The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

Vol. LIII No. 10 ISSN 0215 - 1502 October 2023

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

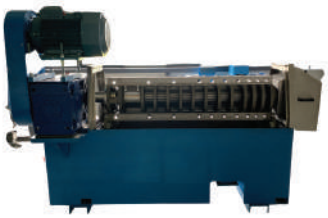
T & I Global Ltd.

www.coconutmachineryindia.com
marketing@tiglobal.com

Complete Processing Lines

Combination Dryer for DC, VCO, Chips & Flakes

Apron type Band Dryer



Virgin Coconut Oil Expellor

Filter Press

Vaccuum Dehydrator

Oil Storage Tank

Deshelling Machine

Milk Extractor

Scan for more information

Single Point Solution for Coconut Processing • Turnkey Processing Solutions

100+ Installations Worldwide • 50+ Years of Experience • ISO 9001 :2015 Certified

Think Coconut. Think T & I Global.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE LIST

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

"Trans Fat REPLACE Program: Controversial Objectives and Implications"

The ICC-Scientific Advisory Committee for Health (SACH) published an open letter addressing the World Health Organization (WHO) concerning its Trans Fat REPLACE Program. Commencing in 2019, the initiative aims to eliminate industrially produced trans-fatty acids by 2023. While the main goal appears creditable, certain components of the program, such as advocating for polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) seed oils, inesterified fats, and discouraging the use of coconut oil, have generated controversy and resistance.

Polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA), specifically omega-6 linoleic acid and omega-3 linolenic acid, are deemed essential fatty acids. However, their intake is considered healthy only under specific conditions: first, scientific evidence supports the benefits of omega-6 up to approximately 7% of total energy, exceeding which becomes unhealthy; second, the ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 fatty acids should not exceed 5:1 to avoid the risks of obesity and heart disease; third, PUFA oils, prone to oxidation at high heat, should not be used for frying. The World Health Organization's strong endorsement of PUFA oils relies on studies conducted primarily in developed countries, emphasizing PUFA consumption while discouraging saturated fat. In contrast, the Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiology (PURE) study across 18 countries, covering a wide range of income levels, concluded that fats, including saturated fatty acids, are essentially harmless.

While endorsing the primary aim of the WHO program to eliminate trans fats from the worldwide food supply, it's crucial to note that its additional objectives lack scientific evidence and may potentially deteriorate global health. There is no substantiated evidence indicating that coconut oil is detrimental to health or a causative factor in heart disease. Revered as the 'Tree of Life' in various cultures, the coconut stands as an exemplary model of sustainable development, offering diverse applications in both food and non-food realms. A staggering one billion individuals globally incorporate a varied and nutritious coconut-based diet into their daily lives, constituting a significant source of essential calories and nutrients.

Critics of coconut oil often rely on studies primarily conducted in Western countries, emphasizing the potential of saturated fat to raise LDL cholesterol. However, they overlook the fact that coconut oil simultaneously elevates HDL cholesterol, promoting a favorable LDL/HDL ratio. Moreover, a meticulous examination of existing literature reveals that, despite concerns surrounding LDL as a risk factor, there is no substantive evidence linking coconut oil consumption to heart disease. Detractors also dismiss the myriad beneficial properties of coconut oil, including its ability to reduce HbA1c and triglyceride levels, offering protection against heart disease. Additionally, coconut oil contributes to the improvement of abdominal adiposity, acting as a preventive measure against obesity. Its recognized anti-bacterial and anti-viral properties demonstrated therapeutic efficacy against mild COVID-19, and positive impact on cognitive performance in Alzheimer's patients further underscore its multifaceted health benefits. Comprising 65% medium-chain fatty acids, coconut oil demonstrates well-documented metabolic advantages associated specifically with these medium-chain fatty acids, distinguishing them from their long-chain counterparts.

ICC-SACH proposed policy suggestions involve: 1) endorsing the elimination of trans fat from the food supply, 2) refraining from promoting PUFA seed oils and interesterified fats as the primary substitutes for trans-fat, 3) advocating for the removal of coconut oil from the 'Not Recommended' list, 4) encouraging the WHO Trans Fat Replace program to endorse a diverse intake of various natural fats and oils, and 6) urging WHO to intensify its support for the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

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

COPRA: In September 2023, the price of copra in Indonesia slightly decreased to US$614/MT, from US$616/MT in the previous month. However, compared to the same period in the previous year, the price went up by US$71/MT. However, in the Philippines' domestic market, the price of copra levelled down from US$637/MT in August 2023 to US$608/MT in September 2023, a decrease of US$29/MT. The price was US$54/MT lower than the price a year ago, which was US$662/MT.

COCONUT OIL: In September 2023, the average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) decreased to US$1,084/MT. The price was 14% lower than the price a year ago, which was US$1,261/MT. In the Philippines, the average local price of coconut oil was US$1,077/MT in September 2023 which was a decrease of US60/MT compared the previous month's price. The price was US$125 was lower than the price a year earlier. In Indonesia, the average local price of coconut oil decreased to US$1,073/MT in September 2023 from US$1,097/MT in August 2023. The price was comparably lower by 12.6% as opposed to the price in September 2022.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic price of copra meal was quoted at US$255/MT in September 2023, which was slightly lower than the previous month's price. Moreover, the price was US$12/MT higher than the price a year earlier. In Indonesia, the average domestic price of copra meal decreased to US$257/MT in September 2023 and was US$32/MT lower than the price a year earlier.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in September 2023 was US$1,690/MT, which was remained unchanged to the previous month's price. Moreover, the price was US$294/MT lower than the price of the same month last year. In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in September 2023 was US$1,579/MT, which was higher than the price in August 2023. In the Philippines, the price of DC in the domestic market remained unchanged at US$2,039/MT in September 2023. Meanwhile, the Indonesian price (FOB) of DC was remained unchanged compared to the previous month's price at US$1,400/MT, but was lower than last year's price of US$1,450/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In the Philippines, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in September 2023 was US$339/MT, which was lower than the price in the previous month. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price slightly decreased to US$456/MT in September 2023. In Sri Lanka, the price of coconut shell charcoal in September 2023 was US$313/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$403-US$564/MT for bristle. In Indonesia, the price for mixed raw fiber was increased to US$98/MT in September 2023, but was significantly lower than the price a year earlier at US$130/MT.

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

Products/Country	2023 Sep	2023 Aug	2022 Sep	2023 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	122	124	134	130
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	150	138	147	146
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	190	193	166	217
India (Domestic Kerala)	393	394	396	406
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	608	637	662	626
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	614	616	543	600
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	889	964	887	1,131
India (Dom. Kochi)	992	1,016	1,025	1,022
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,084	1,102	1,261	1,068
Philippines (Domestic)	1,077	1,137	1,202	1,113
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,073	1,097	1,227	1,087
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,702	1,783	1,746	2,032
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,594	1,628	1,769	1,665
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	1,690	1,690	1,984	1,787
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,579	1,574	1,466	1,615
Indonesia (FOB)	1,400	1,400	1,450	1,431
India (Domestic)	1,502	1,522	1,396	1,437
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	255	266	243	281
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	266	271	238	295
Indonesia (Domestic)	257	267	273	280
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	339	350	371	280
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	313	321	400	362
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	456	459	465	464
India (Domestic)	337	338	518	357
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	51	51	60	47
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	403	404	388	407
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	564	602	466	534
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	98	90	130	91
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	958	998	1,249	1,004
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	830	861	909	910
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,112	1,127	1,548	1,123

Exchange Rate

Sep 30, '23 1 US$ = P56.69 or Rp15,478 or India Rs83.09 or SL Rs324.59
1 Euro = US$1.06 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF DESICCATED COCONUT

The global demand for desiccated coconut has seen a substantial surge, with the Philippines and Indonesia emerging as pivotal contributors to the production and export of this commodity.

The Philippines exhibited a consistent growth trajectory in desiccated coconut exports over recent years. In 2019, the country exported 147,594 metric tons, which experienced a slight dip to 145,200 metric tons in 2020. However, it rebounded to 160,117 metric tons in 2021 and maintained a steady figure of 156,930 tons in 2022. Nonetheless, the most recent data from the Philippine Statistics Authority for the first half of 2023 indicates a downward trend, with export volumes dropping to 74,640 metric tons, representing a 13% decline compared to the same period the previous year.

Top export destinations for Philippine desiccated coconut during January-June 2023 included the United States of America and the Netherlands, importing 23,369 metric tons and 18,947 metric tons, respectively. Other significant destinations comprised Turkey, Australia, Canada, China, and the United Kingdom, each importing over 2,000 metric tons. This data underscores the robust demand for desiccated coconut across North America, Europe, and Asia.

In the case of Indonesia, desiccated coconut exports experienced a decline in 2019 but have since rebounded. In 2018, Indonesia exported 109,181 metric tons, which decreased to 98,742 metric tons in 2019 but then increased to 128,087 metric tons in 2020. The upward trend continued in 2021, reaching 139,932 metric tons, but declined to 110,455 metric tons in 2022. However, as of the third quarter of 2023, Indonesia's export volume stood at 83,796 metric tons, surpassing the 2022 volume of 82,796 tons.

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

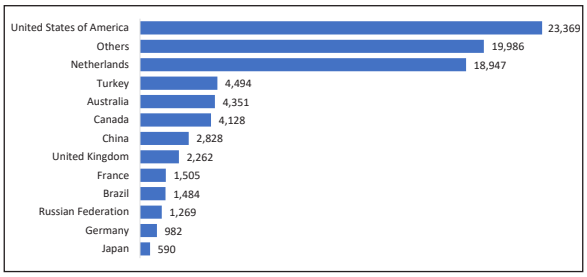


Figure 2. Top 10 Export Destinations of Desiccated Coconut from Indonesia (MT), January-September 2022/23

