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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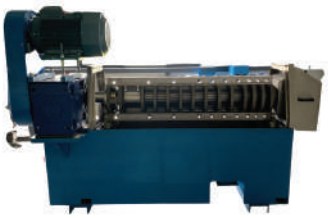

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

"Harnessing the Potential of Coconut For Offsetting Carbon Emissions"

The intersection of agriculture, climate change, and global commitments presents a complex but vital aspect of our shared responsibility. The International Coconut Community recognizes the unique role that coconuts can play in carbon sequestration, carbon credits, and carbon offsetting. We are pleased to explores these dynamics, offering a glimpse into the sustainable potential of coconut plantations and their alignment with the Paris Agreement.

Carbon sequestration in coconut plantations is a subtle yet powerful ally in our fight against climate change. The coconut tree's capability to absorb significant amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, transforming it into biomass, is a great potential. These natural carbon sinks not only facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gas concentrations but also foster a nurturing relationship with the surrounding environment, augmenting soil fertility and safeguarding biodiversity.

Leveraging this potential, the International Coconut Community is at the forefront of initiatives that recognize the carbon reduction capacities of coconut plantations through carbon credits and offsets. By forging pathways that incentivize the environmentally sustainable cultivation of coconut trees, we can achieve the dual benefits of economic sustenance for farmers and a tangible reduction in global carbon emissions. Such approaches resonate with the international collaborative spirit and mark concrete steps towards realizing the ambitions of the Paris Agreement.

The relationship between polyculture and monoculture in coconut cultivation merits careful attention. While polyculture encourages diversity, enriching soil health, and aiding carbon sequestration, monoculture often focuses on efficiency and yield. Advocating for a balanced integration of these methodologies, we can strive for an equilibrium between productivity and ecological sustainability. This synergy forms a cornerstone of our collective efforts to create an environmentally sound agricultural landscape.

In reflecting on the multi role of coconut trees in climate action, the International Coconut Community affirms its commitment to Coconut's potential. An international seminar on "***Sequestering Carbon and Sustaining Earth: Harnessing the Potential of Coconut Ecosystems"*** in collaboration with the University of Sam Ratulangi, Manado, Indonesia, and several other institutions and organizations to be held in October 2023, aims to scrutinize the potential and regulation, and anticipate challenges for thorough understanding and effective implementation. Through fostering carbon sequestration, pioneering carbon credits and offsets, and nurturing a cohesive approach between polyculture and monoculture, substantial progress can be made. Let us harness the great potential of the coconut tree, as we strive to help our farmers, support the industries, and create a greener, more resilient future for all.

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) decreased in Philippines and Sri Lanka but increased in Indonesia.

COPRA: In May 2023, the price of copra in Indonesia slightly decreased to US$599/MT, from US$601/MT in the previous month. However, compared to the same period in the previous year, the price dropped significantly by US$183/MT. Similarly, in the Philippines' domestic market, the price of copra insignificantly levelled up from US$625/MT in April 2023 to US$626/MT in May 2023, a increase of US$1/MT. The price was US$384/MT lower than the price a year ago, which was US$1,010/MT.

COCONUT OIL: In May 2023, the average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) decreased to US$1,031/MT. The price was 40% lower than the price a year ago, which was US$1,720/MT. In the Philippines, the average local price of coconut oil in May 2023 was US$1,120/MT which was slightly higher than the previous month's price. In Indonesia, the average local price of coconut oil decreased to US$1,099/MT in May 2023 from US$1,106/MT in April 2023. The price was comparably lower by US$411/MT as opposed to the price in April 2022.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic price of copra meal was quoted at US$277/MT in May 2023, which was lower than the previous month's price. Moreover, the price was US$44/MT higher than the price a year earlier. In Indonesia, the average domestic price of copra meal decreased to US$285/MT in May 2023, and was US$39/MT lower than the price a year earlier.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in May 2023 was US$1,828/MT, which was lower than to the previous month's price. However, the price was US$803/MT lower than the price of the same month last year. In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in May 2023 was US$1,571/MT, which was lower than the price in April 2023. In the Philippines, the price of DC in the domestic market remained unchanged at US$2,039/MT in May 2023. Meanwhile, the Indonesian price (FOB) of DC was higher than the previous month's price at US$1,475/MT, but was lower compared to last year's price of US$1,850/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In the Philippines, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in May 2023 was US$345/MT, which was lower than the price in the previous month. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price slightly increased to US$473/MT in May 2023. In Sri Lanka, the price of coconut shell charcoal in May 2023 was US$423/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$49/MT for mix fiber and US$410-US$522/MT for bristle. In Indonesia, the price for mixed raw fiber remained unchanged at US$90/MT in May 2023, which was significantly lower than the price a year earlier at US$190/MT.

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

Products/Country	2023 May	2023 Apr	2022 May	2023 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	133	139	214	136
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	144	148	189	149
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	213	235	154	229
India (Domestic Kerala)	411	418	450	422
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	626	625	1,010	626
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	599	601	782	597
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,225	1,296	1,029	1,235
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,046	1,038	1,145	1,048
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,031	1,069	1,720	1,078
Philippines (Domestic)	1,120	1,104	n.q.	1,119
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,099	1,106	1,510	1,116
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,243	2,301	2,095	2,175
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,678	1,683	1,948	1,714
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	1,828	1,874	2,631	1,865
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,571	1,671	1,806	1,630
Indonesia (FOB)	1,475	1,400	1,850	1,415
India (Domestic)	1,439	1,439	1,577	1,436
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	277	288	233	293
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	329	315	189	306
Indonesia (Domestic)	285	289	324	291
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	345	350	393	358
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	423	402	366	381
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	473	472	576	466
India (Domestic)	340	358	458	373
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	49	51	70	45
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	410	433	379	415
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	522	479	491	489
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	90	90	190	90
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	993	1,017	1,811	1,032
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	934	1,005	1,717	961
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	988	1,030	1,963	1,145

Exchange Rate

May 31, '23 1 US$ = P56.35 or Rp15,008 or India Rs82.70 or SL Rs288.73

1 Euro = US$ 1.06 n.q. = no quote

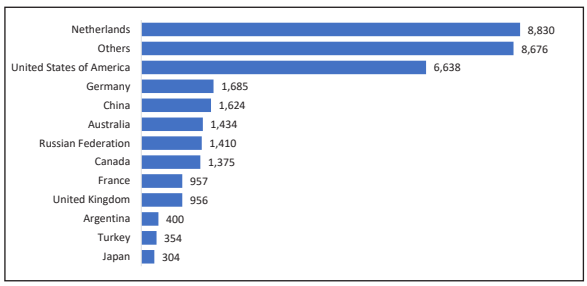
MARKET REVIEW OF DESICCATED COCONUT

The global demand for desiccated coconut is experiencing a significant upswing, with the Philippines and Indonesia emerging as key players in production and export of this commodity. According to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, desiccated coconut exports from the Philippines have displayed an upward trend from 2019 to 2022. Similarly, Indonesia's exports of desiccated coconut have rebounded after a decline in 2019.

The Philippines witnessed consistent growth in desiccated coconut exports during the aforementioned period. In 2019, the country exported 147,594 metric tons, which dipped slightly to 145,200 metric tons in 2020 but recovered to 160,117 metric tons in 2021 and maintained a steady 156,930 tons in 2022. Furthermore, the latest data for the first two months of 2023 demonstrates a continued upward trajectory, with an export volume of 34,643 metric tons. Although this figure represents a 23% decline compared to the same period last year, it indicates sustained demand.

In terms of export destinations, the top countries for Philippine desiccated coconut exports during January-March 2023 were the Netherlands and the United States of America, importing 8,830 metric tons and 8,676 metric tons respectively. Additional significant destinations included Germany, China, Australia, Russia, and Canada, each importing over 1,000 metric tons. This data underscores the strong demand for desiccated coconut across North America, Europe, and Asia.

Figure 1. Export Destinations of Desiccated Coconut from Philippines, January-March 2023 (MT)



Indonesia's desiccated coconut exports experienced a decline in 2019 but have since recovered. In 2018, Indonesia exported 109,181 metric tons, which decreased to 98,742 metric tons in 2019 but then increased to 128,087 metric tons in 2020. The upward trend continued in 2021, with exports reaching 139,932 metric tons. However, the latest data for 2022 indicates a decline to 110,455 metric tons. During the first four months of 2023, Indonesia's export volume stood at 33,893 metric tons, lower than the 2022 volume of 40,834 tons.

Indonesia's primary export markets for desiccated coconut are the European Union (EU27), followed by Singapore and the Russian Federation. China and Brazil also represent significant importers. In the January-April 2023 period, the main destinations for Indonesian desiccated coconut were Singapore, China, Russia, UAE, Brazil, Germany, and Turkey.

