



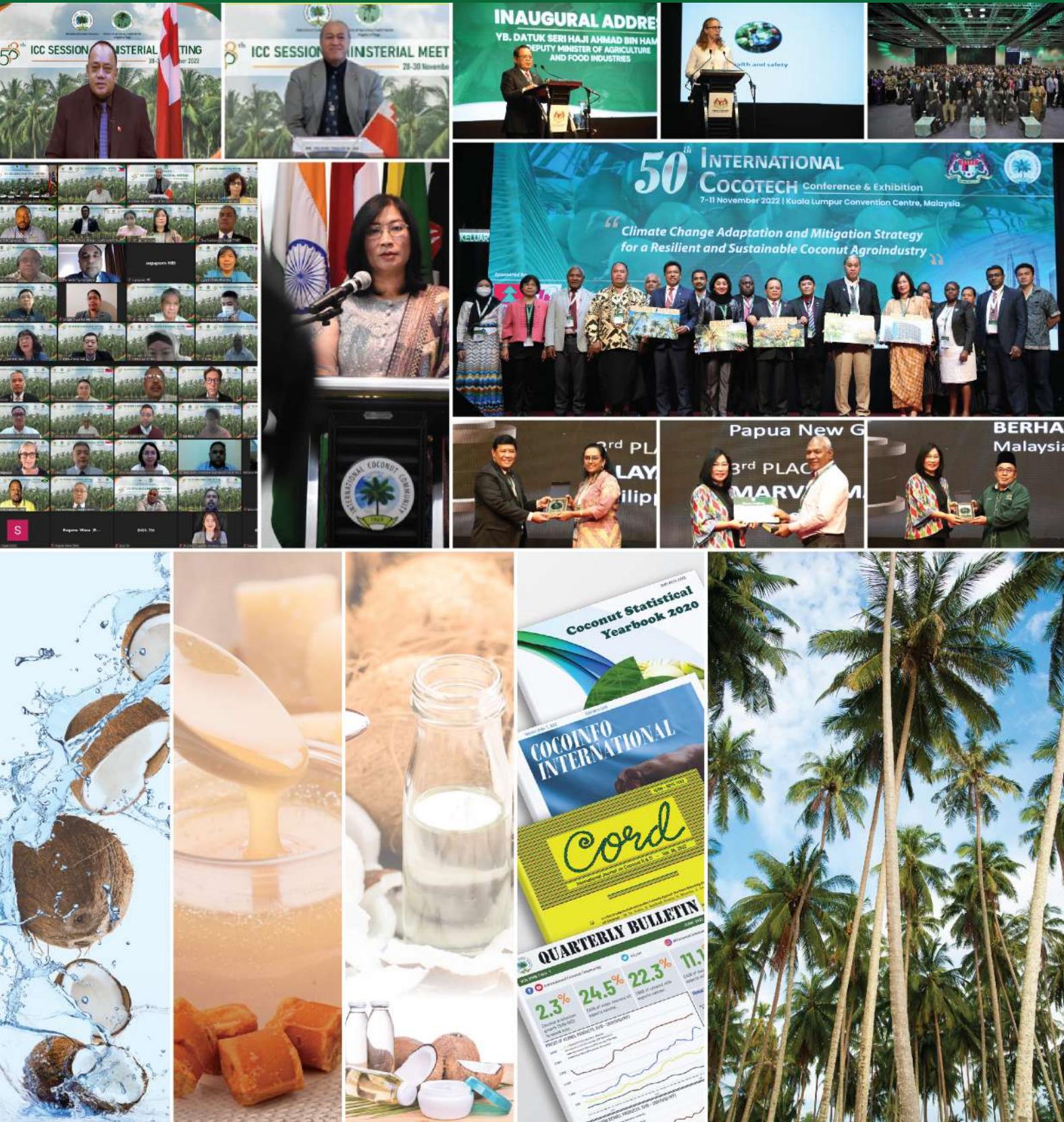
The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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International Coconut Community



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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

"Sustaining the Coconut Sector for Present and Future Generations"



The ICC member countries observed World Coconut Day (WCD) on September 2, coinciding with the commemoration of the ICC's foundation in 1969. This annual celebration acknowledges the global significance of coconuts, encompassing coconut farmers and their families, industries, and consumers. The WCD celebrations include exhibitions featuring cutting-edge coconut technologies and products, educational workshops, training sessions, and competitions. Cultural performances showing the profound cultural significance of coconut in various cultures are all included. This year's WCD was dedicated to the topic of **"Sustaining the Coconut Sector for Present and Future Generations"**.

World Coconut Day is a significant moment in appreciating farmers, business actors, researchers, producers, coconut organizations and all coconut stakeholders in collective efforts to create a sustainable, resilient, and more competitive coconut sector. It is a recognition of the coconut's contribution economically, socially, and environmentally. The enormous potential of coconut still needs to be explored to be utilized optimally for the benefit of farmers, society, and the nation. Challenges, such as tariff and non-tariff barriers, demand shifts, and industry standards, necessitate proactive adaptation.

ICC participated in The World Coconut Day 2023 Celebration in Gorontalo Regency, Indonesia, 21-25 September 2023. Private sector and government agency exhibitors presented their activities. A total of 30 exhibitors, comprising both private sector entities and government agencies, presented their respective operations. Approximately 300 participants, including international attendees from countries such as PNG, Malaysia, Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, US, UK, and France, were present at the five-day event. A multitude of local tourists, including school children, eagerly visited the display booths. Furthermore, an International Coconut Conference with international speakers and many competitions were also arranged as part of the festivities. Followed with a training program by the Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency and other institutions to coconut farmers and processors. This aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of participants, contributing to the sustainable growth of the coconut industry.

The ICC Secretariat also acknowledged several celebrations organized by member countries such as Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, PNG, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, The Philippines, Tonga, and Vietnam. Their celebration aimed to raise awareness, encourage sustainability, and spark innovation in the coconut industry. They emphasized the need for sustainable practices, including environmentally friendly farming and effective pest management, to strengthen the strength and resilience of the sector.

The event also highlighted the versatile nutritional aspects of coconut and recognized its importance in economy, society, culture and history. Agricultural entrepreneurs and processors were given the opportunity to showcase innovative coconut-based products, with the aim to inspire a diverse audience, including youth, women, and people with disabilities, to engage in coconut farming and entrepreneurship. These all are contributing to the sustainable growth of the coconut industry.

Dear readers, Happy Coconut Day 2023 and may the spirit of coconut will embrace and unite us in the vision of ICC of a sustainable coconut sector for present and future generations!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DR. JELFINA C. ALOW".

DR. JELFINA C. ALOW
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) increased in India and Sri Lanka but decreased in Indonesia and remained unchanged in Philippines.

COPRA: In August 2023, the price of copra in Indonesia slightly increased to US\$616/MT, from US\$592/MT in the previous month. However, compared to the same period in the previous year, the price lower by US\$26/MT. Meanwhile, in the Philippines' domestic market, the price of copra levelled down from US\$642/MT in July 2023 to US\$637/MT in August 2023, a decrease of US\$5/MT. The price was US\$48/MT lower than the price a year ago, which was US\$685/MT. In Sri Lanka, price of copra declined from US\$1,020/MT in July 2023 to US\$964/MT in August 2023.

COCONUT OIL: In August 2023, the average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) increased to US\$1,102/MT. The price was 19% lower than the price a year ago, which was US\$1,364/MT. In the Philippines, the average local price of coconut oil was US\$1,137/MT in August 2023. The price was US\$144 was lower than the price a year earlier. In Indonesia, the average local price of coconut oil increased to US\$1,097/MT in August 2023 from US\$1,021/MT in July 2023. The price was comparably lower by US\$142/MT as opposed to the price in August 2022. Meanwhile, price of coconut oil in Sri Lanka dropped from US\$1,823/MT in July 2023 to US\$1,783/MT in August 2023.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic price of copra meal was quoted at US\$266/MT in August 2023, which was slightly lower than the previous month's price. Moreover,

the price was US\$23/MT higher than the price a year earlier. In Indonesia, the average domestic price of copra meal decreased to US\$267/MT in August 2023, and was US\$14/MT lower than the price a year earlier.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in August 2023 was US\$1,690/MT, which was remained unchanged as opposed to the previous month's price. Moreover, the price was US\$331/MT lower than the price of the same month last year. In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in August 2023 was US\$1,574/MT, which was higher than the price in July 2023. In the Philippines, the price of DC in the domestic market remained unchanged at US\$2,039/MT in August 2023. Meanwhile, the Indonesian price (FOB) of DC was lower than the previous month's price at US\$1,400/MT, but was higher than last year's price of US\$1,375/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In the Philippines, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in August 2023 was US\$350/MT, which was slightly higher than the price in the previous month. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price slightly decreased to US\$459/MT in August 2023 from US\$466/MT in July 2023. In Sri Lanka, the price of coconut shell charcoal in August 2023 was US\$321/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\$51/MT for mix fiber and US\$404-US\$602/MT for bristle. In Indonesia, the price for mixed raw fiber remained unchanged at US\$90/MT in August 2023, which was significantly lower than the price a year earlier at US\$160/MT.

