The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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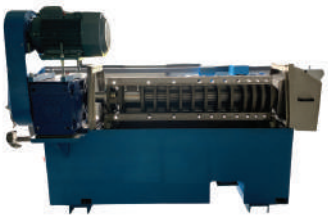

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

"Enhancing The Coconut Global Value Chain through Collective Efforts"

As we begin this new year's journey, we proudly present the January 2024 edition of COCOMMUNITY publication, offering insights into the dynamic of the coconut value chain. This complex network serves as a lifeline for global society, connecting seeds, cultivation, breeding, harvesting, processing, and marketing into a cohesive force that drives sustainable development. The global influence of coconut products underscores the interconnectedness of individuals around the world. From culinary to beauty needs, coconut's journey spans a wide range of sectors, leaving a huge impact on livelihoods and health. Notably, in the Philippines, a rich tapestry of over 100 coconut products is under development, while in China, particularly in Hainan, the robust coconut processing industry boasts a repertoire of over 260 developed coconut products, supported by a comprehensive industrial chain integrating research, cultivation, processing, trade, and cultural tourism. The proliferation of products and the integrated value chain exemplify the immense value coconuts bring to both local economies and global markets.

However, amidst this success, we are confronted with challenges that we need to pay attention to. The coconut value chain often struggles with issues of fragmentation, inefficiency, and low productivity. Furthermore, several coconut-producing countries face problems with coconut rhinoceros beetles, scale insects and phytoplasma diseases which underscore the importance of mitigating pest threats to maintain the coconut ecosystem and its invaluable contribution to biodiversity. Moreover, climate change creates uncertainty, manifesting in extreme weather events, sea level rise, and shifting rainfall patterns. Sri Lanka's struggle with reduced productivity due to palm senility, lack of fertilizer application and erratic weather serves as a reminder of the urgent need for adaptation measures.

Yet, within these challenges lie boundless opportunities for growth and innovation. A concerted effort is needed to streamline processes, improve coordination, and foster collaboration among stakeholders. Mapping out the entire value chain could help stakeholders with a clearer understanding of their roles and dependencies. Additionally, promoting mutual synergy and integration among different actors in the value chain, including farmers, processors, traders and retailers could facilitate communication and cooperation. Furthermore, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) offer a promising avenue for leveraging resources and expertise to implement coordinated solutions that benefit the entire value chain.

Diversifying product offerings, adopting sustainable practices, and investing in value-added processing facilities pave the way to resilience and prosperity. Guyana's efforts to expand coconut production underscore the sector's potential as a platform for economic diversification, while the Philippine Coconut Authority's hybridization program aims to improve productivity and quality. Indonesia's commitment to fostering a sustainable coconut industry echoes the collective aspiration for a future where farmers thrive, ecosystems flourish, and communities prosper. Through joint efforts and innovation, we can overcome challenges and maximize opportunities, steering the coconut value chain toward greater resilience and sustainability.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

December 2023 witnessed significant shifts in the prices of various coconut-related products in major producing nations such as the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka. Price of Coconut Oil (CNO) increased in Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Moreover, price of Desiccated Coconut (DC) increased in Indonesia and Philippines but decreased in Sri Lanka.

COPRA: Indonesia's copra prices demonstrated a modest increase, rising to US$653/MT in December 2023 from US$615/MT in the preceding month. Notably, this marked a significant year-over-year surge of US$80/MT. Meanwhile, in the Philippines, the domestic copra market experienced a moderate uptick, ascending from US$618/MT in November 2023 to US$626/MT in December 2023. However, it remained US$15/MT lower compared to the corresponding period last year, when it was recorded at US$641/MT.

COCONUT OIL: During December 2023, coconut oil prices exhibited a synchronized upward trajectory in the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka. In Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price remained steady at US$1,118/MT, representing a marginal 3% decrease from the previous year. In the Philippines, the local market saw a settlement at US$1,132/MT, marking a reduction of US$45 compared to the previous year's figures. Conversely, Indonesia experienced an increase, with the local price rising to US$1,118/MT in December 2023 from US$1,113/MT in November 2023, indicating a slight decrease of US$5/MT compared to December 2022.

COPRA MEAL: A nuanced perspective emerges upon scrutiny of Copra Meal prices. In the Philippines, the average domestic Copra Meal price stood at US$252/MT in December 2023, reflecting a slight increase from the previous month. Nevertheless, this price remained US$50/MT lower compared to the corresponding period last year. Conversely, Indonesia witnessed a rise in the average domestic Copra Meal price, reaching US$253/MT in December 2023. Despite this uptick, it represented a decrease of US$37/MT from the previous year.

DESICCATED COCONUT: In December 2023, the average price of Desiccated Coconut (DC) FOB USA was recorded at US$1,749/MT, marking a notable decrease of US$198/MT from the previous year. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka reported a slight decrease in the domestic price, which stood at US$1,757/MT in December 2023 compared to the price in November 2023. However, this price was higher than the previous year's figure of US$1,685/MT. Conversely, Indonesia's FOB price for DC experienced an increase to US$1,720/MT, surpassing both the previous month's at US$1,575/MT and the previous year's figures of US$1,300/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In December 2023, the average price of Coconut Shell Charcoal in the Philippines stood at US$360/MT, representing a slight uptick compared to the previous month. Similarly, Indonesia's charcoal price experienced a modest increase, reaching US$455/MT in December 2023, while Sri Lanka observed a marginal rise to US$313/MT during the same period.

COIR FIBRE: In Sri Lanka, domestically traded Coir Fiber fetched an average price of US$58/MT for mix fiber and ranged between US$411 and US$565/MT for bristle. Meanwhile, in Indonesia, the price for mixed raw fiber held steady at US$110/MT in December 2023, slightly exceeding the price recorded a year earlier at US$90/MT.

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

Products/Country	2023 Dec	2023 Nov	2022 Dec	2023 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	128	125	137	129
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	187	182	131	154
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	224	232	213	218
India (Domestic Kerala)	430	402	427	407
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	626	618	641	623
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	653	615	573	605
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,076	1,012	1,038	1,102
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,089	1,119	1,097	1,039
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,118	1,118	1,155	1,076
Philippines (Domestic)	1,132	1,114	1,177	1,112
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,118	1,113	1,123	1,091
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,790	1,743	1,837	1,963
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,752	1,752	1,759	1,679
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	1,749	1,690	1,947	1,768
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,757	1,788	1,685	1,641
Indonesia (FOB)	1,720	1,575	1,300	1,470
India (Domestic)	1,711	1,715	1,377	1,500
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	252	248	302	273
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	285	284	270	292
Indonesia (Domestic)	253	250	290	273
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	360	354	377	352
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	313	309	327	349
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	455	448	448	461
India (Domestic)	329	334	427	351
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	58	57	48	49
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	411	401	330	412
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	565	620	427	551
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	110	110	90	96
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	966	968	1,067	990
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	814	830	940	886
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,062	1,118	1,409	1,119

Exchange Rate

Dec 31, '23 1 US$ = P55.40 or Rp15,414 or India Rs83.19 or SL Rs323.92

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

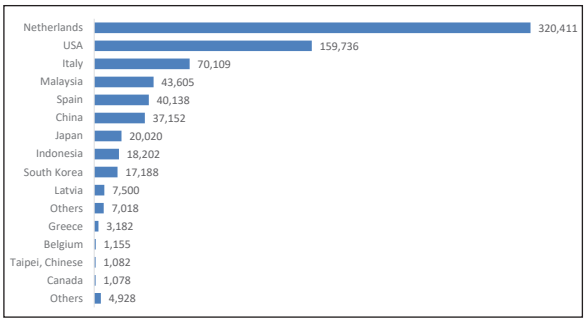
MARKET REVIEW OF COCONUT OIL

In 2023, the global market for lauric oils experienced notable price fluctuations, offering insights into the industry's dynamics. Throughout the period spanning January to December 2023, coconut oil prices remained relatively stable, commencing at US$1,071/MT in January and showing marginal fluctuations, declining to US$993/MT in June before strengthening to US$1,118/MT by December 2023. This stability was primarily attributed to the delicate equilibrium between supply and demand. However, with expectations of an increase in demand and the potential for reduced supply, the outlook for coconut oil prices indicates an upward trajectory in the ensuing months.

Conversely, the price of palm kernel oil exhibited a gradual decrease during the same timeframe, starting at US$1,060/MT in January 2023 and steadily declining to US$966/MT by December 2023, averaging at US$990/MT. Various factors, including supply dynamics and market forces, contributed to this downward trend. As the lauric oils market adjusts to evolving conditions, the price of palm kernel oil is anticipated to mirror these adaptations, with prospects of improved prices in the forthcoming months.

The period spanning January to November 2023 witnessed significant shifts in the supply dynamics of lauric oils, with the Philippines and Indonesia showcasing distinct performances.

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



Source: UCAP

The Philippines, renowned for its role in coconut oil production and export, experienced a notable decline in export performance over eight months of 2023. Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority revealed that coconut oil exports from the country totaled 752,504 tons during this period, marking a substantial 12.5% reduction compared to the previous year. This decline can be attributed to a combination of diminished demand and increased supply. Key destinations for these exports included the Netherlands, the USA, Italy, Malaysia, Spain, and China.