While there has been a significant decrease in global imports of desiccated coconut from 2021 to 2022, with a decline of 29.7%, this was primarily driven by diminishing demand in European countries. Import volumes in the EU27 dropped by 7.8% during CY2022. In contrast, US

Figure 2. Top 10 Export Destinations of Desiccated Coconut from Indonesia, January-April 2023

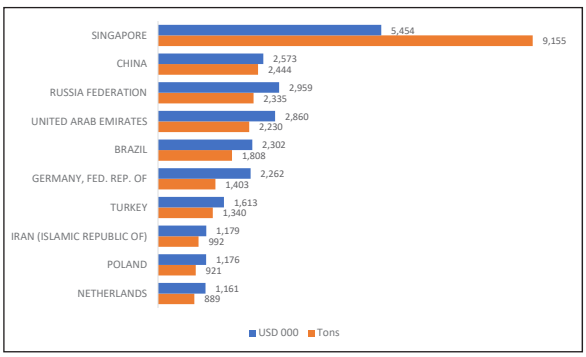


Table 1. Import Volume (MT) of Desiccated Coconut, 2013-2022

Year	World	EU27	US
2014	420,373	103,376	52,259
2015	440,774	94,421	53,696
2016	423,896	104,508	48,107
2017	439,129	111,551	46,590
2018	458,789	108,320	48,067
2019	451,727	103,385	45,531
2020	483,005	100,657	41,056
2021	517,302	115,103	53,568
2022	370,128	118,291	54,372
Jan-Apr 2023*	58,616	27,664	13,432

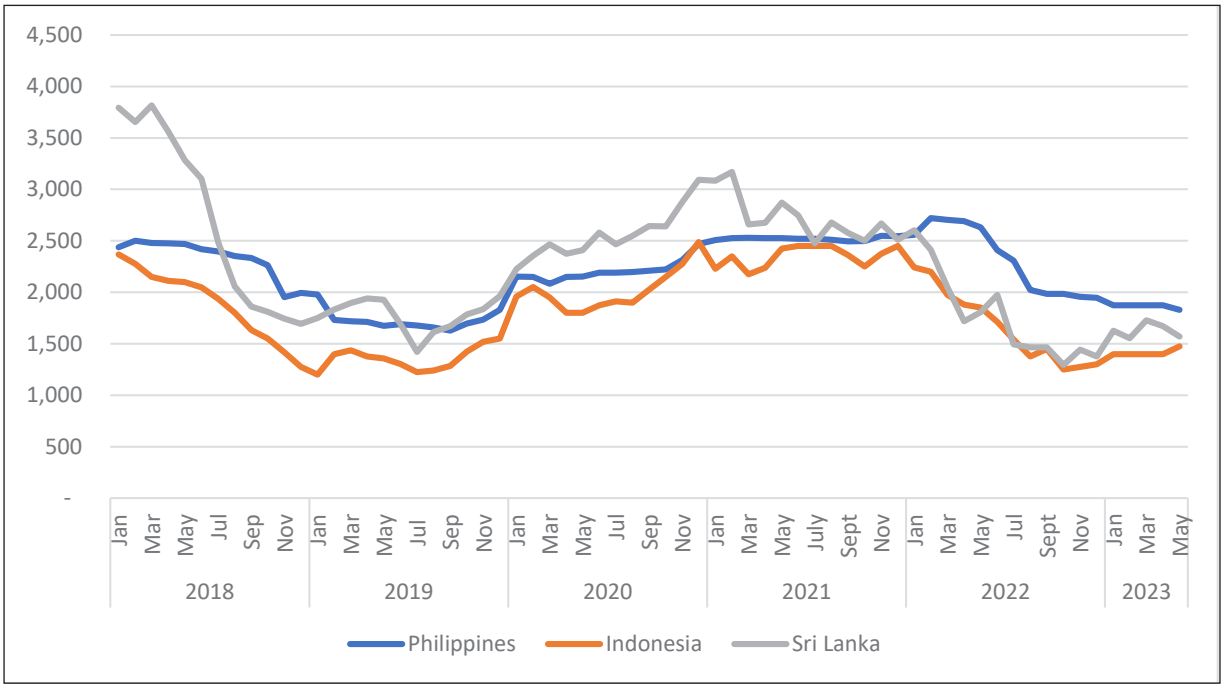
*Source: ITC and US Census Bureau *: preliminary figures*

imports continued to increase by 1.5%. However, considering the overall trend over the past decade, both the EU27 and the US have exhibited a slight increase in demand for desiccated coconut, with compound annual growth rates (CAGR) of 1.8% and 3.6% respectively.

The prices of desiccated coconut showed a declining trend throughout 2022 in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. In February 2022, the price of desiccated coconut in the Philippines peaked at US$2,721/MT, but by December 2022, it had decreased to US$1,947/MT. Similarly, Indonesia and Sri Lanka experienced price drops of 29% and 21% respectively over the course of the year. During the first five months of 2023, desiccated coconut prices remained weak, with an average price of US$1,865/MT in the Philippines, US$1,415/MT in Indonesia, and US$1,630/MT in Sri Lanka.

One possible contributing factor to the declining prices is the high inflation rate observed in several European countries and the US, which may have reduced consumer purchasing power and consequently dampened demand for coconut products, including desiccated coconut. Additionally, an anticipated economic slowdown in the near future could further affect demand and prices in this market.

Figure 3. Monthly Price of Desiccated Coconut (US$/MT), January 2018- May 2023



COMMUNITY NEWS

HOW COCONUTS ARE BEING USED TO PREVENT EROSION ON NEW JERSEY BEACHES

Coconut fiber logs are assisting in the preservation and restoration of coastal habitats along the coast of New Jersey.

The project is being led by the environmental organization American Littoral Society, which claims that the coconut fibers help form "living shorelines" as an alternative to seawalls, bulkheads, and other traditional land-stabilizing constructions.

The coconut fibers for the logs are acquired in India and Indonesia before being shipped to the Lower 48. The coconut fibers are then bundled into logs and covered with biodegradable netting in the United States.

More than 2,000 feet of the Jersey Shore are now lined with coconut fiber logs in an effort to keep the sand in place in a cost-effective and environmentally friendly manner.

According to Capt. Alek Modjeski of the American Littoral Society, "it's a natural way to do it," he told FOX Weather multimedia journalist Katie Byrne. "You're getting a really good return on your investment because they're not very expensive, so they won't break the bank when you put them in."

The coconut logs help restore plant habitats along the coastline in addition to acting as barriers against erosion.

Beaches and salt marshes, according to Tom Dillingham of the American Littoral Society, offer storm protection, water filtration, and fish habitat. Ecosystems can be repaired to make beaches more robust for both plants and animals.

Everyone is aware of climate change and the increase in storm frequency, and these kinds of natural methods will assist shield us from those dangers, according to Dillingham. *(Fox Weather)*

A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR COCONUT PLANTATION WAS DESTRUCTED IN AKWA IBOM, SAID GOV UDOM EMMANUEL

The governor of Akwa Ibom State, Udom Emmanuel, has accused youths in the state's Eastern Obolo Local Government Area of destroying the plantation.

The devastation, according to the governor, was a "extremely unfair" retaliation for the state government's investment push.

Mr. Emmanuel asked youth leaders in the state to come up and denounce the action, noting that the incident happened just as the state administration was ready to wrap up negotiations with international investors on the coconut plantation and its refinery.

The governor made this statement when officially opening the 16.71-kilometer Abak Ifia-Ikpe Mbak Eyop Road, which passed through the state's Ikot Ekpene and Obot Akara local government districts.

"People are still attempting to ruin it now despite all the developments we are making. When we awoke this morning, the entire coconut plantation we built was already bearing fruit.All the coconut farms were destroyed by Eastern Obolo teenagers. All that remains of a multi-million dollar enterprise is a refinery. You now know what I mean when I tell people how difficult it is to develop Africa."If you can have such a brilliant idea and over 350 people are working in that farm, not even one is from my community. If you go and charge them how much in dollars, tell me what the government would do to give jobs and improve the economic well-being of the people. They are all from the Eastern Obolo, Ikot Abasi, and Mkpat Enin local government districts, according to Mr. Emmanuel.

Police respond

Odiko Macdon, the Akwa Ibom police spokesperson, confirmed the event but stated that no one had been arrested.

He declared that the police were looking into the situation.

An Eastern Obolo native who asked that his name not be included in the article due to concerns for his safety and security acknowledged that not all of the plantation had been destroyed, unlike what the governor said.

Natives of the region, he claimed, were opposing the state's ongoing remapping because some oil-producing settlements in the region had been given to its three neighboring local government districts, including Onna, the hometown of Governor Emmanuel.

Parts of the plantation, particularly the one in Eastern Obolo, were destroyed, according to a plantation employee.

He explained that the continuing remapping of the area was the cause of the destruction.

Background

As part of his push for industrialization, Governor Emmanuel opened the St. Gabriel Coconut Factory in the Mkpat Enin Local Government Area in 2017.

When reviewing the project in May 2021, the governor stated that if finished, it will generate over 3, 000 indirect jobs in addition to 1, 300 direct jobs.