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

Products/Country	2023	2023	2022	2023
	Aug	Jul	Aug (Annual Ave.)	
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	124	121	150	132
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	138	142	146	146
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	193	200	178	220
India (Domestic Kerala)	394	375	395	408
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	637	642	685	629
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	616	592	642	598
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	964	1,020	955	1,161
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,016	974	1,055	1,025
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,102	1,047	1,364	1,066
Philippines (Domestic)	1,137	1,130	1,281	1,118
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,097	1,021	1,239	1,089
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,783	1,823	1,860	2,073
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,628	1,585	1,815	1,674
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	1,690	1,690	2,021	1,799
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,574	1,552	1,466	1,619
Indonesia (FOB)	1,400	1,500	1,375	1,434
India (Domestic)	1,522	1,389	1,396	1,429
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	266	270	243	284
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	271	286	240	299
Indonesia (Domestic)	267	270	281	283
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	350	351	365	354
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	321	325	402	368
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	459	466	496	466
India (Domestic)	338	338	532	360
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	51	48	62	46
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	404	399	315	408
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	602	619	413	531
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	90	90	160	90
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	998	998	1,173	1,010
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	861	879	1,026	920
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,127	1,136	1,599	1,124

Exchange Rate

Aug 31, '23 1 US\$ = P56.64 or Rp15,229 or India Rs82.70 or SL Rs320.98
 1 Euro = US\$ 1.08 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF COCONUT OIL

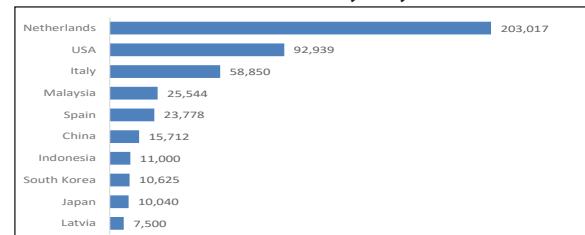
In the first half of 2023, the global lauric oils market exhibited notable price trends that shed light on the industry's dynamics. During January to August 2023, the price of coconut oil remained relatively stable. It began the year at US\$1,071/MT in January 2023 and exhibited minor fluctuations, reaching US\$1,102/MT in August 2023. This stability was the result of a delicate balance between supply and demand. However, with the anticipation of an upturn in demand and the possibility of decreased supply, the outlook for coconut oil prices suggests an upward trend in the coming months.

In contrast, the price of palm kernel oil experienced a gradual decline during the same period. It commenced at US\$1,060/MT in January 2023 and steadily decreased to US\$998/MT in August 2023, averaging at US\$1,010/MT. This decrease in price can be attributed to a variety of factors, including supply dynamics and market forces. As the lauric oils market adapts to changing conditions, the price of palm kernel oil is also expected to reflect these adjustments, with an anticipation of improved prices in the upcoming months.

The first half of 2023 brought forth notable shifts in the supply dynamics of lauric oils, with the Philippines and Indonesia showcasing distinct performances.

The Philippines, renowned for its role in the production and export of coconut oil, experienced a significant drop in export performance during the initial five months of 2023. According to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, coconut oil exports from the country totaled 470,004 tons during this period, marking a substantial reduction of 15% compared to the previous year. This decline can be attributed to a combination of lower demand and higher supply. Major destinations for these exports included the Netherlands, the USA, Italy, Malaysia, Spain, and China.

Figure 2. Top 10 Export Destinations of Philippines' Coconut Oil, January-May 2023



Source: UCAP

Figure 1. Price of Lauric Oils, January 2018 – August 2023, (USD/MT)

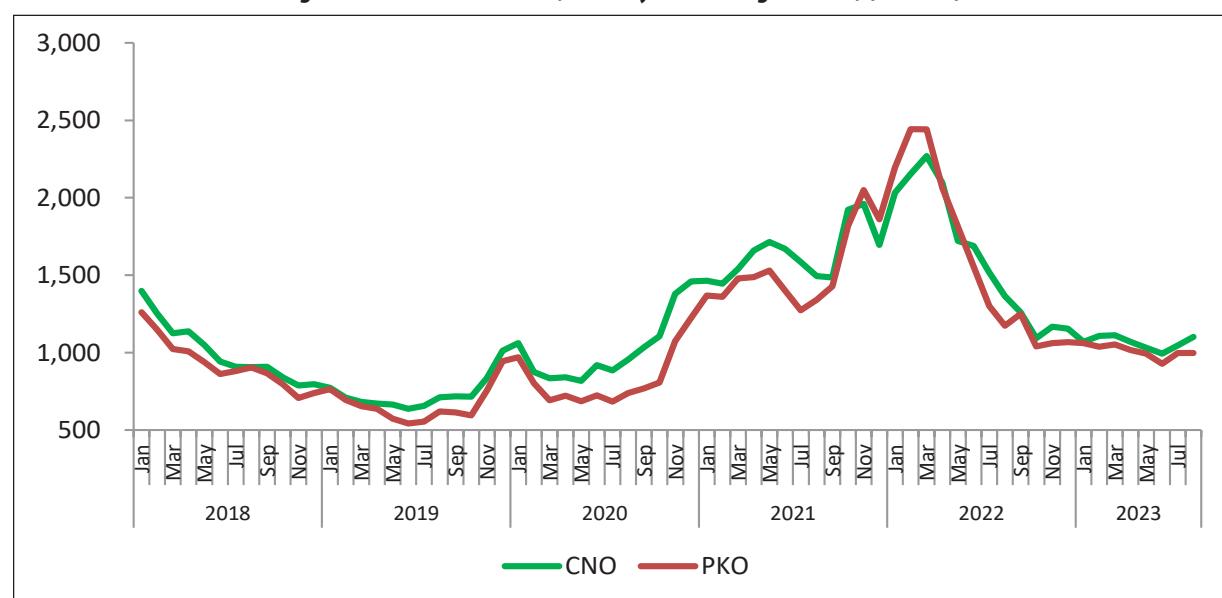


Table 1. Exports of Lauric Oils from Indonesia

		Jan-Jul 2022	Jan-Jul 2023	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	401,773	439,119	9.30
	Value (USD'000)	751,860	439,769	-41.51
PKO	Volume (MT)	557,905	669,171	19.94
	Value (USD'000)	1,158,793	664,768	-42.63
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	959,678	1,108,290	15.49
	Value (USD'000)	1,910,654	1,104,537	-42.19

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 2. European Union (EU28) Imports of Lauric Oils, January – July 2022/2023

		Jan-Jul 2022	Jan-Jul 2023	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	646,710	563,300	-12.90
	Value (USD'000)	1,266,974	799,142	-36.93
PKO	Volume (MT)	425,464	432,591	1.68
	Value (USD'000)	885,648	618,297	-30.19
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	1,072,175	995,892	-7.11
	Value (USD'000)	2,152,622	1,417,439	-34.15

Source: ITC

In contrast to the Philippines, Indonesia witnessed a boost in coconut oil exports during the first half of 2023. The country shipped 439,119 MT of coconut oil to the global market, indicating a 9.3% increase compared to the previous year's volume. However, despite the increase in export volume, the export earnings declined from US\$751.9 million to US\$439.8 million, reflecting a lower unit price of the oil. Major markets for Indonesian coconut oil exports included Malaysia, the Netherlands, China, the United States, and Sri Lanka.

The European and US markets, two significant players in the global lauric oils trade, saw notable changes in demand during the first half of 2023.

The European market experienced a considerable decline in lauric oil imports during this period. Imports of lauric oils in this region decreased by 7%, with coconut oil being the primary contributor to this decline. The economic slowdown in Europe played a pivotal role in the drop in demand for

Table 3. US Imports of Lauric Oils

		Jan-Jul 2022	Jan-Jul 2023	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	897,253	667,257	-25.63
	Value (USD'000)	1,926,300	887,735	-53.92
PKO	Volume (MT)	568,320	466,373	-17.94
	Value (USD'000)	1,304,945	709,484	-45.63
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	1,465,573	1,133,630	-22.65
	Value (USD'000)	3,231,245	1,597,219	-50.57

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

coconut oil and other lauric oils. However, there are expectations of a recovery as the regional economy shows signs of improvement.

Similarly, the United States market witnessed a substantial decline in lauric oil imports during the first half of 2023. Imports of these oils plummeted by 22.7%, primarily due to a surge in coconut oil imports. US imports of coconut oil fell from 897 thousand tons in January to July 2022 to 667 thousand tons during the same period in 2023. The economic slowdown in the US played a crucial role in this reduction in imports.

It is important to note that the decline in demand for lauric oils in both the European and US markets is expected to be temporary. As the economies of these regions gradually improve, the demand for these oils is projected to recover, potentially driving growth in the lauric oil trade.

The first half of 2023 witnessed various trends in the global trade of lauric oils, with significant fluctuations in price, contrasting supply dynamics in the Philippines and Indonesia, and shifts in demand in the European and US markets. While the lauric oils market adapted to the economic slowdown in major importing regions, there is optimism for a recovery in demand as these economies improve. As supply and demand dynamics realign, it is expected that prices of lauric oils will see positive shifts in the near future, reflecting the evolving landscape of the global lauric oils trade.

COMMUNITY NEWS

QUEZON COCONUT FEST ENDS WITH CULTURAL SHOWCASE, AFTER 11 DAYS

After 11 days of festivities, the well-known "Niyogyugan Festival" in Quezon province came to a conclusion in the capital city with a parade of 26 vibrant floats and street dancers honoring the little coconut.

On both sides of Quezon Avenue, locals and spectators, some of whom were out-of-towners brought in by tour buses, gathered to watch the parade of 27 groups of street dancers dressed in vibrant costumes and 26 floats, each of which highlighted the rich cultural heritage and popular tourist destinations of its respective locality.

Following the parade, the street dancers fought it out on the grounds of Quezon National High School till the wee hours of the morning.

In a coconut-themed pavilion in front of the park, Gov. Angelina Tan welcomed the visitors on Aug. 9 by participating in a "tagayan" (alcohol toasting) ceremony with a sip of "lambanog" (coconut gin).

The event, which takes its name from the words "niyog" (coconut) and "yugyog" (move quickly), started in August 2011 and developed into a week-long celebration known as the "Niyogyugan Festival" to honor coconut producers and boost local tourism.

This year, the majority of the festival's events were also broadcast online. However, compared to prior years, there were considerably fewer people at the festival grounds this year.

To promote regional goods and tourism attractions of the participating 38 towns and two cities, the provincial administration built rows of stalls at the back of the Kapitolyo (capitol building) this year. This year, only the town of Padre Burgos opted out.

For farmers of coco

Typhoon Glenda (also known as Rammasun internationally) halted the Niyogyugan Festival in 2014, and the COVID-19 pandemic prevented it from taking place in 2020 and 2021.

Due to insufficient funding and planning time, Tan also abandoned the staging of the traditional event the previous year.

For the benefit of the coconut farmers and to better support the development of the tourism industry, she announced plans to alter this year's festival.

Tan promised to revive the manufacturing of traditional coconut-based goods such coco-sugar, virgin coconut oil, and lambanog during the coconut summit held here on August 10.

She said that a foundation will be established to assist the coconut growers and their families with financial support from the province government and other kind donors from the private sector.

