The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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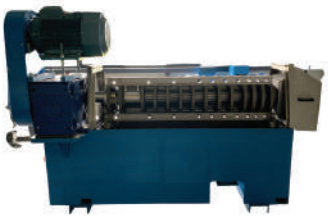

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

"Circular Economy Practices Emerge as Crucial for Coconut Sector Sustainability"

In a move towards a more sustainable and eco-friendly future, the coconut sector is increasingly turning to circular economy principles as a means of achieving long-term sustainability. Circular economy practices are proving to be a game-changer in the coconut industry, not only enhancing sustainability but also contributing to increased profitability.

The coconut sector, which serves as a vital source of livelihood for countless number of farmers and their families, industry workers and many communities worldwide, is confronted with mounting challenges. These challenges stem from resource depletion due to the lack of significant replanting program for unproductive palms, as well as pest and disease outbreaks, along with the absence of the implementation of good agricultural practices. The economic challenge faced by the coconut industries is their inability to fully harness the potential of all coconut parts, with certain regions or countries leaving valuable resources like coconut husk, coconut frond and coconut water underutilized. This situation calls for a move towards a circular economy approach.

A circular economy is an economic system designed to minimize waste and make the most of resources sustainably. In a circular economy, products, materials, and resources are used efficiently, and the lifespan of products is extended. One of the key aspects of the circular economy in the coconut sector is resource optimization through interplanting and diversification. Coconut farms are adopting practices such as intercropping, which involves planting complementary crops between coconut trees or livestock integration. This maximizes land use, reduces soil erosion, and increases biodiversity, all while maintaining or even boosting coconut yields. Additionally, coconut farmers are focusing on the efficient use of water and nutrients through organic farming practices. This not only conserves precious resources but also improves the quality of coconuts, resulting in higher market value. Implementing integrated pests management (IPM) techniques could reduce the need for the excessive pesticide use. This includes monitoring pests, using biological controls, and applying chemicals only when scientifically necessary. Implementing efficient irrigation systems, such as drip irrigation, can conserve water and ensure it's used optimally to meet coconut palm's needs.

Other principles of a circular economy include extending coconut product lifespan, recycling materials and components to create new products, and minimizing waste as well as using resources efficiently. Explore value-added products from husks, shells, water, dry leaves, reducing waste and creating additional revenue streams. The circular economy aims to create a more sustainable and regenerative economic model, reducing environmental impacts, conserving resources, and contributing to a greener future. It's seen as a way to address pressing global issues like resource scarcity and climate change while promoting economic growth and innovation.

Achieving optimal resource use and enhanced productivity in the coconut industry may depend on the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, including farmers, industries, government bodies, and associations. By fostering innovation, implementing sustainable practices, and enforcing regulations, we can pave the way for a circular and prosperous coconut economy. This partnership ensures a sustainable supply of raw materials, promotes eco-friendly farming, and supports fair pricing for farmers, all contributing to the industry's long-term success. Together, we can harness the full potential of the coconut while minimizing waste and safeguarding livelihoods.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

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

COPRA: In July 2023, the price of copra in Indonesia slightly decreased to US$592/MT, from US$595/MT in the previous month. Moreover, compared to the same period in the previous year, the price was significantly lower by US$99/MT. However, in the Philippines' domestic market, the price of copra levelled up from US$620/MT in June 2023 to US$642/MT in July 2023, an increase of US$22/MT. The price was US$155/MT lower than the price a year ago, which was US$797/MT. Price of copra in Sri Lanka was decreasing as well from US$1129/MT in June 2023 to US$1,020/MT in July 2023.

COCONUT OIL: In July 2023, the average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) increased to US$1,047/MT from US$993/MT in June 2023. The price was 31% lower than the price a year ago, which was US$1,517/MT. In the Philippines, the average local price of coconut oil was US$1,130/MT in July 2023. The price was US$352 was lower than the price a year earlier. In Indonesia, the average local price of coconut oil increased to US$1,021/MT in July 2023 from US$1,013/MT in June 2023. The price was comparably lower by US$310/MT as opposed to the price in June 2022. Meanwhile, in Sri Lanka price of coconut oil decreased to US$1,823/MT from US$2,104/MT in June 2023.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic price of copra meal was quoted at US$270/MT in July 2023, which was slightly higher than the previous month's price. Moreover, the price was US$22/MT higher than the price a year earlier. In Indonesia, the average domestic price of copra meal slightly decreased to US$270/MT in July 2023, and was US$18/MT lower than the price a year earlier.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in July 2023 was US$1,690/MT, which was remained unchanged to the previous month's price. Moreover, the price was US$617/MT lower than the price of the same month last year. In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in July 2023 was US$1,552/MT, which was lower than the price in June 2023. In the Philippines, the price of DC in the domestic market remained unchanged at US$2,039/MT in July 2023. Similarly, the Indonesian price (FOB) of DC remained stable at US$1,500/MT, but was lower compared to last year's price of US$1,540/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In the Philippines, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in July 2023 was US$351/MT, which was higher than the price in the previous month. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price slightly decreased to US$466/MT in July 2023. In Sri Lanka, the price of coconut shell charcoal in July 2023 was US$325/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$48/MT for mix fiber and US$399-US$619/MT for bristle. In Indonesia, the price for mixed raw fiber remained unchanged at US$90/MT in July 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 Jul	2023 Jun	2022 Jul	2023 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	121	129	158	133
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	142	141	141	147
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	200	225	147	224
India (Domestic Kerala)	375	388	388	410
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	642	620	797	627
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	592	595	691	596
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,020	1,129	887	1,190
India (Dom. Kochi)	974	971	1,058	1,027
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,047	993	1,517	1,061
Philippines (Domestic)	1,130	1,077	1,482	1,115
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,021	1,013	1,331	1,088
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,823	2,104	1,775	2,115
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,585	1,609	1,831	1,680
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	1,690	1,690	2,307	1,815
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,552	1,677	1,493	1,623
Indonesia (FOB)	1,500	1,500	1,540	1,439
India (Domestic)	1,389	1,343	1,442	1,416
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	270	269	248	286
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	286	303	241	303
Indonesia (Domestic)	270	271	288	285
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	351	342	364	355
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	325	389	385	374
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	466	469	550	466
India (Domestic)	338	338	494	363
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	48	46	62	45
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	399	386	324	409
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	619	582	485	521
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	90	90	190	90
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	998	928	1,301	1,012
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	879	817	1,057	928
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,136	1,007	1,533	1,124

Exchange Rate

Jul 31, '23 1 US$ = P54.85 or Rp115,094 or India Rs82.24 or SL Rs2320.22

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

MARKET REVIEW OF ACTIVATED CARBON

The global activated carbon market is poised for a deceleration in 2023 due to heightened economic instability on a global scale. Notably, during the January-July period of 2023, India, a prominent producer of activated carbon, recorded a 12.9% reduction in export volume compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. In the preceding year, exports from India reached 154,423.88 tons, representing a robust 17.6% increase, amounting to a value of US$311.80 million. During the first half of 2023, India exported activated carbon to 141 nations worldwide, with the United States maintaining its position as the primary importer. Germany, Turkey, Russia, Japan, and Belgium also featured prominently among importers of Indian activated carbon.

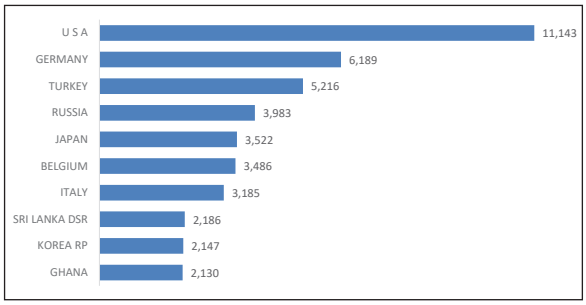
Sri Lanka, another significant producer of coconut shell-based activated carbon, encountered a negative trend in 2023, with export volume declining by 5% and earnings from activated carbon exports decreasing by 21% during the January-July period, as compared to the same period in 2022. Key importers of Sri Lankan activated carbon included the United States, China, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

The Philippines similarly experienced a reduction in activated carbon exports, with shipments totaling 27,001 tons in the January-May 2023 period, down from 34,779 tons in the corresponding period of 2022. Key importers of Philippine activated carbon encompassed Japan, Germany, the United States, South Korea, and China. This decline in exports can be primarily attributed to diminished demand in importing countries resulting from economic slowdown.

Indonesia, another notable producer of coconut shell-based activated carbon, displayed a declining trend during the January-July 2023 period, with a 12% decrease in activated carbon exports compared to the preceding year. Indonesia exported 10,623 tons of activated coconut shell charcoal-based carbon during this period, garnering export earnings of US$16.5 million.

