The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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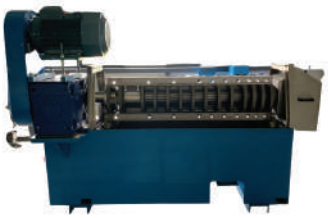

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

"Overcoming challenges, seizing opportunities, and propelling the coconut industry to new heights of success"

For centuries, the coconut palm has been revered as a symbol of resilience and sustainability, providing a myriad of benefits to communities around the world. From food and nutrition to shelter, fuel, and livelihoods, the coconut palm has earned its title as the "tree of life" for its ability to sustain life in diverse environments and climates. However, in the face of mounting environmental pressures and changing market dynamics, the coconut sector must adapt and innovate to thrive in the modern era.

Climate change poses a significant threat to coconut cultivation, with rising temperatures, erratic weather patterns, and increased incidence of extreme weather events jeopardizing coconut yields and livelihoods. The vulnerability of coconut plantations to climate change underscores the urgent need for adaptive strategies that enhance resilience, promote sustainable farming practices, and mitigate environmental risks. A groundbreaking collaborative initiative spearheaded by the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industry; The Sri Lankan Government aims to address the urgent threat posed by climate change to coconut plantations worldwide. By leveraging collective expertise and resources, they are committed to implementing innovative solutions to safeguard coconut plantations and ensure their resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

In parallel, the coconut sector is witnessing growing market demands driven by the growing recognition of coconut-derived products for their health benefits, nutritional value, and sustainability. From coconut water and oil to coconut-based cosmetics, biofuels, and beyond, the versatility of coconut products presents immense opportunities for growth and innovation. However, meeting these market demands requires strategic investments in research, innovative technology development, and advanced value chain management to enhance productivity, quality, and competitiveness. Countries such as India, Fiji, Guyana, Jamaica, the Philippines, and PNG are leading the charge in advancing the coconut industry to meet local and global demands. Through collaborative efforts and knowledge-sharing initiatives, we aim to amplify this momentum and drive further growth and development across the globe.

As the world transitions towards renewable energy sources, coconut trees are emerging as a valuable asset in the search for environmentally friendly energy solutions. With its ability to produce biofuels, biomass, sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), and biogas, the coconut palm offers a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels while mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and promoting environmental sustainability. Leveraging the potential of coconut-based green energy holds the key to addressing energy security challenges and advancing towards a low-carbon future.

In facing the dynamic challenges of the coconut sector, collaboration, innovation, and sustainability emerge as foundational pillars for achieving success. By fostering partnerships, sharing knowledge, and embracing innovative technologies, stakeholders can collectively develop and implement strategies that enhance the resilience, productivity, and profitability of coconut farming while safeguarding the environment and improving livelihoods for a brighter tomorrow.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

January 2023 witnessed a surge 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 Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.

COPRA: Indonesia's Copra prices experienced a modest decline, reaching US$651/MT in January 2024 from US$653/MT in the previous month. Impressively, this reflected a substantial year-over-year increase of US$61/MT. In the Philippines, the domestic Copra market saw a moderate rise from US$626/MT in December 2023 to US$628/MT in January 2024, though it remained US$7/MT higher than the corresponding period last year, when it stood at US$621/MT.

COCONUT OIL: Coconut Oil prices displayed a synchronized upward trend in Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka during January 2024. In Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price surged to US$1,126/MT, representing a 5% decrease from the preceding year. In the Philippines, the local market witnessed a settlement at US$1,124/MT, marking a US$8 reduction from the previous year. Indonesia experienced a surge, with the local price climbing to US$1,120/MT in January 2024 from US$1,118/MT in December 2023, indicating a US$16/MT decrease as opposed to January 2023.

COPRA MEAL: A nuanced picture emerges when examining Copra Meal prices. In the Philippines, the average domestic Copra Meal price was quoted at US$249/MT in January 2024, a slight dip from the previous month. Impressively, this price was US$51/MT lower than the same period last year. On the other hand, Indonesia observed an increase in the average domestic Copra Meal price, reaching US$257/MT in January 2024. Despite this increase, it marked a US$36/MT decrease from the previous year.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of DC FOB USA was higher at US$1,764/MT in January 2024, marking a US$110/MT decrease from the previous year. Sri Lanka reported an increased in the domestic price of Desiccated Coconut to US$1,771/MT, while the Philippines' DC price in the domestic market remained stable at US$2,039/MT. Indonesia's FOB price for DC rose to US$1,750/MT, surpassing both the previous month's and the previous year's figures of US$1,400/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In the Philippines, the average price of Coconut Shell Charcoal in January 2024 was US$360/MT which remained the same as the previous month. Indonesia's charcoal price experienced a slight increase to US$461/MT in January 2024, while Sri Lanka observed a marginal increase to US$328/MT.

COIR FIBRE: In Sri Lanka, Coir Fiber was traded domestically at an average price of US$56/MT for mix fiber and US$397-US$631/MT for bristle. In Indonesia, the price for mixed raw fiber remained unchanged at US$110/MT in January 2024, slightly higher than the price a year earlier at US$90/MT.

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

Products/Country	2024 Jan	2023 Dec	2023 Jan	2024 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	128	128	135	128
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	198	187	143	198
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	207	224	225	207
India (Domestic Kerala)	447	430	436	447
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	628	626	621	628
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	651	653	590	651
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,047	1,076	1,128	1,047
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,102	1,089	1,071	1,102
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,126	1,118	1,071	1,126
Philippines (Domestic)	1,124	1,132	1,140	1,124
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,120	1,118	1,136	1120
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,982	1,790	2,011	1,982
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,786	1,752	1,763	1,786
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	1,764	1,749	1,874	1,764
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,771	1,757	1,628	1,771
Indonesia (FOB)	1,750	1,720	1,400	1,750
India (Domestic)	1,822	1,711	1,455	1,822
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	249	252	300	249
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	292	285	288	292
Indonesia (Domestic)	257	253	293	257
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	360	360	370	360
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	328	313	328	328
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	461	455	461	461
India (Domestic)	329	329	434	329
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	56	58	42	56
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	397	411	373	397
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	631	565	455	631
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	110	110	90	110
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	978	966	1,060	978
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	845	814	942	845
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	971	1,062	1,352	971

Exchange Rate

Jan 31, '24 1 US$ = P56.23 or Rp15,761 or India Rs83.03 or SL Rs315.47

1 Euro = US$1.09 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF DESICCATED COCONUT

Desiccated coconut, a key ingredient in various food and beverage products worldwide, has seen notable fluctuations in prices and export volumes in recent years. Throughout 2023, the desiccated coconut market witnessed a downward trend in prices across key producing countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. In the Philippines, the average price per metric ton dropped to US$1,768, marking a significant 24% decrease compared to the previous year. Similarly, Indonesia and Sri Lanka experienced declines in average monthly prices, with Indonesia recording US$1,470 per metric ton and Sri Lanka US$1,641 per metric ton, reflecting decreases of 12% and 6.7%, respectively.

Several factors contribute to the declining prices of desiccated coconut. Weak demand from major importing regions, including European countries and the USA, is a significant driver. High inflation rates in these regions have diminished consumer purchasing power, leading to reduced demand for coconut products. Additionally, anticipated economic slowdowns could further dampen demand and consequently impact prices in the desiccated coconut market.

The global demand for desiccated coconut has been on a downward trajectory, continuing the trend observed in 2021 and 2022. Notably, there has been a substantial decrease in global imports, primarily driven by diminishing demand in European countries. Import volumes in the EU27 are expected to drop by 23%, with US imports forecasted to decrease by over 28%. Over the past decade, both the EU27 and the US have shown slight decreases in demand for desiccated coconut, with compound annual growth rates (CAGR) of -1.4% and -3.3%, respectively.

As demand from major importing countries has been weakening, imports of desiccated coconut from the Philippines, a significant exporter of desiccated coconut, has displayed a downward trend in 2023. During January-September 2023, the country exported 116,655 metric tons to the global market representing a 4.2% decline compared to the same period the previous year. It is worth noting that the Philippines had been showing a consistent growth trajectory in recent years. Export volumes peaked at 160,117 metric tons in 2021 before maintaining a steady figure of 156,930 tons in 2022.

Figure 1. Monthly Price of Desiccated Coconut (US$/MT), January 2018- December 2023

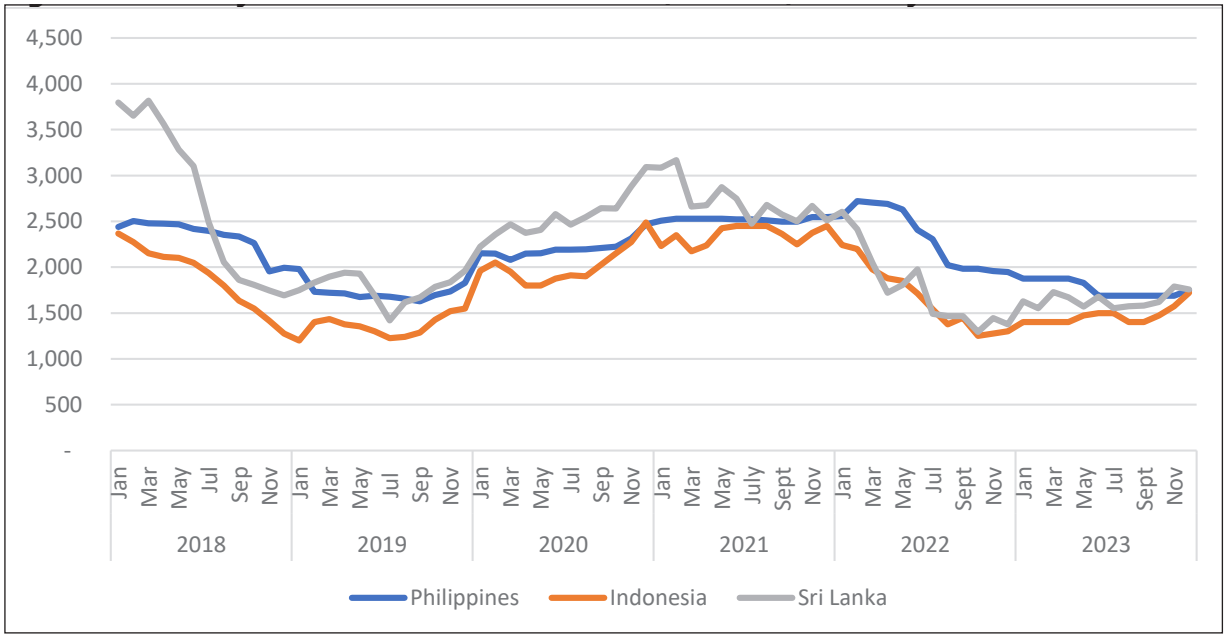


Table 1. Import Volume (MT) of Desiccated Coconut, 2014-2023

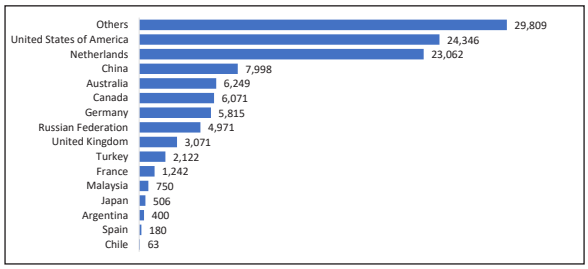
Year	World	EU27	US
2014	420,373	103,376	52,259
2015	440,774	94,421	53,696
2016	423,896	104,508	48,107
2017	439,129	111,551	46,590
2018	458,789	108,320	48,067
2019	451,727	103,385	45,531
2020	483,005	100,657	41,056
2021	517,302	115,103	53,568
2022	466,941	118,291	54,372
2023F	393,132	91,160	38,741