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

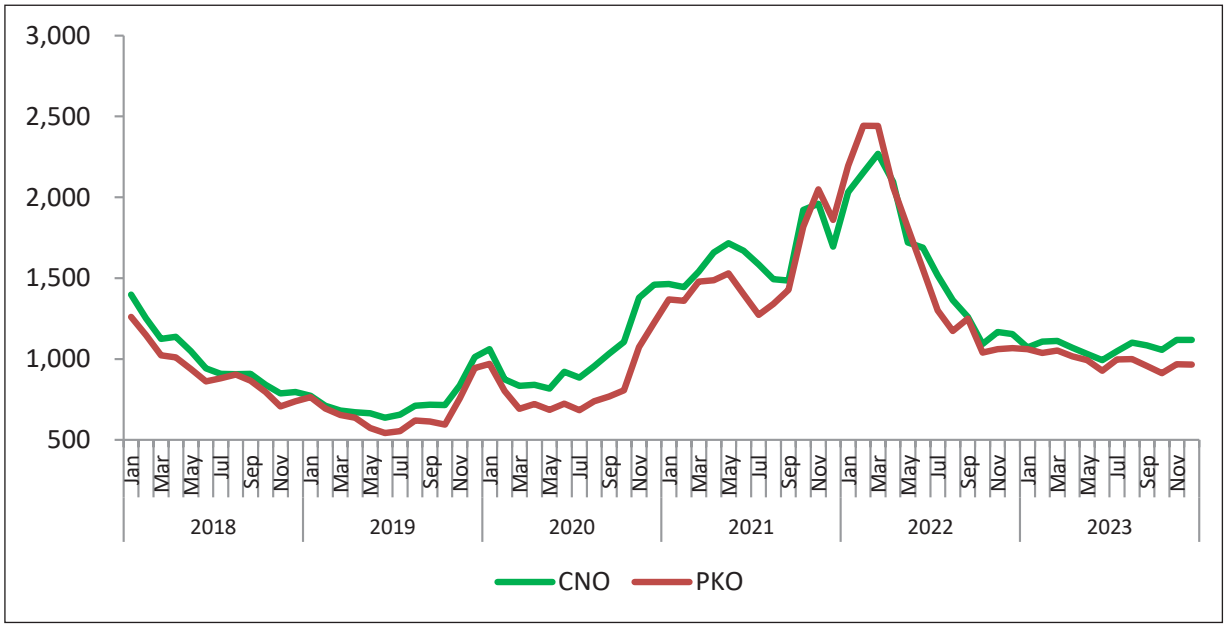


Table 1. Exports of Lauric Oils from Indonesia

		Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	618,731	663,644	7.3
	Value (USD'000)	1,018,915	664,216	-34.8
PKO	Volume (MT)	1,227,055	1,238,677	0.9
	Value (USD'000)	1,900,109	1,177,410	-38.0
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	1,845,786	1,902,320	3.1
	Value (USD'000)	2,919,024	1,841,626	-36.9

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 2. European Union (EU28) Imports of Lauric Oils

		Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	932,344	899,542	-3.5
	Value (USD'000)	1,793,570	1,244,354	-30.6
PKO	Volume (MT)	701,014	712,781	1.7
	Value (USD'000)	1,369,276	983,086	-28.2
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	1,633,359	1,612,322	-1.3
	Value (USD'000)	3,162,846	2,227,440	-29.6

Source: ITC

In contrast, Indonesia observed a surge in coconut oil exports over eleven months of 2023. The country shipped 663,644 MT of coconut oil to the global market, signifying a 7.3% increase compared to the previous year's volume. However, despite the uptick in export volume, export earnings decreased from US$1.02 billion to US$664.2 million, reflecting a lower unit price of the oil. Major markets for Indonesian coconut oil exports included Malaysia, the Netherlands, China, the United States, and Sri Lanka.

The European and US markets, significant players in the global lauric oils trade, witnessed noteworthy changes in demand during eleven months of 2023.

The European market experienced a slight decline in lauric oil imports during this period, with imports decreasing by 1.3%. Coconut oil was the primary contributor to this decline. The economic slowdown in Europe played a pivotal role in the reduced demand for coconut oil and other lauric oils. However, there are expectations of a rebound as the regional economy displays signs of improvement.

Table 3. US Imports of Lauric Oils

		Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	498,299	389,031	-21.9
	Value (USD'000)	1,022,598	525,588	-48.6
PKO	Volume (MT)	314,312	313,625	-0.2
	Value (USD'000)	697,912	417,644	-40.2
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	812,611	702,656	-13.5
	Value (USD'000)	1,720,510	943,232	-45.2

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

Similarly, the United States market witnessed a substantial decrease in lauric oil imports during January-November 2023. Imports of these oils plummeted by 13.5%, mainly attributed to a surge in coconut oil imports. US imports of coconut oil decreased from 498.3 thousand tons in January to November 2022 to 389 thousand tons during the same period in 2023. The economic slowdown in the US significantly influenced this decline in imports.

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

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

2023 CHINA (HAINAN) INTERNATIONAL COCONUT INDUSTRY FORUM

On invitation from the Coconut Research Institute of Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CRI-CATAS), Assistant Director, Market and Statistics Officer and COGENT Coordinator of International Coconut Community attended the 2023 China (Hainan) International Coconut Industry Forum at Wenchang City in Hainan, China. The event was co-organized by the International Coconut Industry Forum in association with the Hainan Provincial People's Government, People's Government of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Hainan Province, the People's Government of Wenchang City.

The theme of the event was *Ignite S&T Collaborative Innovation in the Global Coconut Industry to Boost its Global Value Chain*.

The program was attended by the delegates from the countries France, Bangladesh, Thailand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Vanuatu, India, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Pakistan and Micronesia.

The main aim of the coconut industry forum of China was to discuss the current global coconut industry policies, trade, technology, and value chains with the invited countries and seeks to promote the formation of a global alliance and collaboration within the coconut industry, also would like to facilitate scientific and technological cooperation and economic and trade exchanges between Hainan and other coconut-producing countries.

In the inaugural session Governor of Hainan Province and Ambassadors from Cambodia and Mayanmar to China delivered addresses. Representatives of Sri Lanka and Vanuatu joined via video clip. During the forum technical session was organized with the theme ***Global Coconut Industry Policy, Trade Status Quo and Development Strategy*** in which different speakers from CRI-CATAS, Sri Lanka, Philippines presented including Assistant Director, COGENT Coordinator and Market and Statistics Officer of ICC.

A field visit was organized for the delegates in which they have been taken to National Tropical Palm S&T Demonstration Base and Coconut Grand View Garden wherein different varieties developed by CRI-CATAS was shown to the delegates. Also visited the coconut demonstration farm of the CRI CATAS. The delegates from all the countries including ICC secretariat as well as COGENT planted coconut saplings in the Coconut Grand View Garden. The delegates were also taken to Chunguang Coconut Kingdom one of the coconut processing industry wherein they are processing coconut milk, cream, coconut water and coconut candies. The industry also developed a coconut museum also in which different coconut value added products made of coconut wood and coir were exhibited. The industry is mainly run with the raw materials collected from Indonesia and Vietnam.

The last day of the forum, the invited delegates have been taken to witness the China (Hainan) International Agricultural Products Winter Trade Fair 2023. The fair is one of the biggest fair organized by the Hainan Cooperatives including the government, private companies and institutes. The different food products from the processing companies of different countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam exhibited their products. The two days forum was a different experience and quite informative to know more about the Hainan province of China. During the forum some MoUs also signed between the Hainan government, CRI CATAS with private sector as well as Kokonas Indastri Koperesen of Papua New Guinea which would opening new collaborative path between the institutes and the province government for the sustainable development of the coconut sector. *(ICC News)*

EXPERTS SEE POTENTIAL OF COCONUTS IN HAINAN

Experts and officials gathered on China's tropical island province of Hainan recently to discuss the tremendous market potential of coconuts and their related products, an industry that was valued at $20.2 billion last year, according to a report by Grand View Research.

Prak David, secretary of state of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Cambodia, was impressed by the coconut treats laid out for guests at the 2023 China (Hainan) International Coconut Industry Forum in Wenchang.

The secretary of state compared what was offered to similar sweets made traditionally in his own tropical nation.

Like in Hainan, Cambodians love coconuts and have many local recipes. Its national dish — amok — is often cooked with coconut milk and served in a coconut, he said.

"The forum is a great platform and opportunity for relevant institutions and businesses to talk, share and find solutions and perspectives to develop the coconut industry," said David during an interview on the sidelines of the forum.

He said that although coconuts in Cambodia used to be planted only on a small scale mainly for local consumption, now with improved cultivation techniques and international investment, the coconut industry in Cambodia is emerging.

The Chinese and Cambodian governments signed a protocol on Sept 15 under which fresh coconuts from Cambodia will be imported to China.

The Chinese mainland market consumes about 2.5 billion coconuts per year, while the country can produce about 200 million annually.

The world's second-largest woody oil crop after oil palm, coconuts are cultivated in over 120 countries and regions. The global coconut cultivation area spans approximately 12 million hectares, with an annual production of 56.3 billion coconuts, according to Ma Yuhong, deputy director of the Hainan Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

With a commodity trade value of around $38.7 billion, coconuts contribute significantly to the economies of tropical regions, particularly developing countries with tropical climates and tropical islands.

Hainan is the only province in China where coconut trees can be grown on a large scale. It has cultivated the crop for more than 2,000 years. The coconut plantation area in the province is about 37,900 hectares, accounting for 99 percent of China's total.

The coconut processing industry in Hainan has an annual output value of 20 billion yuan ($2.8 billion), with over 260 coconut products developed. It has already formed an industrial chain integrating research, cultivation, processing, trade and cultural tourism, which aims to achieve a total output value of 23 billion yuan for the coconut industry by 2025, according to the 14th Five-Year Plan for the High-quality Development of the Hainan Coconut Industry issued in 2021.

"The coconut industry in Hainan is developing very quickly. They have more than four coconut varieties, including red, yellow, brown and green, with different flavors and sweets," said Mumtaz Ali Saand, an expert from Pakistan working with the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, a coconut research institute.

The province is developing its links with countries like Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Cambodia, to improve innovation and value chains. With scientific and technological cooperation and economic and trade exchanges.

"I believe Hainan's coconut industry can meet the quality and quantity of the global market's needs," he said.

The byproducts of coconuts have huge potential, said David.

