The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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

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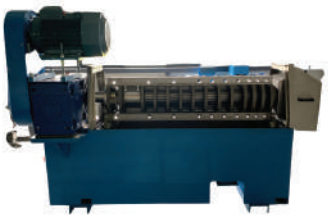

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

"Coconut, the Tree of Biomass & Renewable Energy"

Energy in its various forms like light, heat, mechanical, gravitational, electrical, sound, chemical and so on is vital for supporting our daily life and businesses. Statistical data showed that more than 80% of global energy consumption comes from fossil fuels as a fundamental driver of the industrial revolution. Eventually, the level of dependence on fossil fuels sourced from oil, coal, and natural gas will decline as the known supply on the planet diminishes, the challenges and costs of exploiting the remaining reserves increase, and the effects of our planet's continued use become more increasingly critical.

The world community is in an energy crisis and there is an urgent need to accelerate energy security to effectively respond to challenges related to the security, affordability, and sustainability of energy supplies for the growing community. Biofuels have the potential to reduce the world's dependence on limited supplies of fossil fuels, to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and climate change risks. Biofuels such as biodiesel (the most common type of methyl ester) and biokerosene (another type of methyl ester) are renewable, environmentally friendly, non-toxic and low in emissions. These fuels can be obtained from coconut oil through the process of transesterification of coconut oil in the presence of methanol or ethanol and catalyst. Coconut oil as feedstock of biofuels has advantages over other vegetable oils as it contains more than 60% medium chain fatty acids (C8-C12) (MCFA), the best feedstock for bio-kerosene or jet fuel.

Biofuel processing technologies have been developed by several research institutions and research centers using various technologies both with and without heating. Bio-kerosene or jet fuels must meet a series of strict criteria and very sensitive properties. Several crops such as jatropha, calodendrum, sunflower, soybean etc, have been studied by researchers and they found that coconut-based biokerosene is the best suited to the properties of fossil jet fuel. 100% of Coconut Methyl Ester (CME) or coconut biodiesel produced by The Philippines Coconut Authority Zamboanga research center (PCA-ZRC) has undergone road tests with outstanding results. In addition, ethanol required in CME production can be obtained from coconut husk. This finding further affirms the coconut as a tree of life and a renewable energy biomass tree that has the potential to support global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emission and capitalize on market opportunities arising from consumer preferences for environmentally safe products. Biodiesel can also be an alternative energy source in remote areas where fuel prices are usually high if it is not subsidized by the government.

Charcoal briquettes made from coconut shells is another energy source that can be converted into an alternative energy source for BBQ and Shisha, and combustible gasses to be used in cooking or heating, and has the potential to minimize cutting of wood in wood-based charcoal products. For all coconut-based bioenergy products, processing technology optimization might be required for better results and higher production efficiency.

Globally 65.67 billion nuts, equivalent to 11.8 Million MT of copra were produced in 2022. Depending on the types of coconut, one drupe of coconut consist of 30-39% mesocarp (husk), 16-17% endocarp (shell), 30-32% endosperm (kernel/meat), and 12-24% water. If we need to achieve a sustainable and resilient coconut sector and to fulfill market opportunity, increasing productivity from the current state of about 1.1 MT copra/ha/year to its highest potential which can reach about more than 3 MT copra/ha/year is a must to provide balanced benefits for food security and energy security and to achieve welfare and prosperity for all who are linked to coconut sector.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

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

COPRA: In April 2023, the price of copra in Indonesia slightly decreased to US$601/MT, from US$606/MT in the previous month. However, compared to the same period in the previous year, the price dropped significantly by US$359/MT. Similarly, in the Philippines' domestic market, the price of copra insignificantly declined from US$627/MT in March 2023 to US$625/MT in April 2023, a decrease of US$2/MT. The price was US$578/MT lower than the price a year ago, which was US$1,203/MT.

COCONUT OIL: In April 2023, the average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) slightly decreased to US$1,069/MT. The price was 49% lower than the price a year ago, which was US$2,097/MT. In the Philippines, the average local price of coconut oil in April 2023 was US$1,104/MT which was slightly lower than the previous month's price. In Indonesia, the average local price of coconut oil decreased to US$1,106/MT in April 2023 from US$1,121/MT in March 2023. The price was also lower by US$747/MT compared to the price in April 2022.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic price of copra meal was quoted at US$288/MT in April 2023, which was slightly lower than the previous month's price. Additionally, the price was US$53/MT higher than the price a year earlier. In Indonesia, the average domestic price of copra meal decreased to US$289/MT in April 2023, and was US$31/MT lower than the price a year earlier.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in April 2023 was US$1,874/MT, which was similar to the previous month's price. However, the price was US$816/MT lower than the price of the same month last year. In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in April 2023 was US$1,671/MT, which was lower than the price in March 2023. In the Philippines, the price of DC in the domestic market remained unchanged at US$2,039/MT in April 2023. Meanwhile, the Indonesian price (FOB) of DC also remained the same as the previous month's price at US$1,400/MT, but was lower compared to last year's price of US$1,880/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In the Philippines, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in April 2023 was US$350/MT, which was lower than the price in the previous month. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price increased to US$472/MT in April 2023. In Sri Lanka, the price of coconut shell charcoal in April 2023 was US$402/MT which was higher than the price in the previous month.

COIR FIBRE: In Sri Lanka, coir fiber was traded in the domestic market at an average price of US$51/MT for mix fiber and US$433-US$479/MT for bristle. In Indonesia, the price for mixed raw fiber remained unchanged at US$90/MT in April 2023, which was significantly lower than the price a year earlier at US$250/MT.

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

Products/Country	2023 Apr	2023 Mar	2022 Apr	2023 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	139	136	240	136
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	148	160	207	151
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	235	255	178	233
India (Domestic Kerala)	418	423	476	424
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	625	627	1,203	626
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	601	606	960	596
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,296	1,355	1,089	1,237
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,038	1,043	1,221	1,049
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,069	1,111	2,097	1,090
Philippines (Domestic)	1,104	1,110	2,175	1,119
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,106	1,121	1,853	1,121
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,301	2,305	2,490	2,159
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,683	1,715	2,042	1,722
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	1,874	1,874	2,690	1,874
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,040	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,671	1,727	1,720	1,645
Indonesia (FOB)	1,400	1,400	1,880	1,400
India (Domestic)	1,439	1,428	1,785	1,435
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	288	300	235	297
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	315	311	200	301
Indonesia (Domestic)	289	293	320	292
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	350	357	397	361
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	402	399	381	371
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	472	463	591	464
India (Domestic)	358	359	521	381
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	51	45	78	44
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	433	446	420	416
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	479	507	544	481
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	90	90	250	90
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,017	1,052	2,064	1,041
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,005	972	1,638	967
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,030	1,113	1,948	1,184

Exchange Rate

Apr 30, '23 1 US$ = P55.49 or Rp14,677 or India Rs81.73 or SL Rs81.73

1 Euro = US$ 1.10 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF COCONUT OIL

In 2022, global imports of lauric oils witnessed a substantial reduction of 535 thousand tons or 15% compared to the previous year. European countries experienced a decline in imports demand by 7.3% throughout January to December 2022. Conversely, the US market saw a slight increase of 3% in lauric oil imports, primarily driven by a surge in coconut oil imports. During this period, US imports of coconut oil rose from 468 thousand tons to 535 thousand tons.

However, the first quarter of 2023 revealed a decrease in global demand for coconut oil. US imports of the oil declined by 27% compared to the same period in the previous year. This shift in demand could be attributed to various factors such as changing consumer preferences, market saturation, or economic fluctuations. Monitoring this trend will be crucial to understanding the future trajectory of the coconut oil market.

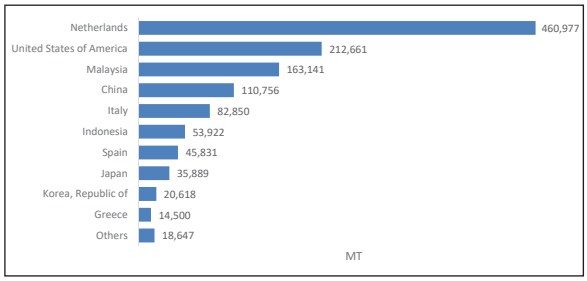
On the supply side, the Philippines demonstrated an improvement in their export performance of lauric oils. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, coconut oil exports from the country totaled 1,219,792 tons during January to December 2022, marking a significant 38% increase compared to the previous year. Lower prices and higher supply were key drivers behind the surge in demand for Philippine coconut oil. Main destinations for these exports included European countries, the USA, Malaysia, China, and Indonesia.

Table 1. European Union (EU28) Imports of Lauric Oils, January – December 2021/2022

		Jan-Dec 2021	Jan-Dec 2022	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	995,763	1,023,103	2.7%
	Value (USD'000)	1,625,394	1,966,552	21.0%
PKO	Volume (MT)	952,107	781,643	-17.9%
	Value (USD'000)	1,334,089	1,508,549	13.1%
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	1,947,870	1,804,746	-7.3%
	Value (USD'000)	2,959,483	3,475,101	17.4%

Source: ITC

Figure 1. Export Destinations of Philippines' Coconut Oil, January-December 2022



Source: UCAP

Table 2. US Imports of Lauric Oils

		Jan-Dec 2021	Jan-Dec 2022	Change (%)	Jan-Mar 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Change (%)
CNO	**Volume (MT)**	468,095	535,057	14.31%	132,931	96,848	-27.14%
	Value (USD'000)	830,561	1,080,269	30.06%	269,077	133,697	-50.31%
PKO	**Volume (MT)**	381,713	348,096	-8.81%	76,878	89,476	16.39%
	Value (USD'000)	496,713	756,400	52.28%	145,884	138,702	-4.92%
Lauric Oils	**Volume (MT)**	849,808	883,153	3.92%	209,809	186,324	-11.19%
	Value (USD'000)	1,327,274	1,836,669	38.38%	414,961	272,399	-34.36%

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

Similarly, Indonesia experienced a boost in coconut oil exports during the same period. The country shipped 707,752 MT of coconut oil to the global market, indicating a 16% increase compared to the previous year's volume. This resulted in export earnings rising from US$959.2 million to US$1,118.4 million, representing a notable 17% increase. Major markets for Indonesian coconut oil included the United States, Malaysia, China, and the Netherlands.

