The Cocommunity

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"COGENT Takes Prominent Role in ICC for Coconut Conservation and Sustainable Use"

Conserving coconut trees is crucial for multiple ecological, economic, and social reasons. Ecologically, they support biodiversity by offering habitat and food for various beneficial species, help stabilize coastlines against erosion, and sequester carbon dioxide, aiding in climate change mitigation. Economically, coconut farming sustains the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers worldwide, with its products spanning healthy food and drink, cosmetics, biofuels, geotextiles, and industrial by-products like coir and activated carbon. Socially, the coconut tree, often referred to as the "tree of life," holds cultural significance in many regions and is vital for food security in tropical areas, providing essential fats, vitamins, and minerals. Despite their importance, threats such as pest infestations, climate change, natural disasters, land conversion, and unsustainable practices highlight the urgent need for conservation efforts to safeguard this critical resource.

The Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT) established in 1991, has been making significant strides in its commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of coconut genetic resources. As a network in the International Coconut Community (ICC), COGENT is at the forefront of initiatives aimed at preserving the biodiversity of coconut varieties and ensuring their sustainable utilization for future generations.

The COGENT program is coordinated by a dedicated coordinator responsible for network coordination and communication with member countries and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) at the FAO. This ensures that all parties comply with the signed agreement. The FAO, ICC, and host countries each have their own responsibilities to ensure that international coconut gene banks adhere to international maintenance standards, actively participate in the preservation of coconut genetic resources, generate new desired varieties, and partake in germplasm exchange. International Thematic Action Groups (ITAGs), spanning areas such as ex-situ and in-situ conservation (ITAG 1), genomics and breeding (ITAG 2), crop protection and germplasm movement (ITAG 3), and in-vitro culture conservation and cryopreservation (ITAG 4), are essential components of COGENT and the ICC. These groups foster collaboration among global experts, researchers, and stakeholders involved in coconut research and development, addressing challenges and bridging research and technology gaps.

Through these collaborative frameworks, supported by the steering committee and ICC-Technical Working Group (TWG), COGENT is not only contributing to the conservation of coconut genetic diversity but also empowering local farmers and communities who rely on coconut for their livelihoods. By promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions, COGENT aim to secure the future of the coconut industry amidst natural calamity, pest and disease invasion and outbreak, changing climate conditions and economic challenges. As COGENT continues its vital work within the ICC, it remains dedicated to fostering a sustainable coconut sector that benefits both people and the planet.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

In April 2024, the prices of various coconut-related products experienced a significant increase across major producing nations, including the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka. Coconut Oil (CNO) prices rose in the Philippines, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Furthermore, the price of Desiccated Coconut (DC) increased in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India, while remaining stable in the Philippines.

COPRA: In April 2024, the price of Copra in Indonesia rose to $721 per metric ton, up from $601 per metric ton in the previous month. This increase of $120 per metric ton from the same period the previous year is particularly notable. Meanwhile, the Copra market in the Philippines saw a modest increase, with prices rising from $654 per metric ton in March 2024 to $682 per metric ton in April 2024. This price is $57 per metric ton higher than the corresponding period of the previous year, which recorded prices at $625 per metric ton.

COCONUT OIL: In April 2024, Coconut Oil prices demonstrated a coordinated upward trend in Indonesia, India, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. In Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price surged to $1,420 per metric ton, reflecting a 33% increase compared to the previous year. Similarly, the Philippines saw local market prices settle at $1,296 per metric ton, representing a $192 rise from the previous year. Indonesia experienced a significant increase as well, with local prices climbing to $1,313 per metric ton in April 2024 from $1,225 per metric ton in March 2024, indicating an $88 per metric ton increase compared to March 2023.

COPRA MEAL: A nuanced perspective emerges upon examining Copra Meal prices. In the Philippines, the average domestic price for Copra Meal was $191 per metric ton in April 2024, reflecting a decrease from the previous month. This figure also marked a decrease of $97 per metric ton compared to the same period last year. Similarly, Indonesia observed a decline in the average domestic Copra Meal price, which was $243 per metric ton in April 2024. This represented a decrease of $46 per metric ton compared to the previous year.

DESICCATED COCONUT: In April 2024, the average price of Desiccated Coconut (DC) FOB (Free on Board) USA remained stable at $1,874 per metric ton, showing no increase from the previous month. Sri Lanka, however, experienced an increase in the domestic price of DC, reaching $1,931 per metric ton. The Philippines maintained a steady DC price in the domestic market at $2,039 per metric ton. In Indonesia, the FOB price for DC surged to $2,050 per metric ton, surpassing both the previous month's price and the previous year's price of $1,400 per metric ton.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In April 2024, the average price was recorded at $365 per metric ton, marking a slight increase of $4 per metric ton compared to the previous month. In Indonesia, the average price decreased to $449 per metric ton during the same period, while Sri Lanka witnessed a marginal increase to $391 per metric ton.

COIR FIBRE: In April 2024, the domestic trade of Coir Fiber in Sri Lanka showed mixed fiber averaging $67 per metric ton, with bristle fiber ranging from $489 to $670 per metric ton. In Indonesia, the price of mixed raw fiber was maintained at $110 per metric ton, reflecting a slight increase from the previous year's price of $90 per metric ton.

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

Products/Country	2024 Apr	2024 Mar	2023 Apr	2024 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	156	144	139	140
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	196	203	148	200
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	214	232	235	218
India (Domestic Kerala)	486	474	418	470
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	682	654	625	649
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	721	712	601	686
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,141	1,124	1,296	1,091
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,225	1,147	1,038	1,156
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,420	1,254	1,069	1,244
Philippines (Domestic)	1,296	1,214	1,104	1,194
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,313	1,225	1,106	1,198
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,987	1,963	2,301	1,938
India (Domestic, Kerala)	1,900	1,817	1,683	1,819
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	1,874	1,874	1,874	1,828
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,931	1,917	1,671	1,869
Indonesia (FOB)	2,050	1,980	1,400	1,895
India (Domestic)	1,754	1,708	1,439	1,772
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	191	232	288	229
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	310	311	315	302
Indonesia (Domestic)	243	257	289	254
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	365	361	350	362
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	391	383	402	363
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	449	459	472	457
India (Domestic)	420	361	358	360
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	67	68	51	64
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	489	469	433	446
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	670	656	479	642
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	110	110	90	110
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,290	1,177	1,017	1,120
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	936	943	1,005	895
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	959	965	1,030	952

Exchange Rate

Apr 30, '24 1 US$ = P57.23 or Rp16,037 or India Rs83.47 or SL Rs297.11

1 Euro = US$1.08 n.q. = no quote

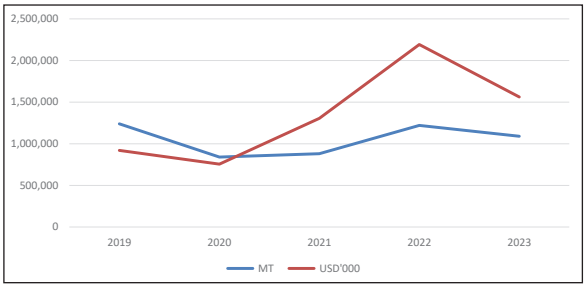
MARKET REVIEW OF COCONUT OIL

In the first quarter of 2024, the global market for lauric oils experienced notable price increases, reflecting a tight supply of these oils. Throughout the period spanning January to April 2024, coconut oil prices showed an upward trend, commencing at US$1,126/MT in January and strengthening to US$1,420/MT in April. This trend was mainly attributed to an increase in demand and the potential for reduced supply. The outlook for coconut oil prices indicates an upward trajectory in the ensuing months.