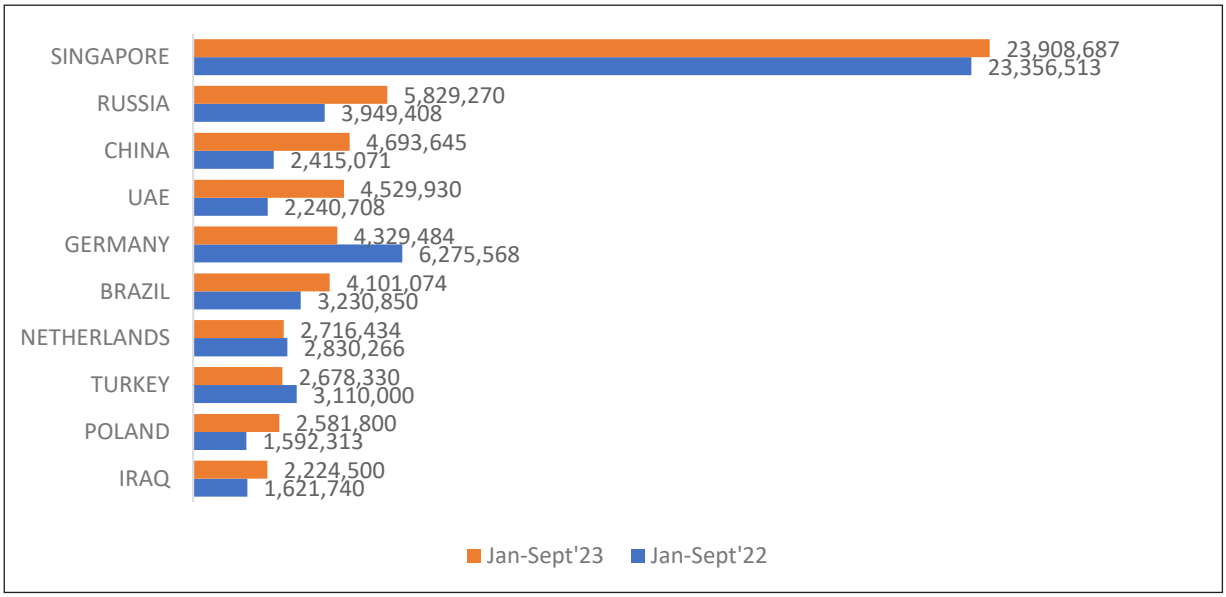


Table 1. Import Volume (MT) of Desiccated Coconut, 2014-2023

Year	World	EU27	US
2014	420,373	103,376	52,259
2015	440,774	94,421	53,696
2016	423,896	104,508	48,107
2017	439,129	111,551	46,590
2018	458,789	108,320	48,067
2019	451,727	103,385	45,531
2020	483,005	100,657	41,056
2021	517,302	115,103	53,568
2022	466,941	118,291	54,372
2023F	405,297	94,763	42,405

Source: ITC and US Census Bureau, F: forecasted figures

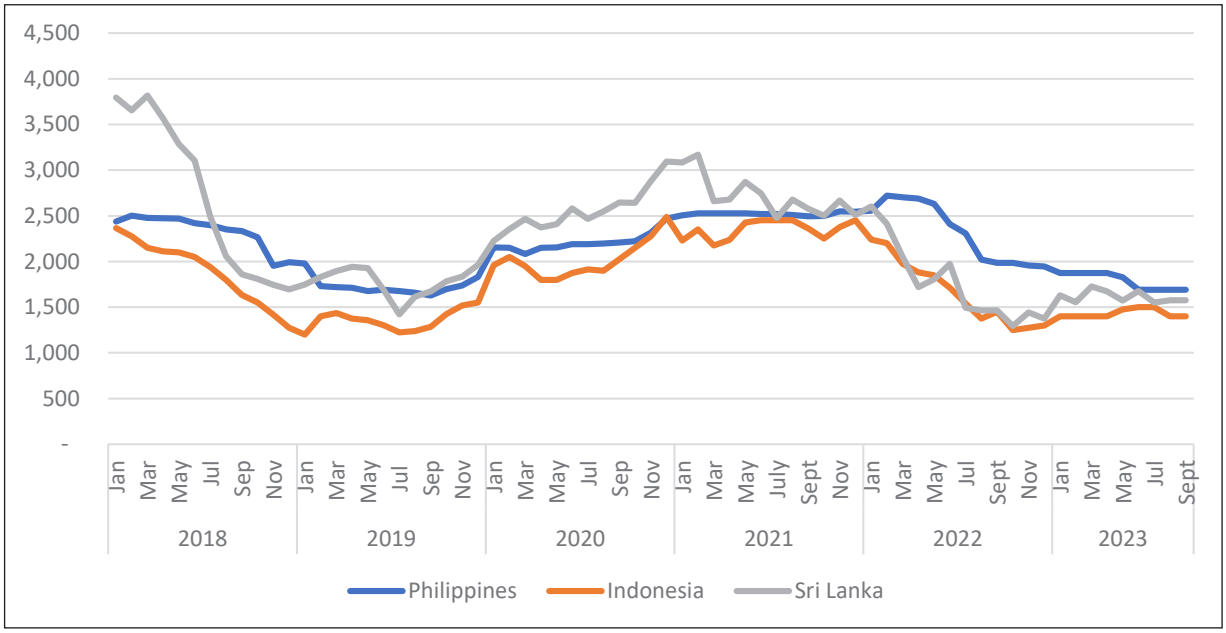
Indonesia's primary export markets for desiccated coconut are the European Union (EU27), followed by Singapore and the Russian Federation. China, the UAE, and Germany also represent significant importers.

The global demand for desiccated coconut in 2023 is projected to decline, continuing the trend observed in 2021 and 2022. Notably, there has been a significant decrease in global imports of desiccated coconut from 2021 to 2022, with a decline of 29.7%, primarily driven by diminishing demand in European countries. The declining trend in 2023 is chiefly influenced by weakening demand in European countries and the United States of America, with import volumes in the EU27 expected to drop by 20%, and US imports forecasted to decrease by 22%. Over the past decade, both the EU27 and the US have shown a slight decrease in demand for desiccated coconut, with compound annual growth rates (CAGR) of -1% and -2.3%, respectively.

The prices of desiccated coconut exhibited a declining trend throughout 2023 in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Until the third quarter of 2023, the average price of desiccated coconut in the Philippines was US$1,787/MT, representing a 27% decrease compared to the same period in 2022. Similarly, average prices of desiccated coconut in Indonesia and Sri Lanka showed a declining trend, with average monthly prices of US$1,431/MT and US$1,614/MT, respectively, reflecting decreases of 21% and 14%.

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

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



COMMUNITY NEWS

INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY ARE ASKED BY EXPERTS IN THE COCONUT SECTOR

As part of the celebration of World Coconut Day, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research—National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST)—organized a technical seminar on "Sustainable Coconut Processing Strategies for the Global Market" on September 12, 2023, at the CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.

The ICC's executive director, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, was invited as the seminar's principal guest to give a special speech. She stated that the coconut industry depends on quality, sustainability, and competitiveness. She emphasized how adaptable coconuts are, highlighting their use in both cooking and as a biofuel. She stated, "We have to leverage innovation to unlock the full market potential of coconuts."

The difficulties of reduced coconut production as a result of global warming were discussed by Dr. C. Anandharamakrishnan, Director of CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram. Promoting research, study, and understanding of the scientific cultivation and management of important crops is a top objective for the CSIR-NIIST.

The challenges that farmers face stemming from price volatility and inadequate processing strategies were highlighted by Dr. B. Hanumanthe Gowda, the Chief Coconut Development Officer of the Coconut Development Board.

In his speech, Mr. Paul Francis, Managing Director of KLF Nirmal, emphasized the problems the sector had when it first started and some of the problems that still exist now and require government action to solve.

Technical sessions and panel discussions on research and development interventions for the cultivation, crop management, and value addition of coconut were held at the seminar on "Sustainable Coconut Processing Strategies for Global Market," in which a variety of experts from the government, industry, and farmers producer organizations actively participated.

Formulating agricultural plans, improving post-harvest value addition, and creating a stable worldwide market for coconuts and allied goods were the key goals of the sessions.

In the wake of September 2, World Coconut Day, a celebration with the theme "Sustaining Coconut Sector for the Present & Future Generation" was held to highlight the benefits of coconut cultivation and consumption, as well as to highlight the significance of coconuts and their contributions to the economy, agriculture, and public health. The International Coconut Community (ICC) and the Coconut Development Board (CDB) worked together to organize the event.

Agribusiness professionals, research and academic specialists, policy makers, corporate representatives, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), members from the Central and State Government agencies, and officials from the International Coconut Community (ICC) were present at the event.

In order to capitalize on the sizeable domestic and international market for this adaptable crop that is grown throughout the nation, the experts stressed the critical need for innovation and sustainability in the coconut industry. They also stressed the significance of a comprehensive strategy that includes cultivation, scientific crop management, and value addition. *(ICC News)*

WORLD COCONUT DAY 2023 WAS PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY (ICC) MEMBER COUNTRIES-WIDE

Members of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) commemorated the founding of the ICC on September 2nd, or World Coconut

Day (WCD). This yearly celebration pays homage to the significant economic and environmental impact that coconuts have on millions of people worldwide, including customers, industries, and coconut growers and their families. There are many different events and activities during WCD celebrations. These consist of cultural performances that highlight the profound cultural significance of coconut in various civilizations, educational workshops and training, and exhibitions showing the newest coconut goods and technologies.

ICC participated in the festivities held in Gorontalo Regency, Indonesia, from September 21–25, 2023. Sustaining the Coconut Sector for the Present and Future Generation was this year's WCD theme.

Thirty exhibitors from government and commercial organizations displayed their work. The five-day program drew about 300 people, including foreign attendees from PNG, Malaysia, the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, the US, the UK, and France. Countless local guests, including schoolchildren, eagerly browsed the display stands. During the festivities, other competitions were also planned.

September 21, 2023, was the date of the Opening Ceremony. Prof. Dr. Ir. Nelson Pomalingo, Regent of Gorontalo, and Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, gave the welcome addresses and the keynote speeches, respectively. Fadel Muhammad is the Republic of Indonesia's deputy chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly.

World Coconut Day is an important occasion to recognize and honor farmers, businesspeople, researchers, producers, coconut organizations, and all other stakeholders in the coconut industry for their collaborative efforts to build a resilient, sustainable, and competitive coconut industry, according to Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, in her speech. It is an acknowledgment of the economic, social, and environmental benefits of coconuts. To the best advantage of farmers, society, and the country, the great potential of the coconut still has to be investigated. obstacles that have a major influence on the decline in coconut production. In the global market, tariff and non-tariff obstacles need to be supported by the right laws and regulations. Because of the changing global landscape and shifting consumer demand, we must proactively adjust to new prices, trends, and industry norms.

E.H. On September 23, the International Coconut Conference was formally opened by Dr. Suharso Monoarfa, Minister of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) and Head of the National Development Planning Agency, Republic of Indonesia. He said that coconuts and their value-added products, particularly those from the province of Gorontalo, will play a major role in Indonesia's economic growth in the future. He claims that whereas coconut trees once covered most of Gorontalo, things have changed and there are now few coconut trees in Gorontalo. In addition, biodiversity loss and the current climatic disaster in Indonesia. To address this issue, he has persuaded the Gorontalo community to plant more coconut palms.

