX) Philippines 2022 displayed a variety of Philippine products with a special feature on coconut-based products, gaining the interest of trade buyers all over the world.

Mama Sita's heritage line of sauces, mixes, and condiments showcased their all-natural Premium Coconut Nectar Vinegar, which they have been creating for more than 30 years. Today, they have a wide assortment of quality vinegars like Sukang Tuba, Anghang Sarap, and Sinamak. At this year's food exhibition, they debuted a unique coconut-based product, dubbed Bibingkrep, a kit for producing rice-coconut crepes.

Ostindo International, a premier distribution firm based in Australia indicated interest in sourcing coconut-based product requirements from Mama Sita's, as well as Organix Solutions, developer of coconut-based beauty products such as the Cocolicious and Cocobody brands. *(Business Mirror)*

## CAMBODIA HOPES TO OPEN THE CHINESE MARKET WITH THE THAI FRAGRANT COCONUT

Coconuts are native to Southeast Asian countries, including Cambodia. Due to Cambodia's tropical location, exceptional climatic conditions, abundant sunshine, copious rainfall, and high crop output, the coconut sector has experienced a large-scale development during recent years.

However, due to its vast annual output and single variety, the total price continues to operate at a low level. Regarding the market position of Cambodian coconuts, FreshPlaza recently discussed with the Sino-Cambodian Seed Industry.

Cambodia will initiate negotiations with China to enhance the export of seven agricultural products to China, including coconut. The relevant person in charge of the Sino-Cambodian Seed Industry said, "The Cambodian coconut industry is seeking improvements in varieties to promote future coconut exports to China. Among the many varieties, the Thai fragrant coconut is quite popular in the market and is now widely cultivated in Cambodia. Everyone has a very positive attitude toward the commercial prospects of this breed."

When asked about the main advantages of this variety, the person in charge said, "The Thai fragrant coconut is smaller than ordinary coconuts, and its pointed tail is the biggest feature of this variety. In addition, it has a rich taste and moderate sweetness and is usually slightly more expensive than an ordinary coconut. \s" As for whether Cambodia will expand the cultivation of this variety in the future, it will have to wait until the opening of the Chinese market to get market feedback. If sales are good, there is no doubt that the

planting area will increase significantly in the short term. After all, China is the core export market for Cambodia's main agricultural products." *(Khmer Times)*

## ICAR-CPCRI DEVELOPS HIGH-YIELDING VARIETY OF COCONUT

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Regional Station, Kayamkulam, Kerala, India, has developed a high-yielding variety of coconut.

Named Kalpa Vajra (to commemorate the platinum jubilee of the regional station), the new variety, meant specifically for the root (wilt) disease prevalent tract, has an annual average yield of 80.1 nuts/palm. While the healthy palm produces on an average 158 nuts per palm a year, the diseased palms gives an average yield of 65 nuts.

Kalpa Vajra was recommended by the All India Coordinated Research Projects (Palms) for release in September. Officials of the ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam, say the Central Variety Release Committee would soon notify the release of Kalpa Vajra.

It is after a gap of 10 years that the ICAR-CPCRI is recommending a variety for release specifically for the root (wilt) disease prevalent tract, says P. Anithakumari, head, ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam.

The ICAR-CPCRI had earlier released three coconut varieties — Kalparaksha (2008), Kalpasree and Kalpa Sankara (both in 2012). (both in 2012).

The Kalpa Vajra variety of coconut has been produced by crossing high-yielding and root (wilt) disease-free West Coast Tall (WCT) palms. The parental palms for crossing have been selected from farmer's plots located in 'hotspots' of root (wilt) disease after serological testing.

Regi Jacob Thomas, principal scientist, ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, says they hope to begin largescale distribution of Kalpa Vajra seedlings to farmers in 2025.

The regional station has collaborated with three grama panchayats — Pathiyoor and Devikulangara in Alappuzha and Oachira in Kollam — for mass production of the elite WCT and Kalpa Vajra seedlings through the modified ground pollination technique developed by the ICAR-CPCRI.

"Advantages of the modified ground pollination technique include gender neutrality and reduction in the cost of hybrid seed nut production to the tune of 50%. Using this technique means dependence on skilled climbers is limited for emasculation, bagging and bag removal since the pollen application (for modified ground pollination) is managed from the ground itself. Modified ground pollination resulted in an average fruit setting of 25%, which is comparable to the setting observed upon normal assisted pollination in coconut," Mr. Thomas says. *(The Hindu)*

## COCONUT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO PROCURE RAW COCONUT; 26 CENTRES SANCTIONED

The agriculture department of Kerala, India, has tasked the Coconut Development Corporation also to procure raw coconut at Minimum Support Price and hand it over to KERAFED. The department has approved 26 collection facilities at Malappuram, Kannur, Kozhikode and Palakkad.

Procurement began at three facilities in Kozhikode on Thursday. The corporation had written to the government saying it was ready to do procurement. The number of raw coconut collection centres in the state has now neared 100.

Coconut Development Corporation MD Sidharthan AK said that more centres would

open by Tuesday. The corporation has requested the government to approve more collection centres. Kasaragod and Thrissur districts are likely to be included in the next phase.

The government has currently approved 12 centres in Kozhikode, seven in Kannur, 4 in Palakkad and 3 in Malappuram. The coconut collected by the corporation would be handed over to KERAFED after processing.

The collection centres that began functioning in Kozhikode were at Kuttiadi, Vengara and Kattippara. Coconut would be collected for Rs 32 per kilogram. *(Mathrubhumi)*

## COCONUT FARMING EXTENDED TO SEPIK PLAINS

The Kokonas Indastri Koporesen of Papua New Guinea through its Sepik Sustainable Coconut Development Project in East Sepik is doing a remarkable job in spreading coconut extension work to the Sepik Plains in East Sepik to raise productivity and improve rural cash flow.

KIK's sustainable coconut development officer, Allan Wawah said growers' desire in the Sepik Plains to producing coconut professionally has been motivating.

He stated coconut was usually planted for food security from the mid-1970s in the interior Sepik districts.

This has changed with the ideas of integrated farming-based practices.

Furthermore, with new cash-earning options from coconut goods being provided by KIK and development partners, it has considerably inspired the rural farmers in the Sepik Plains to produce more coconut trees to cater for the commercial sides of it.

KIK through its Sepik Sustainable Coconut Development Project had gathered local farmers to choose 255 mother coconut plants to collect dry nuts from which they piled at two areas including Mengar and Yarapos in Wewak Local LLG in Wewak District.

These seed nuts would be distributed by trucks to agriculture and livestock producing organizations in the Sepik Plains.

These included: Angoram-Gavien Agriculture and Livestock Business Group (5000 nuts), Ringu Business Group in Sauso LLG in Yangoru-Saussia District, Rullindogum Cocoa Fermentery Group in Numbor LLG in Yangoru-Saussia District (5000), Numakim Production and Trading in Maprik (5000), and SA-MA-DA clan association south Wosera LLG (5000). *(Post Courier)*

## 93 MN COCONUTS DESTROYED BY PESTS, ANIMALS

According to Sri Lanka's Minister of Agriculture, 93 million coconuts were destroyed by wild animals and insects in the first half of 2022.

According to study conducted by the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, this is the case.

During the first half of 2022, wild animals damaged almost 144,989 metric tons (MT) of output from 28 different crops, according to Sri Lanka's Agriculture Ministry.

During the Maha Season of 2021/2022, around 31,922 hectares of paddy cultivation were destroyed, or roughly 5.6% of the total harvest area.

The predicted overall crop loss is Rs. 30,215.00 billion.

According to the Agriculture Ministry, coconuts are the most damaged crop.