Similarly, the price of palm kernel oil exhibited a gradual increase during the same timeframe, starting at US$978/MT in January 2024 and steadily increasing to US$1,290/MT by April 2024, averaging at US$1,120/MT. Various factors, including supply dynamics and market forces, contributed to this upward trend. As the lauric oils market adjusts to evolving conditions, the price of palm kernel oil is anticipated to mirror these adaptations, with prospects of improved prices in the forthcoming months.

The period spanning January to December 2023 witnessed significant shifts in the supply dynamics of lauric oils, with the Philippines and Indonesia showcasing distinct performances. The Philippines, renowned for its role in coconut oil production and export, experienced a notable decline in export performance in 2023. Data from the United Coconut Association of the Philippines revealed that coconut oil exports from the country totaled 1.09 million tons during this period, marking a substantial 10.6% reduction compared to the previous year. This decline can be attributed to a combination of diminished demand and increased supply. Key destinations for these exports included the Netherlands, the USA, Italy, Malaysia, Spain, and China.

Figure 1. Philippines' Export of Coconut Oil, 2019-2023



Source: UCAP

Figure 2. Price of Lauric Oils, January 2019 – April 2024, (USD/MT)

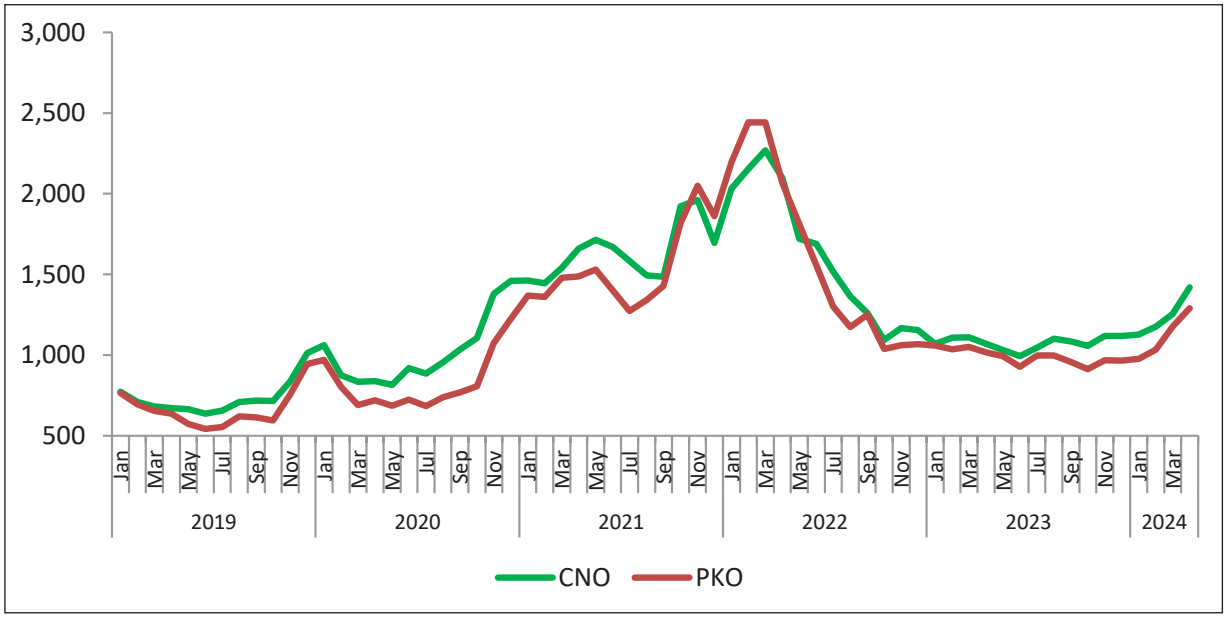


Table 1. Exports of Lauric Oils from Indonesia

		2022	2023	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	686,000	723,000	5.4
	Value (USD'000)	1,088,485	725,157	-33.4
PKO	Volume (MT)	470,647	395,092	-16.1
	Value (USD'000)	2,008,654	1,323,196	-34.1
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	1,156,647	1,118,092	-3.3
	Value (USD'000)	3,097,139	2,048,353	-33.9

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

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

		2022	2023	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	1,029,895	968,226	-6.0
	Value (USD'000)	1,987,706	1,360,073	-31.6
PKO	Volume (MT)	816,827	794,438	-2.7
	Value (USD'000)	1,535,231	1,092,140	-28.9
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	1,846,722	1,762,664	-4.6
	Value (USD'000)	3,522,937	2,452,213	-30.4

Source: ITC

In contrast, Indonesia observed a surge in coconut oil exports over twelve months of 2023. The country shipped 723,000 MT of coconut oil to the global market, signifying a 5.4% increase compared to the previous year's volume. However, despite the uptick in export volume, export earnings decreased from US$1.09 billion to US$725.2 million, reflecting a lower unit price of the oil. Major markets for Indonesian coconut oil exports included Malaysia, the Netherlands, China, the United States, and Sri Lanka. However, recent data from BPS-Statistics Indonesia show that the export of coconut oil declined in the first quarter of 2024, amounting to 229,764 tons, which was 12% lower compared to the same period in 2023.

Table 3. US Imports of Lauric Oils

		2022	2023	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	535,049	410,277	-23.3
	Value (USD'000)	1,080,402	559,888	-48.2
PKO	Volume (MT)	757,944	452,738	-40.3
	Value (USD'000)	349,106	345,131	-1.1
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	1,292,992	863,015	-33.3
	Value (USD'000)	1,429,508	905,019	-36.7

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

The European and US markets, significant players in the global lauric oils trade, witnessed noteworthy changes in demand during 2023. The European market experienced a decline in lauric oil imports during this period, with imports decreasing by 2.7%. Coconut oil was the primary contributor to this decline with a 6% decrease. The economic slowdown in Europe played a pivotal role in the reduced demand for coconut oil and other lauric oils.

Similarly, the United States market witnessed a substantial decrease in lauric oil imports during January-December 2023. Imports of these oils plummeted by 33.3%, mainly attributed to a drop in coconut oil imports. US imports of coconut oil decreased from 535 thousand tons in January to December 2022 to 410.3 thousand tons during the same period in 2023. The economic slowdown in the US significantly influenced this decline in imports. However, the latest data from the US Census Bureau shows that US imports of coconut oil increased by 11%, but imports of palm kernel oil continued to weaken, recording a 3% decline during the first quarter of 2024.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE VENTURE REVIVING THE COCONUT FORESTS OF VIETNAM

Chal Thi made the decision to quit her work at a cocoa production startup in 2018 and move back to her birthplace of Tra Vinh City, in southern Vietnam, with her spouse after hearing from her father about the falling prices of coconuts. Given that the value of coconut trees was dropping and they would be lost, Chan Tai and her husband made it their mission to save this regional specialty.