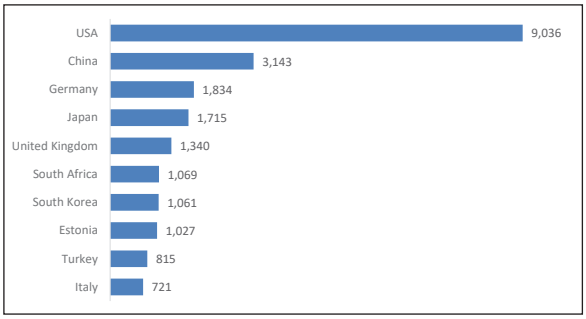
On the demand front, the United States, the largest importer of coconut shell-based

Figure 1. Top 10 Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from India, January-July 2023 (MT)



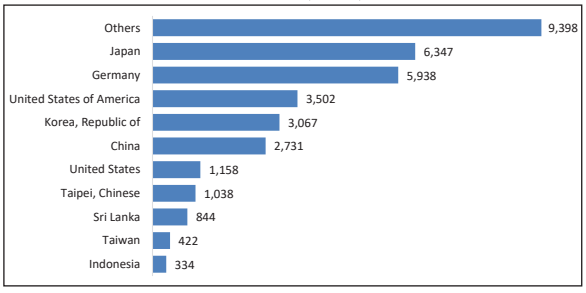
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India

Figure 2. Top 10 Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from Sri Lanka, January-July 2023 (MT)



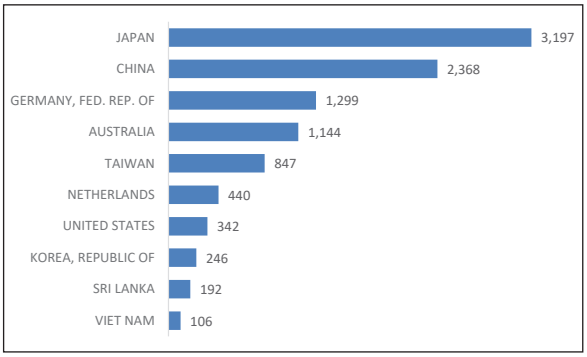
Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Figure 3. Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from Philippines, January-May 2023 (MT)



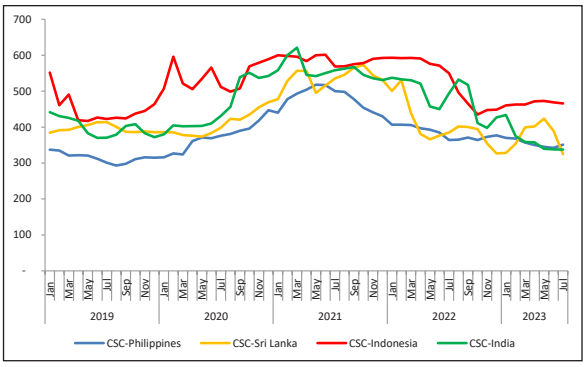
Source: UCAP

Figure 4. Top 10 Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from Indonesia, January-July 2023 (MT)



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Figure 5. Price of Coconut Shell Charcoal US$/MT (FOB) in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and India January 2019 –March 2023

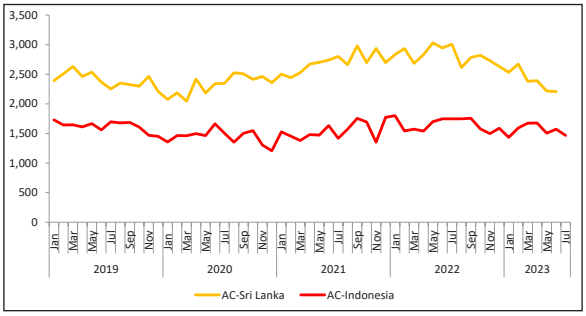


Source: ICC Database

activated carbon, saw a significant 24.6% reduction in imports during January-July 2023. It is worth mentioning that the U.S. import volume of activated carbon stood at 66,470 tons in 2022, reflecting a substantial 45% increase from the previous year. This decline in import activity can be largely attributed to the prevailing economic slowdown in the country.

In parallel, Japan recorded a 6% decrease in activated carbon imports during the January-July 2023 period compared to the corresponding period in 2022. In 2022, Japan imported 86,191 tons of activated carbon, valued at US$168.17 million, marking a 2% increase from the previous

Figure 6. Export Price of Activated Carbon US$/MT in Sri Lanka and Indonesia January 2019 – July 2023



Source: CDA, Sri Lanka and BPS Statistics Indonesia

year. The demand for activated carbon in Japan is driven by increased usage in water treatment and air purification, along with the expansion of the food and beverage processing industry.

In the context of diminished demand for activated carbon, the price of coconut shell charcoal as the primary raw material for carbon production experienced a downward trajectory across various producing nations. Over the period from January to July 2023, the price exhibited a downward trend in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and India, while remaining relatively stable in Indonesia. Prices for charcoal ranged from US$325/MT to US$466/MT in July 2023, underscoring the diversity of this market commodity.

Conversely, the export price of activated carbon demonstrated fluctuating patterns during the first half of 2023. For instance, in Indonesia, the price escalated from US$1,433/MT in January 2023 to US$1,675/MT in April 2023, only to decrease to US$1,468/MT by July 2023. Similarly, the price of activated carbon in Sri Lanka saw a decline from US$2,533/MT in January 2023 to US$2,397/MT in July 2023, reflecting a pronounced downtrend. These price fluctuations can be attributed to a range of factors, including shifts in demand and supply, production costs, and global economic conditions.

COMMUNITY NEWS

GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE COURSE AT COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE, SRI LANKA

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, and Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director, attended the Graduation Ceremony of the 3rd International Certificate Course for Coconut Development Officers, an ICC program organized by Coconut Research Institute - Sri Lanka (CRISL). Originally conducted virtually from October 4 to November 5, 2021, the course included a two-week practical session at CRI Campus from June 19 to July 4, 2023. Nine participants from six countries attended in person.

During their visit to CRI, ICC's ED and AD explored the Tissue Culture laboratory and discussed its activities with Dr. Vijitha, Head of TC division. Dr. Jelfina commended the progress and explored the possibility of sharing technology and capacity building with other ICC member countries.

Dr. Jelfina interacted with the course trainees, who expressed satisfaction with the program. Mr. David Napwora Makokha, representing the trainees, shared their positive learning experiences and emphasized the demand for quality coconut drupes worldwide.

The graduation ceremony featured addresses by Dr. Sanathanie Ranasinghe, Director of CRI, and Mrs. Surekha Attanayake, Director (Policy) representing the Ministry of Plantation. Dr. Jelfina acknowledged the continuous organization of the course, distributed graduation certificates, and expressed the trainees' potential contribution to the coconut sector's improvement.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Lalith Perera, Additional Director, CRI, and was attended by various faculties of CRI and ICC. *(ICC News)*

55TH ANNIVERSARY AND ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OF THE PEST MANAGEMENT COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES (PMCP)

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw was invited as a plenary speaker for the 55th Anniversary and Annual Scientific Conference of the PMCP at Ritz Hotel, Davao from 4-7 July 2023. The conference inaugurated on 4th July with the Processional by Former PMCP Presidents, Entry of Society and PMCP Colours together with current Officers and Board Members (PAE, PPS, WSSP, CPAP, CropLife, PCAP, PMCP) followed by Doxology & Philippine National Anthem.

The opening address delivered by Mr. Narendra Sagrolikar, President, PMCP, followed by welcome messages by Dir. Julieta B. Lansangan, OIC-Executive Director, FPA and Dr. Karen A. Roscom, Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards.

There were seven plenary speakers and the session started with the presentation of Dr. Analiza Henedina M. Ramirez, Institute of Weed Science, Entomology and Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños, College, Laguna. Dr. Jelfina presented on Challenges and Opportunities in Managing Coconut Pests for Market Sustainability. The session was moderated by Dr. Celia Medina. There was in-depth discussion after each session and queries were attended by the speakers. Dr. Jelfina assured the potential collaboration of ICC with PMCP for the sustainable development of the coconut sector. She said that we aware of the adverse and damaging impacts of pests and diseases on coconut production, market, the natural environment, and human health, and there are many factors contributing to pest outbreak. Research have been conducted with great results, but there also so many things we need to uncover. Lack of knowledge on complex interaction between pest, disease, bioagent the plant and environment. Limited technologies including resistant varieties to adopt long term management approach and limited knowledge on co-evolution between the pest, disease

and the host plants considering coconut is a perennial crop. Lack of timely access to relevant and science-based advices on pest & disease management is also one of the challenges that need to be addressed.

ICC needs partners from universities and research institutes and pest management-related organizations to address pest-related issues and to generate feasible and affordable pest management technologies needed by farmers. Great progress in pest management have been documented. However, there are still a lot of works and research gaps in regard to pest risk analysis, holistic-based technology that need to be developed, and implementation of science-based technologies. She reiterated some important pests and diseases are still difficult to detect. We need feasible detection technology or tools for quarantine officers in airport or some other entry points. Hence, the formation of the International Network on Coconut Pest Management becomes imperative.

The Plenary session concluded with the presentation of Plaque of appreciation by the president of PMCP. Dr. Jelfina also presented the ICC Plaque of appreciation to Narendra Sagrolikar, President, PMCP. Dr. Mr. John A. Fajardo, PAE, President and Vice President of PMCP also joined while receiving the plaque.

The four days conference included the PMCP Fellowship Night Program: Society PROs Concurrent Scientific Sessions, Banquet and Award Ceremony and farmers' forum. This conference was served as a platform for sharing the latest development and technologies and work conducted by the researchers in the field of plant protection and sharing their latest work and experience.

The conference was attended by the members of Philippine Association of Entomologists (PAE), Philippine Phytopathological Society (PPS), Weed Science Society of Philippines (WSSP), Crop Life Philippines (CLP), Crop Protection Association of the Philippines (CPAS) and Pest Control Association of the Philippines (PCAP). Ms. Mridula Kottekate Assistant Director, accompanied Executive Director for attending the conference. *(ICC News)*

VISIT TO PHILIPPINES COCONUT AUTHORITY - INTERACTION WITH THE OFFICERS AND RESEARCHERS

With the objective to discuss the major project and programs of ICC and to know more about the development activities being carried out by Philippines Coconut Authority (PCA) and to identify the required facilitation and supports from ICC and other international organizations, Dr. Jelfina C.Alouw, Executive Director and Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director, ICC visited Philippines Coconut Authority main office in Manila and Research Centres in Davao and Zamboanga.

Philippines Coconut Authority (PCA), Quezon City Manila

Upon arrival at PCA office, Manila on 3rd July ED and AD were warmly welcomed by Mr. Bernie F. Cruz, Administrator, and Mr. Atity Lucius Jun-Jun G. Malsi, Deputy Administrator, Administration & Finance. A meeting was arranged in the meeting room of PCA in which Mrs. Erlene Manohar, Cogent Coordinator and Dr. Johnny Batalon, Deputy Director for R & D of PCAARRD participated. The main agenda for the discussion was the support of PCA and PCAARRD for the upcoming International Scientific Conference (ISC) under ICC-Cogent program from 27-30 November at the conference hall of Los Baños.

Mr. Cruz, Administrator, welcomed and informed the successful celebration of the 50th Anniversary of PCA in June 2023 with the invaluable presence of His Excellency the President of the Philippines who is also the Secretary of Agriculture to supports the coconut development in the country. He emphasized the need for a feasible tissue culture technology to accelerate the availability of quality planting materials for replanting program in the

Philippines to increase coconut production. He also expressed his full support for the successful conduct of the ISC as local organizer.