It is predicted that 6,638 billion rupees are lost due to the destruction of 93 million coconuts grown on 51,816 hectares of land over 21 districts by wild animals.

According to the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources, a committee has been created to examine the steps that must be taken to prevent elephant-human conflict and crop damage caused by wild animals in Sri Lanka, taking into account the relevant report's findings. *(News 1st)*

## RESEARCHER ON HOW MORINGA SEEDS, COCONUT AND CORN HUSKS CAN PURIFY 'GALAMSEY WATERS'

Dr. Adwoa Yirenkyi Fianko, a senior lecturer at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), stated that moringa seeds, coconut husks, and corn husks have the ability to detoxify rivers polluted by unlawful mining.

She stated that these materials have proven to be useful in addressing water contamination caused by galamsey.

This information is included in her doctoral dissertation, titled "Impact of artisanal and small-scale mining on water bodies and treatment; a case study of Birim River Basin in Ghana."

Dr. Fianko stated that moringa seeds, coconut, and corn husks have proven to be useful materials for treating water contamination caused by galamsey.

She added that coconut husks and corn husks can remove 100 percent of lead from polluted water, whereas moringa seeds can remove approximately 99 percent of iron particles.

In addition, she explained that coconut husk and maize husk could remove approximately 97% and 88% of iron from polluted water, respectively.

She mentioned that moringa functions as a coagulant, which has the same potential as alum in water purification.

These are some of the results we brought back. With the moringa seeds, you must wash, dry, and crush them before adding them to the water and ensuring adequate contact time. Dr. Fianko indicated that we used around 30 minutes of contact time by shaking the sample for three minutes and leaving it to sit for a while.

Dr. Fianko's discovery comes at a time when Ghana is struggling with water contamination as a result of illegal mining activities damaging major water sources used by water treatment plants.

The Ghana Water Company Limited, for example, has repeatedly warned of the negative effects of illicit mining on water treatment, stating that if the practice is not stopped, Ghana will be forced to buy water.

The Citi Galamsey Dialogue initiative brought together stakeholders and water resource specialists to assess the implications of illicit mining on Ghana's water security and discuss the state of Ghana's water resources. *(Graphic Online)*

## QUEZON GOVERNMENT EXPECTS NEW COCOQUEST TO HELP THE COCONUT INDUSTRY

The Philippine provincial administration of Quezon aims to expand the coconut sector in the province.

Helen Tan, governor of the province of Quezon, met with the Philippine Coconut Authority, Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), and the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist to discuss measures to assist the industry.

They discussed plans to revitalize and enhance the Quezon Science and Technology Complex for Coconut (CoCoQueST).

It would be the facility that would increase the revenues and enhance the abilities of the province's coconut producers.

Gerlie Tatlonghari, the director of SEARCA, also proposed that the organization establish

a memorandum of understanding with the government of Quezon to advance the coconut sector.

Officials also addressed issues on the benefits of coconut producers.

The provincial government of Quezon stated that farmers must receive their dues. *(Politiko)*

## EXPENSIVE FERTILIZER COSTS AFFECTS COCONUT PRODUCTION

As a result of the current negative trends of insufficient fertiliser and the spread of a fatal leaf disease, coconut production in Sri Lanka is expected to decline by at least 20% this year, continue to decline gradually, and fall by an additional 30% in three years.

Emeritus Prof. Deepal Matthew, a member of the Executive Committee of the Coconut Growers Association, told the Business Times that the coconut business is in a precarious position and that the sector may face additional issues in the coming years.

He stated that there will be a progressive decline in coconut production, with this year likely recording a 20% decline and three years from now a 30% decline.

Theoretically and scientifically, however, it is estimated that without fertiliser, which has been lacking for the past three years, the crop's productivity will plummet by 50 percent, he explained.

As a result, the government will have to subsidize the chemicals, despite the fact that fertilizer is now accessible for use on the crop.

At current fertilizer prices, the Coconut Research Institute (CRI) and coconut farmers predict that the production cost per nut will be between Rs. 65 and Rs. 70. This is not economical for the farmers, as the farm gate price is Rs. 65 and the market value is Rs. 100, and transport expenses are rising.

This will lead to the majority of smallholders abandoning fertilizer use, resulting in a 30-50% decline in crop productivity in three years, according to scientific projections from the CRI. Prof. Matthew stated that the majority of large-scale plantations have not applied fertilizer for the past three years, and this year they will experience a dip in productivity that will continue to decline. Approximately forty percent of coconut lands are unfertilized, meaning that large-scale farmers will be negatively impacted by the high cost of fertiliser.

Prof. Matthew stated that it is difficult to cure a white leaf disease that is transmitted by insects and is found on the underside of the leaf since the suggested spraying equipment is unavailable.

Previously, the issue was serious in Anuradhapura, but it has now expanded to Kurunegala as well. Without the necessary chemical, the plant must be chopped down. However, this too is not sustainable because growers would have to incur a cost. *(The Sunday Times)*

## KERALA'S COPRA PROCUREMENT AT 240 TON EVEN AS TN MANAGES 40,865 TON

Kerala and Tamil Nadu are the two Indian states that requested the extension of the copra (dry coconut kernel) procurement deadline through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (Nafed).

The union government committed to purchase 50,000 tons of copra beginning in February for the following six months. However, the agriculture department of Kerala had to wait four and a half months to confirm the procurement agencies due to technical challenges.

As result, the actual purchase was carried out only within the last one and a half months. When the procurement period expired on

August 1, 2022, only 116 metric tons of copra had been acquired.

Conversely, the number of farmers engaged in copra cultivation has also fallen dramatically. In light of this fact, the state government instructed cooperatives to acquire unprocessed coconut and turn it into copra. However, that plan did not work.

The agency requested three further months to continue copra procurement, citing the persistingly low copra market price. Tamil Nadu had made a similar plea to the Centre and was granted permission to acquire copra.

The requirement that farmers have an affidavit from the agriculture department and be registered in order to send copra to the separate procurement centers also contributed to the delay. In turn, this caused procurement delays at all respective centres.

According to the most recent numbers, the state was only able to acquire 240 tons, which is less than 1% of the tonnage authorized by the federal government. whereas Tamil Nadu has been able to acquire 40,865 tons. This support price scheme provided Kerala with Rs 40 lakhs and Tamil Nadu with Rs 80 billion. *(Mathrubhumi)*

**STATE PROMISES TO REVIVE CASHEW NUT, COCONUT INDUSTRIES**

The national government has announced measures to restore cashew and coconut industries in Kenya's Coast region that have collapsed.

Rigathi Gachagua, vice president of Botswana, stated that the region has always been the top producer of cashew nuts and coconut cash crops.

After officially opening the 119th edition of the Mombasa ASK international Show at Mkomani grounds, he spoke in Mombasa.

The Democratic Party stated that agriculture is one of the five pillars of the government's economic recovery plan.

He added that the government also prioritized micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), housing and settlement, healthcare, the digital superhighway, and the creative economy.

"We will continue to execute targeted interventions to revitalize value-added production for these two cash crops, which have fared poorly over the past few years," Gachagua said.

After the collapse of the state-owned Kenya Cashewnut Limited in 1990, production of cashew nuts in the country declined significantly.

In Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Tana River, and Taita Taveta, 23,158 hectares (about 57,224 acres) are planted with cashew nuts, according to a report from the Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate that was published in April of this year.

This represents a modest increase compared to the 22,690 hectares (56,068 acres) recorded in 2020.

The data also indicated that in 2021, coastal counties produced 9,121 tonnes of cashew nuts worth Sh457.32 million, compared to 12,668 tonnes worth Sh587.25 million in 2020.