As a Khmer in Tra Vinh, a city with a significant Khmer population, Chal Thi deeply understands the importance of coconut trees to their way of life. Traditionally, growing coconuts involves harvesting coconut water, oil, or copra - the dried pulp used in various products. The practice of harvesting coconut flower nectar, a longstanding Khmer tradition, was lost with changes in agricultural methods and as farming evolved.

"Collecting coconut nectar is the industry that Khmer people in Tra Vinh used to do in the past because they did not have fresh water to drink," Chal Thi told FairPlanet. "As there was no cane sugar available," she added, "they collected it to cook with or eat in the house."

Holding a master's degree in food technology, Chal Thi recognized the untapped potential of coconut nectar. Together with her husband, she decided to launch Sokfarm, a business focused on producing and selling products derived from coconut flower nectar, tapping into an innovative and sustainable market.

Reviving an Ancient Tradition

The couple shared with FairPlanet that Sokfarm, meaning "happy farming" in Khmer, symbolizes the founders' vision of promoting joy through preserving the coconut tree's value, supporting farmers, and fostering sustainable livelihoods based on the region's indigenous knowledge.

Harvesting coconut nectar, known as the "quintessence of heaven and earth," requires skilled hands. These hands, calloused from labor, become gentle when handling delicate coconut flowers. Only skilled workers, they said, can assess the precise force needed; too strong, and the coconut flower is damaged, too gentle, and the coconut won't release its nectar.

They added that the coconut nectar harvesting process involves careful selection and preparation of the flowers, requiring deep knowledge of the coconut tree. Farmers carefully select the right flowers to prevent premature blooming. They then position the flowers to collect nectar and gently massage the blossoms twice daily to stimulate nectar flow.

This seemingly simple process is crucial to the release of more nectar. At the same time, they softly and evenly tap the flower stalks with a small wooden pestle.

Finally, they make a thin incision on the coconut flower and position a container beneath to catch the dripping sap. They further highlighted that expertise in assessing soil nutrition, pH levels, and weather conditions is crucial for the appropriate care of the coconut plants.

Coconut trees stand as a resilient crop against climate change effects like saltwater intrusion, making them suitable for cultivation in the Mekong Delta's changing environment. They thrive in saline coastal soils with low fertility and can tolerate salinity levels of 4-10 per cent, which makes them adaptable to prolonged droughts.

And while coconut trees might not bear fruit due to salinity, they continue to produce flowers for nectar harvesting. This makes the shift from fruit to nectar collection a viable strategy for Sokfarm, especially in facing saltwater intrusion challenges in coastal areas like Tra Vinh.

Environmentally Sustainable, Economically Viable

At first, Sokfarm's concept faced skepticism from farmers who doubted that coconut nectar could yield a significant income. However, after demonstrating its income-generating potential over time, they claim to have shown the value and viability of their approach.

Earning 6-10 million VND monthly (approximately USD 240-400) from coconut nectar harvesting has proven to be a significant source of income, especially for older farmers aged 55-60 and the Khmer community facing employment challenges.

The founders claim that farmers now see the value in maintaining coconut trees for nectar production as a viable income source, rather than cutting them down due to low fruit yields. This approach, they said, not only secures a decent income but also aids in adapting to climate change conditions in the region, preserving a vital part of their environment and heritage. They highlighted that deeply rooted coconuts can protect the living conditions of the soil.

"The coconut nectar industry will be one of the industries that help farmers in Mekong Delta adapt to changes in saline intrusion," Chal Thi stated. "Firstly, with stormy weather, the coconut tree will not collapse. In addition, coconut trees also have very few pests. Regarding the salinity, while facing the high surface level, the coconut tree is still alive, and there are still flowers. Although the fruit yield may be atrophied, it still gets coconut nectar."

The Mekong Delta in Vietnam is not just renowned for being the world's second-largest rice producer, but is also well known for its extensive coconut cultivation. Recent estimates show the Delta is home to over 220,000 hectares of coconut groves making up nearly 88 per cent of Vietnam's total coconut farmland. But with the decreasing profitability of coconut trees, finding sustainable alternatives is crucial. Coconut nectar collection emerges as a promising solution, Sokfarm's founders pointed out, offering a new direction for the future of coconut farming in the region.

By focusing on coconut nectar production, farmers can increase their income three to five times compared to traditional coconut farming. The founders of Sokfarm aim to partner with at least 1,000 farmers by 2030 and potentially create jobs for over 300 individuals in the local community.

So far, the initiative has established a network of farmers for harvesting nectar from coconut flowers, creating seven organic coconut gardens. Starting with just one worker, Sokfarm has now expanded significantly, employing 33 workers and collaborating with nearly 50 households.

Furthermore, the initiative has gained recognition not only in Vietnam but also internationally, as it started to export its first shipments to Japan and the Netherlands. This achievement has positioned Sokfarm as a reputable agro-product brand in Japan.

Sokfarm's initiative also significantly improved the livelihoods of the Khmer community, one of the poorest ethnic groups in the Mekong Delta region. Over 90 per cent of Sokfarm's workforce is ethnic Khmer, with women representing 60 per cent of these employees.

In an interview with Fair Planet, Nguyen Thi Thu Nga, director of the Promoting Entrepreneurial Spirit project for rural women in Tra Vinh province, said: "The coconut nectar industry is following the world's consumption trend, because consumers are increasingly looking for sweeteners like coconut nectar, a natural sweetness to replace refined sugar. The processing of magnetic products from coconut nectar, as is the case in Sokfarm's method, is a good suggestion for conversion in production development model based on local culture, combined with regional and technological advantages in the context of ongoing saltwater intrusion fierce in the Mekong Delta."

Sokfarm's founders further stressed the critical role of farmers in the value chain, from sourcing raw materials to the consumption of the final product. They said collaborating closely with coconut cultivators and nectar collectors is pivotal for maintaining input quality and building the long-term success of their venture.

Not everything is easy, though, since Sokfarm must manage product quality and make sure farmers have a steady income in order to keep them from quitting their jobs. They work to uphold a profitable and fulfilling agricultural model that is in line with market economics, which frequently emphasizes quantity and profit, making it difficult to strike an appropriate balance between these factors. *(FairPlanet)*

WOODFREE AND BANGOR UNIVERSITY DEVELOP COCONUT HUSKS PROTOTYPE PACKAGING

Woodfree, a UK-based company, has joined forces with Bangor University's Bio composites Centre to develop Eco-Pulp, cellulose fibers extracted from coconut husks.

The partners are converting a previously underutilized coconut husk solution into a low-cost feedstock, which can be used for producing low-cost fibers.

These fibers can be used for a range of applications, including paper and packaging materials.

Bangor University Biocomposites Centre director Dr Rob Elias said: "Coconut is grown all around the world for its flesh and oil, and this leaves behind a husk that's more often than not left to rot or in the worst-case scenario, burnt.

"This can create all kinds of problems in the regions where coconut is grown such as Sri Lanka and India, including those associated with human health, such as malaria. We also know that we are still overdependent on plastic packaging and the harm this does to our planet."

Woodfree has been exploring non-wood materials that could serve as sustainable alternatives over the past few years.

The company aims to address the global issue of deforestation linked to paper production for packaging.

Its founders, Gurpreet Singh and Arjundeep Singh, started their research at home and later sought the expertise of Bangor University in Wales, UK, to scale up their project.

The collaboration aims to leverage the university's knowledge in biobased packaging alternatives to create a viable commercial product that can be scaled.