At the conference, a number of speakers gave speeches, including four foreign speakers. The presentation entitled "Role and Contributions in Achieving a Sustainable, Resilient and Highly Competitive Coconut Sector" was given by Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director of the ICC, on behalf of Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director of the ICC. The Scientific Advisory Committee on Health's (ICC) Chair, Dr. Fabian Dayrit, gave a presentation with the title "Sustaining Coconut Sector for the Health of the Present and Future Generation." Agricultural economist Dr. Julian Conway McGill of Glenauk Economics gave a presentation titled "The Many Uses of the Coconut." "Coconut, the Tree of Renewable Energy and Source of Non-food Products" was presented by Dr. Rico O. Cruz, Scientist and Consultant, Philippine Coconut Authority. "Coconut & Conservation" was delivered by Dr. Titiek Setyawati, Head of Country Director, Wildlife Conservation Society. The CEO of

Tom Cococha Indonesia, Mr. H. Asep Jembar Mulyana, gave a presentation titled "Moving Towards Sustainable Coconut by Utilizing Coconut Charcoal Derivative Products." Presentations on "Sustainable Coconut Farm Management: Lesson learned based on smallholder farmers intercrop practice" and "Protocols and Policy Guidance for setting up of International Coconut Genebank" were given by Mr. Ade Rizki Hermawan (DEKINDO) and Dr. Daniele Manzella, ITPGR FAO.

The need to use intensification (rejuvenation and replanting using high-yielding varieties) to stabilize the supply and improve the quality of coconuts, as well as GAP, pest control, intercropping, downstream and product diversification, GI-organic certification, implementation of GHP and GMP, development of farmer institutional, innovation, and global market access—product innovation, increasing product competitiveness, diversifying export markets—are some of the conference's conclusions.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw and Prof. Dr. Nelson Pomalingo officially opened the World Coconut Garden on September 24. It is a tourist destination in Huyula Village that promotes education, research, new hybrid development, and the preservation of coconut germplasm. The government of the province of Gorontalo launched this project, which will directly help the coconut producers. This is another example of cooperation between businesspeople, the government, universities, students, and youth, including cooperatives, SMEs, and farmers.

Additionally, coconut farmers and processors participated in a training program offered by the Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency and other organizations. Practical demonstrations, interactive discussions, and hands-on workshops were all part of the training curriculum. This was done with the intention of improving participants' abilities and knowledge in order to support the long-term expansion of the coconut sector.

The official Closing Ceremony took place on September 25, marking the end of the five-day tournament. The WCD 2023 Competition winners were declared and given assistance. Prof. Dr. Ir. and Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director, ICC, gave the closing remarks. H. Nelson Pomalingo, M.Pd., Dr. Rico Cruz, who is representing the coconut community in the Philippines, and Mr. Alan Aku, Managing Director of Kokanas Indastri Koperesan (KIK) and National Liasion Officer (NLO) of the ICC for Papua New Guinea, discussed their experiences. *(ICC News)*

A GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM TITLED "HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF COCONUTS TO OFFSET CARBON EMISSIONS: INTEGRATING SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE" WAS HELD

The International Coconut Community held the International Seminar on "Harnessing Coconut Potential for Offsetting Carbon Emissions: Integrating Science and Economy for a Sustainable Future" in cooperation with Sam Ratulangi University (UNSRAT), Manado, Indonesia, to address the issues posed by climate change and implement a sustainable development agenda. The conference took place in the Aryaduta Hotel in Manado, Indonesia on October 12 and 13, 2023.

Prominent specialists from five nations convened to exchange their most recent findings and experiences while directing attention toward maximizing the potential of coconuts to lower carbon emissions.

The experts participated from India (Dr. Hebbar K. B., Director of ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Dr. Ganapathy Arumugam, Managing Director of Enhanced Biofuels And Technologies India, and Mr. Saibal K. De, CEO of Deejay Group), Philippines (Mr. Bernie F. Cruz, Administrator of Philippine Coconut Authority and Mr. Matthew Grecsek, CEO of Globe-Eco), France (Mr. Grégory Bardies, Executive Director of Sustainable Coconut

Partnership), USA (Dr. Sarah C. Sellars from Dakota State University), and Indonesia (Dr. Riza Suarga, Chairman of Indonesia Carbon Trade Association, Mr. Bimahyunaidi Umayah, Deputy Director of the Financial Services Authority, Dr. Hengky Novarianto, Senior Scientist of Indonesia National Research Innovation Agency, Mr. Asep J. Mulyana, CEO of PT Tom Cococha Indonesia, Mrs. Dessi Yuliana, Director of CarbonX, Mr. Isa A. Djohari, VP Research and Development of Indonesia Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, and Dr. Johny S. Tasirin, Lecturer of Sam Ratulangi University). A few specialists from Sam Ratulangi University, including Drs. Reiny A. Tumbol, Maria F. Sumual, Prof. Robert Molenaar, and Wiske Ch., also participated as session chairs and shared their knowledge.

There were five sessions to the seminar. "Policy and Regulation of Energy Transition and Pathway to Net Zero" was the topic of the first session. The measures taken by governments to lower carbon emissions and the potential that corporations and scientists can do were the main topics of discussion. Additionally, emphasis was placed on harmonizing the existing technique for carbon emissions.

"Carbon Sequestration and Carbon Sink in Agriculture Including Coconut and Its Implication to Net Zero" was the topic of discussion in the second session. This subject focuses on the capacity of coconut plants to absorb carbon, practical actions that advocates in the coconut industry may take, and the impact of intercropping systems on the mitigation of carbon emissions.

The final session "Empowering Communities for Climate Action and Sustaining High Coconut Productivity: The Role of Education and Research & Development" presents the superior coconut types that have been discovered as a result of the research. The presentation of the attributes and advantages of the many coconut varieties can motivate farmers to plant them in their region and boost their yield per unit area.

In the fourth session, "Incentivizing Carbon Capture and Making & Offsetting Carbon Credits: Economic Instruments and Implementation Strategies," industry experts described the measures adopted to minimize carbon. This item also explains carbon credit trading schemes, one of which is the carbonization of charcoal through distillation, which can provide liquid smoke or smoke vinegar, and the use of coconut shells to generate charcoal and briquettes.

The final workshop focused on "Sustainable Practices in Reducing Carbon Footprint, Community Engagement, Challenges, Opportunities and Future Directions" . This issue covered how to encourage communities to continue their efforts to reduce carbon emissions by using sustainable agricultural methods, as well as the difficulties they encounter and the range of uses for coconut trash.

Following each session, there was a thorough conversation in which the presenters addressed any questions.

Formal seminar opening on October 12th featured speeches from Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director of the International Coconut Community; Prof. Oktovian B. A. Sompie, Rector of Sam Ratulangi University; Mr. Olly Dondokambey, Governor of North Sulawesi, represented by Mr. Weldie Poli, Head of the Government of North Sulawesi's Goods and Services Procurement Bureau; and Dr. Dedie Tooy, Dean of Sam Ratulangi University's Faculty of Agriculture.

During her speech, Dr. Jennifer emphasized the need to identify research gaps in order to harmonize the standard methodology of measuring carbon emissions and to address the challenges facing the industry. She also discussed the potential of coconuts as a carbon emission offset and how choosing an improved variety, maintaining conservation efforts, and implementing sustainable farming practices can help overcome these challenges. In her closing remarks, she noted that this is just the beginning of the effort by the International Cocoa Council

(ICC) and that more discussions and research on offsetting carbon emissions toward the sustainable development of the coconut sector can be conducted with the cooperation of legislators, scientists, economists, and environmental experts.

It is hoped that the concepts and experiences shared during the seminar can play a significant role in creating a greener and more sustainable future, as well as practical solutions for overcoming global climate change. The recommendations and way forward crafted from the two days of the seminar were presented. This seminar will provide a strong basis for everyone to utilize the potential of coconut to reduce carbon emissions. *(ICC News)*

INTERNATIONAL COCONUT OIL CONFERENCE: "RETHINKING SATURATED FAT, BOOSTING COCONUT OIL-LINKED HEALTH"

The International Coconut Community (ICC) recently organized the International Coconut Oil Conference with the primary goal of tackling the global dietary guideline controversy. The conference gathered experts from diverse fields to delve into the most recent research findings, facilitate the exchange of ideas and insights for the benefits of both producers and consumers. Additionally, the conference aimed to foster research collaborations to address technology gaps. The conference had the theme "Rethinking Saturated Fat, Boosting Coconut Oil-Linked Health" and took place on October 30-31, 2023, at the Lumire Hotel & Convention Center in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mr. Reza Pahlevi Chairul , Director of Inter Regional Negotiations and International Organizations Ministry of Trade, and Alternate NLO of the Government of Republic Indonesia, officially inaugurated the conference. In his inaugural address he mentioned that the Conference is a crucial platform for discussion and formulating strategies based on credible scientific evidence on coconut oil. He also acknowledged the coconut oil contribution in helping to address the challenges related to food security and global supply chain disruptions as part of the SDGs. He underlined the importance of rebutting the negative campaign to coconut by comprehensive and reliable scientific evidence. He hoped that this conference would stimulate fruitful path among policymakers, companies and all stakeholders, hence making an effort to improve policies and regulations based on a high quality of scientific evidence.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC in her welcome address mentioned that this conference represents a significant milestone to address misconceptions about coconut oil and evidence-based understanding on coconut oil impact on health. The recent study findings that coconut oil is also can be converted into biofuel as the source of energy. Coconut is an integral part contributed to economic, social, cultural, environmental, and historically supported food security and food safety, so that it is aligning with the SDGs.

Dr. Fabian Dayrit (the Chair of ICC Scientific Advisory Committee on Health) delivered brief introduction of the conference.

The conference topics were covered in different four sessions in which esteemed experts from Australia (Prof. Ralph Martins, AO, Professor of Macquarie University and Edith Cowan University), Denmark (Dr. Arne Astrup, Senior Vice President of Novo Nordisk Fonden), India (Dr. Amit Ghosh, an Additional Professor of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Mr. Bipin Odhekar, Head-Operation Excellence of Marico Limited, Dr. Jeyan A. Moses, Assistant Professor of National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management – Thanjavur, and Dr. S. Praneetha, Professor and Head of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University), Indonesia (Dr. Ni Made Rika Trismayanti, Sp.BA, Pediatric Surgeon in Persahabatan Hospital and Dr. Susianto Tseng, Doctor in University of Indonesia), Philippines (Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit, a Professor in Ateneo de Manila University, Dr. Josephine Grace Rojo Tan, an ENT-Facial Plastic & Rhinoplasty

Surgeon, and Mr. Roel M. Rosales, Deputy Administrator in Philippine Coconut Authority), Sri Lanka (Dr. Kapila N. Senaviratne, Senior Professor in University of Kelaniya), Thailand (Dr. Sineewanlaya Wichit, Assistant Professor in Department of Clinical Microbiology and Applied Technology, Mahidol University), and USA (Dr. Mary T. Newport).