Less than twenty percent of the produce was exported, while the remainder was consumed domestically, according to the research.

"I also challenge you to utilize the port city of Mombasa and the free trade zone at Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone to increase your export earnings," Gachagua remarked.

Additionally, it is believed that the entire area devoted to coconut cultivation in Kenya is 200,000 acres, with over 10 million trees.

It is estimated that Kenya's coconut business has a Sh25 billion yearly potential, of which only 53% has been realized.

In 2019, the country's coconut production reached 300 million nuts, compared to 260

million in 2013. The 2007 production figure was 170 million.

With the introduction of the Coconut Business Development Bill 2021 in the Senate, efforts have been undertaken to revitalize the industry. The objective of the measure is to establish the Coconut Industry Development Board.

According to the DP, Kenya's economic growth has relied primarily on the agriculture sector.

In the past two years, the industry has contributed an average of 25% directly and 27% indirectly to the nation's GDP.

"The sector remains vital to our rural economy, which is dominated by smallholder farmers who produce around 80% of agricultural production and employ more than 40% of the overall population and more than 70% of Kenya's rural population," he said.

However, he expressed worry that despite potential advances, youth participation in agriculture is low, ICT integration is weak, and output is under-mechanized.

"Therefore, we are spearheading persistent agricultural reforms to expedite the adoption of smart farming, as envisioned under the Kenya Kwanza plan. We do not wish to produce for consumption alone, but income too. We count on the kids, we will continue providing an enabling atmosphere for the youth to take our agriculture to the next level, where it also becomes a tool for fighting climate change," he said.

He stated that the blue economy is an emerging sector with immense promise.

Mombasa county, he noted, and the coastline region contribute heavily to this subsector.

Aquaculture is capable of producing about 750,000 metric tonnes worth Sh250 billion, according to the DP. Aquaculture has a potential area of 1,4 million hectares suited for fish production.

"Despite the immense potential, only 2,105,1 hectares (5,201 acres) are devoted to aquaculture. We have thus established the State Department for the Blue Economy and Fisheries to foster the growth of this vital industry, which directly and indirectly supports more than two million people," the DP stated. *(The Star)*

**'ONLY COCONUTS' DO GUYANA PROUD AT PARIS PRODUCT DISPLAY EVENT**

Guyana's agro processing sector continues to make notable strides, largely due to the diligence and ingenuity of a handful of mostly micro and small businesses – which can benefit incrementally from a more generous measure of state support – as evidenced by the recent revelation that the local Only Coconuts brand of agro produce was among other Caribbean brands that 'turned heads' at the October 15-19 SIAL Paris 2022 Product D exhibition.

The citation will be especially gratifying to the broader local agro-processing sector, which, over the years, has incrementally garnered praise locally, regionally, and internationally for its innovative use of farm produce in its manufacturing pursuits, capturing the attention and tantalizing the taste buds of a vast array of consumers in Guyana and abroad.

Owned by the local corporation Precision Global Inc. The production operations of Only Coconuts are located near Swan Creek, Marudi on the Linden-Soesdyke Highway.

The first batch of Only Coconuts, which consists of Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO), Coconut Flour, Desiccated Coconut, and Coconut Chips, was produced just over a year ago. In May of this year, the company obtained Made In Guyana certification from the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS), a registered mark that seeks to provide recognition for locally manufactured products on the local and international markets. The GNBS has described the 'Only Coconuts' brand as the "quality hallmark of genuine Guyanese products."

Paradoxically, while brands like the Only Coconuts are incrementally finding their way on markets that go beyond Guyana, government, over the years, has failed to provide the agro processing sector with the level of support that can help to secure even greater plaudits – and perhaps, more importantly – expanded local regional and international markets.

Government's recent refusal to provide support for Guyanese agro-processors seeking to participate in this year's Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo, previously reported in this newspaper, is a microcosm of political administrations' indifference over the years to providing support for the agro processing sector, particularly in the area of providing infrastructure, such as state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities.

This newspaper has frequently pointed out, among other things, the government's protracted failure to fulfill its promises to create modern, adequately equipped facilities that will allow potential investors to capitalize on favorable conditions, including the availability of raw materials in regions across the country, to invest in agro processing ventures.

SIAL is, reputedly the world's biggest biannual trade expo, attracting 310,000 visitors from 200 nations. *(Stabroek News)*

## DTI WORKSHOP IN BILIRAN TO IMPROVE HIGH-VALUE COCO PRODUCTS

The Department of Trade and Industry - Biliran Provincial Office, Philippines, held a two-day workshop on Green and Gender Responsive Value Chain Analysis (GGRVC) on High-Value Coconut Products (HVCP) on November 7-8 at the Biliran Province State University (BiPSU) Hostel in Naval, Biliran.

The stated effort intends to create and improve HVCP for resource and gender-based processing economic activity through active community participation.

Participants were able to develop a map from the production and processing stage to the current market scenario of the HVCP's priority goods, including coco sugar, coco coir/peat, Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO), and other coco-based products.

In addition, they were able to identify the Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) and develop strategies and potential initiatives for national government agencies.

In addition, they were educated on the significance of greening businesses and the many roles of the value chain, and most crucially, they developed a Strategic Plan for the promotion of the HVCP value chain.

In his welcome address, Dany Ramos, the provincial coconut development officer of the Philippine Coconut Authority - Biliran, underlines the 50-year CFIDP Program designed specifically for coconut producers.

Rebecca M. Cormanes, DTI Biliran's supervising senior trade-industry development specialist, explained the activity's aims and anticipated outcomes. She also briefed the attendees on the objectives and guiding principles of the Local Economic Development - Women Economic Empowerment program (LED-WEE).

Meanwhile, Romeo L. Dignos, director of DOST - Biliran Provincial Science and Technology Center, elaborated the interventions and assistance initiatives of their department that the farmers/ processors might use of. Dignos also detailed the processes for filing FDA-Licence to Operate and ensures the farmers with their continuing support aligned to research and development of HVCP.

Faustino V. Gayas Jr., provincial director of DTI-Biliran, emphasized that the aforementioned activity is conducted to support the Coconut Farmers Integrated Development Plan (CFIDP) in accordance with Republic Act 11524 or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act

(CFITFA), where DTI is responsible for research, marketing, and promotion. Gayas also secures the DTI's commitment to the province's HVCP development. *(Philippine Information Agency)*

**ENTREPRENEURS PROFIT FROM COCONUT WASTE AND CLIMATE-SENSITIVE CROPS**

John Githaiga provides a second opportunity to coconut waste.

Githaiga, who resides in Mombasa, Kenya, founded Natural Char Energy in 2020, a company that manufactures charcoal briquettes from organic wastes such as coconut husks.

Since briquettes are produced by compressing combustible materials, they are denser, tougher, and more compact, making them a more cost-effective, clean-burning, smokeless, and dense product for cooking.

"Our daily output capability is one metric ton," he explains.

According to Githaiga, his markets consist of residential houses, hotels, restaurants, and institutions.

"We sell a kilogram of charcoal briquettes for Sh30, which is significantly lower than regular charcoal, which costs between Sh70 and Sh100 per kilogram," he explains.

Githaiga employs three individuals.

However, he intends to grow his workforce after expanding his business.

Githaiga states, "We intend to acquire contemporary and efficient machines to match the demand."

According to him, coconut shells are obtained from landfills and oil refineries.

The company of Githaiga just won a Sh6 million award.

He claims that his purpose is to contribute to the decrease of deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions in Kenya, while also establishing a sustainable local economy that engages the local community in all parts of business, so economically benefiting the region.

