The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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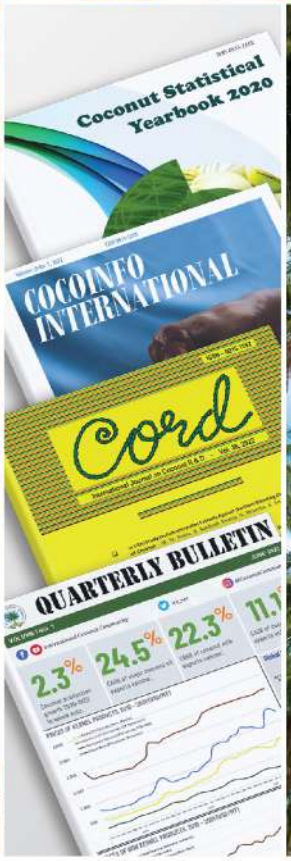

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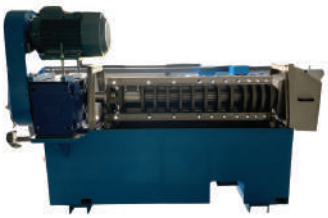

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

"Harnessing Cutting-Edge Technologies for Advancing Sustainability"

Cutting-edge technologies play a pivotal role in advancing sustainability by revolutionizing traditional practices, fostering resource efficiency, and mitigating environmental impact. In the context of coconut production, these technologies represent a transformative force, enabling the industry to overcome longstanding challenges. The development of sustainable activated carbon production from coconut shells exemplifies how technological innovations can align economic interests with environmental stewardship. Similarly, the introduction of IoT and AI-powered sap tapping equipment not only boosts productivity but also addresses labor shortages and safety concerns. Furthermore, the creation of eco-friendly textiles from fermented coconut water showcases the potential to reduce waste and promote circular economies. Embracing such technologies not only propels industries forward but also positions them as stewards of ecological balance, ushering in a future where innovation and sustainability go hand in hand.

With a higher pore volume and robust mechanical strength, activated carbon based-coconut shells prove to be an eco-friendly substitute to coal, offering improved adsorption capabilities. The cutting-edge clean technology enables some industry to achieve substantially greater yields, approaching 100% of the shell with much lower emissions. Despite challenges such as the sustainable availability of quality and quantity shells, initiatives like the Philippines' ambitious tree planting project aim to bolster coconut production, meeting global demands. The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is also proposing agreements with local entities to further coconut-related initiatives.

Next, we delve into India's groundbreaking development—an IoT and AI robotics-powered autonomous sap tapping equipment. This invention not only streamlines the tapping process but also enhances efficiency by tapping up to 300 trees per day. With utility patents secured in 28 countries, this innovation not only boosts production but also addresses the decline in coconut tapping due to labor challenges and safety concerns.

Finally, we unveil a novel eco-friendly fiber created from fermented coconut water—leftovers from mature coconuts. This fully organic, durable, and water-resistant textile, produced from nata de coco, is poised to make a significant impact on the sustainable fashion industry.

The information in the November issue of COCOMUNITY underscores the invaluable role of cutting-edge technologies in propelling sustainability within the coconut industry. These advancements not only address current challenges but also lay the foundation for a future where innovation and environmental responsibility coalesce. As we navigate the intricate landscape of sustainable coconut production, it becomes increasingly evident that embracing these technologies is not merely an option but a necessity. By staying at the forefront of innovation, we pave the way for a more resilient, efficient, and eco-conscious coconut industry—one that meets global demands while safeguarding the delicate balance of our planet. Join ICC in this journey towards a sustainable future, where the coconut sector leads the way in responsible and forward-thinking practices.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

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

COPRA: In October 2023, the price of copra in Indonesia slightly decreased to US$595/MT, from US$614/MT in the previous month. However, compared to the same period in the previous year, the price lifted by US$93/MT. However, in the Philippines' domestic market, the price of copra levelled down from US$608/MT in September 2023 to US$599/MT in October 2023, a decrease of US$9/MT. The price was also US$6/MT lower than the price a year ago, which was US$605/MT.

COCONUT OIL: In October 2023, the average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) decreased to US$1,058/MT. The price was 3% lower than the price a year ago, which was US$1,094/MT. In the Philippines, the average local price of coconut oil was US$1,077/MT in October 2023. 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$1,071/MT in October 2023 from US$1,073/MT in September 2023. The price was comparably higher by US$60/MT as opposed to the price in October 2022.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic price of copra meal was quoted at US$247/MT in October 2023, which was slightly lower than the previous month's price. Moreover, the price was US$35/MT lower than the price a year earlier. In Indonesia, the average domestic price of copra meal decreased to US$249/MT in October 2023, and was US$35/MT lower than the price a year earlier.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in October 2023 was US$1,690/MT, which was remained unchanged compared 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 October 2023 was US$1,619/MT, which was higher than the price in September 2023. In the Philippines, the price of DC in the domestic market remained unchanged at US$2,039/MT in October 2023. Meanwhile, the Indonesian price (FOB) of DC was higher than the previous month's price at US$1,400/MT, and was higher compared to last year's price of US$1,250/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In the Philippines, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in October 2023 was US$335/MT, which was slightly lower than the price in the previous month. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price slightly decreased to US$443/MT in October 2023. In Sri Lanka, the price of coconut shell charcoal in October 2023 was US$313/MT which was remained unchanged in the previous month.

COIR FIBRE: In Sri Lanka, coir fiber was traded in the domestic market at an average price of US$57/MT for mix fiber and US$470-US$619/MT for bristle. In Indonesia, the price for mixed raw fiber was increased at US$110/MT in October 2023, which was slightly lower than the price a year earlier at US$130/MT.

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

Products/Country	2023 Oct	2023 Sep	2022 Oct	2023 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	123	122	129	130
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	161	150	138	148
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	208	190	168	216
India (Domestic Kerala)	394	393	380	405
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	599	608	605	624
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	595	614	502	600
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	956	889	888	1,113
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,060	992	930	1,025
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,058	1,084	1,094	1,067
Philippines (Domestic)	1,077	1,077	1,103	1,110
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,071	1,073	1,011	1.086
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,731	1,702	1,623	2,002
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,664	1,594	1,640	1,665
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	1,690	1,690	1,984	1,778
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,619	1,579	1,443	1,615
Indonesia (FOB)	1,475	1,400	1,250	1,435
India (Domestic)	1,637	1,502	1,294	1,457
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	247	255	282	277
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	282	266	248	294
Indonesia (Domestic)	249	257	284	277
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	335	339	364	351
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	313	313	394	357
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	443	456	435	462
India (Domestic)	336	337	411	355
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	57	51	49	48
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	470	403	406	413
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	619	564	510	543
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	110	98	130	93
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	912	958	1,039	995
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	804	830	889	899
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,134	1,112	1,576	1,124

Exchange Rate

Oct 31, '23 1 US$ = P56.85 or Rp15,932 or India Rs83.28 or SL Rs327.94
1 Euro = US$1.06 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF COIR

Until the third quarter of 2023, the coir fiber market experienced a prolonged period of low prices, following a decline observed in the preceding year. Notably, in Indonesia, the coir fiber price remained at US$90 per metric ton until July 2023, gradually increasing to US$110 per metric ton by October 2023. Similarly, Sri Lanka witnessed a weak coir fiber market, with an average price of USD49 per metric ton during January-October 2023. This figure represented a 40% decrease compared to the average price recorded in the same period of 2022.

A significant contributing factor to this price decline was the industry's heavy reliance on the Chinese market for raw materials. The slowdown of the Chinese economy resulted in a substantial reduction in demand, thereby exerting downward pressure on prices and leading to the prevalence of deep discounts in the market.

Despite the challenges faced by the coir market since 2022, major exporters such as India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka continued to play a pivotal role in the global coir-based products trade. According to the latest report from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India, total coir and coir product exports amounted to 831.8 thousand tons during the first three quarters of 2023, a marginal 0.5% decrease in volume compared to the same period in 2022, generating an export revenue of US$238.78 million. Coir pith and fiber remained the primary products, accounting for over 98% of the total volume and contributing 83% of the export revenue. Key export destinations for Indian coir products included China, European countries, and the USA, collectively covering more than 85% of global demand.

Figure 2. Export destinations of Coir Products from Indonesia, January-September 2023

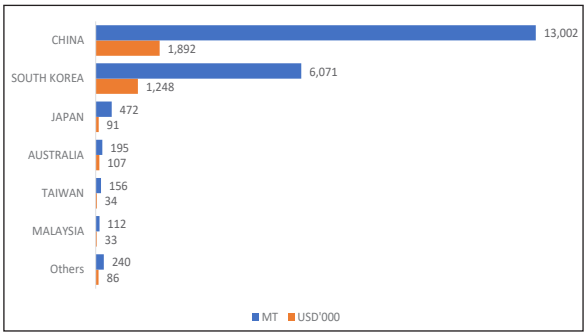
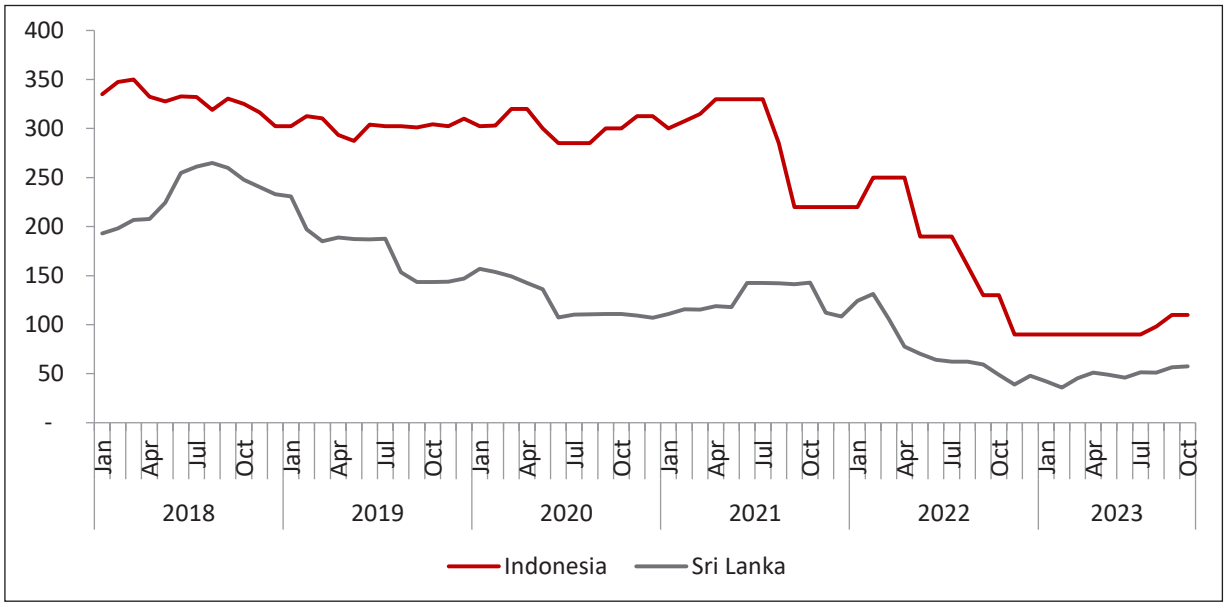