The first session "Review and Status of Research Work Done on Facts and Misconception in the Dynamic World of Coconut Oil and Saturated Fats" emphasized the traditional saturated fats like coconut oil have been unjustly maligned in dietary guidelines, with one of the presentations tracing the historical shift in focus from sugar to saturated fats in the heart disease discourse.

The second session was on "Clinical Study Papers Contributed by The Researchers of Various Countries on the Nutrition & Health Aspects of Coconut Oil, Lauric Acid, Ketones and How It's Different from Trans Fats". The speakers shared the diverse aspects of coconut oil's potential health benefits, including its anticancer properties, role in Alzheimer's disease management, antiviral effects on mosquito-borne viruses, re-evaluation of its impact on cardiovascular health, and its potential in preventing ulcerative colitis in children by reducing inflammation and inhibiting specific cytokines.

The speakers were highlighted the nutritional significance of coconut-based products and the challenges facing the coconut industry in their countries covered in the third session "Country Presentations -Importance of Coconut Oil for the Food Security: Strategies and Policies to Face the Global Challenges by the Major Coconut Growing Countries".

The speakers explained the steps taken to maintain the sustainable development of coconut oil supply chain in the fourth session: "Technology Innovated and Adopted for the Sustainable Development of Coconut Oil Supply Chain for the Consumers Nutritional Benefit". They emphasized the industry's commitment to sustainable value creation and shared value, particularly evident in their holistic approach to product lifecycle sustainability. MD from Spring Hill Neonatology, Inc). shared their expertise with the participants. Experience sharing and testimonials were also part of this conference.

There were in-depth discussion after each session and the queries were attended by the speakers.

The recommendations crafted from this two days conference were presented which strives to foster collaboration among clinical scientists and medical professionals to bridge knowledge gaps through conclusive research while promoting the health benefits and multifunctional roles of coconut oil. *(ICC News)*

THE PHILIPPINES' OUTPUT OF COCONUTS IS DECLINING

Less than 15 billion coconuts are collected annually in the Philippines, according to the chief official of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA). This indicates that the country's coconut production is declining.

"Sadly, it's not rising; it is yearly declining, albeit somewhat," PCA Administrator Bernie Cruz stated during the 3rd World Coconut Congress. He continued by saying that the PCA's investigation indicated that coconut processors require at least 18 to 20 billion nuts, which the current rate of output is unable to provide. "We need to produce more coconut each year. The demand is increasing for the processors," he stated.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations reports that the Philippines produced 14.7 million tons of coconuts in 2021, or 14.7 billion nuts. Cruz stated that the Philippines continues to lead the world in coconut product exports. But in terms of output, the Philippines is now lagging behind Indonesia, with India trailing closely behind. *(Manila Times)*

A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN COCONUT PRODUCTION IS RECORDED IN GUJARAT

The production of coconuts has significantly increased in Gujarat. Over the previous ten years, the State has added around 4,500 hectares of land for coconut farming. To increase coconut output in the state, the government of the state has started the Gujarat Coconut Development Programme and allocated specific funds for it.

Gujarat, which has the nation's longest coastline, has seen a notable rise in coconut output and cultivation throughout the past ten years. The State cultivated coconuts on about 21,000 hectares of land in 2012–13; by 2022–2023 that number had risen to over 25,000 hectares. According to State Director of Horticulture P.M. Vaghasia, the government supports farmers who grow coconuts financially through a number of programs and initiatives. Currently, the State produces more than 21 crore ripe coconuts.

Additionally, he mentioned that 33% of the state's total coconut crop is sold to states in the north, such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Delhi. *(All India Radio News)*

THE GROUP SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIES THAT PROCESS COCONUTS

The country's coconut-producing states have been urged to develop a coconut processing sector by investors and stakeholders, according to the National Coconut Producers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria (NACOPPMAN).

The association's national president, Dr. Nma Okoroji, made the request during the World Coconut Day celebration in Abuja.

Every year on September 2, the world celebrates World Coconut Day. In 2023, the subject is "Sustaining the Coconut Sector for the Present and Future Generation."

Lagos, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Yobe, Ogun, Adamawa, Niger, Taraba, Borno, Plateau, Bauchi, Gombe, Kwara, Kogi, and FCT are among the states that Okoroji claims are viable for coconut farming.

According to her, the organization would have the potential to process all of the coconut's components—shell, water, flesh, and fibrous husk—and package them for export if processing factories were established in the states.

Processing the commodity is essential since there are over 300,000 different items that can be made from coconuts, making the value chain of the product extremely large.

Among other things, it can be used to make chips, carpet, door mats, coil, twine, rugs, cosmetics, orthopedic foam, bags, chips, and organic manure for farming.

In addition, Okoroji stated, "Money is the coconut exocarp, fibrous husk, shell, oil, water, and the meat among others."

According to her, the group is starting its main initiative, Coconut Sufficiency in Nigeria (COSIN) 2027.

According to Okoroji, the scheme called for planting 10,000 hectares of coconut trees in each of the states where coconuts are viable, or one family planting three coconut trees.

In addition to increasing coconut production, this straightforward yet effective project promotes biodiversity preservation, helps soil protection, and offers a route to economic empowerment.

The program is a reflection of the association's commitment to enabling individuals, families, communities, and business entities—both public and private—to actively engage in the nation's coconut industry's sustainable development.

She stated, "Every family is encouraged to plant and care for three coconut trees as part of the "One Family, 3 Coconut Trees" initiative."

According to Okoroji, the group hopes to spark a grassroots movement that aligns with the principles of sustainable agriculture and prudent resource management by supporting this project.

This, she explained, is because the coconut industry is unexplored and investing in it is an investment in the next generation. *(The Guardian)*

SOUTHERN COCONUT REBOUND AIDED BY BIOTECH SOLUTIONS

An important component of the region's social and economic fabric is the vibrant and diverse coconut-based sector found in the southern section of the country. Thousands of people who are closely connected to the coconut value chain are employed and fed by this business, which involves a wide range of operations from cultivation and harvesting to processing and marketing.

Bangladesh, ranked as the world's 12ggggg-highest producer of coconuts, harvests an astounding 442,700 metric tons of coconuts annually from 25,335 hectares of land. In this area, coconuts are mostly used in two different ways: as green coconuts, which are prized for their nutrient-dense water content, and as mature brown coconuts, which are prized for their water content, interior flesh, and the flexible brown husks that may be used to make products like oil, coir, and coco pith.

However, the region's coconut production has alarmingly decreased in recent years.

Inadequate fertilization techniques and mite and white fly infestations are the causes of this decrease. The lives of coconut farmers in southern Bangladesh have been negatively impacted by these difficulties, which have also had an impact on the quantity and quality of coconut production.

Demand for green coconut water rises in the sweltering summer months due to its high nutritional value and capacity to ward off tiredness and dehydration. The issue was made worse by the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and dengue, which caused a sharp increase in the demand for green coconuts and a shift in supply away from mature coconuts, which are needed to produce coir, coconut oil, and coco pith.

Ten of the jute coir processing factories in Bagerhat have recently closed, and due to a shortage of ripe brown coconuts, it is now difficult to manufacture processed coconut coir, which is crucial for increasing soil productivity. Refineries that process coconut oil have also started to rely more on imports.

According to a Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) assessment, poor management and pest infestation cause a 60 percent productivity loss in coconut growing zones in southern Bangladesh. In addition, the immature coconut's quality had declined, as seen by its decreased size, scuffed and distorted exterior, and desiccated interior.

The fundamental cause of the issue is the low level of technical knowledge held by traditional coconut farmers, who are not well-versed in managing pests and diseases or in appropriate tree trimming methods.

The lack of information about plant nutrition management, including proper fertilizer delivery and effective pruning techniques, made the problem worse and worse.

The coconut farmers in some areas of Bagerhat are starting to experience better times again as a result of recent measures.

The Feed the Future Bangladesh Horticulture, Fruits, and Non-Food Crops Activity, funded by USAID, collaborated with the Bagerhat-based agricultural cooperative Renaissance Enterprise. The parties joined forces through this cooperative project to improve the technical

proficiency of fifty local service providers, or "gachhi."

These people are in charge of maintaining insect infestations on coconut trees as well as cleaning, pruning, fertilizing, and other chores. 2,000 coconut farmers in the Bagerhat district's Chitalmari upazila stand to gain from this project.

These days, both the gachhis and the trained groups of coconut producers are aware of the best ways to control pests and maximize the yields from each tree by pruning it properly.

Since late this year, Renaissance Director Probir Kumar Biswas informed the Dhaka Tribune that they have trained 50 gachhis and over 2,000 coconut growers in various unions inside the Chitalmari upazila.

The production of coconuts has drastically decreased over the past few years, to the point that some local coir and coconut oil manufacturers have closed. There was an invasion of pests on top of the inadequate nourishment that the coconut crops were experiencing.

According to him, many farmers first believed in a belief that the low yield of their coconut trees was caused in part by the placement of mobile towers.

The quality of the flowers and immature coconuts is excellent in terms of shapes and sizes and not falling off their buds, and it was evident that the infestation in the treated coconut trees had decreased. They also knew the proper dosages for applying fertilizer and pesticides as well as proper plantation management after successfully completing the training.

The Dhaka Tribune was informed by farmers and gachhis that they now knew when and how much of each nutrient to apply, including lime, compost, urea, TSP (triple super phosphate), boron, sulfur, and copper sulfate. To combat mites and white flies, they also use pesticides like Fizimite and K-mite.

A coconut farmer in Char Baniari, Chitalmari, is Dhirendra Nath Barai. He claimed that after gaining this new understanding of plantation management, things had improved.

Madhuri Majumder of Santoshpur Union has sixteen coconut palms in her expansive courtyards. According to her, a lot of farmers and gachhis were ignorant of the sustainable pruning techniques for coconut trees, which prevent production from being hindered. They are aware of that today. The fruits are not falling off the trees, and the trees appear healthy.

This correspondent was informed by Nilima Baral, a fellow coconut farmer, about the use of pheromone traps to protect fruits from pest infestations.

One of the gachhis who received training from Renaissance is Nur Islam Khan. He expressed his happiness at being able to offer the farmers greater services now that the coconut crops are being properly managed, leading to higher yields.

How important these biotech interventions are becomes clear when taking into account the difficulties traditional coconut farmers in southern Bangladesh confront. Numerous pest infestations, declining coconut yield, and a lack of technical expertise jeopardized thousands of people's livelihoods.

Nonetheless, progress is being made and things are looking better. In addition to providing farmers and regional service providers with necessary skills, Renaissance Enterprise's partnership with the USAID-supported initiative is revitalizing the coconut industry in the southern part of the nation.