In accordance with the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act of 2021, or Republic Act No. 11524, Tan also pledged to assist in hastening the distribution of funding for projects and programs owed to neighborhood coconut farmers. (*Inquirer*)

PHILIPPINES DROPS TO THIRD PLACE IN COCONUT PRODUCTION AFTER 100 MILLION TREES ARE PLANTED

In an effort to reclaim its production dominance, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) stated that it planned to grow 100 million coconut trees.

Despite Indonesia and India outpacing the Philippines in terms of production volume, PCA Deputy Administrator Roel Rosales said in a briefing that the Philippines continued to be the world's top exporter of coconuts.

"We used to be the main producer of coconuts, but not any more. That puts our position on the global market in danger, Rosales added.

The majority of their coconuts are consumed domestically, which is the sole positive. We want to continue down that path. Sa Indonesia, may bitbit silang niyog for their use (In Indonesia, they use coconuts daily)," he continued.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who also oversees the agriculture department, gave the order to plant the coconuts, according to Rosales.

According to Rosales, coconut trees will be planted in several parts of Northern Luzon and Mindanao.

Certainly one of the regions is Mindanao. There are many locations there that might be used for it. To increase the number of coconuts in the northern provinces, we are looking for sites in the north. "We will collaborate with IPs," he declared.

"We only operate in public spaces. To make room for coconut trees, we don't cut down forest trees, the official continued.

He pointed out that coconuts can grow in a variety of environments, including sand and high altitudes.

"We also need to fertilize our coconut so we can improve productivity on a per hectare basis," he stated.

Rosales agreed that the coconut market had shrunk this year.

"The year 2022 was prosperous for coconut. We made 3 billion pesos. However, due to the weak demand, there was a drop. China is not there yet, he claimed.

What has changed is that the market is down due to the Indonesian stock falling due to the pandemic. Mababa ang presyo (The market

is down as a result of Indonesia releasing its pandemic stock). Price decreased)," he continued.

Prior to the 37th Coconut Week, which runs from August 22 to September 1, Rosales advocated the consumption of coconut.

Coconut is a common ingredient in both food and non-food products that we might find in our homes. Let's encourage improved coconut usage. The coconut week is intended to serve as the vehicle for that, he said.

"We really need to support our coconut farmers especially at the time of food insecurity," he stated to the public. (ABS-CBN)

RESEARCHERS AT BHU USE COCONUT OIL REFINERY WASTE TO MAKE FLAVORING COMPOUNDS

Varanasi Researchers from Banaras Hindu University have created a flavoring substance that successfully uses coconut coir and has exceptional antioxidant, antibacterial, and anti-cancer characteristics. The study team used coconut coir from temple waste as the basic ingredient in the fermentation process used to create this unique culinary flavor.

Dr. Abhishek Dutt Tripathi from the Institute of Agricultural Sciences' Department of Dairy Science and Food Technology, Dr. Veena Paul from the Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Dr. Vibhav Gautam from the Institute of Medical Sciences' Center for Experimental Medicine and Surgery, and Dr. Aparna Agarwal from the University of Delhi worked together on this ground-breaking project.

According to a press release from BHU, Dr. Abhishek Dutt Tripathi stressed the importance of towns like Varanasi, which are highly significant from a religious and spiritual standpoint and produce a lot of garbage from temples, notably coconut coir. Although this garbage can biodegrade, insufficient regulation can harm the

ecosystem and encourage a number of microbial diseases. Due to the abundance of lignocellulosic biomass in coconut coir, Dr. Tripathi highlighted the product's wide potential.

Numerous research have described various methods for transforming the lignocellulosic biomass of waste coconut coir into aromatic chemicals with added value. "By making this idea a reality and using *Bacillus aryabhattachai* to process the lignocellulosic biomass of coconut coir, we have made a significant advancement. This represents a groundbreaking accomplishment," he said.

Research methodology

The coconut coir used in the study was pretreated before being dried for 72 hours at 50°C. It was then turned into a powder by finely grinding it. The coconut coir underwent hydro-distillation and was then digested at 100°C for an hour. To separate the lignin and cellulose, the mixture was filtered and acidified. After being extracted, the lignin was used in the fermentation procedure using *Bacillus Aryabhattachai*.

The broth was filtered after fermentation, and the collected supernatant was then put into a separator funnel and treated with ethyl acetate. All organic fractions were then collected and concentrated using a rotating vacuum evaporator after a 15-minute centrifugation. Following cell line testing, the recovered flavor molecule showed anti-cancer potential against breast cancer.

Journals like *Bioresource Technology*, *Food Biotechnology*, and *Applied Food Biotechnology* have published the results of this study. These discoveries offer novel research directions and hold great promise for the pharmaceutical and food processing industries. (*Indian Express*)

DNCRP FOR KEEPING A RECEIPT IN THE TRADE OF GREEN COCONUTS

Keep receipts while purchasing and selling green coconuts, according to the Directorate

of National Consumers Right Protection (DNCRP), since harsh action will be taken if you don't.

According to a press release, the directorate made the comment at a meeting on buying and selling green coconuts at a reasonable price held at its headquarters in Dhaka.

The meeting was presided over by DNCRP Director General (DG) AHM Shafiquzzaman, who was joined by the organization's representatives and connected business people.

According to AHM Shafiquzzaman, DNCRP would regularly monitor the market to manage the price of green coconut.

"A valid receipt must be preserved for both the purchase and sale of green coconuts. The traders will face harsh punishments, including fines, if the price is in any way higher than the fair price, he stressed.

He stated: "The highest price of green coconut at the wholesale level was found between Tk40 and Tk70."

Because of this, he claimed, the best green coconut cannot cost more than Tk100 at the retail level.

According to Shafiquzzaman, green coconut prices are rising at every level of wholesale and retail because no one is keeping track of their purchases with receipts or vouchers.

"We have already begun battling it all across the nation. The cost of green coconuts has consequently begun to drop, he continued.

He claimed that instructions had already been granted to maintain market surveillance till the green coconut's maximum selling price was within Tk 100 per unit.

The DNCRP DG claimed that the rise in dengue virus was a major factor in the demand for green coconuts.

He added that green coconut dealers had previously received fines in various regions of the nation for selling the fruit at exorbitant costs. "Taking advantage of this, green coconut traders are unethically increasing the prices," he said.

Additionally, he said, traders are being cautioned to maintain the vouchers and sell green coconut at the correct price. (*Dhaka Tribune*)

ON WORLD COCONUT DAY, CPCRI WILL SIGN SIX MOA FOR A TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

On September 2, World Coconut Day, the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod, Kerala, will sign six memorandums of arrangement (MoA) for the transfer of knowledge, including with a farmer producer company and a nursery of Karnataka.

Apparently, K.B. A contract for the transfer of technology related to the collection of fresh and hygienic Kalparasa and the production of natural coconut sugar will be signed with YGP Coconut Farmers' Producer Company Ltd., Davangere, according to Hebbar, the director of the institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

To impart the know-how for growing the Shathamangala arecanut variety seedlings, agreements will be struck with Yashaswi Nursery, Kemminje, Puttur in Dakshina Kannada, and Integrated Rural Agri Nursery, Badiyadka, Kasaragod.

Redhive Odm Llp, Kasaragod, and the institute will enter into a contract under which the technology for the preservation of carbonated tender coconut water will be transferred.

Another contract for the transfer of coconut chip production technology will be inked with Narial Bharat Nutra Producer Company Ltd. of Konasema, Andhra Pradesh.

With the ICAR Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Taliparamba, Kannur, the sixth agreement

pertaining to the transfer of technology for "Kalpa entomopathogenic nematodes aqua formulation" would be inked.

Businesses to be recognized

Eight businesses from various States that have used CPCRI technologies most successfully will be honored on the occasion at CPCRI in Kasaragod by Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shobha Karandlaje. South Canara Coconut Farmers' Producer Company Limited, Puttur, was among them. The FPO had acquired technologies for producing value-added products based on matured coconut water, gathering fresh and hygienic Kalparasa, making natural coconut sugar, and making virgin coconut oil, among other things.

Over 300 farmers from FPOs in the coconut industry from Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, and Gujarat will attend an FPO business meeting on encouraging coconut production with improved profits.

A workshop on the opportunities and difficulties in processing and adding value to plantation crops will be held for students and supported by the Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology.

A representative from the Coconut Development Board in Kochi will also be present.

To commemorate the founding of the Asia Pacific Coconut Community (the current International Coconut Community) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the World Coconut Day is observed. "Sustaining the coconut sector for the present and future generation" is the main focus this year. According to Mr. Hebbar, this issue has greater significance for India because of the risks to the country's coconut industry, including climate change, a lack of skilled labor, low prices, high production costs, and foreign competition.

There will be an exhibition where more than 25 organizations and businesspeople will present their technologies and goods, including successful examples of Kalparasa marketing by FPOs, goods made by women SHGs, and technological demonstration and display. (*The Hindu*)

NIGERIAN COCONUT GROWERS CLAIM THAT THE INDUSTRY CAN GENERATE \$400 BILLION IF THE GOVERNMENT GIVES THEM MALAYSIAN SEEDS

The National Coconut Producers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria (NACOPPMAN), which represents coconut growers in Nigeria, claimed that if innovative hybrid coconut seedlings, such as Malaysian varieties that bear fruit in three to four years, are made available to them, the industry could contribute more than \$400 billion to the Nigerian economy.

Dr. Nma Okoroji, president of the National Coconut Producers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria (NACOPPMAN), revealed this in a conversation with a journalist in Abuja.

Despite having more arable land than Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and the Benin Republic, she continued, Nigeria produces fewer coconuts.

Worth \$400 billion

If FG provides the sector with cutting-edge seeds produced in South-East Asia, Dr. Nma Okoroji disclosed that the crop can boost the economy by \$400 billion. She said:

If sufficient care is taken in the production and processing of coconuts, the Nigerian economy may gain more than \$400 billion yearly.

"We want the government to provide us with cutting-edge hybrid coconut seedlings, similar to Malaysian types, which bear fruit in three to four years.

"It takes 200 trees to cover one hectare of land in a coconut plantation, and the hybrid species that we are promoting will yield at least 100 nuts per tree after three years.

"If each nut fetches N100, the farmer will earn N2 million a year. The trees may grow and continue to produce for 80 years, and there is no better business than that.