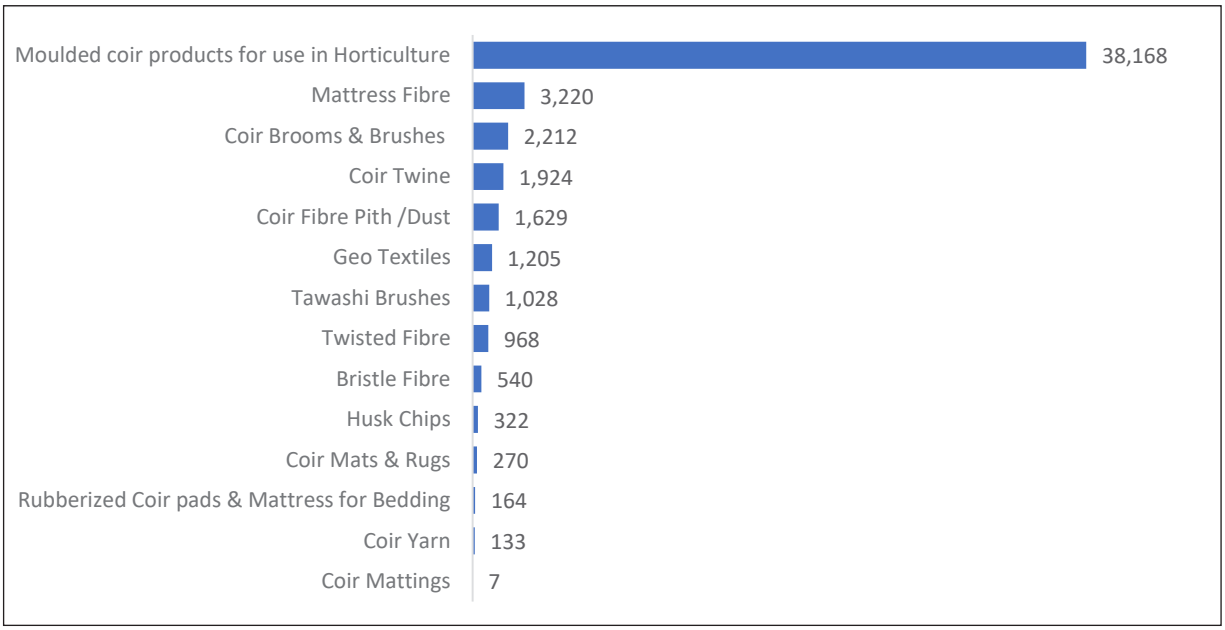
Figure 1. Average Monthly Price of Coir Fibre January 2018 – October 2023 (US$/MT)



In Indonesia, the export volume of coir-based products during January-September 2023 amounted to 20,249 metric tons, indicating a 12% decrease compared to the previous year's volume for the same period. The decline in volume was accompanied by a 25% decrease in export value, reflecting the lower prices of the products. Major export destinations for Indonesian coir products included China, South Korea, and Australia, accounting for more than 95% of the exported coir products. Coir fiber and coir pith constituted the primary products sent from Indonesia to the global market.

Similarly, Sri Lanka experienced a decline in export revenue for coir-based products until the third quarter of 2023. The export revenue dropped by 11%, decreasing from US$180 million in January-September 2022 to US$161 million in the same period of 2023. Moulded coir products utilized in horticulture were the largest contributor to the country's export revenue from coir-based products, amounting to US$118 million, representing over 74% of the total export value. However, the export value of moulded coir products witnessed a 9% decrease compared to the previous year. Other products that significantly contributed to export earnings included mattress fiber, Coir Brooms & Brushes, and coir twine. Primary export destinations for moulded coir products for horticulture from Sri Lanka included Mexico, China, Japan, Morocco, the USA, South Korea, and Turkey.

Figure 3. Export Value of Coir Products from Sri Lanka (Rs million), January-September 2023



COMMUNITY NEWS

JACOBI IS WORKING ON SUSTAINABLE ACTIVATED CARBON PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY BASED ON COCONUTS

Utilizing technology, the process's heat will be converted to steam, which will then be used to produce electricity.

The business has long utilized coconut shells as a necessary component in the production of activated carbon, which is vital for the recovery of gold.

At roughly 3,000 t/y, the gold sector in South Africa is currently Jacobi's biggest customer for activated carbon derived from coconuts. About 20,000 t/y are distributed by the company to about 40 countries worldwide.

When utilized as a source of activated carbon, coconut shell offers several benefits because of its high pore volume and strong mechanical strength, which improve adsorption. Since it is a more environmentally friendly substitute for activated carbon than coal, it is also thought to be a more sustainable solution.

Carbonaceous material from charcoal is found in activated carbon, which is made through the pyrolysis of organic plant materials such wood, coconut shells, sugarcane bagasse, soybean hulls, and nutshells.

Activated carbon product development has been spurred by supply chain and climate change concerns, according to Pierre-Eric Blanc, sales director for Asia Pacific and South Africa at Jacobi Global Gold Recovery Applications Manager and Asia Reef City Sales Director. Blanc made this statement on October 24 at the Go For Gold conference.

The speaker expressed concern about the strain on the coconut supply chain, citing the necessity for a substantial amount of shells and fierce competition from other industries for this resource.

Blanc claimed that one factor contributing to the issue was the shells' comparatively low yield of charcoal, with only 10% of each effectively turned into activated carbon by more conventional carbonization techniques. He pointed out that these conventional techniques produced a large quantity of pollutants and were thus not sustainable.

But thanks to the cutting-edge clean technology that Jacobi is putting into practice in India, the company is able to achieve substantially greater yields—approaching 100% of the shell—with much lower emissions.

A further issue with yield is the scarcity of high-quality shells due to fierce competition from the food industry and other sectors that use coconut shell charcoal as fuel.

Seasonal harvests that may be reliant on weather patterns, with reduced predictability due to climatic anomalies like El Nino, are another issue facing the supply chain. South East Asia's political unrest poses a risk to the supply chain.

Blanc clarified that currently, roughly 70% of Jacobi's production costs are related to locating high-quality coconut shells, which are needed to create activated carbon. Nonetheless, the cost-effectiveness of the manufacturing cycle can be raised by putting the new technology into practice to guarantee higher yields.

Jacobi is developing the PicaGold G210 Titanium Grade, a new activated carbon product, in keeping with these advancements. According to Blanc, the idea behind this new product is to obtain stronger attrition resistance and further lower platelet concentration by doing a complete pre-attrition.

According to Blanc, "We want a product that significantly outperforms grades currently in use."

He claimed that production-scale experiments were presently being conducted to verify sufficiency and that Jacobi had installed specialized full-size equipment. The company plans to launch the new product in the market the following year, according to Blanc.

He added that the business was also developing a new product named Potato Shaped PicaGold, which is predicated on the idea of producing gold grade without obtaining any platelets with low fines.

Blanc clarified that, as the name suggests, this product would not be a conventional pellet but rather a potato-shaped particle.

Osaka Gas Chemicals, a Japanese company, is codeveloping the product and helping with the research and development.

The Potato Shaped PicaGold product is intended to be released in 2026. *(Mining Weekly)*

PROFESSIONAL COCONUT CLIMBERS ARE AVAILABLE 24/7

Under the moniker "Friends of Coconut Tree," the Coconut Development Board (CDB) has established a call center to serve the needs of coconut growers for plant protection, harvesting, and other field activities utilizing knowledgeable coconut climbers. The State's call center will be run out of the board's Kochi offices.

In addition to Kerala, the call center will open concurrently through board unit offices in traditional coconut-growing regions like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.

A total of 1,552 Friends of Coconut Trees (FoCTs) have registered for the call center, according to a CDB announcement. At the block grama panchayat level in the corresponding districts, the services of FoCTs will be made available for carrying out operations relating to coconut agriculture, such as tree climbing, plant protection, harvesting, obtaining seed nuts, and managing nurseries. Through the contact centers, coconut farmers can use the services of FoCTs.

By connecting farmers, farmer-producer organizations, coconut entrepreneurs, and representatives of various agriculture departments and institutions with FoCTs and palm climbers, the call centers hope to innovate the coconut industry. FoCTs' services are available for more information at 0484–2377266 (Extn: 137).

In addition to providing professional tree climbers' services, interested and qualified climbers can register at the phone center. They can provide information such name, address, and block/panchayat details, or they can utilize the phone number, 8848061240.

Ten years ago, the CDB started the FoCTs effort to train people who climb coconut trees, including women, in the management of coconut trees, main pest and disease management, harvesting, collecting seed nuts, managing coconut nurseries, irrigation, and fertilizer application. *(The Hindu)*

COCONUT TREE TAPPING TO BE REVOLUTIONIZED BY AI-BASED TECH

A game-changing technology is poised to transform the experience of toddy and neera tapping from coconut trees and address the issue of locating experienced tappers.

The IoT and AI robotics-powered autonomous sap tapping equipment created by Kochi-based agri-start-up Nava Innovation will gather fresh sap, or toddy, from the container at the foot of the coconut tree without requiring the tapper to climb the tree every day.

Nava Innovation's founder, Charles Vijay Varghese, told that the gadget has sensors that can determine when it is best to tap a tree and can also track the health of the tree. This feature

will help farmers maximize their produce and cut down on waste. The tool makes it easier for tappers to tap at least 300 trees per day.