Farmers are benefiting from higher yields, better-quality coconuts, and enhanced economic prospects as a result. By preserving the coconut-based economy of the area, these

initiatives help to guarantee a sustainable future for all parties concerned. *(Dhaka Tribune)*

GI TAG FOR "AYYAMAPALAYAM NETTAI" COCONUT VARIETY EAGERLY OBTAINED BY FARMERS

After crossing Ayyampalayam on the approach to Marudhanidhi dam, the road dips, climbs, and dips once more as homes start to disappear and tall, thin coconut trees start to line the winding section. This area is known for its Ayyampalayam Nettai coconut variety, for which the agricultural department and farmers are working to obtain the GI tag.

Coconut plantations bordering the catchment region, just above the dam, are home to this variety of coconut that has flourished for over 120 years, with many of them easily reaching heights of 100 feet.

Remarkably, these hundred-year-old trees, with their over 60% oil content and incredibly sweet kernel, nevertheless manage to produce crops. A single tree may provide roughly 120 nuts year on average; if fertilizers are used, this amount can rise to roughly 150 nuts.

Conversely, the hybrid trees end producing early and begin producing roughly 200 nuts a tree year, according to an agriculture officer. He continues by saying that the oval-shaped nuts of the Ayyampalayam Nettai are resistant to both disease and drought.

Unlike the hybrid trees, these plants were able to resist leaf spot disease and whitefly attacks, even if some of the trees suffered from them, according to A. Rasool Mohideen is a farmer of coconuts.

Mr. Mohideen, an organic farmer, continues by saying that the Ayyampalayam Nettai are able to recover from the illness without the use of chemical fertilizer.

The sustained intercropping that this variety encourages is another factor. Because the canopy that forms from these enormously tall trees is not dense, enough of sunlight is available for the growth of other crop species.

The hybrid trees, which have a 40-year lifespan, are small in stature and have a dense canopy, which makes intercropping challenging.

Given the low profitability of farming, Mr. Rasool says it's critical to choose a variety that will support intercropping over time and maintain productivity. Farmers in the area have begun experimenting with growing rambutan, mangosteen, and nutmeg. "Cultivating nutmeg and mangosteen has proven successful, and we are also attempting to grow macadamia nuts on our farm."

Another farmer in the area, Veeramani, claims that intercropping has made coconut growing more profitable.

The price of a coconut has increased from ₹3 to ₹8 in the 1980s, while a farm worker's pay has decreased from ₹10 to ₹500. As nutmeg is a profitable intercrop, coconut farming is profitable, according to another farmer.

"The government procures copra at ₹108 per kg, whereas in the open market it is about ₹80," Mr. Rasool continues. However, there is a catch: if the government obtains the necessary number of submissions from a certain area, procurement ceases, and the farmer is compelled to sell their produce on the open market. Once more, intercropping benefits the cultivator in this scenario.

Farmers in the area have submitted their application for a GI tag for this variety in an effort to preserve and support the local species.

According to C. Amala, Deputy Director of Agriculture, "This is a unique variety as the yield is constant even with age." This region's seedlings are growing elsewhere, demonstrating its resistance to disease and drought. In order to obtain a GI tag for Ayyampalayam Nettai, a

proposal has been sent, and we hope to receive the tag as soon as possible. *(The Hindu)*

IN INDONESIA, GORONTALO DEVELOPS THE FIRST WORLD COCONUT PARK

The World Coconut Park in Huyula Village, Mootilango District, Gorontalo Regency, Gorontalo was opened by the Gorontalo Regency Government. It is anticipated that this would lead to a rise in coconut production within the area and the creation of better kinds.

According to Gorontalo Regent Nelson Pomalingo, the purpose of this park's construction was to boost the productivity of coconut trees, expand their number, and promote the downstreaming of goods derived from coconuts. As of right now, Gorontalo's coconut farms span an area of 100,000 hectares.

"We hope that the World Coconut Park can serve as a model for other regions so that the area of national coconut plantations can increase by at least 500,000 hectares per year," he said. "By the end of next year, we have prepared 250,000 coconut seedlings to be planted on land with a target of up to 2,500 hectares."

Nelson targets that the park can raise production by up to 3–4% of national production. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency in 2022, coconut production in Gorontalo Province reached 2.38 percent of the total national production of 2.87 million tons.

Creating a germplasm or genetic bank for different domestic and international coconut varieties is one of the objectives behind the establishment of the World Coconut Park. Of the 16 domestic coconut types, four are early maturing variants and the remaining 12 are mature kinds.

As a result, the regional government invites university agricultural experts to assist in the cultivation of excellent coconut seeds. In addition, the park offers facilities for training in the processing of coconut derivative products.

"Since Gorontalo presently solely produces copra, processed coconut derivative products need to be created. In actuality, there are still more possibilities, such nata de coco, coco fiber, briquettes, and so forth. "In this way, it is hoped that farmers' income will increase, productivity will increase, and downstream production will also increase," he stated.

In order for food exports to consist of processed goods rather than raw materials, downstream food products need to be promoted, said Fadel Muhammad, deputy chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR). Prioritizing processed agricultural products is necessary because the Gorontalo region is not dependent on extractive industries.

However, Fadel went on, the park's creation served as a means of showcasing Gorontalo's coconut potential to the outside world and promoting the expansion of the coconut industry. Furthermore, this development will also have an impact on the neighborhood of Gorontalo.

As the former governor of Gorontalo from 2001 to 2009, he stated, "We at the MPR appreciate the notion of introducing Indonesian agriculture to world class. "Indeed, our coconut production is pretty vast, but it is not organized and managed efficiently."

For your knowledge, the Gorontalo Regency's ecological area has now grown to three areas due to the World Coconut Park. The two previous areas were the 5,1,000-hectare Nantu Wildlife Reserve and the 6,200-hectare Community Forest Park area.

Global assistance

A number of investments entered Gorontalo Regency with the opening of the World Coconut Park, which is a part of the 2023 World Coconut

Day series in Gorontalo. 16 representatives from International Coconut Community (ICC) member nations, including India, Papua New Guinea, France, the United States, Malaysia, and the Philippines, attended the event.

The export value of processed coconut products has increased steadily since 2000, indicating that coconut commodities still have a lot of promise in Indonesia, according to Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director of the International Coconut Community.

Additionally, Jelfina underscored the significance of coconut conservation areas by initiating the World Coconut Park. This is due to the fact that domestic coconut varieties are at risk of being destroyed by a variety of pests and diseases, as well as increasingly extreme climate conditions.

"In this case, ICC is committed to providing policy support and capacity building support through training and technology transfer so that Indonesian coconut can develop," he stated.

Jelfina claims that farmers still have very little access to superior seeds. As a result, the government must take steps to make it easier for farmers to receive superior seeds. One such step would be the establishment of nursery centers, which would occupy a minimum of five hectares in each coconut-producing region.

"The majority of coconut plantations belong to small farmers so we have to focus on that," he said. *(Kompas)*

FACILITIES IN THE COCONUT INDUSTRY GET A BOOST IN PHLMECH

Heralded as the first of its kind in the province, the P27-million coconut processing facility in Oriental Mindoro is now under construction and is expected to boost the income of coconut farmers.

The Bongabong Coconut Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative (Bocofamco) will receive the facility intended for the processing of cooking oil and white copra, according to the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech).

The coconut processing plant, which is located in Bongabong town, is anticipated to help the surrounding farmers as well as the almost 1,500 coconut farmer-members of Bocofamco.

at the meantime, work on a P31 million shared processing plant for cooking oil and white copra is under proceeding at Baganga town, Davao Oriental.

Nearly 580 coconut growers would directly profit from this plant, which is the first in the province and the second in the Davao Region for producing cooking oil and white copra.

The Agroforestry Farmers Producers Cooperative will run and oversee it.

The P41 million worth of shared processing facilities is also given to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, enabling the region to create higher-quality coconut goods.

A workshop and stakeholder engagement conference are scheduled for later this month, according to PHilMech, with the aim of identifying eligible project proponents and the kinds of facilities that should be constructed.

Stakeholders will examine the state of the Bangsamoro coconut industry, an analysis of the coconut value chain, and the demand for coconut goods in the market during the upcoming meeting.

In the meantime, the Zamboanga Peninsula is building coconut processing facilities at a cost of P86.5 million.

The Coconut Farmers and Industry Development strategy, which outlines steps to raise the income and productivity of 2.5 million coconut farmers nationally, includes these projects as

part of a strategy to build shared processing facilities around the country. *(Inquirer)*

RAMANATHAPURAM COLLECTOR SAYS THAT IT WILL SET UP A COMMERCIAL COMPLEX FOR COCONUT STORAGE

At a grievance meeting for coconut farmers in Ramanathapuram, district collector Vishnu Chandran pledged to take action toward building a complex for agriculture products. The farmers stated that while coconut is grown on 8,300 hectares in the district, the yield has declined recently due to unfavorable rain spells.

We are forced to sell the produce on the open market since vendors here offer low rates for coconuts. The spike in production and shipping costs has further reduced the profit. We would be able to sell them for a fair price if there was a facility specifically designed to store coconuts," the farmers stated.

In addition, they asked the agriculture department to provide recommendations for the consistent application of pesticides, take the necessary steps to minimize insect attacks on coconut trees, and provide drought relief for farmers.

In response to the demands, collector Vishnu Chandran stated that "the agricultural engineering department provides farmers with up to 40% subsidy for setting up solar dryers." He also stated that appropriate efforts will be made to set up a commercial complex. Initiating the processing of value-added products from coconuts should be the farmers' next step, he continued.

The district's sugarcane farmers, who grow the crop on about 2,500 acres in the Paramakudi and Kamudi blocks, told the collector later in the day that more would come forward to cultivate sugarcane if enough credit facilities were made available to them directly through cooperative banks. "Deer and wild boars cause us heavy loss during farming seasons," the farmers said. Thus, they contended, the district administration had to act appropriately to stop it.

"The company is also providing solar spike fences to farmers at subsidised rates to protect their farms from the intrusion of deer and wild boars," collector Vishnu Chandran responded. "The Shakti Sugars Company will be instructed to provide loans upto `3 lakh directly to sugarcane farmers through central cooperative banks and cooperative banks to provide loans," he added *(The New Indian Express)*

INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY (ICC) HOLDS INTERNATIONAL COCONUT OIL CONFERENCE 2023: "RETHINKING SATURATED FAT, BOOSTING COCONUT OIL-LINKED HEALTH"

The International Coconut Community (ICC) recently held the first International Coconut Oil Conference, with Indonesia as the first host of this conference. Experts from 16 countries presented the results of their latest research in the field of nutrition and health, especially the benefits of coconut oil for health at a conference with the theme: "Rethinking Saturated Fat, Boosting Coconut Oil-Linked Health" and took place on 30-31 October 2023, at the Lumire Hotel & Convention Center in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Indonesia has the largest coconut plantations in the world and is the world's largest coconut exporter along with India and the Philippines. The growth of coconut commodity exports is very positive, and global demand for coconut-based products, including coconut oil, has continued to increase drastically over the last few years.