According to the UNEP, air pollution is the greatest environmental danger to global public health, causing an estimated seven million premature deaths annually.

There is a close relationship between air pollution and climate change, as all major pollutants have an effect on the climate and most share sources with greenhouse gases. Improving air quality will have positive health, economic, and environmental outcomes.

Juliet Oduor of Blossom Health Essentials, another entrepreneur, received a Sh3 million grant.

Blossom processes flour from climate-smart crops such as cassava, arrowroots, and sweet potatoes to produce gluten-free flour that is suitable for gluten-intolerant individuals and can be blended with maize and wheat flour.

Oduor, who studied biomedical technology at Makerere University, aspires to deliver affordable, easily available, sustainable, and delicious healthy food options grown and processed in Kenya for local and international consumption.

After studying occupational safety and health at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, she graduated in 2015.

Oduor began her business in 2020.

"We purchase fresh cassava from farmers, then dry and crush them. The flour is then used to make ugali, mandazi, chapati, bread, and uji," she explains.

The sale of these flours to consumers or other businesses, as well as the sale of cakes produced with these flours, generates revenue.

In the next two to three years, Oduor plans to raise the number of farmers supplying his company's products to 4,000.

Their flour is sold to shops, who then sell customers to them.

According to Oduor, the monthly sales range between 800 and 1,200 kg.

One kilogram goes for Sh180.

According to Oduor, they crush 1,000 kilograms of cassava every day and between 25,000 and 30,000 kilograms per month.

She stated that her child did not eat wheat flour.

"After conducting some study, I determined there was a market," Oduor explains.

She intends to purchase additional equipment and use the leftover grant funds as operating capital.

She states, "We must broaden the market by expanding the number of farmers." Oduor employs six people.

The Stanbic Kenya Foundation collaborated with the United States African Development Foundation in 2021 to provide grants to MSMEs, cooperatives, and producer groups in Kenya through the Accelerate Programme. *(The Star)*

## ONE DRY LEAF AT A TIME: SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Dr. Saji Varghese was walking among the trees on the Christ University Campus on a beautiful October morning in 2017 on his way to class. The epiphany moment came when he observed a coconut leaf that had fallen on the ground. "I stumbled found a fallen coconut leaf on campus with one of its leaves twisted like a drinking straw and pointed upwards. It was this sight which gave me the insight of changing it into a straw," he explains. This was the inspiration for Sunbird Straws.

He picked a few coconut leaves and soaked them in water. Upon additional investigation, he realized that the leaves could be softened without losing their structural integrity, making them more flexible. After two years of more experimentation and study, he patented a multilayered straw that is chemical-free, naturally shining, viable, efficient, and fully functional.

Saji understood the potential of this idea when he discovered the product's scalability and manufacturing process. When he began receiving calls from other nations, he felt more prospects. Thus, he concentrated on two things. One, establishing up a team and two, developing the necessary technologies to assure the sustainability of the product during manufacture.

In rural India, coconut leaves are utilized as a natural alternative to other materials for making thatched roofs, weaved bags, brooms, and toothpicks. Unquestionably, Saji's coconut-leaf invention has the potential to eradicate plastic straws, one of the greatest environmental problems. The innovation received numerous national and international honors. In 2017, the program won the Climate Launchpad Award in the Netherlands and the Swiss Re Shine Entrepreneur Award, among others, for 'Best Innovation for Social Impact' against 45 competing nations. The UNDP's Honey Bee Creativity and Inclusivity Innovation Award was the most recent in line. Once worldwide praised, the product quickly attracted orders from Malaysia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, and the Philippines, among others.

### *Entrepreneurship involves try and error*

This was not Saji's first endeavor. Similar to many other entrepreneurs, he had attempted numerous projects in the past. However, they all had failed. There was initially an aquarium

shop. There was also a restaurant. The primary purpose of these endeavors was to employ members of his neighborhood. However, it did not work out.

Saji understood that the objective of his entrepreneurial endeavors was to make a difference. As an English professor with an interest in biodegradable materials, he conducted numerous experiments and substantial research at the campus Incubation Centre of CHRIST (Deemed University), where he lectures. With the assistance of the institution, Saji launched "Blessing Palms," a firm that promotes biodegradable and eco-friendly innovations.

***The intersection of entrepreneurship and sustainability***

The world is in perpetual flux. The effect of globalization has had unfavorable effects on many aspects of the world, including the ecology. Possibly thirty years ago, one would have assumed that plastic would transform everything it touched. Which is not entirely accurate. It has also left its stamp on things that are undesirable.

In the past, plastic straws were the most common item used to sip a refreshing drink throughout the summer. Currently, it can also be produced from coconut leaves. "Sunbird is motivated by a shared vision of a sustainable future. "Sustaining the environment and empowering rural communities, one green invention at a time, is key to our ideology, given that climate change is the most disruptive force of our time," Saji reiterates.

***Taking action about the environment***

Increased public awareness of the environmental catastrophe has generated significant religious reflection on the interaction between humans and the environment. God, humanity, and the environment are interconnected in profound ways. Deforestation is continuously destroying the ecology, good agricultural land is eroding, waterways are being poisoned or drying up, and rural women must travel thousands of kilometers to gather more hazardous firewood. In disputes, gold, diamonds, silver, emeralds, ivory, petroleum, and other treasures are utilized as weapons. This problem will be resolved and progress and environmental sustainability will result from achieving harmony between people and the environment.

Simply expressed, sustainable development is meeting the demands of the current generation without endangering the needs of future generations. Building sustainable relationships between people and between people and the environment is a component of this process, which can only be achieved by enhancing decision-making abilities through the flow of information and technology.

***Beneficiating the environment***

The company's mission is to identify and resolve complex worldwide issues. They discovered through a survey of 15 rural areas that dried leaves are burned in landfills. Now, because of their actions, this will not occur. These dried leaves will be used to make eco-friendly items such as straws and pens.

A coconut tree loses approximately six leaves every year, which are then burned in rural India, contributing to the country's already high carbon emissions. One naturally dried and fallen coconut leaf can be used to produce approximately 200 straws. Sunbird straws made from these dried coconut leaves are 100 percent biodegradable and manufactured without the use of chemicals in accordance with stringent hygiene requirements. The company says that the multi-layered straw, with natural anti-fungal and hydrophobic outer and inner walls, preserves its shape for approximately three hours in any type of warm or cold beverage. Contrary to paper straws, this one does not become soggy or leak glue or color into the drinks. In addition, the company focuses a

major emphasis on protecting marine life by eliminating plastic trash along the coasts.

***Investing in Rural Women in India***

Sunbird Straws is distinguished by its emphasis on both technological and social concerns, such as women's empowerment and rural employment. Companies who opt to innovate on the market are typically more focused on technology. It is both surprising and gratifying to see a corporation working on both technological progress and social challenges. The Sunbird project is not just about straws and scrubbers; it is also about the lives of rural women whose families' living standards are enhanced and whose goods have a global influence.

The company has established approximately five production sites in Madurai, Kasargod, Tuticorin, etc., employing hundreds of rural women in South India, primarily along the coast. Chirag, a student volunteer, joined the team for the purpose of empowering rural people and addressing environmental issues. "We previously burned coconut leaves in landfills or outdoor kitchens. Now, however, we transform it into goods that support our daily lives and address the problems caused by burning," explained one of the employees.

As stated on their website, "a guy in California, a small girl in New Zealand, or a tourist in Dubai sipping guilt-free from a straw manufactured by the palms of these women, made from the towering palms nourished by the earth" encapsulates the team's vision and enthusiasm.