An NRI businessman named Manoj V Raman and angel investor Christo George, the CMD of Hykon India Ltd., have contributed a seed investment to the company. Charles Vijay Varghese stated that the tapping equipment is expected to be available in the market in the next six to nine months. The new technology is intended to boost production and allow coconut growers to generate sap and value-added products on a large scale.

Additionally, Nava Innovation has obtained utility patents for its innovative automated coconut sap, or neera tapping, technology in 28 countries, accounting for nearly 90% of the global market.

He claims that in coconut-growing locations across the world, coconut sap tapping is a profitable activity for farmers, yielding returns that are eight to ten times higher than typical coconut sales. Derivatives made from coconut sap, such as sap vinegar, amino acids, and coco sugar, are in high demand right now.

However, a serious lack of competent tappers is causing the tapping sector to shrink despite its profitability. Due to the rising incidence of tragic falls from coconut trees, workers are choosing to forgo this labor-intensive and dangerous job in favor of more accessible and well-paying alternatives. According to him, there is a technology coming from India that might benefit millions of farmers worldwide. *(The Hindu Business Line)*

COCONUT FARMERS PRESENT A CASE FOR SUPPLY THROUGH PDS OUTLETS FOR COCONUT OIL INSTEAD OF PALM OIL

It appears that coconut growers in the Udumalpet, Pollachi, and Kanggeyam area are waiting to hear from the State Government regarding the provision of coconut oil through public distribution channels.

On its part, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) has set a minimum support price (MSP) for fair average quality of milling copra at ₹10,896 per quintal and ₹11,750 per quintal for ball copra for the 2023 season. NAFED has extended the deadline for purchasing copra through the regulated markets until November 26. Officials claim that compared to the previous season, the procurement represents increases of ₹270 per quintal for milling copra and ₹750 per quintal for ball copra.

The farmers assert, however, that the long-term viability of coconut farming depends on the availability of coconut oil through PDS outlets. The State government has long been urged by coconut growers to switch from selling palm oil through PDS stores to selling coconut oil.

Similarly, because of the poor demand, coconut oil extraction mills in the Kangeyam region and throughout the State are barely making ends meet.

The Union Ministry of Agriculture's Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has recommended that the Central and State Governments reverse their current course in order to stimulate demand for coconut oil. This can be achieved by eliminating subsidies on palm and soya oils intended for sale through PDS outlets.

The farmers claim that the current copra support price does not even come close to covering the costs of growing. *(The Hindu)*

TO CREATE A SOLID PLAN FOR THE COCONUT INDUSTRY, MARCOS ORDERS PCA

With the administration aiming to plant 100 million trees by 2028, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sees a "big opportunity" in the coconut business and needs a detailed plan for it.

Malacañang stated in a statement that the president met with representatives of the

Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) to talk about the projected huge tree planting initiative.

"There's a big opportunity so let's have a look at that… Kailangan natin mayroon tayong plano (We need to have a plan)," Marcos stated.

The PCA wants to plant 20 to 25 million trees annually between 2023 and 2028, several decades after it started the same project.

Marcos asserted that the agency should be able to proceed with the rehabilitation and development program despite political terms.

In order for local government entities to carry out coconut planting and replanting, seed farm development, and coconut fertilization, among other things, the PCA is proposing to establish a memorandum of agreement with them.

The Palace claims that there are 340.6 million coconut-bearing trees in the nation, covering 3.6 million hectares and producing 14 to 15 billion coconuts a year.

The Philippines "remains the biggest exporter of coconut products," it continued, citing $3.22 billion in export value in 2022. *(CNN Philippines)*

A NEW HOPE FOR FARMERS OF COCONUTS

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), which has traditionally been at the base of the economic pyramid, was given an order by President Marcos in June of last year to ameliorate the situation of coconut farmers. As he celebrated the PCA's 50th anniversary, the President declared his goal for the Philippines to lead the world in coconut product exports. "There is no reason why the Philippines shouldn't lead the world in coconut product exports."

The issue is that previous administrations have all pledged to revitalize the coconut sector and improve the lot of farmers. Nevertheless, despite the tens of billions of pesos designated for the business that sit in government coffers, coconut farmers and families who depend on the sector continue to be among the poorest of the poor. Their predicament stems from the contentious coconut levy money that the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' regime collected from farmers between 1971 and 1982. Coconut farmers filed lawsuits claiming that allies of the Marcos government had diverted monies to further their own economic interests after the Marcoses were forced out of Malacañang in 1986. The Supreme Court decided in 2012 that the government owned the coconut levy fund, which was established to support coconut producers. Before its output stagnated due to a lack of modernization, the Philippines was the world's largest exporter of coconut products, eventually falling to third place behind Indonesia and India.

Farmers, however, have more cause for optimism in the current drive to revitalize the coconut sector. Funding is easily accessible and there is a more comprehensive strategy than in the past. The Department of Finance (DOF) estimated the worth of the assets subject to the coconut levy at P111.3 billion, citing a report from the Commission on Audit. The President kicked off the process early this month when he gave the PCA instructions to begin repairing the coconut business by planting 100 million coconut trees by the conclusion of his government in 2028. A four-person House subcommittee last week proposed changes to the 2024 budget measure, among them the P2 billion payment to PCA for the extensive replanting and coconut seedling planting.

In order to ensure that the coconut industry remains robust long after his administration ends, the President has also instructed the PCA to invest in innovative projects and technology. The Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), which was created in the last year of the Duterte administration, is a detailed road map for the revival of the coconut sector. He cited the need to intensify the implementation of the CFIDP in order "to accelerate the modernization of the coconut industry and to improve the lives of our coconut farmers and their families." Executive Order No. 172, also

known as the CFIDP, was signed by former President Rodrigo Duterte on June 2 of last year. It serves as the foundation for the utilization of the coconut levy revenue for a number of initiatives and programs aimed at modernizing and rehabilitating the sector for the benefit of 2.5 million small farmers across the country. The CFIDP organizes the action plans into categories such as innovative research projects, support services, integrated coconut processing and downstream goods, social protection, and farmers' organization and development.

The blueprint, at least on paper, can truly raise expectations among farmers, as then-Agriculture Secretary William Dar remarked, adding that EO 172 "is such a formidable law that will give new life and new hope to coconut farmers in this country." The key is in the execution, though, just like with any other plan. Furthermore, the current records seem depressing. Just 8.78 percent of the P755 million budget designated for the CFIDP and the Coconut Hybridization Project was utilized in 2022, according to a COA report that was made public in September of last year. The PCA attributed the delayed implementation in part to their changes made under the new administration, which required the PCA board to be reassembled. Thus, it said that until the new board was appointed, which held its first meeting on October 5, 2022, projects were put on hold. This resulted in missed targets as well; out of the 10,676 hectares allocated for precision agricultural fertilization, only 3,540 hectares were covered; 495,472 palms were fertilized out of a target of 1.53 million; and 2,517 individuals were taught, falling short of the target.

Now that the issues raised by PCA have been addressed, it needs to put in double the effort and carry out the President's orders. It is hoped that Mr. Marcos will have accomplished his goal of "uplifting [the] lives of coconut farmers and empowerment them to improve their conditions, break free from the chains of poverty, and dream bigger for themselves and for their loved ones" before the end of the current government.

The Chief Executive has a significant portion of the responsibility for revitalizing the industry. As luck would have it, the President has granted the Marcos family another opportunity to right the wrongs done to the struggling coconut growers. *(Inquirer)*

INFESTATION OF COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE AT HISTORIC ROYAL PALMS

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles have the power to completely collapse Hawaii's agricultural and commercial industries.

The US Department of Agriculture claims that CRBs were discovered in Hawaii for the first time in December 2013. It originates in Southeast Asia and bores into the crowns or tops of coconut palms to attack them. This one action causes damage to the tree's developing tissue, which is where the RCB feeds on the sap of the tree.

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Donovan M. Dela Cruz, a state senator from Hawaii, stated, "The CRB was detected on Royal Palm Drive, which is home to historic palms beloved by the community and recognized in the City and County of Honolulu's Exceptional Tree Program."

Green waste management and inspection are advised by officials as the best means of preventing CRB outbreaks. The removal of compost, dirt, dead trees, and plant waste from residences, places of business, and public spaces that could serve as invasive beetle breeding grounds is referred to as green waste management.

Sen. Dela Cruz claimed that "the first response from the HDOA Director lacked the urgency that I felt was necessary to save the historic palms." "I would like to express my gratitude to Deputy Directors Dexter Kishida of HDOA and Laura Kaakua of DLNR for their prompt attention to this matter and assistance with the eradication outreach today."

In the event that beetles or larvae are discovered, they must be stored in a freezer in a plastic bag or sealed container. It's crucial to keep in mind that handling CRB requires the use of safety gear, such as paper towels, cloth, or gardening gloves. *(Khon2)*

PLAN RAJ BHAVAN CHALO AGITATION COCONUT FARMERS

A Raj Bhavan Chalo agitation has been organized by Karnataka's coconut farmers, who are being supported by the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS). They are asking for a minimum support price (MSP) of ₹20,000 per quintal from the Centre and an extra incentive of ₹5,000 per quintal from the State government.

The State's coconut farmers, according to KRRS leader Badagalapura Nagendra, are in extreme suffering as a result of the recent five to six years' fall in the price of copra, which fell from ₹18,000 per quintal to just ₹7,000 per quintal.

Mr. Nagendra stated that India was buying soy oil from Argentina, Brazil, Russia, and Ukraine and palm oil from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, and he attributed the price drop to the Center's anti-farmer import-export strategy. He said that the Center was importing coconut oil from Malaysia, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand, and that this was the reason why there was less demand for coconut products in India, which in turn caused the price of copra to plummet.

Due to poor quality, National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) was only able to purchase 25% of the total output of copra. He claimed that the NAFED rejects large amounts of copra, which is unfair to farmers.

He regretted that despite the Horticulture Department's advice of ₹16,700 per quintal as a support price, the Center was not following through on it.

Despite the coconut farmers' protests in the streets about their carelessness, nothing has happened. He bemoaned the announcement by the State government of a support price of just ₹1,250 per quintal.