During the first quarter of 2023, the market price of lauric oils remained relatively stable. The price of coconut oil fluctuated between US$1,069/MT and US$1,111/MT. Notably, the price of coconut oil in April 2023 was only half of what it was in April 2022. Similarly, the price of palm kernel oil exhibited a similar pattern, averaging at US$1,041/MT from January to April 2023. It is anticipated that these prices will improve in the upcoming months due to the expected decrease in oil supply.

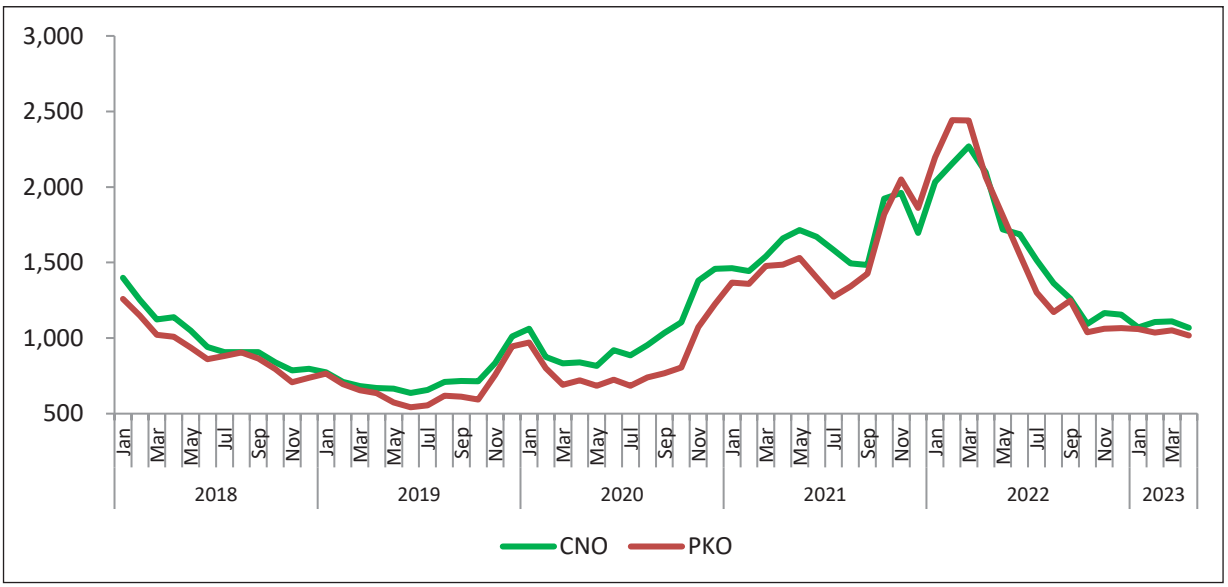
The global trade of lauric oils experienced a significant decline in imports in 2022. However, the industry witnessed varying demand trends in the first quarter of 2023, with the US market experiencing a substantial decrease in coconut oil imports. On the supply side, both the Philippines and Indonesia showcased improved export volumes and earnings. Market prices of lauric oils remained relatively stable during the first quarter of 2023, but the anticipation of a decrease in oil supply suggests a potential increase in prices in the near future. As the industry continues to evolve, closely monitoring market dynamics will be crucial for stakeholders to make informed decisions and adapt to changing trends.

Table 3. Exports of Lauric Oils from Indonesia

		Jan-Dec 2021	Jan-Dec 2022	Change (%)	Jan-Mar 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Change (%)
CNO	**Volume (MT)**	611,452	707,752	15.7%	155,968	207,765	33.2%
	Value (USD'000)	959,230	1,118,374	16.6%	300,866	210,545	-30.0%
PKO	**Volume (MT)**	1,418,404	1,338,528	-5.6%	88,685	107,193	20.9%
	Value (USD'000)	1,926,114	2,009,000	4.3%	202,738	121,175	-40.2%
Lauric Oils	**Volume (MT)**	2,029,856	2,046,279	0.8%	244,653	314,958	28.7%
	Value (USD'000)	2,885,344	3,127,374	8.4%	503,604	331,720	-34.1%

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

Figure 2. Price of Lauric Oils, January 2018 – April 2023, (USD/MT)



COMMUNITY NEWS

LAUNCH OF A TRAINING PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PH COCONUT EXPORTS

To assist local exporters grow the nation's coconut business, a training program was started through a national government effort.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) announced that from April to December 2023, 55 chosen exporters, national trainers, and government representatives would participate in training on export marketing and market linkages for the nation's exporters of virgin coconut oil and coconut flour.

The national government's Arise Plus Philippines programme provided funding for the training initiative. Micro, small, and medium-sized businesses (MSMEs), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Bureau of Customs (BOC), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and the private sector all participated in organizing it.

The DTI said that thirty chosen Philippine MSMEs would get technical assistance to create an export brand, be ready for commercial negotiations, and create an export marketing strategy.

These MSMEs will be assisted in creating their professional marketing plans by local and international specialists. Additionally, they will receive training in participating in sales negotiations and other activities linked to increasing exports.

DTI Assistant Secretary for Trade Promotions Glenn Pearanda said, "With the shared aspiration and commitment of participating MSMEs, government, and project partners to position the Philippines as a reliable exporter of high-value coconut products."

"We are confident that this training will be crucial in achieving coconut sector exporting breakthroughs, as well as in unlocking the nation's untapped export potential, particularly in the EU," she continued. *(Inquirer)*

CONSUMERS READY TO TOAST COCONUT-BASED DRINKS WILL BE SATISFIED BY BEVERAGE COMPANIES

The consumption of coconut-based beverages in China is growing so rapidly that businesses are speeding up their efforts to investigate more product categories to seize market potential.

A recent report by market research firm LeadLeo Research Institute claims that between 2017 and 2021, the market for coconut-based beverages in China grew by 7 percent annually, from 10.3 billion yuan ($1.5 billion) to 14.4 billion yuan. By 2026, the market is anticipated to grow at a CAGR of 15.63 percent and reach 22.4 billion yuan.

FreeNow, a seller of coconut beverages with headquarters in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, saw a 100% increase in sales in 2021 and 2022. Thick coconut milk, a coffee-making beverage made from coconut, generated more than 1 billion yuan in sales income in 2022.

The company first added a coconut basis to coffee and tea in 2020, which quickly sparked customer interest and commercial popularity.

According to our observations, thick milk and oat milk have also been added to coffee in the past. According to Zhang Kai, founder and CEO of FreeNow, "consumers' choices for milk bases are becoming increasingly diverse."

We noticed that various portions of coconut may be used in beverages, which is why we introduced a coconut basis into coffee and tea, he said, adding that consumers are accepting of milk-based products.

Within a month of the product's launch, the domestic coffee business Luckin Coffee sold

420,000 cups of raw coconut lattes. Data from the company showed that after the raw coconut latte had been available for a year in April 2022, its sales volume had topped 100 million cups.

According to specialists in the field, the popularity of the raw coconut latte is due, in addition to its reasonable prices, to the fact that it supports the idea of a healthy lifestyle.

According to Hong Yong, an associate research fellow at the Ministry of Commerce's e-commerce research division, "Coconut is a natural food, and coconut-based beverages don't contain additives. With consumers' rising demand for healthy and natural food, coconut-based beverages are gaining increasing popularity."

Additionally, according to industry insiders, the raw coconut latte's flavor mixes milk tea and coffee, enticing even those who dislike the bitterness of coffee.

Many Chinese customers are not accustomed to routinely consuming coffee. They rely on coffee's reviving properties, nevertheless. They claimed that raw coconut lattes meet the picky palates of young customers by maintaining the natural scent of coffee, providing a boost, and tasting more like milk tea.

To support the high-quality and long-term growth of beverages based on coconuts, FreeNow, Luckin Coffee, and the Coconut Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences jointly created a group standard of coconut milk.

The group standard establishes more stringent requirements for coconut milk, such as those for raw and auxiliary ingredients, appearances, and physical and chemical indicators, such as soluble solids, fat, protein, and additions. Additionally, it provides precise standards for identifying thin coconut milk from thick coconut milk.

Businesses are stepping up their efforts to enter the sector. This year, Free-Now introduced two new products: coconut non-dairy cream and coconut puree. The company previously developed thick coconut milk that could produce 600 million cups of raw coconut lattes in 2022. While coconut puree can be utilized widely in tea beverages and the catering business, coconut non-dairy cream better accommodates consumers who are lactose intolerant when compared to whipped cream.

In March, the business opened a new factory in Wenchang, Hainan province, to increase production capacity. The new facility has eight production lines, a 160 million yuan investment, and a 100,000 metric ton annual production capacity.

We will investigate other consumption scenarios utilizing a coconut foundation, including as coffee shops, milk tea shops, households, and convenience stores, Zhang added, noting the rising popularity of coconut-based beverages.

Hong advised coconut-based beverage producers to continuously come up with new tastes for their products to fulfill the needs of various consumers in order to achieve sustained growth.

"Manufacturers may also diversify their distribution channels, such as using coconut oil in baking, replacing traditional sugar with coconut sugar, and using non-dairy cream to make ice cream, to suit different consumption scenarios and meet demands of various consumers," he said. *(China Daily)*

COCONUT FIBERS ARE USED IN SOUTH-CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TO STOP EROSION

Crews in the Susquehanna Valley and elsewhere are utilizing coconut fibers to curb erosion as a remedy to a topsoil problem.