Mr. Emmanuel stated that the state's revenue base will increase during the project's commissioning in May 2022 and referred to it as a significant source of foreign cash.

In an effort to secure a sufficient supply of coconut for the refinery, the state administration had earlier in 2020 started distributing thousands of coconut seedlings to schools and organizations in the state.

Mr. Emmanuel questioned what he would do with the refinery if the coconut crop were destroyed when speaking at the road commissioning.

He asked the throng that had gathered to see the refinery's commissioning, "What am I going to do with the refinery, am I going to carry it on my head?"

He assured the populace that his intention was not to depress them and asked them to safeguard government property in their communities.

We'll also be commissioning some power projects this week. Please keep those assets safe. Inform the residents in those neighborhoods that removing one cable will leave the entire neighborhood in darkness. Not only will it have an impact on you, but thousands of people will also lose their jobs as a result. I'm unclear as to how that helps individuals, the governor stated. *(Premium Times)*

COCONUT AND FRUIT PROCESSING UNIT TO BE SET UP BY THE GOV IN CHINCHINIM

Under the One District One Produce (ODOP) idea, the agriculture department will establish a coconut and fruit processing facility in Chinchinim's Durga Farm in a year.

A coconut nursery will be built on a 12,000 square meter block of land at Durga Farm, where it is planned to grow roughly 40,000 coconut trees that will be given to South Goa residents.

The farm could potentially start producing Goa Dhan paddy seeds that can withstand salinity. In addition to Raia and other locations, the seeds will be delivered to farmers producing khazan soil from Canacona to Bicholim.

During an assessment of Durga Farm last week, South Goa Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) acting

director Shivram Gaonkar stated that bids would be requested for the construction of a processing facility.

"Earlier, a tender was floated, but no proposals were submitted. The process will be finished in the following four months when we refloat the tender, according to Gaonkar.

He said that the farm's processing facility will help horticultural producers increase the value of their output.

Farmers would be able to purchase the Goa Dhan variety at Durga Farm for a discounted price, he added.

A further 20,000 square meters of barren land in Chinchinim are planned to be turned into farms in response to local demand.

The village's fallow fields were revitalized by the agriculture department four years prior, but after that the lands slipped into disrepair.

At the farm in Durga, local MLA Cruz Silva, representatives from the agriculture department and the Chinchinim-Deusua panchayat, as well as local residents, conducted a joint inspection. KVK is in charge of running the farm, which spans 30 hectares.

According to Silva, the government may serve as an example by cultivating its own vacant fields.

According to Silva, this year, 20,000 square meters of land will be put under cultivation during the rabi season, up from fewer than 3,000 square meters the year before.

He said that the Chinchinim Farmers' Club, which is directed by Agnelo Furtado and has the backing of authorities from the departments of agriculture and water resources, as well as Fr. George Quadros, is assisting cultivators.

Gerson Gomes, a member of the Durga ward, claimed that three wooden sluice gates are in need of repair and are the source of saline water entering the fields. from The Times of India

In Côte d'Ivoire, the coconut season slows down; a return to normal is anticipated in July.

Delcambre Wawa, general manager of the exporting producer Wawa, claims that climatic conditions in Côte d'Ivoire are slowing down coconut output in light of the arrival of the much anticipated rainy season.

"At the corporate level, we currently export an average of 90 tons per month," says Wawa. However, we anticipate a decline soon because the rainy season has begun, followed by a recovery to average volumes—or perhaps a peak—in July. At the national level, our predicament is typical of all producers and exporters.

The producer claims that Côte d'Ivoire's southern districts, whose daily export volumes average 50 tons, currently have a higher concentration of exports. The hybrid and GOA (Great West Africa) types cultivated in Côte d'Ivoire have sizes of 450-600 g and higher.

Wawa continues, "The fruit is of acceptable quality, and phytosanitary conditions are favorable. However, the logistical conditions that we are currently experiencing are quite challenging, with limited access to the production sites and traffic jams at the ports that are delaying shipments for shipping firms, but these issues may be resolved.

Commercially, "the campaign was highlighted by substantial demand from Ghanaian, Senegalese, and Nigerian intermediaries, who offered higher than typical prices. As a result of their inability to compete with the new high pricing, Ivorian exporters saw a decline in their turnover."

Beyond this peculiarity in the trading channels, the Netherlands is "the most sought-after destination for Ivorian coconuts," claims Wawa. "However, because of the turmoil in Eastern Europe, exports to Russia are slowing down or

even ceasing altogether. We are also thinking about approaching the Middle East sector, which is more profitable financially, he adds.

According to Wawa, the Ivorian manufacture stands out from the rest of the world's offerings because of certain advantages: "We have the uniqueness of an essentially organic production among the giants of the coconut, such as India, Sri Lanka, or Brazil. Our proximity to Europe is our second benefit since it results in a quicker transit time, less expensive transportation, and more appealing FOB and CIF prices.

The producer does anticipate a price increase in the near future. This is because of an anticipated rise in labor costs, a rise in demand following the conclusion of the mango season, and factors related to the Islamic holiday calendar. A 14% immediate price rise is anticipated, bringing the cost per 22 kilogram package to 12.5 EUR FOB. *(Fresh Plaza)*

IKMS CAN USE MINISTRY'S ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE PRODUCT PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

The Industry Ministry has stated that it is prepared to assist small and medium-sized businesses (IKMs) in maximizing product processing technology, which is accessible at industry centers and includes professional advice.

Doddy Rahadi, head of the ministry's Industrial Service Standardization and Policy Agency (BSKJI), stated in a statement, "The ministry continues to carry out coaching and mentoring programs for IKMs to increase their business, including through the use of industrial technology at the Ministry of Industry's industrial centers."

He explained that one of the product processing technologies is accessible at the Manado Industry Standardization and Service Center (BSPJI), a technological implementation unit (UPT) in North Sulawesi that is promoting the growth of Bitung City's resource potential as a producer of coconuts.

In Sagerat Village, Matuari Sub-district, Bitung, North Sulawesi, he claimed, there is an integrated coconut IKM center, which is a center for processing coconut goods and their derivatives.

The center serves as a manufacturing facility for coconut IKMs from Bitung and the neighborhood. He noted that all of the IKMs in the center generate virgin coconut oil (VCO) and coconut oil.

There are currently nine VCO and coconut oil manufacturing facilities spread across 9,675 hectares.

If IKMs desire to improve their product processing technologies, we are prepared to assist. Personnel who are knowledgeable in this field are supporting us, Rahadi said.

IKMs in Bitung also manufacture coconut oil, coconut soap, coconut shell charcoal, coconut charcoal briquettes, coconut sugar, coconut syrup, and copra among other forms of processed coconut products.

Additionally, he continued, there are IKMs that create goods derived from coconut, such as cakes and coconut chips.

The Manado BSPJI is working with the Bitung municipal administration to provide industrial services through a collaboration agreement to maximize the application of technology used in the coconut processing industry in order to assist the integrated coconut IKMs, he added.

He mentioned that training in VCO manufacturing technology and coconut cooking oil manufacturing technology is used to carry out optimization.

Bitung has a large supply of coconuts and a port that is well-equipped to handle cargo. I sincerely wish that local IKM products in Bitung can be standardized. Bitung Mayor Maurits Mantiri stated that the city's coconut goods "must be (made) highly competitive, both at the local, national, and even international levels." *(Antara)*

MORE THAN 13,000 HIGH-YIELDING GREEN DWARF COCONUT FROM BRAZIL ARRIVE IN GUYANA

The Ministry of Agriculture's Hope Coconut Industries Limited (HCIL) has purchased a consignment of Brazilian Green Dwarf coconut seed nuts, adding new inputs to the Guyanan coconut industry.

The latest batch of Brazilian Green Dwarf coconut seed nuts arrived and were discharged at Hope Estate, on the East Coast of Demerara, during the visit of Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha to Hope Coconut Industries Limited (HCIL).

The cargo, which comprised 13,000 seed nuts valued at $12 million, is in line with the government's overarching objectives of growing and improving Guyana's coconut industry and is a part of HCIL's 2023 work plan.

The high-yielding type was initially launched in December of last year, and according to Minister Mustapha, 275 to 300 farmers throughout the nation will benefit from the seedlings generated from this batch.

"We launched this variety last December with the aid of CARDI and funding from a grant from the IDB and the EU. I mentioned that we would be considering importing more of this high-yielding type this year when we received the 2,000 seed nuts. This year, $12 million from our budget was set aside to purchase additional planting materials. We were able to assist 24 farmers and expand the variety of coconuts grown throughout the nation with the previous batch of coconuts we got. To advance the sector and boost exports, we'll keep up those efforts and work with 275 to 300 farmers who will gain from seedlings. Coconut is the third-highest revenue producer in the agricultural sector, he said.

The minister also said that the government has hired Indian experts who will travel to Guyana to help with further developing the business, in addition to collecting more planting supplies.