Imports and subpar outputs

She went on to claim that Nigeria today imports coconut rather than exports it and attributed the precarious state of coconut production to the government.

"Nigeria produces more coconuts than Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and the Benin Republic, despite having greater land.

The lack of government support for the association is equally depressing,

She further stated that difficulties faced by coconut farmers include a lack of resources, a lack of organic pesticides, manure, and other plant-enhancing products, as well as the need for mechanization and irrigation systems. She urged FG to provide the association with the pesticides, farmland, and plant-enhancing products it requires in order to lessen the association's burden and increase its output.

"We want the government to provide us with tractors since growing coconuts requires a lot of area and is challenging without mechanization.

We also ask the government for help irrigating our plantations because coconut requires a steady supply of water,

Decreasing exports

In the first half of 2022, Nigerians exported desiccated coconuts worth N13.86 billion, or 0.1% of the country's overall export value.

The production of coconut, a cash crop grown in 22 of Nigeria's 36 states with Lagos State having the greatest production area, is restricted to the country's southwest.

However, as of 2023, coconuts did not rank among Nigeria's top 10 agricultural exports in the first quarter of 2023, indicating a decline in the cash crop's export activity. (*Nairametrics*)

SOUGHT ARE PROGRAMS TO BUILD CAPACITY FOR COCONUT FARMERS

In order to grow the business and support the nation's drive to retake the top spot in the world coconut market, the government must step up capacity-building programs for coco growers.

The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) National Sectoral Committee (NSC) on Coconut is pleading with the Department of Agriculture (DA), through the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), to establish a technical working group that will develop and coordinate the capacity-building initiatives for the coconut stakeholders.

In a resolution, the NSC on Coconut recommended that the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) review the skills needed in the coconut industry and improve capacity-building initiatives.

ATI deputy director Antonieta Arceo stated during a recent meeting to discuss the improvement of capacity-building programs for coconut farmers that the trainings offered by the agency are based on the TNA completed by the Development Academy of the Philippines.

In the meantime, further trainings were conducted to support the DA's distribution efforts.

As a reaction to the resolution sent to us, "we will have another TNA later this year, and that

will be the basis of the trainings next year," Arceo stated.

On the other hand, Yvette Joy Lazada of TESDA highlighted the agency's willingness to work with the industry participants to enable the establishment of the necessary programs that do not yet have Training Regulations (TR).

The TR, which includes the competency-based curriculum, teaching resources, and competency assessment tools, sets the competency standards for a national qualification.

The 2023 Work and Financial Plan for TESDA as well as the agency's projects and objectives under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) were also presented by Lazada.

This includes the Coconut Farmers Scholarship Program and the initial list of skills requirements, confirmed by the PCA, as well as the ongoing poll with the PCA to establish the priority credentials/skills in each region.

In keeping with this, the NSC on Coconut also asked that the CFIDP informational campaign be stepped up in order to reach more stakeholders, particularly those who live in distant locations.

To restore its top spot in the worldwide coconut market, the PCA established a goal earlier this month to plant 100 million trees.

According to PCA deputy administrator Roel Rosales, the Philippines used to be the world's leading producer of coconuts.

However, in recent years Indonesia and then India have surpassed the nation, which has now dropped to the third position.

According to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), over the past three years, coconut production has remained constant at 14 million metric tons (MT). (*Philistar Global*)

DUE TO AN INFESTATION, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL IMPOSES COCONUT TRANSPORT RESTRAINTS

Due to an infestation that has already impacted two cities and two villages in the province, the Negros Occidental provincial administration placed limits on the transport of coconuts and coconut products.

Due to the danger posed by coconut scale insects, also known as cocolisap, Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson issued an executive order prohibiting the transport of coconut leaves, young coconuts, and other raw or unprocessed coconut products, as well as seedlings and seedlings of other scale insect host plants, unless authorized by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA).

An infestation of coconut trees and other plants is caused by the coconut scale bug known as cocolisap (*Aspidiotus rigidus*). These tiny, rounded, and flattened insects, which are frequently found on the undersides of coconut leaves, feed on the sap of the plants, weakening them and perhaps causing harm to harvests.

It is thought that cocolisap, which looks like fish scales and is frequently discovered under coconut leaves, reproduces every nine days for a period of one month.

In Negros Occidental, 5,000 coconut trees have already suffered damage from the insects, according to Dr. Neil Melencion, regional manager of PCA-Western Visayas, even though the number of impacted trees may possibly be close to 30,000.

The towns of Murcia and La Castellana, as well as the cities of Bago and La Carlota, have already been affected, according to Lacson.

More than five million coconut trees can be found in the province, and roughly half of them could already provide nearly 14,000 coconut farmers with a living by producing copra, which has a potential market value of P18.7 million.

According to Melencion, the bugs have also begun to harm valuable crops growing next to coconut palms.

According to Melencion, the provincial capital has set aside an initial P250,000 for the trimming of leaves on the afflicted coconut trees.

According to Lacson, the PCA would be the principal federal agency in charge of controlling the infestation throughout Negros Occidental.

For the treatment of coconut trees and other host plants damaged by the pests, as well as to declare infested areas under quarantine, he claimed that the PCA can develop rules and emergency measures. The PCA has been given the jurisdiction to provide licenses for the movement of planting materials for coconuts to and from any location within the nation.

According to a section of Lacson's presidential order, local governments must assist in putting emergency control and eradication measures into place. Organizing volunteers for the frontline barangay-level scale insect control action team and helping with comprehensive information and dissemination campaigns inside their individual communities are just a few of the ways he suggested the local government offer vital logistical and human resources. (*Rappler*)

MLA SEEKS MEASURES TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF COCONUT GROWERS IN COIMBATORE'S POLLACHI BELT

Former deputy speaker and MLA for Pollachi, Pollachi V. Jayaraman, has asked Nirmala Sitharaman, minister of finance for the union, seeking action to help coconut farmers.

There are 1.25 million coconut trees in the belt, according to a report Mr. Jayaraman provided to the Minister. Currently, the minimum support price (MSP) imposed for coconut copra is 108.60, while private players only offer less than 70. The production costs are higher than the MSP and include labor, fertilizers, and pesticides.

By decreasing the import of palm oil, he asked the Union Finance Minister to include coconut oil to the public distribution system (PDS).

The MLA also requested the Minister's help in adding coconut oil to the list of edible oils.

In a similar vein, he preferred year-round copra purchase to the current annual routine. Additionally, he mentioned that private sellers offer no more than \$70 for copra and no more than \$7-8 for dehusked coconut.

In order to protect the coir industry, he also wanted to move it from the orange category to the white category. In order to revitalize the coir business, he pleaded with the Minister to assemble an expert council of seasoned professionals. (*The Hindu*)

COCONUT INDUSTRY FUND IN BULK NOT USED DURING PCA ADJUSTMENTS UNDER MARCOS ADMIN

In spite of the Marcos administration's pledge to modernize the coconut sector, only 8.78% of the P755 million allocated for the Coconut Farmers and sector Development Plan (CFIDP) and the Coconut Hybridization Project (CHO) in 2022 were actually used.

The National Treasury will receive the 91.22% of the fund that was not spent.

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), a government organization in charge of developing the nation's coconut sector, blamed some of the delays on changes made under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., particularly the reorganization of the PCA board.

The agency stated that activities and contracts had to wait until the newly constituted board was in place and had its first meeting on October 5, 2022.

Along with underutilizing its money, the PCA also failed to meet important milestones.

Only 3,540 of the 10,676 hectares designated for fertilizing using precision farming were covered. Out of a target of 1.527 million palm trees, the agency only fertilized 495,472 of them. Only 202 of the 2,517 CHP employees were trained, much short of the planned 2,517.

On the plus side, the PCA produced 374,073 seednuts instead of the intended 338,827 hybrid seednuts.

In June of last year, the PCA commemorated its 50th birthday. Marcos had given the PCA instructions to accelerate CFIDP implementation in order to modernize the sector. (*Rappler*)

A HIGHER BIODIESEL BLEND IS REQUESTED BY THE COCONUT ASSOCIATION

To lessen the Philippines' reliance on imported gasoline, the government should think about increasing the required biodiesel blend, according to a group representing the coconut industry.

"Just by increasing the blend to 5 percent, that particulate matter in air pollution goes down by 83 percent, and this is equivalent to P1.5 trillion in savings," United Coconut Associations of the Philippines (UCAP) Vice Chairman Marco Reyes said at a press conference for the ongoing 3rd World Coconut Congress.

According to the UCAP, the biodiesel blend should have reached 5 percent by now but is only at 2 percent right now, citing the 2012-2020 Philippine Energy Plan.

"We need to rediscover our coconuts; we cannot just be importers of crude oil," Reyes stated.

He continued by saying that the Philippines ought to switch from importing coconut oil to using locally produced coconut oil.

According to UCAP Chairman Dean Lao, increasing the blend to B5 would result in the production of 280 million gallons of coco

biodiesel, which might reduce the need for imported gasoline.

The Department of Energy allegedly asked Lao if there was enough coconut oil available domestically four years ago, to which they allegedly responded, "more than enough."

"In fact, we have currently [pushed] for B12 or B15 if we wanted. We have that much coconut oil," he stated. from The Manila Times

The Ghanaian government receives \$200 million in World Bank financing to expand exports of other tree crops including coconuts.

In order to boost production for export in the coconut industry as well as three other tree crop commodities, the government has obtained a \$200 million financing facility from the World Bank.

The facility will support the "Tree Crop Diversification Project," a program that will allow the Tree Crops Development Authority (TCDA) to conduct research and development on various coconut, cashew, mango, and rubber kinds.

The financial assistance would also be used to improve institutional value chain governance, increase tree crop resilience to climate change, and support post-harvest management practices for the four chosen tree crops.

This was said by Dr. Bryan Acheampong, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, in a speech that was read on his behalf at the Accra, Ghana, 2023 International Coconut Festival's opening ceremony.

For the four tree crops, the TCDA is anticipated to collaborate closely with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to create disease-resistant cultivars.

According to the Minister, the project would establish Ghana as a market leader and help scale up production of the chosen tree crops for export.

The International Coconut Festival will take place in Takoradi, in the Western Region, from September 26 to September 28, 2023.

Exhibitions, seminars, networking opportunities, workshops to enhance farmer capacity, and funding negotiations with financial institutions would all be features of the event.