The farmers are requesting an immediate stop to the import of edible oils and coconut goods, in addition to an additional incentive of ₹5,000 from the State government and an increase in the minimum support price by the Center to ₹20,000 per quintal of copra.

The government's buying of copra through the Market Intervention Scheme, which involves the establishment of procurement centers in every hoblis, is one of the other requests. Another is the mandatory use of coconut oil in companies run by the federal and state governments.

Additionally, the farmers have requested that NAFED buy all of the copra they produce. *(The Hindu)*

LAND IDENTIFICATION FOR COCONUT CULTURE BY RURAL MINISTRY

According to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development has been asked to find suitable land, including idle land, for the cultivation of coconuts through large-scale food security projects, like those carried out in agricultural areas in Sungai Sembrong Kiri, Kluang in Johor.

The project is expected to produce 600 metric tonnes of raw coconut annually, with an estimated income generation of RM483,000,

according to Ahmad Zahid, the Minister of Rural and Regional Development. The project is also expected to produce 180 metric tonnes of coconut milk annually, with an estimated income generation of RM1.4 million.

After presiding over the ministry's senior management meeting today, he released a statement saying, "The ministry gives full support to the program carried out by the unity government to increase the country's food security and ease the cost of living for the people, especially the rural population."

According to Ahmad Zahid, the ministry is implementing a number of projects in line with the Rural Development Policy 2030 (DPLB 2030), which specifies multiple methods to strengthen the role of rural areas as the nation's hub for food security.

One such initiative is the Integrated Village Economic Development Project (Prospek), which, according to him, maximizes the use of vacant land in villages by creating specialized products and growing them to generate a substantial economy.

The development of a rice estate in Seberang Perak, Perak, which spans 3,264 hectares and is overseen by Felcra Berhad (Felcra), is another project that has been put into action. It is expected to produce 23,737 metric tonnes of rice in two seasons each year.

According to him, Felcra would also collaborate with the governments of Sarawak and Sabah to create group rice-planting initiatives spanning 15,000–20,000 hectares.

"The government can improve the nation's food security and stabilize the buffer stock of rice, which is expected to reach 290,000 tons this year, with the aid of initiatives like these.

According to him, the ministry's regional development board would go on implementing initiatives to improve food security through aquaculture projects, raising of cattle and chickens, and the production of fruits and vegetables.

In order to make sure that the desired level of self-sufficiency can be reached, he stated that the ministry will collaborate closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

Additionally, he anticipated that agencies under both ministries would work together more closely, particularly in terms of support and assistance for marketing, research, skills development, and training. *(New Straits Times)*

A TANZANIAN COMPANY INTENDS TO PRODUCE COCONUT CREAM

The Simba Group of Companies, situated in Dar es Salaam, plans to construct a processing facility for the nutrient-dense coconut milk.

The company is investigating pertinent Indonesian technologies through its Simba Foods affiliate in order to start producing the recipe locally.

"We are now importing coconut cream in packs from Southeast Asia. The director of business performance and management for the Group, Simon Mukajanga, stated, "Now we want to use technologies from there to replicate production at home."

According to him, the establishment of the factory would provide jobs for the unemployed individuals back home, "in line with what our government wants us to do".

He said that imports, primarily from Southeast Asian nations like Indonesia, account for 24% of the nation's consumption of coconut cream, calling this a "not viable in the long term" condition.

Mr. Mukajanga was one of several Tanzanian businessmen in Jakarta for Indonesia's annual Trade Expo, which concluded this past weekend.

Tanzania might manufacture the cream and sell it to its neighbors in addition to using it domestically.

"We have a labor force, a large number of customers, and an abundance of raw materials for the production of coconut kernels," he stated.

The business executive claimed that when he was in Indonesia, he approached companies that produced coconut cream about partnering on the project.

"The purpose of my visit to Indonesia is to investigate potential technological applications in Tanzania. Simba Group of Companies is interested in establishing a factory through a joint venture with a foreign counterpart."

Rich and flavorful, coconut cream can occasionally be found in vegan and ketogenic recipes as a replacement. It gives deserts a deeper flavor and texture.

Despite being derived from coconut milk and being regarded as a staple in many Southeast Asian nations, the cream is not the same as coconut milk.

Mr. Mukajanga noted that the project was motivated by customer demand and that his company plans to produce the coconut cream in two sizes, 65 milliliters and 200 milliliters. *(The Citizen)*

IKM IN POHUWATO AGAIN EXPORT PROCESSED VIRGIN COCONUT OIL, COOKING OIL AND OILCAKE IN LARGE QUANTITIES

Again, IKM in Puhuwato exports large quantities of processed virgin coconut oil, cooking oil, and oilcake.

Outstanding accomplishment for Iradats Small and Medium-Sized Businesses (IKM). The IKM, which is situated in Soginti Village, Paguat District, Pohuwato Regency, Gorontalo, has once again sent quite a few processed goods in big numbers, including cooking oil, oilcake, and virgin coconut oil.

A total of 16 tons, valued at Rp, worth of processed IKM Iradats products belonging to "Iradat Bagi" will be shipped to the East Javan city of Surabaya. 500 million.

This was found out after Suharai Igirisa, the Deputy Regent of Pohuwato, promptly released the consignment of processed goods.

Deputy Regent Suharsi Igirisa took the opportunity to congratulate the Pohuwato Regency's Department of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, in particular, for its assistance in guiding MSMEs.

Every two months, he explained, these products—cooking oil, virgin coconut oil, and oilcake—may be provided.

We are able to ship this product every two months, which makes it remarkable. "In the future, I hope that the production of virgin coconut oil, cooking oil and cake can be further increased so that the national market we can reach will be wider," Suharsi added.

Finally, he expresses his hope that IKM Iradats would be able to grow swiftly in the future to satisfy the demands of the global market.

"Hopefully this will be the beginning of an activity that will benefit everyone, especially the people in Pohuwato Regency," he said, adding, "We hope that in the future this export will be sustainable and not stop now." *(Newsnesia)*

CREATING A NOVEL ECO-FRIENDLY FIBER USING COCONUT WATER

Zuzana Gombosoava, a Slovakian material researcher and fashion designer based in Kerala, has created a product that could serve as a substitute for animal leather during a time when sustainability is a hot topic. Her raw material, called Malai, is made from fermenting

leftover water from mature coconuts and other plant materials.

After moving to Kerala five years ago, Zuzana started Malai Biomaterials Design Pvt. Ltd., a company that collects waste coconut water from coconut processing units in South India and uses it to grow 150–170 kg of (dry weight) cellulose, which is then refined to make the finished product. Malai is produced as sheets and comes in a variety of colors made with natural dyes that do not contain preservatives.

Malai is a fully organic, long-lasting, and water-resistant textile that is manufactured from nata de coco, a fermented product made from leftover coconut water, hemp, sisal, and banana stem fibers.

"We met in Mumbai in 2015 where I had already been working for over three years on bacterial cellulose as a material. I was keen to explore the potential of coconut in India for employing a traditional bacterial-cellulose growth process used in the Philippines, where "Nata de Coco" is an important part of the food industry." Susmith Suseelan is a product designer and maker from Kerala. This is how she began production of Malai.

"We began working with a coconut processing unit in Karnataka at first, and we relocated to Kerala in 2018 because of the state's favorable climate and perfect fermentation process temperature," the spokesperson stated.

After obtaining the product, her company is now aiming for the sustainable fashion industry; each month, about 200 square meters of raw materials are manufactured, at a cost of roughly Rs2,000–Rs4,000 per square meter.

"We have supplied materials to a couple of fashion startups which focus on sustainable brands and leather accessory manufacturers. Currently, we are working with a handful of brands and companies that are within the space of alternative materials, vegan products in sustainable fashion both within the country and overseas," the spokesperson stated.

"Our primary goal is to supply raw materials to companies, but we have also made some accessory materials like small bags and wallets for gifting," she continued.

Three billion square meters of leather are produced in India, but sadly, the process frequently pollutes the land, water, and air. "I think the industry is noticing," she added, explaining why there are more startups in the leather substitute space.

"We have so far conducted two crowd-funding campaigns - one in Europe and one in India and also received some grants, winning few competitions," Zuzana remarked when asked about finance for her firm. *(The Hindu Business Line)*

KERALA HARD COCONUT CULTIVATION: LOW PRICE, HIGH LABOUR COST

The state's patronage for coconut farming is rapidly diminishing, despite the sincere efforts of the Kerala Coconut Development Corporation (KCDC) and the Coconut Development Board (CDB). Although coconut is grown on 7.65 lakh hectares, productivity is sharply declining as a result of farmers losing interest due to high labor costs, an unreasonably low price per nut, and a sharp increase in land value.

Kerala is renowned as the "land of coconuts," and the crop has long been an integral part of our culture, food, and way of life. However, the state has fallen in the rankings for productivity; whereas Andhra Pradesh yields 15,964 nuts per hectare, Kerala only manages 7,215 nuts per hectare.

In response to complaints from farmers regarding the lack of available coconut climbers, the CDB established Friends of Coconut Tree (FoST), a group of coconut climbers, to assist farmers with plant protection, harvesting, and field operations. Over the course of the previous 12 years, the CDB has trained 32,925 individuals between the ages of 18 and 50 in

coconut climbing and has provided them with climbing devices at subsidized rates. However, when the CDB decided to compile a database of climbers, it discovered that only 673 of them are currently active.

"Although we trained 32,925 people, only 673 of them have joined the cluster. We are in the process of forming FoST clusters at the village level and are creating a database of coconut climbers. We will launch a call center in our Kochi office where farmers can call to get in touch with the cluster in their locality. However, we need at least 10 climbers for a village." CDB assistant director (publicity) Mini Mathew.

"Most of the farmers have stopped following the 45-day harvest cycle due to low yield, low income, and high labor costs. Another issue is plantation fragmentation due to increase in land value. In the 1980s, coconut farmers in the high ranges cut down coconut trees and started rubber cultivation. Now, coconut plantations are converted into commercial plots," stated Arunjith, an Aluva farmer. "Most of the coconut climbers have left the profession after finding jobs with higher remuneration."