Source: ITC and US Census Bureau F: forecasted figures

Top export destinations for Philippine desiccated coconut during this period included the United States of America and the Netherlands, importing 24,346 metric tons and 23,062 metric tons, respectively. Other significant destinations comprised China, Australia, Canada, Germany, and Russia, each importing over 4,000 metric tons. This data underscores the robust demand for desiccated coconut across North America, Europe, and Asia.

Indonesia, another major player in the desiccated coconut market, has experienced fluctuations in export volumes in recent years. While exports declined to 98,742 metric tons in

Figure 2. Export Destinations of Desiccated Coconut from Philippines, January-September 2023 (MT)

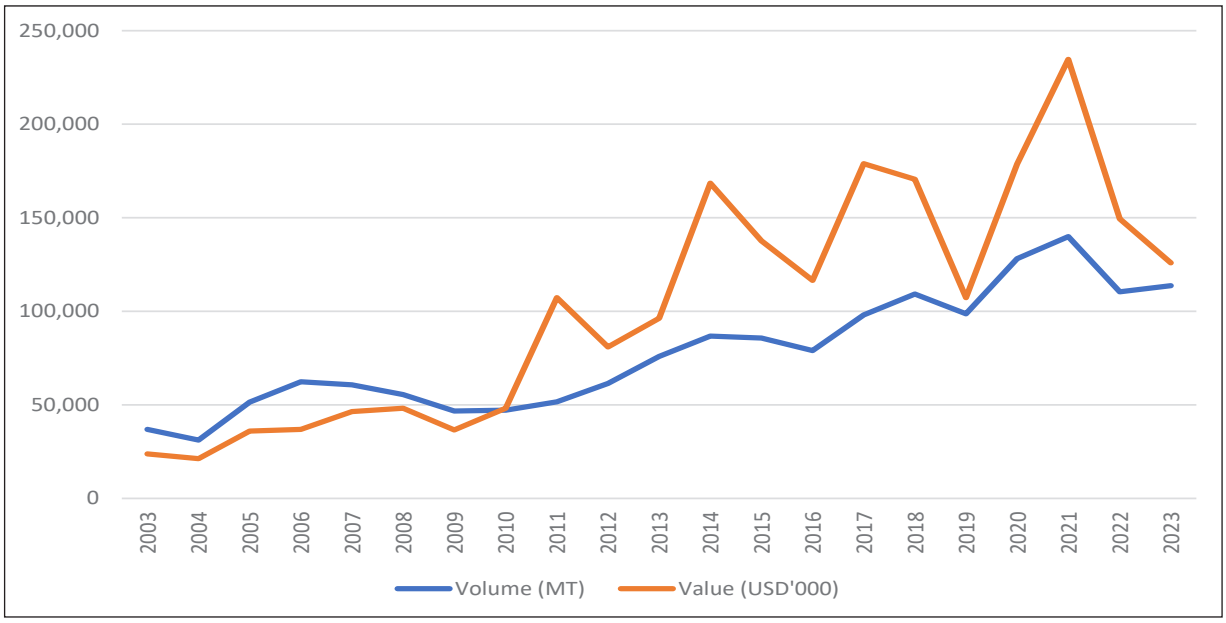


2019, they rebounded to 128,087 metric tons in 2020 and peaked at 139,932 metric tons in 2021. However, export volumes dipped to 110,455 metric tons in 2022 before recovering to 113,670 metric tons in 2023 amid a weak supply of desiccated coconut from the Philippines.

Indonesia's primary export markets for desiccated coconut include Singapore, Russia, Germany, UAE, China, and Brazil, which also represent significant importers. Over the past two decades, Indonesian export desiccated coconut has shown an increasing trend, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.9%.

The desiccated coconut market is subject to various factors influencing both prices and export volumes. While weakening demand from major importing regions has contributed to declining prices, exporters like the Philippines and Indonesia continue to navigate these challenges.

Figure 3. Exports of Desiccated Coconut from Indonesia, 2003-2023



COMMUNITY NEWS

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE TO SAVE COCONUT PLANTATIONS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

Based on forecasts from both local and international weather departments, it is anticipated that the ongoing El Nino climate phenomenon may intensify during the upcoming yala season of this year. Consequently, there is a high likelihood of significant damage to various crops, including coconut cultivation, in Sri Lanka.

In light of this issue, the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industry, Mr. Mahinda Amaraweera, has directed the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industry to initiate a collaborative initiative aimed at safeguarding coconut production in Sri Lanka.

During the forthcoming yala season, we will see a significant drought, particularly due to the occurrence of the El Nino climate phenomenon. During the El Niño phenomenon, there is a possibility of the rainy season seeing an abundance of rainfall, while the dry conditions during the Yala season may become exceptionally severe.

To mitigate the effects of El Nino climate change on coconut cultivation in this country, it is advisable to excavate coconut pits and preserve moisture in the coconut plantations. Additionally, covering the roots of coconut trees with coconut husks will enhance their resilience to drought conditions

According to the current observations, it is essential to prepare at least 16 specially prepared coconut pits per acre of coconut land. The technology for preparing these special coconut pits is to be provided by the Coconut Development Board.

The government has allocated an amount of 300 million rupees for the programs implemented to save coconut cultivation from El Nino climate change. 360,000 coconut saplings are also prepared to be planted.

The Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industry Mr. Mahinda Amaraweera instructed the Coconut Research Institute to start a program to inform the farmers engaged in coconut cultivation regarding the rescue of coconut plantations from the impending drought.

For this purpose, the Minister informed that the Coconut Development Authority, Lunuwila Coconut Research Institute as well as the Coconut Development Board should work together and provide them with the necessary technical knowledge to protect private sector plantations.

A discussion on this matter was held last Friday at the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries. The Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Mr. Janaka Dharmakeerthi and other high officials of the Ministry as well as heads of institutions dealing with coconut cultivation were also present. *(DailyNews)*

GOVERNMENT OF FIJI PLEDGES TO PROMOTE THE COCONUT INDUSTRY PROGRESS

The government is dedicated to advancing the coconut sector and enhancing income by expanding coconut consumption.

Sakiusa Tubuna, Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, emphasized this point during the inauguration of the Bu replanting and coconut training workshop in Vakacoko settlement in Naboro, in January.

He highlights that copra remains the most traded coconut commodity in Fiji, with virgin coconut oil production gaining popularity in rural and maritime communities.

Tubuna states that Fiji boasts approximately 10 million coconut trees spread across an area of

around 65,000 hectares of land, with 70 percent situated in the Northern Division.

However, he says 65 percent of these trees are senile and require replanting.

The Assistant Minister also shared that the focus of the training is to economically empower and enhance the Bu coconut knowledge base in rural communities.

He says the training aims to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills for sustainable replanting, promoting livelihoods in the process.

Tubuna also notes that, according to their survey, Suva requires approximately 5,000 Bu nuts daily, but we are unable to meet this demand, hence the initiation of this program. *(FBC News)*

LOCALLY MADE COCONUT OIL 'KERAGRAM' HAVE LAUNCHED BY KARUMALLOOR FARMERS

Coconut farmers in Karumalloor panchayat have taken a step forward by launching locally made coconut oil under the brand name 'Keragram'.

The product was introduced as part of an attempt by the Karumalloor Krishi Bhavan, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, to boost coconut production.

The farmers are currently using a newly established mill in the settlement area as part of the Kerala Gramam programme. The mill has a daily production capacity of 25 kg to 30 kg of coconut oil.

Accordingly, the farmers are utilising a mill that was recently set up in the settlement area under the Kerala Gramam programme. The mill has capacity to produce 25 kg to 30 kg of coconut oil a day.

The farmers had taken up cultivation of a variety of sugarcane released by the Sugarcane Breeding Institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in Coimbatore. The plan was to set up a jaggery production unit to utilise the sugarcane harvest in the three localities.

Farmers in the neighbourhoods of Karumalloor have also tried to revive cultivation of sesame seeds. The crop can be grown during the dry season, and Karumalloor and Manakkappady are the two localities that had taken up sesame cultivation.

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'KUYAMIS' FESTIVAL: THE COCONUT-RICH MISOR 94TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The commemoration of Misamis Oriental's 94th founding anniversary and Kuyamis Festival would include the inauguration of a coconut processing factory worth PHP150 million.

"Kuyamis" is a vernacular term used to refer to the plentiful supply of young coconuts found in the province, particularly in the eastern region.

The coconut processing facility is managed by the First Integrated Community Cooperative, the largest cooperative in Northern Mindanao, in the municipality of Balingasag.

Meanwhile, for the first time, all 23 towns and two component cities are participating in the Miss Kuyamis 2024 beauty pageant.

The coronation ceremony took place on January 10th.

Other major events are street dancing on Jan. 11 and the awarding of the booth contest on Jan. 12 at the Pelaez Sports Complex.