The Festival's theme was "Invest in Ghana's Coconut Sector for an Inclusive Economic Transformation and Improved Climate and Social Resilience".

The Ghana Export Promotion Authority, the Western Regional Coordinating Council, the African Coconut Group, and the Tree Crops Development are all working together to organize the event.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer of GEPA, Mr. Albert Kassim Diwura, expressed confidence that the start of the Coconut Festival will advance the coconut agenda.

"This project, which was initiated to enhance the coconut industry, is gaining speed and has the potential to establish Ghana as a leading hub for coconuts on the African continent, which excites us.

According to him, the Authority launched the Coconut Revitalization Programme in 2017 in an effort to boost the value chain's supply capacity and revitalize the once-struggling coconut industry.

The involvement was motivated by the growing demand for coconuts on a global scale, he continued.

While we accept that the coconut sector is a multi-billion dollar one, Mr. Diwura stated that all of the top producing countries, most of which are in Asia, are reaping substantial benefits as a result of their major investments in the value chain.

He urged Ghana's business community to look into the prospects in the coconut sector.

"Ghana is in a good position to become a major supplier of coconut products to the world, which would result in large export earnings.

Since 2017, GEPA has made remarkable and significant investments in the industry. The major coconut-growing regions of the nation have all received disease-resistant coconut seedlings that we have distributed to farmers there.

Over 12,500 acres have been covered by more than 800 seedlings that have been delivered thus far.

A initiative to deliver five million seedlings was also begun in 2020 by the Western Region.

Mr. Diwura reaffirmed that GEPA will remain steadfast in its commitment to help the coconut industry until it achieved self-sufficiency.

He acknowledged the large expenditures made by the Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) program, which is run by the Ministries of Food and Agriculture, Local Government, and Rural Development.

Additionally, he highlighted the African Coconut Group's significant contribution to sectors growth under the chairmanship of Mr. Davies Korboe.

The TCDA's fervent lobbying is supported by the government's founding of the organization, which is notable.

According to him, the TCDA's activities are positioned to strengthen the industry because coconut is a crucial tree crop that falls under its scope.

The Authority sincerely requested improved inter-institutional coordination to hasten the development of the coconut industry.

"The support we are getting keeps us hopeful and inspired, and we want additional stakeholders to join forces and support these efforts.

"These coordinated efforts have the potential to firmly position Ghana as a global leader in coconut production and export," Mr. Diwura stated.

The Authority has been committed for the past 50 years to cultivating, facilitating, and elevating Ghanaian exports through diversification, which has increased export earnings and advanced the country's economy.

He claimed that in recent years, the Authority had seen a number of measures put into action that were producing noticeable results.

Notably, the National Export Development Strategy (NEDS) implementation phase, which started last year and aims to create at least \$25.3 billion by 2029.

While this goal may be challenging, Mr. Diwura asserted that GEPA was resolute in its commitment to realizing that vision.

As a result, we have intensified our partnerships with both governmental and commercial export sector stakeholders, which led to the creation of the NEDS Coordinating Secretariat, which has been active since 2021.

The transformative potential of export-oriented policies is demonstrated by the exponential expansion of nations like China and India. The development of our country depends on significant investments in the export industry, he said.

The earnings for fresh and processed coconuts were \$6.3 million, according to information from the 2022 non-traditional exports, and it was noted that this figure highlighted the significant potential for expansion.

He thought that the potential of the coconut industry might be harnessed to increase revenue for the country through appropriate legislation and targeted interventions.

He believed that one of the opportunities for showcasing the coconut industry's potential

to domestic and foreign investors would be the Festival.

He claimed that the coconut value chain offered multiple chances for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) to experience exponential growth and broaden their domestic and international market penetration with technical and financial support.

He reaffirmed GEPA's unwavering commitment to the coconut business and held that it had the potential to bring in large amounts of export earnings for the nation.

He asserted that the Authority was steadfastly committed to working with its stakeholders to raise the coconut value chain to previously unheard-of heights. (*Ghana Business News*)

P64-M COCONUT FACILITY LANDS IN CARAGA

Under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan worth P64 million, Caraga (Region 13) will have its first coconut processing facility, which will be situated in Agusan del Sur and Agusan del Norte.

The Department of Agriculture's Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) announced that two Agusan del Norte cooperatives, the Jagupit Coconut Farmers Agricultural Cooperative and the Libas Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, will each receive facilities valued at more than P34 million.

According to PPhilMech, Libas will have a coconut water processing facility, whereas Jagupit will have a facility for processing white copra.

The Dependable Agriculture Cooperative in Agusan del Sur will also get a white copra processing facility thanks to P30.1 million in assistance.

"The groundbreaking ceremonies on August 8 and 9, 2023 marks the allocation of these

coconut processing facilities which are expected to benefit over 1,000 coconut farmers from the two provinces," stated Dionisio Alvindia, director of PH

Alvindia pledged in a video message that the agency would provide all the assistance required to ensure the project's success in Caraga.

In addition to Elizabeth Marie Calo, the provincial administrator of Agusan del Norte, who emphasized the significance of the ceremony for the region's coconut growers, local politicians and representatives from Caraga expressed their gratitude and hope for the project during the festivities.

The mayor of Prosperidad in Agusan del Sur, Frederick Mark Mellana, praised PPhilMech for the initiative as well. Additionally, the project will help the province's coconut farmers, who have been struggling because of low coconut prices, according to Armando Valiente, Agusan del Sur's provincial agriculturist.

"But with these facilities, we believe that the project would improve the lives of our farmers, particularly those in the coconut industry," added Valiente.

Director of the Agricultural Training Institute's Caraga Region Center, Jessie Beldia, mentioned the organization's role in providing cooperatives with training programs, and Philippine Coconut Authority Director Pepito Capangpangan for Mindanao expressed hopes for the ongoing development of the coconut industry in the region.

Sen. Cynthia Villar, chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, welcomed the project beneficiaries through video message during the groundbreaking ceremonies.

Andres Tuates Jr., interim head of the PPhilMech Coconut Trust Fund-Facility Management and Field Operations Division, gave a brief outline of the shared processing facilities that will be provided to the cooperatives and

expressed hope that farmers' sources of income would improve.

"We are hoping that within three years, the white copra processing central will be converted into an integrated coconut processing enterprise," Tuates stated. (*The Manila Times*)

PCA AND FARMERS CONSIDER A DEAL TO IMPROVE THE NATION'S COCONUT SECTOR

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed on August 9 by the government, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), the Confederation of Coconut Farmers' Organization of the Philippines (CCFOP-CONFED), and the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), with the intention of pursuing extensive planting and replanting and reviving the coconut industry.

The PCA administrator Bernie Cruz stated this on the sidelines of the MOU signing at the PCA office in Quezon City. "Under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., and the Bagong Pilipinas brand of governance, we expect to significantly increase coconut productivity, boost diversified production, and engage more of our farmers in higher value-adding activities, which would contribute to economic growth and substantially increase and even double farmers' incomes," he added.

The MOU was signed by PCA administrator Cruz, PRRM president Edicio dela Torre, and executive director Charles Avila of CCFOP-CONFED. In keeping with PCA's objective to revitalize the Philippine coconut industry, the collaboration also intends to promote cooperation, build relationships with individuals and organizations that represent coconut farmers, and increase the accessibility of support services.

Cruz emphasized the necessity of assisting coconut farmers, setting up and supporting cooperatives, and offering assistance services like shared facilities and processing centers to

support the program for planting and replanting coconuts. He continued that these initiatives ought to cover all regions that are suitable for growing coconuts and further improve the cutting-edge techniques used by the thriving coconut sector. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

STARTING A 100 MILLION COCONUT SEEDLINGS PROJECT

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) plan to launch their 100 million coconut seedling project this month of August. Roel Rosales, PCA's Deputy Administrator for Operations, stated that the program was being advertised and that the rules were being created in time for its start in August. Additionally, PCA is in discussions with the farmers who will supply the seedlings. These were said by DA Rosales during a press conference held at the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) headquarters in Quezon City.

The northern region of the country and Mindanao will be covered by the planting and replanting initiatives. There are many sites in Mindanao that can be used for coconut planting, which is undoubtedly where we need to do more planting. DA Rosales added that PCA only worked on open areas and ensured that forests were not destroyed to make space for coconut trees or allowed to allow young coconut regions to be cut in favor of a certain species. "We are also working with Indigenous People's groups because they have a lot of open areas," DA Rosales stated.

DA Rosales told of increased interest among farmers and ranchers in the northern region of the country. Local authorities in the area should plant more coconuts in the northern provinces. In addition to widespread planting and replanting, he also said that fertilizing coconut trees should be a top focus, stressing that other Asian nations are catching up to the Philippines in terms of the output of coconuts. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

WORLD COCONUT DAY WILL BE COMPLIMENTED BY THE LAUNCH OF THE SECOND COCONUT TRIANGLE IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCE

On September 2, in conjunction with World Coconut Day, the second Coconut Triangle—comprising the districts of Jaffna, Mannar, and Mullaitivu—would be established in the Northern Province. This announcement was made by Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries.

At a news conference conducted at the Presidential Media Center (PMC) with the theme "One Year of Progress," he shared these opinions.

In addition, 290 million kg of tea are anticipated to be shipped this year, according to Minister Pathirana.

The Minister stressed that Sri Lankan tea's price per kilo on the world market for tea is stable and that it must be kept that way by maintaining the tea's quality.

Dr. Pathirana continued by saying that the fertilizer issue resulted in a decline in plantation exports the previous year. The plantation business was severely impacted by the fertilizer issue and harsh weather. Last year, the price of a bundle of 50 kilograms of urea increased to Rs. 30,000. The government has been working to reduce the cost of a 50 kg bundle of urea to Rs. 9000 as of right now. Under these conditions, 300 million kilos of tea are anticipated to be exportable by the end of this year.

The internet system has already started selling tea to the worldwide tea market. We will replace the fuel we received with 500 million USD worth of tea that will be exported to Iran. This method is expected to revitalize the Iranian tea sector.

The war situation in countries like Pakistan, Russia, Ukraine, Iran, and Iraq, which consume tea in Sri Lanka, is making it harder for them to buy tea. Even if Sri Lankan tea is consistently

priced on the international market, interest among countries that drink tea is waning.