Following his passion for coconut farming, Arunjith left his job in a battery manufacturing company in Bengaluru to pursue his dream of growing coconuts on 9.5 acres of land he bought in Kozhikode. After seeing his trees destroyed by elephants, he joined FoST and is now assisting CDB in promoting the industry. “High remuneration demanded by coconut climbers forced farmers to delay the harvest cycle. Climbers are demanding Rs 35 to Rs 40 to climb one tree. Now, farmers have stopped applying manure, following the 45-day harvest cycle, and cleaning the crown of the tree. This has led to a drop in productivity. As farmers delayed harvest cycle, climbers lost work and moved to other professions,” Arunjith said.

The state government has set a base rate of Rs 34 per kg for coconuts, but they are only obtaining 10 tonnes of coconuts per week, so farmers are forced to depend on middlemen, who offer only Rs 25 per kg. We get only Rs 8–10 per nut, which is not enough. The price of coconut has been stagnant despite rise in input costs, according to James Edacheri, a farmer in Kozhikode. *(The New Indian Express)*

GEPA HAS BEEN INTRODUCING THE COCONUT INDUSTRY

According to the Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA), it is committed to growing the coconut business by helping players in the sector find new markets.

According to Dr. Afua Asabea Asare, Chief Executive Officer of GEPA, "the sector currently employs about 360,000 people; about 5.4 percent of the country's population also depend on coconut farming as a means of livelihood."

She clarified that by taking the initiative to look into more prospects, the industry will be able to generate more, hire more workers, and eventually aid in the development of the country.

During the 3rd International Coconut Festival in Takoradi, which had as its theme "Invest in Ghana's coconut sector for inclusive climate and social resilience," she made this statement.

The Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA), SOLIDARIDAD, the Tree Crop Development Authority (TCDA), the Western Regional Coordinating Council (WRCC), and the African Coconut Group provided support for the three-day event.

A wide range of activities, including as trade shows, seminars, and mentorship programs designed specifically for young people and women in the coconut industry, will take place throughout the event.

In addition, it will facilitate technical and economic negotiations and provide participants with networking possibilities.

It brought together important participants from Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and the nation's coconut value chain.

The celebration of coconuts emphasized the commodity's health and economic advantages as well as new marketing prospects.

In terms of coconut production, Ghana is building a name for itself, according to the CEO of GEPA. "Our coconut-oil, water, and other derivatives are the most-sought-after on the international market," she continued.

Ghana is currently the top producer of coconuts in Africa and ranks 12th in the world, according to her revelation. "Our outfit has distributed over one million disease-resistant coconut seedlings to coconut farmers across the major coconut growing regions of the country," she said.

Dr. Asare revealed that the country exports only US$11 million worth of coconut goods yearly, despite the fact that the global demand for coconut is projected to be US$4.5 billion at present. She also stated that further investment in the sector is necessary to increase production.

The Western Regional Minister, Kwabena Okyere Darko-Mensah, stated that the Western Region is unique in that it is a significant grower of coconuts.

"The Western Region is firmly establishing itself as the industry's hub in Ghana, accounting for approximately 80 percent of the country's total coconut exports," he continued.

In order to establish Ghana as a leading worldwide hub for coconut, he urged industry participants to make investments in the coconut sector.

The Tree Crop Development Authority's (TCDA) acting CEO, William Quaitoo, promised the Authority's cooperation in expanding value addition in the coconut business.

"We are dedicated to spearheading research and innovations to encourage investment and expand the creation of enhanced coconut varieties and contemporary farming methods to enhance productivity and draw substantial investments," he continued. *(Ghana Web)*

PHILIPPINES: THIS DAVAO NURSERY SUPPLIES DWARF COCONUT VARIETIES

Owner Lloyd Pantollano of Pantollano Coconut Farm is a licensed dwarf coconut producer in Davao City. He has trader certificates and accreditation from the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and specializes in growing and selling different coconut varieties, with a primary focus on propagating coconut seedlings.

In contrast to his current profession, Lloyd attended college and studied computer science. In 2012, he started his business selling coconut seedlings. Prior to that, he worked for the Philippine Coconut Authority from 2006 to 2020. In 2020, he decided to leave PCA in order to focus entirely on his coconut business.

Lloyd has two nurseries: one in Davao City and another in Surigao City. He also owns and operates a coconut farm in Digos City, Davao Del Sur.

A dedication to excellence

Lloyd has been in the coconut seedling business for more than ten years. He is a dependable supplier not only in Mindanao but also in the remote areas of Luzon and Visayas. A number of farms in Pangasinan, Quezon, Palawan, Davao, and other locations are among his clients, proving his wide reach in the industry.

Lloyd's farming operation focuses on producing coconut seedlings, including managing seeds, caring for seedlings in the nursery, and germination from mother trees. He has also been accredited by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) for Good Agricultural Practices.

According to Lloyd, who spoke in Tagalog, "I am drawn to engage in coconut seedling production because coconuts are easy to maintain during the germination and seedbed preparation process."

Lloyd goes to considerable lengths to ensure the quality of his seedlings. He is devoted in his resolve not to give his clients anything less than exceptional quality coconut seedlings, and this commitment is reflected in his marketing strategy, where he continuously promotes his products as "quality dwarf coconut."

Lloyd stresses how crucial it is to find planting material in order to produce coconuts. "Purchasers should always choose vendors and growers who have been certified by the Philippine Coconut Authority because it is an essential assurance that the coconuts they are purchasing are the varieties they want," Lloyd said. This is especially crucial because it might be difficult to tell dwarf kinds from tall ones only by looking at seedlings.

Lloyd emphasizes the possible consequences of buying inferior coconuts or the improper types, which might result in a waste of time and money, given that coconut trees take three years to bear fruit.

"I highly value customer feedback," Lloyd said. "I am committed to supporting coconut farmers and providing them with what they truly need. Thankfully, I have not received any negative feedback from my customers."

The dwarf coconuts that give fruit early

According to Lloyd, farmers are sometimes tempted to growing dwarf coconut cultivars because of how quickly they bear fruit. The Tacunan dwarf cultivar, for example, is notable because when it bears fruit, the fruits seem to almost touch the ground. Dwarf coconut trees bloom in about three years, which means that harvesting can start the next year and continue uninterrupted. There aren't many differences between tall and dwarf coconut cultivars. On the other hand, dwarf types are frequently better when it comes to practical considerations. They are easier to manage and require less labor to harvest.

Dwarf coconut trees usually grow to a maximum height of 20 feet over 20 years, which is less than that of their towering counterparts. Their appeal to farmers is further enhanced by this trait.

Lloyd's coconuts are best sold in the Tacunan dwarf type. Classified as a typical dwarf, this species has medium to big nuts with meat that is comparatively thicker than other varieties. It's a great option for people who want to produce copra and coconut meat.

An further well-liked option is the Aromatic green dwarf type. It produces more fruit in a bunch even if its fruit is smaller than those of the Tacunan dwarf. Because of its reputation for having sweeter coconut water, the Aromatic green dwarf is a good option for producing coconut sugar.

Lloyd's provides a wide range of alternatives, such as the Catigan Dwarf, Laguna Tall, Malayan Red Dwarf, Golden King Dwarf, Tagnanan Tall, Buko Pandan Dwarf, and Macapuno embryo seedlings, in addition to the Tacunan Dwarf and Aromatic Dwarf coconut kinds.

If you are interested in buying coconut seedlings outside of Mindanao, you can pick them up at Pasay, Manila, where they are shipped via bus cargo. Meanwhile, the seedlings are air-carried to clients in the Visayas. On the other hand, clients in Davao and the surrounding provinces can choose to pick up their orders straight from the nursery.

It matters to manage quality.

Lloyd acknowledges that every variety of coconut has its own special attributes. But according to him, "tree management practices, including fertilizer management, cultural techniques, and sanitation practices, hinge on

the quality of the coconuts produced." "Carrying out coconut production requires a committed focus because poor upkeep and management of coconut trees can result in lower-quality fruit."

Management challenges in coconut nurseries

One of the main issues Lloyd had to deal with when managing the coconut nursery was the dry season, which brought attention to the necessity of irrigation. In this time of year, the lack of rain means that extra money needs to be paid for irrigation. The other issue is when there is a low demand for coconuts, which usually falls around Christmas and around graduation and school enrollment. On the other hand, the rainy season is when there is a high demand for coconuts.

According to Lloyd, the main pests that affect mature coconut trees are the slug caterpillars, also called sampiring by the locals, and the coconut rhinoceros beetles, also called bakukang. He uses insecticides on the leaves of the coconut trees to control the slug caterpillars, and he uses pheromone traps to control the rhinoceros beetles.

Coconut cultivation as a tenacious industry

Lloyd notes that growing coconuts is a viable commercial venture and that even in downturns in coconut prices, the industry's continuous output guarantees a consistent flow of revenue.

Although some coconut growers might give up easily when coconut prices are "When income is low, alternative methods to increase it exist," Lloyd stated. In addition to the sale of copra and coconut seeds, coconuts provide a wide range of processing opportunities; they can be converted into a variety of products, including coconut sugar, honey, and others.

Lloyd promotes the exploration of these avenues by coconut producers as a means to augment their income and fortitude. Certifications and practical administration are crucial.

Lloyd places a premium on active participation in personnel leadership, administration, and production within the coconut nursery industry. By prioritizing the selection and quality control of coconuts, he guarantees that the coconut seedlings that are put up for sale are pest-free and in good health.

Additionally, Lloyd emphasizes that all coconut producers involved in this enterprise must obtain the necessary permits. "All coconut farmers engaged in this enterprise are required to acquire the appropriate permits," he stated. "A barangay permit can be used as a preliminary document to apply for a permit as a trader with the Philippine Coconut Authority, even in the absence of a business permit."

Additionally, aspirant vendors are required to furnish evidence of the provenance of their seedlings, indicating that they originate from a seed bank accredited by the PCA, as stated by Lloyd. "In order to obtain official registration as a nursery operator, an individual who possesses a mother plant must submit to the PCA for evaluation and accreditation," he further stated. *(Manila Bulletin)*

ADVANTAGES OF THE COCO SECTOR ADVANTAGE CHANGES TO BIODIESEL ADDITIVES

Leaders in the coconut industry advocate for modifications to the quantity and type of additives blended into domestic diesel fuel for sale. This is done with the dual purpose of bolstering the earnings of refiners and producers, as well as mitigating the domestic repercussions of international crude price increases.