Gurpreet Singh said: "Together, we've processed something in the region of just under a ton of waste coconut husks, making them into fibre and then assessing this pulp in terms of strength, durability, mouldability, reaction to water and stackability - all very important practical considerations in making the product ready for the market.

"We're now at the stage where we're producing prototype packagings such as trays and punnets that can be used to showcase what could be produced using these fibers." *(GlobalData)*

COCONUT INDUSTRY MOVES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Coconut trees are seen in many localities across Vietnam, mostly in the Mekong Delta and the central coast region. However, the coconut industry, including the value chains from planting, purchasing, processing, consumption, and exporting, has long been developing spontaneously without specific, clear planning.

As the demand for coconut products increases and Vietnam gains more export opportunities for coconuts, the challenge is how Vietnam can develop its coconut industry effectively and sustainably.Much room for growth

Growing coconut trees as a source of supplementary income for farmers has become the main income source of nearly 390,000 Vietnamese farming households. From a drink or ingredient to making a few rustic dishes, Vietnamese coconuts are now exported to many countries and are one of the products that bring the country export revenue of at least one billion USD each year.

Nguyen Thi Kim Thanh, President of the Vietnam Coconut Association said that coconut is a multi-use, multi-value tree. Every part of the coconut tree from the fruit, stem, and leaves can be used. Besides coconut water and coconut meat that can be consumed directly, coconut can be processed to make many products such as coconut oil, coconut milk, cosmetics, and detergents. Meanwhile, coconut leaves, trunks and shells are raw materials to produce toys, fashion accessories, interior decorations, handicrafts, household appliances and many other products.

Along with direct economic value, coconut trees also contribute greatly to combating climate change as one hectare of coconut can filter 70-75 tonnes of CO2 each year. As Vietnam is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 and Europe will start applying its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in 2026, the economic value of coconut trees will continue to rise through the sale of carbon credits, Thanh said.

According to statistics from the Vietnam Coconut Association, the country now has about 200,000 ha of coconut cultivation, more than 88% of which is in the Mekong Delta region. Major coconut-growing provinces are Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Tien Giang, Vinh Long, and Kien Giang. Moreover, many localities still have land funds, especially areas affected by saltwater intrusion, to expand their coconut growing areas.

Cao Ba Dang Khoa, Vice President and General Secretary of the Vietnam Coconut Association: The export turnover of Vietnam's coconut products is approaching the 1 billion USD mark and there is still a lot of potential for breakthroughs as Vietnam's coconut industry sees much room for growth. Especially, in the new consumer trend, consumers around the world are more interested in vegetable fats and beauty cosmetics made from coconut.

Build value chain

The IInternational Coconut Community predicts that by 2025, the industry can reach an average growth rate of 9.5% per year. Some products can post high growth rates, such as ice cream, water, oil and coconut jelly with a growth rate of 15 – 36%. Moreover, consumers now are willing to pay for clean products of plant origin.

According to Khoa, Vietnamese fresh coconut was licensed to enter the US in August 2023. Vietnam is also negotiating with China to export fresh coconut to chinese market. Meanwhile, Vietnamese coconut products have been exported to the world's leading demanding markets. Within the past five years, Vietnam's coconut industry has risen to 4th position in the Asia-Pacific region.

Currently, the country has 90 enterprises exporting coconut products. Among them 42 enterprises export deeply processed ade-in-Vietnam products. Coconut businesses not only produce coconut products but also supply raw materials for the production of more than 200 coconut-relating products in the food, medical, and cosmetics industries. In particular, coconut trunks have great potential to produce high-value wood products for the furniture and handicraft industries.

Thanks to deep processing, coconuts' value has increased many times, helping to stabilise the lives of coconut growers, create jobs, contribute to stabilising the rural ecosystem, and combat climate change.

Tran Que Trang, General Director of Ben Tre Import-Export Joint Stock Company (Betrimex), said that Vietnam has the natural conditions to develop specialized coconut growing areas. The coconut processing industry is also shaped by factories that

use modern technology and invest in research and the development of value-added products. With this effective approach, the Vietnamese coconut industry will have the opportunity to go further.

As the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development recognized coconut as a key industrial crop, many businesses expect that the coconut industry will receive further attention and support from state management agencies, especially in developing strategies and planning for stable and sustainable raw material areas.

In addition, localities need to actively invest in transportation and logistics infrastructure to help facilitate the purchase and transportation of coconuts, particularly agricultural products, in general. Thus, businesses will feel secure in investing in processing factories, expanding the value chain, improving economic efficiency for coconut growers, increasing export turnover and building a brand for Vietnamese coconut products. *(Vietnam Plus)*

COASTAL FARMERS URGED TO STEP-UP COCONUT PRODUCTION

Agriculture stakeholders in the coast region have urged the government to prioritize the production of coconut across all six coastal counties, citing its potential to significantly improve the economy of not only the coast but the whole country.

Speaking during the National Coconut Week conference in Kilifi on Thursday, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, Industrial Crops Research Institute Director Dr. Finyange Pole stated that the coconut plant is very important to the coast region's economy, but it has not been given the level of attention that it deserves.

He highlighted that other countries' economies are greatly benefiting from giving priority to the production of coconuts and their by-products.

"Asian countries have developed significantly because of this coconut plant. Among the products of coconut is bio-diesel, and countries like Vietnam use this by-product to move their economies ahead," Dr. Pole said.

He added that according to the 2012 census, the coast region had 10 million coconut crops that produced 260 million coconuts, which, in his view, were too few as compared to countries like India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka, which produce coconuts in higher quantities.

Dr. Pole disclosed that one of the challenges facing the coconut industry in Kenya is the use of poor-quality seeds, which yield veryless.

"In Kenya, we have only two varieties: The East African Tall and the East African Dwarf, and their yield is very little. When well-managed, you can harvest around 80 to 100 coconuts in a year, which is not enough to meet our economic needs," he explained.

Secretary of the Crop Production Department, Rashid Khator, said that planting more coconut plants along the coast will help the government achieve its poverty alleviation agenda among local farmers.

"The government has a plan to remove the poverty mentality among farmers, and that is why we have organized this National Coconut Week conference to sensitise farmers on better coconut farming practices so that we can increase its production in the coast region," Khator explained.

He urged farmers to take advantage of the rainy season to plant many coconut seedlings so that, after 2 to 3 years, they can begin to enjoy benefits.

Agricultural Consultant Baha Nguma stated that coconut farming is the backbone of the coast region's economy, but its potential to improve the country's economy has not been utilized.

He underscored the need for the government to invest more in coconut farming so that Kenyans can reap more benefits from the crop.

"There is a need for us to invest more in coconut farming to maximize the benefits. In my opinion, the government should aim to distribute 1 million coconut seedlings to farmers yearly," Nguma stated. *(Kenya News)*

BẾN TRE'S COCONUT TREES IDEAL FOR EARNING CARBON CREDITS

Scientific studies show that the Cửu Long (Mekong) Delta province of Bến Tre possesses great potential for carbon neutrality.

It has the largest coconut growing area in the country of around 78,000 hectares, which is capable of absorbing 1.9-5.8 million tonnes of the greenhouse gas.

Dr. Lê Anh Tuấn of Cần Thơ University said Bến Tre has large rivers providing abundant water to nourish its coconut orchards, and abundant sunshine and wind for the best CO_2 absorption.