"I just returned from India where I spoke with experts who will soon be coming to Guyana to help us grow the business. I promised that the coconut business would receive a lot of attention when I was appointed Minister of Agriculture. We should be able to boost coconut production by 1,000 acres a year, according to my prediction. However, I'm happy that we have seen an increase in coconut production of more than 5,000 acres in less than three years, which shows a significant improvement, he said.

According to Minister Mustapha, with the assistance the government is providing the sector, it is anticipated that the production of coconuts will exceed 10,000 acres.

Shredder for coconuts

The first of eight coconut shredders, which will be utilized to turn waste items like coconut husk into coconut fiber for mulching and other agricultural uses, was also recently acquired by HICL.

Speaking about the new machinery, which cost about $3.8 million, Minister Mustapha pointed out that the shredder will enable the use of the coconut waste material, which has a value-added component, in coconut cultivation and other agricultural activities.

"Value-added production in the coconut industry has just begun. To use the husk, we have acquired one of eight shredding machines. The shells are typically thrown away, but there is a need for them, therefore we will use them. In areas like the Pomeroon where there is a significant coconut farming, this will be repeated throughout the nation, the minister stated. *(News Room)*

COCO COIR IS BEING CREATED TO END COCONUT FARM WASTE

To solve environmental problems and increase the income of coconut farmers in Eastern Visayas, the Philippines, the Regional Inclusive

Innovation Center (RIIC) has prioritized the development of coco coir.

At a meeting held at the Summit Hotel, representatives from national government organizations and the academic community established the regional coco coir innovation roadmap by identifying current resources that can aid in the development of processing.

There is a lot of promise for coco coir given the shift toward organic farming. We discovered how tiresome the current manual approach is. "We must implement innovations to add value to what is regarded as coconut farming waste," said Ma, assistant regional director for DTI Eastern Visayas. said Delia Corsiga.

According to data from the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), nine coco coir processors will be in operation in the provinces of Leyte and Southern Leyte in 2021, producing 4,391 hanks of coconut fiber.

A hank is a unit of measurement used in the textile industry to describe a length of yarn or a loose collection of fibers that form a single strand and varies depending on the origin of the fiber. A hank is typically 770 meters long.

"One of the environmental problems is the growing amount of coconut husks from the manufacture of copra. To convert husks into fiber, we must locate suppliers of machinery and technology. Governmental organizations and academic institutions work together to develop the good through RIIC, Corsiga continued.

When farmers harvest coconuts for their meat and water, they leave behind coconut coir as a waste product.

Processing allows one to obtain coco fiber and coco peat, according to the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech).

The spongy, light-weight material that emerges when the fiber is separated during the extraction of coconut fiber is referred to as coco peat, also known as coir pith or coir dust.

Both the agricultural and industrial sectors use these byproducts. The fiber is used to create coco nets as a preventative measure against soil erosion, rope, mattresses, automobile seats, and other cushions, among many other products.

According to PhilMech, coco peat is currently gaining popularity for its horticultural applications as substrate and media in hydroponics systems. *(Philippines News Agency)*

DON'T USE PLAIN BRIQUETTES THIS SUMMER; USE COCONUT CHARCOAL INSTEAD

Many folks will soon be firing up their Weber grills for the season and filling up on charcoal for their spring and summer cookouts as the barbecue season draws near. This year, though, perhaps it's time to think about a substitute for the traditional charcoal briquettes available at your neighborhood hardware shop; something that will do the job just as well without all the smoke and ash. Not propane, please. Coconuts!

While most charcoal grill owners prefer using lump charcoal or charcoal briquettes to cook their burgers and steaks, there are really a variety of other fuel sources that work just as well but create less mess, such as coconut charcoal. According to Coco Produce, coconut charcoal is made from compressed coconut husks and shells rather than traditional wood-based briquettes, which are typically bound together with potentially hazardous chemicals. This results in cleaner burning coconut charcoal than traditional briquettes.

Clean coals

While proponents of charcoal grills frequently extol the greater flavor of food cooked over coals, there is no denying that it is a messy process. Due to the chemicals used to hold charcoal

briquettes together, when they burn, charcoal, especially charcoal briquettes, produce a lot of smoke that is high in carbon monoxide and may contain other gases that are carcinogenic.

Coconut briquettes not only don't contain these dangerous substances, but they also cook with little smoke. According to Royce Food Corporation, which manufactures coconut charcoal, the coals are essentially smokeless, reducing the possibility of breathing in hazardous vapors as well as the unpleasant smell that can hang in the air and stick to the person doing the grilling's clothes, skin, and hair. Your barbecue guests will be able to enjoy the natural flavors of whatever you're grilling because there are fewer fumes and less chance of chemical flavors sticking to your meal. Additionally, because it burns cleanly, there is no chance of giving your food the flavor or aroma of coconut.

Additionally, since coconut briquettes are all-natural, you can simply drop them into your garden where they will work as fertilizer because they burn to only 5% to 10% ash, leaving much less waste behind after you're done grilling.

Eco-friendly grilling

Coconut briquettes are not only more environmentally friendly than standard charcoal, but also cleaner and safer to use. Coconut charcoal is produced responsibly, and is obviously better for the local air quality than any other smokeless fuel. The husks of a fruit that is incredibly numerous and expands quickly are used to make coconut charcoal. The majority of the roughly 60 million metric tons of coconut produced annually, according to Statista, is used to make products like coconut milk, water, and oil, which are all made from the meat of the coconut. This indicates that there are plenty coconut husks available that could be converted into briquettes. Additionally, compared to regular briquettes, one bag of coconut briquettes burns longer. According to Coco Produce, coconut charcoal burns hotter and lasts twice as long as ordinary charcoal, so you'll use less of it over the course of a single summer of grilling.

Coconut charcoal is not expensive nor difficult to obtain, despite the fact that it has not yet fully taken off among the general population. Given their prolonged burn time, various types are available on Amazon for between $20 and $30 each box, which is comparable to the cost of traditional briquettes. *(Tasting Table)*

TNAU FORMULATES CAPSULE FOR REBELLING COCONUT CROP WHITEFLY PEST ATTACK

An Integrated Pest Management capsule has been developed by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore, India, to protect coconut crops against the Rugose Spiralling Whitefly, which is now on the rise.

Six tactics make up the integrated approach, the first of which is the installation of light traps at a rate of two per acre at night. "The light traps suggested starting at 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. will draw in all flying adults, according to Rajamanickam, a member of the Coconut Development Board's research and development committee and an adjunct professor at TNAU.

The second method involved placing yellow sticky traps six feet above the ground to draw adult flies during the day. The second tactic is to spray encarsia parasitoit on the leaves that the nymphs are hiding on. The parasite will stop the whitefly from laying eggs on the surface under this biological control strategy. The fourth tactic is comparable in that 400 predator eggs are dispersed per acre. The fifth step involves spraying 250 grams of maida flour in 10 liters of water on sooty mold to eliminate the obstruction to photosynthesis. The final technique involves spraying water on the leaf's ventral surface with force in order to wash the egg, nymphs, pupae, and adult flies away.

Through the synchronization of these tactics, the intervention capsule for whitefly pest

management in coconut crops has been tested successfully. According to him, the focus was on farmers acting as a group to adopt all six strategies. *(The Hindu)*

COCONUT FARMERS REQUIRE DIRECT PROCUREMENT AND AN INCREASED SUPPORT PRICE FOR COPRA

The coconut farmers in Kanniyakumari, India, broke coconuts in protest demanding improved milling and ball copra prices, state and federal government purchases of coconut, and compensation of Rs 3,000 per diseased tree.

Farmers demanded the state government distribute coconut oil through fair-price shops instead of palm oil, restart the district's coconut processing unit so it can produce value-added products, and facilitate the process to increase productivity during a protest held in front of the Agricultural Engineering department office in Melpuram block.

The All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) affiliate Coconut Farmers' Association has called on the Union government to boost the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Milling Copra from Rs 106.8/kg and Ball Copra from Rs 117.50 announced for the 2023 season to Rs 150/kg.

To guarantee the Price Support Scheme (PSS) at the MSP announced for procurement through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF), the state government has issued a notification.

Make Copra More Affordable

In Tamil Nadu, coconut is a crop grown primarily by small and marginal farmers. It is expected to produce 3,751.26 tons in 2022 and hold a market share of 27.5% of the national market.

Approximately 24,830 ha are under cultivation for Kanniyakumai, with a production goal of 2,591 lakh nuts in 2021–2022, at an average yield of 9,381 nuts/ha.

50% of the land is used for growing coconuts, which also includes paddy, pulses like grams, banana, mango, jackfruit, cashew, tapioca, pineapple, and pepper. 11,500 hectares are used to grow paddy crops.

The cultivation of coconuts has declined in recent years for a variety of reasons, including the switch to other income crops like rubber, price instability, illnesses, and a lack of labor for coconut harvesting. The AIKS has looked for solutions to the issues coconut growers are facing, including the rise in support costs.