***So, in conclusion***

What began as a simple initiation by Saji has now evolved into a means of nutrition for other individuals who were unable to make ends meet. People like Saji did not need to work to fix the aforementioned difficulties, but their dedication to society demonstrates how God displays His character in every individual.

God ensures that if you have the willpower to do anything, He will make it happen if you deserve it, as seen by Saji's amazing story. The company's website reads, "Our idea intends to prevent the plastic menace threatening our seas and aquatic life, empower rural women by offering meaningful work possibilities, and engage communities by adopting a sustainable lifestyle."

The Sunbird Project represented Saji Varghese's spiritual journey. While reading about Abraham, Moses, and Joshua, he pondered his personal faith statement. He too desired to use his God-given abilities and faith in God to impact the lives of those around him. His favorite Bible verse is "But those who wait on the Lord will be renewed in vigor." "They will rise up with wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, and they will walk and not grow faint" (Isaiah 40:31 NKJV), remarked the professor who created straws from coconut leaves. *(Vatican News)*

## MALAYSIA WILL INCREASE COCONUT PRODUCTION BY 50% NEXT YEAR

Next year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries (MAFI) intends to expand coconut output for the domestic market by fifty percent compared to the level of 2020. The director-general of the Agriculture Department, Datuk Zahim Hasaan, stated that the aim was in accordance with the increase in coconut-based products.

On November 11, MAFI hosted 300 attendees of the 50th International Cocotech Conference and Exhibition on a field trip to the Jorak Agriculture Centre, where he made this statement. At the Center, the participants were shown the procedures of coconut breeding, seeding, planting and a little exhibition of various coconut food and non-food products. The Center has an Internet of Things-enabled Smart irrigation system (IoT).

In 2020, according to Zahimi, Peninsular Malaysia's coconut plantation covered 55,573 hectares and yielded 451,691 metric tons.

In addition, he mentioned that the current coconut market is 70 percent concentrated on the domestic market, however there are plans to offer these items in international markets in the future. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

# TRADE NEWS

**INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE**

This week, vegetable oil costs decreased.

Rotterdam's coconut oil market remained sluggish, generating activity only later in the week when prices grew more attractive to buyers. Several turnovers were recorded at $1,155-1,165/MT CIF, less than the previous week's $1,180-1,190/MT. This week's market opened bearish, with sellers quoting $1,195-1,250/MT CIF for positions from November/December through June/July 2023, and proceeded to decline, closing in the red despite a recovery in other vegetable oils. By week's end, levels stood at $1,150-1,225/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market was also barely traded, with only two trades reported at $1,060-1,065/MT CIF, which is less than the $1,080/MT paid for a single trade the previous week. The market began Tuesday with bids of $1,050-1,150/MT CIF for positions from November/December 2022 through June/July 2023, and then followed a sideways trend for the majority of the day. In contrast to its competitor coconut oil, palm kernel oil concluded the week on an upward trend inspired by other markets, with levels between $1,062.50 and $1,127.50/MT CIF.

Coconut oil's price premium over palm kernel oil continued to decline across all positions, while spreads remained at $100. Thus, the average price disparity decreased to $104.33/MT from $110.68/MT one week ago and $118.25/MT two weeks ago. Premiums per position are displayed below: November/December: $104.50 ($116 in the previous week); December/January: $111.00 ($124.50); January/February: $107.50 ($107.85); February/March: $102.00 ($103.85); March/April: $101.50 ($106.20); April/May: $100.50 ($111.00); May/June: $104 ($113.50); June/July: $103.63 ($102.50).

Throughout the week, soybean futures on the CBOT soya complex market crept lower, but were able to recover at week's end thanks to China's unexpectedly significant purchases. Earlier, the market was under pressure due to decreased soybean oil and crude mineral oil prices, an increase in the value of the US dollar, and excellent crop weather in South America, where a record-breaking harvest was anticipated in 2022/23. In addition, an extension of the agreement to permit the safe passage of grains via the Black Sea, which can replenish grain stocks at destination, contributed to a pessimistic market attitude.

At the palm oil segment, the market was similarly negative but closed the week in the green as well. The combination of a strong Malaysian ringgit, which made palm oil more expensive for purchasers, and lower soybean oil prices at CBOT contributed to the market's decline. This was sufficient to offset the reported increase in Malaysian exports by cargo surveyors. Prices of tropical oils for the next forward shipment displayed mixed tendencies, with lauric oils remaining in the uptrend but exhibiting slower weekly rises. This week, coconut oil increased $5.00 from $1,168.50/MT CIF to $1,173.50/MT CIF, while palm kernel oil increased $10.00 from $1,052.50/MT CIF to $1,065.00/MT CIF. In comparison, the price of palm oil fell $53 from $1,117.50 to $1,064.50/MT CIF. As a result, the price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil decreased from $116 per metric ton last week to $111 per metric ton this week, but significantly increased versus palm oil to $109.00 per metric ton from $51.00. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

**FOCUS ON THE MARKETING OF COCONUT OIL**

In Rotterdam, the coconut oil market remained lightly traded, with only a few transactions

reported at $1,155/MT CIF for January/February and $1,165/MT CIF for February/March for the second consecutive week. Overall, the market was poor, and sellers ended at $1,150 for November/December, $1,165 for December/January, $1,172.50 for January/February, $1,170 for February/March, $1,180 for March/April, $1,190 for April/May, $1,200 for May/June, and $1,225/MT CIF for June/July. Buyers concluded the week with bids of $1,115 for December/January, $1,130 for January/February, $1,135 for February/March, $1,145 for March/April, $1,150 for April/May, $1,155 for May/June, and $1,160/MT CIF for June/July; nevertheless, the front position was disregarded.

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

## BL IMPACT: GOVT STARTS MONITORING IMPORTS OF SRI LANKAN DESICCATED COCONUT POWDER

Manufacturers of desiccated coconut (DC) powder in India might breathe a sigh of relief now that Sri Lankan shipments have come under investigation.

A research titled "Sri Lankan imports harm domestic desiccated coconut powder industry" highlights the predicament of domestic DC powder makers due to imports priced between ₹80 and 90 per kilogram compared to the domestic pricing of 110 per kilogram, consequently severely harming the domestic industry.

The flavor of coconut is imparted to savory and sweet recipes with the use of DC powder.

In its order and based on the representation from Coconut Development Board, the Joint Commissioner of Customs (Special Intelligence and Investigation Branch), Chennai, has directed the Development Commissioner, Madras Export Processing Zone, to alert improper importation of DC powder and all such consignments for further investigation.

It was mentioned in the directive that certain importers were importing DC powder having oil content above 35 per cent by misdeclaring it as de-fatted coconut and paying no basic customs duty (BCD) by claiming ISFTA benefits. Nonetheless, these items are appropriately classed under BCD at 70% and a minimum import price of ₹150 per kilogram.

### *Applicable duty*

Desiccated coconut is available in powder, flakes, chips, and shreds, among other forms. It was also observed that the oil content percentage provided by the importers on the analytical certificate was below 35%. However, sample testing at CRCL Lab, Customs House, Chennai, indicated that the claimed oil content was 45.2%. Consequently, the items would be subject to a BCD of 70% or 8% with SAFTA benefits, according to the ruling.

VA Dakshinamurthy, vice-president of the Federation of Indian Desiccated Coconut Manufacturers, praised the Customs' action, stating that DC powder imports from Sri Lanka have been halted and domestic manufacturers are receiving a respectable price of approximately ₹130 per kilogram. The domestic price had dropped to ₹110 in October, and the unabated imports have negatively impacted numerous labor-intensive small and medium-sized businesses.