"Coconut water is a refreshing drink, and people can eat the flesh. But it also has medical use and cosmetic purposes. Its root is used in Cambodian traditional medicines to tackle diarrhea and its oil is often used for hair and scalp enhancement," he explained. *(China Daily)*

SRI LANKAN COCONUT SECTOR HAS SEVERAL FACTORS PLAGUING THE INDUSTRY

Some in Sri Lanka consider coconuts the "lazy man's crop" since in most cases, farmers just watch and wait for the produce. Priority doesn't seem to be accorded to the cultivation and adoption of best practices to generate higher yields due to increased costs, so generally their potential is not fully tapped. The potential coconut yield in Sri Lanka is 20,000 nuts per hectare, but at present farmers get a low average yield of about 6,000 nuts per hectare.

According to Professor Lasantha Weerasinghe of the department of crop science, faculty of agriculture, University of Peradeniya, one of the main concerns today is the senile plantations where "we have old palms that are less productive and people are reluctant to remove those and go for new plants due to cost factors".

Some experts attribute the volatility in crop production over the years to climatic conditions and a drop in fertiliser application to some extent. Climatic conditions like rainfall are a key factor in coconut yields and in the last two years, Sri Lankan growers did not apply adequate fertiliser to the crop. The average nut production/annually is at 2,700-2,900 million nuts, of which 70% is consumed locally.

Prof. Weerasinghe pointed out that poor estate management, the high costs of fertiliser, transport, and machinery, and people not wanting to invest more on the plantations are key issues related to improving productivity. The reduction in the income for a unit of land area is due to the low land productivity, he further noted. *(The Sunday Times)*

GUYANA SCALING UP COCONUT PRODUCTION

Guyana says it is moving to cultivate an additional 1,000 acres in coconut production as efforts continue to produce coconut on a large scale and making it one of the most significant crops as part of the sector's diversification.

So far this year, Guyana received an estimated 13,000 high-yielding Brazilian green dwarf coconut seed nuts at a cost of GUY$12 million (One Guyana dollar=US$0.004 cents) to expand coconut production.

Agriculture Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha said Guyana is in the process of bringing in another 13,000 coconuts, specifically since nurseries are being constructed across the country.

"We have seen an increase of over 5,000 acres in coconuts since we assumed office in August 2020. This year, we are hoping that we can achieve another 1,000 acres. And this came about because we have seen a great interest in the coconut industry," he said.

Mustapha said even though there are 10 coconut nurseries spread across the regions, government intends to expand the initiative to other regions due to the excellent potential for coconuts.

He spoke of the value-added components of the waste material from coconuts that are now being used in the agriculture sector for mulching and other agriculture-related purposes, including coconut cultivation.

"We have also brought in these fibre machines where we are now using the byproduct of coconuts, and we are helping farmers' groups across the country by making it available where

they are using the husks for several purposes…A lot of by-products we will be creating from coconut. The industry is well poised."

Guyana has received assistance from two specialists from India that have compiled a report on the industry and Mustapha said he hopes to receive the report in a few weeks, to consider some of the recommendations.

He is also urging farmers to take advantage of the overseas market, which includes the Caribbean, North America and Europe for the commodity. *(Guardian)*

MAUI CREATES WORKING GROUP FOR COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLES

Staff with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture found a dead coconut rhinoceros beetle among compost bags at a big box store on Maui during a routine inspection. Two months later, a Maui arborist reported finding 17 live CRB while cutting down coconut palm trees in Kihei.

Now, Maui County officials are on alert as they do not want the highly destructive beetles to become widespread. The beetle bores into the crowns of palm trees to feed on sap, killing many of the trees attacked. The beetle is already widespread on Oahu, after first being discovered in 2013 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. This summer, the beetle was detected on Kauai for the first time.

Maui County Department of Agriculture announced a Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Working Group focused on addressing the threat of the invasive insect on Maui and preventing it from spreading to Molokai and Lanai.

"Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle is a serious threat to our native palms, cultural plants, and food security. It has the potential to wipe out our palm trees, as well as feed on banana trees, ulu and other culturally important crops," said Travis "Koa" Hewahewa, County Department of Agriculture deputy director.

Mayor Richard Bissen's Office of Innovation, the county Department of Environmental Management, and the county Department of Agriculture came together to start the CRB Working Group. The group will coordinate resources, expertise and collaborate with leaders from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response and Maui Invasive Species Committee.

Michael Melzer, with the University of Hawaii's Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences, said early detection and community involvement are critical to control and eradicate CRB. *(Spectrum News)*

NEW INITIATIVE IS LAUNCHED TO SAVE COCONUT TREES FROM INVASIVE BEETLES IN HAWAII

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and its nonprofit, Elepaio Social Services, held a blessing Monday morning at their new coconut nursery as they introduced a new initiative to save coconut tree species from the invasive coconut rhinoceros beetle.

The ceremony included the planting of about 260 coconut seedlings of 16 different species, said NiuNow lead and co-founder Indrajit Gunasekara. However, the initiative plans to eventually oversee the planting of about 1,200 to 1,400 seeds.

"The coconut rhinoceros beetle are eating our adult palms and directly killing them, therefore erasing its progeny, which means extinction of a variety," said Jesse Mikasobe-Keali'inohomoku, Elepaio Social Services indigenous food system manager. "So planting is a form of mitigation and a form of continuation."

Waianae's Pokai Bay was once home to a famous coconut grove called Ka Uluniu o Pokai, which Mikasobe-Keali'inohomoku said contained a species of coconut that was known for its sweet flavor. The species also was grown at the nearby Ka'ala Farm, where nearly 100 to 200 seeds would be harvested each year from 2019.

However, in 2023, about a decade since the coconut rhinoceros beetle was introduced to Hawaii, only a single seed was harvested from the farm due to infestations, Mikasobe-Keali'inohomoku said.

"It's super sad for us," he said. "But we're lucky that we took seeds in the past and we planted them throughout the island. So we know that the progeny of those specific varieties lives on."

Alicia Higa, WCCHC director of health promotions and Elepaio CEO, said the organizations commit part of their work to addressing issues of food access in the community. However, the COVID-19 pandemic led them to begin looking into issues of food sovereignty and the importance of cultivating indigenous food sources, she said.

Additionally, the presence of coconut rhinoceros beetles in other agricultural food sources such as taro, banana trees and lauhala also have been increasing, adding to the sense of urgency, Higa said.

"While emergency feeding and dealing with that right now is important, it's also equally as important to be working on the long-term solutions at the same time, because otherwise we're going to get caught off guard," Higa said. "If we don't solve it now, it'll wipe out the entire indigenous food system, and that is pretty scary for our Native people."

So far, the initiative has included the collection of seed varieties that exist from Makaha to Nanakuli, said Mikasobe-Keali'inohomoku. Collected seeds were labeled and are being stored in WCCHC's new coconut nursery, which is slated to become the largest in Hawaii, according to a WCCHC news release.

The seeds will be looked after until they are scheduled to be distributed to members of the community at WCCHC's next Mauka to Makai event in September, where people will have the opportunity to learn about traditional methods of farming, Higa said.

From there, each plant's growth will be monitored until new seeds are ready to be harvested and planted, said Mikasobe- Keali'inohomoku.

As the initiative progresses, Mikasobe-Keali'inohomoku said, the public is also invited to donate seeds to the new nursery at the WCCHC Main Campus' Pre-Recovery Pod, where a drop-off location will be set up in about two weeks. Meanwhile, he encourages the public to vocalize its support by asking legislators to allocate more funds toward coconut rhinoceros beetle control efforts.

"Your involvement is critical," Mikasobe-Keali'inohomoku said. "And participation. If you have seed niu (coconut) and you want to place them within our nursery, we have a home here for you." *(Star Advertiser)*

OVER 44K HYBRID COCO SEEDLINGS UP FOR PLANTING IN EASTERN VISAYAS, PHILIPPINES

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is eyeing to plant 44,200 high-quality seed nuts in the next few months under its hybridization program, which is included in the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP).

PCA Eastern Visayas Regional Manager Joel Pilapil said in a phone interview on Tuesday that nurseries have been established in eight sites of the region to make seedlings available in all six provinces.

"These nurseries are specifically designed to ensure the distribution of high-quality coconut seedlings to coconut farmer beneficiaries under

the CFIDP. This is to enhance the productivity of coconuts by providing farmers with access to superior-quality seedlings," Pilapil said.

The sites of the bigger nurseries are in Bobon, Northern Samar; Salcedo, Eastern Samar; Liloan and Bontoc towns in Southern Leyte; Sta. Fe, Leyte; and Calbayog City in Samar. Each site can house about 7,000 seed nuts.

Other locations are in Kananga, Leyte and Naval, Biliran, with about 3,000 seed nuts each.

The PCA is upbeat to plant 44,200 hybrid seedlings in the region within the first half of 2024.

"The program specifically focuses on coconut hybridization, which involves the development and promotion of hybrid coconut varieties. This program aims to enhance the productivity and resilience of coconut trees, leading to improved yields and quality of coconut products," Pilapil added.

He said that by 2040, the contribution of the hybrids to the total yield of nuts in the country will potentially increase to 28 percent. This amounts to 8.45 billion of the hybrid's nut yield out of the expected total nut production of 30 billion.

Through the program, there will be research projects and activities to identify, select and breed coconut varieties with desirable traits. This includes the morphological identification and selection of parental palms as well as the development of improved dwarf and tall coconut cultivars.

From April to June 2023, Eastern Visayas is the sixth largest coconut producing region in the country with an output of 260,114 metric tons of coconut, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. *(Philippine News Agency)*

COCONUT FRONDS TO STEM WAVES

A resident of Kampung Siram here has taken the initiative to build a barrier using coconut fronds, planks and plastic bottles in front of her shop to reduce the impact of the water flow that frequently inundates the entrance of her business premises.

