The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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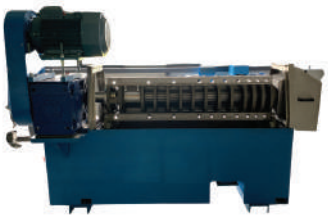

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

"Sustainable Coconut Farming Practices"

In an era where environmental preservation is paramount, sustainable coconut farming has emerged as a crucial approach. The concept of sustainable coconut farming practices fosters stable and continuous production, with enough resources for the future. Sustainable coconut farming practices encompass economic, social, and environmental considerations. Incorporating these three aspects is crucial for the long-term viability of the coconut industry and the well-being of communities as well as the protection of natural resources for future generations.

Fostering the ecosystem's resilience to be better able to tolerate and recover from disturbance and extreme climate events is critical. The El Niño phenomenon that is currently being experienced could lead to drier and warmer conditions in some regions, which might negatively affect coconut production. Reduced rainfall can impact coconut trees' water supply, potentially leading to decreased yields and smaller coconuts. Warmer temperatures could also impact the growth and development of coconuts. The extent of these impacts can vary depending on the specific location and duration of El Niño. Water management, drought-resistant coconut varieties, early warning systems, and disaster preparedness plans are important.

Promoting Biodiversity through a polyculture cultivation system with livestock or other suitable economic crops are also essential. Economic benefits may include increased income from multiple sources and to prevent the risk of total loss by planting one type of crop. The production of more and diverse food sources is substantial for the immediate food security of the farmers and their families as well as to the community. Improved income and the purchasing power of farmers contribute to poverty alleviation in coconut communities.

The environmental benefits include an increase in biodiversity and carbon sequestration, reduce soil losses from erosion. Managing whole systems & landscapes to offset Carbon emission could help in reducing the number of harmful emissions that contribute to global warming.

It is also essential to highlight the importance of certifications like Fair Trade and Organic, which can help ensure ethical practices and fair wages for farmers. This is not easy as the certification process can involve fees for inspections, audits, and administrative costs can be a barrier. While organic markets are growing, they might not be easily accessible for all farmers, leading to limited sales opportunities. Despite these challenges, many farmers find that the benefits of organic certification outweigh the difficulties. With the good support system by relevant stakeholders involved, and conscious choices, the farmers and their organizations could make it possible. Through responsible cultivation, innovative practices, Community engagement, community-based organizations, cooperatives, and farmer groups, improved value chain coordination, market resilience, and unwavering commitment, we can ensure that the "tree of life" continues to thrive and nourish our world.

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 India but increased in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

COPRA: In June 2023, the price of copra in Indonesia slightly decreased to US$595/MT, from US$599/MT in the previous month. However, compared to the same period in the previous year, the price dropped significantly by US$166/MT. Similarly, in the Philippines' domestic market, the price of copra levelled down from US$626/MT in May 2023 to US$620/MT in June 2023, a decrease of US$6/MT. The price was US$346/MT lower than the price a year ago, which was US$966/MT.

COCONUT OIL: In June 2023, the average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) decreased to US$993/MT. The price was 41% lower than the price a year ago, which was US$1,688/MT. In the Philippines, the average local price of coconut oil in June 2023 was US$1,077/MT which was slightly lower than the previous month's price. In Indonesia, the average local price of coconut oil decreased to US$1,013/MT in June 2023 from US$1,099/MT in May 2023. The price was comparably lower by US$468/MT as opposed to the price in June 2022.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic price of copra meal was quoted at US$269/MT in June 2023, which was lower than the previous month's price. Moreover, the price was US$31/MT higher than the price a year earlier. In Indonesia, the average domestic price of copra meal decreased to US$271/MT in June 2023, and was US$43/MT lower than the price a year earlier.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in June 2023 was US$1,690/MT, which was lower than to the previous month's price. Moreover, the price was US$718/MT lower than the price of the same month last year. In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in June 2023 was US$1,677/MT, which was lower than the price in May 2023. In the Philippines, the price of DC in the domestic market remained unchanged at US$2,039/MT in June 2023. Meanwhile, the Indonesian price (FOB) of DC was higher than the previous month's price at US$1,500/MT, but was lower compared to last year's price of US$1,713/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In the Philippines, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in June 2023 was US$342/MT, which was lower than the price in the previous month. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price slightly decreased to US$469/MT in June 2023. In Sri Lanka, the price of coconut shell charcoal in June 2023 was US$389/MT which was lower 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$46/MT for mix fiber and US$386-US$582/MT for bristle. In Indonesia, the price for mixed raw fiber remained unchanged at US$90/MT in June 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 Jun	2023 May	2022 Jun	2023 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	129	133	182	135
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	141	144	162	148
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	225	213	136	228
India (Domestic Kerala)	388	411	417	416
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	620	626	966	625
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	595	599	761	596
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,129	1,225	920	1,217
India (Dom. Kochi)	971	1,046	1,084	1,036
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	993	1,031	1,688	1,064
Philippines (Domestic)	1,077	1,120	n.q.	1,122
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,013	1,099	1,481	1,099
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,104	2,243	1,928	2,163
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,609	1,678	1,882	1,696
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	1,690	1,828	2,408	1,836
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,677	1,571	1,975	1,638
Indonesia (FOB)	1,500	1,475	1,713	1,429
India (Domestic)	1,343	1,439	1,484	1,420
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	269	277	238	289
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	303	329	212	306
Indonesia (Domestic)	271	285	314	287
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	342	345	385	355
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	389	423	376	383
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	469	473	571	467
India (Domestic)	338	340	450	367
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	46	49	64	45
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	386	410	273	410
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	582	522	486	505
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	90	90	190	90
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	928	993	1,555	1,014
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	817	934	1,501	937
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,007	988	1,752	1,122

Exchange Rate

Jun 30, '23 1 US$ = P55.29 or Rp15,034 or India Rs82.06 or SL Rs308.06

1 Euro = US$ 1.09 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF COIR

During the initial half of 2023, the coir fibre market exhibited subdued pricing levels subsequent to a decline observed in the preceding year. Notably, in Indonesia, the coir fibre price stabilized at a value of US$90 per metric ton during this period. A parallel trend was witnessed in Sri Lanka, where the average coir fibre price during January to June 2023 remained modest, recorded at USD45 per metric ton.

This diminution in prices can be primarily attributed to a pronounced dependency on the Chinese market for sourcing raw materials. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic engendered a substantial closure of the Chinese market, thereby disrupting the coherent supply chain for coir fibre and subsequently precipitating a considerable contraction in demand. This perturbation exerted notable downward pressure on prices, culminating in the substantial discounts that pervaded the market milieu.

Despite the multifarious challenges encountered by the coir market since the commencement of 2022, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka continued to assert their positions as principal exporters of coir-based commodities. According to the latest report from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India, the first half of 2023 witnessed an aggregate shipment volume of 557.5 thousand tons of coir and related products from India to the global marketplace. These exports accrued revenue totalling US$145 million, albeit marking an 11.7% contraction vis-à-vis the corresponding period in the preceding year. Prevalent within this export portfolio, coir pith and fibre persisted as the predominant product categories, collectively constituting over 98% of the aggregate volume and contributing 91% of the total export revenue during the aforementioned period.

Concurrently, Indonesia's export volume of coir-based products during the January-June 2023 interval amounted to 12,577 metric tons, depicting a discernible 19% contraction relative to the commensurate period in the antecedent