Studies show that coconut trees have an ability to absorb CO_2 at much higher rates than other species.

A hectare of four- to 10-year-old coconut trees can absorb 20.45-75.24 tonnes of CO_2. Besides, if farmers grow other crops such as cocoa and vegetables under the coconut canopy, they will increase CO_2 absorption.

Currently, the selling price of forest CO_2 credits through the World Bank is US$5 per tonne of CO_2.

An agreement to sell credits would fetch farmers in Bến Tre $9.75-29.25 million, Tuấn said.

Forest CO2 credits, also known as CO_2 offsets, allow the owner to emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

For the first time, last year Việt Nam successfully sold 10.3 million tonnes of CO_2 for $51.5 million, an important milestone for its forestry industry.

Việtnam is committed to net-zero emissions by 2050, and in future, exported goods will be taxed according to a nation's carbon emission rate.

Therefore, strategies to reduce emissions and enhance carbon storage capacity, especially through forests and crops, are necessary for sustainable economic, environmental and social development, Tuấn said.

"Bến Tre Province needs to do more extensive research on its ability to store carbon, through coconut and other perennial trees, to get carbon certificates and promote the commercialization of this credit."

In addition to 78,000 ha of coconut trees, Bến Tre also has 25,000 ha of fruit orchards and nearly 7,000 ha of mangrove forests as potential sources of carbon credits.

Experts say it has great potential to participate in the carbon credit market, move towards a green economy and circular economy, and combat climate change.

So it needs to focus on policies to develop ecological agriculture, promoting circularity and low carbon emissions, and climate change adaptation, they added. *(Vietnam News)*

PCA, NIA TO BOOST COCONUT HYBRIDIZATION IN MINDORO

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), through Coconut Farmers Industry and Development Plan (CFIDP)–Coconut Hybridization Program (CHP) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) joined forces to fortify coconut farming against climatic challenges in Oriental Mindoro.

The PCA and NIA, through the Irrigation Management Office (IMO), headed by acting division manager Maria Victoria O. Malenab, discussed the pressing need to address the challenges posed by El Niño and its impact on coconut cultivation.

PCA division chief Celso Maliwanag, along with senior agriculturist Evangeline Barcibal, requested assistance from the NIA in enhancing farm irrigation and water sourcing. This partnership aims to bolster the resilience of coconut trees planted across farm hybridization sites against the adverse effects of El Niño.

The site comprises ten hectares of coconut plantation in Alcate, Victoria, two hectares in Loyal, Victoria, 2.25 hectares in Salcedo, Bansud, and 1.25 hectares in Sagana, Bongabong.

Currently, the yield is not very high despite having a hybridization program due to the water shortage, especially during the dry season. Hence, the PCA requested an irrigation system to maximize the benefits of hybrid coconut in the said plantations.

They discussed the proposed development scheme for the irrigation systems in the areas, including establishing a groundwater pump, solar-powered pump, and high-density polyethylene pipe.

The collaboration between PCA and NIA signifies a proactive approach to mitigate the vulnerabilities faced by coconut farmers.

In a press release, the two agencies vow to develop sustainable solutions that foster productivity and resilience within the coconut industry by leveraging expertise and resources.

NIA said that through concerted efforts and strategic partnerships, they remain steadfast in their commitment to empower coconut farmers, ensuring a robust agricultural sector capable of weathering diverse challenges while realizing its full potential for growth and prosperity. *(Philippine Information Agency)*

BUSINESS CONFERENCE TACKLES DEVELOPMENT OF ZAMBO SUR COCONUT INDUSTRYA

Zamboanga del Sur emerged as a hub for coconut enterprise development during a two-day Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) business conference held in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay.

The business conference is geared towards implementing the PRDP Scale Up in Zamboanga Peninsula, as the third biggest coconut-producing region in the country. With P2 billion, equivalent with US$34 million, in enterprise development investments available in 2025, I-REAP (Investments in Rural Enterprise and Agricultural Productivity) alternate component head Leny Pecson urged the small coconut farmers' cooperative associations(FCAs) in the Zamboanga Peninsula to seize the opportunity from a regional perspective because PRDP looks into rural development beyond the municipal and provincial levels.

The event gathered heads of FCAs in the region, giving them the opportunities to expand partnerships and linkages in terms of markets and other investments. The event facilitated networking sessions and business-to-business meetings, fostering connections between private traders, processors, academia, and financing institutions with coconut credit programs.

Notable developments emerged from the conference, signaling a surge in demand for coconut-based products. Amparitas Coconut Manufacturing, based in Surigao del Sur, revealed significant market interest in coco ropes and nets, highlighting the province's potential as a key supplier.

Amparitas Coconut Manufacturing had a marketing agreement with Dinas Small Coconut Farmers Federation as the lead proponent group and cluster member Bulawan Coconut Farmers Association in the province of Zamboanga del Sur and with Baganipay Small Coconut Farmers Association in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Furthermore, Pecson acknowledged the proactive involvement of the FCAs, highlighting the activity as an excellent platform for fostering public-private partnerships to support the

sustainability of the coconut industry in the region.

"Today shows how committed you are to pursue your visions on how you want your businesses to grow," she said.

As retail prices of coconut products and by-products rise, the Department of Agriculture sees this as a positive indicator in achieving its strategic core functions under the Marcos Administration, encapsulated in MASAGANA, which stands for "*Matatag, Sama-Sama, Ganado at Napapanahon*." (*Philippine Information Agency*)

GUJARAT COCONUT GROWERS SEEK GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO EXPAND THEIR BUSINESS

To bolster their businesses and contribute to the state's agricultural sector, coconut growers in Gujarat are seeking governmental assistance after the Lok Sabha elections to expand their business. With a rich history of coconut cultivation in the region, farmers are eager to expand their operations and meet the growing demand for coconut products both locally and internationally.

Recognizing the potential economic benefits, the coconut growers advocate that political representatives should take measures to assure subsidies for modern farming equipment, access to affordable loans, and technical training programs to enhance productivity and quality.

Chetan Rawal, a coconut grower, said the government should ensure a foolproof distribution mechanism for coconut saplings without implementing the 'rationing' method. "For our coconut saplings, we have to take support from private nurseries. We only get to know their quality after a few years. Now, the government gives these saplings under the rationing method, so we demand that if the government can distribute them without the rationing method, then it will benefit us all.

A foolproof system should be ensured with maximum distribution. At least there will be some guarantee if we get saplings from the government," Chetan Rawal told ANI. He also said that the government and Indian Railways can look for measures to reduce freight costs. "For us, road transportation is the only option, and transportation freight is costly. There is a rake point in Verawal, Kasod. If we can get wagons daily there, then rates will reduce significantly, and railways will also earn," he said.

Raju Bhai, a coconut supplier, said that the coconut industry can grow if "political leaders of tall stature" take an interest in the industry. He also urged the government to look into the issues related to the permit. Coconut suppliers in the region aim to increase their income, create employment opportunities, and boost the overall economy of Gujarat.

Moreover, the expansion of coconut cultivation holds promise for sustainable agricultural practices and environmental conservation, aligning with the government's objectives for promoting green initiatives. *(The Hindu Business Line)*

ADULT COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLES FOUND IN WAIKOLOA, HAWAII

Three live adult coconut rhinoceros beetles were recently found in traps in the Waikoloa area on Hawaii Island, according to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Staff from the Plant Quarantine Branch on Oahu flew to Hawaii Island to confirm the locations of where the beetle was found and to conduct surveys.