Coconut is called the tree of life (plant of life) because all parts of the coconut tree, from the roots, fruit, stems, leaves can be used. Coconut oil has been clinically proven to have many health benefits, for example as an antiviral, anti-inflammatory, immunity, preventing diabetes, Alzheimer's, dementia, and even cancer.

The latest scientific evidence about these health benefits was presented at this conference by doctors, professors in the field of biochemistry,

nutrition and health experts from India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Australia, Denmark and the United States who were the main speakers at the conference which was attended by representatives from 16 countries.

Behind all the benefits of coconut, it is unfortunate that there has long been a global negative campaign against coconut commodities, especially from Western countries to avoid saturated fat which is also the main composition of coconut oil. The negative campaign threatens the lives and future of 6 million coconut farmers around the world, their families, and one billion related workers from upstream to downstream.

Even though the saturated fat contained in coconut oil is clearly different from saturated animal fat. Meanwhile, the triglyceride content of coconut oil is much lower than animal fat and LDL, which are accused of being a source of bad cholesterol that causes heart disease.

Research Prof. Dr. Fabian Dayrit from the Philippines has proven that coconut oil can lower blood sugar levels and has antiviral properties. In fact, the main composition of coconut oil, namely lauric acid, is the same type of fatty acid contained in breast milk, which is very useful in increasing the body's resistance (immunity). Both are included in the medium chain fatty acid category which is beneficial for health.

This is the main ingredient that differentiates coconut oil from other vegetable oils or animal fats.

Bearing this crucial matter in mind, this conference was held to formulate strategies and policies for a resilient and sustainable coconut sector.

At the International Coconut Oil Conference 2023, keynote speakers from India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Australia, Denmark and the United States will share their experiences and clinical studies conducted in their respective countries and their impact on health.

Reza Pahlevi Chairul, Director of Inter-Regional Negotiations and International Organizations, Ministry of Trade, and representative of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, at the ICC officially opened the conference.

In his speech, Reza said that this conference was an important forum for discussing and formulating strategies based on scientific evidence to develop coconut oil. He also acknowledged coconut's contribution to the welfare of farmers and Indonesia's food security. It is therefore important to refute the negative campaign against coconut with scientific evidence. He hopes that this conference will open productive communication between policy makers, companies and all stakeholders, so that appropriate policies and regulations can be produced.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director of the ICC, in her speech said that this conference was an important milestone in overcoming misunderstandings about coconut oil with a scientific basis regarding the benefits of coconut oil for health.

Recent research even found that coconut oil can also be converted into biofuel for aircraft fuel. Coconut has a vital role in food security, a source of income, and has been an integral part of culture and people's daily lives since time immemorial, thus supporting the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN.

The International Coconut Community (ICC) is an organization under the auspices of the United Nations (UN-ESCAP), which consists of 20 member countries producing 90% of the world's coconuts which was founded in 1969 by Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. ICC member states are: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kiribat, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Salomon Island,

Jamaica, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Timor Leste, Vanuatu and Vietnam. The ICC head office is in Jakarta.

For the first time since its founding in 1969, the ICC was led by an Executive Director from Indonesia, Dr. Ir. Jelfina C. Alouw, M.Sc. is a senior BRIN scientist specializing in the field of coconut. She was also the first woman to ever serve as director of the ICC. Director elections are held every three years by the 20 ICC member countries. *(Gramedia Post)*

AGRICULTURE MINISTER SAYS THAT RAW COCONUT PROCUREMENT THROUGH GOVT AGENCIES WILL CONTINUE

Following a recent decline in coconut prices, Kerala Minister for Agriculture P Prasad announced that the state will continue to purchase raw coconuts through government agencies and expand its procurement of copra. This year, the minister said, raw coconuts were purchased for Rs 34 per kilogram.

The minister stated that more procurement centers will be permitted in those areas where coconut cultivation is high, with the cooperation of MLAs to ensure regional facilities. Currently, the procurement of raw coconuts is carried out directly through KERAFED, via various Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) and centers of the Kerala State Coconut Development Corporation.

"More procurement centers will be approved by the Director of Agriculture based on the requests of farmers. Farmers who request it in writing may reduce the number of raw coconut procurements from six to five times annually. Additionally, procurement activities will receive an allocation of Rs 50 lakh from the market intervention fund," Prasad stated.

In addition, he mentioned that an expert group on agriculture has been formed to investigate the yearly yield of coconuts. *(Mathrubhumi)*

CHINA AND CAMBODIA SIGN THE PROTOCOL OF PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXPORT OF FRESH COCONUTS

A phytosanitary protocol governing the export of fresh coconuts from Cambodia to China was recently signed.

The General Administration of Customs of China and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) signed the pact on September 15.

On September 20, Ms. Im Rachana, the Undersecretary of State and Spokesperson for MAFF, announced that the General Department of Agriculture (GDA) of the ministry has begun notifying plantation and community owners that grow aromatic coconuts as well as owners of factories that process and package fresh coconuts for the Chinese market about the need to register their factories and plantations.

She said, "The General Administration of Customs of China has established sanitary and phytosanitary standards for the cultivation of coconuts, and the ministry will work with farmers to ensure that they meet these standards."

The representative emphasized that the list of fresh coconut plantations, as well as processing and packaging facilities, will be transmitted to China in early December 2023 for assessment and approval prior to formal shipment.

17,000 hectares of coconut plantations are presently present in Cambodia, of which 14,000 hectares are ready for harvesting, producing 248,000 tons in 2022. *(Khmer Times)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Vegetable oils prices further came down during the week.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market resumed inactivity, after trading last week at $940/MT CIF, amid limited buying support and rising price premium vis-à-vis rival palm kernel oil. The market opened with offers either unchanged or higher depending on position with levels at $1,051.75-1,135.00/MT CIF for positions from October/November through to April/May 2024. Thereafter levels stayed for the most part below opening rates on lack of supportive market features though by week's end settled in the upside, still predominantly below respective opening values. Levels stood at $1,055-1,130/MT CIF.

By contrast, palm kernel oil was back in action after last week's quiet affair. It was reported to have been traded earlier this week at $925/MT CIF, below the most recent pay level a fortnight ago at $950-975/MT. Afterwards, however, no new business was reported until the weekend. Opening levels were easier across the board at $930-990/MT CIF for positions from October/November through to Mar/April 2024. Prices tracked further downward after that but managed to bounce back later and closed at $900-950/MT CIF, likewise, below opening values.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil increased this week across all positions from the preceding week data. Hence the average spread for the week rose to $138.30/MT from the week ago at $114.97. Premium per position are shown following: September/October $138.75 ($101.67 last week); October/November $146.85 ($114.35); November/December $139.70 ($113.05); December/January $133.75 ($111.70); January/February 2024 $131.13 ($117.20); February/March $135.75 ($117.35); March/April $142.20 ($114.40); April/May no data ($130).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures started off easier ignoring report of flash sales and tight stocks as players anticipate harvest. Recent USDA weekly report indicating improved crop conditions also weighed on prices as did improving harvest and concerns over the economy. A short-lived market turnaround was later sparked by the possibility of dry weather delaying planting in South America. Towards the weekend it was back to weakness affected by low soybean oil and meal prices.

At the palm oil section, it was an easier market during the week weighed down by improved production, weakness in soft oils notably soybean oil, and sluggish demand. At the close, however, market reversed course on expectations of improved demand from China after the holidays and ahead of Indian festivals.

Prices of tropical oils this week for nearest forward shipment showed only coconut oil had crossed into the positive territory after suffering losses in the past weeks. Level gained $3.85 from $1,055.00 last week to $1,058.85/MT CIF this week. Palm kernel oil, on the other hand, continued its downward scope, slashing $41.33 from $953.33 to $912.00/MT CIF. Palm oil similarly suffered further decline, with cutback of $60.00 from $962.00 to $902.00/MT CIF. As a result, the price spread of coconut oil over palm kernel oil expanded from $101.67 a week ago to $146.85/MT presently. Too with margin over palm oil which widened from $93.00 to $156.85/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam, the coconut oil market was uneventful this week. Prices were mostly lower but ended the week in the upside with sellers quoting $1,055 for October/November; $1,055 for November/December; $1,060 for December/January; $1,070 for January/February 2024; $1,080 for February/March; $1,120 for March/April; and $1,130/MT CIF for April/May. Buyers were selective and showed interest only in November/December and December/January asking $1,000/MT for both positions.

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

SRI LANKA TARGETS $2 B FROM COCONUT-RELATED PRODUCT EXPORTS

Industry and Plantation Minister Dr. Ramesh Pathirana set an ambitious goal of achieving $2 billion in export income from coconut-related products over the next 5 to 10 years.

He made these remarks during the 'King coconut plant cultivation' ceremony held at the Lunuwila Coconut Research Institute.

Minister Pathirana expressed his gratitude to the Coconut Research Institute (CRI), the Coconut Cultivation Board and the Coconut Development Authority (CDA) for their efforts in promoting the export of king coconut.

Minister Pathirana acknowledged the need for further promotion of king coconut cultivation to meet the industry's demands.

He also emphasised the vast potential for export income from coconut-related products, noting that the last two years saw the highest recorded values at $836 million and $817 million, respectively. This indicates a remarkable 20% increase in export income within the sector.

Sri Lanka is projected to yield an impressive harvest of around 3 billion coconuts this year, marking a significant milestone in recent history. This follows last year's record of 3.2 billion nuts and the previous year's high of around 3 billion. The Minister projected that the revenue from coconut-related products could soon surpass the $1 billion mark, with an ultimate target of $2 billion in the next 5 to 10 years.

To facilitate this growth, Sri Lanka produced a historic high of 5.5 million coconut plants last year, with a focus on hybrid varieties.

The creation of the second coconut triangle, coupled with the country's existing coconut cultivation potential, is anticipated to further boost production.

The CRI has also launched initiatives to minimise waste in local consumption, ensuring more coconuts are available for export.

He highlighted the successful initiatives carried out in conjunction with International Coconut Day on 2 September, including the establishment of a new coconut triangle representing the Northern Province.

Plantation Industry Ministry Secretary Janaka Dharmakirthi, CRI Chairman Malraj Peiris, CDA Chairman Prof. Roshan Perera and the Coconut Cultivation Board Chairman Madhavi Herath participated in the event with their presence. *(Daily FT)*

VIETNAM'S COCONUT EXPORT TO REACH US$1BIL IN 2025

Vietnam's coconut export are expected to reach US$1 billion in 2025 after the US and China agree to allow Vietnamese coconuts to enter the two markets, according to President of the Vietnam Coconut Association Nguyen Thi Kim Thanh.