The procedure has been ongoing for years and is currently becoming more widespread.

Even Dauphin County is employing it.

According to Aquatic Resource Restoration's Justin Kauffman, "We really want native vegetation here."

Crews are working to prevent overflow into the Deer Run stream off of Deer Run Drive in Hummelstown.

Kauffman remarked, "It takes a lot of coconuts."

What was once viewed as a waste product is now highly sought-after. Overseas, coconut fibers are shaped into logs.

This is packed inside of here, but this twine itself is just twisted up coconut fibers, too, so it has a little more rigidity, according to Kauffman.

The logs are then used by businesses like York-based Aquatic Resource Restoration to stop toxins from entering rivers.

It's just one of those resources that was available, and someone was creative enough to use it in that way, according to Kauffman.

According to Eco Depot's Brian Resch, one of them weighs roughly 70 pounds and can weigh up to 125 pounds, depending on the diameter.

Even with all that weight, though, Maryland's Eco Depot, which purchases and resells the coconut logs, said that they will eventually decompose.

Resch remarked, "This actually encourages growth. It replenishes the soil with nutrients, so it's a terrific concept.

One of the few businesses, Eco Depot, will order logs with tubes already inserted so that trees can grow through them.

The price of coconut coir logs is higher than that of less eco-friendly alternatives. Costs for a log range from $100 to $200.

It might get pricey depending on how far down the road they go, Resch warned.

They're traveling a distance of more than a quarter mile for this project in Hummelstown. However, crews also consider the long term.

We don't ever have to come back and touch these again and re-disturb anything, Kauffman said. "They become soil, and they become something that plants can actually grow in."

We all benefit from cleaner drinking water because the Chesapeake Bay is downstream.

The coconut logs are produced in nations including Sri Lanka, India, and Indonesia.

Some of its customers order the logs for smaller projects in their own backyards, according to the Maryland company that purchases the logs for resale. *(Wgal)*

BARMM COCONUT PROJECT RECEIVES P72.8 MILLION

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) has received P72.8 million from the Department of Agriculture (DA) for the 2023–2026 term.

The DA would provide P72.8 million to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (Mafar) for the execution of the project.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed by Mafar Minister Mohammad Yacob and Senior Undersecretary of Agriculture Domingo Panganiban to collaborate on the Coconut-Based Coffee and/or Cacao Enterprise Development Project (C3EDP) in BARRM. Among the crops that can be interplanted with coconut are coffee and cacao.

"The C3EDP, which is one of the CFIDP components, will be implemented by the DA-High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) and Mafar to enhance the coffee and cacao industries under a sustainable environment, empower high-value crop

producers, and improve the farmers' income," the DA stated.

According to Panganiban, the DA wants to work with Mafar to expand projects that would enhance the production of fruits and other high-value products for export.

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The budget includes funds for "farm improvements through diversification and/or intercropping with coffee and cacao, including the provision of agri-inputs and technical assistance, and the establishment or upgrading of processing plants, machinery, and equipment, among others."

The Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund, established by Republic Act 11524, which aims to advance and modernize the coconut industry as well as enhance the standard of living for Filipino coconut farmers, would provide funding for the project on an annual basis of 10%.

"The C3EDP aims to support smallholder coconut farmers through intercropping with coffee and cacao, maximize the use of coconut lands, increase the sufficiency of local coffee and cacao, develop community-based enterprises, and capacitate farmers to conserve and protect the natural resources," the DA stated. *(The Manila Times)*

STAKEHOLDERS EYE N20B COCONUT REVENUES IN LAGOS

As part of an extensive industrial roadmap, the Lagos State Government of Nigeria is collaborating with Rotary Club to help the country reach the desired N20 billion in coconut revenue.

In order to make the nation richer by at least N20 billion annually through exports, the Raw Material Research and Development Council (RMRDC) has been asking farmers, investors, and various governments to boost and deepen the coconut production and value chain.

According to a recent analysis by Grand View Research, Inc., the size of the global coconut bye-product market is anticipated to reach $95.64 billion by 2025.

In order to achieve this, the Lagos State Coconut Development Authority (LASCODA) has been putting into action a thorough roadmap for the coconut industry to provide production technologies to give coconut farmers and the industry the capacity to react to the market's constantly changing environment through product development.

The authority has been spearheading a program to speed up planting and replanting in key

locations, especially the transformation of coastlines into coconut centers.

To distribute and plan the planting of 10,000 coconut seedlings each year in public schools, towns, and coastal areas, LASCODA has teamed with the Rotary Club of Eko Atlantic.

The General Manager of LASCODA, John Olakunleyin, spoke during the distribution and planting of seedlings in Oniru Private Beach and emphasized the necessity of planting more coconut trees to meet the rising demand and to safeguard the environment.

He stated that it was important to make sure coconut agriculture is sustained over the medium to long term, driven by the health and wellness trend.

Increasing the sector's productivity, in his opinion, is essential to enable it to contribute more to the economy. To increase coconut production that is sustainable, he looked for industry partnerships.

Gboyega Bada, the president of the Rotary Club of Eko Atlantic, had earlier stated that the organization is working with LASCODA to reintroduce coconut to the younger generation.

He asserts that the country must replant coconut trees on a large scale if it wants to supply the fast-expanding market.

He reaffirmed the club's dedication to bolstering the industry's declining coconut supply and efforts to make it more sustainable.

Oniru of Irul and Kabiyesi Gbolahan Lawal urged for higher production to fulfill the demand due to the expanding popularity of fresh coconuts and the growing diversity of coconut products.

He begs the agency to contact every village in the State and make sure the coconut is maintained appropriately.

Omotunde Lawson, the district governor of Rotary International District 9110 in Nigeria, emphasized that the advent of coconut farming will increase locals' incomes. *(The Nation)*

SOLON DISCUSSES WHY COCONUT FARMERS' REGISTRY SHOULD CONSTANTLY BE UP TO DATE

Maintaining an updated farmers' registration is essential to guaranteeing the appropriate application of Republic Act (RA) No. 11524, also known as the "Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act".

During a virtual briefing by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) with the panel, Wilfrido Mark Enverga, a representative from Quezon's 1st district and the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food, stressed this.

Enverga gave the PCA the responsibility of continuously updating its farmer registry.

'Pag may problema 'yung registry natin, may problema 'yong implementation ng batas (If there is a problem with our registration, then the law's implementation will experience problems too),' he said.

The meeting was expressly organized to discuss the implementation of RA No. 11524, which former president Rodrigo Duterte signed into law on February 26, 2021.

According to PCA Administrator Bernie Ferrer Cruz, 1.7 million farmers have already had their applications approved.

According to him, 1.4 million of them are eligible for the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), and he said that money was given to the 15 government organizations in charge of carrying it out as early as January 2023.

Director Susan Mae Salonga of the Department of Trade and Industry-Bureau of Small and

Medium Enterprises Development (DIT-BSMED) briefed the panel on the marketing research and marketing assistance initiatives the organization offers coconut producers.

Rep. France Castro of the ACT Teachers Party noted the need of motivating the families of coconut growers to keep working in the sector.

Remelyn Recoter, the director of the Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI), noted that the organization has been giving trainings to coconut farmers and their families, including the Coconut Specialist Course, and is accrediting learning locations for agricultural/farm schools.

The Coconut Farmers Scholarship Program, which aims to give farmers and their relatives' free skills training, free assessment and certification, and free entrepreneurship training, among other things, was described by Maria Gracia Dela Rama, Director of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority's (TESDA) Scholarship Management Division, to lawmakers. *(Manila Bulletin)*

FARMERS IN ST. THOMAS PRAISE COCONUT AS A "GOLDEN" PLANT

Farmers in St. Thomas, Jamaica, have urged for greater research to be done in the field to discover and fully utilize the adaptability of the coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*).

The coconut tree and nut, which the Kanga Gully Farmers Group in Nutts River refers to as a "golden" plant, are claimed to have qualities that can be used to manufacture a variety of products that the industry has not yet exploited.

The 26-person group attended a training session at Rainford Heslop's Holdings where Newport-Fersan Jamaica Limited agronomist Danavan Pryce taught them optimum farming practices to implement on their fields.

The application rate of fertilizer, not knowing the potential of the crop being planted, and not applying the right nutrients to the right kind of soil are just a few of the many factors that affect crops, according to Pryce, who discussed nutrition management at that meeting. All of these factors have an impact on the crop's yield.

According to him, "every plant needs at least 17 (macro and micro) nutrients to function."

He went on to say that if these nutrients were not supplied at the right time, in the right amounts, and distributed in the right regions, the growth of a plant would be harmed. He continued by saying that another element that affected crop growth was the pH of the soil and that a plot of land required to maintain a pH balance between 5.5 and 6.5 in order for nutrients to dissolve.

Even the best fertilizer won't help a plant if the soil is excessively alkaline, he continued.

He claimed that because the traditional fertilizers used by farmers, such as 11-22-22, 14-28-14, and 15-5-35, only included a total of eight nutrients, they wasted money and their crops suffered as a result.

What we are realizing is that the three tiny nutrients that farmers used to apply can't carry the crop all the way through, so what we need to do is create blends that contain more fertilizer in one bag. Making it more cost-effective," he remarked.

Pryce encouraged farmers to test their soil to find out what nutrients were lacking in it and to determine the type of soil they were working with in order to understand how their crops would be impacted during the absorption process.

Pryce, who spoke on the topic of coconut production, claimed that farmers overspent on fertilizer as a result of techniques like fertilizing the

crop when the soil is parched, which results in a 70% loss of the fertilizer owing to weather conditions.

Farmers should instead tear up the soil or make a hole close to the plant's roots to guarantee that the nutrients get to the plant's roots efficiently.