"Unfortunately, detections of live adult beetles indicate that CRB are breeding in the Waikoloa area," said Hawaii Board of Agriculture Chair Sharon Hurd in a news release. "We ask that residents pay special attention to mulch and green waste that serve as optimum breeding

conditions and report any suspected CRB or suspected CRB damage in palm trees. We need everyone's eyes."

Before the April CRB discoveries, HDOA PPC and the CRB Response Team had already scheduled surveys and treatments for early May. Additional traps will be set up, including a new generation of smart traps and plans are in the works for a new method of treating palm trees.

Hawaii Island inspectors from the Plant Quarantine Branch are on alert for incoming mulch or compost. Any such material transported from Oahu to any neighbor island must be heat treated or fumigated prior to shipping to kill CRB.

After receiving a crisis emergency exemption from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, HDOA's Pesticides Branch will begin its use of cypermethrin found to be effective in killing CRB, according to the release. The EPA has authorized its use only in the counties of Maui, Kauai and Hawaii.

CRB were first detected in the state on Oahu in December 2013 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, where they have spread to other areas of the island.

The destructive beetle was discovered for the first time outside of Oahu on Kauai in May 2023 near Lihue Airport and a dead beetle was found among compost bags originating from Oahu at a big box store on Maui in September 2023.

CRB are a serious threat to palm trees, primarily coconut palms. According to the HDOA, adult beetles bore into palm crowns to feed on the sap. New, unopened fronds damaged in this way may break and fall unexpectedly when fully opened. Fungal and bacterial pathogens can also attack the wound caused by CRB, killing the tree as well. After a CRB attack, tree mortality can be anywhere from 10% to 50%. Dead trees can also become a safety hazard when a tree falls because of a rotted trunk.

The beetles are a major pest in India, the Philippines, Palau, Fiji, Wallis, Nukunono, American and Western Samoa, and Guam. How the beetles arrived in Hawaii is still unknown. *(Spectrum News)*

GOVT OF KENYA ISSUES COCONUT SEEDLINGS TO COASTAL FARMERS

In marking National Coconut Week, the national government, through the Agriculture and Food Authority and the Commodities Fund, has provided over 43,000 coconut seedlings to farmers in the region to improve their production in the coastal counties.

The seedling provision is the government's response to the reduced coconut tree population and the existing room for expansion within the Coastal region.

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi, while presiding over the launch of National Coconut Week in Kilifi, noted that a reduced coconut tree population has translated to low production, leading to reduced household incomes.

"We need to work together to plant more coconut trees and maximize its production in order to meet this varied product demand, which extends from the leaves, the flowers, tender nuts, and mature nuts," Linturi said.

He recognized that the coconut value chain is one of the key agricultural subsections in the coastal region and supports an estimated 1 million people due to its effective forward and backward linkages.

The CS called upon state departments and agencies, county governments, research institutions, and coconut farmers to make deliberate efforts to improve the production of coconut for both local consumption and export purposes.

"I urge the county governments to ensure sustainability in the supply of quality coconut

planting materials and the delivery of extension services towards increasing productivity from the annual lows of 30 nuts per tree to highs of 150 nuts per tree," he added.

Kilifi North Member of Parliament Owen Baya revealed that, in support of coconut farming, the government will allocate enough funds in the next financial year's budget to make sure that coconut farming is given priority in the country.

While pointing out the shortcomings of the current Oil and Nuts Authority in supporting coconut farming, the MP stated that he has proposed a new bill in the National Assembly for the formation of a Coconut and Cashewnut Authority.

"When the Oil and Nuts Authority funds come in, very little is put into the production of coconuts. So I have suggested that we do away with that Directorate and form an Authority that will better look after the interests of coconut and cashew plants," Baya explained.

Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) Representative Calistus Kundu informed that the authority will hold a conference for the next two days in Kilifi to further discuss how to improve coconut production across all six coastal counties.

"We shall also work together to plant the seedlings that have been provided today from the 20th to the 26th of this month to ensure that none of the seedlings will be left out," he added.

Kilifi Agriculture and Crops Chief Officer Teddy Yawa boasted of the county's leading status in the production of coconuts in the coastal region, adding that the county government has been working hard to ensure the plant is given a priority.

"According to 2019 statistics, we are the ones leading in producing coconut plants. 52 percent of the entire coconut tree population is in Kilifi," Yawa stated.

Speaking on behalf of coconut farmers, James Katana highlighted that they face the great challenge of diseases and pests attacking coconut trees on their farms and called on the government to intervene and provide a lasting solution to the problem.

"We are also asking the government to provide us with modern, improved hybrid coconut seedlings because the ones that we currently receive have lost value and are currently doing very poorly in this region," Katana added. *(Kenya News Agency)*

JAPAN BACKS COCONUTS AS ALTERNATIVE SAF FEEDSTOCK

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has registered non-standard coconuts as feedstock to manufacture sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) after the Japanese government promoted them.

Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation (MLIT) suggested ICAO recognize non-standard coconuts, which are discarded and non-edible because of mold and cracks, as an official SAF feedstock under ICAO's Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation. There are 5 million tons of non-standard coconuts produced globally per year according to MLIT, which can produce around 300,000 tons per year or 380,000 kiloliters/year of SAF, the report said.

MLIT promoted the use of non-standard coconuts because supplies of SAF's main feedstock used cooking oil (UCO) are tight, with demand for SAF expected to grow rapidly with the decarbonization of the aviation industry. Diversification of feedstocks is necessary to boost SAF production, said MLIT.

Japan's SAF demand is expected to reach 1.71 million kiloliters per year by 2030, with the country's trade and industry ministry planning to mandate that SAF make up at

least 10 percent of total jet fuel consumption by volume. While Meti also forecasts SAF supplies to be 1.92 million kiloliters per year, there is uncertainty because of feedstock availability and technology development. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Further lower prices prevailed in the vegetable oils market during the week.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market remained untraded for the seventh week running this week, mainly on scarcity of buyers and high premium vis-à-vis rival palm kernel oil. Offers were easier at the start of the week, tracking other vegetable oils, with levels at $1,419.25-1,442.50/MT CIF for positions from May/June through to November/December. Thereafter, values continued to trend lower influenced by weaker palm oil and soybean oil prices but eventually ended the week in the positive territory, ignoring the trend in other vegetable oils. Closing offers stood at $1,400.00-1,432.50/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market continued quiet for the second week running this week. The market likewise opened easier with sellers quoting $1,240-1,290/MT CIF for position from April/May through to December/January 2025. Prices after that scaled slowly higher though after midweek resumed weakness to settle at close mostly in the downside at $1,215-1,280/MT CIF.

The price premium this week of coconut oil over palm kernel oil showed mixed trends when compared to last week's data. For the week, spreads in the second quarter and last quarter 2024 positions widened while contracting in the third quarter. The weekly average thus at $150.21/MT was still higher than the prior week's $143.55. Premium per position are as follows: April/May $163.00 ($144.70 last week); May/June $140.35 ($136.40); June/July $137.50 ($136.75); July/August $133.20 ($134.00); August/September $130.10 ($138.75); September/October $135.50 ($143.00); October/November $158.75 ($154.05); November/December $203.25 ($160.75).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures slipped earlier during the week on profit-taking and technical selling amid reports the harvest in Brazil was already more than 80% done. Moreover, in the US, favorable crop weather encouraged widespread planting. Lackluster Chinese buying also added to the bearish market sentiment. By the middle of the week, however, short covering sparked market recovery as did renewed interest in product soybean meal. The market closed in the positive territory on USDA news of flash sales of 121,500 MT of soybeans to unknown destinations, of which 13,500 MT was for 23/24 delivery and 108,000 MT for 24/25 shipment.