According to food experts, Vietnam coconuts are known for their high quality and freshness. (Rich in nutrients: Vietnamese coconuts are also found to be rich in vitamins and minerals, including potassium, magnesium, and fiber, which can help support overall health).

As the US is about to open the market for Vietnamese coconuts and China allows official coconut import, local businesses are trying to develop raw material areas, apply for growing areas codes, and register to build organic material zones to meet the needs of the world market, Vietnam news agency (VNA) reported the official said.

"At the end of 2022, coconut export turnover was over US$700 million. But based on the momentum of the US and China agreeing to import Vietnamese coconuts, around the end of 2024 and early 2025, coconut export turnover will be up to US$1 billion," Thanh said.

In the past, there were not any plans for coconut areas. However, in 2021, the fruit was listed as one of Vietnam's key industrial crops, especially in the context of climate change.

According to Thanh, about 20 large enterprises in the country have exported coconuts to the world. Up to 35 countries and territories are Vietnam's importers.

Luu Van Phi, Director of the Department of Industry and Trade of the southern province of Tien Giang said export of coconut to the US will help raise the price of the fruit, improving the income of farmers, thus helping them feel secure to invest in coconut farming. *(The Star)*

BARISAL GREEN COCONUT PRICES JUMP FOURFOLD

Taking advantage of an immense rise in demand amid the outbreak of dengue across the country, some unscrupulous sellers have hiked the price of green coconut in Barisal.

Traders say prices of green coconut have jumped fourfold since the past month. For this, they blame the interference of middlemen and the lack of preservation and marketing facilities.

They claimed that the supply of green coconuts remained scarce, compounded by a significant increase in transportation costs compared to the previous year.

Green coconuts are considered essential for replenishing fluids for dengue patients, prompting their relatives to flock to roadside vendors.

At the top are the owners of coconut trees, and then there are the harvesters, followed by the wholesale buyers. The bottom tier is filled with retailers.

According to Ganesh Dutta, the price of coconut in the wholesale market is determined by the extractors, who also vary according to distance to travel, size, and local demand.

Abdur Rahim, a labourer, said they take Tk15-25 per tree from their employers to pick coconuts from trees.

Wahidul Islam, a wholesale buyer, said he buys each coconut from tree owners for Tk35 to Tk45, while Ujjal Roy, a wholesale seller, said his selling prices were Tk50 to Tk65.

These sellers usually add their transportation costs to the prices. They transport green coconuts by boats, pickup vans, rickshaws, and trucks. The more distant the location, the pricier the coconuts get, and they are sold at Tk65 to Tk85.

Jamal Hossain, retailer at Barisal Bangabandhu Udyan, said that he buys green coconuts at a rate of Tk75 to Tk95 and sells them for Tk85 to Tk150.

They said that they incur losses when they buy low-quality coconut from wholesalers, which are very difficult to identify from the outside.

Additionally, they cannot preserve green coconut like farmers do in the case of potatoes; as a result, they are bound to sell them off within a day or two. It is a risky business, traders complained. *(Dhaka Tribune)*

TOP COCONUT EXPORTERS ARE RECOGNIZED PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) recognizes the important role of Philippine coconut products exporters in the country's economic development. In appreciation, the PCA bestows top performers plaques of recognition. This activity was started last year and forms part of the National Coconut Week celebration, which is held annually during the last week of August. This year celebrates the 37th National Coconut Week.

The awarding ceremony this year was held during the Welcome Reception for delegates and guests of the World Coconut Congress at the Coconut Palace. PCA Administrator Bernie F. Cruz handed the awards assisted by United Coconut Associations of the Philippines Chairman Dean Lao, Jr. Cargill Oil Mills Philippines, Inc. bagged the Top Exporter with Highest Growth Rate (2021 vs. 2022) award.

Awards were also given to the Top Exporters based on Top 10 Exported Commodities in 2022. Cargill Oil Mills Philippines, Inc. also was Top Crude Coconut Oil Exporter while Oleo Fats, Inc. was Top Refined Coconut Oils Exporter. Franklin Baker Co. of the Philippines won two award categories: one as Top Desiccated Coconut Exporter and the other as Top Coconut Water Exporter.

Awards were also bestowed on Cenapro Chemical Corp. as Top Activated Carbon Exporter, Peter Paul Philippines Corp. as Top Virgin Coconut Oil Exporter, and Stepan Philippines Quaternaries, Inc. as Top Oleochemical Exporter.

Special awards were given to Superstar Coconut Products, Inc. as Resilient Exporter and World Venture Commodities, Inc. as Outstanding Conglomerate. Franklin Baker Co. of the Philippines was given the 100-year Excellence commendation. The company pioneered in desiccated coconut production in the country. It celebrated its 100th year last year.

Other awards include Outstanding Coconut Community Advocate which was won by Engr. Ramon Barbosa; Outstanding Micro Coconut Enterprise – Agrisolution Marketing Cooperative; Outstanding Small Coconut Enterprise – Amparitas Integrated Farm. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

NEW OILSEED CRUSHING PLANT TO BE ERECTED IN SOUTH DAKOTA

A new oilseed crushing facility is to be erected near Mitchell, South Dakota, according to Tom Kersting, CEO of South Dakota Soybean Processors. Unlike the first two plants owned by South Dakota Soybean Processors, the new facility will be a switch plant, meaning it will have the ability to process not only soybeans, but other high oleic crops such as sunflowers, canola, and camelina.

The plant will have a capacity to crush 100,000 bushels per day. Its ability to process multiple crops is expected to drive the expansion of specialty crop acres in the area, Kersting said. The soybean meal produced by the plant will be exported and the co-op is partnering with a company to off-take the oil to produce renewable diesel. It is also exploring partnerships to export soybean meal.

"For years, almost all of the oil produced at our crush facilities went to the food industry and now, half of it is going into renewable diesel and we expect that to grow," said Kersting. The project is expected to take two years to complete, and to start operation by October 2025. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

TO CUT OIL IMPORTS AND EMISSIONS, INDONESIA OPTIMIZES B35

The rising trend of oil prices in the world market has sounded alarm for Indonesia, which relies on fossil fuels import to fulfill 60 percent of its steadily-growing domestic demand of the fuel. The situation thus shows the government was right in its policy to implement mandatory program of palm-based biodiesel, according to the Oil Palm Fund Management Board (BPDPKS) President Director Eddy Abdurrachman. In addition,

it has bolstered the palm oil industry by stabilizing the price of palm oil.

Before the implementation of the biofuel mandatory program, Eddy said the country's palm oil is very reliant on the export markets, which as a result palm oil prices are highly determined by foreign markets. The program though needs quite a big amount of fund, which is derived from palm oil levies collected by BPDPKS. Currently, most of the fund is used to finance development of biodiesel from palm oil.

The economic coordinating ministry's Acting Deputy in charge of state-owned companies (BUMN), research and innovation coordination, Elen Setiadi said that the government's biodiesel mandatory program has been continually upgraded in the last seven years from B15, a mixture of 15% palm oil and 85% diesel in 2015, to B20 in 2016, B30 in 2020 and B35 since February 2023. Until June 30, the realized distribution of B35 reached 5.44 million kiloliters or 41.9% of the target set at 12.99 million kiloliters in 2023. Potential foreign exchange savings from the program is estimated at USD3.59 billion. It also absorbed a total of 1.654 million workers and cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emission at 34.9 million MT of CO_2e, according to Elen Setiadi. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

SPAIN TESTS ALPHALT WITH RECYCLED VEGETABLE OIL AND BY-PRODUCTS OF OLIVE OIL

In a similar development in Spain, reported that asphalt made with recycled vegetable oil and olive oil by-products is being tested. The experimental asphalt, the report said, is made with a mixture of semi-hot bitumen which is a by-product of petroleum refining process, by-products from the olive oil refining process, and recycled vegetable oil. The formulation was for every 1,000 liters of semi-hot bitumen, the manufacturing process required 300 liters of olive oil refining by-products and 400 liters of recycled vegetable oil.

Authorities in Castile and Leon plans to pave a 40m section of heavily used motorway connecting the community's two largest cities, Valladolid, and Segovia, with the experimental asphalt and another 40m section of the highway would be paved with conventional asphalt. Performance will be compared, with the officials being hopeful the experimental asphalt would be at least as durable as the traditional formulation.

Authorities also said the experimental asphalt can be produced at temperatures 40°C cooler than traditional asphalt, thus reducing the amount of energy required to manufacture and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Moreover, the experimental asphalt formulation could improve working conditions as it emitted less smoke and odor while being poured compared to the traditional product. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

HEADACHE RELAXATION: DOES DRINKING COCONUT WATER HELP?

Among the many health-promoting ingredients in coconut water are antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant compounds.

A 100 ml glass of coconut water has about 21 kcal, 0.4 g protein, 4.8 g glucide, minerals, amino acids, and no fat, according to the Vietnam Food Composition Table. Coconut water is a good way to hydrate the body, reduce blood pressure, and ease headaches brought on by high blood pressure.

But headaches are caused by more than just elevated blood pressure. It might be a sign of a number of dangerous conditions, such as a brain tumour, cerebrovascular accident, or stroke.

Therefore, people who feel as though the frequency or intensity of their headaches is

increasing should see a doctor for a checkup to determine the true cause.

Other strategies to help with headaches include eating a healthy diet, getting 7-8 hours of sleep each day, and maintaining a balanced work-rest routine. Two more natural remedies that have been shown to help with headache and sleeplessness are blueberries and ginkgo biloba.

Numerous studies have also demonstrated that those who consume large amounts of water—including coconut water—had improved blood circulation, lower levels of bad cholesterol, and a lower chance of developing atherosclerosis. *(Express VN)*

YOUR METABOLISM IS INCREASED BY COCONUT WATER

Doctors have made numerous recommendations on the avoidance of coconut in diet to aid in weight loss, as well as to prevent or lessen the risk of diabetes and heart disease.

On the other hand, consuming virgin coconut water can aid in weight loss in a number of ways.

not only tasty but healthful as well. Although not everyone has so much appetite, consuming it on a daily basis can aid in weight loss and the development of a healthy body.

Relax, traditional marketplaces are a great place to find coconut water. Here are a few advantages of coconut water's weight-loss effects on the body.

Increases muscular mass

Eliminating all fat or transforming fat into muscle is one method to achieve a toned, fat-free body.

Coconut water's potassium content aids in fat management and muscular growth. Gaining muscle results in weight loss and a stronger physique.

Swap out sugary beverages

It is a fantastic and healthful substitute for sugar-filled sodas because it is extremely low in calories and sugar. Reducing your intake of soft drinks and replacing them with coconut water will cause you to lose fat instantly.

Boost the metabolism

More energy from coconut water helps you stay active and speed up your metabolism.