In an interview, Provincial Administrator John Venice Ladaga said Governor Peter Unabi will deliver his provincial address, also on Jan. 12 at Pelaez Sports Complex.

The governor's address will focus on programs on employment, livelihood, education, and housing to reduce the poverty incidence rate, which currently stands at 25 percent. *(Philippine News Agency)*

INDIAN SPECIALISTS HELPING GUYANA BOOST COCONUT PRODUCTION

Guyana is experiencing an increase in coconut cultivation and the expansion of the industry. However, Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha has stated that Indian professionals are providing assistance to local experts in order to further enhance production.

In 2023, the government imported 26,000 high-yielding Brazilian Green Dwarf seed nuts out of a total of 40,000 coconut seedlings produced. This was done to boost the production capacity.

A total of 216 farmers were engaged in the cultivation of this variety.

In addition, an additional 1,274 acres of farmland were cultivated last year, leading to a 10% increase in acreage in 2023 compared to 2020.

What the government hopes to do is decentralise production. So 297 farmers from Regions Two, Three, Four, Five, Six and 10 benefited from training in aspects of coconut production. Coconut seedlings are also being produced at 10 nurseries located in Regions One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six and Nine.

The Agriculture Minister recently said these efforts are helping Guyana increase coconut production.

"They (the farmers) have shown a very keen interest and we have seen since 2020, with the effort we have made and the investment we have made, we've seen the increase in cultivation and production.

"We are working with groups across the country and areas, I started off with Pomeroon because Pomeroon have large cultivation of coconut… but we will be working with other groups across the country over time. We have groups on the East Bank, Mahaicony, this will be a continuous process," Minister Mustapha said.

Indian specialists are also helping Guyana boost production.

"Recently we had two specialists come from India to look at the Coconut industry and they are now compiling their report and we are hoping that shortly we can have that report and implement the recommendations to help us with coconut production across the country." the Agriculture Minister said.

Meanwhile, Mustapha highlighted that the government is also focused on expanding the coconut industry by creating coconut products. A total of eight fiber machines have been acquired and are scheduled to be operational in multiple regions by the end of the month. These machines will be used to produce coconut fiber and coco peat. *(News Room)*

FIRST COCONUT WASTE TREATMENT PLANT IN SEWRI, MUMBAI TREATS 12,000 KG/DAY COCO WASTE

Normally, the city disposes of around 400 metric tons of coconut trash by dumping it in landfills. However, the F/south ward has managed to repurpose nearly 12 metric tonnes of coconut garbage by utilizing the city's first coconut waste treatment plant.

In a bid to treat the coco waste, the civic body has joined hands with an NGO to set up a coconut waste to energy plant in Mumbai's Sewri. Operational since the past three months, the plant processes nearly 12,000 kg worth of

coconut waste daily—collected from the city's F/South ward—to generate coco fibre and coco pit, which is being used to produce over 300 types of products ranging from ropes to bricks.

Presently, the city generates approximately 400 metric tonnes of coconut garbage on a daily basis, which is collected by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and disposed of at the Kanjurmarg and Deonar dumping sites. . Experts state that untreated coconut trash requires approximately one year to undergo decomposition.

Kailash Narayan Khose from the NGO Shivsneh Samajik Pratishthan, which has set up the plant, told Express, "While studying about coconut waste, I spent several days at Kanjurmarg and Deonar landfills. It was observed that the coconut waste remained untreated. In fact, whenever there are fires in landfills, this coconut waste acts as fuel for the fire and prevents the blaze from extinguishing. This generates huge amounts of methane which is harmful to the environment."

In an effort to address the issue, Kailash travelled the length and breadth of the country—including plants at Sindhudurg, Bangalore, Chennai and Kerala—to study the mechanism of a coconut treatment plant, before setting up the Mumbai plant at a cost of Rs 60 lakh, last year. *(The Indian Express)*

COCONUT WASTE IS BEING TRANSFORMED INTO COCOPEAT AND MANURE

In a bid to free Mohali of garbage, the Municipal Corporation has decided to process coconut waste into cocopeat and coco-manure.

MC commissioner Navjot Kaur said that the MC, which allots tenders and sites for sale of green coconut, observed that used coconut shells were thrown as waste by sellers.

Therefore, the civic body came up with the idea of collecting empty coconut shells from vendors and using these as cocopeat and coco-manure.

MC commissioner Navjot Kaur said, "We have installed an apparatus to manage waste coconut. Coconut waste from the city is transported to the resource management centre (RMC) at Ph 3A, where we make cocopeat and coco-manure. Coconut fibre, coir shredding and extraction machine with a capacity of 1.5 ton per day has been installed. It was made operational in August this year."

Elaborating on the initiative, Aarzoo Tanwar, supervisor of the resource management centre said that empty green coconut shells are transported by the vendor to the RMC site where the coconut waste processing unit is set up.

The shell is converted into coir and coconut fibre using coconut shredder (shredding machine). Cocopeat is made from coconut coir by sieving it in a machine. Cocopeat made from coconut waste is used to make cow dung briquettes. She explained that cow dung briquettes were a viable alternative to conventional firewood, electricity or LPG gas used for cremation purposes. Besides, she said, it was being promoted as a cost-effective fuel for cremation.

According to her, the process of peeling a coconut involves utilizing a shredding machine, which is used to obtain the coir.

Subsequently, the material is subjected to a drying process and then passed through a filter to separate the cocopeat. Approximately 80% of the coir is served to get cocopeat, while the remaining 20% is allocated for composting in order to provide manure. *(The Times of India)*

THIS ARTIST CONVERTS COCONUT SHELLS INTO FASHIONABLE JEWELRY

The coconut tree, commonly referred to as the "tree of life," has been widely recognized for its adaptability and numerous applications. This tree provides a range of practical uses, including

its stems, fruit, and even its leaves. The coconut shell, typically considered as waste, has now been repurposed in the realms of fashion and jewelry.

Nghia Dai Nguyen, a 45-year-old artist based in Hue, Vietnam, discovered a novel use for this already resourceful tree – handcrafted jewelry.

The project started in 2007 but was temporarily halted when Nghia had to go overseas. It resumed in 2018 upon his return to Vietnam and has since become his family's primary source of income. Necklaces and a pair of earrings are sold for 50,000 VND (around ₱114).

The process of creating these handcrafted jewelry pieces begins by cleaning and sorting coconut shells based on their shapes. They then carve the shells to their desired shape and apply a lacquer base, typically made from gardenia or synthetic compounds. After this, they let it dry and harden. Once the initial layer is set, they move on to applying the main lacquer layer, forming an abrasive mixture of paint, glue, and mineral powder. This blend creates a glossy, durable surface.

Artists may choose to enhance the design by incorporating eggshells or seashells and adding patterns using bronze or aluminum pieces. Bamboo is also used in the jewelry-making process.

The option to use recycled coconut shells in his handcrafted jewelry was due to their accessibility and the product's inherent traditional value. "The art brings a unique traditional handmade technique of Southeast Asian people. These products are environmentally friendly and safe for humans," Nghia said. "The material source is easily accessible and inexpensive, perceived by some as discarded items."

Nghia highlighted some challenges in his line of work, emphasizing the need for innovation and continuous improvement. "We must consistently change designs, elevate aesthetic standards, and constantly improve to create products distinct from others," he continued.

In a constantly evolving landscape of design, Nghia shared how the intersection of environmental consciousness and fashion has influenced his ideas. "We recognize that environmentally friendly products will be sustainable – the future goal of humanity. Being conscious of fashion enables us to grasp consumer trends year after year," he said.

The coconut's transformation from a fruit to a fashion statement exemplifies the limitless potential of our natural resources, as more people discover creative methods to repurpose waste into visually appealing and practical objects. *(Manila Bulletin)*

CACAO, COCONUT FARMERS' GROUPS IN CAMARINES SUR TO GET P4.2-M AID

The Department of Agriculture-5 (Bicol) plans to allocate PHP4.2 million in agricultural interventions for cocoa and coconut farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) in Camarines Sur. This distribution is set to begin, according to an official statement made.

Lovella Guarin, the spokesperson for the Department of Agriculture (DA), said 16 coconut and cacao FCAs with more than 100 farmer-members from 12 towns of the province will receive assistance under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), which aims to increase income, productivity and social equity, promote education, alleviate poverty and modernize the Philippine coconut industry.

She said, "PHP2.25 million worth of interventions for the rehabilitation and PHP1.95 for the expansion of the cacao plantations will be given to the 16 FCAs in the province. The distribution will be conducted this month since the interventions are all for delivery already."

"The project aims to provide support to smallholder coconut farmers and their families to assist them in gaining sustainable employment and income by intercropping cacao and coffee.

It will also maximize the utilization of coconut lands for increased productivity, increase the level of local sufficiency for coffee and cacao, develop community-based enterprises, and capacitate farmers to conserve and protect the natural resources that support their livelihoods," Guarin said.

The interventions encompass seedlings, organic fertilizer, and farming gear, as she pointed out.

The government aid will be provided to the following FCAs: Malabog Integrated Farmers Association of Caramoan town; Del Vega Farmers Association Inc. of Baao; Baao Upland Farmers Association; Monte Calvario Smart Farmers Cooperative of Buhi; Aliar Coconut Farmers Agriculture Coop. of San Fernando; and the Calabanga Cacao Growers Association, among others. *(Philippine News Agency)*

THE PCA PROJECT AIMS TO PLANT 8.5 MILLION COCONUT SEEDLINGS IN 2024

The Philippine Coconut Authority's Massive Coconut Planting and Replanting Project, coinciding with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s commitment to the objective of planting 100 million coconut trees by 2028, is set to plant at least 8.5 million coconut seedlings this 2024, after planting more than 2.1 million coconut seedlings in 2023.

Administrator Bernie F. Cruz states that the PCA predicts the quantity of seedlings to be planted in 2024 based on its available stocks and the number of seednuts currently sown in its nurseries, which the PCA has amassed in part through partnerships with local government units (LGUs) and coconut farmers' cooperatives and without any additional funding beyond its regular budget.

"We made use of remaining funds from previous years to partner with supportive LGUs and cooperatives to establish nurseries and expand our sources of planting materials, in compliance with the President's directives," said Cruz. "We are also maximizing our resources and stepping up our efforts in our regular planting programs."