Fadilah Mohd Noor, 44, said she had been doing this each year since 2014 to prevent damage to the door after having to replace it several times, incurring costs of up to RM4,000.

"I have to set up this barrier as I have experienced losses when the shop door was damaged by the strong currents from the overflowing water of Sungai Golok.

"As preparation for the floods, I gathered the coconut fronds, planks and used bottles on Tuesday and constructed the barrier with my son.

"Alhamdulillah, it has been effective," the single mother said when met at her home here, Bernama reported.

She said several tables were placed behind the door as an additional measure.

Fadilah added that her place of business, located at the old Rantau Panjang-Pasir Mas road, serves as the main route for residents' boats and rescue agencies, causing her shop to consistently bear the brunt of floodwaters whenever it rains for a prolonged period.

She added that every year, the village her shop is located in experiences flooding several times, sometimes taking up to a week for the water to completely recede.

"In this third wave of flooding here, the water level is slightly higher than last year, perhaps due to the flood barriers bursting.

"Hopefully, with better weather conditions from now on, the floodwaters will recede quickly, and I can resume business," she said.

The third wave of flooding has affected eight villages in the Siram sub-district, with water levels surpassing one metre. *(The Star)*

JDS SEEKS AID FOR COCONUT GROWERS

A delegation comprising Hassan JDS MP Prajwal Revanna and MLAs HD Revanna, CN Balakrishna, Manjunath, and Swaroop Prakash, led by party supremo HD Deve Gowda met Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Shobha Karandlaje in New Delhi on Wednesday, and sought a special relief package for coconut growers in the district.

According to Prajwal, the delegation urged the minister to direct the National Agriculture Marketing Federation Limited (NAFED) to purchase copra at a minimum support price of Rs 15,000 per ton.

The delegation has also urged the Centre to announce special relief of Rs 50,000 per acre and Rs 25,000 for fertiliser, and will also meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Surface Transport Nitin Gadkari, seeking approval for NHAI projects and grants for the same on Thursday.

The delegation will also present a detailed report on the drought-like situation prevailing in Karnataka to the prime minister on the occasion, Prajwal added. *(The New Indian Express)*

INDONESIA DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COCONUT INDUSTRY: TRADE MINISTER

Indonesia is currently investing efforts to develop a sustainable coconut industry with the goal of improving farmers' welfare while preserving the environment, Trade Minister Zulkifli Hasan stated.

"Currently, Indonesia is striving to develop a sustainable coconut industry that can generate added value, preserve the environment, and elevate the living standards of farmers," Hasan stated in Bandar Lampung, Lampung Province.

The minister made the statement in his opening speech at the International Coconut Community Ministerial Meeting.

He further highlighted that the government is aiming to succeed in developing the industry by paying attention to both the downstream and upstream sectors, while noting that almost every part of coconut trees provides benefits.

"The development of a sustainable coconut industry is being pursued by intensifying the replanting of coconut trees with the aim of boosting the productivity of coconut plantations. Of course, we will use superior seeds," he pointed out.

Hasan further encouraged coconut farmers to have the capacity to mitigate the impacts of climate change that can affect both the quantity and quality of coconut production.

Farmers should also participate in downstreaming coconut products, he remarked.

"It is necessary to develop valuable and competitive products in order to boost coconut prices. We also need to promote the development of eco-friendly and sustainable plantations," he emphasized.

He expressed belief that by taking such measures, the government will succeed in preventing farmers from cutting down their coconut trees and replacing them with plants they deem as being more promising.

The minister further noted that the ministerial meeting is being held with the aim of facilitating relevant parties to exchange innovation and technology to develop a sustainable coconut industry in coconut-producing countries.

"We must continue promoting the development of a sustainable and eco-friendly coconut industry and plantations," he remarked.

Hasan said the government chose Lampung as the host for the ministerial meeting, which draws participation from 80 delegates from 15 countries, based on the fact that the province is a coconut-producing region. *(Antara)*

COCO PEAT UNIT AT DUMPYARD A BOON FOR MANGALURU CITY CORP, INDIA

Mangaluru: A private sector company has opened a coco peat and coir manufacturing unit on a pilot basis, at the waste dumpyard of the Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC).

The unit will process nearly 15 tonnes of tender coconut shells that the MCC collects through the waste collection process in the city every day, and thereby solve the major issue. The new unit will reduce the burden for the city corporation in the management of tender coconut shells, which are being transported to the dumpyard in Pachanady.

The agency that initiated the project will supply coco peat to the farming sector and coco coir to industries.

Corporator of Pachanady ward, Sangeetha R Nayak, said that the MCC has taken up the project on a pilot basis, through an agency five months ago.

"The agency Bhuvi Renewable Energies has been given the task of managing tender coconut shells collected from shops in the city. In fact, it is a major burden for the city corporation, that tonnes of tender coconut shells also go to the landfill site. The city corporation has been collecting tender coconut shells from various shops in the city. The agency has started processing the tender coconut shells in a shed provided at the dumpyard in Pachanady," she said, adding that two raw materials are being produced using the tender coconut collected from the city.

"While coco peat is used as a growing medium for plants in gardening and horticulture farms, coir is a major industrial raw material. As of now, the agency has been finding the market for the product. The city corporation will monitor the process for six months, and later decide about extension of the contract," she said.

Bioremediation expert Kiran P Kulkarni, who is a Swachh Bharat Mission expert, said he has been engaged in similar projects in many urban local bodies across India.

"We call coconut trees kalpa vruksha because each part of it is useful, and there is no waste. There is a need for creating a good market for coco peat and other byproducts of the tender coconut shells," he said. *(The Times of India)*

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TARGETS 123% INCREASE IN COCONUT PRODUCTION

The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Alhaji Abubakar, says the Federal Government is working toward increasing Nigeria's current production level of coconut from 224,186 Metric Tonnes (MT) to 500,000MT by 2025, about 123 per cent increase in coconut production.

Kyari said this during the 2023 10th International Coconut Festival AGUNFEST in Badagry, Lagos.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the theme of the festival was: "A Decade of Coconut Culture to Ignite Century Action Plan For Coconut Prosperity in Nigeria".

According to Kyari, at present, Nigeria is ranked 19th in the world among coconut producing countries, and there is the need to increase Nigeria's current production level from 224,186 MT to about 500,000MT by 2025.

He said, "1,000 coconut seedlings have been graciously approved for the festival.

AGUNKEFEST 2023 is not just a celebration of coconut, but a call to action.

"It is a call to farmers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and policy markers to come together and work toward developing the coconut sub-sector.

"Also to create wealth, not just for ourselves, but for our communities and our countries," he said.

Kyari urged Nigerians to work together to promote the growth and sustainability of the coconut industry in the country.

"I am convinced that if the full potential of the sector is properly harnessed, it is capable of making a great economic impact on the country," he said.

The minister, who was represented by Mrs Abimbola Oguntuyi, the Lagos State Coordinator of the ministry, said agriculture should be treated with all seriousness it deserved, as a business with enormous potential.

Kyari said such potential include jobs for our teaming youths, revenue generation, diversification of our economy, reducing over dependence on oil, earning and conserving our foreign exchange and expanding our revenue sources.

Also speaking, Mrs Lola Ade-John, the Minister of Tourism, said the festival would not only promote tourism, but also celebrate Nigeria's culture and traditions besides boosting the Nation's economy.

She said the country would be able to generate more than N20 billion in foreign exchange equivalent through coconut and its derivatives export.

Ade-John, who was represented by Mr Tony Okonju, a Chief Tourism Officer, said the coconut industry had the potential to provide food, raw materials, income, and employment for Nigerians if it is properly harnessed.

She said that the festival was designed to create awareness about the economic, environmental and nutritional value of coconuts and as well as encouraging sustainable practices within the coconut industry.

In his keynote address, Mr Julian Baricuatro, the President, International Coconut Festival, Canada, urged the Nigerian government to encourage more people to plant coconut in the country.

Baricuatro said coconut farming had the capacity to meaningfully engage more youths.

He also urged the government to work on the value chain of coconut, stressing that its nutritional and health values could not be overemphasised.

Also speaking, the Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms Abisoye Olusanya, said the ministry would renovate Topo Island in Badagry being the first coconut plantation in West Africa.

Olusanya, who was represented by Mr Oladapo Olakulehin, the General Manager, Lagos State Coconut Development Authority (LASCODA), said the ministry would collaborate of Tourism, Arts and Culture to create more tourist attractions in Badagry.

She said that through LASCODA, the ministry would establish a coconut factory in the town.

In his remarks, Prince Mesi Doheto, the President of African Coconut Heritage Initiative (AFRICOCO), said the festival stands as an intersection of culture and innovation.

"This is exhibiting the rich cultural heritage of different coconut producing communities and the economic significance of this wonder crop globally.

"It is a testament to our collective commitment to fostering unity through cultural tourism and

harnessing the potential of coconut for a more sustainable and prosperous future," he said.

"Mesi thanked Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, the Ministry of Agriculture, LASCODA, Federal Ministries of Tourism and Agriculture, Nigeria Institute for Oil Palm Research and the three Councils in Badagry for their support".

NAN reports that the 2023 edition of the festival started on July 7 with coconut planting across different locations and distribution of the seedlings to schools and public places.

Some seedlings were also donated to coconut growers and marketing associations.

NAN also reports that the festival was marked with different activities including Schools Art and Crafts, Painting, Poetry Competition, National Coconut Awards, Fashion Show and Miss AGUNKEFEST competitions.

The climax of the festival included a Symposium and Business Forum, Community Float Parade, Cooking Demonstration, Exhibition, Musical Entertainment and Cultural Performance. *(Leadership)*

SRI LANKA'S HAYCARB BEGINS COCONUT GROWING CAMPAIGN IN NORTH

Sri Lanka's Haycarb Plc, an exporter of activated carbon said it had begun a campaign to expand coconut cultivation in the north of the island.