"The government must ensure that the prices of coconut and copra are fixed considering the production cost and increasing labor costs. The government must procure directly from the farmers in each taluk," said D Vincent, Kanniyakumari district secretary of the Tamil Nadu Coconut Farmers Association.

N Murugesan, the association's president, urged the government to raise procurement costs.

The MSP should be at least Rs 150 for the milling copra, according to the current pricing announced by the Union government for that product.

The group justifies its desire for a fair deal from the Union and state governments by pointing to rising input expenses, such as the price of pesticides, fertilizers, and labor.

Address the Labor Shortage and Disease Treatment

The lack of workers for regular harvesting to ensure consistent yield is a serious issue facing coconut growers. At least once every three months must be set aside for coconut harvesting.

Vincent argued that the government needed to train individuals to operate mechanical

equipment for harvesting because there was a critical shortage of trained labor.

Inadequate skilled labor prevents plants from being protected as well as being harvested. Despite the fact that productivity in the state is higher than the national average, diseases including the red palm weevil, Ganoderma wilt, and coconut root wilt are common diseases that affect the yield.

The government must announce a compensation of Rs 3,000 per tree, and the relevant authorities must conduct enough research to combat these diseases, Vincent continued. "There are several trees that are beyond revival," he said.

In place of the palm oil now offered, AIKS has demanded that the state government provide coconut oil through the ration stores.

This would guarantee the farmers' lives and create a minimum demand for coconuts, according to Murugesan.

In a number of nations, there is a strong demand for the value-added goods made from coconut, such as coconut milk, skim milk, dry milk powder, and coconut squash. According to AIKS, the lone Coconut Value Addition Center in the Kanniyakumari area is vacant.

While farmers struggle to receive guaranteed prices and the retail price of coconut has been steadily rising in the domestic market, Murugesan said, "The machine used to powder the coconut to manufacture the value-added products has not been working for several months. *(News Click)*

TN WILL BEGIN DISTRIBUTING COCONUT OIL THROUGH RATION STORES

Through ration stores, the Tamil Nadu government intends to distribute groundnut and coconut oils.

Coconut oil and groundnut oil will be provided as a pilot project from ration shops in the state's Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Tenkasi, and Kanniyakumari districts.

Cooking gas would be distributed through ration stores, the state government had previously said. R. Sakkarapani, the minister of civil supplies for Tamil Nadu, told IANS that the government was taking preparations to purchase 15,000 tonnes of wheat.

The official said, "Our Officials will be meeting higher officials in Delhi and seeking permission from them for procuring wheat through National Cooperative Consumer Federation of India Ltd (NCCF) as we are in shortage of wheat as the central government reduced the monthly allotment from 23,000 tonnes to 8,000 tonnes."

He claimed that there was a significant demand for wheat from Tamil Nadu residents, even in rural regions, and added that this might be because to the population's altered eating patterns. *(DT Next)*

LAUNCH OF TWO COCONUT PROJECTS BY PCAARRD

Under the coconut hybridization program of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan, the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) has started two projects at Visayas State University.

The project, titled "Development and Evaluation of Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management Strategies For Hybrid Coconut Farming in Eastern Visayas," according to Dr. Suzette Lina, aims to create a comprehensive and efficient fertilization program for the nation's production of hybrid coconuts.

However, Dr. Justine Bennette Millado, the project's leader, stated that the research aims to improve the management of coconut pests using natural control agents. The project is titled

"Evaluation and Development of Biological Biorational Control Agents" for sustainable management of Asiatic palm weevil (APW) and other pests affecting hybrid coconut in Eastern Visayas.

According to Millado, the project would track the prevalence and harm caused by APW, create an early warning system for coconut pests, and mass-produce efficient and environmentally friendly pesticides.

The DOST's PCAARRD research branch will keep an eye on the project's execution and financial administration. *(Manila Standard)*

10 MILLION COCONUT TREES TO BE PLANNED IN LAGOS FOR CLIMATE CONTROL

A program to plant coconut trees in every developed housing estate in the state has been launched by the Lagos State Coconut Development Authority (Nigeria).

The strategy, which was developed in coordination with the Lagos State Ministry of Housing, is a component of initiatives to strengthen and advance the state's coconut economy.

Akorede Adeboye, a representative of LASCODA, disclosed plans to plant 10 million coconut trees as part of the Coconut Renewal Initiative, according to a statement released by the state government.

Two million of the ten million were to be planted in peri-urban and urban locations, like housing complexes, he said. In addition to the economic advantages of planting coconut trees in populated places like housing estates, there are also major environmental advantages, including enhanced air quality, soil conservation, landscape attractiveness, and the provision of shade and carbon sequestration.

Permanent Secretary Mr. Kamar Olowoshago responded by expressing the ministry's readiness to work with LASCODA to ensure its success.

In order to identify where coconut trees can be planted, Olowoshago pledged that the ministry would immediately start a thematic examination of all the housing estates in the state. *(Punch NG)*

CPCRI WILL OFFER FARMERS COCONUT AND ARECANUT SEEDLINGS IN THE MONSOON

One of the kinds of coconut seedlings created by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod, Kerala, for sale to farmers during this monsoon, by June-end or in July, is the hybrid cultivar known as Kera Sankara.

Apparently, K.B. Hebbar, Director, CPCRI, says that the particular type, Kera Sankara, can withstand prolonged drought and high temperatures. By the fourth year after planting, the palm began to bear fruit. With a range of 70 to 130 nuts, the annual mean yield of nuts is 108.

Chandra Sankara is a different hybrid cultivar of coconut seedling grown for sale. When compared to tall palms, this palm bore fruit earlier. It has a strong output and can produce between 100 and 150 nuts, or 116 nuts, per palm. Due of its drought susceptibility, irrigation is needed during the summer.

According to the director, the institute has grown roughly 85,000 coconut seedlings, including 35,000 hybrid seedlings.

Additionally, the organization has started selling nurseries coconut seed nuts so they can grow their own seedlings for sale. "So far since September of last year, we have sold about 1.2 lakh seed nuts of coconut," he said.

The institute will charge farmers 120 pesos (per tall cultivar), 210 pesos (per dwarf cultivar), and 280 pesos (per hybrid cultivar) for the bed-risen coconut seedlings. The price per tall, dwarf, and

hybrid seedling produced in polythene bags will be 180, 260, and 330 respectively.

The director mentioned that the institute has grown its 1 lakh arecanut seedlings, including Shatamangala, Mohitnagar, and Mangala.

A high yielding arecanut variety called "Shatamangala" was introduced in 2016. The variety's yield performance is better than that of the previously released varieties, Mangala, Sumangala, Sreemangala, and traditional local types, and it is suited for both processing tender nuts and ripe nuts. The typical yield is 3.26 kg of dry, tender processed nuts or 3.96 kg of dry kernels per palm tree each year. In Gujarat and Karnataka, the cultivar has been suggested for commercial cultivation.

Arecanut seed nuts cost 12 cents each, while seedlings cost 30 cents each. Farmers can place the demand by e-mailing to the institute, he said.

In Dakshina Kannada, the institute operates a regional station at Vitla and a research center at Kidu, close to Kukke Subrahmanya. *(The Hindu)*

RARE NEW COCONUT DISEASE HITS GALLE

A serious new insect disease that can pose a threat to coconut cultivation has been discovered in Galle for the first time.

H.G. Hemantha, the Coconut Development Board's area manager for Galle, spoke before the Galle District Agriculture Committee.

He said that this disease is a serious disease spread by an insect called Brodantishpa and so far coconut plantations affected by this disease have been identified along the coast from Galle Dodanduwa to Matara Kaburugamuwa.

He said that at least 4,000 such trees have been identified. He claimed that this illness is challenging to diagnose, though the Coconut Research Laboratory has started testing it after it was discovered for the first time in Galle, Sri Lanka. *(Daily News)*

COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE STILL POSES A THREAT TO ROTA FARMERS

The coconut rhinoceros beetle or CRB on Rota remains a high priority species to eradicate, according to the State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet of the Northern Mariana Islands submitted to the U.S. Agency for Agriculture.

Rota farmers have been deeply concerned about the CRB since 2017. It attacks coconut trees which provide food for local consumption, fronds for construction of infrastructure, and contribute to local economic activity by representing the culture and aesthetics of the islands for tourists and locals alike, the fact sheet stated.

The CRB causes coconut plants to deteriorate and eventually die, it was added.

In an interview, Rota Municipal Council Chairman Jim Atalig said the CRB still poses a threat to local farmers.

"These insects destroy our crops, particularly coconut trees," he continued.

In 2018, the Department of Land and Natural Resources presented a strategic management plan to control the pest.

Three years later, the CNMI government announced that DLNR, through the Office of the Governor, had received a $250,000 grant from the Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program for ongoing efforts to combat the CRB threat. *(Marianas Variety)*

MAFWR USES DRONES TO COMBAT COCONUT LEAF BEETLE IN DHOFAR

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR), Muscat, launched

a month-long programme to combat an infestation of coconut leaf beetles (Brontispa longissima) in Dhofar region.