The provision of a share of 10 perches of land to the tea plantation employees has now been approved by the cabinet. As a result, they will eventually receive ownership of the pertinent land. After that, they were offered the chance to obtain credit facilities so they could construct the homes they required.

One billion dollars could have been made from the export of rubber goods in the previous two years. When the last corona pandemic hit, it was possible to obtain rubber for the production of gloves, which allowed for the generation of a sizeable export revenue. However, the current global economic crisis is causing a decline in the market for rubber items. As a result, it has been predicted that this year's export earnings from rubber will be in the neighborhood of USD 900 million.

Additionally, export earnings from coconuts have grown dramatically in recent years. Our coconuts include a wide variety of commodities, which has increased demand. Exports of products related to coconuts are expected to generate 700 million USD this year.

Over the next ten years, it is expected that exports of products related to coconuts will bring in 2 billion USD in revenue. Sri Lanka is therefore expected to grow a second coconut triangle. The second coconut triangle will comprise the Mullaitivu, Mannar, and Jaffna regions of the Northern Province. Two thirds of the coconuts produced are for local consumption. The export of one-third is done. This circumstance needs to be changed in order to boost export potential.

Finally, the GI certificate required for cinnamon planting was acquired. Because only two countries in the world produce the best cinnamon, Sri Lanka and Madagascar, exporting can bring in a substantial sum of money. As a result, an official program is run as a ministry to promote the growth of cinnamon.

As coffee becomes the most popular crop in the world, it has drawn attention to the recovery of the crop in Sri Lanka. Despite the fact that Sri Lanka started growing coffee before it did tea, farmers were forced to give up on the crop because of a disease caused by a fungus. However, due to the crop's significant potential on the world market, it has been suggested that Sri Lanka enhance coffee cultivation. Plans have been made to start a 1000-acre coffee plantation as a result. (*Colombo Page*)

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

During the week, vegetable oil prices largely decreased.

The Rotterdam market for coconut oil remained quiet for a second week in a row this week as pricing between vendors and buyers remained vastly different. The prices for close positions were varied at the market's opening and either steady or firmer for the forwards. For positions from September/October through February/March 2024, levels ranged from \$1,090 to 1,152.50/MT CIF. After that, prices were under pressure from the weaker vegetable oil market, although they eventually recovered after palm oil at the close. By then, levels had stabilized at \$1,095-1,150/MT CIF.

Palm kernel oil also failed to trade for the second week in a row due to weak demand. For positions from September/October through March/April 2024, ignoring increased palm oil prices, offers began off generally lower at \$1,002-1,045/MT CIF, and they continued to trend lower after that. The market ended mixed, with early 2024 contracts in the green and holdings from the last quarter of 2023 easier. Closing levels ranged from \$972.50 to \$1,025 per MT CIF.

This week, the price differential between coconut oil and palm kernel oil shrank in most places but remained above \$100. As a result,

the weekly average decreased marginally from the prior week's \$123.87/MT to \$121.90/MT. Following is a breakdown of premiums per position: September/October \$106.00 (\$119.50 last week); October/November \$118.85 (\$119.75); November/December \$132.60 (\$122.60); December/January \$132.20 (\$121.75); January/February 2024 \$110.75 (\$127.13); and February/March \$130.00 (\$132.50).

At the start of the week, soybean futures at the CBOT Soya Complex market were higher due to worries about hot and dry weather as well as rumors of flash sales to unidentified locations. The USDA data, which said that the weekly crop report was unchanged, suggested that the impact of the drought may have been limited. Despite this, the market rose following a recovery that began in the middle of the week due to concerns over the susceptibility of incoming crops to unfavorable weather. Ongoing weather concerns that stoked interest in US stocks helped the market close higher. News of 121,000 MT in flash sales to China for the marketing year 2023–2024 provided more boost.

The market for palm oil got off to a better start thanks to advances in CBOT soybean oil futures and a 17.4% increase in Malaysian palm oil exports, which reached 806,655 MT from the same period one month earlier. Values, however, fell during the following two days as a result of an increase in Malaysian palm oil production of 7–11% for the period of August 1–20 and a five-month high in stock accumulation. Though increases in rival soybean oil and news of a 45% increase in Indonesian palm oil exports helped to push the market higher toward the weekend, it eventually reverted to the positive side.

Tropical oil costs this week for the closest forward shipment were lower than they had been the previous week. Coconut oil was the biggest loser, falling \$22.50 from last week's price of \$1,112.50 to \$1,090/MT CIF this week. From \$993.00 to \$984.00/MT CIF, palm kernel oil lost \$9.00/MT. The least affected product was palm oil, which lost only \$6.25/MT from \$951.25/MT CIF. As a result, the price differential between

coconut oil and palm kernel oil declined from \$119.50/MT last week to \$106.00/MT this week. The difference between coconut oil and palm oil also decreased from \$161.25 to \$145.00/MT at the moment. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

The coconut oil market in Rotterdam was calm.

With sellers closing bids at \$1,095 for October/November, \$1,131.25 for November/December, \$1,137.50 for December/January, \$1,143.75 for January/February 2024, and \$1,150/MT CIF for February/March, prices were lower over the week but ultimately finished up in the positive range. Only buyers at close shown interest in the November/December asking prices of \$1,050, \$1,070, \$1,072.50, and \$1,075/MT CIF.

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

\$1.6 IS GRANTED TO KENYAN FIRM TO RISE US COCONUT EXPORTS

To increase the company's exports to the US, the US government and Kenstate, a Kenyan coconut processor, have jointly launched an investment initiative for Ksh232 million (\$1.6 million).

The United States Agency for International Development's Feed the Future and Prosper Africa funding is expected to boost Kentaste's processing capacity by 67 percent, to 50,000 coconuts per day.

We are advancing commerce, improving people's livelihoods, and addressing food waste and its effects on climate change by developing partnerships like these. The prosperity of our two nations depends on sustainable growth and cross-national cooperation, according to Meg Whitman, the US ambassador to Kenya.

The project, which seeks to prevent 32,500 liters of food loss and wastage over the next

two years, is also intended to provide economic prospects for more than 4,500 Kenyan farmers by creating 90 full-time positions and signing up 1,500 new growers as suppliers.

The assistance is anticipated to improve Kenya's coconut supply at a time when the country is seeing steady demand from both the domestic market and the export sector.

The partnership also establishes connections with two significant US retailers who will sell Kentaste's coconut water products, thereby increasing access to the US market for Kenyan coconut goods.

The US, Germany, and the Netherlands are the top three countries that purchase Kenyan nuts.

110,013 tons of coconuts, valued at Ksh5 million (\$34,423), were produced in 2020, according to a data from the Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate. This is a modest decline from the 86,554 tons, priced at Ksh5.5 million (\$37,865), produced in 2021.

Since its establishment in 2008, Kentaste has produced and distributed a variety of goods made from coconut, including coconut milk, cream, flour, virgin coconut oil, and dried coconut.

The company works with a network of 2,700 smallholder farmers, the majority of whom are certified organic and fair trade.

According to Research and Markets, the demand for coconut goods including coconut milk, coconut water, and desiccated coconut in the food and beverage industry would significantly raise the size for coconut products worldwide to \$38.58 billion by 2030. (*The East African*)

CHINA'S TOP SOURCE OF COCONUT MEAT AND SHELLS IS THAILAND

The export of Thai coconut meat and shells to China is exempt from taxation under the

ACFTA, as opposed to 60% (MFN rate) when there was no agreement, claims Ronnarong Phoolipat, director-general of the Foreign Trade Department.

Thai exports under 12 free trade agreements were US\$33.46 billion for the first five months of this year, or 76.7% of all exports.

Out of the 12 free trade agreements, Thailand uses the ASEAN FTA, ACFTA, JTEPA, TAFTA, AIFTA, and AIFTA the most, with a combined value of \$12,165 billion (\$12,165 billion), US\$10,410 billion (\$10,410 billion), JTEPA, US\$2.740 billion (\$2.740 billion), TAFTA, US\$2.3 billion (\$2.3 billion), and AIFTA, US\$2,16 billion (\$2,16 billion).

Regarding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Thailand's exports to the 10 nations covered by this deal during the first four months of this year were around US\$570.34 million, an increase of 81.5% over the same period last year. Japan, China, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Myanmar are among the ten nations. Lubricating oils, energy drinks, canned tuna, tapioca chips, spark plugs, lenses, and motorbikes with engines between 50 and 250 cc are among the main export items.

According to Ronnarong, the trade advantages provided by these free trade agreements are a crucial tool for lowering tariff barriers and enhancing Thai exporters' ability to compete on the international market. (*Thai PBS World*)

US APPROVAL FOR VIETNAM'S EXPORT OF FRESH HUSKED COCONUT

Vietnam is now permitted to export fresh husked coconut to the United States, according to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Regarding the opening of coconut imports from Vietnam, APHIS has written to the Plant

Protection Department within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

APHIS expressed its willingness to provide top priority to granting the Vietnamese side's requests in a letter dated August 8 that emphasized the significance of the market opening for the Vietnamese coconut.

The online database of agricultural goods import requirements (ACIR) has been updated by APHIS to permit the import of immature coconuts from Vietnam with at least 75% (3/4) of the coir removed and the entire outer green shell extracted.

APHIS has determined that Vietnamese producers are qualified to start exporting husked coconuts to the United States right away.

While attending a meeting with U.S. Le Minh Hoan, the Vietnamese Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack both stated that Vietnam has welcomed American grapefruits while urging the United States to quicken the evaluation and approval processes for Vietnamese coconuts and passion fruits.

Exports of coconuts brought almost \$900 million to Vietnam last year. Almost 90 different coconut-related goods are currently available in the Vietnamese market. In addition, coconut is an ingredient in about 200 different foods. (*VN Express*)

AFTER US EXPORT NEWS, THE PRICE OF DOMESTIC COCONUTS TRIPLES

The cost of fresh coconuts in the Mekong Delta has climbed once more when news broke that Vietnamese fresh husked coconuts could be transported to the United States.

Fresh coconuts were only VND15,000–20,000 for ten at the beginning of the year, but their cost has since tripled to VND60,000–VND65,000.