During an interview, Jesus Arranza, the president of the Coconut Oil Refiners Association (CORA), stated that his organization supports amendments to the Biofuels Act of

2006 (Republic Act (RA) 9367) to permit the substitution of palmolein oil additives for locally-produced coco methyl ester (CME) or palmolean oil as additives to diesel fuel, contingent on which commodity is currently less expensive on the global market.

"In situations where coconut is expensive, palmolein should be used in place of coconut in diesel fuel." This will enable the coconut sector to command a premium price for coconut oil on the global market. He told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) that this substitution of additives can also help control local diesel prices when (international) petroleum prices are high... by combining whichever additive is less expensive.

Dean Lao Jr., chairman of the United Coconut Association of the Philippines (UCAP), stated in a statement on Wednesday that the government should increase the proportion of diesel in the CME mix to five percent in order to generate enormous foreign exchange savings of PHP23.4 billion annually, capitalizing on the lower price of environmentally friendly biodiesel.

He further stated that the increase in biofuel will not only improve the fuels' capacity to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, but it will also allow the Philippines to eliminate a substantial quantity of imported petroleum.

"Each year, thirteen billion liters of diesel are imported." "We can displace an additional 390 million liters, or PHP23.4 billion, from B2 (two percent biodiesel) to B5 (five percent biodiesel)," Lao told reporters during a press briefing hosted by the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Inc. (PCAFI).

Locally sold diesel is required to contain two percent CME per RA 9367, as this mixture aids in the reduction of hazardous emissions.

At this time, no legal provision permits the replacement of CME with palmolein; however, reports indicate that the Department of Energy (DOE) has assessed the viability of such a change. UCAP serves as the overarching organization that unifies various local organizations within the coconut industry, including CORA.

In the meantime, Arranza, chairman of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), stated that the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) have initiated investigations into the possible technical smuggling of palmolein into the country by at least fourteen local companies.

According to him, palmolein is being imported under the pretense that it is a feed additive for animals, a purpose for which importers are exempt from paying taxes.

Arranza asserted that the imported palmolein, the liquid fraction obtained during fractionation of palm oil, is marketed locally as a cooking oil and biodiesel additive, for which the government requires taxation, as opposed to being blended into animal feed.

It was revealed that concerned agencies have been in collaboration with the FPI, as the business group is leading the charge in endeavors to prevent smuggling.

Unabated technical and outright smuggling, according to Arranza, has wreaked havoc on a large number of local businesses, including those operating under the FPI banner. *(Philippine News Agency)*

COCONUT SHELLS MAY INCREASE THE DURABILITY OF CONCRETE

Researchers have discovered that a mere 5% coconut shell can enhance the compressive and flexural strengths of concrete by 4.1% and 3.4%, respectively. 6.1% more efficacy was achieved with the material in comparison to clear concrete. This outcome can be attributed to the cement paste, which acts as a connecting element among all solid concrete particles, penetrating the cavities of the shell and establishing a strong bond with other constituents.

Significant quantities of coconut shell can be recycled without negatively impacting the environment or compromising the quality of construction materials, as demonstrated by these results. Publication of the findings from this study in the journal Materials.

Sustainable development necessitates the complete elimination of all refuse, but there are currently no logical processes for recycling plant residues. Scientists are therefore attempting to discover applications for them in other economic sectors. For example, plant residues may be utilized in the production of new building materials, though material scientists still don't have enough information on how building materials that contain organic matter are formed, e.g., concrete.

Don State Technical University researchers determined the impact of coconut shell on the characteristics of concrete. As a byproduct of coconut refining, coconut shell is either incinerated or discarded. Significant quantities of this natural raw material could be produced without the concern of depletion if we had mastered its utilization. The researchers examined the impact of substituting shell for crushed sandstone in a concrete mixture on the resultant composition's density and durability.

The maximum compressive and bending strengths were observed in concrete containing 5% coconut shell, as determined by the researchers. In addition, bending strength and compressive strength increased by 3.4% and 4.1%, respectively, in comparison to clear concrete. As an additional sealing component, the shell adhered securely to the cement mortar as a result of its surface roughness and porosity.

In addition, the weight of the concrete was decreased by the shell, which had a lower density than sandstone, resulting in a 6.1% increase in the coefficient of structural quality. This metric represents the material's strength-to-density ratio. However, as the proportion of shell increased to 30%, the strength of the concrete diminished by 41.4%. This transpired due to the considerably lower durability of coconut shell in comparison to sandstone.

"We intend to investigate the use of agricultural and aquaculture byproducts in the development of environmentally friendly concrete technology in the future." Concrete may, for instance, incorporate sunflower fiber or jellyfish. "Our researchers will increase their knowledge of the consistent characteristics of the structure, composition, and properties of novel varieties of concrete," explains Don State Technical University's prominent researcher and candidate of technical sciences, Sergey Stelmakh, associate professor. *(Tech Xplore)*

COCONUT PLANTATION TRAINING FOR RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Coconut Development Board NE Region, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture and producers' Welfare, Government of India, collaborated with the Department of Rural Development, University of Science and Technology, in an effort to empower rural producers and promote sustainable agriculture.

Meghalaya and I recently coordinated a training program at the block level. As stated in a press release.

The principal aim of this training program was to provide the agricultural community with fundamental understanding and expertise in scientific coconut cultivation. Fifty enthusiastic farmers, representing 12 communities in All Kling Dorbar, participated actively in the occasion.

Dr. Sarat Saikia, Principal Scientist from the Horticulture Research Station, Azara, and Ms. Panchi Rajkhawa, Senior Scientist from the Coconut Development Board, NE Region, are among the distinguished presenters at the training program. Their profound knowledge shed light on the means to cultivate coconuts successfully.

By collaborating, these institutions have taken a substantial stride toward establishing profitable and environmentally friendly agricultural methods in the region. The occasion provided a venue for producers to engage in networking, practical learning, and the exchange of information. This event represented a significant turning point in the establishment of a prosperous agricultural community, thereby making a contribution to the overarching objectives of enhancing food security and promoting rural development. *(The Shillong Times)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Prices of vegetable oils this week continued the easing tendency observed later last week, but managed to reverse towards the weekend.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market remained uneventful, now on its fourth straight week. This week's market opened with lower offers, ignoring higher palm oil, with levels at $1,040.00-1,077.50/MT CIF for positions from November/December through to May/June 2024. Weakness continued until the middle of the week following lower vegetable oils prices but after that bounced back in step with palm oil gains to close above opening rates at $1,055-1,095/MT CIF.

Palm kernel oil eventually was traded this week after two weeks of inactivity, in part owing to a still high price discount under coconut oil. A couple of turnovers were reported, done at $880 and $925/MT CIF. Most recent traded price range was $895-945/MT CIF a fortnight ago. Opening quotes were mixed with last quarter 2023 contracts steady and deferred 2024 higher influenced by palm oil gains. Levels stood at $895-960/MT CIF for positions from November/December through to May/June 2024. Shortly afterwards weakness prevailed following the palm oil market but was back in positive territory towards the weekend taking cue from recovery in palm oil prices. Levels closed at $900-965/MT CIF.

Coconut oil narrowed its price premium over palm kernel oil this week, capping the increases seen in prior weeks. This trimmed the weekly average to $129.97/MT from $160.34 of the preceding week. Premium per position remained above $100 except in the nearby position as shown following: October/November $98.75 ($166.83 last week); November/December $154.00 ($165.90); December/January $137.50 ($160.85); January/February 2024 $135.35 ($162.50); February/March $137.95 ($163.50); March/April $139.00 ($166.50); April/May $135.50 ($157.00); May/June $115.00 ($138.00); June/July $116.67 (new position).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures mostly dipped this week on improved yields and harvest pressures. The upside, on the other hand, derived support from the WASDE report of the USDA that showed larger than-expected cuts in soybean production and yields.

At the palm oil section, the market opened higher in step with higher CBOT soybean oil but thereafter was weakened by slack demand and sell-off in palm oil stocks. Towards the weekend, however, the market returned to the positive zone on expectations that Malaysian palm oil stocks, estimated to close to its highest point in October, are to drawdown in November and December amid firmer demand from China and the upcoming Deepavali festival.

Prices of tropical oils this week for nearest forward shipment showed a reversal from last week's trend. Lauric oils this week shed losses while palm oil slightly recovered. Coconut oil dropped sharply by $81 from week-ago at $1,083.50 to $1,002.50/MT CIF this week; palm kernel oil fell at much lesser extent by $12.92 from $916.67 to $903.75/MT CIF. Palm oil, by contrast, mildly recovered as it moved a notch higher from $903.50 to $904.50/MT CIF. Consequently, the price premium of coconut oil

over palm kernel oil and palm oil significantly contracted to under $100 per ton. Against palm kernel oil, the spread was down from $166.83 last week to $98.75/MT currently; and against palm oil, from $180.00 to $98.00/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market was still quiet. After an earlier easier market, a rebound ensued towards the weekend and closed with offers exceeding opening prices. Closing sellers were at $1,005 for October/November; $1,055 for November/December; $1,055 for December/January; $1,065 for January/February 2024; $1,075 for February/March; $1,085 for March/April; $1,095 for April/May; $1,075 for May/June; and $1,085/MT CIF for June/July. Buyers continued to be choosy and by week's end preferred to bid for December/January at $1,010; January/February at $1,015; and February/March at $1,020/MT CIF.

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

VIETNAM'S COCONUT INDUSTRY EYES $1B IN EXPORT TURNOVER

The Vietnam Coconut Association (VCA) set a target of $1 billion in export revenue at its second congress for the 2023-2028 tenure recently held in Ho Chi Minh City.

According to VCA Deputy General Secretary Cao Ba Dang Khoa, coconut has been planted on a total area of some 200,000 hectares across the nation, generating incomes for nearly $390,000 farmer households.

Earlier, coconut's values were not tapped to the fullest extent, resulting in the export turnover of just over $100,000 in 2009, he said, adding during its first tenure of 2010-2023, the VCA has recommended policies and orientations to develop the coconut industry to competent ministries and sectors, while connecting with food, handicraft, and plantation industries to improve coconut products' competitiveness.

Last year, Vietnam shipped $940 million worth of coconut-based and coconut-related products. In the first months of 2023, export revenue experienced a sharp fall due to global headwinds; however, from the second quarter, robust signs have loomed on the horizon, with the U.S. and the E.U. allowing imports of Vietnamese coconut, and China considering official import of the fruit.