By doing this, metabolic problems will be avoided, and the body will burn those excess calories more quickly and effectively.

Reducing fat

It is well known that coconut water aids in the body's breakdown of harmful cholesterol. The fat not only dissolves but also keeps fat from building up in your arteries. One of the main causes of unexpected cardiac arrest is blocked arteries.

Reductant

As a diuretic, coconut water is also beneficial. It facilitates weight loss by eliminating toxins and all forms of fat from the body. Additionally, it lessens the possibility of bloating brought on by your body storing extra water and fluid.

Drinking a lot of coconut water makes you feel full and reduces your desire to overeat. You should also stay away from other liquids that are high in sugar. Its increased energy to be active and accomplish more makes it refreshing as well. *(Liputan 6)*

COCONUT RECIPE

TROPICAL FRUIT AMBROSIA WITH TOASTED COCONUT PUDDING

The ambrosia salad is a magical salad grounded in 1950s Americana. Making a good one is all about balance. I like using fruits that are tart-sweet, such as cherries and pineapple, to balance the whipped cream and marshmallows. Here, it's layered on top of a delicious coconut pudding.

Ingredients

Toasted coconut pudding

- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 14 g (3 tsp) butter
- 1 vanilla bean
- 1 egg
- 1½ tbsp corn flour (cornstarch)
- ½ cup sweetened coconut

Ambrosia salad

- 1/3 cup thickened (heavy) cream
- 1½ tbsp creme fraiche or sour cream
- ¼ cup icing (powdered) sugar
- 3 tsp vanilla bean paste
- ¼ cup mandarin segments
- ¼ cup cherries (e.g. maraschino or Brandy-soaked cherries), plus extra to garnish
- ¼ cup diced pineapple
- 1½ tbsp toasted coconut, plus extra to garnish (or use untoasted coconut)
- ½ cup mini marshmallows

Chilling time: 30 minutes

Instructions

1. For the coconut pudding: In a medium-size saucepan, on medium heat, bring the coconut milk, milk, sugar, butter and vanilla to just under a simmer.
2. In a small bowl, add the egg and lightly beat, then stir in the cornflour. Add this mixture to the milk mixture. While stirring with a wooden spoon, heat mix until it thickens. Once thick, add the sweetened coconut. Portion into four individual cups and allow to set in the refrigerator.
3. For the ambrosia salad: In a stand mixer with the whisk attachment, beat the cream, sour cream, icing sugar and vanilla bean paste until stiff peaks. In a large bowl add all of the fruit and toasted coconut. Add whipped cream and marshmallows and fold to combine.
4. Add the ambrosia mix to the cooled and set coconut puddings. Garnish with a dusting of toasted coconut and a cherry on top.

(SBS Food)

STATISTICS

Table 1. Indonesia's Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut, 2021 – 2023

Month	2021		2022		2023	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000
January	9,526	15,798	10,653	18,050	8,167	8,922
February	11,432	19,023	8,639	14,117	8,690	9,655
March	12,452	20,138	11,433	15,740	9,478	10,140
April	13,159	21,684	9,870	13,546	7,557	8,109
May	8,609	14,952	5,690	9,175	8,441	9,117
June	11,249	18,783	8,655	11,639	9,149	10,060
July	10,838	19,337	7,999	10,611	9,789	11,567
August	13,538	22,432	10,265	12,580	11,912	13,066
September	12,388	21,517	9,591	12,046		
October	12,348	20,096	8,533	10,707		
November	13,271	22,897	8,867	9,728		
December	11,123	18,016	9,951	10,898		
Total	**139,933**	**234,673**	**110,147**	**148,837**	**73,185**	**80,636**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 2. Philippines' Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut (in MT), 2020 – 2023

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	11,816	10,523	11,810	8,086
February	14,202	11,976	14,603	12,072
March	13,296	13,266	18,636	14,485
April	8,336	10,995	14,274	10,390
May	10,723	11,933	13,147	14,861
June	12,347	13,990	13,725	
July	14,982	13,669	10,737	
August	13,103	15,302	11722	
September	13,678	14,920	13174	
October	13,170	16,118	10512	
November	9,874	16,415	11531	
December	9,673	14,703	13059	
Total	**145,200**	**163,810**	**156,930**	**59,894**

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 3. Sri Lanka's Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut (MT), 2021 – 2023

Month	2021		2022		2023	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000
January	1,515	4,827	3,049	8,334	2,359	4,418
February	2,297	6,708	2,988	8,049	2,658	5,168
March	3,125	9,442	3,822	8,900	2,759	5,677
April	2,234	7,150	3,197	7,954	2,110	4,295
May	2,701	8,789	3,692	8,533	2,986	6,115
June	2,785	8,593	4,118	9,753	2,573	5,058
July	3,476	10,374	3,315	7,374	3,003	6,138
August	3,679	10,861	4,121	8,987	3,879	7,388
September	3,206	9,151	3,543	7,026		
October	4,141	11,981	3,795	6,910		
November	3,779	10,783	4,111	7,163		
December	3,178	9,188	4,040	7,128		
Total	**36,116**	**107,848**	**43,791**	**96,109**	**22,327**	**44,258**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 4. Export Volume of Desiccated Coconut by Country of Origin, 2023 (MT)

Month	Malaysia	Thailand	India	Brazil
January	675	8	251	7
February	1,019	62	138	2
March	947	32	293	6
April	634	36	179	1
May	824	65	194	6
June		33	158	2
July		124	131	2
August			162	7
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	**4,100**	**360**	**1,506**	**33**

Source: ITC and Thai Custom

ICC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for a Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Agroindustry - Proceedings of the 50th COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition, 2022

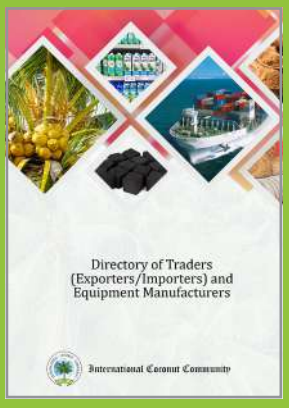
Price: US$50

COCOINFO International Vol 30 No. 1, 2023 – A semi-annual, scientific and semi-technical based in order to disseminate useful information of the coconut sector, around the globe.

Annual subscription price:
US$35 (ICC Member Countries)
US$40 (Non-Member Countries)

Directory of Coconut Traders & Equipment Manufacturers

Price: US$50



Coconut Statistical Yearbook 2020

Price:
US$50 (ICC Member Countries)
US$60 (Non-Member Countries)

CORD Vol. 39, 2023 – An annual international journal on Coconut Research & Development

Price:
US$40 (ICC Member Countries)
US$50 (Non-Member Countries)

Cocommunity – Monthly newsletter of the International Coconut Community

Annual subscription price:
US$50 (ICC Member Countries)
US$60 (Non-Member Countries)

** All prices are excluded from shipping charges*

Order via website www.coconutcommunity.org or write e-mail to icc@coconutcommunity.org
Payment can be made by PayPal & wired bank transfer

GOMA®

FROM CONCEPT TO COMPLETION

COCONUT PROCESS

Technology Perfected

GOMA GROUP OF COMPANIES

Plot No. B/66, Road No. 34, Wagle Estate, Thane - Mumbai (India)

CONTACT: +91 93226 54235/6/2 | EMAIL ID: exports.pte@goma.co.in | www.goma.co.in

India | Nepal | UAE | Sri Lanka | Malaysia | Egypt | Kenya | Ethiopia | Nigeria

DESICCATED COCONUT PROCESSING MACHINERY

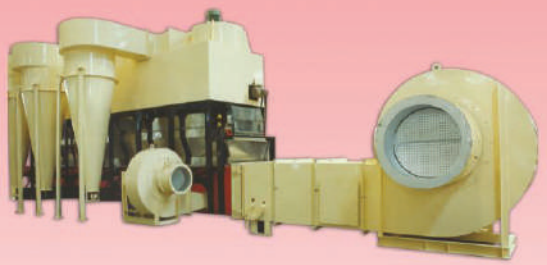
"Over 100 machines in operation worldwide"

BAND DRYER (APRON/CONTINUOS TRAY DRYER)

for Desiccated Coconut Granules, Chips & Toasted D/C
Output Capacity : 1000 to 2500 Kgs/hr.
Two Stage and Three Stage Dryers.
Apron width : 2640mm and 3250mm

COMBINATION DRYER

for Desiccated Coconut Granules, Chips,
Toasted D/C & Parings.
Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.



VIBRATORY FLUID BED DRYER

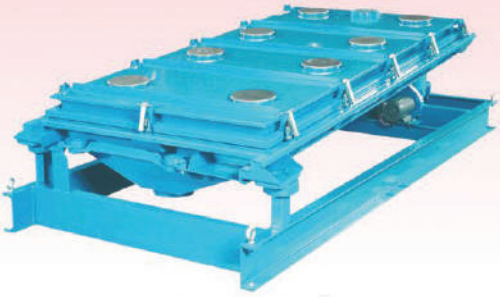
for Desiccated Coconut Granules & Parings.
Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.

GRINDER

Output Capacity:
1000Kgs/hr.

BLANCHER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 4000 Kgs/hr.



NOVATEX SCREENER/GRADER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 1500 Kgs/hr.

DESHELLING MAHINE
Output Capacity :
250 to 300 nuts/hr.

DEHUSKING MACHINE
Output Capacity :
1200 nuts/hr.

OIL EXPELLER

RADIATOR
Extruded Fins or
Plate Fins Type

STAINLESS STEEL PERFORATED APRON TRAYS
Width: 2640mm & 3250mm

STAINLESS STEEL CHAIN

GEM

GEMTECH PROJECTS LLP.

10/C, Middleton Row, 3rd Floor, Kolkata - 700 071, India
Tel: +91-33-2217 7328 (4 Lines) | Mobile: +91 9831173874, +91 9831131196 | Fax:+91-33-2217 7333
E-mail: info@coconutprojects.com | sg@gemforgings.com | www.coconutprojects.com

INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY
PO Box 1343
JAKARTA - INDONESIA

PRINTED MATTER

BY AIR MAIL

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

Established in 1969, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commision for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the ICC is an independent regional intergovernmental organization which consist of twenty 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.

The subscription rates for the *Cocommunity* excluding of postage are: US$50.00 per year for ICC member countries, US$60.00 for non-ICC member countries.

For subscription, please write to:

INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY
8th Floor, Bappebti Building, Jl. Kramat Raya 172
Central Jakarta10430, Indonesia
or P.O. Box 1343, Jakarta 10013, Indonesia
Phone : (62-21) 3100556-57
Fax : (62-21) 3101007
E-mail : icc@coconutcommunity.org or apcc@indo.net.id

www.coconutcommunity.org