This is being done in partnership with the Coconut Development Authority and Coconut Cultivation Board.

"Haycarb aims to plant 100,000 coconut trees in the Northern regions of Sri Lanka, including Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, and Jaffna. This initiative is a vital part of a broader national endeavour to establish a second coconut triangle," the company said in a statement.

Phase One kicked off in Iyakachchi, Jaffna, with the distribution of 25,000 coconut seedlings.

The remaining 75,000 trees are to be planted in the Northern and Eastern provinces by end 2024.

"Haycarb has worked extensively in developing and manufacturing premium quality coconut shell based activated carbons to suit a range of application segments globally, that include water and air purification, gold extraction and many other applications," Haycarb Managing Director Rajitha Kariyawasan said.

"We see growth potential in the activated carbon market, for which we require a much greater supply of coconut charcoal. This will support the demand for coconut shells in the country while reducing dependence on imported charcoal," he said.

"Our recent technological drive to develop activated carbons for the energy storage segment, encompassing both mobile and stationary power and energy applications, embraces sustainability principles."

Haycarb is also expanding its pioneering 'Haritha Angara' green charcoaling initiative with the installation of 30 additional pits in 2023/24, bringing the total to 473 pits island-wide, and plans to expand the total to over 500 pits by 2025.

Launched in 2014 with the aim of introducing eco-friendly charcoaling practices to local suppliers, the "Haritha Angara" initiative encourages local suppliers to convert their traditional open pit charcoaling sites to environment-friendly closed pits using technology, training and expertise developed by the Haycarb team.

Haycarb has manufacturing facilities in Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Indonesia, supported by marketing offices in the USA, UK, and Australia. *(Economy Next)*

A FRUIT THAT IS AN EASY NUT TO CRACK

Experts and officials gathered on China's tropical island province of Hainan recently to discuss the tremendous global market potential of coconuts and their related products, an industry valued at $20.2 billion last year, according to a report by Grand View Research.

Prak David, secretary of state of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia, was impressed by the coconut treats laid out for guests at the China (Hainan) International Coconut Industry Forum held in Wenchang from December 12 to 14.

He compared what was offered to similar sweets made traditionally in his country. As in Hainan, Cambodians love coconuts and have many local recipes, and fish amok is often cooked with coconut milk and served in a coconut, David said.

Coconuts in Cambodia used to be planted only on a small scale mainly for local consumption, but now with improved cultivation techniques and international investment the coconut industry in Cambodia is emerging, he said.

The Chinese and Cambodian governments signed a protocol on September 15 under which fresh coconuts from Cambodia will be imported to China.

The Chinese mainland market consumes about 2.5 billion coconuts a year, and the country can produce about 200 million a year.

Coconuts, the world's second-largest woody oil crop after oil palm, are cultivated in more than 120 countries and regions. The global coconut cultivation area spans 12 million hectares, 56.3 billion coconuts being produced a year, said Ma Yuhong, deputy director of the Hainan Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

With a commodity trade value of about $38.7 billion, coconuts contribute significantly to the economies of tropical regions, particularly developing countries with tropical climates and tropical islands.

Hainan is the only province in China where coconut trees can be grown on a large scale. It has cultivated the crop for more than 2,000 years. Coconut plantations in the province cover about 37,900 hectares, accounting for 99 per cent of China's total.

The coconut processing industry in Hainan has annual output value of 20 billion yuan ($2.8 billion), with more than 260 coconut products developed. It has already formed an industrial chain integrating research, cultivation, processing trade and cultural tourism, which aims to achieve total output value of 23 billion yuan for the coconut industry by 2025, according to the 14th Five-Year Plan for the High-quality Development of the Hainan Coconut Industry issued in 2021.

"The coconut industry in Hainan is developing very quickly," said Mumtaz Ali Saand, an expert from Pakistan working with the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, a coconut research institute in Haikou, Hainan.

"They have more than four coconut varieties, including red, yellow, brown and green, with different flavours."

The province is developing links with countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka to improve innovation and value chains.

With scientific and technological collaboration and economic and trade exchanges, the by-products of coconuts have huge potential, David said.

"Coconut water is a refreshing drink, and people can eat the flesh. But it also has medical use and cosmetic purposes. Its root is used in Cambodian traditional medicines to tackle diarrhoea and its oil is often used for hair and scalp enhancement." *(Khmer Times)*

STATE GOVERNMENT URGED TO PROCURE COPRA FROM NAFED

The Bharatiya Janata Party, Thanjavur South District Unit, staged a demonstration at Thanjavur on December 27 urging the Tamil Nadu government to procure copra from the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) and extract coconut oil for sale through the public distribution system.

The demonstrators who assembled near the District Collectorate on the Tiruchi-Nagapattinam Highway raised slogans exhorting the DMK government to come to the rescue of the coconut farmers by procuring the ball copra stock to be disposed by the NAFED through e-auction since it would help check lowering of the open market price of ball copra.

Hitherto, the private mills and middlemen were quoting around ₹85 per kilogram of copra and this would get pulled down further if the NAFED auctioned around one lakh tonnes of copra stock, procured by NAFED at the PSS (price support scheme) price of ₹108.60 per kilogram earlier this year.

Thus, to sustain the open market price of copra at least at the current market price of ₹85 the DMK government should participate in the e-auction and manufacture coconut oil for sale through the PDS outlets at an affordable price, they said.

Failing which, the demonstrators claimed, the private mill owners and middlemen would pull down the open market price further forcing the coconut farmers to dispose of their stock at an unaffordable price. The intervention of the Tamil Nadu government would help retain the open market price of copra at the same level and ensure the availability of coconut oil at an affordable price to families depending on the PDS for their monthly grocery and other household requirement, they added. *(The Hindu)*

WHITE COPRA MARKET TO REACH SEPIK PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SOON

Local copra producers in the East and West Sepik Provinces have now been given the reason to return to work on their small to large coconut plantation and copra dryer in preparation to enter the market in April 2024.

Petrus Kobio Ailabain who is a strong copra producer and ocal buyer in kauk village, ward 14 of Dagua LLG of Wewak, East Sepik Province said it was heart-warming for the copra producers to finally have a market in the province.

"The fall in copra market have caused many people to lose interest in copra production and general coconut farming activities.

"As a local buyer, I suffered too because I had no market in town where I can buy and resell," he said. Petrus usually buy and resell in Madang but the market fell and his business activity also suffered alongside the people.

He said Dagua area is known to be the main supplier of copra to the Copra Marketing Board (CMB) before. When CMB left Wewak, the copra producers and their family suffered greatly. In the midst of trying to make ends meet for the family, they abondoned the coconut plantations.

But on Mushu lsland , it was a little different as Coconut is one of the two main income source, they opted to virgin coconut oil production. However, they weren't able to use all the coconut and the seed nuts continues to become wasted and grew out under matured palms.

With this informed understanding, the Sepik Coconut Development Officer, Allan Wawah took a team of 13 copra producers and interested coconut farmers by boat to Madang via Angoram to learn white copra production and secure market recently.

"This was a sucessfully quest as the team learned how to produce white copra from Malala Corporative Society in a farmer-to-farmer

training, And we also secured market for the Sepik region copra producers", he said.

Coconut Resources Limited (CRL), the Kokonas Indastri Koperesen (KIK) subsidiary will be in Wewak in April 2024 and go to specific buying points in the communitues to buy white copra.

He said the transaction will be processed cashless in the rural and the money be paid through Mi Bank account.

"Thus all copra producers in the Sepik region, including coconut farmers are encouraged to have a bank account with Mi Bank to ensure efficiency in the tramsaction process.

"We have been challenged to supply a total of 33 tonnes of copra and we can beat this. "Sepik have the history of working in coconut plantation before and it is their nature. The team of 13 have captured all the necessary information and are currently doing model dryers and required training on Virgin Coconut Oil production and coconut farming and white copra awareness in preparation for the 2024 year of business," Mr Wawah said.

Meanwhile, the coconut replanting and seed distribution program including virgin coconut oil

production is going strong in the two provinces. Mr Wawah said KIK Wewak is looking forward to establishing an office space in Maprik to cater for the people of Sepik Central region. *(EMTV)*

WHY COCONUT IS A MUST IN RELIGIOUS RITUALS?

In many cultures worldwide, the coconut holds a sacred significance, making it an essential element in religious rituals. Its unique attributes symbolize purity, fertility, and divine blessings. The coconut's hard outer shell represents protection, while its white, nourishing kernel signifies inner purity. This versatile fruit is often used in ceremonies and offerings, signifying auspicious beginnings and spiritual purity. From Hindu rituals to Southeast Asian ceremonies, the coconut's presence transcends borders, embodying a spiritual connection that has endured through generations.

Coconut and Puranas

The coconut, known as "Narikela" in Sanskrit, holds a rich cultural and religious significance deeply rooted in South Asian traditions. The very name "Narikela" is believed to be an aboriginal term, with "Niyor" representing oil and "Kolai" denoting nut. Referred to as "Sriphala" in Sanskrit, translating to "The God's fruit," the coconut finds mentions in ancient texts such as the Mahabharata, Ramayana, Puranas, and Jataka stories in Buddhism.

Before the 6th century AD, the coconut gained sanctity in domestic rituals, becoming a sacred offering to deities and a cherished gift during festivals and ceremonies. Its importance in religious rites further intensified during the Agni Purana and Brahma Purana (800-900 AD), where it was not only considered a medicinal plant but also an essential element for atmospheric purity, beauty, and tranquility.

According to the Matsya Purana, planting coconut trees, along with other sacred trees, in a garden was believed to bring prosperity and increase riches. Legend has it that the coconut holds special significance to Lord Ganesha, given to him by his father, Lord Shiva, marking the unique origin of this revered fruit in the world.