Last October, the President reiterated the Administration's commitment to the Massive Coconut Planting and Replanting Project, which the PCA designed to address increasing senility and loss of bearing trees. The PCA had previously created a Task Force for Massive Coconut Planting and Replanting and Productivity Enhancement primarily tasked with undertaking partnerships with LGUs, coconut farmers' organizations and cooperatives, and the private and business sectors in a "whole-of-nation" approach to reach the planting targets.

Currently, more than one million seedlings are expected to be produced from provincial or communal nurseries established through partnerships with the municipalities of Sampaloc, Quezon, and Sulat, Eastern Samar; the provincial government of Camarines Sur; and the Kalipunan ng Maliliit na Magniniyog ng Pilipinas Agricultural Cooperative of Jaro, Leyte, and San Lorenzo Ruiz Farmers Agricultural Cooperative of San Lorenzo Ruiz, Camarines Sur.

Cruz anticipates a substantial increase in the amount of seedlings for planting in the coming years to rise significantly as more than two million "parental palms" shall be planted this year, which in turn shall be used to produce more high-quality planting materials under the PCA's Coconut Hybridization Program.

The Massive Coconut Planting and Replanting is an exceptional endeavor that has been carried out throughout the country since the 1970s. Cruz lauds the President's vision in supporting a multi-year effort where the benefits will be fully realized after his term in office.

"The President expressly told us not to worry about political terms. While the planting goal is for 2028, he told us to abide by a plan that looks ahead in terms of fully rehabilitating the coconut industry and ensuring that every peso invested is well-spent. We appreciate and share

the President's commitment in this regard," said Cruz. *(Manila Standard)*

PLANS UNDERWAY TO PROTECT SRI LANKAN COCONUT PLANTATIONS FROM EL NINO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

According to a senior official from the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries, the government has allocated Rs. 300 million to programs aimed at saving local coconut plantations from the El Nino climate impact, while 360,000 coconut saplings are also in the process of being planted.

The official told The Island Financial Review that the prediction made by the Meteorological Department as well as the international weather departments is that the current El Nino climate situation may further develop in the upcoming Yala season this year. In other words, there is a possibility that other crops as well as coconut cultivation in Sri Lanka will be severely affected.

Taking this matter into consideration, Agriculture and Plantation Industries Minister Mahinda Amaraweera instructed officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries recently to implement a joint program in order to protect coconut cultivation in Sri Lanka.

"We will have to face a severe drought in the upcoming Yala season, especially during the El Nino climate change process. During the El Niño process, there is a chance that the rainy season will receive excessive rains and the drought conditions will become extremely severe during the Yala season, Amaraweera said.

Meanwhile, informed sources said: 'In order to minimize the impact of El Nino climate change on the coconut cultivation in this country, digging coconut pits and protecting the moisture in the coconut plantations, as well as covering the roots of coconut trees with coconut husks, will enable the plantations to face the drought to a certain extent.

'According to current observations, it is essential to prepare at least 16 specially prepared coconut pits per acre of coconut land. The technology for preparing these special coconut pits is to be provided by the Coconut Development Board.'

Amaraweera instructed the Coconut Research Institute to launch a program to inform farmers engaged in coconut cultivation regarding measures to rescue coconut plantations from the impending drought.

Amaraweera emphasized the need for collaboration among the Coconut Development Authority, Lunuwila Coconut Research Institute, and the Coconut Development Board to equip farmers with essential technical knowledge to protect private sector plantations.

A recent deliberation on this issue took place in the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries. The presence of Agriculture Ministry Secretary Janaka Dharmakirthi, together with other senior officials from the ministry and the heads of institutes involved in coconut production, was also noted. *(The Island)*

RAVU DISTRIBUTES 500 LIME PLANTS AND 200 COCONUT SEEDLINGS TO RESIDENTS OF TALAULIA VILLAGE, KADAVU

To assist the landowners utilize the land and generate income, Minister for Fisheries and Forestry Kalaveti Ravu handed over 500 lime plants and 200 coconut seedlings to villages in Talaulia, Kadavu.

While officiating at the handing over, Ravu says it is important to address the poverty among resource owners across the nation and also for resource owners to align themselves with the government's plan to ensure readily available assistance.

In addition, he has encouraged resource owners to consider the well-being of future generations and how their investments can be advantageous for them.

Ravu says the establishment of a cooperative was also encouraged among villagers to facilitate government assistance in various sectors. *(Fiji Village)*

AKWA IBOM PARTNERS NSIA AND OCP TO REPOSITION COCONUT REFINERY, FERTILIZER/AMMONIA PRODUCTION

The Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Pastor Umo Eno, Pastor Umo Eno, has sealed a partnership deal with the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) and OCP Africa, with the aim of focusing on four strategic investment sectors.

The governor disclosed this during a meeting with a delegation from NSIA and OCP Africa at the Government House, Uyo, over the weekend.

He affirmed his government's dedication to partnering with professionals from other disciplines to further the state's development, in line with the campaign commitments established in the administration's 'ARISE Agenda' blueprint.

While acknowledging that the government's role isn't to engage in business but to create a conducive environment for investors and businesses to thrive, he cited the success of Ibom Air as an example of the government facilitating a business-friendly atmosphere.

"We want to work with you on the greenhouses and commercial farming, a special warehouse for the blending plant—we have one in Nsit Ubium, and we can offer that one right now. Since God has given me the privilege to be in the driver's seat now, I will do everything I can to make this happen, and we have a good team here. The stage is set for the economic development of the state," he declared.

To advance this collaboration, the governor constituted a team on the government side, comprising the Managing Director of Akwa Ibom Investment Corporation (AKICORP), Pastor Imo Abasi Jacob, Commissioner for Agriculture, Dr. Offiong Offor, Executive Director of Agriculture Investment, Pastor Godwin Ukwat, and the immediate past Chairman of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the State, Mr. Gabriel Ukpe. They will work alongside selected members of the investors' team to facilitate the process.

In his remarks, the MD/CEO of NSIA, Aminu Umar-Sadiq, said the essence of the meeting was to discuss three key areas of investment which he listed to include Ammonia production and Ammonia phosphate plant, Coconut refinery and Green agriculture.

He said, "We came on a visit to the Governor along with our partners called OCP Africa to discuss three areas of investment, first is around Ammonia production and the ammonia phosphate plant.

"The second is around a coconut refinery that is in Akwa Ibom State. NSIA and OCP want to bring their financial and agricultural expertise to bear in order to enhance the utilisation of the coconut refinery and backward integrate the production of coconut in the State.

"The third area of collaboration is that there are greenhouses which OCP has extensive expertise and capital to put those green houses into effective use.

"The fourth is to put in place a blending unit so that there can be a plant for blending fertilisers in Akwa Ibom State."

Mr. Umar-Sadiq stated that NSIA and OCP has for the last six years jointly run a programme called the Presidential Fertilizer Initiative where Nigeria has imported phosphate fertiliser from OCP, adding that this is an attempt to actually begin to produce the ammonia phosphate locally in Nigeria.

As per his statement, upon implementation, the project will guarantee substantial economic growth, remarkable employment prospects, and establish the State as a center for industrial operations. *(Leadership)*

A NOVEL INITIATIVE INTRODUCES BROWN SOUTH INDIAN COCONUTS

JVI Imports has recently received its initial shipments of brown coconuts from India. This program is a recent addition to the organization and is specifically designed for the import division of John Vena, Inc., a wholesaler based in Philadelphia.

India has long been a major supplier of brown coconuts, also known as dry coconuts or mature coconuts, to Europe and the Middle East. Still, they are relatively new as a supplier to the U.S. market. U.S. demand is currently fulfilled primarily by fruit from the Dominican Republic, but the team anticipates a strong market for Indian coconuts.

"Based on the volumes and quality being produced by Indian growers and the market conditions there, we expect this Indian product to compete very favorably with other exporting countries here in the U.S.," says John Vena, president. "We have been very impressed with the ability of our Indian grower partners to produce and ship high-quality coconuts that can compete with the best here in the U.S., but at a very competitive price point."

JVI Imports' key partner is Vashini Exports, a family-owned grower in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It has many decades of experience growing, packing and shipping coconuts and maintains a strong commitment to food safety and traceability with Global GAP and organic certifications. Thanks to the growing conditions, fruit can be harvested and shipped year-round.

"Vashini understands all the boxes that must be ticked and then go above and beyond to add value by offering, for instance, sized coconuts which are currently a rarity in the U.S.," says Vena. "We hope to change that as we build partnerships with retailers and understand their preferences in diameter, counts and pack sizes."

VI Imports will target both retail and foodservice markets, with a focus on ethnic retailers. "Dry coconuts are becoming a more common sight in the tropical section of mainstream produce departments near pineapples and mangoes, but the bulk of the demand is still being driven by ethnic markets where brown coconuts are a staple part of the weekly shop," says Emily Kohlhas, marketing managers. She also reports that there will be a particular focus on retailers that serve Indian, Southeast Asian and Latino communities.

While the initial program is focused on the year-round availability of bulk dry brown coconuts, the team is already planning an expansion to include additional SKUS, including Easy-Open coconuts and brown coconuts with PLU labeling.

Kohlhas emphasizes the need for continued consumer education about coconuts. "Brown coconuts are not used for their water – they're a source of fresh coconut meat. There is some clear coconut water in them, but it tends to have an off, slightly fermented flavor so it's generally discarded. It's important to emphasize these differences when training produce department staff." *(Fresh Plaza)*

COCONUT BUSINESS BOOMING IN TAKORADI, GHANA

The coconut industry is flourishing in the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis due to the increasing demand for the commodity, likely driven by its health advantages and nutritional value derived from consuming coconut water and fruit.

Exploring some streets in the metropolis unveiled the presence of dynamic young individuals who have made coconut readily accessible on trucks at strategic locations for convenient purchase and consumption.

Furthermore, inquiries have shown that numerous farmers are engaging in the cultivation of coconut as a result of the substantial market demand for this commodity. The majority of farmers are located in rural areas, where the farms are established on a significant size.

A 27-year-old man who gave his name only as 'Shatta', who has been in the business for close to five years, he has his own coconut farm at Beahu in the Ahanta West District.

He told that unlike some of his colleagues, he is capable of climbing the coconut tree himself to pluck the coconut needed for the market every time.

He also pointed out thatcoco prospective sellers should ensure that their choice of location was visible and easily accessible to consumers.