To evade the MIP of ₹150, imports are made in the category of livestock feed, where the tariff is 8% under SAFTA and 0% under ISFTA. As the coconut's milk and oil are extracted, Sri Lankan DC powder is low in fat, whereas the domestic counterpart is heavy in fat.

In its representation, the Coconut Development Board stated that the imported product is being utilized as an adulterant in high-grade DC, which is hurting the product's quality and the domestic sector. The imports may offer DC at very low cost, which is harming domestic producers. The Board also encouraged not to

approve imports if it does not satisfy the quality standards and to carry out careful screening of imported samples. *(The Hindu Business Line)*

## PH COMPANIES SELL A RECORD $655 MILLION AT CHINA EXPO

During their recent participation in China's largest import-themed trade show, International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, 62 Filipino food and food-related companies achieved record-breaking sales of $655,145,000,000.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), which arranged the Philippine exhibitors at the CIIE from November 5-10 in Shanghai, these were the Philippines' greatest sales since China launched the global import show in 2018.

This sum was generated by onsite sales and bulk buy contracts to the tune of 97%, with the remaining 3% coming from online business matching operations.

Philippines recorded $128 million in sales in 2018 and $255 million in 2019. Despite the epidemic, both 2020 and 2021 saw an increase in sales.

At the forefront of the CIIE "Food Philippines" Pavilion design and conceptualization, the Center for International Trade, Expositions, and Missions presented this year a unified one-country promotional approach featuring three brands – "Food Philippines", "Coconut Philippines", and the famous "Oishi" brand by Liwayway China, with a single narrative – an invitation to experience a "Festival of Island Flavors".

For the first time, various Philippine coconut goods were on show at the Coconut Philippines Pavilion. The Country is known worldwide to be a significant producer and supplier of coconut oil, and the exhibits did not only present coconut oil in many forms, but also other inventive goods derived from coconut—the tree of life.

DTI Secretary Fred Pascual stated at the opening of the CIIE, "The Philippines' participation in CIIE has become not only a practical response to opportunity, but an imperative to expand our international market, cement the Philippines' reputation as a reliable source for food, and introduce more quality food products into China's mainstream markets."

Pascual stated that the Export Marketing Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has also given exporters with the necessary instruments for participation in the exposition. "We have also partnered with the private sector through Liwayway China, which carries the highly renowned Oishi brand – a brand that is deeply cherished with fond memories in both the Philippines and China, and a testament to the fact that quality products can truly be a bridge that connects our country and its people," he said.

The Philippine Trade and Investment Center (PTIC) in Shanghai, CITEM, the Philippine Consulate General in Shanghai, and our Department of Agriculture's Office of Agriculture Counselor (OAC) in Beijing support the country's participation.

In addition, the DTI, through its Trade Promotions Group (TPG), and the EMB signed cooperation agreements with two of China's largest food chambers: the Beijing-based China Chamber of Commerce of Foodstuffs and Native Produce (CFNA) and the Shanghai Food Association (SFA).

With a total of 7,500 member companies between the two chambers, these cooperation arrangements will be essential to bolster cooperation between food exporters from the Philippines and Chinese food companies in the areas of business matching, technical cooperation, and investments to increase food production capacities.

TPG OIC, Assistant Secretary Glenn Pearanda reaffirmed the significance of these agreements and stated, "We value our work with CFNA and SFA as we pursue more collaboration to boost food trade." We expect that this will lead to

greater collaboration throughout the entire food production, processing, and marketing value chain.

Likewise, PTIC Shanghai Head Mario C. Tani remarked that the amount of items the Philippines exports to China has drastically expanded in the previous five to six years, and sales were five times bigger compared to the first time the Philippines has participated in the 2018 CIIE. *(Manila Bulletin)*

# OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

### FOSFA HIGHLIGHTS POTENTIAL 3-MCPD CONTAMINATION RISK OF VEGETABLE OILS FROM SEAWATER WASH

The Federation of Oils, Seeds and Fats Association (FOSFA) International is revising several of its documents dealing to the carrying of oils and fats with effect November 01 to underline the risk of potential contamination of vegetable oil with salt chloride from a seawater wash.

"The presence of sodium chloride (NaCl) in residual saltwater after tank washing could lead to the production of the processing contaminant 3-monochloropropane diol (3-MCPD) and related chemicals called 3-MCPD esters," explained FOSFA technical manager Gretel Bescoby. "Although a final freshwater rinse is typically performed by shippers, it was determined that emphasizing the need for a freshwater rinse with drying will raise awareness and serve as an extra precaution against the creation of processing pollutants."

Thus, the following FOSFA papers would be updated to clarify that the last rinse after washing must be performed with freshwater, followed by drying: Qualifications and operating procedures (Carriage of Oils and Fats) introduction, Combined Master Certificate, Certificate of Compliance, Cleanliness, and Suitability of Ship's Tanks, and Code of Practice for Superintendents.

FOSFA International is a trade association with about 1,200 members comprising buyers, sellers, producers and processors, analysts, surveyors and brokers operating from 90 countries. It provides standard contract formats and associated services as the basis for fair and transparent global free trade in oils, seeds, and fats. The Philippines United Coconut Association is a non-trading member of FOSFA. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

### MALAYSIA WELCOMES EU'S DEFORESTATION REGULATION

Bernama reported on November 16 in Kuala Lumpur that the Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MOPC) urged the European Union (EU) Parliament to recognize national certification programs such as the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) standards as an effective measure to meet the requirements of the EU's Deforestation Regulations. According to the report, the Council stated that it welcomed the updated draft, particularly its recognition of the importance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and smallholders, but encouraged EU policymakers to allow additional time for full implementation.

The goal of the legislation is to prevent the importation of goods, such as beef, cocoa, palm oil, and soy, that may have contributed to deforestation in producer nations. Wan Aishah Wan Hamid, the chief executive officer of MPOC, stated that the Malaysian government is committed to the sustainability of palm oil production in accordance with the country's laws protecting its natural environment and the rights of all industry workers. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

# HEALTH NEWS

### COCONUT WATER CAN REDUCE BLOOD PRESSURE

Always keeping an eye on your blood pressure is vital, but it becomes increasingly so as

we age, as those over 40 are at a significant risk for hypertension due to the stiffening of their arteries. There are a number of elements to consider, including nutrition, if you are over the age of 40 and looking for ways to keep your blood pressure under control. Certain foods, such as those containing high levels of sodium, should be avoided as much as possible. However, increasing your consumption of certain foods can also make a difference. These include alternatives rich in electrolytes, such as potassium, which serve to relax your blood vessels in order to maintain a healthy blood pressure. Coconut water is a potassium-rich beverage that health experts say can be consumed daily or even added to a nutritious smoothie.

We spoke with Lisa Richards, nutritionist and developer of The Candida Diet, to learn more about coconut water and why it might make a terrific addition to your daily smoothie. She elaborated on the benefits of this intoxicating beverage, particularly for individuals wishing to lower their blood pressure.

If you want to increase your potassium consumption, Richards recommends adding coconut water to your smoothie. Although the beverage has been increasingly popular in the wellness industry in recent years, its benefits are no joke. "Depending on the quality of the coconut water you purchase, incorporating it to your daily routine can have considerable health benefits," says Richards. In fact, she notes that a single cup of this beverage offers 17% of the recommended daily allowance of potassium.

Coconut water is an excellent choice for those seeking to control their blood pressure. According to Richards, the ratio of low sodium to high potassium in coconut water helps to maintain fluid balance, hence regulating blood pressure.

This delicious smoothie ingredient has a high magnesium concentration in addition to a high potassium content. This is excellent news for those of us attempting to lower our blood pressure, as Richard explains, "Both of these minerals are essential for managing blood pressure and maintaining a healthy level."