According to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development under Ben Tre, the rise in coconut prices was caused by an increase in the price of coconuts globally.

Although the province has the largest coconut acreage in the nation, it is quite small in comparison to the rest of the globe, hence the price of coconut is heavily influenced by the global market.

Following the news that the United States has formally opened its market to Vietnamese husked coconut, the domestic coconut sector is showing a lot of promise.

Since coconut trees are the primary source of income for many households, the sudden rise in the price of coconuts after more than two years of fall thrilled coconut farmers. Additionally, several companies have begun planning to export this product.

Vietnam produces around 188,000 acres of coconuts, mostly in the Mekong Delta, and is the seventh-largest producer of coconuts in the world.

The country's coconut area makes up 2.07% of Asia's and 1.67% of the world's total coconut area.

Vietnam is the fourth-largest exporter of coconut products in the Asia-Pacific region, with an estimated 900 million dollars in export revenue per year.

Currently, there are roughly 854 businesses producing and processing coconut-related goods. These businesses engage in a wide range of varied operations, such as processing coconut juice, copra, and coconut shells, to provide work for more than 15,000 people.

More than 90 businesses export coconut products at the moment, 42 of which have done so using heavily processed goods.

The coconut business aims to export \$1 billion worth of coconut and coconut-related goods by 2020. (VN Express)

IP PROTECTIONS COULD INCREASE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE EXPORT OF COCONUTS

Coconut exporters could become more competitive with intellectual property (IP) protections, according to the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPO-PHL). IP protections can be an exclusive source of competitiveness for our exporters of coconut products because they (safeguard) innovations and brand value of goods and services, according to IPOPHL Deputy Director General Ann Claire C. Cabochan at a recent training program held by the International Trade Center and the Department of Industry.

In turn, these safeguards might encourage innovation at a time when the government is implementing the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP). In addition to increasing the income of 2.5 million coconut farmers, the CFIDP seeks to increase average yearly yields to 150 nuts per tree. Republic Act 11524, also known as the Coconut Farmers and Industry Fund Act of 2021, authorizes the CFIDP. The coconut levy assets were put into a trust fund under the law, which would pay for the industry's rehabilitation and modernization. (UCAP Bulletin)

COCONUT EXPORTS FROM VIETNAM TO REACH \$1 BILLION USD IN 2025: INSIDER

Nguyen Thi Kim Thanh, president of the Vietnam Coconut Association, predicts that after the US and China agree to let Vietnamese coconuts enter the two markets, exports of coconuts from Vietnam will exceed \$1 billion USD in 2025.

According to the official, local enterprises are attempting to establish raw material regions, apply for growing area codes, and register to build organic material zones to fulfill the needs of the global market as the US is poised to open the market for Vietnamese coconuts and China permits official coconut import.

"The value of coconut exports at the end of 2022 exceeded 700 million USD. But given the momentum created by the US and China's decision to acquire Vietnamese coconuts, Thanh predicted that the value of coconut exports might reach \$1 billion USD by the end of 2024 or the beginning of 2025.

However, in 2021, the fruit was designated as one of Vietnam's essential industrial crops, especially in the context of climate change, despite the fact that there had previously been no planning for coconut lands.

Up to 35 nations and territories are Vietnam's top importers of coconuts, according to Thanh, who estimates that the nation's 20 largest businesses have shipped coconuts to the rest of the world.

Over 35,000 acres of coconuts are grown in the southern province of Tien Giang, primarily in the districts of Go Cong Tay, Cho Gao, My Tho, and Tan Phu Dong, according to Luu Van Phi, director of the department of industry and trade.

According to Phi, the export of coconut to the US will increase the price of the fruit and boost farmers' incomes, giving them more confidence to invest in coconut growing.

He pointed out that whereas consumers in Ho Chi Minh City must pay 20,000 VND for a coconut, growers only charge 3,000–4,000 VND (0.12-0.17 USD) for them.

He stated there are currently two problems to be resolved: how to lower brokerage costs and boost farmer incomes.

Its coconut coverage is above 15,000 acres, according to Huynh Quang Duc, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the southern province of Ben Tre.

Currently, roughly ten companies from inside and outside the province are signing up to

obtain codes for planting areas and packaging facilities in order to export coconut juice.

"The expansion of export through official channels to China and the US creates a great motivation for coconut businesses to apply to get the codes that make them eligible for export," said Duc. (*Vietnam Plus*)

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

IRAN DISCUSSES PALM OIL RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH MPOB

Iran is looking into working with the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) on palm oil research and development (R&D) in order to overcome obstacles and take advantage of the enormous potential that both nations have in the future. Dr. Zainab Idris, the deputy director-general for research and development at MPOB, said in a statement that the organization and the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture are exploring possibilities for joint R&D activities in the palm oil industry.

With Iranian research organizations including the National Nutrition and Food Technology Research and the Tehran University of Medical Sciences, MPOB has had preliminary negotiations. According to Zainab, the meeting was an excellent chance to talk about ways to improve commercial relations and create the groundwork for a sustainable friendship between the two nations.

According to MPOB, Iran is a net importer of oils and fats, and its domestic output only meets 29.1% of its entire local demand in 2022, when domestic consumption of oils and fats reached 2.09 million MT. The nation is a significant importer of palm oil from Malaysia and a significant trading partner. Iran received 492,688 MT of palm oil from Malaysia in 2022, up 13.6% from the previous year. RBD palm olein, RBD palm oil, cocoa butter substitute, and cooking

oil were all exported items made from palm oil. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

INDONESIA WILL STOP EXPORTING PALM OIL TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES

If the European Union (EU) decides to reject the Indonesian palm oil, the government has prepared to redirect the export of crude palm oil (CPO) from Europe to South Africa and other African nations, according to Maritime and Investment Coordinating Minister Luhut Binsar Panjaitan.

The rejection is possible as a result of the EU's decision to implement the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which mandates that exporters and importers of agricultural and plantation products, including palm oil, provide documentation demonstrating their products' lack of a deforestation-causing impact. According to EU laws, Indonesian palm oil will be rejected by the EU since it allegedly contributes to deforestation during production.

In response to EU policies, Minister Luhut stated that Indonesia will send 3 million tons to other nations, such as those in Africa, and that the government was not concerned about losing the European market. Luhut made this statement last month at the Economic Update of CNBC Indonesia. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

CPOPC URGES YOUTH TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL INDUSTRY

The youth of its member nations have been asked by the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC) to actively contribute to the development of a sustainable palm oil sector.

Rizal Affandi Lukman, the secretary general of CPOPC, stated in a statement that there will be an increase in demand for palm oil on the international market. "Young people's potential and inventiveness are required to

consistently meet the rising demand for palm oil. However, this cannot be accomplished without the desire to actively participate in the sector, he continued. He observed that the younger population nowadays is less interested in growing palm oil, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia.

On August 12, International Youth Day, the CPOPC concurrently launched the Young Elaeis Ambassador program in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and Jakarta, Indonesia. As future consumers and participants in the palm oil industry, the program aimed to engage and educate the youth about sustainability in the sector. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

INDIAN TRADE BODY AND MALAYSIAN PALM OIL BOARD SIGN MOU

To encourage the sharing of sector expertise between the two nations, the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) and the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

According to MPOB director-general Datuk Dr. Ahmad Parvees Ghulam Kadir, the MOU aims to promote cooperation between Malaysian and Indian businesses in commercial and technological fields. It includes topics including promoting best practices and quality standards, strengthening capacity in industries reliant on palm oil, and sustainable vegetable oil production and trade. August 2004 saw the signing of the MOU. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

HEALTH NEWS

AFTER DEFROSTING FROZEN COCONUT MILK, THIS IS THE STEP YOU NEVER WANT TO MISS

Coconut milk is a common ingredient in curries, rice dishes, and desserts in Southeast Asian,

Asian Pacific, African, Latin and South American, and Caribbean cuisines. Considering that Brazil is one of the world's top producers of coconuts, it is very widely used in Brazilian cuisine. But each excellent element has a unique property. Reconstitution is the process of bringing the separated liquid and solid components of thawed, previously frozen coconut milk back together. If you don't have an immersion blender, you can use a standard kitchen blender to do this task.

Coconut milk must first be reconstituted in order to be used again. If you miss it, the product is essentially useless—no pun intended.

If you don't intend to use the coconut milk within seven days, freezing might be a better option. The shelf life of an opened can of coconut milk is typically seven days with proper refrigeration. Coconut milk freezes well and keeps its freshness for up to 30 days, making it a useful ingredient to keep on hand for quick meals.

How to properly defrost and freeze coconut milk

You can store leftover coconut milk in any airtight container, but freezer storage bags work best because you can remove excess air before freezing. Additionally, they conserve space. Ice cube trays are yet another fantastic space-saver and they work excellent if you only need to add a little coconut flavor to a meal at a time.

Pour the contents of the can into your container and use a spatula to remove all of the coconut pieces before freezing the coconut milk. Then seal if using a container, or, if using food storage bags, push out any air by squeezing it out of the bag shortly before sealing. After placing your coconut milk bag or container in the freezer, you are finished.

Your frozen coconut milk must first thaw and be re-emulsified before you can use it. Start by removing the frozen coconut milk from the

freezer and place on a tray in the refrigerator to thaw. Allow the frozen coconut milk to melt entirely, keeping in mind that the fat solids will thaw slower than the liquid. Once the coconut milk is entirely thawed, you'll need to combine the liquid and the fats back together. You can do this using an immersion blender in a mixing dish, or transfer the coconut milk to a blender and combine the liquid and solids back together.

How to cook using coconut milk

For starters, there are the three various types of coconut milk out there, so be sure to select the proper one for the purpose. They are unsweetened full-fat (the variation you'll commonly find in the grocery store and the one which most recipes are referring to), light (which contains less than half of the saturated fat of its full-fat cousin), and coconut milk beverage (which is the coconut version of plant milks). Be sure to constantly verify the can before you purchase in the case that you've picked up the wrong one, or possibly coconut water, which is altogether different and a refreshing beverage consumed on hot days. To confound the matter, there are also cream of coconut and coconut cream, which are used in rich baking recipes and for cocktails.