He mentioned such places as bus stops, markets, commercial areas, school campuses, bus stations, and near road traffics among others.

For his part, Kaku Abraham from the Nzema area of the region who also plies his business in the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis indicated that the cost of starting a coconut business depends on the capital the person has at his or her disposal.

"I invested GHS2,000 in the business and by the grace of God, I am making some profits," he revealed. He also mentioned that at the initial stages, he had to locate coconut farmers who have the product available for the market.

"Then I hired a coconut truck, bought a short cutlass, packaging bags and drinking straws. Now I have my own truck and the business is booming," he added.

On some of the challenges they face, Kaku Abraham noted that since coconut farmers are mostly found in rural areas, the transportation fee in conveying the product to the selling points in the metropolis is costly, and that results in the increase of the price of coconut on the market.

"Now the price of one coconut is five or six Ghana cedis, and some consumers are complaining but it's not our doing.

"We also find it difficult to get a place to dispose the refuse or the coconut husks after the day's work, and we have pay for the vehicles or trucks that come to take them for proper disposal," he indicated. *(Daily Guide Network)*

THE COCONUT INDUSTRY IN GUYANA IS GROWING AS ITS PRODUCTS GAIN GLOBAL POPULARITY

It is hoped that the value inherent in the reality of "1,000 acres of coconut production being anticipated in Guyana" can be recognized by all. It is anticipated that Guyana can be a significant participant in the Global Coconut Market, which was valued at USD 18510.92 million in 2022, with an expected expansion at a CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of 13.56% during the forecast period, thereby reaching USD 39703.85 million by 2028. Thus, a good 'coconut' drive is being undertaken by Guyana, as "... coconuts continue to be produced on a large scale in the country, making it one of the most significant crops in the nation as a result of the sector's diversification."

Looking back, this year alone, some 13,000 high-yielding Brazilian green dwarf coconut seed nuts were received by Guyana at a cost of $12 million to expand coconut production, and according to Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, "... Guyana is in the process of bringing in another 13,000 coconuts, specifically since nurseries are being constructed across Guyana." Perhaps it is time for the public to be informed about what is happening in the coconut industry worldwide, in terms of awareness. First, it is common knowledge that coconut milk products are growing in popularity globally, due to growing consumer concern over animal health and the rise in the number of people who cannot tolerate lactose. Increased awareness, the impact of the pandemic, expanding product portfolios, and increased research & development are factors propelling the global coconut products industry, and Guyanese must understand this and help push the coconut industry in the country.

Then, it is known that coconut oil is increasingly being used by cosmetic industries to create

soaps and oils for hair and skin care. Due to its moisturizing properties, coconut oil-based personal care products are gaining popularity in the personal care industry. The market for coconut products is expected to grow over the coming years due to the massive demand for coconut oil in cosmetics and its increasing popularity in food applications. Here again, with knowledge of these 'coconut' facts, it is necessary to take advantage of our land, as the People's Progressive Party/Civic Government is heavily investing in this sector. The word is quite promising, as the minister detailed that "An increase of over 5,000 acres in coconuts has been seen since we assumed office in August 2020. This year, we are hoping to achieve another 1,000 acres. And this came about because we have seen great interest in the coconut industry." The forecast seems promising as there are already "10 coconut nurseries spread across Regions One, Two, Three, Four, Six, Nine, and 10, and the PPP/C Government intends to expand the initiative to other regions due to the excellent potential for coconuts." Can anyone doubt that we indeed have the potential?

The second thing to consider is that coconut lends itself to many by-products, as components of waste materials are now being used in the agricultural sector for mulching and other agriculture-related purposes, including actual coconut cultivation. In this regard, the foresight of the Agriculture Head is commendable. He explained that "Fibre machines have also been brought in where the byproduct of coconuts is now being used, and farmers' groups across the country are being helped by making it available where they are using the husks for several purposes... A lot of by-products will be created from coconut. The industry is well poised." Then, regarding the actual science of the industry, two specialists from India who recently visited Guyana conducted a study and compiled a report. This report will surely help in fine-tuning the industry. It is important to note that India has a specialized agricultural authority to support and maintain exports and domestic output. In India, there is the Indian Coconut Development Board, whose job is to promote the integration, diversification, and productivity of coconut products. No wonder, the Asia Pacific region continues to drive market revenue growth due to climatic advantages and development resources. Guyana can only benefit from this kind of backing. *(Stabroek News)*

FIJI GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO PROMOTE THE COCONUT INDUSTRY

The government maintains its dedication to advancing the coconut business and enhancing income by expanding the use of coconuts.

Sakiusa Tubuna, the Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, emphasized this point during the inauguration of the Bu replanting and coconut training workshop in Vakacoko settlement in Naboro.

He highlights that copra remains the most traded coconut commodity in Fiji, with virgin coconut oil production gaining popularity in rural and maritime communities.

Tubuna states that Fiji boasts approximately 10 million coconut trees spread across an area of around 65,000 hectares of land, with 70 percent situated in the Northern Division.

However, he says 65 percent of these trees are senile and require replanting.

The Assistant Minister also shared that the focus of the training is to economically empower and enhance the Bu coconut knowledge base in rural communities.

He says the training aims to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills for sustainable replanting, promoting livelihoods in the process.

Tubuna also notes that, according to their survey, Suva requires approximately 5,000 Bu nuts daily, but we are unable to meet this demand, hence the initiation of this program. *(FBC News)*

FARMERS IN UDDANAM RECLAIMING COCONUT HERITAGE 5 YEARS AFTER CYCLONE DEVASTATION

Approximately five years following the devastation caused by hurricane Titli, which resulted in the destruction of a significant number of coconut trees in the Uddanam region of Srikakulam district, coconut farmers are now making a remarkable recovery by engaging in extensive cultivation of coconut trees. The Uddanam region, often referred to as the northern coastal Andhra Pradesh's equivalent of Konaseema, is renowned for its coconut production. Coconut production has revitalized the region, covering an expansive area of over 32,000 acres.

In October 2018, seven mandals in the district bore the brunt of cyclone Titli with heavy destruction of coconut plantations. The cyclone uprooted more than five lakh coconut trees in Uddanam region.

District horticulture officer, Srikakulam, Prasad Ratnala said cyclone Titli had destroyed lakhs of coconut trees and it had taken the green sheen off Uddanam. The cyclone had destroyed the coconut plantation in around 35,000 acres in Uddanam region and it hit hard thousands of coconut farmers as production of the coconut dipped to around 20 per cent in the region.

Rise in demand for coconut water, copra, coir and natural fibre spun from the husk has made coconut trees a reassuring breadwinner for many families in our region, said GK Murthy, a coconut farmer in Uddanam region. Cyclone Titli created havoc for us as many of us incurred loss due to trees getting uprooted, he added.

Thanks to the support of Union and state governments, the Uddanam region bounced back with thousands of coconut trees being cultivated. With the support from the governments, the farmers planted east coast tall variety coconut in Uddanan region and reclaimed the livelihood opportunities. Before the cyclone Titli devastation, the area under coconut cultivation was around 35,000 acres, and now it is around 32,000 acres. It took almost five years to restore 80 per cent of the coconut trees. If all goes as per plans, the area under coconut cultivation in the district will cross 40,000 acres, Prasad Ratnala added. *(The Times of India)*

K1M TO REVIVE COCONUT INDUSTRY IN GULF PROVINCE

The Kokonas Indastri Koporesen has welcomed a commitment of K1 million by the Gulf Provincial Administration in 2024 to help develop the coconut industry in the province.

Gulf Provincial Administration's (GPA) funding allocation for this year (2024) has been boosted compared to K300,000 in 2023, which is an increase of K700,000 in 2024 to continue to revive the coconut industry in the Gulf Province with administrative, technical and capacity assistance from the Kokonas Indastri Koporesen (KIK).

Export Crop Coordinator of GPA, Bobby Orake announced this during a meeting in Kerema with a visiting team of KIK management and staff.

Mr Orake and other GPA staff welcomed the KIK team and announced the K1 million partnership funding to help revive the coconut industry in the Gulf Province.

"We need one KIK officer to be here to help us develop the industry in the province.

"We'll be looking to build a house and probably provide mobility for the officer that's going to be assigned to Gulf province," Mr Orake said.

He also requested for KIK to assist with buyers, importers and or to provide better markets for their farmers and coconut plantation owners as part of the package.

KIK, in its efforts to grow the coconut industry in Papua New Guinea, is currently hosting a ten

days meeting for its management and senior staff in Port Moresby to review the KIK 2023 fourth quarter program targeting Central and Gulf Provinces respectively and were in Kerema town for a meeting and to visit coconut nurseries in Gulf province, where they were welcomed with the good news.

Manager for industry capacity building and strengthening, Ephraim Tade, manager productivity (research), Alfred Kembu and senior coconut development officer for Southern Region, James Maora on behalf of the executive management of KIK have assured the GPA of KIK's continued support for the growth of the coconut industry in Gulf province.

The KIK management is currently conducting a review meeting from January 22nd to January 31st, 2024. During this meeting, they will analyze and determine their funding and support for the Gulf Province partnership.

Prior to their trip to the Gulf area, the KIK team also paid a visit to coconut farmers in Bautama, Boera, Papa, and Lealea villages in the Central province. *(Post Courier)*

NUTTY WAY TO MAKE MONEY - MYANMAR TO HOLD COCONUT-BASED PRODUCTS EXPO IN DELTA REGION

Myanmar organized the coconut-based products exhibition and competition in the delta region of Ayeyarwady, according to the Ayeyarwady Region's Myanmar Trade Promotion Organisation.

"It was the first event that solely included coconut-based products. Previously, coconut-based products were exhibited alongside various items at the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) products expos," U Nay Win Soe, an official from the Ayeyarwady Region's Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, told Xinhua.

The primary objective of the event was to showcase coconut-based products with export potential in the international market and to bolster support for local businesses, he said.

"As the event featured a competition, the participating exhibitors had a chance to receive awards for their products. Additionally, they could be selected for participation in international expos," he said.

The showcased coconut-based products covered various categories, including food products, consumer goods, cosmetics, and handicrafts made from coconuts, he said.

The event, which was held at the city hall of Pathein, the seat of Ayeyarwady Region, had a total of 30 display booths. The participants were anticipated not only from Ayeyarwady but also from other regions like Yangon and Tanintharyi, as stated by him.