Figure 1. Export Volume of Coir Products from India (MT) January-June 2023

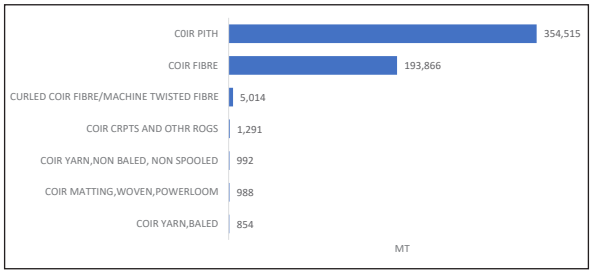
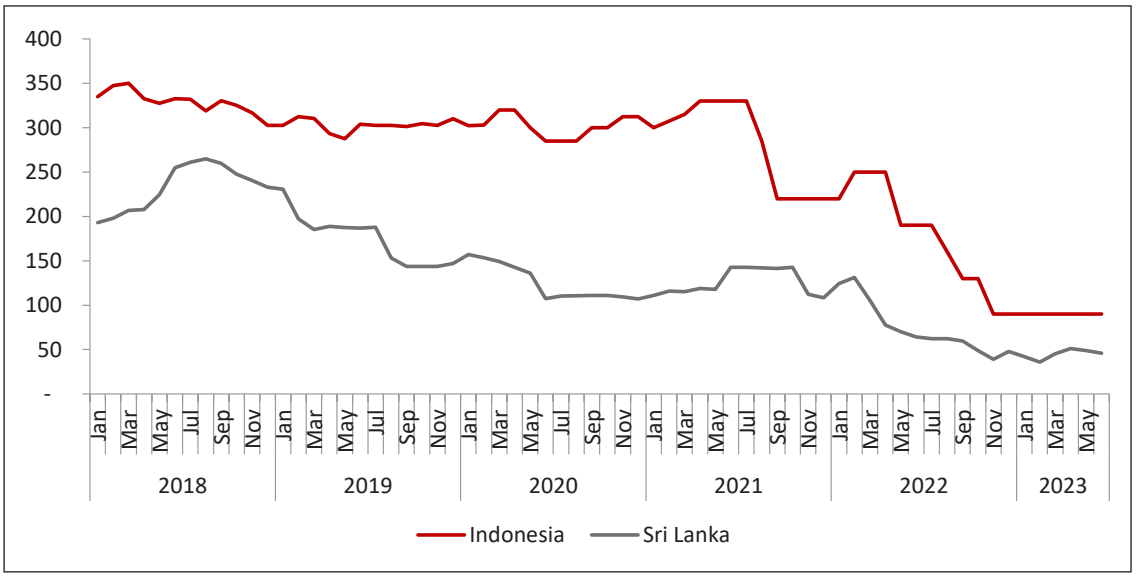
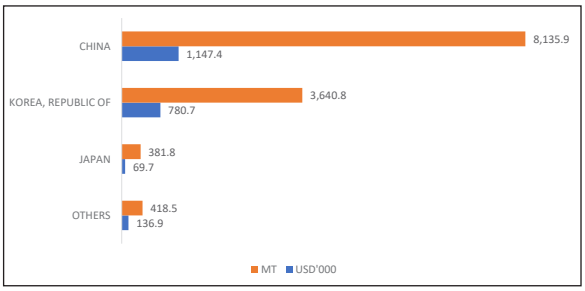


Figure 2. Average Monthly Price of Coir Fibre, January 2018 – June 2023 (US$/MT)



year, indicative of a palpable diminishment. In congruence with this volume contraction, export valuation exhibited a corresponding decline of 36%, emblematic of the attenuated pricing climate. China, South Korea, and Japan continued to persist as pivotal destinations for Indonesian coir products, jointly accounting for more than 97% of the total volume of coir commodities exported. Notably, coir fibre and coir pith constituted the principal product categories dispatched from Indonesia to the global export arena.

Figure 3. Export destinations of Coir Products from Indonesia, January—June 2023



Simultaneously, Sri Lanka recorded an appreciable augmentation in export revenue pertaining to coir-based products during the inaugural half of 2023. This marginal appreciation amounted to 1.27%, elevating the revenue from US$103.6 million during January-June 2022 to US$104.9 million during the corresponding timeframe in 2023. An instrumental driver of this escalation was the category of moulded coir products intended for horticultural utilization, a consistent frontrunner in Sri Lanka's coir export repertoire. These horticulturally oriented coir products notably contributed US$76.2 million, encompassing a significant proportion of more than 73% of the overall export value. This valuation marked a marginal uplift of 2% in comparison to the previous year's corresponding figures. Concomitantly, other product categories, including mattress fibre, twisted fibre, and coir pith, significantly bolstered the export revenue stream.

Foremost among the destinations for Sri Lanka's moulded coir products utilized in horticulture were Mexico, China, Morocco, Japan, South Korea, and Turkey. This assortment of markets collectively absorbed a substantial proportion of Sri Lanka's coir exports, underscoring the diversified global demand for these specialized commodities.

In conclusion, the coir fibre market landscape in the first half of 2023 is marked by intricate dynamics influenced by multifaceted factors. The prevailing trend of subdued coir fibre prices, as evidenced in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, can be ascribed primarily to the pronounced disruption in the global supply chain, particularly due to the ramifications of the Covid-19 pandemic. The consequential closure of the Chinese market, a pivotal hub in the coir industry's raw material sourcing and demand equation, played a pivotal role in exerting downward pressure on prices.

India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka have persistently maintained their roles as dominant exporters of coir-related commodities, despite grappling with the challenges posed by the evolving market dynamics since the preceding year. The Indian coir export landscape, while exhibiting a dip in volume compared to the previous year, remained substantive in terms of both volume and revenue. Coir pith and fibre remained the linchpins of this export portfolio, substantiating their integral role within the industry.

In Indonesia, the volume and value contractions in coir-based exports underscore the pronounced impact of the pricing climate and the concomitant challenges. However, strategic diversification across export destinations remains notable, with China, South Korea, and Japan collectively absorbing the majority of Indonesian coir exports.

Sri Lanka's coir export narrative in the initial half of 2023 is characterized by resilience, as evidenced by a marginal rise in export revenue. The contribution of moulded coir products geared towards horticultural applications stands out, forming a substantial portion of the overall export revenue. The market's receptiveness to these specialized products is exemplified by a diverse range of export destinations, reflecting the global demand for such commodities.

In totality, the coir fibre market's trajectory in the first half of 2023 underscores the complex interplay of market dynamics, supply chain disruptions, and demand shifts, culminating in distinct trends across different key players in the industry. As the global landscape continues to evolve, these insights provide a foundational understanding of the forces shaping the coir industry's performance and prospects.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE FOUND ON KAUAI: DOA NEWS RELEASE

On Kaua'i, two coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) were discovered in traps adjacent to a green waste transfer station near the Lhu'e Airport. The CRB (Oryctes rhinoceros) has never been discovered outside of O'ahu, Hawaii.

A live beetle was discovered in one of the traps close to the green waste transfer station by a survey team from the Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee (KISC). A dead CRB was discovered nearby in another trap by the survey crews.

Since CRB was first discovered on O'ahu in 2013, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has created an Incident Command Structure. With additional employees from KISC, the HDOA will expand the usage of the incident management system for the issue in Kaua'i. This week, four members of the CRB Response Team on O'ahu will also be sent to Kaua'i to help. The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Hawaii Department of Transportation are some of the partner organizations.

According to Sharon Hurd, chairperson of the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture, "early eradication efforts when CRB was first detected on O'ahu about 10 years ago were hampered by the lack of funding and lack of information about the pest." We value the support of our partner organizations and the extensive research that has gone into CRB eradication and control because we want to make sure this does not occur on Kaua'i.

Helmuth Rogg, administrator of HDOA's Plant Industry Division, stated that "a lot has been learned over the past years about the CRB life cycle, detection, management, containment, and treatment protocols." "With these recent discoveries on Kaua'i, we are concentrating on an immediate eradication response."

The following are part of the Kauai reaction plan:

- Executing visual surveys within a one-mile radius of the initial discoveries
- The placement of extra traps, including camera and ultraviolet traps, at 25 priority sites
- Following initial assessments by the response team, it may be possible to deploy CRB-detector dogs;
- Fumigate green waste at the transfer station;
- Review potential routes for CRB introduction to regions that are not yet infested.

On all neighboring islands, including Kauai, where pheromone traps have been strategically placed for more than five years at Nwiliwili Harbor and Lhu'e Airport, surveillance for CRB has been ongoing. The traps are used to find CRB infestations early on. Around O'ahu, more than 3,000 CRB traps have been placed to monitor infestation hotspots.

Residents on all islands are asked to inspect their compost bins and green garbage for CRB larvae since green waste makes an ideal breeding ground for the CRB. In July 2022, HDOA adopted an interim rule banning the movement of CRB host material inside the island of O'ahu and from O'ahu to neighbor islands in an effort to stop the spread of CRB to neighbor islands. Whole trees, green trash, compost, mulch, trimmings, fruit and vegetable scraps, and decomposing stumps of palm and plants allied to palms are just a few examples of CRB host material.

Currently, the HDOA receives around $2 million from the USDA year for CRB response operations and roughly $350,000 annually for canine support. In anticipation of the governor's approval, additional funds were appropriated this legislative session.

Because the adult beetles drill into the tops of the palm trees to ingest the sap, CRB is a significant pest of palm trees, especially coconut

palms. This damages fresh, unopened fronds, and when they fully open, they may snap and fall abruptly. The palm tree may perish if CRB kill or harm the developing point. Secondary bacterial or fungal infections could target the CRB-induced wounds and harm the tree as well. There have been reports of tree mortality after CRB attack ranging from 10% to 50%. After the trunk rots, dead trees turn into a safety risk because they could suddenly fall and cause harm to people or property.

In December 2013 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, CRBs were discovered for the first time in Hawaii. Since then, CRBs have been found in West O'ahu, from Mili to Pearl City and north to Kunia. Additionally, infestations have been found in Waimnalo and along the North Shore from Mokul'ia to Kahuku. Prior to present, CRB had not been found on any islands besides O'ahu. The University of Hawai'i will conduct molecular identification testing on tissue samples of the beetles found in Kaua'i in an effort to determine their origin.