Considering that coconut water can add taste to your smoothie, there's no reason not to give it a try! In fact, you may discover that you enjoy sipping this beverage on its own, but regardless of how you take it, your body will enjoy it just as much as your taste bud. *(She Finds)*

**SMELLY BREATH? WHY NOT GIVE PULLING WITH COCONUT OIL A TRY?**

Coconut oil is becoming increasingly popular for oil pulling. Numerous individuals attest to the efficacy of this treatment and assert that it has other health benefits.

In the oil pulling technique, oil is used as a mouthwash by swishing it about the mouth. It has been used for centuries as a traditional Indian remedy.

Oil pulling requires swishing a teaspoon of oil in the mouth for 15 to 20 minutes.

Reducing the amount of harmful bacteria in the mouth is the primary advantage of this practice. There are hundreds of different types of bacteria in your mouth.

A portion of them are friendly, but not all. Plaque is a thin layer of biofilm formed by bacteria that builds on your teeth due to oral microorganisms.

It is normal to have some plaque on your teeth, but excessive plaque can cause cavities, gum disease, bad breath, and gingivitis.

Oil pulling is an easy method in which the liquid oil carries and destroys the microorganisms in your mouth as you swirl it in your mouth.

Any oil can be used for oil pulling, although extra-virgin coconut oil is recommended due to its flavor. In addition, it has a healthy

profile of fatty acids and a high content of the antimicrobial lauric acid.

One of the major oral bacteria, Streptococcus mutans, is a key contributor to plaque production and tooth damage.

In a study involving 60 adults, oil pulling using coconut oil for 10 minutes each day for as little as two weeks significantly decreased the amount of S. mutans in saliva compared to water.

Another research in kids indicated that coconut oil decreased S. mutans just as well as a standard chlorhexidine mouthwash.

Even though these findings are encouraging, additional research comparing the efficacy of coconut oil to that of other oils is necessary.

Gum inflammation, or gingivitis, is brought on by your immune system attacking the microorganisms in the plaque.

Twenty adolescent boys with plaque-induced gingivitis participated in a study comparing the efficacy of oil pulling with sesame oil and a standard chlorhexidine mouthwash. Both mouthwash and oil pulling were effective in treating gingivitis.

Coconut oil offers similar benefits. In a one-month study involving 60 adolescents, daily coconut oil pulling reduced gingivitis symptoms substantially.

Bad breath, or halitosis, is typically caused by the odor of chemicals and gases produced by bacteria in the mouth. It is associated to infections, gingivitis, and generally inadequate oral hygiene.

If you eradicate some of these microorganisms and improve your dental hygiene, you should have less bad breath.

According to a research conducted on 20 adolescents, pulling with sesame oil reduced all symptoms of bad breath as effectively as using a chlorhexidine mouthwash.

More research is required to discover whether coconut oil pulling also helps with halitosis. However, it appears acceptable considering that it may minimize plaque and gingivitis.

A commonly stated claim is that oil pulling can whiten teeth. There are currently no studies to support this benefit. Some people believe that oil pulling is a detoxification method that eliminates toxins from the body. There is no proof for this assumption.

Lastly, there is no scientific evidence that this medication is useful for conditions other than oral problems.

**Oil pulling is surprisingly simple:**

- Give your tongue roughly one teaspoon of oil.
- 15 to 20 minutes should be spent swishing the oil about your mouth.
- After vomiting up oil, brush your teeth.

If you do not spit the oil into a piece of paper and dispose of it in the trash, the fat could someday clog your pipes.

It is unnecessary to use a great deal of force. Relax a bit if oil pulling causes face muscle pain. Try using less oil and stirring it less forcefully the next time.

Some suggest that oil pulling should be performed in the morning prior to brushing your teeth.

Many individuals do it in the morning when showering or bathing. Coconut oil pulling is a simple method that can reduce the risk of gum disease, cavities, and bad breath.

There are many other health benefits associated with oil drawing. The majority, however, lack scientific support.

However, oil pulling looks to be an excellent supplemental strategy for enhancing tooth hygiene. Give it your best try. *(IOL)*

## COCONUT RECIPE

**PANDAN COCONUT PUDDING**

One of the puddings that you can try is pandan coconut pudding or coconut pandan pudding. The aroma produced from pandan also adds to the enjoyment of the pudding as well as beautifies its appearance. Of course you don't need to worry because pandan is also a natural food coloring. The fresh green color will make this one pudding feel delicious and tempting.

***Ingredients***

*Coconut layer material*

1. 7 grams of plain agar
2. ½ tsp Nutrigel
3. 650 cc of coconut water
4. 2 young coconuts, set aside the contents, sliced lengthwise

*Pandan layer*

1. Pandan leaves and enough water
2. 7 grams of agar
3. 1 tsp Nutrigel
4. 125 cc of instant coconut milk
5. 500 cc of pandan water

*Coconut milk layer*

1. 7 grams of agar
2. 1 tsp Nutrigel
3. 80 grams of sugar
4. 350 instant coconut milk
5. 450 cc of boiled water
6. 1/4 tsp salt

***Directions***

1. Coconut layer, cook all ingredients until boiling, set aside
2. Pandan layer, blend pandan and water first, strain then mix all ingredients, cook until boiling over medium heat, set aside
3. Coconut milk layer, cook all ingredients except instant coconut milk, stir until boiling, use medium heat tends to be small so the coconut milk doesn't break
4. Completion, pour a layer of coconut water in a 24 cm mold, lay out the young coconut, pour the pudding back in until it covers the coconut, pour in the pandan layer, then coconut milk, do it until the mixture runs out, let it set

*(Abilene Reporter News)*

# STATISTICS

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

| MONTH | Indonesia | | | Philippines | | | Sri Lanka | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2020 r | 2021 r | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| January | 15,984 | 16,585 | 17,456 | 6,006 | 5,273 | 7,395 | 757 | 709 | 930 |
| February | 15,668 | 15,357 | 13,596 | 7,629 | 6,230 | 10,228 | 935 | 1,045 | 943 |
| March | 17,184 | 12,288 | 16,535 | 9,887 | 10,382 | 11,694 | 876 | 882 | 1,050 |
| April | 15,214 | 15,430 | 13,639 | 4,405 | 8,979 | 9,429 | 917 | 548 | 1,576 |
| May | 9,526 | 11,241 | 7,376 | 6,449 | 9,457 | 6,739 | 1,554 | 991 | 1,211 |
| June | 17,808 | 9,869 | 11,796 | 9,182 | 9,182 | 10,517 | 953 | 412 | 1,475 |
| July | 20,174 | 9,253 | 10,866 | 9,469 | 9,439 | 9,986 | 1,121 | 733 | 1,398 |
| August | 16,154 | 10,019 | 13,328 | 854 | 10,071 | 10,438 | 837 | 489 | 1,670 |
| September | 12,554 | 10,319 | 13,896 | 8,334 | 13,049 | | 1,202 | 484 | 1,378 |
| October | 17,100 | 13,270 | 13,984 | 8,313 | 9,390 | | 1,096 | 547 | 606 |
| November | 13,078 | 14,877 | | 7,077 | 12,311 | | 1,048 | 818 | |
| December | 15,912 | 16,016 | | 7,120 | 10,047 | | 742 | 697 | |
| **TOTAL** | **186,357** | **154,524** | **132,472** | **84,725** | **113,810** | **76,426** | **12,038** | **8,355** | **11,631** |