Dr. Jelfina expressed her heartful thanks and gratitude to Administrator for agreeing for this courtesy meeting. She ascertained the full support of ICC to facilitate the capacity building requirement and adoption of tissue culture technologies developed by research institutes in Sri Lanka and Belgium. She suggested to either depute the PCA tissue culture researchers to CRI and Bioversity International & CIAT Belgium to learn the technologies or inviting experts from Sri Lanka and collaborating with the institute to help to address critical issues and to optimize the technology including acclimatization process. Dr. Johnny, DD PCAARRD informed that PCAARRD is supporting the TC program of PCA under the Govt of Philippines Coco Levy Trust fund. Mrs. Erlene Manohar Cogent, Coordinator briefly presented the progress of preparation of ISC and the needs for successful implementation of the conference. There was in depth and fruitful discussion on the various programs and projects of PCA and ICC.

Davao Research Centre (DRC)

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director and Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director, visited the Davao Research Centre of Philippines Coconut Authority on 5th July 2023.

Dr. Liberty Canja, Department Manager and Mrs. Johana Orense, Division Chief welcomed ICC executive staff on arrival at the centre, which is located 18 km from proper city in Bago-Oshiro Davao City. They introduced the team of researchers and staff of the centre. The total area of the centre is 189 ha and having two main research divisions Agronomy, Soils and Farming System division and Integrated Crop Protection Division.

Dr. Canja presented a video of the activities of the centre and informed that the centre has been established in 1966 and has completed 57 years of its establishment in 2023. The main mission of the centre is to generate information and technologies in the fields of mineral nutrition, cultural management and coconut intercropping and integrated pest and disease control.

Dr. Jelfina in her address appreciated the activities being carrying out by the centre and congratulated for completing 57th Year of the establishment of the centre. There were detail discussion on capacity building programs, different coconut agronomic practices including plant protection aspects, breeding program, coir and coir pith production for retaining soil moisture, and other global issue such as greenhouse gas emission, current development of coconut as the source of energy and the projection of market demand of coconut oil from non-standard coconut as Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). The potency of coconut palms and farms in contributing to the global efforts for achieving the target of net zero, the challenges and future direction, including ICC's program to hold international seminar on carbon sequestration and carbon credit in Indonesia were also discussed. The meeting concluded with the presentation of ICC plaque of appreciation to the Centre.

ICC Secretariat had a great visits to the different laboratories of the Centre including crop protection, breeding and pollen propagation laboratories, and had fruitful discussion with the scientists and technical people.

Mrs. Johana explained the plant protection activities of the centre and shown the biocontrol agents developed by the centre against the scale insects of coconut as well as CRB during the visit to Biocontrol laboratory. They multiply the bioagents in the laboratory and released in the farmers field. In coconut breeding laboratory, the breeder showed the pollen preparation protocol and storage before distributing them to the farmers and other stakeholders through the regional offices of the PCA under farmer assisted breeding program implemented using Coconut Levy Trust fund of Government of the Philippines.

The activities of the Agronomy, Soil and Farming System were explained by Dr. Canja. She presented a copy of the book on "Integrated Crop Management for Coconut Agroecosystems: A Compendium of Information through the Years" volume 1 released by the centre on its 56th Foundation Anniversary in 2022.

From the centre we have been taken to National Coconut-Dairy Training Center, Malagos Garden on chocolate processing where we witnessed the processing of cocoa to chocolate. The visit and discussion were very productive and fruitful.

Zamboanga Research Centre (ZRC)

Visited the Zamboanga Research Centre (ZRC) on 6th and 7th July 2023. Dr. Liberty Canja and Mrs. Johana Orense accompanied from Davao to the ZRC.

Upon arrival at ZRC, ED and AD met with Mr. Luisito Penamora, Acting Department Manager, and his full team of Researchers. Dr. Cristeta Cueto, Department Manager, Albay Research Centre also joined the team at ZRC.

ZRC is located in San Ramon, Zamboanga City 22 km away from the main city. The centre is having total area of 415.3 ha. Mainly two research divisions are functioning at ZRC: Plant Genetic Resources Conservation and Utilization, and Non Food Product Development Division. This is one of the centre maintaining around 263 accessions under National Coconut Genebank. The Mission of the centre is to generate technologies on varietal improvement, palm products and farm waste utilization and farming systems.

A meeting was arranged in the centre where in Mr. Leso Jess G. Baya, a Science Research Specialist of the centre and Dr. Gerardo B. Baylon, a breeder presented the activities of the centre mainly the Non Food Product Development Division. They have tried many by products from coir and coconut water and developed the machineries for minimal processing, prototype tree climbing machine, charcoal briquette machinery, deshelling of coconut, coir production and processing machine, green coconut husk chopper and chips maker. The centre is also making briquette from coconut shell. Dr. Rico, consultant explained that PCA-ZRC is also producing products as Tree of Life: medicine, food, fiber and shelter materials. As Tree of Energy, it also produce the three fuels biomass/solid, liquid biofuels and wood gas. Dr. Rico also mentioned that the tannin content from coconut husk is processed as natural dye. The centre displayed the different coconut accessions maintained in the centre and briefed about the different open pollinated coconut varieties of tall and dwarf.

Dr. Jelfina appreciated and thanked the in charge Mr. Luisito for such warm welcome. She added that ICC is impressed with the activities of the centre and would like to request if ZRC can be one of the capacity building centre for the interested officers from the ICC member countries who would like to get the training and technologies in the non-food sector mainly in the biofuels coir and coir products. She further mentioned about the Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) processed from non-standard coconut and the plan of Japan Government to propose the non-standard coconut as a feedstock of SAF in the positive list of the UN-International Civil Aviation (ICAO).

ICC secretariat team visited the Tissue Culture (TC) laboratory at the centre where many plantlets are micro propagated. One of the major challenges they were facing was the low success rate of the acclimatization phase, from which a potential collaboration with TC laboratory experiencing higher success rate such as CRI-SL could be a better solution as suggested by Dr. Jelfina. The team also demonstrated the coconut sugar making from the freshly harvested inflorescence sap.

The Non Food Product Development Division and Bio mass and Biofuels laboratory division demonstrated the functioning of different machineries they developed and making of biodiesel's from coconut oil and how the vehicle

is working using the biofuel. The centre has developed their own copra dryer. Also doing trial by using coconut fibre and husk as media for mushroom production.

Dr. Neil J. Melencion, Regional Manager explained the processing of biodiesel through transesterification process of using ethanol production from coconut palm inflorescence saps, coconut oil, and catalyst extracted from coconut husk. The division also prepares hand sanitizers, soap and detergents. It has been informed that during pandemic the division supplied the hand sanitizers to all the staff of the centres. The future plan of the centre is to make value added products from coconut water and haustorium which is getting wasted during the processing of crude coconut oil.

The team also met with senior coconut breeder. Mr. Ramon Rivera, former Deputy Administrator, R&D and he shared his experience as the former in charge of the centre and thanked ICC for visiting the centre and learning the activities being carrying out there. He assured that the centre can be considered as one of the training centre for ICC's future programs.

The visit to the ZRC centres and meeting with the researchers and consultants of the centre were very productive and informative. The team were delighted to see a lot of progress in the development of coconut technology mainly in the non-food sector. The meeting and visit was concluded with the presentation ICC plaque of appreciation to the centre. *(ICC News)*

COCONUT HYBRIDIZATION IS ADVOCATED BY PCAARRD

Coconut hybrids with improved and greater levels of coconut oil content, copra production, size, and resiliency are created by crossing two coconut kinds with different and desirable features.

According to the Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), hybrid coconuts have advantages over conventional coconuts that can increase production and reenergize the industry.

To fully utilize the potential of existing hybrids and create new ones that are even more resistant to the environment, diseases, and insect pests, study is still required, according to PCAARRD.

The PCAARRD recently organized its first regional information caravan and proposal writing workshop in Los Baos, Laguna, in an effort to encourage more scientists and researchers to submit proposals that focus on coconut hybridization.

26 coconut researchers as well as officials from state universities and colleges and research and development organizations were present.

During the caravan, PCAARRD Executive Director Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebora urged participants to conduct research not just to progress knowledge but also to enhance the way of life for farmers and the coconut business.

He added that participants and supporters of the research could serve as possible partners for the Coconut Hybridization Program (CHP) and other similar projects.

As part of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) CHP Research Component, information on the program, PCAARRD proposal submission requirements, and identifying region-specific industry gaps as a springboard for the proposed research activities were communicated.

Alissa Carol M. Ibarra, Industry Strategic S&T Program Manager for Coconut, gave a justification for the activity and introduced the participants to the CFIDP programs designed especially for CHP.

Region IV Focal Point for the Philippine Coconut Authority's CFIDP Region IV's coconut industry

scenario was addressed by Kristal L. Lanceta. Senior Science investigation Specialist Marianita Eroy with the PCA Operations Branch suggested some further investigation.

Personnel from the PCAARRD Crops Research Division directed participants to PCAARRD forms and guidelines as well as priority R&D areas for the CHP. *(Manila Standard)*

ALONG THE EAST COAST ROAD, NHAI HAS STARTED PLANTING COCONUT PALM SAPLINGS

As part of the first phase of the road-widening project, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has started work on planting some 22,500 saplings alongside the road. According to an NHAI source, "As it is a coastal road, we have decided to plant coconut palm saplings in large quantities as they will suit the landscape and have a better chance of surviving."

These young trees stand around three feet tall. It is a tall variety that has been chosen. The saplings are being planted in three rows. Coconut palm trees will be in the farthest row. Native kinds like neem and punga will be planted in the row directly next to the road. 600 seedlings have already been planted, and more were being prepared for planting.

On the 31-kilometer stretch between Mamallapuram and Mugaiyur, the first package will include the planting of about 40,000 trees. The contractor expanding the road will plant 22,500 of these saplings. The NHAI would provide funding for planting the remaining seedlings. "For the purpose of obtaining and planting the seedlings, we have partnered with the Forest department. The saplings are in high demand right now since multiple road projects are in the works, an official said.