The Ayeyarwady region and Rakhine state in Myanmar accounted for 60 percent of the nation's overall coconut production, with additional contributions from the Mon state and Tanintharyi region. *(The Star)*

RIVERS COMMUNITY MOVES TO ENGAGE ON COMMERCIAL COCONUT FARMING

In an effort to commercialise coconut production, a community in Rivers state, South-South, Nigeria, is set to embark on commercial coconut farming for the year 2024.

Specifically speaking at the annual 'Coconut Festival,' recently held at Asarama-ija, Andoni in Rivers, Mr. Inwon Urang, paramount ruler, Asarama-ija community in Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers, said coconut farming is a veritable investment capable of enhancing employment and the local economy.

According to him, the community is working towards making coconut farming a "key economic pursuit" as it is making efforts towards commercializing coconut production.

"We have acquired a verse piece of land basically for planting of improved species of coconut because we are looking beyond the festival.

"Coconut is an economic tree suitable for our terrain, and we hope to develop it. We will start off the plantation with about 2,000 coconut stands in the first phase of the project.

"Currently, the community has about 3,000 coconut trees with a yearly harvest of over 10,000 coconuts, which is why we are working on an investment plan along the coconut value chain," he said.

Coconut and its bi-products are of great economic values, so we look forward to partnering with government and private entrepreneurs in that regard.

A counsellor representing the Asarama-ija ward, Mr Atajit Urang, commended the leadership of the community for consistency in sponsoring the festival.

The counsellor noted that the annual celebration had further strengthened peace and united the people and neighbouring communities in the area.

Similarly, an indigene of the community, Mrs Awajis Immanuel, expressed satisfaction with the opportunity of cultural displays that the festival offered, adding that it would continue to be a symbol of unity in the area. *(Voice of Nigeria)*

RABBIT REARING, COCONUT GROWING TO BE PROMOTED, SAYS AGRICULTURE MINISTER OF JAMAICA

Agriculture Minister Floyd Green is anticipating that rearing of rabbits and marketing of coconut-based products, both of which his ministry is currently pushing to promote in Jamaica's agricultural sector, will benefit farmers who come on board to integrate both elements in their potential market chain.

On the subject of coconut farming, Green said coconuts are among the potential focus crops that Trelawny-based farmers could seek a viable market for.

"We saw a big push for coconuts, and that's one of the areas that we're trying to get more focus on. We are not supplying our local demand for things like coconut water, and I won't even talk about the external demand; things like our coconut oil are in tremendous, tremendous demand all over the world. It is good to see that push, and we've been working through the Coconut Industry Board to extend that," said Green.

"I think one of the good takeaways that I see for parishes like Trelawny, St Ann, and St James, that have a tremendous tourism outlay already, is how do you infuse what you're doing in agriculture with some ecotourism. I think that is something the Ministry of Agriculture has to work with the Ministry of Tourism to promote more of, in terms of farm tours, bringing people to see how we produce the best food in the world, and I think we will get a lot of people from near and far to come and see that," Green added.

In 2017, veteran hotelier and Negril Chamber of Commerce founding father Daniel Grizzle recommended that the Government should give greater support to the Coconut Industry Board to increase coconut cultivation in Jamaica, along with showing young people in western Jamaica how to make a living and build wealth from agro-tourism.

In 2020, a new board of directors for the Coconut Industry Board was announced for appointment, with the expectation that they should identify suitable lands for increased coconut production. *(The Gleaner)*

COCONUT TREE PLANTING GOAL SET AT 8.5M SEEDLINGS

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is gearing up to plant 8.5 million coconut seedlings

this year as the government moves to refresh the country's coconut plantations.

In a statement, PCA Administrator Bernie F. Cruz said that the number of seedlings represents the full extent of its nursery capacity.

"We made use of remaining funds from previous years to partner with supportive LGUs and cooperatives to establish nurseries and expand our sources of planting materials, in compliance with (President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s) directives," Mr. Cruz added.

"We are also maximizing our resources and stepping up our efforts in our regular planting programs," he added.

He said that the PCA is expecting further expansion of its tree planting program in the coming years due to a significant rise in parent trees being used to produce seedlings.

Last year, Mr. Marcos ordered the PCA to draft a plan for the rehabilitation of the coconut industry, including the planting of 100 million coconut trees by 2028. The rehabilitation plan aims to address the advancing age of the bearing trees.

"While the planting goal is for 2028, he told us to abide by a plan that looks ahead in terms of fully rehabilitating the coconut industry, and to ensure that every peso invested is well-spent," Mr. Cruz said.

In 2023, the PCA planted more than 2.1 million seedlings.

A medium-term replanting plan assumes that the PCA will plant 20 to 25 million seedlings annually between 2023 and 2028.

In order to meet the planting targets, the PCA established the Task Force for Massive Coconut Planting and Replanting and Productivity Enhancement.

The group was primarily charged with forging partnerships with LGUs, coconut farmers' organizations, and cooperatives, as well as the private sector. *(Business World)*

COCONUT DEVELOPMENT BOARD ORGANISING 44TH FOUNDATION DAY

Coconut Development Board is organizing a Coconut Farmer's Seminar in connection with its 44 th foundation day on 12 th January 2024. The meeting will be organized in the farmer's field at Ramappattil house, opposite to Bharanikav Grama Panchayat Office in Alappuzha district.

Around 300 farmers and senior officials from Coconut Development Board and Central Plantation Crops Research Institute will attend the programme. Experts will conduct sessions on programmes and schemes of Coconut Development Board, scientific coconut cultivation, coconut processing and value addition.

The Coconut Development Board is organizing this seminar for the farmers with the aim of creating awareness about the various schemes for the development of coconut cultivation and industry. CDB functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India with its headquarters at Kochi in Kerala. CDB has four Regional Offices in Bangalore, Chennai, Guwahati and Patna. There are six State Centres situated in Pittapilly (Odisha), Kolkata (West Bengal), Thane (Maharashtra), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh) Junagadh (Gujarat) and Port Blair (A&N). A Market Development cum Information Centre (MDIC) is functioning in New Delhi. The Board is also having Technology Development Centre at Vazhakulam near Aluva in Kerala and a field office in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. DSP Farms of the Board are located at Neriyamangalam (Kerala),

Vegiwada, (Andhra Pradesh), Kondagaon (Chhattisgarh), Madehpura (Bihar), Abhayapuri (Assam), Pitapalli (Orissa), Mandya (Karnataka), Palghar (Maharashtra), Dhali (Tamil Nadu), South Hichachara (Tripura) and Fulia (West Bengal).

CDB implements various schemes and programmes for intensifying the coconut cultivation and industry in the country. The Board is implementing schemes like production and distribution of planting materials, expansion of area under coconut, integrated farming for productivity improvement, replanting and rejuvenation (R&R) programme, marketing, market intelligence services, statistics and strengthening of export promotion council, Technology Mission on Coconut (tmoc), Publicity & Extension activities including awareness and skill development programmes, Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme, Kera Suraksha Insurance Scheme for Coconut Tree Climbers etc. *(News Experts)*

MEKONG DELTA PROVINCES EXPAND ORGANIC COCONUT FARMING

Major coconut growing provinces in the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta are developing organic cultivation to improve their farmers' incomes and meet market requirements. Ben Tre, the region's largest coconut growing province, aims to increase the areas using organic farming to 20,100 hectares by 2025, according to its Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Huynh Quang Duc, deputy director of the department, highlighted the province's successful establishment of 921.2 hectares of new organic coconut cultivation in 2023, propelling the total area to an impressive 18,121 hectares. Organic coconut now accounts for 23 percent of the total cultivation area. More than 12,880 hectares have received organic certificates, according to Duc.

Authorities in the second largest coconut cultivation province in the delta, Tra Vinh are actively encouraging farmers to embrace organic methods and cultivate value chains. They are actively developing coconut cultivation areas specifically earmarked for official export to China. With around 90,000 households cultivating a combined area of 27,380 hectares, Tra Vinh has 24 coconut cultivation areas that have received production codes for exports, the report said. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

The vegetable oils market continued to see higher prices during the week, extending last week's recovery.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market remained uneventful for the second straight week this week amid an extremely lack of buying support and widened spread vis-à-vis rival palm kernel oil. After opening on lower ground with offers at $1,125-1,165/MT CIF for position from January/February through to July/August, prices stayed firmer for the rest of the week following other vegetable oils. At the close, levels stood at $1,146.67-1,200.00/MT CIF, substantially exceeding opening values.

Palm kernel oil, on the other hand, continued to see limited activity, reporting a turnover at the close of trade during the week at $970/MT CIF, higher than the week-ago traded price at $952.50/MT. Opening quotations from sellers likewise were lower at $955-1,000/MT CIF for positions from January/February through to July/August. After that, prices mostly eased but managed to reverse course after midweek influenced by gains in palm oil to finally settle at close at $970-990/MT CIF.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil reflected mixed trends when compared with the prior week figures. Spreads in the first quarter positions contracted while substantially expanding in deferred positions. This further increased the weekly average to $175.63/MT from the previous week at $167.11. Premium per position are shown following: January/February $164.50 ($169.00 week-earlier); February/March $169.83 ($185.75); March/April $167.10 ($170.50); April/May $169.40 ($165.00);

May/June $180.35 ($161.00); June/July $184.35 ($159.00); July/August $193.85 ($159.50).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures opened on the upside during the week on bargain hunting after prices dipped to recent 2-year low tied to bearish news from the USDA WASDE report. Further gains ensued influenced by higher soybean oil price and on USDA report of a 297,000 MT flash sales to China. News about weaker-than-expected China's GDP briefly weighted on the market at some point during the week but promptly bounced back to head higher thereafter.

At the palm oil section, the market seesawed earlier during the week but towards the weekend tracked higher to end the week in the positive zone. Earlier weakness stemmed from weaker CBOT soybean oil and sluggish export from Malaysia while the upside was buoyed by MPOB reports Malaysia's production dropped 13% compared to prior month. On the other hand, strength later during the week was supported by lower production seasonally and poor weather. Improved demand outlook linked to Chinese New Year and Muslim holidays added to the positive market sentiment as did recovery in CBOT soybean oil.