In countries like India, the Philippines, Palau, Fiji, Wallis, Nukunono, American and Western Samoa, and Guam, it is a serious pest of palm trees. The precise route the beetles used to get to Hawaii remains unknown. *(Governor Josh Green)*

IN PREPARATION FOR WORLD COCONUT DAY IN 2023, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE'S INSPECTOR GENERAL PLANTED COCONUT TREES

In Gorontalo District, Gorontalo Province, Jan S. Maringka, the Inspector General (Irjen) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Kementan), planted coconut trees in anticipation of the celebration of World Coconut Day in 2023.

The 2023 World Coconut Day will take place at Gorontalo Regency in September of that year. The event of the highest international caliber will take place in Gorontalo Regency's Asparaga District.

"In preparation for hosting World Coconut Day, we are planting coconut trees in Gorontalo Regency. As part of the preparation or campaign for this action, the Inspectorate General and the Gorontalo Regional Government are working together, according to Jan S. Maringka.

He expects that this endeavor will be effective and have a favorable effect on the price of coconuts, particularly in Gorontalo.

All residents were invited to grow coconut palms in their yards by Jan Maringka. This promotes long-term family food security and is seen favorably by the ecological system.

Early maturing coconut trees, in his opinion, are appropriate for planting in yards with limited space. This is due to the early maturing coconut trees' protected surroundings, as well as their fronds, small stems, and fibrous roots.

Prior to that, Gorontalo Regent Nelson Pomalingo stated that 28 nations were prepared to attend the September 2023 World Coconut Day celebration.

As this activity is worldwide in scope, finalizing the preparations for its execution is necessary, according to Nelson.

The Regent asserts that a variety of stakeholders must work together, including local government organizations (OPD), the federal government, the International Coconut Community (ICC), universities, and regional and local committees. *(Antara)*

GOVT USES NEW TECH TO ENSURE COCONUT INDUSTRY RESILIENCE

The government will use new technologies, according to Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., to ensure that the coconut industry is resilient and contributes to the country's economy.

"Together, we will usher in a new era of progress by leveraging the power of the coconut to build

a better, self-sufficient, and prosperous country," declared President Marcos during the Philippine Coconut Authority's (PCA) 50th anniversary celebration in Pasay City.

The PCA must continue to step up its efforts to modernize the coconut sector and enhance the lives of coconut growers and their families, according to the Chief Executive. Additionally, he challenged the organization to expand its distribution to new areas and create new coconut-based goods.

He stated, "It is crucial that we continue to develop and enhance these goods in order to uncover new applications and broaden their distribution to new areas.

"Therefore, I urge the PCA to continue uplifting the lives of our coconut farmers and giving them the tools they need to better their circumstances, escape the grip of poverty, and dream bigger for themselves and their loved ones," he continued.

According to President Marcos, in order to speed up modernisation, the PCA must strengthen the implementation of its Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan.

As an agricultural country, the Philippines is a significant exporter of desiccated coconut, copra meal, and coconut oil.

Meanwhile, the President praised the PCA for its fifty years of work creating a "uniformed, effective, and globally competitive coconut industry."

Additionally, he commended the PCA members for their dedication in assisting in the development of programs and policies that have benefited coconut growers.

"With fifty years of dedicated work and with a view to advance the coconut industry, it is worth recognizing the hard work of the men and women of the PCA who have helped shape policies," the official added.

It should be recalled that Presidential Decree No. 232, which established the PCA as the single government organization charged with maximizing the development of the coconut industry, was issued in 1973.

The PCA's mission is to support coconut producers across the nation by offering services, fostering research and development, and distributing resources.

It has played a significant role in the development of the coconut industry. The sector is projected to have brought approximately P130 billion in 2021. Over 3 million Filipinos are employed in the sector as well.

Additionally, the organization is dedicated to assisting coconut growers lead better lifestyles. It has put into place a number of initiatives and programs to help coconut growers, including giving them access to loans, training, and market connections.

Additionally, the PCA is aiming to increase its distribution in other areas and create new coconut-based goods. The agency thinks it can contribute to raising the revenue of coconut farmers and enhancing their quality of life by creating new goods and broadening its market. *(Philippine Information Agency)*

COPRA PRICE SLUMP CONFIRMED BY PCA; AFFECTS 500,000 FARMERS

Yesterday, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) announced that copra farm gate prices have fallen, impacting at least 500,000 farmers.

According to PCA deputy administrator Roel Rosales, the farm gate rates for copra varied between P21 and P24 per kilo.

At a press conference, Rosales stated: "The phenomenon of the decline in the farm gate price of copra was due to the soft demand until now in the international market because of the effect of the pandemic, the Ukraine-Russian war."

He also mentioned that there is a lot of imported vegetable oil on the market.

"Many consumers choose palm oil since it is sold at a lower retail price than coconut oil in the market. The coconut oil is mostly intended for export. Because of this, the migration of important players has an impact on coconut prices. That would account for the declining farm gate price of copra, according to Rosales? The start of the "-ber" months is anticipated to increase the farm gate price of copra, according to the PCA official?"We anticipate that the demand for the oil will increase as soon as the '-ber' months start," he said.

Additional spending

In the meantime, the PCA plans to increase its allocation from the coco levy fund by P11 billion the following year in order to revive the coconut business.

"We are requesting P11 billion more for reinvestment. At the same meeting, PCA administrator Bernie Cruz stated, "We requested a bigger budget from the Department of Budget of Management, but we were given a cap of P1 billion.

The PCA receives a yearly allocation of 15%, or P5 billion, to conduct the Coconut Hybridization Program as one of the organizations charged with carrying out Republic Act 11524, also known as the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act (CFITF).

The Departments of Finance, Budget and Management, and Justice are represented on the management committee that oversees the CFITF.

Cruz claimed that because the coco levy fund does not cover the administrative expenditures, the P75 billion CFITF's implementing agencies had trouble finding employees or funding studies to advance the coconut business.

The dilemma of utilizing the coco levy cash to pay for administrative costs, he continued, is also a problem for the agencies since the Commission on Audit will point it out.

The PCA chief stated, "That is why we are seeking for a greater budget so that we can provide the farmers their much-needed monies that will help them more quickly.

If its proposal is approved, the PCA will utilize the extra money to build seed gardens in each province that grows coconuts.

Because these seed gardens will be able to supply the seeds required by that province, Cruz said, "We are asking for additional funds to establish seed gardens or seed farms per coconut-producing areas to address logistical problems."

For instance, in order to control the sickness that is afflicting the region, coconut seedlings from Bicol may only be sown there.

Farmers will obtain their seeds once the seed gardens have been constructed. The farmers' output will quadruple if they can replace the old trees, according to Cruz.

The PCA plans to invest the extra money in new coconut kinds to replace aging plants and increase productivity.

Because our trees are already old, we also buy copra from Indonesia and Papua New Guinea when our yield decreases. To replace the trees with a wider variety, we are requesting more money, Cruz said.

"Currently, 44 nuts per tree are produced annually. Farmers could double their income and maximize their operations if we could double it to 80 to 100 nuts per tree annually, which is the average in India and Indonesia."

According to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, the nation produced 14.93 million metric tons of coconuts in 2017, an increase of 1.45% from 14.71 million MT in 2016.

Rosales pointed out that the cash would also help the PCA's fertilization program for coconut salt.

"Since coconut trees love salt, we are recommending the salt fertilization program so that we can revive the coconut industry and assist the local salt sector. According to the program, each coconut tree will receive at least two kilos of salt per year for three years. "It will definitely increase the production," he said.

Cruz claims that under Executive Order 172, also known as the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) that former president Rodrigo Duterte signed on June 2, 2017, at least P5 billion from the coco tax money will be distributed each year to boost the coconut industry.

The initial P75 billion coconut levy fund was transferred in accordance with RA 11524 in order to benefit coconut growers and the industry's growth.

Cruz claimed that as part of the CFIDP's implementation, at least P65 million had been given to coconut growers and organizations. *(Philstar Global)*

HOW KERALA INTERRUPTED TRADE IN KANGAYAM, TAMIL NADU, AND RESTORED ITS DEFUNCT COPRA AND COCONUT OIL MARKETS

The largest market for copra and coconut oil in India, Arokya Oil Mill, was completely destroyed by a tremendous fire in the village of Savadipalayam, Kangayam, in Tirupur district. Two units of the Fire and Rescue Force fought to put out the fire for five hours; the mill was operated out of a rented structure.

According to a news report, the fire that damaged "several lakhs worth of coconuts and machinery" was caused by an electrical short-circuit. Partner of Arokya Oil Mill Muthukumar informed reporters in Kangayam that the mill, which was established in 2010, has insurance coverage.