The Directorate General of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in Dhofar launched the programme after emergence of several sites of infestation. 'The campaign will continue till June 15,' the ministry stated.

The coconut leaf beetle attacks palms of all ages, but tender ones are more susceptible because the leaves of mature and old palms are firm and less suitable for the beetle to breed in.

Rashid Said al Ghafri, Director General of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in Dhofar, "Twelve fieldwork teams have been formed, equipped with all that is necessary to carry out ground and air spraying using drones to combat the bug.'

Inspection teams also determined sites of infestation of white flies – a tiny, sap-sucking insect that may become abundant in vegetable and ornamental plants, especially during warm weather – in the wilayats of Salalah and Taqah with the aim of determining an appropriate pest control method. *(Muscat Daily)*

WORLD COCONUT CONGRESS 2023

After a three-year pause due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Coconut Congress (WCC) is back. WCC 2023 happens on August 30-September 01 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. Now on its third year, WCC 2023 is adopting the theme Sustain the Source. The conference aims to explore the impact of sustainable practices on health, food, feeds, and energy.

As in the past, apart from the conference, WCC 2023 package includes trade exhibition and B2B sessions. The exhibition, which showcases products and services of leading industry suppliers, is expected to build relationships with potential customers and partners while gaining insights into industry trends, increase brand awareness, and generate leads for potential growth opportunities.

The B2B sessions will be facilitated by the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry-Export Marketing Bureau. This provides a venue for international buyers to find quality products and services while suppliers gain access to new markets. With the help of these sessions, businesses can establish meaningful relationships and expand their reach in the global market.

The World Coconut Congress is organized by the United Coconut Association of the Philippines (UCAP) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Coconut Authority and the Department of Trade and Industry. UCAP is a confederation of associations/organizations involved in the various activities of the coconut supply chain.

For more information about WCC 2023, please send queries to ucap@ucap.org.ph or call (632) 8584-5338. WCC 2023 is still open for sponsorship and exhibitors. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

AXELUM RESOURCES CUTS CARBON FOOTPRINT

Axelum Resources Corp., a major manufacturer and exporter of desiccated coconut and other coconut-based products said last week it managed to reduce its direct carbon footprint by 5 percent last year. The company attributed this to lower volume of coconut shells used as feedstock to fuel industrial boilers that produce culinary-grade manufacturing steam. Axelum said it has modernized its boiler equipment to enhance steam output by up to 80 percent without additional shell requirements.

In terms of carbon sequestration, the company organizes tree-planting activities including growing napier grass in its organic community farm to promote reforestation, the most basic

form of climate protection. Since 2017, Axelum has planted approximately 4,400 mahogany and bamboo seedlings within surrounding areas as part of its sustainability efforts.

The company is also finalizing plans to install solar panels in its manufacturing plant to support peak operating hours and reduce dependence on traditional energy sources. Moreover, it is studying the feasibility of adopting international reporting methodologies to assess its climate risks and gather deeper insights towards instituting a long-term carbon neutral program. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

This week, lower prices ruled the vegetable oil market.

After four consecutive dull weeks, the Rotterdam market for coconut oil finally saw some activity. At $950/MT CIF, the one trade reported this week was much less than the $1,005–1,040 range of the most recent trades reported four weeks earlier. With lower vegetable oils ignored, the market opened firmer at $1,060-1,090/MT CIF for positions from July/August through to December/January 2024. However, levels then followed other markets' downward trends and closed in the negative range with prices at $1,025-1,055/MT CIF.

The market for palm kernel oil remained lively, with trade ending at $950-960/MT CIF, down from $980-1,000/MT last week. For positions from June/July through December/January 2024, generally firmer beginning prices were also seen at $990-1,000/MT CIF; they remained firm the following day before falling as a result of weaker other markets. At closure, level was unchanged at $965/MT CIF throughout the board with the exception of the front position, which fell to $940.

This week saw a significant decrease in the price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil, reversing last week's comeback from two weeks of spread erosion. The average weekly premium decreased from $73.82 one week earlier to $60.81/MT this week. Following is a breakdown of premiums per position: May/June $75 (no data last week); June/July $26.00 ($65.50); July/August $51.00 ($66.00); August/September $58.50 ($72.70); September/October $60.00 ($69.85); October/November $65.50 ($74.70); November/December $70.00 ($80.00); and December/January $80.50 ($88.00).

During the week, soybean futures at the CBOT soya complex market fell due to expectations of a huge US crop, excellent crop weather, and a quick planting. Lower soybean meal prices, worries about the Chinese economy, a record Brazilian harvest, and an extended Black Sea grain agreement all had an impact on the market. As talks on raising the US debt ceiling stall, the market ended this week in the red.

Due to persistent weakness in competing vegetable oils and expectations of increasing production this year, the market for palm oil turned gloomy. The announcement this week that the Black Sea grain agreement would be extended for another 60 days, to July 18, put additional pressure on prices while raising hopes for an increase in the world's supply of vegetable oil.

After rising last week, prices of tropical oils for the closest forward shipment have since fallen. Coconut oil was the biggest loser this week, falling from $1,076.67 last week to $997.50/MT CIF, a loss of $79.17, while lauric pair palm kernel oil lost only $22.00 from $993.50 to $971.50/MT CIF. $984.38/MT CIF of palm oil dropped by $50.88 to $933.50/MT CIF. So, from last week's $83.17/MT to merely $26.00/MT, coconut oil's price premium over palm kernel oil has drastically decreased. Additionally, the premium over palm oil was significantly reduced, going from $92.29 to $64.00/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND UP OF COCONUT OIL

The only trade in the Rotterdam coconut oil market this week was at $950/MT CIF for delivery in June or July; otherwise, the market remained as uninteresting as usual. With offers down at $1,030 for July/August, $1,025 for August/September, $1,030 for September/October, $1,045 for October/November, $1,050 for November/December, and $1,055/MT CIF for December/January 2024, the market started out firmer but quickly became weaker. This week's market remained unbalanced with buyers continuing to abstain.

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

TENDER COCONUT RATES CROSS THE RS. 40 MARK IN BENGALURU, A PRICEY RESPITE FROM HEAT

Traditional summer cooling methods include drinking tender coconut water. But this year, delicate coconut has increased in price by Rs 5 to 10 per fruit around the city, sometimes even reaching the Rs 40 threshold. Farmers of coconuts, however, claim that market prices do not cover the cost of production.

According to Rajendra Kumar Kataria, principal secretary, horticulture department, Karnataka is one of the top coconut-growing states in the nation. "North India is demanding a lot of our crop compared to 20 years ago, and now you may find coconuts from Karnataka in remote places of the Himalayas too," he said. "The state's southern districts and the coastal belt have the most number of plantations, with the exception of places falling under the Western Ghats."

The majority of street vendors in the city who sell tender coconut water source it from the Mysuru, Mandya, or Chikkaballapur districts. The best coconuts are shipped out of the state, according to Siddaraju, a vendor in Sahakaranagar, whereas Bengaluru receives inferior coconuts. In order to match the national average rates, he continued, prices are rising in the city. Tender coconut water costs between 40 and 50 rupees in cities like Mumbai and Kolkata, and it is in high demand for use in milkshakes, ice creams, and other confectionery products.

Another vendor close to MG Road, Ramnath, charges Rs 45 for a piece of tender coconut but has no set supplier. There is no wholesale market or farmer here that we can go to buy this, so I tell my boys to go and fetch from certain vendors we know, he added.

Farmers claimed that the unorganized character of this market may be the cause of the prices' frequent fluctuations and the absence of a set price. *(The Times of India)*

5.1-PCT UPGRADE IN SRI LANKA COCONUT AUCTION PRICES

At an auction on May 25, statistics showed that prices for coconuts from Sri Lanka increased by 5.1 percent from the previous week.

At the weekly auction held by Sri Lanka's Coconut Development Authority, the average price for 1,000 nuts jumped to 69,699.63 from 66,301.51 a week earlier.

The maximum price was slightly higher than the previous week's 75,100 rupees at 75,200 rupees for 1,000 nuts, and the lowest price was increased from 61,000 rupees to 76,500 rupees.

512,848 of the 678,770 coconuts that were offered for auction were purchased. *(Economics Next)*

PRICES FOR VIETNAMESE COCONUTS REBOUND AFTER A SHARP DECLINE DURING COVID.

Following a sharp decline during the previous two years, dried coconut prices in Ben Tre Province, the Mekong Delta's center for coconut production, have recovered to VND3,300-4,200 (US$14-18 cents) per fruit.

According to Huynh Phuc Hau, who owns two hectares of coconut trees in the province's Giong Trom District, "the prices are the highest in the last two years" since nut shipments decreased as a result of the Covid epidemic.

He could have made VND6–10 million a month selling dried coconuts at the pre-pandemic pricing of VND5,800–6,700.