Because of coconut milk's viscosity, it lends itself nicely to soups, stews, and curry-type foods, and the sweetened condensed version is popular in baking. You can replace coconut milk for cow's milk to make foods vegan or to add flavor. But before opening the can, though, you'll want to give it a thorough shake, as the contents may have separated. (*The Daily Meal*)

TOP 5 HEALTH BENEFITS OF COCONUT MILK

The coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) belongs to the palm family (*Arecaceae*) and grows in abundance in Malaysia, Polynesia and southern Asia. Although commonly considered a nut, coconuts are in fact categorised as a fruit, being a one-seeded

drupe. Nearly all elements of the coconut can be used, including the water, milk, flesh, sugar and oil. It's worth mentioning, however, that unlike coconut water, the milk does not occur naturally and is manufactured by blending coconut flesh with water.

Top 5 health advantages of coconut milk

1. Contains medium-chain fatty acids

Coconuts contain significant amounts of fat, but unlike other nuts, they provide fat that is mostly in the form of medium-chain saturated fatty acids (MCFAs) – in particular, one called lauric acid.

What this means is that the fatty acids in coconut oil are made up of a chain of six to 12 carbon atoms, as opposed to the more than 12 found in long-chain fatty acids. This variation in structure has all sorts of ramifications, from how the fat in coconut milk is processed to how it may effect your health.

2. Is lactose-free

Unlike cow's milk, coconut milk is lactose-free, therefore can be used as a milk alternative for persons with lactose intolerance. Lactose is the main type of carbohydrate in all mammalian milk, including human, goat and sheep. It's made up of two sugars, and your body needs an enzyme called lactase to adequately digest it. It's this enzyme that's lacking in those with lactose intolerance.

Coconut milk is also a popular choice with vegans and makes a great base for smoothies or milkshakes and can be used as a dairy alternative in baking.

3. Has anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial and anti-fungal properties

About 50% of the MCFAs in coconut oil are a type called lauric acid, which is converted in the body into a highly beneficial compound called monolaurin, an antimicrobial,

anti-fungal and anti-inflammatory that destroys a wide variety of disease-causing organisms. It's therefore thought that the consumption of coconut milk and other coconut-derived foods may help protect the body from infections and viruses.

4. May support cardiovascular health

MCFAs are rapidly metabolised into energy in the liver; it's because of this that unlike other saturated fats, MCFAs are used up more quickly by the body and are less likely to be stored as fat.

Research is mixed, but some recent studies are suggesting that the fats from coconut may not have such a detrimental effect on blood lipids, cholesterol balance and cardiovascular health as once thought. This is certainly one area of research to watch.

It should be noted, however, that due to large variances in diet and lifestyle patterns within the various studies, the findings to date may not be conclusively applied to a typical Western diet.

5. May reduce stomach ulcers

One animal study found coconut milk reduced the size of a stomach ulcer by the same amount as that of an anti-ulcer drug. Further studies confirm the mechanism for this is partly due to the milk's anti-inflammatory properties in combination with positive effects on the growth of the mucosa.

Is coconut milk safe for everyone?

Allergic reactions to coconut are rare, although contact dermatitis and sensitisation to the tree pollen is more often seen.

Coconuts are one of those foods that oscillate between the 'good' and 'bad' food camps. Coconut milk, especially the lower-fat variety, can be used in moderation (up to two times per week). (BBC Good Food)

COCONUT RECIPE

SUPER HEALTHY COCONUT BAKED OATS BREAKFAST PERFECT FOR SLIMMING WORLD DIET

People can't get enough of baked oats this summer, and for good reason - they taste like cake but they are surprisingly healthy. Made predominantly with oats, as the name suggests, they can be baked in an oven, air fryer or even a microwave if you are short of time.

The Foodie has shared her latest recipe for coconut baked oats in a microwave and it's great for a nutritious breakfast. A 40g of plain porridge oats can be counted as a Healthy Extra 'b' choice.

The rest of the ingredients include low-fat coconut yoghurt, low-calorie syrup, baking powder, lemon juice and desiccated coconut. It tastes like a moist, tropical coconut cake, but contains a fraction of the fat and calories.

Unlike traditional cake recipes, no need to add eggs, butter or oil, making it also suitable for people who follow a plant-based diet. It takes just 90 seconds to cook in a microwave and because the portion serves one, it's great for

a quick breakfast or dessert when you fancy something sweet.

Ingredients

- 4 tbsp (around 40g) porridge oats (blended or not blended)
- 1 tbsp desiccated coconut
- 3 tbsp low-fat coconut yoghurt (soya is a good option)
- 1 tsp sweetener or low-calorie syrup
- 1/3 tsp baking powder
- Squeeze lemon juice

Method

1. Put everything into a cup and mix until foamy making sure all the oats are combined from the bottom of the mug. If you've got a blender, blitz oats to a powder for a few seconds as it makes the texture more cake-y. Clean the rim of the mug with your finger.
2. Microwave on high for 90 seconds or transfer into a lined oven-proof dish and cook in the oven for 15 minutes at 180°C/ 350°F/gas mark 4.
3. Give the mug a shake, then tip it out onto a plate. Serve with extra yoghurt.

(Surrey Live)

STATISTICS

Table 1. Indonesia's Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2021 - 2023

Month	2021		2022		2023	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US\$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US\$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US\$'000
January	41,112	58,282	35,466	66,919	54,436	55,216
February	54,471	78,304	48,846	92,391	74,419	74,978
March	42,893	63,982	71,557	141,348	74,970	76,473
April	43,675	65,594	53,869	110,772	57,695	57,515
May	66,712	105,704	61,688	119,515	55,397	56,651
June	48,582	78,866	57,845	104,471	70,093	67,749
July	71,449	113,089	82,040	133,063	52,109	51,187
August	39,908	62,834	56,776	83,469	61,594	58,845
September	47,107	70,877	61,498	76,363	41,573	42,876
October	42,493	67,391	61,949	68,485		
November	57,479	95,763	46,880	49,688		
December	55,571	98,543	69,256	71,664		
Total	611,452	959,230	707,671	1,118,147	542,285	541,489

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 2. Philippines's Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2019 – 2023

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	76,557	115,346	52,302	97,009	98,519
February	44,265	59,757	53,704	123,579	64,696
March	122,223	91,762	72,143	97,741	137,097
April	123,057	53,629	58,555	123,835	59,347
May	100,580	61,034	51,927	113,696	110,345
June	135,308	92,625	65,092	87,170	
July	94,690	19,161	78,441	112,646	
August	197,300	85,963	80,111	104,713	
September	75,126	83,382	82,649	78,818	
October	100,758	58,911	93,100	109,769	
November	67,636	63,150	95,115	83,684	
December	101,826	55,353	97,947	87,132	
Total	1,239,326	840,073	881,086	1,219,792	470,004

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 3. International Prices of Selected Oils, September 2020 - August 2023, (US\$/MT)

Year	Month	Coconut Phil/Indo (CIF. Rott.)	Soybean Oil Dutch (FOB ex-mill)	Palm Oil Malaysian (CIF. Eur.)	Palm Kernel Oil (CIF. Rott.)	Sunflower Oil EU (Fob. NW. EU)
2020	September	1034	906	741	788	1041
	October	1,105	915	758	801	1,040
	November	1,380	974	918	1,073	1,176
	December	1,459	1,023	979	1,193	1,241
2021	January	1,463	1,076	990	1,372	1,276
	February	1,459	1,033	1,017	1,343	1,363
	March	1,542	1,164	1,031	1,482	1,611
	April	1,542	1,202	1,075	1,482	1,573
	May	1,684	1,499	1,163	1,530	1,585
	June	1,631	1,420	1,017	1,419	1,297
	July	1,578	1,468	1,057	1,271	1,282
	August	1,486	1,436	1,136	1,333	1,356
	September	1,486	1,399	1,181	1,427	1,310
	October	1,867	1,483	1,307	1,807	1,421
	November	1,939	1,440	1,348	2,069	1,416
	December	1,782	1,411	1,270	1,861	1,362
2022	January	2,033	1,470	1,345	2,196	1,412
	February	2,153	1,596	1,522	2,443	1,499
	March	2,269	1,957	1,777	2,441	2,361
	April	2,097	1,948	1,683	2,064	2,276
	May	1,720	1,963	1,717	1,811	2,079
	June	1,688	1,752	1,501	1,555	1,885
	July	1,517	1,533	1,057	1,301	1,557
	August	1,364	1,599	1,026	1,173	1,496
	September	1,261	1,548	909	1,249	1,305
	October	1,094	1,576	889	1,039	1,359
	November	1,167	1,652	946	1,062	1,347
	December	1,155	1,409	940	1,067	1,234
2023	January	1,071	1,352	942	1,060	1,218
	February	1,107	1,243	950	1,037	1,159
	March	1,111	1,113	972	1,052	1,075
	April	1,069	1,030	1,005	1,017	1,035
	May	1,031	988	934	993	962
	June	993	1,007	817	928	911
	July	1,047	1,136	879	998	1,039
	August	1,102	1,127	861	998	989

Source: Cocommunity and Oil World

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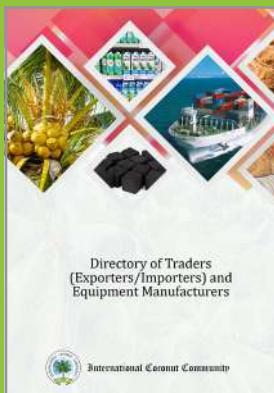
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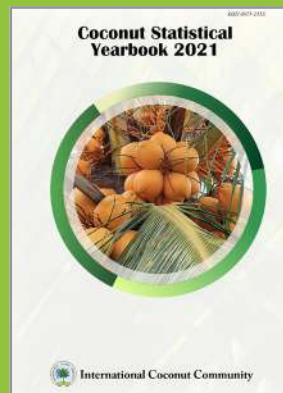
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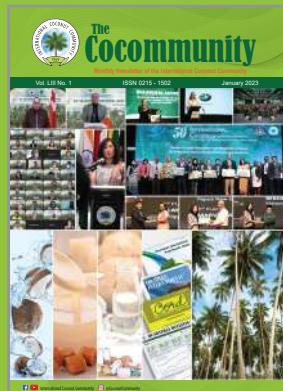
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Established in 1969, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the ICC is an independent regional intergovernmental organization which consist of twenty one member countries and accounts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

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