A surya oil mill partner in kangayam committed suicide around two weeks earlier after his company suffered significant losses

Kangayam, formerly a thriving center for the production of coconut oil with the ability to process up to 3,000 tonnes of copra per day, is coming to a complete halt. The former president of the Kangayam Coconut Oil Manufacturers Association and a former AIADMK MLA, N S Natraj, and his son N Dhanapal, the current president of the association, run the NSN Group of Companies, the largest supplier of coconut oil and copra. "There is only one suicide case. But most of the oil mills in Kangayam are in suicide condition (sic)," Natraj said.

Kangayam is home to over 120 coconut oil mills, each of which has a daily processing capacity of 20 tonnes of copra. Natraj remarked, "But we are only operating at 10% capacity. In other words, whereas the mills in the Kangayam taluk are capable of processing 2,400 tonnes, they are now only processing 240 tonnes.

The mills invested an average of Rs 4–Rs 5 crore to install multi-ton expellers. The mill owners currently have a large debt load and a limited supply of copra to crush. In addition, due to the dedicated high-tension power supply, their minimum monthly electricity bill is in the neighborhood of Rs 45,000.

He attributed Kangayam's misfortune on Kerafed's acquisition of coconuts in Kerala. When the market price dropped to Rs 25, the top cooperative organization in Kerala purchased 11,790 tonnes of coconut at Rs 32 per kg. Up until May 16, this fiscal year, Kerafed purchased 12,219 tonnes from farmers for Rs 34 per kg (the market price had dropped to Rs 22).

Pushing MSMES in kerala and kangayam's failure

According to Chamunni V, chairman of the cooperative federation, Kerafed only bought coconut from 30,903 farmers in 2022–2023 and

2,395 farmers in 2023. "That is just a fraction of coconut farmers in Kerala," he claimed.

The Kerala government's 'Year of Enterprises' initiative, established to aid in the establishment of 1 lakh micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) in 2022–2023, significantly disturbed the copra and oil market in Kangayam.

By doggedly pursuing companies that sell falsified oils, the state government in Kerala also helped to foster an atmosphere in which tiny oil mills might prosper. Many businesses in Kerala purchased oil from Kangayam and repackaged it there. According to him, information about the raids in 2018 and 2019 as well as the names of brands that were blacklisted were widely disseminated over WhatsApp, raising public awareness. People no longer choose unfamiliar coconut oil brands from supermarkets; instead, they purchase their coconut oil from nearby mills, which have an air of purity about them, according to the dealer, whose business has also suffered. *(Onmanorama)*

MAKING ADDITIONAL MONEY BY INVESTING IN THE SALES OF COCONUTS

The coconut fruit (*Cocos nucifera*) is utilized frequently for its water, milk, oil, and delectable meat.

One of nature's greatest gifts to man is the coconut since it can be utilized to make a variety of goods that are used in manufacturing industries, making it profitable to start a coconut business.

The only species of the brilliant Cocos is the coconut, which is a member of the Arecaceae family. Farmers categorize coconut as a drupe, which combines the characteristics of a fruit, nut, and seed. Coconut is frequently referred to as the "tree of life" and has a variety of purposes.

Coconut farming is a cash-tree that gets relatively little attention, yet having amazing adaptability traits. It is a low-maintenance plant that may grow in a variety of climates and soil types. From the age of 4 or 7 years to 60 years, it produces continually and withstands adverse weather conditions. Growing coconuts is a gold mine.

Nigeria's Lagos State is the country's top coconut producer. Akwa Ibom, Cross Rivers, and Bayelsa are other states in Nigeria that produce a significant amount of coconuts. Each year, Nigeria produces roughly 300 tons of coconuts.

Since coconut can be processed to make virgin coconut oil, and virgin coconut oil is made from coconut milk and is also known as desiccated coconut, coconut milk, coconut skim milk, spray-dried coconut milk powder, coconut cream, coconut chips, and virgin coconut oil, investing in the sale of coconut would be a lucrative business. The value chains it uses can make space for new jobs. *(Leadership)*

FARMERS WANT TO USE CHICKENS AND PIGS TO ELIMINATE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLES

The farmers from North Shore Stables were committed to finding an all-natural cure for the ravenous rhinoceros beetles that devoured coconuts.

The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Team has experienced record-breaking trap catches over the last six months, and they are continuing to rise throughout Central, West, and North Oahu, as well as intermittently along the Windward shore.

Recently, the insects were found in Kauai as well.

Using pigs and hens can help reduce invasive species like CRB and safeguard the food supply, said to Adam Lee, CEO of North Shore Stables.

"So, we have to look at eradication in natural and organic ways because poisoning a tree

threatens future people, like keiki, who stumble upon that tree, drink a coconut, and didn't know maybe years before that there was some type of toxic that was used to treat a problem that maybe has another solution," said Lee.

The co-owner of North Shore Stables, Bronson Calpito, claimed to have spent a few weeks teaching five of his pigs how to find and consume the beetles.

By watching how quickly the pigs rooted out the insects and consumed them, scientists could also gauge how quickly they could complete the task.

"We put the grubs and beetles in, and we gave them about 20 minutes, the pigs to work on a pile," explained Calpito. They had over 300 grubs, but after 20 minutes, we only discovered, I believe, 20 grubs.

"The state's CRB task force did a heroic job collecting data and identifying hot spots on Oahu," said Sharon Hurd, director of the state Department of Agriculture. We can now send teams of pigs and chicks to heavily contaminated areas thanks to the data.

According to the state, data will be gathered to determine how beneficial this option is.

The task force advises clearing out all plant waste, including mulch, compost, trimmings, and wood, to prevent them from becoming breeding grounds for CRBs.

The general population is also asked to dispose their green trash in containers provided by their local governments or at facilities like Hawaiian Earth Products. *(Hawaii News Now)*

THE QUEZON COCONUT INDUSTRY IS PUT ON TRACK BY A ROADMAP WORKSHOP

A recent workshop held in this city has prepared the way for the creation of an extensive roadmap intended to sculpt the future of the coconut sector in Quezon province.

The workshop, which took place in May, was organized by the Philippine Coconut Authority Region IV, the Quezon Provincial Government's Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca).

Searca Director Dr. Glenn Gregorio noted that the workshop brought together important players from diverse sectors and that it produced noteworthy findings that will be essential inputs for the creation of the coconut roadmap document.

Dr. Ana Clarissa Mariano, the provincial agriculturist for Quezon, claims that the province has the greatest concentration of coconut trees as well as a sizable community of coconut producers.

She underlined the requirement for a comprehensive coconut plan that is adapted to the particular circumstances of the province.

An analysis of the state of the coconut industry in Quezon province was provided by OPAg economist Russell Manuba. He discussed the province's coconut industry's SWOT analysis, which included information obtained from stakeholders from earlier seminars in February 2023.

SWOT assessments of particular coconut-based products, such as virgin coconut oil, copra, coco sugar, and lambanog, conducted and presented by workshop participants, added to the initial SWOT findings.

After presenting the roadmap's vision, mission, goals, and key result areas (KRAs) and taking note of the stakeholders' views, planning officer John Arrish Ocampo led the discussions. This prepared the groundwork for the action planning, during which the participants selected particular tactics and KPIs in respect to the KRAs for each of the four coconut-based products.

"The workshop outputs will be consolidated and used as inputs to the coconut roadmap, which is anticipated to provide a comprehensive strategy and action plan to guide the growth and development of the Quezon province's coconut industry for long-term sustainability," Gregorio added.

40 representatives from the DA, the DA-Agricultural Training Institute Calabarzon, the Department of Trade and Industry-Quezon, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority-Quezon, the National Dairy Authority, the Local Government of Agdangan-Office of the Municipal Agriculturist, the Pagbilao LGU, the Tayabas LGU, the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist Catanauan, the Southern Luzon State University, the Land Bank of the Philippines. *(Business Mirror)*

A PROFESSOR WHO USES COCONUT LEAVES TO MAKE 100% BIODEGRADABLE STRAWS HAS SOLD 20,000,000

India outlawed single-use plastic products like straws, plates, knives, and cutlery in July of last year. Sunbird Straws, a Bengaluru-based firm, has been contributing to the reduction of plastic pollution long before the ban, however, with its distinctive innovation.

Christ University Bengaluru assistant professor Saji Varghese crafts coconut leaf straws. He had the concept for these straws when he saw some dry coconut leaves scattered throughout the campus.

"A coconut tree loses up to six of its leaves yearly by nature. Considering how difficult it is to dispose of these leaves, they are simply burned. So in 2017, I made the decision to use coconut leaves to make an eco-friendly product, claims the 51-year-old.

He created distinctive straws out of coconut leaves in just two years. Saji claims that one coconut front that has dropped may be used to make over 200 straws.