Coconut nursery

Following their lesson for the day, the farmers toiled in the fields to create a coconut nursery on Rainford Heslop's Holdings. They planted 300 Maypan coconut seed nuts, which were sourced from Barton Isles, St. Elizabeth, and have a high resistance to deadly yellowing and other diseases. The group will get a demonstration of how to use a mist blower to apply miticide when they next get together.

Desireina Delancy, a coconut technician at the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, led the nursery session. 'The Alliances Coconut Industry Development, Expansion and Enhanced Support for the Caribbean' is the project's name, and it is supported by the European Union.

The Coconut Industry Board, International Trade Center, Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), and other local and international partners are working together with CARDI to carry it out.

Delancy stated, "Over the years we have seen a need to expand the coconut industry," citing among other things the significant consumption of coconut throughout the Caribbean.

In Hanover, Portland, St. Mary, St. Thomas, and St. Elizabeth, the project, which will have an impact on more than 200 farmers, aims to identify priority areas in need of development. Among other things, it provides improved access to financing and employment, food security, increased availability of high-quality planting material, improved farming practices, and access to extension services.

According to her, a successful industry could only "stand the test of time" by creating a knowledge bank and transferring pertinent expertise to the next generation. Farmers will receive some of the seeds for free four to six months after they have germinated.

"We really want to start promoting farmers to invest in the value-added products made from coconut. She referred to a farmer in the region who used the nut to manufacture coir fiber when she remarked, "to start thinking 'what else can I do with coconut'."

A training session that benefits farmers

The deadly yellowing disease decimated Jamaica's coconut sector in the 1980s, which led to a reduction in the area used for coconut farming.

The devastating yellowing, which affected parishes like Portland and St. Thomas, according to members of the Kanga Gully Farmers Group in Nutts River, St. Thomas, was dangerously near to eradicating the whole coconut industry in Jamaica.

They claimed that the Michael Black approach, in which farmers detected sick trees and chopped off the part where the coconut bears and torched the stalk to reduce the likelihood of the disease spreading, was what helped the industry recover.

Farmer Adam Francis said, "And [when] you plant another sucker right at the root of that one, strangely enough, that young tree that is coming up will come up and bear, even though the lethal yellowing kills that big bearing tree."

Win-win farmers

Leslie Anderson claimed that the Rainford Heslop's Holdings training session was useful because it also offered follow-up technical help. He thanked CARDI for doing "a great job" of

disseminating knowledge based on its carried out research.

"CARDI, what they impart to you is a win-win for the farmers," he continued.

Francis, the farmer group's secretary, echoed this idea when he said, "Coconut is always a win-win," adding that by-products including fuel, sugar, coconut drink, cream, and timber can be made from all parts of the coconut.

The list of products made from coconuts now includes toothpicks, according to Anderson, who also added coconut oil to the list.

Even the leaves and the leaf strands can be used as toothpicks. All you need to do is thoroughly clean them off, trim them to size, and package them, and you'll have a finished product. But we are not making use of what we have, he continued.

"The coconut farmer can do so much," he stated, "that all farmers should be helped to have a small factory on their farm to facilitate value-added products."

He continued by saying that if a tree dies, it may also be chopped up and utilized to create "one of the most beautiful [pieces of] furniture" from lumber.

According to Anderson, the success of this type of outreach and how well it is embraced by other farmers will determine how quickly the sector recovers. *(The Gleaner)*

TO ADDRESS THE COCONUT SHORTAGE, 5,000 COCONUT PALMS WERE BROUGHT

The Maldives received 5,000 coconut palm trees to help with the country's coconut deficit.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Hussain Rasheed Hassan said 5,000 palm plants had been transported to the Maldives to alleviate coconut shortages caused by sick palm trees during a conference to find a solution to the diseases impacting palm trees there.

The minister stated, "Our ministry is now keeping the palm plants in quarantine.

The palm palms will be dispersed around the Maldives' various islands. Before being distributed, each will be inspected for any infections, according to the Agriculture Ministry.

The public should be made aware of the illnesses that harm trees in the Maldives and the steps that need to be taken to remove them, according to Dr. Hussain Rasheed. Otherwise, he said, the population would not receive enough coconut from the Maldives and would always be forced to rely on imports.

According to experts, palm trees in the Maldives are afflicted by a condition called Sooty mold. On plants and other surfaces covered with honeydew, an adhesive material produced by some insects, sooty mold, a fungal disease, develops. *(Avas)*

A COCONUT HOIST MOUNTED ON A TRUCK TO HELP FARMERS HARVEST

To assist farmers in picking coconuts safely, the Department of Agricultural Engineering has developed a truck-mounted coconut hoist. The coconut farmers could rent the hoist for Rs. 450 per hour.

According to the machinery's assistant engineer Saravanan, a hydraulic hoist is connected to a bucket on which any worker can stand.

With the use of the device, the hoist could be raised up to 50 feet. S. Uthandaraman, Joint Director of Agriculture, added, "In addition, it could rotate 360 degrees from where it is stationed and reach the coconut palms in a radius of 25 feet."

The farmers may harvest 17 or more palms' worth of coconuts in an hour using the machine.

Coconuts can be stored in the bucket for up to 200 kg.

To access any area of the farm, the four-wheel drive truck could be maneuvered amongst the palm trees. The Assistant Engineer claimed that the machine would assure worker safety despite the fact that laborers who climb up coconut palms to cut coconuts charge up to $20 per palm and the machine rent is somewhat pricey.

Additionally, the machinery will assist the farmers because there aren't any workers available that have the ability to climb up tall coconut palms. Additionally, for every hour the machinery is used, small and marginal farmers can take advantage of a back-end subsidy of 225 rupees. The farmers will benefit from this, he continued.

You can reserve the equipment that is available at Krishnankoil by contacting the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer (Agricultural Engineering), Krishnankoil, or by using the Uzhavan App. In the Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu, India, coconut growing is primarily practiced in the taluks of Rajapalayam, Srivilliputtur, and Watrap. *(The Hindu)*

A COMMON VISION FOR THE QUALITY OF COCONUT AND PEPPER WITH A FOCUS ON EXPORT ORIENTATION IS WHAT THE MINISTER OF TRADE IS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH

The Secretariats of the International Coconut Community (ICC) and International Pepper Community (IPC) were met by Indonesia's Minister of Trade, Zulkifli Hasan. Zulkifli underlined the necessity of a common understanding of coconut and pepper on that occasion in order for these two hallmark products of Indonesia to compete internationally.

Zulkifli remarked at the Bappebti headquarters in Jakarta, "Now it seems that we need to align our steps to face very tight competition, while our young coconuts are being imported back and forth."

According to Zulkifli, the two most important exports from Indonesia are coconuts and pepper. Indonesia's economy will therefore profit from proper marketing and suitable quality standards.

So let's collaborate on our ideas and understanding of what needs to be done to turn Indonesia's pride in these two products—pepper and coconut—into something we can all be proud of, he said.

In a previous presentation at the International Dissemination Conference (IDC), the head of the PPEI Center, Heryono Hadi Prasetyo, said that in 2021, 54.6% of Indonesia's total non-oil and gas exports to the world went to the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) region.

Fresh coconut exports continue to make up the majority of Indonesia's exports of coconut-related goods. The majority of coconut derivatives and goods are exported from Indonesia to other countries.

"It is anticipated that commercial actors will begin to increase exports of value-added goods or derivatives of coconut."

Desiccated coconut, coconut oil, copra, coconut charcoal, palm sugar, cocopeat, coco fiber, coconut milk, and other derivatives of the coconut are among the items that are frequently exported.

It is anticipated that through this activity, business actors would be able to pinpoint untapped export markets and break into them, continuing to raise exports of coconut goods and derivatives and promoting growth in the nation's exports. *(Merdeka)*

SANCHEZ MIRA CAMPUS VIEWED BY CSU AS UNIVERSITY COCONUT CENTER

The Philippines' Cagayan State University (CSU) is considering establishing a research and

development center for coconuts on its Sanchez Mira Campus, which will also help to grow the sector there.

CSU President Urduja Alvarado stated that in support of the research and development (R&D) program, researchers from the CSU Sanchez Mira Campus recently met for a three-day write-shop to create project ideas.

Prof. Ma oversaw the writing workshop. Nilda Munoz is a consultant for CSU and a Balik Scientist for the Department of Science and Technology (DoST).

Alvarado claimed that because there are so many coconuts in the area, she is aware of CSU Sanchez Mira's potential in the field of coconut R&D.

She gave the CSU Sanchez Mira campus a specialty in the production and processing of coconuts using organic farming in 2017.

The campus took inspiration from this market niche and made an effort to pursue research, training, and extension activities, as well as the manufacturing of food and non-food goods using coconuts.

Alvarado, however, stated that she intended her write-shop activity to have an impact on a bigger range of coconut farmers, academics, dealers, and fans.

She claims that this enabled the CSU Sanchez Mira team to strategize and create a significant funding request.

The overall work produced during the write shop was praised by Alvarado because "it reflected a clear and auspicious direction for the coconut niche in the campus."

The executive officer of the CSU Sanchez Mira campus, Dr. Rodel Alegado, is in charge of the coconut team, according to the source, and plans to undertake a number of engagements in the coming months, including projects to enhance the collection of coconut types, carry out hybridizations, and develop a coconut genebank. *(The Manila Times)*

AS VANUATU RECOVERS FROM DESTRUCTIVE CYCLONES, THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY URGES VIGILANCE ON COCONUT PEST

Following the devastation caused by the two category four tropical hurricanes Judy and Kevin that struck the islands in March, consistent monitoring and surveillance of the deadly coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) in Vanuatu will be essential for the nation's biosecurity team in the coming months.