The planting of 45,500 seedlings is included in the second package. The NHAI has asked for 5.5 crore to plant seedlings in place of the trees that had to be taken down to widen the route. Since a bypass is being built, some sections, like the one before the Palar bridge after Mamallapuram where the trees have formed a lovely green canopy, will keep their greens. *(The Hindu)*

FORCE COIR TO ELIMINATE COCONUT FARM WASTE

Coir has been ranked as a top priority by the Regional Inclusive Innovation Center (RIIC) in Eastern Visayas to help with environmental problems and increase income for local coconut farmers. Representatives from national government agencies and universities created a regional coir innovation roadmap with the goal of utilizing available resources to enhance processing advancement.

The Eastern Visayas office of the Department of Trade and Industry's Assistant Regional Director Ma underlined the enormous potential of coir, particularly with the rising popularity of organic farming. However, the labor-intensive nature of the current extraction method necessitates upgrades. Nine coir processors were producing 4.391 hanks of fiber in the provinces of Leyte and Southern Leyte in 2021, according to data from the Philippine Coconut Authority. A hank, which is normally 770 meters long, is a unit of measurement used to denote the length of yarn or a loose collection of fibers.

Coconut husk processing results in the creation of peat and fiber, both of which have uses in the industrial and agricultural sectors. Ropes, mattresses, car seats, cushions, and coco nets that stop soil erosion are all made from coir fiber. On the other side, peat is being used more and more in hort culture as a hydroponic system's substrate and media.

With the RIIC's emphasis on coir, Eastern Visayas hopes to boost the coir sector's productivity and profitability while also promoting environmentally friendly farming methods and regional economic development. The area can have a good

impact on the ecology and the way of life of coconut growers by utilizing the various uses of coir fiber and peat. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

GOVERNMENT INTRODUCTION OF HIGH-YIELD HYBRID SEEDLINGS PROVIDES A BOOST FOR COASTAL COCONUT FARMERS

The government's introduction of the hybrid coconut tree seedling, which matures quicker and produces higher yields, has given coconut farmers in the coastal region cause to rejoice.

The Micro Enterprises Support Programme Trust (MESPT), the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), and the Kilifi County government have already brought 6,000 Sampoorna hybrid Coconut seedlings from India into the region and distributed them to farmers as part of a pilot program.

A 2022 report by the Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate showed that a total of 84,906 hectares of land in Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Tana River, and Taita Taveta counties were covered by coconuts in 2020, compared to 77,556 hectares in 2021. The other counties, which include Lamu, Tana River, Taita Taveta, and Kwale, have also done the same in their areas.

According to the data, 110,013 tonnes of coconuts worth KES 5 million were produced in 2020, which is a little decline from 86,554 tonnes worth KES 5.5 million in 2021.

Rebeca Amukhoye, the Managing Director (MD) of MESPT, claims that the new variety, which matures in two to three years, is a game-changer for coastal farmers participating in the trial program.

The MD also stated that 200 hybrid farmers had received funding from her group for the testing phase, which aimed to determine how the hybrid variety performed locally.

"We still import seedlings from India for 5 USD, which is equivalent to KES 700, and this is minus other costs like port duties," she added. "We face challenges and the prices of seedlings remain high."

Depending on the market, coconuts currently sell for between KES 30 and KES 100 at retail and for between KES 10 and KES 50 at the farm.

Salim Rashid Kalu, a farmer who uses the product from the Msabaha region in Malindi Sub County, Kilifi County, claimed to have tried the new variety and fallen in love with it due of its yielding potential.

The hybrid coconut is the best for business since it matures more quickly and I can harvest at least 350 nuts per tree in a season as opposed to only 50 nuts from the African tall species, he claimed.

The new type also has more flesh inside than the African tall variety, according to Kalu, who has been chosen as a member of the coconut technical committee, and it also yields more sap.

In order to have enough water for irrigation on his property, where 36 Sampoorna hybrid Coconut trees are being grown as a pilot project, Kalu has drilled multiple boreholes. He also intercrops other crops.

Senior scientist at KALRO and chairman of the hybrid coconut variety, Mwalimu Menza, stated that study has been conducted on the new variety so that the nation may generate its own seedlings rather than importing them as a method to lower the cost.

We are doing research on 20 acres at the KALRO station in Matuga, Kwale county, and we have asked county officials working under the Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani (JKP) to send their farmers for training so that we may formally launch this program.

More than 15,000 farmers in Lamu County are involved in coconut growing, and they will gain from the project's official implementation.

The Lamu County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Agriculture, James Gichu,

stated that his department had set aside KES 3 million to purchase the new coconut species for its farmers. These plants would be handed to 5,000 farmers in this fiscal year.

According to him, Lamu County has roughly 15,000 coconut farmers. "We have already set aside KES 3 million to purchase the new variety for farmers and we are going to train and capacity build them so that they can benefit from their farming ventures," he said.

According to Kibibi Abdala, the CECM for Agriculture in Mombasa County, the price of the nut in Mombasa is KES 120.

"Right now, coconuts in Mombasa are highly expensive, which indicates that demand has increased since we used to buy them for KES 20 in the past. To ensure that we have enough produce, we will welcome the hybrid coconut, she said.

The new type would inspire the younger generation to invest in coconut farming, according to Saibal K De, the Chief Executive Officer of Deejay Coconut Farm in India.

De, who exports the seedlings to Kenya, continued, "I'm confident that enthusiasm from the younger generation in coconut farming will come back so it can boost employment on a massive scale.

The new type will reenergize the agricultural industry in the coastal region, according to Charles Wasike, the programs officer at the Danish Embassy.

"We have tried this crop with several stakeholders, and the prospects are good. We invested approximately KES 1.2 billion in the micro-enterprise support program trust throughout the course of the five-year agriculture intervention, which equates to KES 150 million for the seven targeted crops.

The production of the 30-meter-tall East African tall breed has decreased, whilst the new dwarf type is only about three meters high and produces more nuts.

Kenya bought 73.91 tonnes of coconut oil worth 80.71 million, up from the 91.5 million reported for 82 tonnes in 2021.

However, the analysis predicts that if the nation increased its production of coconut oil, it would reduce its reliance on imported oil and save approximately KES 5 billion yearly. *(NTV Kenya)*

VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS MADE FROM COCONUT ARE IN DEMAND AS DEMAND FOR PLANT-BASED PRODUCTS RISES

Ubais Ali, the executive director of Mezhukkattil Mill Originals, is pioneering value-added coconut products in Kerala, India. While coconuts have long been a staple, the focus has primarily been on oil production. Mezhukkattil Mill Originals is changing that by offering a range of coconut-based products, including roasted coconut paste, chutney, and super-fine coconut powder. These innovations aim to cater to evolving consumer preferences and increase the value of coconut-based goods.

Ubais Ali's company recently showcased roasted coconut paste, chutney, and super-fine coconut powder at the Gulf Food Exhibition. These products provide alternatives for consumers seeking healthier sweeteners and coconut milk alternatives. The roasted coconut paste, in particular, is a popular product with a unique "mayonnaise-like" texture, making it a versatile addition to various dishes.

Ubais Ali emphasizes that their products fall within the Clean Label category, promoting all-natural products without additives. Additionally, the super-fine coconut powder is suitable for various culinary applications, including baking, and is both vegan and gluten-free. The company plans to introduce more products like red

coconut chutney and diced coconut for sweets in the future.

In October, Ubais Ali is set to launch an experience center at his plant, highlighting the use of coconut products with additional value. The center will offer a variety of coconut-based treats and beverages, such as laddoos, frappes, pastries, coconut smoothies, and cold coconut water.

Another entrepreneur, Shimwas Hussain of Nata Nutrico, is introducing dietary coconut fiber called Nata de Coco. This product is created through fermentation using coconut water and fermented coconut milk, resulting in a versatile source of fiber. Nata de Coco is commonly used in various culinary preparations, enhancing the texture and flavor of dishes.

The demand for canned coconut water has led Shimwas Hussain's company to explore new coconut-based products, utilizing coconut water sourced directly from growers and Copra mills. The market for such innovative coconut products is expanding, driven by consumer awareness of the benefits of coconuts and plant-based alternatives.

Nari'yal Cosmetics, a company based in Pune, India, has introduced a line of cosmetic products using Thai coconuts of the Nam Hom variety as their raw material. The Thai coconuts are known for their sweetness and aroma. Nari'yal Cosmetics aims to further diversify its cosmetic and makeup offerings with 24 different products, capitalizing on the skin-friendly properties of coconut.

As consumer awareness grows regarding the versatility and benefits of coconuts, value addition in the coconut industry is becoming increasingly important. Products like mature coconut water, coconut vinegar, and coconut milk are gaining popularity as plant-based alternatives with various applications, from serving as an electrolyte to functioning as a lactose-free substitute due to their antibacterial and anti-fungal properties. The coconut industry is evolving to meet these changing consumer demands. *(The Hindu)*

WITH THE PLANTING OF 500 SEEDLINGS IN BADAGRY, AGUNKEFEST KICKS OFF THE COCONUT FESTIVAL

The Coconut Festival in Badagry was inaugurated by the African Coconut Heritage Initiative (AGUNKEFEST) with the planting of 500 seedlings in schools and other stakeholder areas.

Prince Mesi Doheto, the president of AGUNKEFEST, commented shortly after the planting: "The flag off ceremony of the event was to commence Coconut Planting during the rainy season.

"Normally, the event is held in November, but this year we separated the coconut growing to begin the festival. We invited students from various Badagry schools to the flag-off event this year in an effort to introduce them to planting.

We found that many schools in Badagry have land, therefore we have a great opportunity to give them seedlings so they can plant them in their learning environment. Because the coconut will start to give fruit in a few years, "we are also catching them young and instilling the idea of protecting the environment and also giving the school economic power," he said.

Twenty (20) schools—ten (10) primary and ten (10) secondary—were chosen for the scheme, he claimed. We distributed 200 seedlings among the schools, 10 seedlings each, for planting at each institution.