The revolutionary multi-layered straw contains natural anti-fungal and hydrophobic outer and inner walls and was made using a chemical-free procedure. These can be used in any beverage for up to three hours and are completely biodegradable. The cost of each straw is Rs 5.

Saji asserts that she has become recognized internationally and has gotten orders for more than 20 million straws from more than ten nations. To make the drinking straws, he also works 100 rural women from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. *(The Better India)*

PRESIDENT MARCOS INSTRUCTS PCA TO SPEED UP MODERNIZATION OF THE COCONUT INDUSTRY AND IMPROVE THE LOT OF COCONUT FARMERS.

In order to ensure the resiliency of the coconut industry, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. directed the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) to accelerate the implementation of the development plan for industry modernisation and to invest in new technology.

The President said during the PCA's 50th anniversary celebration: "So, To speed up the modernization of the coconut sector and to better the lives of our coconut farmers and their families, the PCA must step up the implementation of the Coconut Farmers and sector Development Plan.

As we consider the past 50 years, we are reminded of the PCA's valuable history and the difficulties it overcame to reach its current position.

The President also urged the organization to keep improving the conditions of the coconut farmers, giving them the tools to take care of themselves and their families, and lifting them out of poverty.

According to Marcos, the agency must also be aware of the difficulties facing the coconut industry because climate change, pests, and diseases continue to pose a serious threat to

coconut trees, jeopardizing the sustainability of agriculture.

So, he advised PCA, "let's step up our efforts to address these problems and invest in technologies and programs that will both protect and assure the resilience of the coconut sector of our agriculture.

Generations have relied on coconut trees as a source of income, therefore Marcos stated that it is imperative for the nation to keep expanding and refining coconut byproducts "so that we can find new uses and expand its distribution to new markets."

The occasion serves to honor the hard work and dedication of coconut farmers who grow, care for, and feed hardy coconut trees that are essential to the development of a more robust coconut sector.

The President also took part in the "Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future of the Coconut Industry" National Coconut Tree-Planting Activity near Coconut Palace during the PCA anniversary.

Through Presidential Decree (PD) No. 232, s., the PCA was established on June 30, 1973. 1973, to encourage the industries for coconut and palm oil to grow more quickly.

By PD No. 582, s., it was altered. 1974, to incorporate the creation and execution of a national program for replacing coconut trees as well as the offering of free hybrid coconut seed nuts to coconut producers.

From 3.20 million metric tons (MMT) in the first quarter of 2022 to 3.26 MMT in the first quarter of 2023, the nation's coconut production climbed by 1.6 percent.

With 487.10 thousand MT, or 15.0% of the nation's total production of coconuts, in the first quarter of 2023, Davao Region led the way. Northern Mindanao and the Zamboanga Peninsula were the other top producing areas, each with a 13.6 percent share.

Coconut oil and other goods like copra meal and dried coconut, whose shipments fell in the first four months of 2023, are key exports from the Philippines.

Records reveal that from January to April 2022 to January to April 2023, coconut exports decreased by more than half, from USD1.04 billion to USD490.16 million.

The market for coconut goods was valued at USD20.24 billion in 2022, and from 2023 to 2030, it is anticipated to increase at an average annual rate of 8.4%.

Growing demand for coconut-based products in important developed countries and improved awareness of the advantages of coconuts are two factors contributing to growth. *(Philippine Information Agency)*

A NEW COCONUT PROCESSING PLANT OCCURS IN ORIENTAL MISAMIS

The proposed building of a P120 million coconut processing factory in Balingasag town, Misamis Oriental province, is estimated to create at least 500 employment.

The First Integrated Community Cooperative (Ficco) first submitted the initiative two years ago, according to a statement from Provincial Board Member Erik Khu. He said that this year is the ideal time to do feasibility studies.

Given that they can process eight by-products from a single fruit-bearing coconut tree, "Ficco can afford to buy it at P15 per kilo," he said.

A piece of equipment would be purchased and housed at an eight-hectare area in Barangay San Isidro, Balingasag, according to the Ficco report. The facility should initially launch on July 8 based on its prediction.

While the fruit and juice from coconuts can generate coconut flesh, starch, and oil, the processing plant can also produce long and

short coconut fibers, coco peat, activated carbon, and powder for briquettes.

On May 24, Khu announced that Ficco would host a job fair just for coconut farmers for the processing plant in collaboration with the Balingasag municipal government and the province labor and employment office.

To reach the goal of 60,000 coco drupes every day, he stated every village in the town will get a quota of 7,500 coconut trees.

Additionally, Ficco had a memorandum of understanding with Del Monte Philippines Inc., which is based in Bugo village here, as the buyer of eligible coconuts for the soon-to-be-sold tetra-packs of buko juice. *(The Manila Times)*

ON PCA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY, PBBM WILL GRACE NATIONAL COCONUT TREE PLANTING

The planting of a national coconut tree is expected to be presided over by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. as part of the Philippine Coconut Authority's (PCA) 50th anniversary celebrations.

The PCA's golden anniversary celebration, with the theme "Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future of the Coconut Industry," will honor the Authority's achievements throughout its first 50 years of advancing the coconut business despite obstacles and disappointments.

The celebration will also draw attention to the enormous potential the coconut business still has to spur economic growth and improve the standard of living for the nation's coconut farmers.

Despite recent stagnation and decrease, the Philippines still ranks second to Indonesia in terms of worldwide coconut production, and the coconut industry continues to be one of the nation's top dollar-earning exports.

A revived coconut industry is crucial to the President's objective of agricultural development and modernization as a source of economic growth and employment, according to PCA administrator Bernie F. Cruz, who also underlined the President's choice to personally conduct the national ceremony to plant coconut trees.

Cruz said in a news release that the ceremonial tree-planting will not only commemorate the 50th anniversary of the PCA's founding but will also symbolize the PCA sowing the seeds for a revival of coconut production in the nation, the effects of which will be felt throughout this Administration and beyond.

In the long run, he continued, "we expect to reverse the trends of declining growth rate and share to GDP of the coconut industry, and significantly increase and even double coconut farmers' incomes. This will be accomplished through increased productivity, product diversification, and engaging our farmers in higher value-adding activities.

In accordance with the new vision of a unified, globally competitive, and efficient coconut industry, the PCA, which was established on June 30, 1973 by Presidential Decree 232, is the only government organization charged with developing the coconut industry to its maximum potential.

By virtue of Presidential Decree 961, which first codified the laws governing the growth of the nation's coconut and other palm oil industries, and Presidential Decree 1468, also known as the "Revised Coconut Industry Code," which currently serves as the PCA Charter, it was made an independent public corporation.

Currently, the PCA's primary responsibilities include enhancing the output and productivity of coconut farms; conducting research and development, including studying the market and promoting newly developed high-value coconut products and byproducts; developing infrastructure, particularly seed farms,

research-based plantations, and post-harvest facilities; and institutionalizing coconut farmers' organizations and businesses.

The "Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act," also known as Republic Act 11524, was passed in 2021, marking a crucial turning point for the coconut sector.

The law mandated the transfer of an initial PHP75 billion in total coconut levy funds to a trust fund, which would then be used in accordance with the PCA's Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) for the benefit of coconut farmers and the growth of the coconut industry.

On June 2, 2022, former President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Executive Order No. 172 approving the CFIDP, causing Plan implementation to start at a fortunate time just at the start of President Marcos' administration, who has made the growth and modernization of the agriculture sector a high priority.

Cruz was nominated by Marcos to serve as the PCA's interim administrator and CEO on November 11, 2022. On December 12, 2022, the PCA Board subsequently proclaimed him to be the properly elected administrator and CEO.

President Marcos leads the PCA Board in his capacity as concurrent secretary of agriculture, while Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban serves as an ex-officio member.

Cruz emphasized the significance of the President Marcos' attendance in the Authority's 50th anniversary celebration, which was held during the term of his father, the late former President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr.

"By establishing the PCA, former President Marcos recognized the necessity of integrating and coordinating the government's "then-diffuse efforts" to support the rapid expansion of the coconut and other palm oil industries. Although we have made significant progress, we still face many of the same problems today, especially as the CFIDP is being implemented by 15 implementing agencies, including the PCA, Cruz added.

"We feel that our current president Marcos is aware of the necessity to further bolster the government's convergence efforts in order to effectively reinvigorate the coconut industry, which explains why he has chosen to attach such significance to the 50th anniversary of the PCA. We are thrilled to have him join us at this historic occasion, he continued. in *(the Philippines)*

PAVAGADH HILLS' GREEN COVER IS IMPROVED BY COCONUT HUSK

Coconuts, which caused a stir in Pavagadh lately when the Mahakali temple trust and district administration forbade offering of peeled coconuts, are now being recognized as a significant source of the hill's vegetation.

The cocopeat formed from its husks is obtained by the forest department and used for plantations.