A dealer in Ben Tre City named Nguyen Van Binh claimed that due to the recent low pricing, many coconut farmers neglected their orchards and even shifted to cultivating other fruits, which led to a decreased yield and lower quality of coconut.

He can now buy 700–900 coconuts every day, which is half the amount he could buy at this time a few years ago.

The global market for coconuts has started to recover following the pandemic, according to Huynh Quang Duc, deputy director of the Ben Tre Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and prices are rising once more.

According to him, the province aspires to export the nut under official quotas to two important markets: the United States and China.

Ben Tre produces 690 million dried coconuts annually and has about 74,000 hectares of coconut groves, or 50% of the country's total area. The copra from these coconuts is utilised for processing, including oil extraction.

The main source of income for about 62% of the province's inhabitants comes from coconut trees. *(Retail News Asia)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

SARAWAK TO MAKE FERTILIZER, ANIMAL FOOD FROM BY-PRODUCTS OF OIL PALM

According to Datuk Seri Dr. Stephen Rundi Utom, the Minister for Sarawak Food Industry, Commodities, and Regional Development, the Malaysian state is moving toward using oil palm by-products as raw material to manufacture fertilizer, animal feed, and energy.

The strategy was designed to lessen the effects of rising fertilizer and animal feed prices. To lower the cost of meat and other imported goods, the focus is currently on animal feed. Soon after that, further products will be added, along with the fertilizer section.

According to Dr. Rundi, the Sarawak Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority has five oil palm mills under contract to produce animal feed utilising their by-products. The capacity will be able to produce 100,000 MT annually, or roughly 10% of what the state needs. He continued by saying that there are already 85 oil palm mills running in Sarawak, which would be able to produce more animal feed than the state's needs. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

FIRST BIOFUEL PLANT OUTSIDE OF THE UAE TO BE ESTABLISHED BY LOOTAH BIOFUELS

According to a Zawya news release, Dubai-based Lootah Biofuels has reached an agreement to establish its first waste cooking oil biofuel production facility outside of the United Arab Emirates with Fenaka Corporation Limited, a state-owned utility company that provides electricity, water, and sewerage to the island communities of the Maldives. The Republic of the Maldives, one of the nations most concerned with environmental sustainability, has started a number of programmes to mitigate the country's consequences of climate change due to the proximity of the majority of the Maldivian islands to sea level.

The agreement was signed while a delegation from Lootah Biofuels, led by CEO Yousif bin Saeed Lootah, was in the Maldives at the government's invitation to discuss opportunities for collaboration and take advantage of the

company's experience in biofuel production. H.E. welcomed the intention to build a biofuel factory. The Maldives' Minister of Environment, Climate Change, and Technology, Aminath Shauna, stressed the Ministry's efforts to set up the required infrastructure so that biofuel production may begin there.

Due to its low cost, efficiency, and minimal carbon emissions, Lootah Biofuels makes biofuels from spent cooking oil that are used by fleets of large enterprises in the UAE. The company has seven privately owned biofuel stations in Dubai and Shanghai. It also has plans to establish a facility in Abu Dhabi and run stations in the remaining Emirates. The company produces more than 60 million gallons of biofuels annually and ships them to India in addition to other European nations like the Netherlands, Germany, and the UK. *(UCAP Newsletter)*

AHEAD OF RAMADAN, INDONESIAN PALM OIL EXPORTS TO MUSLIM NATIONS SOAR.

The increased demand for palm oil and its derivatives before the fasting month of Ramadan and the celebration of Eid Al-Fitri 1444 Hijri this year has pleased Indonesia's exporters of palm oil. Particularly in foreign nations with a majority of Muslims, the increased demand was evident.

According to data from the Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI), Egypt and Bangladesh have boosted their palm oil purchases as of February 2023. Bangladesh's imports increased by 289% to 115,000 MT, while Egypt's imports of palm oil increased by 142% to 81,000 MT.

The two nations raised their palm oil imports in order to meet their demands throughout Ramadan and in the run-up to Eid Al-Fitr. Prior to Ramadan, countries with a majority of Muslims often want more palm oil, according to Mukti Sardjono, executive director of GAPKI. According to the World Population Review, 153 million people in Bangladesh and 90 million people in Egypt identify as Muslims. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

USING AI TECHNOLOGY TO MONITOR THE HEALTH OF OIL PALM TREES IN MALAYSIA

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently signed by Dabeeo Inc., a geospatial information technology business, and Saba Legend, a Malaysian GIS company, with the goal of regularly monitoring tree health and quickly recognising malnourished palm trees through technical cooperation.

In a statement, Dabeeo revealed its intention to use ultra-precise 30-centimeter-level satellite photos to monitor Malaysia's palm tree plantations using artificial intelligence (AI) analytical technologies. A 300 square kilometer (or 42,000 football fields) area is covered by the palm oil plantation that has merged with Saba Legend. By utilizing Dabeeo's AI technology, the two businesses will collaboratively look for chances to investigate precision farming in order to reduce the time and money needed to manage large-scale farms. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

MOSQUITO HATER? A SMALL STUDY CONCLUDES THAT COCONUT SCENTS COULD HELP KEEP THEM AWAY

What makes a person particularly unappealing to mosquitoes? It might smell like coconut.

One of the more intriguing results of a tiny study published in the journal iScience examined whether various scented soaps increased or decreased human attractiveness to mosquitoes.

They discovered the solution wasn't as straightforward as "use this soap, not that soap."

The interaction of odours between human bodies and the items they utilised, on the other hand, turned out to be far more intricate.

According to the lead study author, Clement Vinauger, an assistant professor of biochemistry at Virginia Tech who researches the molecular genetics of how mosquitoes select their food, "it's a simple question with a very complex answer," "How the chemicals in the soap interact with the chemicals of the particular person is what matters most,"

That could account for why mosquitoes appeared to be attracted to lemony odours, whereas coconut tended to repel them.

An effective combination

Only female mosquitoes look for blood, and then only after mating, when they require the nutrients for the growth of their eggs.

They eat on sweet-smelling flowers the rest of the time.

"We are blurring the lines between humans and plants," Vinauger stated of the use of fragrant items on our skin. A single source that smells like both is available to mosquitoes.

More than 350 chemicals, some created by the body and others by bacteria that live on and in us, combine in a special way to create a person's aroma.

According to Ali Afify, an assistant professor of biology at Drexel University in Philadelphia who was not involved in the new study, everyone has the same molecules, just in varying concentrations, with some being more attractive to mosquitoes than others.

A few variables are well-known. The chemical ratios can shift during pregnancy or illness, changing how appealing you are to mosquitoes. Beer drinking and exercise both fall under this category. Lotions, soaps, and perfumes all have uses.

According to Afify, "everything you put on your skin can increase or decrease your attractiveness to mosquitoes."

Strange smells

Each of the four volunteers was instructed to wash with four different kinds of soap: Dial, Dove, Native, and Simple Truth in order to determine which chemicals would tip the scales in either direction. Each volunteer washed one forearm, leaving the other unwashed, and then put on nylon sleeves for an hour on both arms. With the other three soaps, they went through the same procedure. The researchers took off the odor-soaked sleeves once the hour was up. Each sleeve was placed in a cup, which was then placed in a mesh cage with Aedes aegypti mosquitoes. The species is widespread in the southern half of the country and as far north as Connecticut on the East Coast.

The results startled the experts since they determined which aroma in the cup attracted the most insects was the most desirable.

The citrus ingredient limonene, which is known to keep mosquitoes away, was present in all four soaps. But in three of the four soap operas, it didn't appear to matter. Mosquitoes found humans to be more alluring as a result.

The chemical terpene, which is frequently found in essential oils and gives cannabis its aroma, was present in greater concentrations in the odor samples taken from washed arms. It didn't seem to make sense that the terpenes in soap appeared to increase human attractiveness to mosquitoes.

According to Christopher Potter, an associate professor of neurology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Maryland who specializes in studying mosquito olfaction, "Terpenes tend to be repellent."

The lack of mosquito repellency of the soaps "suggests that what the mosquitos are picking

up on is far more complicated," said Potter, who was not involved in the new study.

According to him, rather than evoking those reactions directly, some smells might increase naturally occurring human repellant or enticing molecules.

Overall, the findings were modest and inconsistent for all chemical fragrances examined with the exception of one: coconut. Ultimately, the team identified four compounds that were connected to being slightly more enticing to mosquitoes and three that appeared to repel them.

It supports earlier research that indicated mosquitoes dislike coconut-scented items, thus using them is now the safest course of action, according to Vinauger.

The team's latest study was a proof-of-concept study, with the goal of determining whether or not there was a phenomenon that called for further investigation. It is yet unknown whether the smell of coconuts deters mosquitoes on their own or whether it amplifies a repellent molecule found naturally on human skin. It's also not obvious if it holds true for all 200 or so mosquito species that bite people, or if it only applies to the Aedes aegypti insects employed in the study.