At the palm oil section, the market was bearish this week dragged by a combination of several factors relating largely to weak soybean oil and crude mineral oil prices, as well as increasing palm oil production and slack demand.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment were down this week from the prior week levels. Coconut oil fell $27.85, capping six weeks of continued rise, from $1,438.70 last week to $1,410.85/MT CIF in the current week. Palm kernel oil dropped $23.50 from $1,294.00 to $1,270.50/MT CIF as well as palm oil by $43.50 from $1,069.50 to $1,026.00/MT CIF. Consequently, the price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil narrowed from $144.70 last week to $140.35/MT presently. On the other hand, price premium over palm oil expanded anew from $369.20 to $384.85/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam, the coconut oil market continued to be lackluster. This week's market was again

easier and closed with offers at $1,400 for May/June; $1,415 for June/July; $1,411.75 for July/August; $1,411.75 for August/September; $1,415 for September/October; $1,415 for October/November; and $1,432.50/MT CIF for November/December. Buyers showed interest only in April/May and October/November positions, bidding at close at $1,470 and $1,320/MT CIF, respectively.

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

DESICCATED COCONUT PRODUCTS SALES BOOMING IN ONLINE RETAILS – FMI

The organic movement is reshaping the coconut products market in the United Kingdom, with desiccated coconut sales set to grow at a 4.9% CAGR fueled by the rising demand for plant-based and vegan options. Health-conscious consumers prefer organic alternatives free from chemicals, driving the surge in sales, particularly through online channels for frozen desiccated coconut, according to Futures Market Insights (FMI).

FMI is a leading global provider of market intelligence, advisory services, consulting, among others, on diverse domains and industry trends globally. In its updated desiccated coconut market study report, it said the market for this coconut product is set to exhibit 6.1% CAGR between 2024 and 2034, as compared to the CAGR of 5.6% showcased between 2019 and 2023. The desiccated coconut industry is considering improving its sales revenue from USD8,016.7 million in 2024 to USD14,452.4 million by 2034.

As to markets, the United States desiccated coconut market is on the brink of advancing a 7.1% CAGR until 2034, the report said. Germany has a favorable opportunity to increase its desiccated coconut sales at 5.0% per year till 2034, India 5.6%, the United Kingdom 4.9%, China 4.1%.

"The online buyers of desiccated coconut products have opened new growth opportunities for rising industry participants through the indirect sales channel. The proliferation of smartphones and the introduction of numerous eCommerce platforms are assisting desiccated coconut providers in introducing their in-house products to online shopping websites," said Nandini Roy Choudhury, author of the report. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

INDONESIA RELEASES EXPORTS OF MORINGA LEAVES, COCONUT CHARCOAL TO ASIA AND EUROPE

Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture officially released the exports of moringa leaves, coconut charcoal, and tea during the National Plantation Celebration (SKENA) event in Bogor City, West Java.

Director General of Plantations Andi Nur Alamsyah said that PT Moringa Indonesia exported 21 tons of dried moringa leaves and dried processed products valued at Rp348 million (around US$21,457) to China.

The coconut charcoal produced by PT Cococha Indonesia will be exported to Jordan with a volume of 33 tons valued at Rp814 million.

Alamsyah said that in the future, coconut farmers in West Java would be trained by the Directorate General of Plantations.

"Thus, that will increase the added value of our planters," he noted.

For tea commodities, Alamsyah said that the artisan tea from Sila Tea House Bogor is regularly exported.

"This will be exported to Turkey and Russia with a volume of 200 kilograms valued at around Rp113 million," he remarked.

He lauded the Bogor City government for supporting the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the agricultural sector. *(Tempo)*

THE DEMAND FOR VIETNAMESE COCONUTS IS EXPERIENCING SIGNIFICANT GROWTH

Bến Tre Province is the center of the coconut industry in Vietnam, producing high-quality coconuts. Tom Nguyen's company, Viet Nam International Agriculture, has plantations here.

"Vietnamese coconuts can be harvested all year round. From February to August is Vietnam's dry season, during which coconut production is about 70% of that in the rainy season due to less water available for coconut production, but the taste of coconut water is sweeter. The quantity and quality of Vietnamese coconuts are relatively stable, and this harvest season is no exception," Tom explained.

"In recent years, the market demand for fresh coconuts has been increasing annually. Especially in recent months, there have been additional orders from some new markets such as South Korea, Europe, and Taiwan, China, leading to a surge in overall demand and a 40%-50% increase in coconut prices. Both demand and price increases are higher than the same period last year."

Regarding the reasons for the increase, Tom analyzed, "Consumer awareness of health is growing, with more consumers preferring to have fresh drinks rather than soft drinks. Particularly after the Covid outbreak, more people are choosing to drink coconut water because of its benefits for maintaining lung health. In addition, coconut processed foods are also becoming popular, such as coconut coffee, cakes, and more. These trends have boosted the market demand for coconuts, leading to an annual increase in prices."

It is understood that Vietnamese fresh coconuts are about to gain official access to Chinese markets. Tom's company is preparing for this, including increasing investment in plantations and continuing to participate in food exhibitions in China. "China is a huge market nearby, and we hope to seize this opportunity. Vietnamese coconuts may be smaller in size, but they have rich water and sweeter taste, which is a characteristic of Vietnamese coconuts."

Tom believes that Vietnamese coconuts will have many opportunities: "Firstly, it is understood that the global coconut cultivation area is decreasing, and production is gradually declining. It takes 3-4 years for a newly planted coconut tree to bear fruit. However, the market demand has been increasing. Our company will also increase investment and expand the coconut cultivation area."

"On the other hand, Vietnam government is investing more and more in agricultural development, including coconuts. The government will implement strict controls to ensure coconut quality in this regard. Additionally, more and more young people are entering the coconut industry, with broader perspectives and knowledge, which is beneficial for the development of Vietnamese coconuts." *(Fresh Plaza)*

INDONESIA SUPPLIES 27% OF THE WORLD'S COCONUTS, LOMBOK BECOMES A CENTER FOR DOWNSTREAM EXPORTS

Indonesia is set to produce 17,190,327 tons of coconuts in 2022, representing 27 percent of the world's coconut production. In 2023, the country is expected to export coconut and its derivatives, generating a revenue of 1.5 billion US dollars. Indonesian coconuts are becoming a valuable commodity.Quoted by the Antara news agency from an official release, the Ministry of Industry stated that Lombok Island, in the Province of West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) is considered to be a model or center of excellence for the coconut processing downstream program.

Putu Juli Ardika, Director General of Agro Industry in Jakarta, stated that the potential for coconut in Lombok is very abundant. Therefore, his party will maximize this

potential by compiling a roadmap for integrated coconut downstreaming and establishing an appropriate business model to develop the coconut processing industry ecosystem.