At the Mahakali temple, thousands of dried coconuts are donated each day. Additionally, they cause a lot of coconut husk to accumulate in stores and at the stand where coconuts are broken. When individuals burn the husk to get rid of it, it litters the Pavagadh jungles and occasionally even starts fires.

The forest department has begun producing cocopeat from coconut fiber in collaboration with the temple trust. It has set up equipment to turn the peels into cocopeat. Cocopeat is a lightweight material that can hold moisture. It is becoming more popular because it is the best material for growing saplings.

The department has hired the self-help organization Chhotardivav Van Vikas Sahabhagi Mandali to produce cocopeat. The temple trust provided funding in installments for the renovation. The undertaking began in August of the previous year.

Using cocopeat, the forest agency planted 42,000 saplings in 10 hectares of land at Navlakhi Kothar, 32,000 seedlings in 20 hectares of land at Pavagadh's foothills, and 2,500 saplings on the route to Maachi. It will plant 4,444 trees around the dining hall that the temple trust is building and 11,111 trees around the Mahakali temple in the coming days.

The forest agency will also use cocopeat in seed balls to ensure planted in difficult-to-reach alpine terrains. It might even sell any extra cocopeat in the future.

Currently, eight to ten families are supported while producing 15 to 20 kg of cocopeat each day. from *(The Times of India)*

ESTABLISH COIR TO END COCONUT FARM WASTE

The Regional Inclusive Innovation Center (RIIC) in Eastern Visayas has identified coir as a priority to address environmental issues and boost income for coconut growers in the region. A regional coir roadmap for innovation was developed by representatives from national government agencies and academia, aiming to harness existing resources to support processing development.

Assistant Regional Director Ma of the Department of Trade and Industry's Eastern Visayas office highlighted the significant potential of coir, especially with the growing interest in organic farming. However, the current extraction technique is labor-intensive, prompting the need for improvements. In 2021, data from the Philippine Coconut Authority showed that nine coir processors were operating in the provinces of Leyte and Southern Leyte, producing 4.391 hanks of fiber. A hank is a unit of measurement used to describe the length of yarn or a loose collection of fibers, typically measuring 770 meters long.

Processing coconut husks offers the production of fiber and peat, both of which have applications in the agricultural and industrial sectors. Coir fiber is used to create ropes, mattresses, automobile seats, cushions, and coco nets that prevent soil erosion. Peat, on the other hand, is increasingly utilized in horticulture as a substrate and media in hydroponic systems.

With the RIIC's focus on coir, Eastern Visayas aims to enhance the coir industry's efficiency and profitability while contributing to sustainable agricultural practices and economic growth in the region. By leveraging the diverse applications of coir fiber and peat, the region can achieve a positive impact on both the environment and the livelihood of coconut growers. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

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TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

This week, vegetable oil prices largely declined.

There were still few transactions for coconut oil on the Rotterdam market, and it was priced far higher than palm kernel oil. Another solitary trade was reported this week for $987.50/MT CIF, which is a little bit more than the transacted price of $980.00/MT from the previous trading week. Opening quotes for employment from July/August through January/February 2024 ranged from $995 to $1,040/MT CIF, ignoring harder palm oil. After that, prices largely started to decline in earlier positions and remained stable further out, but toward the weekend, prices as a whole started to decline under the effect of other vegetable oils. At $995-1,020/MT CIF, the market closed.

As it remained far less expensive than coconut oil, palm kernel oil was slightly more active than coconut oil. A few turnovers were reported during the week that ended at $875 and $890/MT CIF, which is less than the range from the previous week of $895-900/MT CIF. With levels at $930.00-957.50/MT CIF for positions from July/August through January/February 2024, the palm kernel oil market began out firmer than the coconut oil market. This continued last week's higher closing. After that, prices largely fell and ended the day between $880 and $905/MT CIF.

Over the course of the week, the price differential between coconut oil and palm kernel oil decreased in all positions, pausing the recent trend of increases. The weekly average decreased from $94.78/MT the previous week to $91.04/MT this week. Following is a breakdown of premiums per position: July/August $85.75 ($92.00 last week); August/September $84.00 ($98.00); September/October $89.00 ($101.00); October/November $94.00 ($99.50); November/December $97.00 ($98.50); December/January $95.00 ($98.50); and January/February 2024 $92.50 ($95.00).

Soybean futures at the CBOT Soya Complex market were higher earlier in the week, supported by the Midwest drought, which should have an impact on crop yields, as well as the decrease in crop ratings from 59% in good and excellent conditions to 54% now. Thoughts of rain, which can assist improve agricultural conditions, caused soybean futures to reverse course toward the end of the week and drop. As a result of the US EPA's announcement regarding the biofuel blending volume for the following three years, soybean oil futures initially fell, but they eventually recovered and closed in the green.

As a result of worries about how the El Nio catastrophe would affect production, the market for palm oil began off largely firmer. However, weakness continued to dominate the market over time, weighed down by weak demand. According to the cargo surveyors' report, Malaysian palm oil exports fell 14% between June 1 and 20 compared to the same time last month. Additionally, decreased CBOT soybean oil prices contributed to the pessimistic market mood. The market did, however, close higher due to positive spillover effects from the rebound of soybean oil, a weaker Malaysian ringgit, and persistent worries over the El Nio weather phenomena.

All tropical oil prices for the upcoming forward shipment all exhibited increases from their

corresponding levels one week prior. From $985.00 last week to $998.75/MT CIF at the moment, coconut oil increased by another $13.75; palm kernel oil recovered from last week's decline by increasing by $3.75 from $909.25 to $913.00/MT CIF; and palm oil increased by another $23.75 from $898.25 to $922.00/MT CIF. As a result, the price difference between coconut oil and palm kernel oil increased from $75.75/MT last week to $85.75/MT this week, but the difference between palm oil and coconut oil decreased from $86.75 to $76.75/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

This week, one trade was completed for $987.50/MT CIF for August/September delivery on the Rotterdam coconut oil market. The market was predominantly bearish.

vendors quoted $995 for July/August, $995 for August/September, $1,000 for September/October, $1,005 for October/November, $1,010 for November/December, $1,015 for December/January, and $1,020/MT CIF for January/February 2024, which was the final price agreed upon this week. With the exception of a handful who expressed interest in September/October, buyers hardly participated during the week and eventually withdrew at closing.

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

CONCUT EXPORTS WILL BE $1 BILLION THIS YEAR

According to the Vietnam Coconut Association, Vietnam will earn US$1 billion this year from exports of fresh coconuts and goods made from them, up from $900 million last year.

Vietnam's exports have increased as a result of China's increased coconut purchases, the report claimed.

Vietnam, which was not on the global coconut map five years ago, is now the fourth-largest exporter of coconuts and coconut-related goods in the Asia-Pacific region, according to the report.

According to Nguyen Dinh Tung, CEO of Vina T&T Import-Export Company, his business sends about 15 containers of fresh coconuts each month to the United States, Australia, South Korea, and Japan, and he added the number is rising.

There are plans to enhance exports, especially of jelly, according to Nguyen Van Thu, chairman of the G.C Food Joint Stock Company, which operates the largest coconut jelly plant in the nation.

The capacity of G.C Food's coconut jelly plant will be increased through increased investment to 20,000 to 30,000 tons annually,

with the products being shipped to the Chinese market.

2,800 tons of jelly were produced by the company in the first four months of this year, up 26% over the same period last year. Production for the entire year of the previous year was 6,500 tons.

In order to increase exports, Ben Tre Import-Export Joint Stock Corporation is increasing production of dry endosperm, oil, and milk from coconuts.

It claimed that many nations like its canned coconut juice.

China intends to import coconuts and coconut products from Vietnam under the official quota, according to Cao Ba Dang Khoa, acting general secretary of the Vietnam Coconut Association.

Most coconut-based goods are popular with Chinese customers, he claimed.

According to the Plant Protection Department, the United States would think about allowing more fresh coconut fruits imports from Vietnam in the second half of this year.

A programme by the agriculture ministry to produce important cash crops up until 2030 now includes coconut.

The Vietnam Coconut Association is creating environmentally friendly growing areas and helping to promote exports to China, Japan, and the EU.

Statistics from the Ministry of Industry and Trade show that Vietnam grows 1.9 million tons of coconuts annually on 188,000 hectares of land.

Khoa predicted that the coconut business will prosper due to the high demand for its goods and the rising appeal of cosmetics and other beauty items made from the nut on a global scale.

The coconut sector is expected to increase by 10% annually until 2025, according to the International Coconut Community, with growth of 15–36% expected for some specific goods such coconut cream, juice, oil, and jelly. *(VN Express)*

AS PRICES DROP BY RS 3, COCONUT FARMERS ARE IN A PIACE AND ASK FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

Coconut producers in the area have suffered greatly as a result of the recent fall in coconut prices. V Veerasenan, a Pattukkottai-based coconut farmer, claims that the cost of a coconut has decreased by Rs 3 during the past few weeks.