By November, the AGUNKEFEST team will visit their schools to assess their development.

"We also gave 100 more seedlings to the Association of Coconut Growers (ACG), who are industry participants. In parts of Badagry where there are places for the crop to develop healthily, the Initiative also planted some seedlings, the official added.

The President announced that the Coconut Festival will take place from November 23 to

November 25 and that many notable figures from various walks of life would be invited.

"With regards to the yearning of the coconut stakeholder's research is actively ongoing," Dr. Victor Adangbe, Director of study at the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR), stated in his speech. The goal of the research is to create planting materials with increased yields that are also resistant to disease.

He added, "We are also instructing farmers on efficient nursery management procedures and field management practices.

According to Prince Mustapha Ademola, the coordinator of AGUNKEFEST, coconut trees are crucial for managing a country's economy. The fruit serves as a raw ingredient for numerous important businesses, so the seeds are continuously in demand.

He pleaded with Nigerians to always plant the produce there. *(Vanguard)*

2 NEW COCOA FACILITIES ARE COMING TO MISAMIS

The two shared processing facilities (SPF) for coconut costing P76.9 million that will be constructed in Misamis Oriental as part of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) will assist farmers.

The construction of SPFs for qualifying farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) would be overseen by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (DA-PHilMech).

Over 2,000 coconut farmers in the region will gain from the construction of two distinct facilities in the barangays of Bonifacio Aquino in Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental, and Odiongan in Gingoog City.

According to the PhilMech on Wednesday, "The two SPFs are also anticipated to cater to coconut producers from neighboring towns, cities, and provinces in Region 10 (Northern Mindanao).

The P46.8 million white copra and coconut oil processing facility will be given to and run by the Barangay Bonifacio Aquino-based Alayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MPC).

In the meantime, the Barangay Odiongan-based Odiongan Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MPC) would receive a P30.1 million white copra processing facility that they will also run.

The government's coconut initiative was praised by the mayor of Magsaysay, Charlie Busihan, who said that "such projects create opportunities not only for the city but for its people as well."

On the other side, Gingoog City Mayor Erick Caosa emphasized his desire for Misamis Oriental's coconut growers to make a substantial contribution to the country's coconut sector, particularly through exporting local coconut goods.

The two buildings' groundbreaking took place in July.

Additionally, PhilMech mentioned that there had already been seven SPF groundbreaking ceremonies, and "more are anticipated to be conducted during the current year."

The beneficiaries of the facilities were promised by PHilMech Director Dionisio Alvindia that PHilMech will continue to provide support through projects under the CFIDP.

Finding the cooperatives and associations to be on the shortlist of SPF recipients is a crucial step in PHilMech's plan to increase the free distribution of SPFs to qualified coconut-based FCAs funded by the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund, or CFITF, Alvindia previously stated.

With training conducted since early this year, he continued, the agency has begun the process of enabling FCAs to administer, operate, and maintain the SPFs.

As recipients of SPFs that would be supported by the CFITF, PHilMech announced that it had shortlisted 27 coconut FCAs and would continue to do so. *(The Manila Times)*

VITTAL'S ICAR-CPCRI GETS A NEW STATION HEAD

MK Rajesh has been chosen to lead the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB)-nearby ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Regional Station, in Vital.

After K S Ananda retired on April 30, 2018, the position of chief of station became vacant. From that point on, C T Jose and S Elain Apsara served as the station's interim leaders.

According to a press statement from the institute, Rajesh has significantly impacted the fields of tissue culture, the use of molecular markers, genomics, and transcriptomics in molecular biology and biotechnology, with a focus on coconut and arecanut. He contributed to the creation of procedures for tissue culture of coconut using plumular explants.

He has created molecular marker panels for hybrid purity assessment in coconut and arecanut crops after identifying molecular markers connected to the tall/dwarf trait in these two crops. The Chowghat Green Dwarf (CGD) cultivar of coconut, which possesses enhanced disease resistance, has undergone sequencing, assembly, and analysis. Rajesh also classified the repertoire of resistance gene analogues (RGAs) in the CGD nuclear genome.

He was also a member of the team that created the "Kalpasree" variety of coconut (which has increased resistance to root (wilt) disease), found markers linked to sex determination in palmyrah, developed and validated EST-SSR markers in coconut and cocoa, created the "Coconut Artificial Pollination Management System," and created in vitro inoculation assays for researching the interactions between coconut and arecanut with Phytophthora spp. and uniformization of arecanut and coconut pollen cryopreservation techniques. He has written eight books and more than 125 research articles.

He is the son of late CPCRI principal scientist Late M J Ratnambal and late CPCRI director Late MK Nair. In the Indian Society for Plantation Crops, Rajesh has held a variety of positions. He held the positions of ISPC Secretary and JPC Editor for two periods. *(The Times of India)*

LOBO ADVISES VILLAGES TO PLANT COCONUT TREE SURROUNDING CALANGUTE ROADS

According to Calangute MLA Michael Lobo, residents of properties with access to highways in his district are urged to plant coconut trees there.

According to Lobo, many of the old coconut trees on the Mapusa-Parra-Calangute road had to be cut down due to the road expansion work, which has made the road popular with tourists and is bordered with coconut trees. "Some of the existing coconut trees had become old and fallen, so we had to take them down to enlarge the roads. Speaking to the media at a fertilizer distribution event at the Parra panchayat, he stated, "We will have to grow back the coconut trees and support should be from the farmers and land owners.

Every five to six meters, people should plant coconut trees, or the local panchayats will do it for you. Greenery is necessary, he insisted.

However, efforts to transform the Chogm Road stretch in front of the Calangute Church into a coconut tree-lined attraction have failed as a result of the Calangute Panchayat's neglect of the coconut saplings that were planted there a year ago. *(The Times of India)*

THE 2023 WORLD COCONUT DAY FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD IN GORONTALO

Numerous parties have agreed to participate in the World Coconut Day Festival, which will

take place in Gorontalo Regency in September, in order to support the festival. The 2023 World Coconut Day Festival is anticipated to be a great success thanks to support from Regional Apparatus Organisations (OPD), the private sector, the federal government, the provincial government of gorontalo, the Indonesian Coconut Council, the International Coconut Community (ICC), universities, local and central committees, and ministry institutions.

World Coconut Day 2023 has been announced by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia in coordination with the Gorontalo Regency government, which will serve as the event's host. Dwarf coconut trees were planted in the Green Open Space (RTH), Telaga District, to commemorate the occasion. The Regent of Gorontalo, Prof. Nelson Pomalingo, the Inspector General (Irjen) of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, and the General Chair of the Kawanua Family Harmony took out the planting of dwarf coconut trees.

At this time, Dr. Jan S. Maringka, Inspector General (Irjen) of the Ministry of Agriculture, declared his unwavering support for the international event that would take place in Asparaga District, Gorontalo Regency. Gorontalo Regency was chosen to host the World Coconut Day events in 2023, according to Dr. Jan S. Maringka, not by accident but as a result of India's diligence and success as the previous host. He aspires for the World Coconut Day commemoration event to be a success with the assistance of all stakeholders and the local community. *(The Daily Post)*

LAUNCH-UPS INCREASE THE VALUE OF INDIGENOUS RESOURCES

Thach Thi Chal Thi and Pham Dinh Ngai, founders of Sokfarm Co. Ltd., have introduced innovative options to Cuu Long Delta farmers as they face increased saltwater intrusion into rivers. Sokfarm specializes in producing coconut blossom nectar and related products, offering a lifeline to farmers in the region.

In 2019, armed with their expertise, Thi and Ngai left HCM City to establish Sokfarm in Tra Vinh. The name "Sokfarm," meaning "happy farm" in Thi's native Khmer language, embodies their mission. The venture was conceived in early 2018 when falling coconut prices and saltwater intrusion began severely affecting the region's livelihoods.

Traditionally, the Khmer ethnic group in Tra Vinh has been engaged in collecting coconut flowers, a practice now central to Sokfarm's operations. Workers climb three to ten-year-old coconut trees twice daily to gather blossoms and syrup, which are processed using vacuum concentration technology, preserving their nutrients and flavors.

Sokfarm boasts a 500-square-meter plant with ISO 22000:2018 food safety certification and a 20-hectare organic-certified coconut farm, partnering with 35 local farmers and employing 38 individuals. Farmers now earn three to five times more from syrup compared to coconuts.

The company produces seven coconut-based products, with 90% sold domestically and 10% exported to countries such as Japan, the Netherlands, and Germany. Their coconut blossom nectar, with its low glycemic index, mineral richness, and suitability for various dietary preferences, taps into the growing demand for healthier sweeteners.

Tra Vinh, one of the nation's top coconut producers, faces the challenges of climate change. Coconut trees, resilient to climate variations, can tolerate salt levels up to 1.5%, but their fruits may shrink or drop off. Transitioning to coconut plantations has enabled farmers to triple to quintuple their income while adapting to climate change.

Another impactful startup, Hygie and Panacee Company, led by pharmacist Doan Thi Hong Tham, focuses on creating instant herbal teas from concentrated plant extracts, elevating the value of regional agricultural resources. The Mekong Delta, rich in raw agricultural materials,

offers numerous products with medicinal properties deeply rooted in traditional medicine.

Hygie and Panacee produces 12 varieties of instant herbal teas, using ingredients like ginger, perilla, lemongrass, and more. The company's production processes adhere to ISO 22000:2018 standards, guaranteeing quality and safety. To ensure a consistent raw material supply, they collaborate with Can Tho cooperatives growing clean vegetables. Sales have seen steady growth, both domestically and in export markets.

These startups exemplify the global interest in healthier and eco-friendly agricultural products. With consumers worldwide increasingly drawn to such products, young entrepreneurs have ample opportunities to harness local resources and technology, enhancing the value of Vietnamese agricultural goods and expanding their market presence. *(Vietnam Net)*

IN ORIENTAL MISASI, A NEW COCONUT PROCESSING PLANT OCCURS

At least 500 jobs are expected to be created by the proposed construction of a P120 million coconut processing business in Balingasag town, Misamis Oriental province.