Coconut and beliefs

In Hinduism, coconut represents the trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh—the creator, protector, and destroyer. Devotees express reverence to these deities by treating the coconut as an object of worship, seeking blessings from the divine trinity. As per mythology, when Lord Vishnu descended on earth he brought Goddess Lakshmi, a coconut tree, and the Kamdhenu cow for the welfare of

mankind. It is one of the reasons why coconut is considered to be the symbol of the three gods- Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh.

In another belief system, the coconut's components carry specific symbolism. The kernel, or white flesh, is seen as symbolic of Devi Parvati, while the water inside is associated with the sacred river Ganga. The brown shell represents Lord Kartikeya. These intricate symbolisms contribute to the coconut's significance in religious rituals, reflecting a deeper spiritual connection within Hinduism.

Significance of breaking the coconut

The act of breaking a coconut holds symbolic significance in many spiritual traditions, particularly within Hinduism. It is believed that each part of the coconut represents different aspects of human nature and the spiritual journey. The hard outer shell of the coconut is seen as a representation of ego. Breaking the coconut is symbolic of breaking one's ego, and letting go of pride and arrogance. The soft, pulpy part inside the coconut is considered analogous to the human heart. Breaking the coconut is an act of opening one's heart, fostering humility and compassion. The water inside the coconut symbolizes purity. Breaking the coconut and offering its water signifies the purification of oneself, cleansing the heart and soul.

When coconut replaced animal and human sacrifice

It is believed that the shift from primitive forms of sacrifice, involving humans and animals, to the use of coconuts gained prominence during a period when coconut trees became abundant in southern India. The coconut itself bears striking resemblances to various aspects of human anatomy. The coir on the outside is likened to human hair, while the hard shell resembles a human skull. The water inside the coconut draws parallels with human blood, and the white kernel is analogous to the human brain. These symbolic resemblances likely played a role in the transition from other forms of offerings to coconuts. *(The Times of India)*

COCONUT FARMERS IN TIRUPPUR TO TAKE PART IN INDEFINITE FAST AT NEW DELHI FOR COURSE-CORRECTION IN COPRA POLICY

Coconut farmers in Tiruppur district have extended their support to the indefinite fast planned by organisations espousing the cause of agricultural community at New Delhi from December 13.

The Indiya Thennai Vivasayigal Kootamaippu, Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Padukappu Sangam, Tamilnadu Cauvery Uzhavargal Padukappu Sangam and Tamil Nadu Vivasaya Sangangalin Kootu Iyakkam have announced the protest, apprehending a steep fall in the procurement price, due to the reported move by NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.) to auction its huge stock of copra to commercial entities.

Representatives of farmer welfare organisations flagged the fear of the commercial entities forming a cartel to procure copra for just ₹65 per kg. This will lead to a cascading effect on the existing procurement price, a representative of one of the farmers' associations lamented.

Instead, the NAFED should carry out sale of coconut oil at subsidised rates as a replacement for palm oil, using the Bharath brand as was being done for atta, dal and onion, the farmers emphasise, pointing out that the NAFED had procured up to one lakh metric tonnes of copra from Tamil Nadu alone.

The minimum support price of fair average quality of milling copra and ball copra per quintal had been fixed at ₹10,860 and ₹11,750 for the 2023 season. However, only 10 percent of copra is procured and the rest is sold in the open market.

On its part, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has recommended that the Central Government must maintain import duty structure on edible oils, especially palm oil and its fractions, at appropriate level linked to world prices, and to promote exports of virgin oil and value-added products, citing the demand in developed countries.

The CACP, in its non-price recommendations made in its report on price policy for copra for 2023 season, has called upon State governments to foster entrepreneurship among the farmers by setting up coconut based industrial parks in partnership with research institutions, for organised processing of value-added products such as tender nut, coconut water, coconut wood, toddy, neera, gur, sugar, vinegar, coconut boli, coconut honey and coconut sauce. The Commission further recommends that India should concentrate on production of value-added products like desiccated coconut, coconut milk/ cream, long shelf-life coconut gratings, coconut sugar/jaggery, coconut vinegar, which are likely to witness increase in demand in domestic and international markets in the coming years. *(The Hindu)*

DA TO PROMOTE SHEEP RAISING AS ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD FOR COCONUT FARMERS

The Department of Agriculture (DA) aims to establish a domestic sheep-raising industry while simultaneously supplementing the often-meager income of coconut farmers. DA Undersecretary Deogracias Victor Savellano, in an interview last week, said raising small ruminants, sheep in particular, presents an attractive alternative livelihood opportunity to coconut farmers, who are often idle while waiting for their next harvest. It was explained that coconuts are harvested in cycles, often ranging from 45 to 60 days in between when farmers are free to pursue other income generating opportunities.

The initiative is in line with the DA Php850 million livestock dispersal program for coconut farmers in partnership with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA). The DA has always promoted inter-cropping, but now is adding livestock-raising to the list of alternative livelihoods that coconut farmers can get into, Savellano told the Philippine News Agency. He noted that there is an international demand for lamb, hogget, and mutton (sheep meat) as well as wool, which local producers can potentially exploit, he added.

Sheep are also a more attractive option for cleaning up coconut plantations because they prefer to graze (eat vegetation scattered on the ground), as compared to goats that prefer to browse (eat leaves from living plants). Savellano said the DA targets to begin distributing chicken, native pigs, and goats, aside from sheep to qualified beneficiaries before the end of 2023. Beneficiaries being identified by the PCA include leaseholders or tenants who till coconut on not more than five hectares of land. Farm laborers, whether occasional or itinerant, who are harvesting coconuts or work in the processing of copra as a major means of livelihood are also potential beneficiaries of the livestock distribution program. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

'PRESSING' ISSUES: COCONUT OIL FIRST IN LINE FOR 'MADE IN KERALA' TAG

It's all about setting standards and dealing with 'pressing' issues. Coconut oil will be the first product to get the 'Made in Kerala' tag, as part of the state government's Kerala Brand initiative to help local manufacturers garner more credibility and acceptability in the market, especially outside the state.

The Industries and Commerce Department recently released the criteria for coconut oil manufacturers to get included in the branding exercise. "The criteria were prepared after a survey of 1,000-odd manufacturers in the state. We also took note of the various registrations and certifications for oil units. Those with statutory registrations and

certifications and that follow quality and ethical standards will be considered," said a department official. "For instance, units where the workforce does not include women will not be considered," he added.

The government is of the view that the 'Made in Kerala' tag will help manufacturers gain more standing. Besides the local sourcing of raw materials, units should possess FSSAI licences and valid UDYAM and GST registrations. They should be manufacturing "expressed raw grade-I coconut oil" and also possess either IS 542:2018 or AGMARK certification.

Selected units will be continuously monitored during the initial years. Units that violate the conditions, like losing statutory registration, will be removed from the programme and this would be made public.

The government accorded top priority to coconut oil given reports of unethical practices in the sector. The food safety department had found that adulterated oil was rampant in the market. Most were marketed under names similar to popular brands.

Units selected under the branding exercise can print the tagline and logo, common for all products, on their packaging. Other products to come under the branding exercise include selected categories of food products and leather footwear. The Kerala Brand certification will be initially awarded for two years or until the expiration of the required quality certifications, whichever comes first. It can be renewed. *(The New Indian Express)*

GLOBAL DEMAND FOR SRI LANKA'S KING COCONUT, GOVERNMENT PLANS BRANDING

Amidst global demand for the king coconut grown in Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries is now taking steps to cultivate it as an export crop.

"There is demand in the United Arab Emirates for king coconut from Sri Lanka. 200 containers of king coconuts are exported to the country a month," Minister of Agriculture, Mahinda Amaraweera was quoted as saying in a government information department (DGI) statement.

A king coconut from Sri Lanka sells for the equivalent of 2,500 rupees in the UAE coastal regions, the minister said, adding that demand had recently tripled.

"Many countries have tried to grow king coconut, but all those efforts have failed. The tastiest ones in the world are the Sri Lankan thembili.

"Therefore, steps will be taken to make our thembili popular in the world by branding it as Sri Lanka Sweet Coconut. The Coconut Development Board and the Coconut Development Authority will work on this."

Due to the establishment of a regulatory system by the Coconut Development Authority, a king coconut fetches about 0.8 dollars (roughly 296 rupees) at the UAE's port, according to the DGI statement.

Sri Lanka exports 252,000 king coconuts a week to the UAE, it said. "Last year we earned 2 billion rupees from exporting king coconuts, and this year the expected income is 6 billion rupees."

A king coconut export model village was established in Muruthawela this week, and 1,500 coconut saplings were distributed to families in a pilot project. *(Economy Next)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Vegetable oils prices tracked mostly lower this week but saw reversal much latterly.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market remained a dull affair for the seventh week running this week as buyers continued to stay at the sidelines despite easing prices. A still significant price spread over palm kernel oil also kept coconut oil less attractive. Opening quotes were easier at $1,127.50-1,162.50/MT CIF for next year positions from January/February through to May/June and continued the downward trek cued by declining palm oil prices. Towards the weekend, however, the market returned to the positive mode ignoring palm oil's decline and settled at close higher at $1,122.50-1,152.50/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market, by contrast, remained active with three turnovers reported at $995-1,035/MT CIF, lower than last week's traded price at $1,005-1,050/MT. The market likewise started off with lower offers at $987.50-1,035.00/MT CIF for positions from December/January through to June/July 2024 and tracked further lower, interrupted only briefly on Thursday, to close in the negative territory at $950-1,005/MT CIF.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil widened this week across all positions but one, capping weeks of narrowing spreads. This week's average premium increased to $134.44/MT from the prior week's $125.70. Premium per position are shown following: December/January $155.63 ($144.40 last week); January/February 2024 $137.00 ($131.25); February/March $137.50 ($122.55); March/April $119.50 ($121.35); April/May $139.50 ($121.35); May/June $139.50 ($121.00); June/July $123.33 ($118.00); July/August $124.58 (new position).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures trekked downward in response to production recovery in Argentina as well as estimates of bumper crop in Brazil, and on declining soybean oil prices. Prices though improved later during the week supported by expectations the USDA WASDE report would show reductions in US soybean stocks but turned out in the report little changed, thus ending the week back in the downside.