Although coconut prices have been low for a while, the recent decrease has come as more of a shock to the farmers, who are now asking the government for urgent measures to remedy the situation.

Sources claim that 90,000 acres in the district are used for the cultivation of coconuts, the most of which are located in the coastal blocks of Pattukottai, Madukkur, Pervurani, and Sethubachathiram as well as the interior blocks of Orathanadu and Tiruvonam. Farmers are only offered a procurement price of about Rs 8 per coconut, but consumers spend more than Rs 15.

According to Veerasenan, this has increased farmers' losses since "even though the labor cost for plucking, collecting, and dehusking remains the same, the procurement price has decreased." The treasurer of the panchayat union unit of the Tamil Nadu Coconut Farmers' Association, P Karunamurthy of Pazhayanagaram village near Peravurani, claims that for every coconut sold for Rs 8 the farmers must pay Rs 4 for picking, collecting, de-husking, transporting, etc.

At a cost of Rs 4 per coconut, he claimed, "We cannot even maintain our groves." Not all farmers can produce copra, despite marketing committees in Pattukkottai, Orathanadu,

Thanjavur, and Kumbakonam purchasing it for a fair price of Rs 109 per kg as opposed to the open market price of Rs 85 per kg.

Only the wealthy farmers can produce copra because extensive drying yards are required, claims Karunamurthy. Veerasenan also emphasizes that the district has a dearth of skilled laborers, which is necessary for producing copra.

Karunamurthy demanded a rise in the price of copra to Rs 200 per kg and suggested that the government purchase de-husked coconuts for Kerala at a rate of Rs 60 per kg. Veerasenan urged the district, particularly in the coconut trade center in Pattukkottai, to add value to coconuts. *(The New Indian Express)*

US$6.9M IS EARNED BY PINOY COCONUT EXPORTERS AT THE BANGKOK TRADE FAIR

During the five-day Thaifex-Anuga Asia 2023 trade exposition at Impact Muang Thong Thani Bangkok, Thailand, coconut export from the Philippines brought in US$6.90 million, or P381.55 million.

The Department of Trade and Industry's Export Marketing Bureau and the International Trade Center, in collaboration with the Philippine Trade and Investment Center-Bangkok and the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization Inc., organized the country's coconut exporters' participation under the Coconut Philippines Pavilion.

The project and the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan were both being implemented at the same time as the initiative.

According to Assistant Secretary Glenn Pearanda, in charge of the Trade Promotion Group, "The Philippine's participation in Thaifex-Anuga Asia served as a gateway to expanding horizons and improving the nation's standing as a reliable and premium source of coconut products."

The help, he added, "includes capacity-building initiatives in addition to support for trade fair participation, with the aim of enabling our exporters to better seize market access opportunities and facilitate business links with international markets, particularly in the EU (European Union)".

Two business organisations and nine coconut exporters displayed their premium coconut goods.

AG Pacific Nutriceuticals Corp., Ahya Coco Organic Food Manufacturing Corp., Amazing Foods Corp., Amparitas Food Products Manufacturing, Cocoplus Aquarian Development Corp., Dignity Products & Services Inc., Pasciolco Agri Ventures, Wellness Care International Corp., and Vegetari Vegetarian Products were some of these businesses.

United Coconut Association of the Philippines Inc. and Virgin Coconut Oil Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines, Inc. representatives from the industry also attended the event.

The Thaifex participation has been regarded as a significant platform for developing connections and improving the understanding of exhibitors on the demands and distribution routes that would effect the coconut sector. Thaifex is one of the top international trade events in Asia.

The exhibitors underlined that their participation opened up a world of global insights and prospects in addition to presenting their goods and services because it brought them qualified buyers and possible leads.

Philippine Ambassador Millicent Paredes urged the exhibitors to keep igniting their zeal for new chances to expand their companies, the economy, and the nation during the pavilion's opening ceremony. *(SunStar)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

PARTICIPANTS IN THE US OIL SEEDS INDUSTRY TALK ABOUT POTENTIAL CROPS FOR MAKING BIOFUELS.

In order to meet the rising demand for renewable biofuels, the US is building more facilities to do so, which has prompted academics to look into the best crops to use.

The Renewable Biofuel Industry Stakeholders and Businesses have been collected by the Agricultural Utilization and Research Institute to discuss a variety of oilseeds, both traditional and emergent, that the industry can target. Sunflowers, canola, camelina, and soybeans were contrasted. Despite having less oil than the other oilseeds, soybeans were found to be the most promising source for processing renewable fuels.

With 40–50% oil content compared to 18–21% in soybeans, sunflowers have more than double the oil content of soybeans. Sunflowers aren't the best crop, though, due to the paucity of available land. The next two crops are camelina and pennycress, both of which lack production data and acreage. Additionally, the majority of crush plants are unable to switch the crops they use. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

OLEON OPENS NEW OLEOCHEMICAL PLANT IN BELGIUM

Oleon, a major producer of oleochemicals in Europe, has constructed a new facility in Oelegem, close to Antwerp. A variety of oleochemical products, such as fatty acids, glycerin, esters, dimers technical oils, speciality oleochemicals, and biodiesel, can be made using the business's expertise in converting natural fats and oils. The company is a member of the Avril Group of Companies.

According to the business, the new plant used enzymatic esterification, which included producing esters using proteins or enzymes as natural building blocks. This was made feasible through technology created by Oleon in collaboration with seven other businesses, research institutions, and academic institutions as part of the European research initiative INCITE. The company claimed that using the technique decreased the process' working temperature while enhancing product quality. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

AMID EU RESTRICTIONS, GAPKI IS LOOKING FOR NEW EXPORT MARKETS FOR PALM OIL PRODUCTS.

According to the report posted, the Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI) is currently looking for new export markets for palm oil products to offset any potential decline in the European Union (EU) market, which has become increasingly constrained since the implementation of the EU deforestation-free regulation (EUDR).

According to GAPKI Chairman Eddy Martono, the Indonesian government and palm oil farmers are constantly looking for new markets to export their products to. The most recent of these initiatives was recently carried out in Eastern European nations. Eddy claimed that the industry is still maintaining its existing markets in addition to looking for new ones.

The application of a moratorium on palm oil licenses based on the presidential instruction (Inpres) No. 8/2018 on the delay and evaluation of palm oil licenses and productivity increase of oil palm plantations was cited as one example of how the Indonesian government has long anticipated forest-related policies like the EUDR. No new oil palm plantations have received a license since the moratorium took effect. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE PALM OIL INDUSTRY WILL BE INTRODUCED BY MPOB.

Relatedly, at the next Transfer of Technology (TOT) MPOB 2023 expo, the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) will present cutting-edge innovations created by its researchers for the industry. Annually, TOT showcases the most cutting-edge products and services developed by the firm.

A total of 712 innovations and 194 services have been created through R&D efforts up until 2022 with the intention of being commercialized and used by businesspeople and the industry. Planting materials, non-food items, and food goods made from palm oil are all examples of the technology developed by MPOB. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

A 100-GRAM GREEN COCONUT HAS THE FOLLOWING NUTRIENTS

In the heat, we see hawkers selling cool coconuts at each red light. The relaxing jelly-like flesh of the green unripe coconut can be consumed. Additionally, there is no shortage of coconut water, a favorite summer beverage for hydration. In addition to having a refreshing flavor, green coconuts are nutrient-rich. They are beneficial for digestion, have antioxidants, help with weight management, and their flesh includes healthy fatty acids that support brain function. Additionally fantastic for hydration, coconut water supports electrolyte balance.

Nutrition facts for a green coconut

A green coconut, sometimes referred to as a young or sensitive coconut, has a different nutritional profile than a mature coconut. According to Sameena Ansari, Senior Dietitian and Nutritionist at CARE Hospitals in Hi-Tec City, Hyderabad, the approximate nutritional value of a green coconut is listed below.

Contains in 100 grams of edible green coconut:

- Calories: 22 kcal
- Total fat: 0.2g
- Carbohydrates: 5.4g
- Fiber: 1.1 g
- Protein: 0.6 g
- Vitamin C: 2.4 mg
- Calcium: 24 mg
- Magnesium: 25 mg
- Potassium: 250 mg

Unripe and ripe green coconuts have differences

The jelly-like flesh of unripe green coconuts is often eaten by scooping it out and eating it. They are frequently relished as a cooling snack.

"The jelly-like flesh of unripe green coconuts is rich in electrolytes like potassium and magnesium, which can help replenish lost minerals and maintain hydration," said Ansari.

On the other side, people mostly eat mature green coconuts for their water. Coconut water, the liquid found inside mature green coconuts, is well known for its inherent sweetness and moisturizing qualities.