Vietnam is now home to 90 coconut businesses, 42 of which produce coconut-based goods. Besides Ben Tre, which is considered the country's coconut capital, other localities have zoned off hundreds of hectares of land for coconut farming, including Long An, Tay Ninh, Khanh Hoa, Binh Thuan, and Binh Dinh. *(VN Express)*

COCONUT, COPRA PRICES LIKELY TO RULE STABLE THIS SEASON

Coconut and copra prices are likely to rule stable, according to the TN-IAM Project funded Price Forecasting Scheme of the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Farm-gate price of good quality coconut during December will be ₹10-12 per nut. Price of good quality copra will rule around ₹80 per kg. The price may subject to change based on the arrivals from other States and hence, farmers are advised to take selling decision accordingly.

The price forecasting team analysed past 15 years data from the Avalpondurai Regulated Market in Erode and Perundurai Cooperative Marketing Society to arrive at the price forecast.

Weather boost

Quoting trade sources, the press release from the DEMIC said favourable weather boosted coconut

and copra production in various parts of Tamil Nadu. Arrivals from the neighbouring States of Kerala and Karnataka also have commenced since September. The cost of milling copra varies due to shift in the supply and demand of coconut oil. However, the price of coconut oil is also influenced by the availability of competitively-priced imported vegetable oils, much like the way other domestic edible oils are influenced.

Coconut is used in our country as a source of food, drink, fibre, fuel, etc. Indonesia, Philippines, India, Brazil, Sri Lanka and Thailand are the major producers of the nut.

According to First Advance Estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (2022-23), the area under coconut is 21.77 lakh hectares with a production of 135.18 lakh tonnes. Tamil Nadu stands at No 3 slot in terms of coconut production (35.11 lakh tonnes) and first in productivity of 7.87 tonnes per hectare compared to Karnataka (5.91 tonnes per hectare) and Kerala (5.04 tonnes per hectare) during 2022-23. In Tamil Nadu, the prominent regions for coconut cultivation encompass Coimbatore, Tirupur, Thanjavur, Dindigul, Kanyakumari, Vellore, and Theni districts. *(The Hindu Business Line)*

COCONUT NECTAR DRINK EXPORTED TO US FOR FIRST TIME

A company in the Mekong Delta province of Tra Vinh on October 25 exported the first lot of a drink made from fresh coconut nectar to the US.

The lot, including nearly 20,000 250-ml bottles, was also the first exported by the Tra Vinh FARM Co. Ltd. (Sokfarm) to the US through an official channel.

Sokfarm CEO Pham Dinh Ngai said that the company owns a 20,000-hectar coconut growing area that meets standards of the US, Europe, Japan, and Canada.

It plans to ship from 20,000-40,000 bottles of coconut nectar drink to the US every month.

Tra Vinh currently ranks second in Vietnam in terms of coconut area, after Ben Tre. It is growing nearly 7 million coconut palms on over 26,000 hectares, with a total output of 370,000 tonnes a year. *(Vietnam Plus)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

INDONESIA FUELS ITS FIRST COMMERCIAL FLIGHT WITH A JET FUEL BLENDED WITH PALM OIL.

Friday marked Indonesia's inaugural commercial flight powered by palm oil-blended aircraft fuel, occurring as the largest producer of this commodity in the world promotes broader biofuel use to reduce fuel imports.

The Boeing 737-800NG, which was operated by flag carrier Garuda Indonesia, transported over one hundred passengers from the capital Jakarta to the city of Surakarta, which is located approximately 550 kilometers (342 miles) away, according to Irfan Setiaputra, CEO of Garuda Indonesia.

During a ceremony, Irfan stated, "We will continue to consult with Pertamina, the Energy Ministry, and other relevant parties to ensure that this fuel is commercially viable." He added that the aircraft was scheduled to return to Jakarta at a later time.

Earlier this month, Garuda conducted a flight test on the new fuel, and in August, the company conducted an engine ground test.

Palm-oil blended aviation fuel is manufactured at the Cilacap refinery of the Indonesian state energy company PT Pertamina (PERTM.UL). It is composed of refined bleached deodorized palm kernel oil and is processed using hydroprocessed esters and fatty acid (HEFA) technology.

Palm oil-based fuel emits fewer greenhouse emissions that contribute to global warming

than fossil fuels, according to Pertamina. Palm oil-producing nations have also demanded that the edible oil be utilized as a feedstock in the production of sustainable aviation fuel.

"In 2021, Pertamina successfully produced 2.0 SAF in its Cilacap unit using co-processing technology and was made of refined bleached deodorized palm kernel oil with production capacity 1,350 kilolitres per day," according to Alfian Nasution, a director at Pert

In the interim, Energy Ministry director Harris Yahya stated that biofuel usage would reduce the greenhouse effect.

Significant emitter of greenhouse gases, the aviation industry is attempting to reduce its carbon footprint through the use of alternative fuels.

According to experts, 450 billion litres of SAF will be required annually by the industry by 2050 if the fuel is to contribute approximately 65 percent of the mitigation required to reach net-zero objectives.

However, certain nations have expressed apprehension regarding the possibility of deforestation associated with palm oil plantation production. The commodity is subject to import restrictions imposed by the European Union.

Indonesia conducted a test flight in 2021 using the identical propellant on a Dirgantara Indonesia-manufactured aircraft en route from Bandung, West Java, to Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia.

The implementation of Indonesia's 3% biofuel blending requirement for aircraft fuel by 2020 has been delayed. *(The Reuters)*

IMPORTATION OF INDIAN VEGETABLE OILS IN AUGUST

The total value of edible and non-edible vegetable oil imports into India in August amounted to 1,866,123 MT, as reported by the Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India. This is a 33% increase compared to August of the previous year, which recorded 1,401,233 MT. Out of the total, 1,852,115 MT were edible oil and 14,008 MT were non-edible oil. Interest has only been generated in early 2024 positions requiring December/January at $1,000, January/February at $1,002.50.00, and February/March at $1,005/MT CIF due to the low domestic prices of edible oils.

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

INDONESIA HAS THE CHANCE TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE INDUSTRIAL AND AGRI-TRADE EDIBLE OIL MARKETS IN INDIA AT GLOBOIL INDIA 2023.

Annually conducted in India, Globoil India is an international conference and exhibition devoted to cooking oils, vegetable oils, and oleochemicals.

The edible oil market in India exhibits growth potential, particularly in light of Indonesia's status as a leading global producer of vegetable oil. Indonesia may be able to leverage the potential of its coconut oil and palm oil to secure a dominant position on the edible oil market in India. During the discussion session at Globoil India, which attracted over 1,500 attendees and marked its 26th year, the delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture, particularly the Directorate General of Plantations (represented by Prayudi Syamsuri, Director of Processing and Marketing of Plantation Products), asserted that India is a pivotal hub or trade bridge for nations in South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

The proceedings of the 52nd Solvent Extractors Association of India commenced this year's Globoil. India Globoiling SEA is an industry and business association based in India that is engaged in solvent extraction, which includes vegetable oil processing. SEA was established in 1963 and is comprised of 875 members, 350 of

which are processing facilities with a combined output of 30 million tons.

Prayudi added that in order to increase its competitiveness as a producer of edible oil, Indonesia continues to promote the implementation of Indonesia Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) at the planter and company levels. This will ensure that all palm oil practices in Indonesia are conducted in a sustainable manner.

In addition, in order to promote the long-term viability of palm oil for smallholders, it is the responsibility of the government to facilitate enhanced governance, particularly with regard to legal regulations, smallholder capacity development, production and productivity facilitation, technological advancements, and innovation.

Prayudi further stated that it is crucial to underscore the importance of cooperation among nations engaged in edible oil production and consumption. In this regard, CPOPC, I believe, can serve as a unifying force, capable of surmounting detrimental campaigns targeting the Indonesian palm oil sector with the dissemination of accurate information across multiple media platforms. Such strategies should be effective, as Indonesian palm oil practices have already reached a sustainable stage, Prayudi said.

Director General of Plantations Andi Nur Alam Syah stated the same thing on a separate occasion: "Indonesian Palm Oil and Coconut Oil must have the ability to cross international trade borders, particularly India. I believe we can discuss the global edible oil trade at length."In addition to population growth-driven food demands, the global community is also influenced by geopolitical and climate dynamics, which contribute to the urgent requirement for Indonesian edible oil," he explained.

Andi Nur further stated that the EUDR and other trade barriers have incentivized Indonesia to work together with palm oil-producing nations to combat palm oil discrimination, so as to safeguard the lives of planters and promote community welfare.

In addition, Andi Nur stated that the overarching strategy for the global edible oil market, particularly palm oil, is to decrease reliance on exports of primary products in anticipation of a normalization of global prices.

In 2022, the factor of rising international prices will dominate; palm oil derivative products will gain value as a result of competitive, robust prices further downstream. At the present time, over sixty percent of palm oil exports consist of derivative or refined products.

The government is urged to maintain a state of vigilance and proactively anticipate significant and unforeseen surges in inflation across multiple nations. According to the World Bank, the global inflation rate is anticipated to hover around 6.5% (referred to as "global inflation pressure").

The potential consequences of supply disruptions caused by geopolitical circumstances in Russia and Ukraine include a surge in domestic product prices, particularly for food items derived from vegetable oil (palm). Addressing the potential consequences of an economic deceleration, including its effects in the European Union, China, and the United States.

According to the World Financial Institution (IMF, December 2022), the projected global economic growth for 2023 is 2.7%, which represents a decline from the estimated 3.2% growth in 2022.

Particular attention must be paid to the cessation of a number of international agreements and the escalation of trade barriers (tariff and non-tariff).

Amid a geopolitical climate characterized by instability, nations safeguard their economies by implementing Non Tariff Measures (NTMs), including protectionist regulations that infringe upon trade liberalization principles and disregard the World Trade Organization agreement. *(Agrofarm)*

HEALTH NEWS

FIVE ADVANTAGES OF CONSUMING COCONUT OIL REGULARLY

The growing prevalence of coconut oil can be attributed to its manifold health benefits. With the incorporation of coconut into baked products, the utilization of coconut water, and the application of coconut oil as a moisturizer have all contributed to the increased popularity of coconut in our kitchens and bathrooms. On account of its manifold advantages and practical uses, it is occasionally referred to as "the vital force that sustains life." Coconut oil is extracted from the kernel (fruit) of the coconut palm, which is a member of the Arecaceae plant family. The term "coconut" originates from the Old Portuguese word coco, denoting the concepts of "head" or "skull." Coconut is regarded as a significant cultural and religious object in Hindu traditions.