Prices of tropical oils this week for nearest forward shipment further increased from the preceding week levels. Coconut oil advanced another $7.83 from $1,126.50 a week earlier to $1,134.33/MT CIF in the present week; palm kernel oil gained $7.00 from $957.50 to $964.50/MT CIF. Palm oil, on the other hand, showed the highest increment at $35.00 from $927.50 to $962.50/MT CIF. Thus, the price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil increased a bit from $169.00 last week to $169.83/MT this week while contracting further vis-à-vis palm oil from $199.00 to $171.83/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market continued quiet. The market turned firmer after a weak start and settled at close higher with sellers quoting $1,150 for January/February; $1,146.67 for February/March; $1,153.50 for March/April; $1,166.75 for April/May; $1,180 for May/June; $1,190 for June/July; and $1,200/MT CIF for July/August. Buyers continued to be choosy, showing interest only in the first quarter positions but eventually retreated at the close, except one that bid for April/May at $1,100/MT CIF.

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

COCONUT MARKET LOOKS PROMISING AFTER TWO YEARS OF LACKLUSTER PRICES

The coconut sector is slowly recovering from the crash of prices witnessed in the previous years. After over two years, the price of green coconut has reached Rs 31.50 per kilogram. In some places, it is as high as Rs 32.50. This is just one and a half rupees less than the minimum support price. The price of copra is at Rs 10,250 per quintal, Rs 10,500 for good quality native copra. Currently, the support price for copra is Rs 11,160.

For some time now, the price of green coconut was at Rs 25-28. The price crossed the Rs 30 mark early in January this year. The last time that this price was offered for green coconut was in December 2021. At that time, the price of copra was Rs 10,000. In January 2022, the price of copra plunged to Rs 9300 and then to Rs 7800 in October. In May 2023, the price of green coconut went as low as Rs 21 per kg.

Traders attribute the rise in prices to the decline in production. Vadakara Coconut company chairman E. Sasindran said that the supply of coconut has gone down. The situation is not agreeable for coconut farmers in the context of NAFED getting ready to auction off the stocked copra. However, the rising prices does offer a ray of hope to the farmers.

84,272 tons of copra has been procured from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in 2023. A total of 97,272 tons of copra, including 13,000 tons stockpiled in 2022, will be auctioned

off. NAFED carries out the sale in phases so as to not detrimentally affect the market.

The World Bank Commodity Market Outlook (April 2023) said that it will be a promising year for the coconut market. It is estimated that the price of coconut oil will go up to 1300 dollars per ton this year. The price of other vegetable oils will also increase proportionately. *(Mathrubhumi)*

COCONUT SLIPPERS TOP SELLING PRODUCT AT MANILA TRADE SHOW

Manila FAME, a flagship sourcing event of the Department of Trade and Industry's export promotion arm, the Center for International Trade and Expositions and Missions (CITEM), generated USD6.6 million export sales at this year's edition recently. This is 51 percent higher than its last face-to-face edition in 2021.

CITEM said Manila FAME was participated by over 200 local exhibitors of home, fashion, lifestyle products and attracted more than 4,000 local and international visitors. The show generated P44.7 million in domestic sales, CITEM said. Coconut slippers from exhibitor Everything Green came out the top-selling product with more than USD3.3 million in negotiated sales.

"The coconut slippers were featured under the Coconut Pavilion, a collaboration of CITEM with the Export Marketing Bureau (EMB) and the Design Center of the Philippines (DCP) in an effort to make use of the rather discarded husk of the abundant natural materials," CITEM said. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

PHP42-MILLION COOKING OIL PROCESSING CENTER TO RISE IN ANTIQUE PROVINCE

The Hamtic Coconut Farmers Marketing Cooperative, an association of coconut farmers in Antique, will receive a Php42-million assistance from the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) for a cooking oil processing center that will rise in Barangay Funda in Hamtic town. The project is under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Program.

According to Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Antique head Gregory Teñoso III, the Integrated White Copra and Cooking Oil Processing Center is the first of its kind to be established in Antique that could greatly help the province's coconut farmers. In addition to building construction, part of the funds will be for machines and equipment acquisition, including a coconut water extractor and belt conveyor. The Antique provincial government will provide Php1 million working capital for the cooperative, while the PCA will extend technical support to ensure the quality of the cooking oil.

The cooperative will source raw materials from its members and other farmers in the province. The processing center, once it starts operation, will need 25,000 nuts in a week to produce 4,000 liters of cooking oil that could be supplied to retailers and grocery stores, Teñoso III said. Antique has 30,367 hectares devoted to coconut with 3.045 million existing palms, of which 1.779 million are in their fruit-bearing stage, he added. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

US OLEOCHEMICAL PRODUCERS SHIFTING TO PALM-BASED FATTY ACIDS

US oleochemical producers will continue to switch operations towards palm-based fatty acids at the expense of tallow in 2024. Two reasons were cited: (1) US buyers are now actively opting towards plant-based alternatives for their personal care and cleaning products, and (2) the changing food habits in the country.

Producers with the capability have switched their operations to palm. Others are looking to shift production over. On the other hand,

the changing food habits has lessened the rendering of red meat, with the US Department of Agriculture data showing declining cattle slaughter rate. This has affected supplies of rendered fats used in soaps, animal feed and feedstock for renewable biofuels and oleochemicals. Additionally, tallow values remain at a premium to palm feedstock costs, which remain the most economical option for oleochemical producers. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MALAYSIAN PALM OIL OUTPUT TO IMPROVE THIS YEAR AMID IMPROVED LABOR AVAILABILITY

Malaysia's palm oil production is expected to improve this year as labor shortages eases, though challenges remain as planters seek to comply with European and US regulations targeting links to deforestation and forced labor in the commodity supply chain.

Ahmad Parveez Ghulam Kadir, Director-General of the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) said that output should come in at 18.75 million metric tons this year while stocks were seen at 1.95 million metric tons amid recovery in labor supply. Exports are seen at 15.6 million tons versus 15.1 million last year.

The country's palm oil sector relies on foreign workers for 70% of its plantation workforce. It has seen a severe labor shortage in recent years, in part due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On the other hand, the EU passed a law last year banning imports of commodities linked to deforestation, while the US in recent years has suspended shipment of some Malaysian palm oil companies, allegedly on forced labor. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

BIODIESEL MANUFACTURER SEES HIGHER COCONUT

Increasing the coconut content of the biodiesel blend will have a minimal impact on price but may also improve vehicle mileage, producing net savings, a coco biodiesel producer said.

"More significant will the mileage improvement expected with B3. Because mileage can improve by 5-15% the net savings can be rather significant in peso terms," Jun Lao, president of Chemrez Technologies, Inc., told BusinessWorld in a Viber message. B3 refers to biofuel with 3% coconut content.

On its website, Chemrez — a subsidiary of publicly listed D&L Industries, Inc. — operates the country's first continuous-process biodiesel plant.

In a draft circular, the Department of Energy is proposing to implement an increase in the coconut methyl ester (CME) blend to 3% (B3) starting July 1, from the current B2.

It also proposed to raise the biodiesel blend to 4%, effective July 1, 2025, and to 5% on July 1, 2026.

The Biofuels Act of 2006 requires that all liquid fuels contain domestically sourced biofuel components.

"If the price of CME is lower than diesel, the blend will make the pump price lower. Depending on the prevailing prices prior to the effectivity of B3, it can also go the other way. Either way the price difference of B2 and B3 will be minimal," Mr. Lao said.

A combustion engine operating at a given efficiency and fuel quality can produce incomplete combustion, he said, with inefficient engines producing black smoke from the exhaust system.

"You can improve combustion by overhauling the engine and using better quality fuel. CME does the latter," Mr. Lao said.

"CME improves the fuel quality, so it burns more completely. There is more power and less black smoke. That means the car engine will perform better by delivering better mileage," he added.

He said a car performing at 10 kilometers per liter (kms/liter) will soon achieve 11 kms/liter when B3 takes effect, effectively bringing down the cost of fuel by 10%, Mr. Lao said.

"So I expect the cost of transport to drop with B3 implementation. Along with that is the cleaner emission from cars. Then a massive reduction in CO_2 (carbon dioxide) from land transport," he said. *(Business World)*

HEALTH NEWS

HOW TO GET THE BENEFITS OF COCONUT WATER

As new food trends keep coming up, it can be hard to decide whether to follow them or just brush them off as a passing fad. Coconut water has been an important part of Indian society for hundreds of years, and it's only recently become popular around the world because it's full of nutrients and helps you stay hydrated. If you're on the fence about adding coconut water to your daily routine, keep reading to learn about the possible benefits of this magic drink.

It's an Instant Energy Booster

Coconut water is a great drink to drink after working out. Water rehydrates the body, but it doesn't have any salts, which are needed to keep the pH and electrical balance of cells. On the other hand, sports drinks often have extra sugars added to them, even though they are high in electrolytes. Instead of traditional sports drinks, coconut water is a better choice because it effectively hydrates and replenishes the body with essential electrolytes, outperforming them.

Rich in Antioxidants

Antioxidants play a vital role in combating free radicals generated during metabolic processes or exacerbated by stress, X-ray exposure, and air pollutants. Nutrient-dense foods with antioxidants help regulate oxidative stress. Coconut water, being rich in antioxidants, offers regular protection against free radicals, contributing to overall health.

Helpful for Diabetic Individuals

Medical practitioners frequently incorporate coconut water into the nutritional plans of diabetic patients. Manganese, found in abundance in coconut water, enhances insulin secretion and reduces oxidative stress—crucial factors for diabetic patients. While ongoing studies continue to explore additional benefits, incorporating coconut water into the diet can assist in regulating blood sugar levels and providing essential nutrients for diabetic individuals.

Keep You from Getting Kidney Stones

Sufficient daily fluid intake is known to prevent kidney stone formation. Inadequate hydration leads to concentrated urine, resulting in the formation of crystals composed of calcium and uric acid salts—culminating in kidney stones. Moderate consumption of coconut water is also recognized for its detoxifying properties, contributing to kidney stone prevention. *(The Statesman)*

DERMATOLOGIST AND HAIR EXPERTS: HOW TO USE COCONUT OIL FOR HAIR

There are many possible benefits to using coconut oil, such as lowering fat, improving skin health, and even making things smoother. Also, coconut oil is good for your hair. Coconut oil doesn't have a lot of vitamins and minerals, but it does have a lot of lauric acid and other fatty acids that are good for your hair's health and look.

There is coconut oil in a lot of hair products, like shampoos, conditioners, and pre-shampoos.