The warning is issued as Vanuatu works to recover from the terrible cyclones. Dr. Mark Ero, an entomologist with the Pacific Community (SPC), visited Vanuatu last week with a team from the Pacific Awareness and Response to Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle project, which is funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). He reported that the level of destruction on Efate Island, which is experiencing a beetle outbreak, is high and widespread.

Since dead logs and coconut trees are favored breeding hosts for CRB, Ero and his crew are concerned they may cause issues in the months to come.

According to Ero, if the collected palm trunks are not carefully removed and destroyed, they would turn into ideal beetle breeding grounds, causing the population to increase and increasing the severity of the damage. The palm trunks will need to be effectively destroyed in order to stop this possible population boom, which will need more men, money, and a feasible action plan, given the scope of the devastation.

Biosecurity Vanuatu has been working against the clock to stop the CRB outbreak on Efate with financial assistance from MFAT. A ministerial order is in place, according to acting director Armstrong Sam, to help manage the export of agricultural products from Efate to other islands.

Sam said, "We ask Port Vila locals and those around to join forces and aid us in eliminating the possible CRB breeding areas. To use the dead logs and branches as firewood, they will need to cut them into smaller pieces. After they've been chopped up, they can pile them up and get in touch with our biosecurity officers to have fungus sprayed on them. These dead, laying logs can be chopped up and burned for individuals who live on the outer islands.

The cyclones forced the government of Vanuatu to ship massive quantities of emergency aid. A ministerial directive requiring ships to depart before 4 pm is being made aware to ship owners and those transporting supplies, according to Vanuatu Biosecurity. Boats that are docking at the wharf at night must dim their lights since CRB adults may become drawn to the light and board the boat. The outer islands' food supplies are transported by a large number of vessels.

The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Guam strain, or CRB-G, was detected on Ifira island by the CRB team. Along with the Vanuatu Biosecurity team, the crew maintained the CRB traps that had been set up on the island, as well as the artificial breeding sites that had been sprayed with the Metarhizium fungus, which has been shown to be a successful CRB biocontrol agent.

SPC is in charge of biosecurity initiatives in the area as the secretariat of the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO), and it is committed to eradicating the coconut rhinoceros beetle, which is spreading swiftly throughout the Pacific. As the hurricane recovery operations advance, Ero and his team will continue to keep an eye on and follow up on their work in Vanuatu to make sure the pest doesn't gain a new foothold in the nation. *(Relief Web)*

CONGO SHELLS RESCUED AS BEAUTIFUL JEWELRY

From dawn to dusk, Nguyen Băng Nhi works nonstop. She oversees manufacturing, purchases materials, provides advice, and sells goods, among other tasks. But she is content since she is engaged in her passion, making jewelry and trinkets from coconut shells.

Nhi, who was raised among coconut trees since she was a young child and was born in the southern province of Bn Tre.

The 27-year-old has always been smitten with the trees that have made her hometown famous as the nation's largest area of coconuts and the source of coconut-related goods including chocolates, drinks, and jelly.

Markets sell many tens of thousands of coconuts each day. Unfortunately, most people abandon their hard shells after using them. Nhi is one of many artists that are repurposing them.

Nhi told Viet Nam News, "I graduated from the Industrial Design Faculty of the HCM City University of Architecture in 2018. I was interested in working with rough materials while I was a second-year student.

"Once in my hometown, I was drawn to a coconut shell in a corner. I found a lovely natural curve and an eye-catching pattern on the shell. It is different from other materials. From that point on, I kept thinking about the shells."

Nhi took a risky choice for her graduation thesis during her last year of college when she decided to create a collection of jewelry out of coconut shells.

Nhi only spent three months learning about the new material and creating products before she decided it was her calling.

My skills were still lacking, so my thesis wasn't well received, but I took a braver step and decided to spend an extra year back home in Bn Tre to devote more time to researching coconut shells, according to Nhi.

Her initial offering was a trio of leaf-shaped jewelry pieces that she made out of embroidery thread

and coconut shell in five distinct colors. One of her most well-liked products is still the set.

She was given the opportunity to unveil her goods to the whole public during a Coconut Festival a year later.

"My designs caught people's attention and got positive feedback, which was a big push for me to start my startup," she added.

As a means of upcycling food waste, Cocohand, a firm that specializes in goods made of coconut shells, was established.

She uses waxed cotton cords, beads, and carvings from coconut shells in all of her necklaces and bracelets.

She creates souvenirs such as decor hangings, keychains, brooches, Christmas badges, pins, and charms in addition to jewelry. They are expertly crafted, lightweight, require little upkeep, and are always fashionable. It becomes even more durable by enhancing the natural gloss with a little layer of natural oil varnish.

As a non-irritating, hard, dry, and benign wood, coconut shell goods are both safe for humans and the environment, according to Nhi.

There are certainly some drawbacks, as the traditional brown color of the shell is boring, but I address the issue by using the young, white shells, disguising the products, and adding other materials. Its natural curves and beautiful patterns are easy to recognize and distinguish from others.

Her goods are among the most popular presents that regional businesses give to their partners and employees. Hotels, homestays, and travel agencies have all chosen Cocohand's decorations. Individual customers who desire customized coconut shell pieces are also catered to in the meanwhile.

My items were initially manufactured entirely by hand, but as demand grew, I was unable to keep up and lost the opportunity to grow the business. It was advised that I employ machines in some parts of the production process to boost productivity.

However, I continue to adhere to Cocohand's founding principles: products must be environmentally responsible, beautiful, impressive, practical, and come in a variety of shapes.

Nhi recently traveled to Thailand to gain a better understanding of how they conduct business.

If her firm is successful in local markets, Nhi aspires to see her items exported abroad, although she is aware that this will take three to five years to complete.

She remarked, "I hope that with my effort and resolve, I will contribute to raising the value of coconut handicrafts while generating employment for my neighbors." *(VietnamNet)*

CONSUMERS ATTRACTIVE TO COCONUTS IN NATURAL PACKAGING FOR READY-TO-DRINK

Ready-to-drink coconuts are becoming more and more popular, in part because more stores are stocking them. But growth is influenced by other things as well. According to Marc Holbik of Ecoripe Tropicals, "The natural packaging of ready-to-drink coconuts generates lots of interest as it is the natural coconut and a bamboo straw." "There is a demand for healthy hydration in natural packaging, and our produce departments can be the place to meet this demand."

The water in the ready-to-drink coconuts is selected for its quality, thus they are young coconuts from kinds with superior drinking qualities that are collected. The year-round supply of coconuts is maintained, according to Ecoripe Tropicals, which sources them from both Florida and Costa Rica. Additionally, Mexico, Thailand, Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico are sources of coconuts.

Considering them perishable

The ready-to-drink coconut does have a learning curve, according to Holbik. "While it appears to be very shelf stable, it is important to treat it as perishable to have the best quality and freshness," he says, noting that it includes sell-by dates to aid in this. Additionally, it may use a laser to engrave graphics for special occasions or holidays on the coconuts. Most recently, it sold ready-to-drink coconuts with designs for the Lunar New Year.

The cost has been constant over the past 12 months. "In the next months, we anticipate a rise in volume as national temperatures rise. Our ready-to-drink coconuts are always in higher demand during the summer, according to Holbik. *(Fresh Plaza)*

FSSAI USE A NEWER VERSION OF STDS FOR DESICCATED COCONUT

The Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Second Amendment Regulations, 2023, which will go into effect on September 1, 2023, have updated the whole set of standards for desiccated coconut and have been made public.

The product is defined as "Desiccated Coconut" in the notification if it meets the following criteria: (a) it is prepared by peeling, milling, grating, and drying the sound white kernel obtained from the whole nut of coconut (Cocos nucifera L.), having reached appropriate development for processing, without oil extraction; (b) it is processed in an appropriate manner by going through operations like de-husking, hatcheting, paring, washing, comminuting, drying

The product may also be presented as powder, flakes, chips, or shreds. These forms of the product must be white or light creamy white, free of foreign matter, rodent contamination, mold, dead insects, and insect fragments, as well as having a pleasant flavor and taste that isn't rancid or show signs of fermentation.

The product had to meet requirements for moisture percent by mass (max) at 3.0, total acidity of the extracted oil measured as a lauric acid percent by mass (max) at 0.3, oil content percent by mass for no oil extraction (min) 60.0 and 35.0 to 60.0 for partial oil extraction, total ash percent by mass (max) 2.5, extraneous vegetable material, fragments per 100 g (max) 15, and foreign matter in 100 g should be absent.

Additionally, the labeling requirements for these items state that products with oil contents between 35 and 60 percent must be labeled as "Reduced Fat Desiccated Coconut". *(FnB News)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

This week, the price of vegetable oil remained on a downward trend.

After a calm week the previous week, coconut oil was back in action at the Rotterdam market. As opposed to the $1,070/MT paying level that was last reported a fortnight ago, two trades recorded throughout the week ended at $1,005 and $1,040/MT CIF. The market opened with offers at $1,050-1,120/MT CIF for positions from April/May through to October/November, reflecting prior advances in palm oil, while adjacent positions were weaker and forwards were firmer. The rest of the week, however, was lackluster and was impacted by falling vegetable oil prices. Despite this, the market closed strongly thanks to sellers acting defensively and ignoring lower prices for vegetable oil. The closing price was $1,060-1,085/MT CIF.

The price of palm kernel oil stayed below the week before at $980-990/MT CIF, where trade was reported to have persisted. Taking into account prior better values in palm oil, opening prices were, however, significantly lower at

$1,010-1,045/MT CIF for positions from April/May through to September/October. Prices have since softened, following the downward price movement of palm oil, and similarly to coconut oil, the week ended on the high side.