At the palm oil section, market was bearish this week but managed to close in the positive territory. The market was dragged by declines in CBOT soybean oil which in turn was affected by the weaker crude mineral oil prices. Moreover, weak exports also added pressure. Cargo surveyors estimated Malaysian palm oil exports for the period December 1-5 were 3.4% down from similar period a month earlier. At the close, however, the market bounced back as buying interest returned following recent price declines. However, a strengthening Malaysian ringgit curbed gains as did hesitant players ahead of the MPOB report next week.

Prices of tropical oils this week for nearest forward shipment marked a reversal from the situation last week with lauric oils now crossing into the negative territory and palm oil back in the upside. Coconut oil dropped $21.57 from $1,139.90 last week to $1,118.33/MT CIF presently and palm kernel oil came down by $21.12 from $995.50 to $974.38/MT CIF. Palm oil, on the other hand, rose $5.50 from $964.50 to $970.00/MT CIF. As a result, coconut oil's price premium over palm kernel oil turned shade narrower this week from $144.40 a week ago to $143.95/MT currently, premium over palm oil substantially contracted from $175.40 to $148.33/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market was still uneventful. The market was bearish during the week but saw improvement in levels eventually lately. At the close, sellers quoted $1,130 for December/January; $1,122.50 for January/February 2024; $1,122.50 for February/March; $1,132.50 for March/April; $1,142.50 for April/May; and $1,152.50/MT CIF for May/June. Earlier offers were noted for far deferred June/July and July/August but withdrawn by week's end. Buyers remained absent during the week.

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

VAST OPPORTUNITY TO BOOST SWIFT'S NEST EXPORTS TO CHINA: DIPLOMAT

Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indonesian Embassy in Beijing, Parulian Silalahi, stated that swift's nest, coconut, durian, and coffee are among Indonesia's potential export commodities to China in 2024.

"We have a huge opportunity to increase the exports of swift's nest to China," he remarked during a webinar titled "Export Outlook 2024" as followed in Jakarta.

He noted that the Indonesian embassy had met with China's importers who said that swift's nest products from Indonesia have a higher level of quality as compared to those from other countries.

Parulian stated that China has been the main export destination of Indonesian swift's nest products, adding that the total value of the products' exports to China had reached as much as Rp5.8 trillion (US$376 million) last year.

He then remarked that Indonesia needs to continue to elevate the quality of its swift's nests to secure its position as a prominent exporter of the commodity.

"We need to improve the standards, quality, and supply certainty of our swift's nests. It would be even better if we could include the commodity in the downstreaming process, so that we can export it as processed products that have a higher value," he remarked.

The diplomat then drew attention to Indonesia's coconut, durian, and coffee products. He cited data from the Export Potential Map, saying that the potential value of durian exports to China reached Rp2.6 billion (US$168.5 thousand) per month in 2022.

Indonesian coffee also has vast market potential in China, considering that the Eastern Asian country has been witnessing significant development in the coffee-drinking trend since 2018, he added.

As for coconut products, he affirmed that Indonesia wields a promising opportunity to prevail over Thailand and Vietnam. He noted that Indonesia is privileged in terms of its vast area of land, good land contours, and an advantageous geographical location to produce coconuts.

"The demand for coconuts in China has kept increasing. It should be noted that our country lies in a suitable region for coconut plantations. Hence, we should tap into this potential in China," Parulian pointed out. *(Antara)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

INDONESIAN PROCESSED PALM OIL EXPORT UP IN SEPTEMBER

Figures from the Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI) showed the country's production of crude palm oil (CPO) in September 2023 was 4,143 thousand MT, an increase by 7.5% from month-ago at 3,855 thousand MT but was down by 8.8% from September last year at 4,545 thousand MT. Production of palm kernel oil also rose 7.6% to 394 thousand MT from 366 thousand MT a month ago but showed a 10.9% reduction from 442 thousand MT a year ago. The cumulative figure for CPO in January-September at 37,253 thousand MT, however, surpassed last year at 33,383 thousand MT by 11.6%, as did palm kernel oil with current year total at 3,570 thousand MT exceeding last year at 3,213 thousand MT by 11.1%.

Domestic consumption in September at 1,979 thousand MT decreased by 2.9% from month-earlier at 2,037 thousand MT but topped last year at 1,821 thousand MT by 8.7%. The largest decline was seen in the consumption for biodiesel, which fell from 956 thousand MT in August to 924 thousand MT in September, followed by utilization for food from 838

thousand MT to 865 thousand MT. On the other hand, consumption for oleochemical rose from 183 thousand MT to 190 thousand MT. A year earlier, the figures were higher at 918 thousand MT for food and 191 thousand MT for oleochemicals but lower for biodiesel at 712 thousand MT.

Total export in September leaped 29.9% to 2,693 thousand MT from 2,073 thousand MT in August. The largest increase was in the export of processed CPO from 1,245 thousand MT in August to 1,968 thousand MT in September. Export of processed PKO also hiked from 78 thousand MT to 130 thousand MT, while export of oleochemical declined from 416 thousand MT to 333 thousand MT. January-September exports also increased to 24,598 thousand MT from 22,928 thousand MT at the same time last year. Processed CPO climbed to 17,585 thousand MT from 16,888 thousand MT, as well as processed PKO to 925 thousand MT from 882 thousand MT. Oleochemicals, however, increased to 3,396 thousand MT from 3,107 thousand MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR BODY WHEN YOU DRINK COCONUT WATER EVERY DAY?

Drinking coconut water can offer various health benefits due to its nutrient-rich composition. It is a natural source of electrolytes, such as potassium and magnesium, which aid in maintaining proper hydration and supporting heart health. But have you ever wondered if it's a good idea to drink it every day? But before that, let's understand how coconut water helps.

What are the benefits of coconut water?

Coconut water is 94 per cent water and very little fat, said Dr Sri Karan Uddesh Tanugula, consultant general physician, Yashoda Hospitals, Hyderabad. "It contains several important nutrients like magnesium, sodium, and potassium. One cup of coconut water that is roughly about 240 ml contains 60 calories," said Dr Tanugala.

Another possible added benefit of coconut water is that as it's a good source of magnesium, it can improve insulin sensitivity and help in better control of type 2 diabetes. Dr Tanugala also added that blood pressure-lowering effect could be attributed to the presence of high levels of potassium.

"The high potassium content helps regulate blood pressure, potentially reducing the risk of cardiovascular issues," said Mohini Dongre, dietician, Narayana Hospital Gurugram.

Additionally, coconut water contains antioxidants that may contribute to overall well-being by neutralising harmful free radicals in the body. This can potentially support the immune system and reduce oxidative stress.

Is regular consumption advisable?

Dr Tanugula mentioned that a few studies have shown that the consumption of coconut water may help decrease the occurrence of kidney stones.

Dongre described that regular consumption of coconut water may assist in kidney function by promoting urine production and preventing the formation of kidney stones. "The hydrating properties of coconut water can be beneficial for skin health, helping to maintain a youthful appearance and potentially alleviating conditions like acne," said Dongre.

However, it's crucial to note that while coconut water is a nutritious beverage, moderation is key. Dongre said, "Excessive intake may lead to an increased calorie and sugar intake, potentially affecting weight management. As with any dietary change, individual responses can vary, so consulting with a healthcare professional is

advisable for personalised advice," said Dongre. *(The Indian Express)*

IS COCONUT SUGAR A NUTRITIOUS REPLACEMENT?

Coconut sugar is a natural sweetener derived from the sap of the coconut palm tree. The sap is dried and made into granules or blocks of sugar for culinary uses. It's often marketed as a healthier alternative to table sugar and with additional benefits.

To determine whether coconut sugar makes sense for you, looking at factors like glycemic index, processing, and nutrition is essential.

This article examines whether coconut sugar makes a suitable sugar replacement, including its nutritional makeup and its pros and cons when using it.

Coconut Sugar: Where It Lands on the Glycemic Index

The glycemic index (GI) is a scale used to evaluate the impact of carbohydrate-containing foods on your blood sugar levels. It ranks them on a scale of 1 to 100, with higher values indicating a more rapid increase in blood sugar. Using the GI is particularly relevant for individuals who have diabetes or who are otherwise monitoring their blood sugar trends, but it can also be helpful for overall health and wellness.

Coconut sugar has a lower GI compared to regular sugar. This means it has a slower impact on blood sugar levels, which can benefit people who need to manage their blood sugar.

Coconut sugar generally falls around 35 on the GI scale, whereas table sugar ranks between 60 and 65. While it's not a huge difference, coconut sugar has a slightly less dramatic effect on your blood sugar levels than table sugar.

IS COCONUT SUGAR A GOOD SUGAR REPLACEMENT?

Coconut sugar is often marketed as a healthier alternative to refined sugar and has some potential advantages. However, it's important to consider various factors and not view any sugar substitute as a one-size-fits-all solution.

Benefits: The main benefit of coconut sugar is that it is similar to table sugar and can be used in the same ways to sweeten recipes and beverages. Compared to table sugar, coconut sugar does have a slightly lower glycemic index and contains small amounts of several micronutrients that it retains throughout its processing.

Side Effects: Coconut sugar is still sugar. It's not meant to be consumed regularly or in large amounts but to help enhance the sweetness of specific recipes. Coconut and refined sugars are so similar that they can be used in the same ways in the kitchen with a simple 1-to-1 swap.