According to Ansari, "coconut water is a popular choice as a natural sports drink or a refreshing beverage because it is low in calories, fat-free, and contains electrolytes, vitamins, and minerals."

Benefits of coconut water for health

Unripe or ripe, green coconuts have a variety of health advantages. As Ansari describes them:

1. Hydration: Green coconuts are an excellent source of natural electrolytes, such as potassium, magnesium, and sodium, which can help replenish fluids and maintain proper hydration.

2. Nutrient-rich: They contain essential vitamins (such as vitamin C) and minerals (such

as calcium and magnesium), which support various bodily functions.

3. Antioxidant properties: Green coconuts contain antioxidants that help protect the body against damage caused by free radicals.

4. Digestive health: The fiber content in green coconuts can aid in digestion and promote a healthy gut.

5. Blood sugar control: The natural sugars present in green coconuts are relatively low and can be a healthier option compared to sugary beverages. They have a low glycemic index, which means they have a lesser impact on blood sugar levels.

6. Weight management: Green coconuts are low in calories and can be a satisfying and hydrating snack, making them suitable for those trying to manage their weight.

Can diabetics have coconut water or green coconuts?

Due to their low glycemic index, green coconuts have less of an effect on blood sugar levels. They have few calories as well. However, when consuming green coconuts, diabetic people must practice moderation.

In order to identify the right amount depending on individual needs and blood sugar control objectives, it is advised to speak with a healthcare provider or a qualified dietitian, according to Ansari. "The natural sugars present in coconut water can still affect blood sugar levels," she said.

Coconut water versus coconut meat

Coconut water and meat both have advantages in terms of nutrition. Comparatively speaking, coconut meat contains more calories, fat, and fiber than coconut water. Medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), which are readily digested and may provide a number of health benefits, are among the good fats included in it, according to Ansari.

While being low in calories and fat, coconut water is high in electrolytes, making it a great option for hydration.

Due to their ability to hydrate, green coconuts, especially their water, can be helpful to consume during the summer. They offer a cooling, natural substitute to sugary beverages and aid in replacing electrolytes lost via perspiration. As a healthier alternative to quench thirst and prevent dehydration, coconut water can be savored for its inherent sweetness, according to Ansari. *(The Indian Express)*

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT CANDIED CARROTS RECIPE

This recipe for coconut candied carrots is a delicious step up from your standard roasted carrots with a surprising addition of tasty coconut flakes.

Ingredients

1. 1 pound of carrots
2. 2 tablespoons of coconut oil
3. 3 tablespoons coconut sugar
4. ½ teaspoon salt
5. ¼ teaspoon pepper
6. ¼ cup flat leaf parsley
7. ¼ cup coconut flakes for topping

Instructions

1. Peel and slice the carrots into ½-inch coins.
2. Add the carrots to a large skillet and add about an inch of water to the pan. Bring the heat to medium for a couple of minutes, then lower to a simmer and cook until carrots are tender, about 10 minutes.
3. Drain the carrots and put them back into the pan. Add the coconut oil, coconut sugar, salt, and pepper. Cook for 3 minutes on medium or until the sugar is fully dissolved.
4. Remove the carrots from the pan. Chop the parsley and add to the carrots along with the coconut flakes, and these coconut candied carrots are ready to serve.

(Poosh)

STATISTICS

Table 1. SRI LANKA: Exports of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2021-2023 (In MT)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
January	4,832	6,161	5,362	112	206	119	3,475	1,436	674
February	6,810	9,765	6,925	232	155	146	2,359	1,580	891
March	10,169	9,714	9,457	135	249	230	2,125	1,322	1,297
April	5,475	4,796	5,847	88	138	161	1,415	1,012	1,647
May	6,432	5,143		113	143		1,404	1,216	
June	6,333	6,648		157	181		1,608	966	
July	6,953	5,189		204	242		1,855	1,280	
August	5,111	6,329		185	230		1,230	1,066	
September	6,757	5,232		126	130		1,631	978	
October	5,674	6,654		151	146		1,181	1,374	
November	4,416	4,371		107	96		1,325	1,022	
December	4,530	3,340		175	192		1,112	517	
Total	**73,492**	**73,342**	**27,591**	**1,785**	**2,108**	**656**	**20,720**	**13,769**	**4,509**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 2. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2021-2023 (US$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
January	253	270	196	1,308	1,380	1,512	305	432	345
February	250	277	160	1,398	1,288	1,362	301	353	300
March	251	255	171	1,263	1,310	1,291	359	393	260
April	254	255	169	1,125	1,434	1,167	359	387	338
May	256	243		1,119	1,160		376	364	
June	265	240		1,432	1,420		362	360	
July	282	222		1,197	859		381	514	
August	268	231		1,446	1,042		398	342	
September	256	212		1,271	1,067		432	399	
October	258	202		1,315	1,122		396	270	
November	281	182		1,666	1,179		439	309	
December	265	180		1,432	1,343		395	383	
Average	**262**	**231**	**174**	**1,331**	**1,217**	**1,333**	**375**	**375**	**311**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 3. SRI LANKA: Exports of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2021-2023 (In MT)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
January	115	82	27	909	800	742	4,000	3,119	2,175
February	112	76	97	603	609	461	4,011	3,411	2,561
March	117	172	58	682	625	249	5,569	3,360	2,237
April	146	57	42	194	1049	341	3,027	2,319	2,688
May	74	97		652	540		3,796	2,574	
June	111	87		517	945		3,052	3,784	
July	137	75		540	561		3,108	3,035	
August	55	52		874	628		2,870	3,324	
September	89	91		583	1004		2,816	2,849	
October	69	44		809	877		3,871	3,185	
November	23	107		728	571		3,197	1,815	
December	61	35		1100	871		3,250	2,148	
Total	**1,109**	**975**	**224**	**8,191**	**9,080**	**1,793**	**42,567**	**34,923**	**9,661**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 4. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2021-2023 (US$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
January	990	992	744	1,231	1,374	1,170	251	253	266
February	797	879	691	1,263	1,611	1,055	328	232	262
March	790	670	657	1,363	1,144	1,313	265	226	257
April	1022	774	619	1,216	1,136	1,344	259	266	306
May	796	813		1,221	1,211		245	258	
June	841	951		1,304	1,337		277	249	
July	796	856		1,352	1,266		248	278	
August	777	775		1,309	1,317		280	244	
September	807	627		1,394	1,194		336	225	
October	751	613		1,216	1,287		300	227	
November	804	685		1,518	1,210		273	245	
December	750	383		1,420	1,115		235	253	
Average	**827**	**752**	**678**	**1,317**	**1,267**	**1,220**	**275**	**246**	**273**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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International Coconut Community

Invited Speakers

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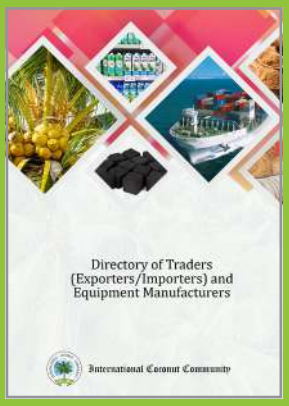

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GENERAL CRITERIA

- The competition open for all member countries.
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- 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. Klaudio: klaudio@coconutcommunity.org
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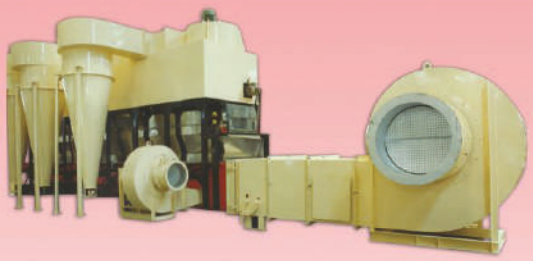

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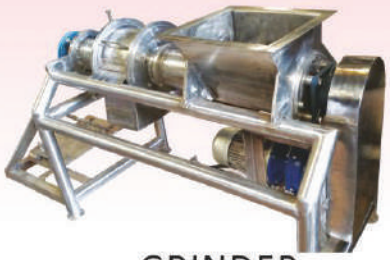

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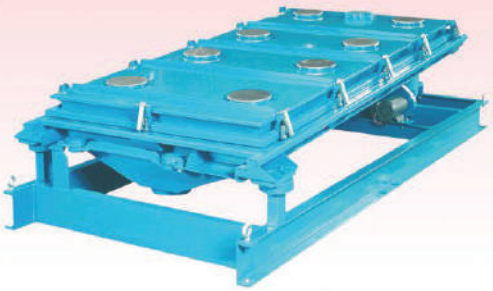

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The ***COCOMMUNITY*** is the monthly Newsletter of the INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY (ICC) incorporating current news, features, statistical data, business opportunities, and market information relating to the world coconut industry.

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