In an Instagram post, functional nutritional therapy practitioner Meg Langston outlined five advantages of daily coconut oil consumption.

1. Coconut oil promotes healing by: In contrast to unsaturated lipids, coconut oil is a healthy saturated fat that facilitates the restoration of bodily functions. Coconut oil is composed of more than 80% saturated fat.

2. Fat reduction is facilitated by coconut oil: due to its anti-inflammatory properties. This can be extremely beneficial, as reducing inflammation in the body can lead to a decrease in metabolic and thyroid activity. As a consequence of its antioxidant and antibacterial properties, it may facilitate weight loss.

3. Blood glucose reduction: Glucose tolerance is enhanced by medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), which make up two-thirds of coconut oil. Because MCTs bypass the digestive tract and penetrate the liver unbroken by bile, this is the case. They are then converted to energy rather than being stored as are other types of lipids.

4. Coconut oil contributes to the fight against infections: Lauric acid, which is present in coconut oil, is converted by the body to monolaurin, an antibacterial compound that effectively combats multiplication of bacteria.

5. Coconut oil decreases cholesterol: By promoting its conversion to pregnenolone and progesterone, regular consumption of coconut oil reduces cholesterol to normal levels. *(Hindustan Times)*

5 UNKNOWN HEALTH ADVANTAGES OF COCONUT WATER

Coconut water is an exceptionally nutritious refreshment. The centrally located liquid of young, verdant coconuts provides nourishment. During the maturation process of 10–12 months, a fraction of the liquid from the coconut persists, while the remainder undergoes ripening into the fruit. Coconut water is commonly described as the "liquid that sustains life." The beverage, nevertheless, is not merely a naturally occurring sweetener. It is rich in essential nutrients, such as minerals that are necessary for the proper functioning of the human body. Coconut water is renowned for its calorie and fat-free composition.

The following are five benefits of coconut water that warrant your attention:

1. Sufficient in added sugars and flavors: sports drinks are an excellent selection for a beverage consumed after exercise. Although coconut water resembles sports beverages, it is notably low in carbohydrates and calories. Additionally, it is additive-free. Coconut water is a panacea of electrolytes. These are electrically charged minerals that are indispensable for a multitude of physiological processes.

2. Promotes cardiovascular health: Coconut water potentially exerts a substantial preventive effect against cardiac complications. Potassium is an essential element in the regulation of blood cholesterol levels and the maintenance of

cardiovascular health. Moreover, coconut water aids in the promotion of healthy cholesterol levels, thereby mitigating the likelihood of developing various cardiovascular disorders.

3. Mitigates chronic inflammation: Prolonged exposure to elevated levels of inflammation can result in degenerative conditions and cognitive decline. The risk can be mitigated by consuming antioxidant-rich foods and beverages, such as coconut water.

4. Prevents the formation of kidney stones: Coconut water inhibits the formation of kidney stones when ingested in moderation. Additionally, coconut water may facilitate the excretion of chlorine and citrate through urine, among other advantages.

5. Facilitates weight reduction: Coconut water facilitates weight reduction. It facilitates the body's hydration process. As a result of mistaking appetite for thirst, a significant number of people overeat. In such situations, consuming coconut water is beneficial due to its low caloric content. *(Post First)*

COCONUT RECIPE

ITALIAN-INSPIRED SHRIMP AND COCONUT SOUP WITH BACON AND SPINACH

Ingredients

1. 6 strips bacon, diced
2. 1 large onion, diced
3. 4 medium-sized new potatoes, scrubbed clean and diced
4. Salt to taste
5. Freshly ground black pepper to taste
6. 1 quart chicken stock
7. 2 cups baby spinach, rough chopped
8. ½ teaspoon dried basil
9. ½ teaspoon dried oregano
10. ½ teaspoon granulated garlic
11. 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
12. Dash of red pepper flakes
13. 1 (19-ounce) can coconut cream or milk (usually found in the Asian section of the grocery store, not the overly sweet variety in the drink mixers section)
14. 3/4-1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined

Directions

1. In a Dutch oven or soup pot, cook the bacon over medium-high heat until browned. Remove the bacon to a plate lined with a paper towel to drain.
2. Remove the bacon fat except for 2 tablespoons. Add the onion and sauté until softened, about 3-4 minutes.
3. Add the potatoes and cook 3-4 minutes, until starting to brown. Season with salt and pepper to taste during cooking.
4. Add about 1/2 cup of the stock and stir to deglaze the bottom of the pot, about 1-2 minutes.
5. Add the spinach, basil, oregano, garlic, thyme and red pepper flakes and stir. Cook for 1 minute.
6. Add the remaining stock and coconut milk.
7. Bring just to a boil and reduce heat to medium or medium low. Let simmer until potatoes are almost fork tender, about 10 minutes. Do not let soup boil.
8. Add shrimp and bacon and continue to simmer until shrimp is cooked through, about 5-8 minutes, depending on size of shrimp. Taste and adjust seasonings. Yields about 6-8 servings.

(Abilene Reporter News)

STATISTICS

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

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
January	4,832	6,161	5,362	112	206	119	3,475	1,436	674
February	6,810	9,765	6,925	232	155	146	2,359	1,580	891
March	10,169	9,714	9,457	135	249	230	2,125	1,322	1,297
April	5,475	4,796	5,847	88	138	161	1,415	1,012	1,647
May	6,432	5,143	4,496	113	143	148	1,404	1,216	1,354
June	6,333	6,648	6,771	157	181	98	1,608	966	1173
July	6,953	5,189	7,808	204	242	193	1,855	1,280	1,301
August	5,111	6,329	8,209	185	230	222	1,230	1,066	1,359
September	6,757	5,232	4,193	126	130	150	1,631	978	1,002
October	5,674	6,654		151	146		1,181	1374	
November	4,416	4,371		107	96		1,325	1022	
December	4,530	3,340		175	192		1,112	517	
Total	**73,492**	**73,342**	**59,068**	**1,785**	**2,108**	**1,467**	**20,720**	**13,769**	**10,698**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
January	253	270	196	1,308	1,380	1,512	305	432	345
February	250	277	160	1,398	1,288	1,362	301	353	300
March	251	255	171	1,263	1,310	1,291	359	393	260
April	254	255	169	1,125	1,434	1,167	359	387	338
May	256	243	173	1,119	1,160	689	376	364	254
June	265	240	169	1,432	1,420	661	362	360	297
July	282	222	152	1,197	859	1,015	381	514	289
August	268	231	156	1,446	1,042	1,116	398	342	206
September	256	212	155	1,271	1,067	1,057	432	399	234
October	258	202		1,315	1,122		396	270	
November	281	182		1,666	1,179		439	309	
December	265	180		1,432	1,343		395	383	
Average	**262**	**231**	**167**	**1,331**	**1,217**	**1,097**	**375**	**375**	**280**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
January	115	82	27	909	800	742	4,000	3,119	2,175
February	112	76	97	603	609	461	4,011	3,411	2,561
March	117	172	58	682	625	249	5,569	3,360	2,237
April	146	57	42	194	1,049	341	3,027	2,319	2,688
May	74	97	125	652	540	719	3,796	2,574	2,158
June	111	87	63	517	945	763	3,052	3,784	1,479
July	137	75	59	540	561	519	3,108	3,035	1,919
August	55	52	90	874	628	566	2,870	3,324	1,986
September	89	91	49	583	1,004	557	2,816	2,849	1,722
October	69	44		809	877		3,871	3,185	
November	23	107		728	571		3,197	1,815	
December	61	35		1,100	871		3,250	2,148	
Total	**1,109**	**975**	**610**	**8,191**	**9,080**	**4,917**	**42,567**	**34,923**	**18,925**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
January	990	992	744	1,231	1,374	1,170	251	253	266
February	797	879	691	1,263	1,611	1,055	328	232	262
March	790	670	657	1,363	1,144	1,313	265	226	257
April	1022	774	619	1,216	1,136	1,344	259	266	306
May	796	813	718	1,221	1,211	1,180	245	258	278
June	841	951	748	1,304	1,337	1,294	277	249	255
July	796	856	619	1,352	1,266	1,180	248	278	262
August	777	775	590	1,309	1,317	1,203	280	244	220
September	807	627	625	1,394	1,194	1,130	336	225	220
October	751	613		1,216	1,287		300	227	
November	804	685		1,518	1,210		273	245	
December	750	383		1,420	1,115		235	253	
Average	**827**	**752**	**668**	**1,317**	**1,267**	**1,208**	**275**	**246**	**258**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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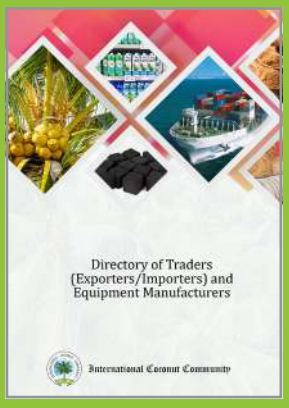

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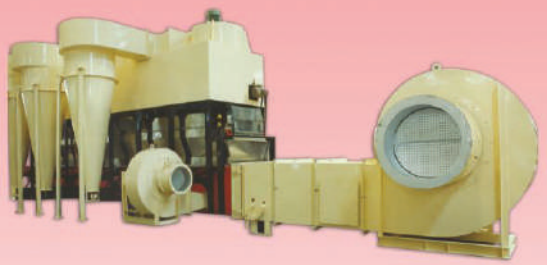

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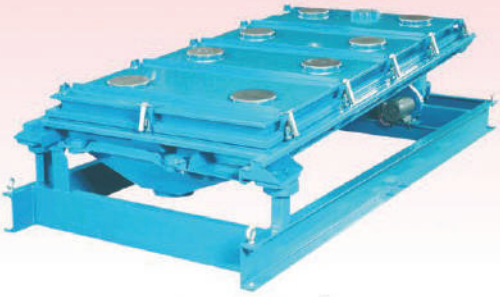

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BY AIR MAIL

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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.

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