Most positions saw an increase in the price differential between coconut oil and palm kernel oil from where they were a week earlier, causing the average weekly difference to noticeably widen to $62.99/MT from $50.25. Following is a breakdown of premiums per position: April/May $70.00 ($82.00 last week); May/June $65.63 ($49.00); June/July $58.75 ($41.50); July/August $64.78 ($37.50); August/September $68.75 ($40.50); September/October $47.71 ($41.00); October/November $36.25 ($47.00); November/December $65.00 ($54.50); and December/January $90.00 ($59.25).

Soybean futures at the CBOT Soya Complex began the week lower as they disregarded USDA export inspections that revealed a larger volume than the previous week. A swift turnabout, though, saw the EPA lower its forecast of Argentina's production. Though until the close, losses returned toward the weekend. Market participants believed that Russia would not go against Western policy and that certain sanctions would be lifted by the West. Additionally, weak Chinese demand exacerbated the gloomy market attitude.

The market for palm oil early this week recovered from a poor closing last week. The rebound was aided by MPOB data showing that exports were outperforming production. However, this is still higher than last year at 1.474 million MT. Starting midweek, however, the market returned to weakness after cargo surveyors reported a 29% drop in palm oil exports for the period April 1-10 compared to the same period a month ago. MPOB figures showed Malaysia's palm oil stocks fell 21.1% to 1.67 million MT in March from 2.12 million MT the month prior. A reported well-stocked destination market that discouraged purchasing despite reduced supply from Indonesia, cheaper soybean oil costs, and a stronger Malaysian ringgit all worked against this.

Prices for the nearest forward shipment of tropical oils decreased from last week, with coconut oil seeing the largest dip ($21.00) from $1,081 last week to $1,060 today. Palm oil decreased $9.75 from $1,051.00 to $1,041.25/MT CIF and palm kernel oil decreased $9.00 from $999 to $990/MT CIF. As a result, palm kernel oil and palm oil no longer have a price advantage over coconut oil. Spread over palm kernel oil dropped from $82 per MT last week to $70 per MT this week, while over palm oil saw a reduction from $30.00 to $18.75 per MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

The price for May/June delivery on the coconut oil market in Rotterdam was $1,005, while the price for August/September delivery was $1,040/MT CIF. After opening mixed with nearby positions lower and deferring higher, prices drifted lower before closing strongly. For April/May and May/June, closing sellers quoted $1,070; for June/July, $1,060; for July/August, $1,065; for August/September, $1,072.50; for October/November, $1,085; and for December, $1,100/MT CIF. Only the positions for July/August seeking $1,010, August/September asking $1,011.25, September/October, and October/November asking $1,015/MT CIF at close attracted any buyers who were still in short supply.

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

PLANTATION MINISTRY: THERE IS NO PLAN TO REGULATE THE PRICE OF MALAYSIAN PALM OIL AS A GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRODUCT

According to the Ministry of Plantations and Commodities (KPK), the government has no immediate plans to control the price of Malaysian palm oil as a government-controlled good. This was said last week. The Ministry declared that this was the case because demand-driven

changes in market sentiment and underlying fundamentals affect the price of palm oil.

The East Malaysia Palm Oil Futures Contract is a CPO futures contract that was launched in partnership with Bursa Malaysia exclusively for East Malaysia, according to KPK, who also stated that it aims to maintain stable CPO prices in the future. Additionally, KPK stated that it intends to boost demand for palm oil and palm-based goods by strengthening current markets like Pakistan, Turkey, and ASEAN nations as well as by pursuing new markets like Africa, the Middle East, and the Americas. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

PCA: PRICES FOR COCONUT OIL ARE "VULNERABLE"

Despite being a significant exporter of coconut oil, the Philippines is nonetheless subject to fluctuations in the cost of other vegetable oils.

According to Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) analysts, "Coconut oil prices are vulnerable to global price changes because it only occupies a small share in the total global vegetable oil market and effectively does not have bargaining power."

Although the nation provides over 45 percent of the world's supply of coconut oil (with Indonesia coming in close behind at about 22 percent), it only makes up about 2-3 percent of the total supply of vegetable oils.

According to reports, prices of other vegetable oils like soy, rapeseed, sunflower, and coconut are significantly influenced by the supply of palm oil, which has the largest market share of about 35%.

Due to its "export leaning" nature, Philippine coconut oil "is always affected by global price changes... to the disadvantage of the coconut farmers... because most of them neither have an alternative product(s) nor alternative market(s), but only copra or husked coconuts which follow the same price trend," the researchers said.

This was especially evident after Russia invaded Ukraine, which first raised the cost of all vegetable oils to all-time highs. According to the data, both nations supply 60% of the world's need for sunflower oil.

Global vegetable oil prices also increased as a result of a temporary embargo on Indonesian palm oil exports in April, which Jakarta claimed was necessary to balance domestic cooking oil supplies and prices.

However, as soon as Indonesia withdrew its embargo in May 2022, Southeast Asia's production of palm oil reached its peak, fresh supplies of rapeseed oil became available, and lukewarm demand from the biodiesel industry, prices of palm, soybean, sunflower, and rapeseed oils plummeted.

"This global price decline consequently resulted in low and decreasing prices and export values," the PCA researcher stated.

The prices of vegetable oils had fallen from their February–April 2022 peaks to levels seen in late 2020 or early 2021 as of February of the current year, according to accompanying graphs and statistics.

Philippine crude coconut oil exports peaked at 99,261.55 metric tons (MT) on April 22 but declined to 57,515.33 MT by November of the previous year. Over the same time period, the commodity's exports increased in value, peaking at $188.64 million but then declining to $59.05 million.

According to the most recent Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data, electronic products saw the largest decline in export value in February, followed by coconut oil (which includes both crude and refined coconut oil).

Exports fell to only $70.99 million in February of this year from $227.53 million in February of last year.

According to the PCA, the Philippines exports three types of coconut oil: crude (CNO), refined, bleached, and deodorized (RBD), and Cochin (refined and bleached. *(The Manila Times)*

PET AND BIOPLASTIC BOTTLES ARE JUST AS EFFICIENT FOR PACKAGING EDIBLE OIL

Cooking oil is protected from rancidity just as well by bioplastic bottles as PET bottles, according to a study led by Marc Pignitter of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Vienna. Journal "Food Packaging and Shelf Life" published the findings.

The container material is essential for preserving healthy cooking oils with a high level of unsaturated fatty acids for a long period. PET bottles are frequently the first option for this purpose due to their material characteristics and inexpensive cost. PET, however, has an extremely slow rate of biodegradation and can last up to 2000 years in the environment. Polylactic acid (PLA), a thermoplastic biopolymer made from renewable basic resources and capable of being composted in industrial settings, is a promising choice for bioplastic bottles. It can be made by fermenting the sugars in corn or sugarcane starch, and the food sector already uses it successfully.

The research team looked into the possibility of storing edible oils in PLA bioplastic bottles. On the oxidation stability and shelf life of sunflower oil, the impacts of various standard plastic packaging materials and PLA bioplastic were compared. Results indicated that, in some situations, PLA-based bioplastic bottles outperformed traditional PET at protecting sunflower oil against rancidity. Furthermore, PLA bottles did not transfer "unintentionally introduced substances" to the oils, unlike PET bottles. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

OIL PALM EMPTY FRUIT BUNCHES CAN BE USED TO MAKE HELMETS

According to a post on the website of the Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI), citing a JawaPos.com report, Siti Nikmatin, a lecturer at Bogor Agriculture University (IPB), has teamed up with PT Intertisi Material Maju (PT IMM), the foster partner of Surveyor Indonesia, to produce hardhats or protective helmets from empty fruit bunches of oil palm. The helmets previously passed the national standardization institute's standard test and have a local content of 71.21%. A patent has also been used to grant it.

Siti claims that the empty palm bunches have good mechanical qualities and can be utilized as fillers to improve the protective helmets' mechanical and physical quality. According to Andika Kristinawati, CEO of PT IMM, the production of the helmets involves a lot of steps, including the breaking of the empty bunches into long fibers by groups of farmers, which takes one to two weeks. After being combined with a plastic polymer, the fibers are then separated into tiny granules and injected into the shells of helmets. The helmet shells are then subjected to a process of hardening before being finished with painting.

Andika claimed that PT Surveyor Indonesia made the process of certifying its local content easier. Additionally, Surveyor Indonesia has provided financial support for the acquisition of cutting machines, registration in the Padi UMKM market, branding training, and show participation. In the Jasinga district of Bogor regency, West Java, PT IMM has joined forces with PT Perkebunan Nusantara to provide the raw materials. Before working together with groups of farmers in Jasinga, the empty bunch processing was put into action. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

IN MALAYSIA, NEXTGREEN BIOMASS WILL BUILD, MANAGE OIL PALM WASTE COLLECTION AND PROCESSING CENTERS

The Bernama from Kuala Lumpur reports on April 3 that Nextgreen Global Bhd's wholly-owned subsidiary Nextgreen Biomass Sdn Bhd has signed a shareholders' agreement to build and operate 20 oil palm waste collection and

processing sites around Malaysia. Greentech Malaysia Alliances Sdn Bhd (GTMASB), Koperasi Sahabat Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia Bhd (Koop Sahabat), and Koperasi Perkhidmatan Setia Bhd were the parties to the agreement.

The agreement will create a joint venture through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) called GTC Biomass Bhd, with Nextgreen Biomass owning a 65 percent equity interest, GTMASB holding a 10 percent stake, Koop Sahabat holding an 18 percent stake, and Koperasi Perkhidmatan Setia Bhd holding a 7 percent stake. This was stated by Nextgreen Global's managing director, Datuk Lim Thiam Huat.