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

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

| MONTH | Indonesia | | | Philippines | | | Sri Lanka | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| January | 2,171 | 1,415 | 2,184 | 6,819 | 6,170 | 5,873 | 4,177 | 4,311 | 3,918 |
| February | 2,326 | 2,250 | 2,239 | 7,328 | 5,616 | 6,229 | 3,233 | 3,701 | 3,529 |
| March | 2,412 | 2,609 | 2,327 | 6,991 | 7,193 | 19,865 | 2,738 | 5,050 | 4,424 |
| April | 2,691 | 2,379 | 2,419 | 4,592 | 5,782 | 7,455 | 2,271 | 3,579 | 5,093 |
| May | 2,256 | 1,929 | 1,842 | 5,782 | 5,865 | 7,051 | 3,784 | 4,781 | 4,796 |
| June | 2,359 | 1,720 | 2,390 | 6,873 | 5,642 | 6,498 | 4,425 | 4,491 | 4,904 |
| July | 2,404 | 1,925 | 2,006 | 7,896 | 7,071 | 5,140 | 4,395 | 4,025 | 5,034 |
| August | 2,208 | 1,550 | 2,251 | 6,499 | 5,385 | | 4,080 | 3,805 | 4,890 |
| September | 2,325 | 1,799 | 2,020 | 6,864 | 6,876 | | 4,054 | 4,435 | 5,376 |
| October | 2,130 | 1,607 | 2,009 | 6,506 | 6,030 | | 4,206 | 4,555 | 5,276 |
| November | 2,133 | 2,348 | | 4,713 | 6,450 | | 3,771 | 4,650 | |
| December | 2,199 | 2,280 | | 6,116 | 5,760 | | 4,172 | 5,336 | |
| **TOTAL** | **27,614** | **23,812** | **21,686** | **76,979** | **73,840** | **58,111** | **45,306** | **52,719** | **41,964** |

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

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

| India | | | Indonesia | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Country of Destination | Volume (MT) | Value (US$ 000) | Country of Destination | Volume (MT) | Value (US$ 000) |
| 1. U S A | 24,444 | 56,380 | 1. CHINA | 4,979 | 6,578 |
| 2. SRI LANKA | 10,112 | 22,020 | 2. JAPAN | 4,699 | 5,696 |
| 3. GERMANY | 9,195 | 19,050 | 3. AUSTRALIA | 2,110 | 5,376 |
| 4. TURKEY | 6,657 | 10,500 | 4. UNITED STATES | 2,010 | 3,606 |
| 5. SOUTH KOREA | 5,188 | 11,240 | 5. GERMANY | 1,730 | 3,326 |
| 6. ITALY | 4,314 | 6,750 | 6. TAIWAN | 1,503 | 3,035 |
| 7. NETHERLANDS | 3,797 | 7,650 | 7. SOUTH KOREA | 980 | 1,674 |
| 8. BELGIUM | 3,768 | 8,600 | 8. SAUDI ARABIA | 411 | 512 |
| 9. U A E | 3,755 | 6,050 | 9. NETHERLANDS | 544 | 1,088 |
| 10. CHINA | 3,690 | 10,820 | 10. SINGAPORE | 208 | 305 |
| 11. OTHERS | 56,713 | 107,610 | 11. OTHERS | 2,512 | 5,037 |
| **Total** | **131,634** | **266,690** | **Total** | **21,686** | **36,233** |

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

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

| Month | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 r | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Volume (MT) | Value US$'000 | Volume (MT) | Value US$'000 | Volume (MT) | Value US$'000 |
| January | 3,861 | 8,822 | 4,569 | 9,221 | 4,365 | 11,919 |
| February | 3,771 | 8,205 | 3,334 | 7,157 | 3,733 | 8,962 |
| March | 5,373 | 10,810 | 4,413 | 9,764 | 5,178 | 13,039 |
| April | 4,274 | 8,697 | 3,155 | 6,673 | 5,081 | 12,464 |
| May | 4,569 | 9,133 | 3,728 | 8,645 | 6,063 | 15,411 |
| June | 4,722 | 9,754 | 4,245 | 9,641 | 6,422 | 16,331 |
| July | 5,424 | 10,675 | 4,130 | 10,727 | 5,446 | 13,609 |
| August | 4,375 | 8,756 | 3,316 | 8,017 | 6,315 | 14,927 |
| September | 4,545 | 9,403 | 3,165 | 7,833 | 7,126 | 16,857 |
| October | 4,502 | 9,650 | 2,950 | 6,881 | 6,600 | 15,938 |
| November | 3,285 | 6,981 | 4,470 | 11,197 | | |
| December | 3,632 | 7,041 | 4,353 | 12,074 | | |
| **Total** | **52,334** | **107,927** | **45,830** | **107,831** | **56,330** | **139,458** |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau r: revised figure

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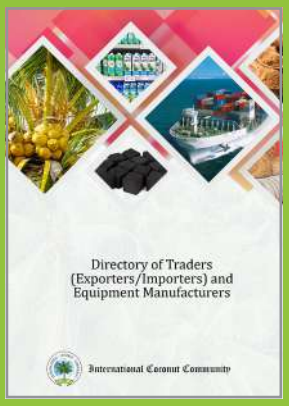


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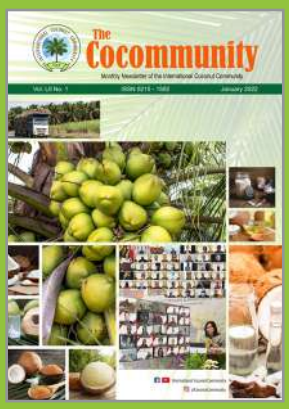


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# DESICCATED COCONUT PROCESSING MACHINERY

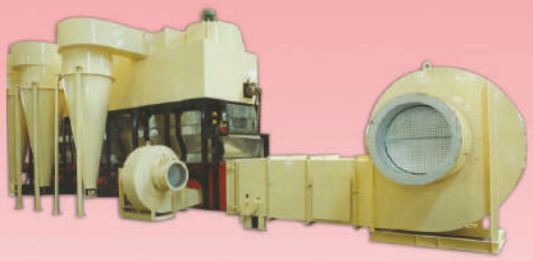
"Over 100 machines in operation worldwide"

## BAND DRYER (APRON/CONTINUOS TRAY DRYER)

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

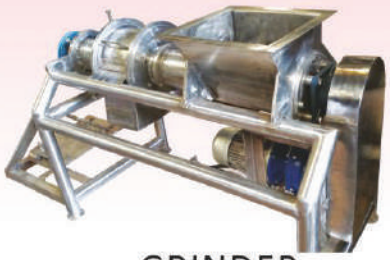
## COMBINATION DRYER

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



## VIBRATORY FLUID BED DRYER

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

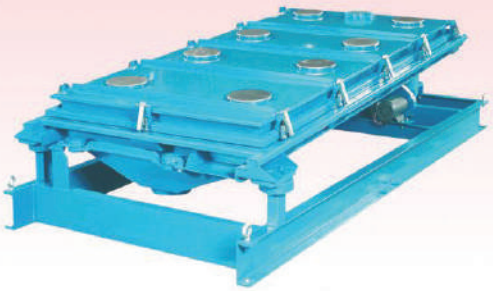


## GRINDER

Output Capacity:
1000Kgs/hr.

## BLANCHER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 4000 Kgs/hr.



## NOVATEX SCREENER/GRADER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 1500 Kgs/hr.

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

**DEHUSKING MACHINE**
Output Capacity :
1200 nuts/hr.

**OIL EXPELLER**

**RADIATOR**
Extruded Fins or
Plate Fins Type

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

**STAINLESS STEEL CHAIN**


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

**INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY**
**PO Box 1343**
**JAKARTA - INDONESIA**

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

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

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*For subscription, please write to:*

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

www.coconutcommunity.org