But before you switch to an all-coconut-oil hair routine, you should find out if the benefits of coconut oil will help your hair and which items are best for you. Coconut oil can be found in many hair products including shampoos, conditioners, and pre-shampoos. But before you swap out your current hair routine for an all-coconut-oil suite of products, it's best to understand whether or not the benefits of coconut oil will solve your hair's challenges, and which products to choose.

Why using coconut oil on your hair is a good idea

It's not often that you find an item that can be used on your hair, skin, and body in so many ways. There are 47% fatty acids in coconut oil that are antimicrobial. These fatty acids can help protect against dangerous microorganisms.

Protec Hair from Damage: If you have damaged hair due to environmental stressors such as the sun and smoke pollution, applying coconut oil can be a great place to start. It "penetrates the hair shaft and protects the hair from protein loss to reduce hair damage," says Dr. Michele Green, a board-certified cosmetic dermatologist in New York City.

Fights Dry, Itchy, Dandruff: Dry, itchy scalps and flakey dandruff are common issues often solved with shampoos heavy in chemicals. Why not opt for the all-natural solution? "Coconut oil is great for repairing the skin's natural moisture barrier, which is beneficial for those experiencing dandruff or dry, itchy scalps," Green says.

Makes hair look better: Looks aren't everything, but when it comes to hair, looks matter—a lot. Luckily, coconut oil can in fact support your hair's overall appearance. "Using coconut oil can also decrease the appearance of frizz," says Green.

According to New York-based certified trichologist Penny James, coconut oil will "give the hair a lovely shine and hydrate the skin." She also added that "coconut oil will help maintain the shine on the hair shaft and close the cuticles."

Does coconut oil stop hair loss?

"What will help my hair grow back?" is the million-dollar question for many. As for coconut oil, not so fast, says Chris Bustamante, an aesthetic nurse practitioner and founder of Lushful Aesthetics. "There really isn't much evidence-based publications supporting the usage of coconut oil in regards to improving hair growth or slowing down hair loss."

There is a role coconut oil can play with combatting hair loss, however. "It can be used as a carrier oil to mix with rosemary oil, which does have some evidence behind it in regards to improving hair growth and density," the New York-based nurse practitioner added. Men's Health has recently done a deep-dive into the topic of rosemary oil for hair growth.

How to Pick Hair Products with Coconut Oil

Though you can technically take a jar of pure coconut oil and apply it directly to your hair, all coconut oils are not the same. There are three main ways coconut oil is extracted from the palm tree fruit: refined, unrefined, and fractionated. Refined coconut oil will not be as effective.

"Always look for a high-quality product. Unrefined or cold-pressed," certified trichologist James told Men's Health. "Avoid oil products with these extra ingredients: parabens, petrochemicals, SLS Artificial color or smell, and SLES."

Coconut oil can be found in many types of hair products such as shampoos, conditioners, serums, and sprays. To find the right coconut oil hair product for you will likely require a bit of trial and error. To start, consider one of the best coconut oil hair care products, recommended by hair specialists. *(Men's Health)*

COCONUT RECIPE

SHEET-PAN COCONUT SHRIMP AND SWEET POTATOES

Cubes of sweet potatoes and plump pink shrimp — both coated in spicy ginger-spiked coconut milk — share a sheet pan in this easy, deeply flavored one-pan meal. The sweet potato is added to the pan first, and roasted until just tender. Then, shrimp is scattered on top, and the whole pan is run under the broiler. The brief, intense heat allows the shrimp to cook through but stay succulent and the coconut milk-bathed sweet potatoes to caramelize at their edges. Scallions, cilantro and lime juice add a jolt of brightness right at the end.

Ingredients

1. 1 cup unsweetened coconut milk, preferably full-fat
2. 1 teaspoon Sriracha, plus more for serving
3. 2 garlic cloves, finely grated
4. 1 (1-inch) piece fresh ginger, finely grated
5. 1 bunch scallions, green and white parts thinly sliced and separated
6. ½ teaspoon red-pepper flakes
7. 1¼ teaspoons kosher salt (Diamond Crystal, or use ½ teaspoon Morton), plus more for sprinkling
8. ¼ cup chopped cilantro
9. 2 limes
10. 1½ pounds shelled large shrimp
11. 2 pounds sweet potato, cut into 1-inch cubes (peeled or not, as you like)
12. Extra-virgin olive oil, for drizzling

Preparation

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Line a sheet tray with parchment paper or a nonstick liner.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together coconut milk, Sriracha, garlic, ginger, sliced scallion whites, red-pepper flakes, salt and cilantro.
3. Finely grate the zest of 1 lime directly into coconut milk mixture, then squeeze in the lime juice (reserve the second lime for later).
4. Put shrimp in another medium bowl. Pour half of the coconut mixture over shrimp and stir to combine. Let marinate in the fridge while the sweet potatoes roast.
5. Meanwhile, add the sweet potato cubes to the bowl with the remaining coconut mixture and toss to combine. Evenly spread potatoes on the prepared sheet tray, pouring all of the liquid from the bowl over them. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Roast for 30 to 40 minutes, tossing a couple of times while roasting, until the sweet potatoes are tender.
6. Remove pan from oven and heat broiler to high. Spread shrimp evenly on top of the sweet potatoes and pour in any liquid from the bowl. Drizzle shrimp with olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Broil on high for 5 to 7 minutes, or until the shrimp are pink and just beginning to curl, and the sweet potatoes are charred in spots, rotating the pan after 3 minutes.
7. To serve, squeeze the juice of the reserved lime on top and sprinkle with sliced scallion greens. Drizzle with more Sriracha sauce.

(NYT Cooking)

STATISTICS

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

Month	2021		2022		2023	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000
January	9,526	15,798	10,653	18,050	8,167	8,922
February	11,432	19,023	8,742	14,351	8,690	9,655
March	12,452	20,138	11,433	15,740	9,478	10,140
April	13,159	21,684	10,006	13,741	7,557	8,109
May	8,609	14,952	5,690	9,170	8,441	9,117
June	11,249	18,783	8,655	11,654	9,149	10,060
July	10,838	19,337	7,999	10,644	9,789	11,567
August	13,538	22,432	10,267	12,582	11,912	13,066
September	12,388	21,517	9,591	12,046	10,611	11,792
October	12,348	20,096	8,579	10,762	10,705	11,725
November	13,271	22,897	8,867	9,728	10,110	11,229
December	11,123	18,016	9,972	10,921	9,059	10,567
Total	**139,934**	**234,673**	**110,455**	**149,388**	**113,671**	**125,949**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

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

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	11,816	10,523	11,810	8,086
February	14,202	11,976	14,603	12,072
March	13,296	13,266	18,636	14,485
April	8,336	10,995	14,274	10,390
May	10,723	11,933	13,147	14,861
June	12,347	13,990	13,725	14,746
July	14,982	13,669	10,737	14,297
August	13,103	15,302	11,722	13,329
September	13,678	14,920	13,174	14,389
October	13,170	16,118	10,512	
November	9,874	16,415	11,531	
December	9,673	11,010	13,059	
Total	**145,200**	**160,117**	**156,930**	**116,655**

Source: UCAP

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

Month	2021		2022		2023	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000
January	1,515	4,827	3,049	8,334	2,359	4,418
February	2,297	6,708	2,988	8,049	2,658	5,168
March	3,125	9,442	3,822	8,900	2,759	5,677
April	2,234	7,150	3,197	7,954	2,110	4,295
May	2,701	8,789	3,692	8,533	2,986	6,115
June	2,785	8,593	4,118	9,753	2,573	5,058
July	3,476	10,374	3,315	7,374	3,003	6,138
August	3,679	10,861	4,121	8,987	3,879	7,388
September	3,206	9,151	3,543	7,026	4,116	7,588
October	4,141	11,981	3,795	6,910	3,929	7,113
November	3,779	10,783	4,111	7,163	4,179	7,882
December	3,178	9,188	4,040	7,128	3,438	6,846
Total	**36,116**	**107,848**	**43,791**	**96,109**	**37,989**	**73,687**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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

Month	Malaysia	Thailand	India	Brazil
January	675	8	251	7
February	1,019	62	138	2
March	947	32	293	6
April	634	36	179	1
May	799	65	194	6
June	859	33	158	2
July	1,001	124	131	2
August	1,085	87	162	7
September	1,083	109	256	3
October		75	226	4
November		90	124	5
December		32		4
Total	**8,103**	**754**	**2,112**	**50**

Source: ITC, Thai Customs and Department of Commerce of India

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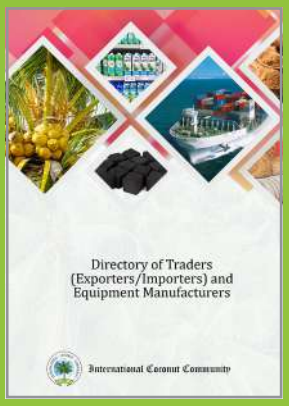

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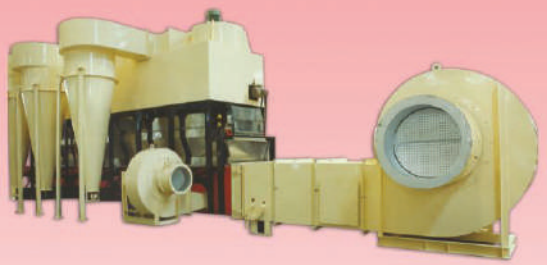
Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.



VIBRATORY FLUID BED DRYER

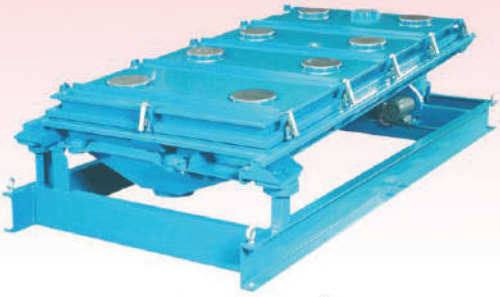
for Desiccated Coconut Granules & Parings.
Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.

GRINDER

Output Capacity:
1000Kgs/hr.

BLANCHER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 4000 Kgs/hr.



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

Established in 1969, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commision for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the ICC is an independent regional intergovernmental organization which consist of twenty one member countries and accounts for 85-90% of the world production of coconut. The ICC member countries are: the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, 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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