Lim stated that of the 20 centers, 10 would be built in Peninsular Malaysia and five in Sabah and Sarawak, with completion of all the centers anticipated within the following six to seven years. The first four centers have been chosen, and construction on them will begin in Gua Musan in May. The first of three Green Technology Parks (GTP) to be constructed in Pahang will be at Pekan, with the other two to be in Kota Tinggi and Sungai Koyan. GTP, when completed, will receive 1.8 million MT of raw materials to make 400,000 MT of pulp. It is billed as the world's first program to transform oil palm trash into pulp. Although the locations of the other plants have been determined, they have not yet been verified. About 15 palm oil mills will be covered by each unit. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

NO PLAN TO REGULATE PRICE OF MALAYSIAN PALM OIL AS GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRODUCT: PLANTATION MINISTRY

The Ministry of Plantation and Commodities (KPK) said last week the government does not plan to regulate the price of Malaysian palm oil as a government-controlled product for now, the Bernama reported on March 30. The Ministry affirmed that this was because the price of palm oil in the market is influenced by fundamental factors and market sentiment, which changes based on demand.

Meanwhile, KPK said it strives to ensure that CPO prices remain stable in the future by taking strategic measures such as collaborating with Bursa Malaysia to launch a CPO futures contract specifically for East Malaysia known as the East Malaysia Palm Oil Futures Contract. KPK also said it aims to increase demand for palm oil and palm-based products through the strengthening of existing markets such as Pakistan, Turkey, ASEAN countries and the exploration of new markets such as Africa, the Middle East and the Americas. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

NEXTGREEN BIOMASS TO CONSTRUCT, MANAGE OIL PALM WASTE COLLECTION AND PROCESSING CENTERS IN MALAYSIA

Nextgreen Global Bhd's wholly-owned subsidiary Nextgreen Biomass Sdn Bhd has inked a shareholders' agreement to construct and manage 20 oil palm waste collection and processing centers throughout Malaysia, reports the Bernama from Kuala Lumpur on April 03. The agreement was signed with Greentech Malaysia Alliances Sdn Bhd (GTMASB), Koperasi Sahabat Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia Bhd (Koop Sahabat), and Koperasi Perkhidmatan Setia Bhd.

Nextgreen Global managing director Datuk Lim Thiam Huat said the agreement aims to establish a joint venture via a special purpose vehicle (SPV) called GTC Biomass Bhd which will see Nextgreen Biomass owning 65 percent equity interest, GTMASB 10 percent, Koop Sahabat 18 percent and Koperasi Perkhidmatan Setia Bhd 7 percent.

Lim said of the 20 centers, 10 will be developed in the Peninsular Malaysia and five each in Sabah and Sarawak with all of the centers expected to be completed in the next six to seven years. The first four centers have been

identified and will be built in Gua Musan, with groundbreaking in May. Green Technology Park (GTP) will be built in Pekan, Pahang and the remaining two in Kota Tinggi and Sungai Koyan, Pahang. Dubbed as the world's first initiative to convert oil palm waste in to pulp, GTP, when completed, will receive 1.8 million MT of raw materials to produce 400,000 MT of pulp. The locations of the other plants have also been identified but are yet to be confirmed. Each plant will roughly cover 15 palm oil mills. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

BIOPLASTIC BOTTLES JUST AS EFFICIENT AS PET FOR EDIBLE OIL PACKAGING

A study led by Marc Pignitter of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Vienna has revealed that bioplastic bottles protect cooking oil from rancidity just as well as PET bottles, reports the World Biomarket Insights. The study was published in the journal "Food Packaging and Shelf Life".

To keep healthy cooking oils with a high content of unsaturated fatty acids fresh for a long time, the bottle materials is crucial. Due to their material properties and low cost, PET bottles are often the first choice for this purpose. However, PET is very difficult to biodegrade and remains in nature up to 2000 years. A promising candidate for bioplastic bottles is polylactic acid (PLA), a thermoplastic biopolymer derived from renewable raw materials and industrially compostable. It is obtained by fermenting carbohydrates in corn or sugarcane starch and is already used successfully in the food industry.

The research team investigated whether bioplastic bottles made of PLA could also be used to store edible oils. The effects of different conventional plastic packaging materials as well as PLA bioplastic on the oxidation stability and shelf life on sunflower oil were compared. Results showed that bioplastic bottles made of PLA protected sunflower oil from rancidity better than conventional PET is some cases. In addition, unlike PET bottles, PLA bottles were not found to transfer "unintentionally introduced substances" to the oils. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

EMPTY FRUIT BUNCHES OF OIL PALM CAN BE USED FOR HELMET PRODUCTION

Bogor Agriculture University (IPB) Lecturer Siti Nikmatin has partnered with PT Intertisi Material Maju (PT IMM), the foster partner of Surveyor Indonesia, to produce hardhats or protective helmets from empty fruit bunches of oil palm, according to a post on the website of the Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI), citing a JawaPos.com report. The helmets have local content of 71.21% and already passed the standard test of SNI, the national standardization institute. It had also been granted with a patent.

According to Siti, the empty palm bunches have good mechanical properties and can be used as fillers to increase the mechanical-physical quality of the protective helmets. PT IMM's CEO Andika Kristinawati said the helmets are produced through a number of processes, which include the splitting of the empty bunches into long fibers by the groups of farmers; the process takes around one to two weeks. The fibers are then mixed with plastic polymer and then extracted into small granules, which are later injected into helmet shells. The hardening process of the helmet shells follow and finally the finishing process that includes painting.

Andika said that PT Surveyor Indonesia facilitated the certification process of its local content. Surveyor Indonesia has also helped finance the purchase of chopping machines, registration in market place Padi UMKM, training on branding, and participations in exhibitions. For the raw materials, PT IMM has partnered with PT Perkebunan Nusantara in Jasinga district of Bogor regency, West Java. The processing of the empty bunches was implemented before cooperation with groups of farmers in Jasinga. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

THE 3 WAYS COCONUT OIL WHITS YOUR TEETH

However, many of the commercially available teeth-whitening solutions can be pricey and include harsh chemicals that might harm your teeth and gums.

Coconut oil comes into play here. Not only is it inexpensive, but it is also a time-tested, natural method of tooth whitening that is widely accessible in most African homes. Here are three efficient methods for using coconut oil to whiten teeth:

1. Using coconut oil

A common Ayurvedic treatment called "coconut oil pulling" entails swishing coconut oil around in your mouth for a while. This procedure promotes dental health and whitens your teeth by removing toxins and bacteria from your mouth.

Put a tablespoon of coconut oil in your mouth and swish it around for 15 to 20 minutes to do coconut oil pulling. Rinse your mouth with water after spitting out the oil. For a few weeks, do this every day to observe the effects.

2. Paste made with baking soda and coconut oil

A natural teeth whitener, baking soda works by eradicating surface stains from your teeth. It creates a potent scrub that can successfully whiten your teeth when coupled with coconut oil.

To prepare the scrub, combine a teaspoon of baking soda with a tablespoon of coconut oil to make a paste. Brush your teeth with this paste for two to three minutes, and then thoroughly rinse your mouth with water. If you want a grin that is whiter and brighter, use this scrub once or twice a week.

3. Turmeric paste and coconut oil

For millennia, Ayurvedic medicine has employed turmeric as a natural teeth whitener. It creates a strong paste that can remove tenacious stains from your teeth when combined with coconut oil.

Make a paste by combining a teaspoon of turmeric powder and a tablespoon of coconut oil. Brush your teeth with this paste for two to three minutes, and then thoroughly rinse your mouth with water. Once a week, apply this paste to your teeth for a whiter, brighter smile.

You may get a whiter, brighter smile without breaking the bank by including these organic cures into your dental hygiene regimen. Try out these treatments to experience the difference for yourself! *(Pulse)*

PUT COCONUT ON YOUR LIST OF SUPERFOODS

People love coconut and consume it whether they are aware of it or not in many different forms, like coconut chutney, fresh coconut water, tempting coconut chocolate, and so forth.

Almost every Indian household has a bottle of coconut hair oil, and we've all heard about how coconut oil is good for your skin and hair. It is said to function as a natural conditioner and shield our hair from harm. Though many Southern Indian states use it in their everyday cuisine, its health benefits are less widely understood.

According to Shubhlakshmi Tiwari, Director and Co-Founder of Planet Organic India Pvt Ltd, "Coconut offers numerous health benefits. It improves heart health, aids in weight loss, strengthens the digestive system, and provides rapid energy, among other benefits. It is high in fiber and other macro and micronutrients, which maintains you healthy at a young age.

Due to the majority of its chemical composition being medium chain triglycerides, which

have the property of being quickly and easily absorbed, coconut oil varies chemically from other dietary fats and edible oils. Compared to other large fats derived from various plants and animals, it requires less enzyme activity and digestive effort. They are ideal for persons with sluggish metabolisms since they also burn and release energy more quickly, helping to speed up metabolism, Tiwari continues.

Coconut products, such as coconut oil, milk, water, cream, shredded coconut, flour, chips, coconut vinegar, and now even coconut protein, are available all over the world. *(Times of India)*

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT LIME CHICKEN

Coconut lime chicken is a dish that combines the rich and creamy flavor of coconut milk with the tangy and citrusy taste of lime. The chicken is marinated in a mixture of coconut milk, lime juice, and spices, then grilled or baked to perfection. The result is a delicious and flavorful chicken dish that is perfect for a summer barbecue or a cozy dinner at home. The coconut lime marinade also works well with other proteins such as shrimp or tofu, making it a versatile and tasty addition to any meal.

Ingredients

1. 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
2. ¼ cup all-purpose flour
3. ¼ cup unsweetened shredded coconut
4. 1 tsp. paprika
5. ½ tsp. salt
6. ¼ tsp. black pepper
7. 2 tbsp. coconut oil
8. ½ cup chicken broth
9. ¼ cup lime juice
10. ¼ cup coconut cream

Instructions

1. In a shallow dish, mix together the flour, shredded coconut, paprika, salt, and black pepper.
2. Dredge the chicken breasts in the flour mixture, shaking off any excess.
3. In a large skillet, heat the coconut oil over medium-high heat. Add the chicken breasts and cook for 5-7 minutes per side, until browned and cooked through.
4. Remove the chicken from the skillet and set aside.
5. In the same skillet, add the chicken broth, lime juice, and coconut cream. Stir to combine and bring to a simmer.
6. Return the chicken to the skillet and spoon the sauce over the top.
7. Reduce the heat to low and simmer for 2-3 minutes, until the sauce has thickened slightly.
8. Serve the chicken with the sauce spooned over the top.