It's unlikely that a single scent or chemical will be completely responsible for how appealing a person is to mosquitoes due to the complexity of odors (the strawberry aroma, for example, is created by a particular combination of roughly 12 compounds).

There won't be just one factor that is the "smoking gun" that explains attraction, according to Potter. "Some may play a stronger role. *(Yahoo News)*

PERSPECTIVES ON A 'MAGICAL FORM' OF COCONUT KNOWN FOR ITS 'INCREDIBLE HEALTH BENEFITS'

We are constantly searching for the greatest foods and beverages since we need to eat things that boost our immune systems and general wellness. Additionally, we frequently discover some lesser-known artefacts while on our hunt! We're here to tell you about one such discovery that is rising to fame because of its "outstanding health benefits" today.

Using coconut water and kefir grains, which are a fantastic source of calcium, protein, and B vitamins, Lovneet Batra, a dietician, shared on Instagram how nutritious coconut kefir is.

In practically every manner you can think of, the coconut is a miraculous meal. The way we consume coconut has also advanced significantly. But beyond these healthier forms of coconut, there is a magical form that many of us are unaware of or do not even consider incorporating into our daily routines, she continued, mentioning coconut kefir, a beverage that is "more and more popular due to its incredible health benefits." Coconut kefir is simply coconut water that has been fermented with kefir grains.

Immune system booster–We know that probiotics are the unique powers of the microbial world, and coconut kefir is one of the best probiotic meals available. Lactobacillus kefiri, which aids in the defense against dangerous bacteria like salmonella and E, is present in significant levels. Coli. Additionally, studies on kefir have indicated that it can lower blood pressure and cholesterol.

Enhances bone health–Coconut water kefir has a potassium content comparable to that of a banana. Potassium can lower the risk of osteoporosis and help stop the decrease of bone mineral density.

Skin care–When our gut is out of whack, it can send signals to our skin that throw off its natural equilibrium and lead to a variety of issues like acne rashes, psoriasis, and eczema. The health of our greatest organ, the skin, is supported by kefir by assisting in the resurgence of beneficial bacteria.

Registered dietician Garima Goyal noted that coconut kefir functions similarly to dairy kefir,

which is made with fermented cow, goat, or sheep milk. Both provide energy for the good bacteria in the gut.

According to Dr. Priyanka Rohatgi, head clinical dietician at Apollo Hospitals in Bangalore, kefir promotes the development of good bacteria in our guts. "These beneficial bacteria protect the gut from illnesses and dangerous bacteria. They also aid in promoting healthy digestion and immune system function. Potassium-rich coconut water kefir helps to prevent the loss of bone mineral density and lowers the risk of osteoporosis. High dietary potassium is linked to a lower risk of stroke and a lower death rate, according to Dr. Rohatgi.

Dr. Rohatgi claims that the product's good bacteria also aids in the treatment of some inflammatory bowel disease symptoms as well as diarrhea, urinary tract infections, respiratory infections, bacterial vaginal infections, and diarrhea. *(The Indian Express)*

COCONUT RECIPE

KOURT'S COCONUT PUDDING RECIPE

Kourt may have a super clean diet totally dialed, but she also knows how to indulge and quite frankly, live. While some of her favorite treats are a bit naughty (she typically steers clear of gluten, but sometimes she just needs a classic baguette, cookie, or baked goodie) some of her special treats are actually completely healthy.

Take this coconut pudding, for example. It's creamy. It's sweet. It's decadent. It's straight-up delightful. It's super refreshing on a warm summer day as well.

Ingredients

1. Coconut meat (the equivalent of 3 coconuts)
2. 2/3 cup coconut water (or the water from one coconut if you purchased whole, opened coconuts. Kourt likes to sip the water from the other two while she makes this recipe.)
3. ½ teaspoon Madagascar vanilla powder
4. A few drops of fresh lime juice

Instructions

1. Blend all ingredients in a high-powered blender until totally smooth.
2. Pour into a bowl and refrigerate.
3. When cool, serve just like a pudding with whatever toppings your heart desires and enjoy!

(Poosh)

STATISTICS

Table 2. Indonesia's Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut, 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	9,526	15,798	10,653	18,050	8,167	8,922
February	11,432	19,023	8,742	14,351	8,690	9,655
March	12,452	20,138	11,433	15,740	9,478	10,140
April	13,159	21,684	10,006	13,741	7,557	8,109
May	8,609	14,952	5,690	9,170		
June	11,249	18,783	8,655	11,654		
July	10,838	19,337	7,999	10,644		
August	13,538	22,432	10,267	12,582		
September	12,388	21,517	9,591	12,046		
October	12,348	20,096	8,579	10,762		
November	13,271	22,897	8,867	9,728		
December	11,123	18,016	9,972	10,921		
Total	**139,933**	**234,673**	**110,455**	**149,388**	**33,893**	**36,826**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 3. Philippines' Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut (in MT), 2020 – 2023

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	11,816	10,523	11,810	8,086
February	14,202	11,976	14,603	12,072
March	13,296	13,266	18,636	14,485
April	8,336	10,995	14,274	
May	10,723	11,933	13,147	
June	12,347	13,990	13,725	
July	14,982	13,669	10,737	
August	13,103	15,302	11,722	
September	13,678	14,920	13,174	
October	13,170	16,118	10,512	
November	9,874	16,415	11,531	
December	9,673	14,703	13,059	
Total	**145,200**	**163,810**	**156,930**	**34,643**

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 4. Sri Lanka's Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut (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	1,515	4,827	3,049	8,334	2,359	4,418
February	2,297	6,708	2,988	8,049	2,658	5,168
March	3,125	9,442	3,822	8,900	2,759	5,677
April	2,234	7,150	3,197	7,954	2,110	4,295
May	2,701	8,789	3,692	8,533		
June	2,785	8,593	4,118	9,753		
July	3,476	10,374	3,315	7,374		
August	3,679	10,861	4,121	8,987		
September	3,206	9,151	3,543	7,026		
October	4,141	11,981	3,795	6,910		
November	3,779	10,783	4,111	7,163		
December	3,178	9,188	4,040	7,128		
Total	**36,116**	**107,847**	**43,791**	**96,109**	**9,886**	**19,558**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 5. Export Volume of Desiccated Coconut by Country of Origin, 2023 (MT)

Month	Malaysia	Thailand	India	Brazil
January	675	8	251	7
February	1,019	62	138	2
March	947	32	293	6
April	634	36		1
May	823			
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	**4,098**	**137**	**682**	**16**

Source: ITC and Thai Custom

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Harnessing the Potential of Coconut Ecosystems

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- Sustainable Practices of reducing Carbon footprint and Community Engagement
- Empowering Communities for Climate Action and sustained coconut productivity: The Role of Education and Capacity Building

Call for Paper

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Paper Submision
September 15, 2023

IOP Publishing Scopus

Field Trip

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Manado, Indonesia

Contact Person: Mr. Klaudio (klaudio@coconutcommunity.org)

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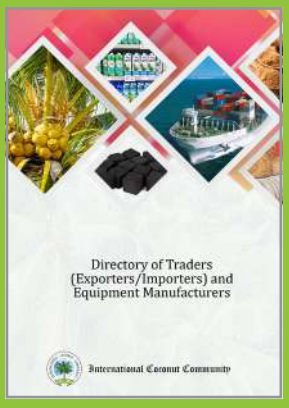

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Innovative Added-value Tender Coconut By-product

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:
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Mr. Bahari: bahari@coconutcommunity.org

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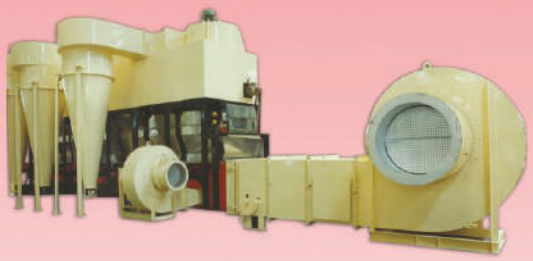

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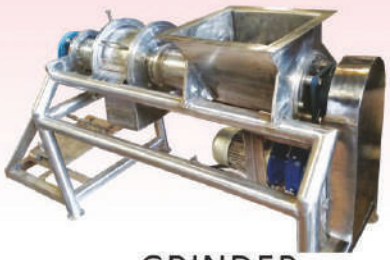

GRINDER

Output Capacity:
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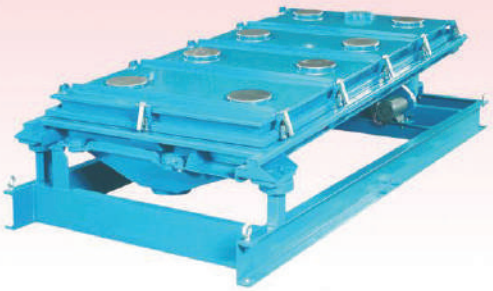
BLANCHER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 4000 Kgs/hr.



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