If you were to eat a lot of sugar, you would consume a significant amount of calories with no fiber, fat, protein, and only minimal amounts of specific vitamins and minerals. Consuming coconut sugar (or any sugar) in large quantities could then increase your risk for inflammation, unintentional weight gain, and related diseases, such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

Regardless of where it comes from, health experts recommend getting no more than 20% of your total daily calories from added sugar, including coconut sugar.

Nutrition Facts: Single Coconut Sugar Serving

Compared to table sugar and high fructose corn syrup, which provide calories with no nutritional benefit, coconut sugar offers several nutrients in addition to energy.

A 2-teaspoon, or 8 gram (g), serving of coconut sugar has the following nutritional composition:

- Calories: 30
- Total fat: 0 g
- Sodium: 0 milligrams (mg)
- Total carbohydrates: 8 g
- Total sugars: 7 g
- Protein: 0 g

While they're not always listed on the nutrition facts label, research has found that coconut sugar provides trace amounts of potassium, calcium, zinc, vitamin C, magnesium, iron, and certain antioxidants.

Still, this doesn't mean coconut sugar is a good source of these micronutrients. You would have to eat a lot of coconut sugar to get any beneficial amount, which would come with many extra calories.

While coconut sugar contains more nutrients than table sugar, you're much better off getting vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants from whole food sources, like fruits and vegetables. *(Verywell Health)*

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT WHITE HOT CHOCOLATE

This is a rich, warm drink after a cold afternoon of skiing while sitting in front of the fire. The combination of coconut and white chocolate is a delicious and exciting departure from traditional dark hot cocoa.

Ingredients

Toppings
1 cup shredded coconut
2 cups heavy cream
4 teaspoon powdered sugar
½ lemon, zested
¼ teaspoon vanilla extract

Hot Chocolate
4 cups half-and-half
4 cups unsweetened coconut milk
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
8-10 cardamom pods
2-3 star anise pods
½ teaspoon kosher salt
3 cups small white chocolate chips or chopped block of white chocolate

Preparation

For the Toppings
1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Spread shredded coconut on a small baking pan and toast in the oven for 4 to 6 minutes, until medium brown. Reserve and hold for garnish.
3. Place the heavy cream, powdered sugar, lemon zest and vanilla into a large mixing bowl and hand-mix or use a kitchen mixer until the cream forms stiff peaks, about 2 to 3 minutes. Hold in the refrigerator until ready to use for garnish.

For the Hot Chocolate
1. Place half-and-half, coconut milk, vanilla, cardamom pods, star anise and salt in a thick saucepan. Set to medium heat and bring to a simmer (about 200 F); do not boil.
2. Place white chocolate chips in a 6-quart bowl. Strain hot milk mixture over the white chocolate through a strainer or cheesecloth.

To Serve

Pour/ladle hot chocolate into warmed mugs and garnish with a dollop of whipped cream and a good sprinkle of toasted coconut.

(Today)

STATISTICS

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

Month	2021		2022		2023	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000
January	41,112	58,282	35,466	66,919	56,023	56,727
February	54,471	78,304	48,846	92,391	75,698	76,233
March	42,893	63,982	71,557	141,348	76,043	77,585
April	43,675	65,594	53,869	110,772	58,674	58,552
May	66,712	105,704	61,688	119,515	57,139	58,472
June	48,582	78,866	57,845	104,471	71,221	69,053
July	71,449	113,089	82,040	133,063	53,475	52,719
August	39,908	62,834	56,776	83,469	62,957	60,298
September	47,107	70,877	61,498	76,363	43,384	44,666
October	42,489	67,385	61,949	68,485	58,847	58,932
November	57,478	95,763	46,880	49,688	66,080	67,389
December	55,571	98,543	69,256	71,664		
Total	**611,448**	**959,223**	**707,671**	**1,118,147**	**679,543**	**680,626**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

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

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	76,557	115,346	52,302	97,009	98,519
February	44,265	59,757	53,704	123,579	64,696
March	122,223	91,762	72,143	97,741	137,097
April	123,057	53,629	58,555	123,835	59,347
May	100,580	61,034	51,927	113,696	110,345
June	135,308	92,625	65,092	87,170	64,785
July	94,690	19,161	78,441	112,646	119,766
August	197,300	85,963	80,111	104,713	90,380
September	75,126	83,382	82,649	78,818	77,896
October	100,758	58,911	93,100	109,769	
November	67,636	63,150	95,115	83,684	
December	101,826	55,353	97,947	87,132	
Total	**1,239,326**	**840,073**	**881,086**	**1,219,792**	**822,831**

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 3. International Prices of Selected Oils, January 2021 - December 2023, (US$/MT)

Year	Month	Coconut Phil/Indo (CIF. Rott.)	Soybean Oil Dutch (FOB ex-mill)	Palm Oil Malaysian (CIF. Eur.)	Palm Kernel Oil (CIF. Rott.)	Sunflower Oil EU (Fob. NW. EU)
2021	January	1,463	1,099	990	1,368	1,276
	February	1,445	1,124	1,020	1,360	1,363
	March	1,541	1,285	1,030	1,479	1,611
	April	1,660	1,386	1,078	1,487	1,573
	May	1,715	1,575	1,136	1,531	1,585
	June	1,671	1,518	1,004	1,400	1,297
	July	1,584	1,468	1,063	1,274	1,282
	August	1,494	1,434	1,142	1,341	1,356
	September	1,485	1,399	1,181	1,427	1,310
	October	1,923	1,484	1,310	1,818	1,421
	November	1,961	1,443	1,341	2,050	1,416
	December	1,696	1,411	1,270	1,861	1,362
2022	January	2,033	1,470	1,345	2,196	1,412
	February	2,153	1,596	1,522	2,443	1,499
	March	2,269	1,957	1,777	2,441	2,361
	April	2,097	1,948	1,683	2,064	2,276
	May	1,720	1,963	1,717	1,811	2,079
	June	1,688	1,752	1,501	1,555	1,885
	July	1,517	1,533	1,057	1,301	1,557
	August	1,364	1,599	1,026	1,173	1,496
	September	1,261	1,548	909	1,249	1,305
	October	1,094	1,576	889	1,039	1,359
	November	1,167	1,652	946	1,062	1,347
	December	1,155	1,409	940	1,067	1,234
2023	January	1,071	1,352	942	1,060	1,218
	February	1,107	1,243	950	1,037	1,159
	March	1,111	1,113	972	1,052	1,075
	April	1,069	1,030	1,005	1,017	1,035
	May	1,031	988	934	993	962
	June	993	1,007	817	928	911
	July	1,047	1,136	879	998	1,039
	August	1,102	1,127	861	998	989
	September	1,084	1,112	830	958	895
	October	1,058	1,134	804	912	910
	November	1,118	1,118	830	968	944
	December	1,118	1,062	814	966	944

Source: Cocommunity and Oil World

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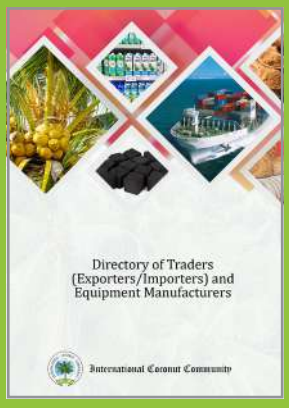

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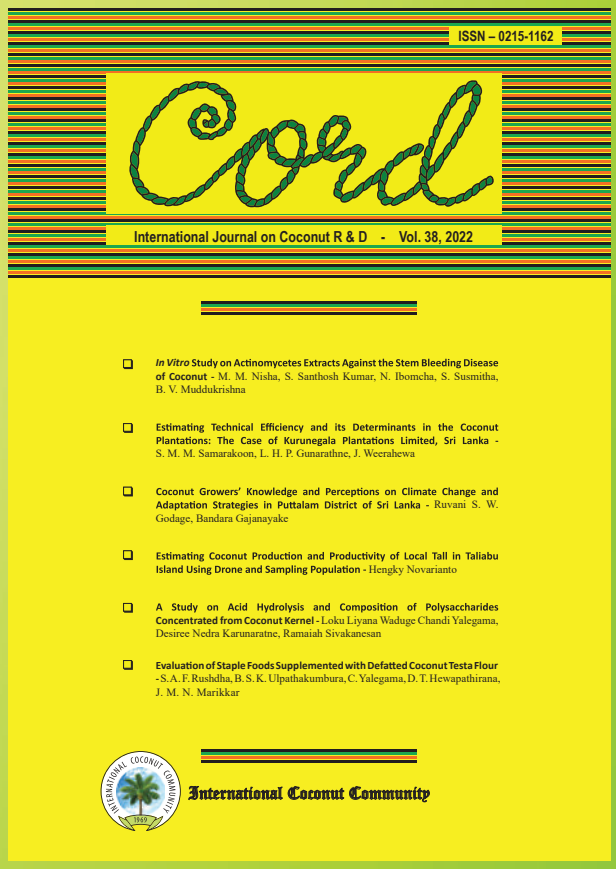

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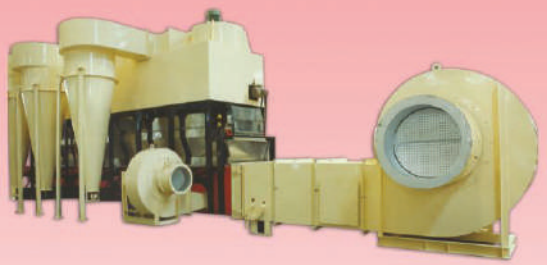

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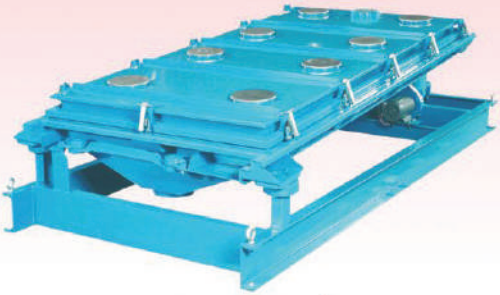

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