Enjoy your delicious coconut lime chicken!

STATISTICS

Table 4. Indonesia's Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2021 – 2023

Month	2021		2022		2023	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000
January	41,112	58,282	35,566	67,128	54,436	55,216
February	54,471	78,304	48,846	92,391	74,419	74,978
March	42,893	63,982	71,557	141,347	74,970	76,473
April	43,675	65,594	51,164	105,681		
May	66,712	105,704	60,018	116,375		
June	48,582	78,866	55,547	100,407		
July	71,449	113,089	79,133	128,730		
August	39,908	62,834	54,843	80,834		
September	47,107	70,877	59,251	73,806		
October	42,489	67,385	58,686	65,241		
November	57,478	95,763	44,177	47,174		
December	55,571	98,543	67,089	69,597		
Total	**611,448**	**959,223**	**685,878**	**1,088,711**	**203,825**	**206,667**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 5. Philippines's Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2019 – 2023

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	76,557	115,346	52,302	97,009	98,519
February	44,265	59,757	53,704	123,579	
March	122,223	91,762	72,143	97,741	
April	123,057	53,629	58,555	123,835	
May	100,580	61,034	51,927	113,696	
June	135,308	92,625	65,091	87,170	
July	94,690	19,161	78,441	112,646	
August	197,300	85,963	80,111	104,713	
September	75,126	83,382	82,648	78,818	
October	100,758	58,911	93,101	109,769	
November	67,636	63,150	95,115	83,684	
December	101,826	55,353	97,947	87,132	
Total	**1,239,326**	**840,073**	**881,085**	**1,219,792**	

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 6. International Prices of Selected Oils, May 2020 - April 2023, (US$/MT)

Year	Month	Coconut Phil/Indo (CIF. Rott.)	Soybean Oil Dutch (FOB ex-mill)	Palm Oil Malaysian (CIF. Eur.)	Palm Kernel Oil (CIF. Rott.)	Sunflower Oil EU (Fob. NW. EU)
2020	May	831	684	574	678	738
	June	920	752	652	761	788
	July	886	821	659	704	833
	August	954	867	703	756	877
	September	1,034	906	741	788	1,041
	October	1,105	915	758	801	1,040
	November	1,380	974	918	1,073	1,176
	December	1,459	1,023	979	1,193	1,241
2021	January	1,463	1,099	990	1,368	1,276
	February	1,445	1,124	1,020	1,360	1,363
	March	1,541	1,285	1,030	1,479	1,611
	April	1,660	1,386	1,078	1,487	1,573
	May	1,715	1,575	1,136	1,531	1,585
	June	1,671	1,518	1,004	1,400	1,297
	July	1,584	1,468	1,063	1,274	1,282
	August	1,494	1,434	1,142	1,341	1,356
	September	1,485	1,399	1,181	1,427	1,310
	October	1,923	1,484	1,310	1,818	1,421
	November	1,961	1,443	1,341	2,050	1,416
	December	1,696	1,411	1,270	1,861	1,362
2022	January	2,016	1,470	1345	2,196	1,412
	February	2,148	1,596	1,522	2,443	1,499
	March	2,230	1,957	1,777	2,441	2,361
	April	2,095	1,948	1,683	2,064	2,276
	May	1,813	1,963	1,717	1,811	2,079
	June	1,701	1,752	1,501	1,555	1,885
	July	1,541	1,533	1,057	1,301	1,557
	August	1,385	1,599	1,026	1,173	1,496
	September	1,248	1,548	909	1,249	1,305
	October	1,108	1,576	889	1,039	1,359
	November	1,173	1,652	946	1,062	1,347
	December	1,158	1,409	940	1,067	1,234
2023	January	1,079	1,352	942	1,060	1,218
	February	1,087	1,243	950	1,037	1,159
	March	1,111	1,113	972	1,052	1,075
	April	1,073	1,030	1,005	1,017	1,035

Source: Cocommunity and Oil World

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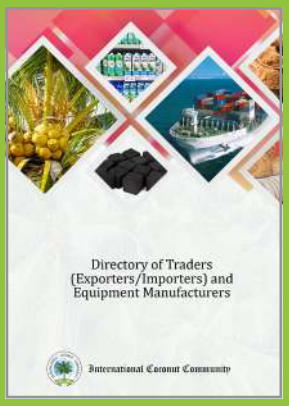

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Competition

Coconut Tree Climbing/Harvesting Tools

Innovative Added-value Tender Coconut By-product

GENERAL CRITERIA

- The competition open for all member countries.
- Any shared documents or videos must be endorsed by NLOs or ANLOs or other country officials
  Participants must hold intellectual property rights to their designs and are fully responsible for the originality of their submissions and to ensure their design does not infringe on any existing copyrights or patents.
- Participation in this competition is an agreement to protect the ICC from any legal issues related to copyright or intellectual property violations.
- Participants send their entries in MP4 video format (minimum 720 p) and photos, uploaded to Google Drive (only send the link, don't send the files).
- Include a separete text description of the products or tools used with the information: specification, materials, process, features, benefit, cost of production.
- Send the photos and video links to: wcd@coconutcommunity.org, with your complete name, contact, address, and country of origin.

Email: wcd@coconutcommunity.org | **Website:** www.coconutcommunity.org

COCONUT CLIMBING/ HARVESTING TOOLS COMPETITION

CRITERIA

Safety: The tool must adhere to excellent safety standards, ensuring the well-being of the user, with adequate protection mechanisms to prevent falling, as well as safeguarding those on the ground from harvested coconuts.

Efficiency: The efficacy will be gauged by the swiftness with which it can facilitate the harvesting of coconuts. Superiority will be attributed to the tool that manifests the highest harvesting rate.

Ease of Use: We place a significant emphasis on the intuitiveness of the tool, measured by the speed at which a novice can proficiently operate it.

Versatility: The tool must exhibit adaptability to various types of coconut trees, encompassing a broad range of heights and diameters, thereby demonstrating its versatility in diverse situations.

Portability: The tool should be easily transportable, ideally lightweight and compact, to be of utmost benefit, especially in remote or difficult-to-access locations.

Affordability: The tool's cost-effectiveness is a critical criterion. A tool that embodies efficiency, durability, and safety, while remaining reasonably priced, is considered ideal.

Ergonomics: The tool should ensure the user's comfort during prolonged periods of use, without causing any undue strain or discomfort.

Innovation: We value and reward innovation. Thus, a tool that introduces novel ideas or methods for coconut harvesting, or exhibits uniqueness or originality compared to other market offerings, will be highly regarded.

INNOVATIVE ADDED-VALUE TENDER COCONUT BY-PRODUCT COMPETITION

CRITERIA

Innovation: The product should demonstrate a novel use of tender coconut by-products. It should introduce new ideas or methods that aren't commonly seen in the market.

Sustainability: The product should be produced in an environmentally friendly manner. This includes using sustainable production processes and minimizing waste.

Functionality: The product should serve a clear purpose or function. It should effectively meet the needs or solve the problems of its intended users.

Quality: The product should be of high quality. It should be durable, reliable, and able to withstand normal use.

Safety: The product should be safe for its intended use. This includes being non-toxic, non-hazardous, and compliant with all relevant safety standards.

Market Potential: The product should have a clear target market and the potential for commercial success. This could be evaluated based on market research or the product's fit with current market trends.

Cost-Effectiveness: The product should be affordable to produce and competitively priced for consumers.

Social Impact: The product should have a positive impact on society. This could include creating jobs, improving health, reducing waste, or other social benefits.

More Information:
Mr. Otniel: otniel@coconutcommunity.org
Mr. Klaudio: klaudio@coconutcommunity.org
Mr. Bahari: bahari@coconutcommunity.org

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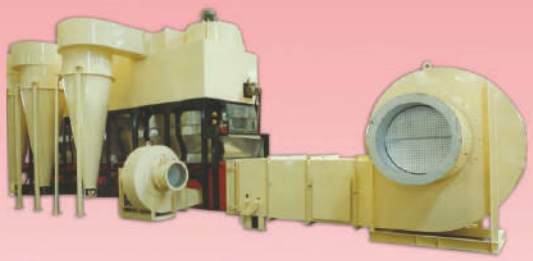
Two Stage and Three Stage Dryers.
Apron width : 2640mm and 3250mm

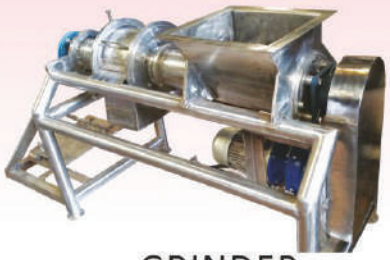
COMBINATION DRYER

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.

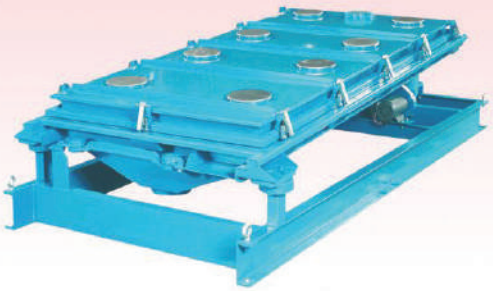


GRINDER

Output Capacity:
1000Kgs/hr.

BLANCHER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 4000 Kgs/hr.



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BY AIR MAIL

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

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

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