According to a statement made by Provincial Board Member Erik Khu, the concept was first proposed by The First Integrated Community Cooperative (Ficco) two years ago. He claimed that the time to do feasibility studies is now.

A single fruit-bearing coconut tree can produce eight by-products, so "Ficco can afford to buy it at P15 per kilo," he claimed.

According to the Ficco report, a piece of equipment would be bought and kept on an eight-hectare parcel in Barangay San Isidro, Balingasag. According to its projection, the facility should initially launch on July 8.

While coconut meat, starch, and oil can be produced from the fruit and juice of the coconut, the processing facility can also create long and short coconut fibers, coco peat, activated carbon, and powder for briquettes.

On May 24, Khu made the announcement that Ficco, in conjunction with the Balingasag municipal government and the province labor and employment office, will organize a job fair specifically for coconut growers for the processing plant.

He said every settlement in the town will receive a quota of 7,500 coconut trees in order to meet the target of 60,000 coco drupes every day.

Additionally, Ficco had an agreement in place with Del Monte Philippines Inc., a company with headquarters in this region's Bugo village, to purchase the coconuts needed for the upcoming sale of tetra-packs of buko juice. *(The Manila Times)*

COCONUT FARMER PROTESTS TO DEMAND A BETTER PRICE

Several farmers in Karnataka and other regions of India have benefited from the skyrocketing price of tomatoes. Farmers in several regions of Karnataka and other southern states are reportedly being hurt by the falling prices of coconut and copra at the same time. Hundreds of coconut growers took to the streets to protest at Freedom Park, calling for scientific prices. Farmers wanted assistance from the state government, blaming a biased import policy for the decline in coconut prices. "Fear has gripped hundreds of farmers in southern and coastal Karnataka. According to T. Yashwanth, general secretary of the Karnataka Provincial Farmers' Association (KPRS), the government must declare a minimum support price of Rs 16,730 per quintal of copra and establish procurement centers throughout Karnataka.

Coconut growers also criticized the state government for failing to help them, claiming that the central government's bad policies were to blame for their predicament. "A variety of

coconut byproducts and products from abroad are entering the Indian market, endangering the livelihoods of local farmers. Farmers are now hanging their hopes on MSP after losing sleep over declining prices. It will become one of the worst agrarian issues in the state if the government doesn't step in, warned RS Channabasavanna, a KPRS office bearer and coconut farmer.

Coconut is one of Karnataka's most important horticulture crops and is grown over 6.4 lakh hectares. Every year, the state produces around 2.1 lakh tonnes of copra. Prices have dropped to a historic Rs 6,000 per quintal, from when they formerly exceeded Rs 20,000. The farmers asked that the MS Swaminathan Commission's recommendations be put into action, as well as a financial package that would cover the cost of the farmers' inputs and their profit margins. *(The Times of India)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Prices of vegetable oils tracked higher this week, extending last week's late gains.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market finally saw action after two weeks of lackluster dealings. One trade was reported during the week at $1,060/MT CIF; this followed the prior turnover reported three weeks ago paid at $980/MT. The market was off to a good start, notably in deferred positions, influenced by gains in the vegetable oils market. Offers stood at $1,045-1,085/MT CIF for positions from August/September through to January/February 2024. Thereafter prices were little moved though towards the weekend advanced materially influenced by the palm oil rally. The market settled at close firm at $1,085-1,145/MT CIF. Palm kernel oil continued to report activity, concluding business at $985-995/MT CIF during the week; this exceeded last week's traded price at $930/MT. Opening quotes were higher at $955-960/MT CIF for positions from September/October through to December/January and then extended gains during the week. By the week's end, the market closed firm at $1,010/MT CIF across the board.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil contracted in all positions this week from what they were in the prior week. Of note though was widening spreads as positions move forward. Thus, this week's average price margin of coconut oil over palm kernel oil narrowed substantially to $96.10/MT from $110.92 a week ago. Premium per position are shown following: July/August no data ($113.75 last week); August/September $67.67 ($123.10); September/October $92.50 ($109.00); October/November $95.00 ($104.00); November/December $97.50 ($111.00); December/January $104.00 ($114.00); January/February 2024 $104.13 ($120.50); February/March $111.88 ($92.00).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures tracked mostly higher during the week. Supporting gains were forecasts calling for limited rainfall, generating fears about its effects on current crops. Additionally, news Russia will exit the Black Sea Grain Initiative also was a concern for market players, fueling short covering in the process. On the other hand, the downside towards the weekend was dragged by profit-taking after the price rally. Conflicting market cues also added to weakness such as forecasts of welcome rains and on the other hand the bombing of grain silos in Ukraine by Russia.

At the palm oil section, market began the week in the positive territory but shortly eased on bearish market cues. Concerns over Russia's withdrawal from the Black Sea Grains Initiative which ends on July 18 and weaker demand weighed on the market earlier. As market resumed after midweek's holiday break in Indonesia and Malaysia, prices recovered buoyed by gains in soybean oil market and surveyors' report of improved Malaysian palm oil export for the period July 1-20 compared to previous month.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment showed coconut oil in the negative

territory, capping continued gains in the past weeks, as it shed $4.00 from $1,060 a week earlier to $1,056/MT CIF presently. By contrast, palm kernel oil advanced $42.08 from $946.25 to $988.33/MT CIF and palm oil recovered from last week's loss, rising $45.37 from $950.63 to $996.00/MT CIF. As a result, coconut oil substantially decreased its price premium over palm kernel oil from $113.75 a week ago to $67.67/MT currently, as well as against palm oil from $109.37 to $60.00/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam, the coconut oil market featured a lone trade at $1,060/MT CIF for December/ January delivery. Market this week was firm overall and closed with offers at $1,085 for August/September; $1,115 for September/ October; $1,125 for October/November; $1,135 for November/December; $1,140 for December/ January; $1,145 for January/February 2024; and $1,150/MT CIF for February/March. Most buyers retreated at the close and where present, showed interest only for November/December asking $1,090; December/January $1,100; January/February $1,105; and February/March at $,110/MT CIF.

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

COPRA PRICE GOES FROM ₹14,500 TO ₹7,000 PER QUINTAL IN 8 MONTHS, SHAKING COCONUT FARMERS' SLEEP

Karnataka's coconut farmers are having trouble sleeping due to the ongoing decline in the price of copra. They assert that the market's current price is insufficient even to cover the cost of the inputs.

The cost of copra in November 2022 was about ₹14,500 per quintal. In December 2022, the price started to decline. The cost has been around ₹8,000 per quintal for the past six months. Growers report that as of July 10, the ball copra was selling for ₹7,000 in the Channarayapatna market in the Hassan district.

500 coconut trees are cared after by Ramachandra, a coconut farmer from Valagerahalli in the Channarayapatna taluk. Farmers should receive at least ₹25,000 per quintal of copra given the expense of cultivation and labour. However, neither the worth of human effort nor the value of land is ever considered. The current price is too low to cover our regular expenses, let alone be able to pay back loans, he claimed.

In Karnataka, coconut is grown on more than 6.46 lakh hectares, and 2.18 lakh metric tonnes of ball copra are produced annually. The price drop was discussed throughout the legislative session as well. In addition to the MSP of ₹11,750 per quintal, MLAs who represent coconut-growing regions wanted financial incentives for growers.

H.R. Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha (KPRS) district president Naveen Kumar claimed that the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) has ceased purchasing copra. "Copra is a year-round crop. Growers offer copra for sale all year long. As a result, the NAFED needs to buy copra, he said.

The State Government had suggested that a minimum support price of ₹16,730 per quintal be set to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices in August 2022. The Horticulture Department suggested this price. For the sake of the farmers, the State Government should set the price at ₹16,730 per quintal, he said.

In support of this demand, the Channarayapatna Coconut Growers' Struggle Committee wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. In addition, the committee wants the government to announce a special package for coconut farmers, fix the price of copra in accordance with the recommendations made in the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Commission's report, and take steps to prevent corruption in the procurement of copra through NAFED. *(The Indian)*

IN THE THAI TRADE FAIR, PINOY COCONUT EXPORTERS MAKE $6.9 MILLION

Philippine coconut producers' participation in THAIFEX-Anuga Asia 2023 led to $6.90 million in first export sales throughout the course of the five-day trade show that took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from May 23 to 27, 2023.

Glenn G. Pearanda, Assistant Secretary for the Trade Promotion Group (TPG) Officer-in-Charge, stated that the nation's participation at THAIFEX-Anuga Asia was a "gateway to expanding horizons and enhancing the nation's standing as a reliable and premium source of coconut products."

Pearanda claimed that Philippine coconut producers were able to highlight their "high-value" coconut products thanks to the assistance of the International Trade Centre (ITC), as part of its ARISE Plus Philippines Project.

He also mentioned that ITC and the Department of Trade and Industry's Exporting Marketing Bureau (DTI-EMB) would collaborate for the participation of Anuga Germany in October 2023.

Pearanda stated that the help "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 linkages with international markets, particularly in the EU."

The participation was organised under the Coconut Philippines Pavilion by the DTI-EMB and the ITC in collaboration with the Philippine Trade and Investment Centre (PTIC)-Bangkok and the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organisation Inc. (PHILFOODEX).

The project and the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) are both being implemented as a result of the effort.

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

The participating firms were listed as AG Pacific Nutriceuticals Corporation, Ahya Coco Organic Food Manufacturing Corp., Amazing Foods Corp., Amparitas Food Products Manufacturing, Cocoplus Aquarian Development Corporation, Dignity Products & Services Inc., Pasciolco Agri Ventures, Wellness Care International Corporation, and Vegetari Vegetarian Products by the DTI's export marketing division.

The United Coconut Association of the Philippines Inc. and Virgin Coconut Oil Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines Inc. sent representatives to the expo, according to DTI-EMB. *(Enterprise Mirror)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL PALM OIL INSTITUTION IS WELCOME BY THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT

According to a report from CNBC Indonesia earlier this month, the Indonesian government has approved the oil palm growers' demand to create a special organisation that will concentrate on expanding and administering the nation's palm oil sectors. The unique institution is desperately needed by the palm oil businesses, according to Musdalifah Mahmud, the deputy in charge of foods and agriculture coordination at the economic coordinating ministry.

Eddy Martono, the chairman of the Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI), supported the creation of a unique palm oil institution and emphasised its significance. The sustainability of our palm oil sector will be maintained by it. The unique organisation will also serve as a regulator to synchronise all currently in effect legislation and to strengthen the synergy among all stakeholders, taking into account the fact that there are overlapping regulations. The institution can also foster industry stability and dependability so that

Indonesian palm oil farmers won't have to rely as largely on external factors.

UK's entry into the CPTPP will benefit Malaysian palm oil.

One of the industries that will profit from the United Kingdom's admission into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreements for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is Malaysia's palm oil business, according to an analyst.

According to Stephen Innes, managing partner of SPI Asset Management, Malaysia has successfully lobbied Britain to quickly reduce its palm oil tariffs, which are now between 0 and 12 percent, upon signing the agreement. This should result in an increase in exports to the UK. According to the report, bilateral commerce between the two nations reached USD7.3 billion in 2022, with the UK posting a trade surplus of almost USD786 million. "The UK does not produce enough food to meet its own needs; a growing percentage of its overall food consumption—48 percent—is imported. Therefore, the UK depends on imports as a country that trades in food,' Innes added. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

FIRST IN UK: VEGETABLE OIL POWERS TRAIN

In order to power a portion of its fleet, Chiltern Railways started using hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO).

When compared to diesel, HVO can cut greenhouse gas emissions by up to 90% because it is primarily made of leftover cooking oils.

The operator was intended to run a railway that was "easier, greener, and better" for its passengers, according to managing director Richard Allan.

In an effort to reduce its carbon footprint, the train company that operates services between Birmingham and London is utilising the more expensive biofuel to power its Class 68 locomotives.

The change in fuel, according to Mr. Allan, would make a "big difference" and lessen the environmental impact of trains.

Phase-out of diesel

He continued, "This is a significant step in the right direction, and we want to do more."

"We will be asking train manufacturers for proposals for new trains to replace our oldest diesel trains in the coming days."

In the UK, about 29% of trains run exclusively on diesel, although the government has set a goal of eliminating all diesel-only trains by 2040.

Trains are currently among the greenest modes of transport, and rail minister Huw Merriman continued, "We want to improve on this by developing a rail sector that helps us meet our challenging net zero ambitions and offers even more benefits for customers.

Chiltern deserves praise for developing this fuel at the forefront: "A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by up to 90% is an incredible achievement that gets us one step closer to realising these." *(BBC)*

TUNISIA INTENDS TO INCREASE ITS EXPORTS OF OLIVE OIL TO SOUTH KOREA

Exporters who want to enhance Tunisia's share of olive oil in the Asian Pacific nation say that Tunisia will raise its shipments of olive oil to South Korea.

The Tunisian Export Promotion Centre and the Tunisian embassy in South Korea collaborated to present a wide range of Tunisian agri-food products at the Korea Import Fair, which was held from June 29 to July 1 in Seoul.

The purpose of the event, according to Boughedir Ahmed, a representative of the

Tunisian embassy present, was to publicise Tunisia's agricultural products and diversify its exports to Asia.

Tunisia was one of the top exporters of olive oil in the world in 2021, the last year for which data are available, according to the Observatory of Economic Complexity, with exports of $690 million (€583 million*) worth of the product.

The majority of its agricultural exports cross the Mediterranean Sea to the north because of its proximity to Europe. The majority of Tunisia's imports are also made in Europe.

Tunisia's exports to South Korea have, nevertheless, grown at an average rate of 8.8% over the preceding 26 years, reaching a value of $87.8 million (€74.3 million) in 2021.

Crustaceans ($9.2 million/€7.8 million), scrap copper ($16.4 million/€13.9 million), and plastic goods ($7.59 million/€6.42 million) were Tunisia's top exports to South Korea in 2021. Rail transport ($72.7 million/€61.5 million) and automobiles ($66 million/€55.8 million) ranked as South Korea's main exports to Tunisia in 2021.

According to Boughedir Ahmed, the food expo gave Tunisian farmers a chance to promote their olive oil goods while finding trustworthy business partners.

We have olive oil, which is already well-known in the market, but the amount sold in Korea does not satisfy us, he stated. Although we are among the top three exporters in the world and have one of the best products on the market, we have a very modest market share in Korea, to be honest.

In South Korea, where olive oil is used in traditional dishes including instant noodles, Korean fried chicken, and cosmetics and hair products, sales of olive oil are rising quickly.

South Korea became the world's 12th-largest importer of olive oil in 2021 after bringing in $10 million (€8.5 million). Olive oil was South Korea's 942nd most imported good that same year.

South Korea imports its olive oil mostly from Italy ($5.61 million/€4.74 million), Spain ($3.53 million/€2.99 million), the United States ($394,000/€333,245), Turkey ($337,000/€285,000), and Australia ($187,000/€158,160). Despite an increasing demand for olive oil, however, South Korea still imports the majority of its olive oil from these countries.

Producers and government officials in Tunisia are concentrating more on boosting the country's market share of exports that are individually packaged because these exports to Italy and Spain in bulk are no longer as profitable for the nation's farmers and treasury.

Additionally, investors from Southeast Asian nations are looking more and more to Tunisia to meet the growing demand for olive oil in regions where other edible oils have traditionally dominated the market.

Ahmed is certain that ultimately, Korean consumers will become aware of and seek out Tunisian goods of the highest calibre.

"Until we find the good alchemy between our products and the Korean market, we will keep participating in various exhibitions and trying to keep going," he said. "We know it will take time, but eventually the Korean market will recognise the superiority of Tunisian products. They will, I have no doubt. *(Olive Oil Times)*

HEALTH NEWS

ARE PALM SUGAR AND COCONUT SUGAR SIMILAR?

If you've been preparing homemade pad Thai for supper, you've probably noticed

palm sugar listed among the ingredients and may be wondering what exactly palm sugar is and whether you might substitute a few tablespoons of the coconut sugar in the bag in the kitchen pantry.

Although a coconut tree is a type of palm and both plants belong to the Arecaceae family, there are significant differences between the trees' root systems, fruit production, and even the texture of their bark. While both palm sugar and coconut sugar are made by boiling down the sap from tree blooms, the two sugars are not interchangeable.

Coconut trees only produce coconuts, whereas other palm trees don't always produce fruit (though some do, like date palms), but both species of palm trees have blooming flowers from which sap is collected to produce sugar that is extremely nuanced, deep-flavored, and has undertones of caramel, maple, and honey; these flavours are similar to those of brown sugar, but they are less potent and excessively sweet.

Why are the two sugars different?

Both palm and coconut sugar are relatively unrefined sugars that retain their benefits and are less sickly sweet, as compared to granulated white table sugar made from sugar cane or sugar beets, which is frequently more refined and processed, and as a result, neither type of sugar is frequently less expensive than table sugar.

Granulated coconut sugar is now more frequently seen in the baking section of big-box grocery stores due to the rising popularity of coconut products such as coconut oil, milk, and flakes. Coconut sugar doesn't taste like coconut, in contrast to other derivatives of the coconut that are produced from the fruit's meat. the flavour is closer to the flowery undertones of palm sugar, which can come in a variety of shapes and flavours.

Both sweeteners can be found in granular crystal forms, pastes with a viscosity similar to honey, and solid blocks (also known as "jaggery") at Asian grocery stores. While palm sugar often has a golden to grayish-black colour, coconut sugar typically has a brown hue. Additionally, palm sugar tends to have a richer, more smokey flavour compared to coconut sugar.

Coconut and palm sugar has a variety of uses

Visit your local Asian market to become familiar with the differences between the two sugars, and keep both on hand for cooking. While palm sugar and coconut sugar have different differences from one another, they may commonly be replaced for one another in recipes.

Pad Thai will have great flavour depth if you replace some of the granulated sugar with a few teaspoons of palm sugar. However, it could be crucial to take into account the fact that palm or coconut sugars will be less sweet if you're baking with them. If you're planning to substitute either palm sugar or coconut sugar for table sugar when making muffins, you might need to pulse the sugar in the food processor a few times to get a finer granulation size and texture.

If you buy the sugar in bricks, you might have to slice, cut, or even melt it before using it in your recipe. However, the block and granular forms are particularly practical when creating hot beverages and are excellent when dissolved in hot water. cooking with palm or coconut sugar paste is a terrific alternative for easily scooping and whisking into tangy salad dressings like miso tahini dressing and a range of curries. *(The Daily Meal)*

THE BENEFITS OF COCONUT WATER ARE EXPLAINED BY EXPERTS

Since so many diet trends are overhyped, nutritionists say this one holds some weight. In other words, the health benefits of coconut water are plentiful. However, when the ever-moving wellness spotlight lingered over coconut water—the fluid harvested from inside

coconuts—you, like many of us, probably wondered: Is coconut water actually healthy.

We list the benefits of nature's sports drink supported by research below, but before you take advantage of any of them, Jennifer Christman, R.D.N., L.D.N., C.P.T., director of clinical nutrition at Optavia, advises reading nutritional labels. "Stick with options that are 100% coconut water and free of unnecessary additives, like sugars," she advises.

Benefits of coconut water

The most well-known benefit of coconut water is that it can match Gatorade's electrolytes (which we'll discuss later), but that isn't its sole advantage:

It is abundant in essential nutrients

According to Joanna Gregg, R.D., a registered dietitian with MyFitnessPal, 8 oz. of store-bought coconut water has about 500 mg of potassium, 30 to 40 mg of sodium, and 4% of the suggested daily values for magnesium and calcium. "If your diet is lacking in any of these nutrients, coconut water may be beneficial for meeting your daily needs," she says.

It is an electrolyte source that is natural

According to the National Library of Medicine, electrolytes are minerals not found in water that support hydration, muscle function, and a stable blood pH. When you sweat, you lose electrolytes, and while sports drinks may help replenish them after a vigorous workout, they frequently contain unnecessary added sugars. On the other hand, pure coconut water does not—and one cup contains more than twice the amount of electrolytes than tetra packs.

It has a lot of potassium

The U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans have identified potassium as one of the four nutrients of concern for Americans, according to nutrition immunology and science communication expert Megan Meyer, Ph.D. Insufficient potassium intake can elevate blood pressure, deplete calcium in bones, and increase the risk of kidney stones, among other things, she explains.

It might benefit heart health

According to Sarah Olszewski, M.S., R.D.N., C.D.N., a registered dietitian and Cure nutrition advisor, potassium may "help relax blood vessels in order to promote healthy blood flow and regulate blood pressure levels," especially if you overdo it on sodium, which has a tendency to raise blood pressure; having a dose of potassium can counteract those effects.

It has few calories

It's normal to question if coconut water is a decent weight loss beverage; experts recommend it since it tastes delicious and has fewer calories than alternatives like juice and soda, but it will never be as effective for reducing weight as regular, calorie-free water.

According to Olszewski, switching to coconut water from high-calorie beverages can be a healthier option for people trying to manage their weight. However, some packaged coconut water products may contain added sugars and higher calorie content, which may not be helpful for weight loss. It's important to read labels and choose pure, unsweetened coconut water whenever possible.

It is very hydrating

One of the best things you can do for your health is to drink enough water every day, according to Meyer, who points out that the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics advises women and men to consume about nine and 13 cups of water daily, respectively. "Coconut water can help

people meet their hydration needs, since it is about 95% water," she adds.

It might be an effective antioxidant

Animal-based studies have explored this theory with positive results, but more research is required in humans to determine how potent its preventive effects really are, says Olszewski. "Coconut water contains antioxidants that may help neutralise harmful free radicals in the body and protect cells from oxidative stress," he explains.

Is daily consumption of coconut water healthy?

Daily consumption of coconut water can be a part of a healthy diet, especially for those who work out frequently and live in hot climates, says Olszewski. However, those who have certain medical conditions, such as kidney disease, "should exercise caution with the amount of coconut water they consume," she adds. the potassium in coconut water may put undue strain on the kidneys. *(CCA)*

COCONUT RECIPE

BUTTER-POACHED SCALLOPS WITH COCONUT SAUCE

Ingredients

For the sauce
- two 400ml (13.5oz) cans coconut milk
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 28g (1oz) salted cod
- 4 makrut lime leaves
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme
- 2 shallots, sliced
- 2 tbsp whole annatto seeds
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tbsp fresh ginger, sliced thin
- 1 fresh lemongrass stalk, sliced in half lengthwise
- salt and pepper
- fresh lime juice

For the beurre monte
- 1 cup water
- 110g (1 stick) unsalted butter, cut into small pieces

For the scallops
- Virgin coconut oil
- 4 very large scallops
- Kaluga caviar, optional

Method

Step 1
To make the sauce, combine all the ingredients (except the salt, pepper and lime juice) in a large saucepan and simmer over medium heat until reduced to 1 cup, 30 minutes to 1 hour. Strain the sauce through a fine-mesh sieve. If the sauce looks broken, you can puree it in a blender, but this is optional. Return the sauce to the saucepan, season with salt and pepper and squeeze the juice from about ½ lime into it. Keep warm over low heat.

Step 2
Make the beurre monté. Bring 1 cup of water to a boil in a saucepan. Reduce the heat to low and whisk in the butter a few small pieces at a time, until emulsified, about 3 to 5 minutes. Once emulsified, whisk in the rest of the butter until fully incorporated. Keep warm over very low heat.

Step 3
Heat a medium frying pan over very high heat. Add just enough oil to coat the bottom of the pan, just before the smoke point. Sear the scallops until golden brown on one side only, about 40 seconds. Transfer the scallops to the saucepan with the beurre monté, seared-side down. Let poach for about 2½ minutes, until just cooked through. Season the scallops lightly with salt.

Step 4
Spoon about 2 tbsp of sauce on each of four plates. Place one scallop on each plate, then dollop with Kaluga caviar, if using.

(World's Table)

STATISTICS

Table 1. Monthly Export of Coconut Shell Charcoal by Selected Countries 2021 - 2023 (In MT)

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
January	16,585	17,429	14,435	5,273	7,395	7,793	709	930	767
February	15,357	13,584	15,008	6,230	10,228	8,685	1,045	943	882
March	12,288	16,531	16,907	10,382	11,694	11,824	882	1,050	348
April	15,430	13,549	11,384	8,979	9,429	11,517	548	1,576	416
May	11,241	7,367	17,456	9,457	6,739		991	1,211	
June	9,869	11,796		9,182	10,517		412	1,475	
July	9,253	10,866		9,439	9,986		733	1,398	
August	10,019	13,327		10,071	10,438		489	1,670	
September	10,319	13,896		13,049	10,805		484	1,378	
October	13,270	13,984		9,390	9,181		547	606	
November	14,877	14,712		12,311	9,010		818	659	
December	16,016	16,137		10,047	8,268		697	1,214	
TOTAL	**154,524**	**163,178**	**75,190**	**113,810**	**113,690**	**39,819**	**8,355**	**14,110**	**2,413**

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

Table 2. Monthly Export of Activated Carbon by Selected Countries 2021 - 2023 (In MT)

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
January	1,415	2,184	1,440	6,170	5,873	5,466	4,311	3,918	3,441
February	2,250	2,239	1,430	5,616	6,229	4,203	3,701	3,529	4,035
March	2,609	2,327	1,415	7,193	8,171	5,859	5,050	4,424	4,311
April	2,379	1,926	1,361	5,782	7,455	5,334	3,579	5,093	4,021
May	1,929	1,360		5,865	7,051		4,781	4,796	
June	1,720	2,032		5,642	6,498		4,491	4,904	
July	1,925	1,471		7,071	7,430		4,025	5,034	
August	1,550	1,866		5,385	7,789		3,805	4,890	
September	1,799	1,673		6,876	7,246		4,435	5,376	
October	1,607	1,440		6,030	5,768		4,555	5,276	
November	2,348	1,522		6,450	4,963		4,650	3,720	
December	2,280	1,581		5,760	6,215		5,336	3,870	
TOTAL	**23,812**	**21,622**	**5,646**	**73,840**	**80,688**	**20,862**	**52,719**	**54,830**	**15,807**

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

Table 3. Export Destination of Activated Carbon from India and Indonesia, January-May 2023

India			Indonesia		
Country of Destination	**Volume (MT)**	**Value (US$ 000)**	**Country of Destination**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value (US$ 000)**
1. U S A	7,622	16,120	1. AUSTRALIA	1,685	2,503
2. GERMANY	4,551	7,920	2. CHILE	2,183	2,062
3. TURKEY	3,894	5,540	3. CHINA	912	1,944
4. BELGIUM	2,249	4,800	4. ESTONIA	792	1,777
5. JAPAN	2,354	4,420	5. FRANCE	516	971
6. RUSSIA	2,237	4,270	6. GERMANY	264	473
7. GHANA	1,674	3,670	7. IRAN	206	396
8. KOREA RP	1,517	3,490	8. JAPAN	192	333
9. CHINA P RP	1,317	3,420	9. KOREA, REP.	106	233
10. ITALY	2,207	3,370	10. MALAYSIA	120	159
11. OTHERS	26,326	43,510	11. OTHERS	277	560
Total	**55,949**	**100,530**	**Total**	**7,253**	**11,410**

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

Table 4. US Imports of Coconut Shell Charcoal based Activated Carbon, 2021-2023

Month	2020		2021		2023	
	Volume (MT)	**Value US$'000**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value US$'000**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value US$'000**
January	4,475	9,034	4,346	11,890	5,104	11,294
February	3,417	7,333	3,752	8,976	2,817	6,822
March	4,296	9,602	5,158	13,025	3,859	9,301
April	3,151	6,653	5,081	12,464	3,452	7,967
May	3,773	8,735	6,063	15,411		
June	4,226	9,569	6,404	16,212		
July	4,130	10,727	5,446	13,609		
August	3,316	8,015	6,315	14,927		
September	3,165	7,855	7,126	16,857		
October	2,950	6,881	6,600	15,926		
November	4,470	11,184	5,495	13,325		
December	4,353	12,077	4,645	12,082		
Total	**45,723**	**107,665**	**66,432**	**164,704**	**15,232**	**35,383**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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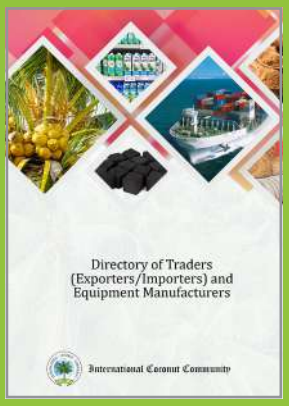

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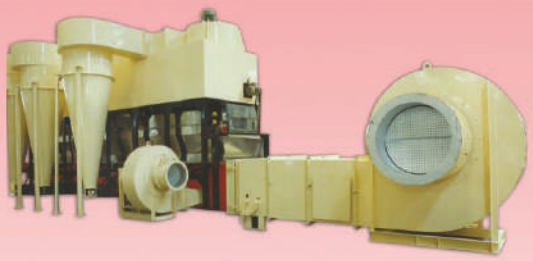

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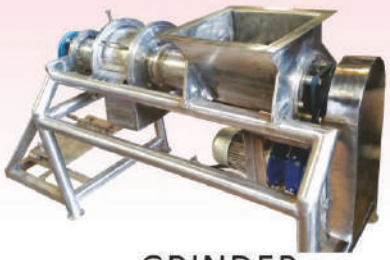

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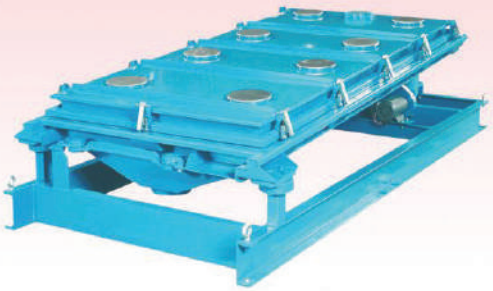

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