"Currently, the Ministry of Industry together with relevant stakeholders are preparing this coconut roadmap," he explained during a working visit to Lombok last week.

In realizing this supporting ecosystem for coconut downstreaming, from 2022 to 2024 the Argo Industry Directorate disbursed Special Allocation Funds (DAK) amounting to IDR 16.8 billion to North Lombok Regency.

The Director General of Agro Industry stated that North Lombok was chosen because the coconut industry players in that region can produce Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO), oil, and coconut flour.

Then, in addition to the downstream road map and establishing a good ecosystem, the Directorate of Agro Industry will carry out training to improve the quality of local human resources (HR), in order to maximize the potential of the processing industry in the Lombok region.

"Human resources also need to be paid attention to in order to keep up with the times and consumer demands. We recognize the need for HR training, which can be facilitated by the Industrial Human Resources Development Agency, or BPSDMI, of the Ministry of Industry," he concluded. *(Suara)*

TRA VINH EXPORTS ORGANIC COCONUT FLOWER NECTAR TO AUSTRALIA

The Tra Vinh Farm Co., Ltd (Sokfarm) in the Mekong Delta province of Tra Vinh has successfully exported its first shipment of organic coconut flower nectar products to Australia - the fifth main importer of the locality's product.

As scheduled, the firm will continue to export its second shipment to this market after two weeks.

Pham Dinh Ngai, CEO of Sokfarm, said the company has officially exported blossom products made from coconut flower nectar to Japan, the Netherlands, Germany, the US, and Australia.

The company currently owns a 20-hectare coconut plantation certified with international organic certifications such as USDA (US), EU (Europe), JAS (Japan), and Canada Organic (Canada).

Currently, Sokfarm is investing in constructing new production facilities with a daily production capacity of 10-12 tonnes of coconut flower nectar.

The firm plans to expand its raw material plantation area to 50 ha and purchase the nectar from 80 local coconut-growing households, generating jobs for 100 laborers.

By 2029, the company aims to develop a 300-hectare raw material area, establish production linkages with 500 households, and create jobs for 400 local workers.

Le Van Dong, Deputy Director of the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, said Sokfarm's organic condensed coconut nectar had been recognized as a specialty of Tra Vinh. The product has been sold in more than 30 provinces and cities nationwide, and exported to many demanding markets. Currently, the company is marketing six main products.

Tra Vinh, the country's second largest coconut producer after neighboring Ben Tre province, has nearly 27,400 ha of coconut, mostly in Cang Long, Tieu Can, and Cau Ke districts. It plans to widen its coconut growing area to 30,000ha by 2030.

The locality is home to more than 50 companies, co-operatives, and households which make

products such as dried coconut flesh, coconut milk, coconut oil, and others for both domestic consumption and exports. *(Vietnam Plus)*

COCONUT SHELL EXPORT PRODUCTS IN SRI LANKA ACHIEVE INCREASE

The export of coconut shell products earnings such as active carbon has been able to achieve an increase of 11.25 percent up to 11.7 million USDs in 2024 February, said Mr. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries.

Yesterday, a special program took place at the Southern Lanka Coconut Training Center in Madamulana to celebrate the 52nd anniversary of the establishment of the Coconut Cultivation Board. Dr. Madhavi Herath, the Chairman of the Coconut Cultivation Board, along with the General Manager Athila Wijesinghe and other officials, participated in the event. The Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries, Mr. Mahinda Amaraweera, presided over the commemorative ceremony.

Coconut growers, farmers and industrialists participated in this event. Distributing coconut saplings as well as granting loans under Kapruka Credit Investment Program took place during the event. At the same time, an awareness program was also implemented under the theme of 'Protecting the Kapruka like the children' by focusing on school students.

The Minister who expressed his views here, told that the Central Bank of Sri Lanka has issued a report on the progress of exporting products related to the coconut industry in the country for the month of February andaccordingly, compared to the month of February 2023, the export income of coconut and related products has grown by 25.17 percent in the month of February 2024. In terms of exporting coconut water, 3439 metric tons have been exported in the month of February 2024 and an income of 894 million rupees has been earned.

The export of coconut milk earned 2971 million rupees in February this year. Also, in terms of activated carbon earnings, the export of coconut shell products increased by 11.25 percent to 11.7 million USD in 2024.

Also, it has been predicted that this year we will be able to reach the goal of earning one billion USDs in income from export coconut and its related products for the first time.

However, in order to get more income from coconuts and related products, we can avoid wasting coconuts. Our country is the first country in the world to waste coconuts. I advise the Coconut Cultivation Board as well as the Coconut Development Authority to take steps to provide people with new technical knowledge on how to reduce wastage in using coconut for food.

It is also predicted that we will be able to reach 3000 million coconuts this year. In the past, our main export crops were tea, coconut and rubber. Later, this position has taken over the supplies services such as house maids. Now again, tea, coconut and rubber stand out as the most profitable plantation crops in the world.

Therefore, we have to dedicate ourselves to achieve rapid growth in these sectors, minister concludes *(Daily News)*

AGRICULTURE MINISTER JOSE MAI DISCUSSES COCONUT EXPORTS WITH COCONUT PRODUCERS

The Minister of Agriculture Jose Abelardo Mai, Chief Executive Officer Servulo Baeza, the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) and Ministry of Foreign Trade personnel met on Thursday with coconut producers in Orange Walk.

MAFSE reported that the discussions centered on the export market to both the United States and Mexico.

"The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise continues facilitating discussions

where local producers get to find out more about accessing markets for Belizean products," MAFSE said.

"The Ministry continues its efforts to secure regional market access to surrounding countries in Central America, the Caribbean and the USA."

MAFSE have been very much involved with agricultural producers in the country to increase and improve their production and has been assisting them in finding markets for their products. The meeting with the coconut producers is an integral part of those proactive measures. *(Breaking Belize News)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

GAPKI CITES FACTORS THAT DISCOURAGE OIL PALM SMALLLHOLDERS TO JOIN REPLANTING

The Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI) Chairman Eddy Martono said that a few factors have discouraged the oil palm smallholders to join the replanting program, which was why the replanting never meets the target.

First, their plantations were included in forest areas because of overlapping regulations. The replanting program only applies to oil palm plantations excluded from forests; thus, the overlapping condition made them ineligible to join the program. Second, is the low grant funding for replanting provided by the government which is only Rp30 million per hectare as opposed to the cost of replanting which is around Rp70 million per hectare.

Hence, GAPKI has warmly welcomed the recent decision of the government to double the replanting fund from Rp30 million to Rp60 million per hectare. In addition, the government has also decided to streamline the application procedures for joining the replanting program from 6 stages to only 3 stages. "With the increase of funding and easier application procedure, we hope smallholders will be enthusiastic in implementing the replanting program," Eddy said. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

USDA PROJECTS RECORD WORLD SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IN 2023/24

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has projected world soybean production for the crop year 2023/34 to increase by 18.8 million MT to a record 397 million MT. The agency also estimated world soybean consumption at 382 million MT, also reaching record level, from 365.9 million MT in the previous crop year 2022/23.

The USDA, however, slightly lowered its soybean production forecast for Brazil by about 7 million MT from the previous crop year to 155 million MT. It also forecasted the country's export volume of 103 million MT, which likely significantly declines the ending stocks by around 3.2 million MT, to around 33.1 million MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MPOB URGES PALM OIL INDUSTRY PLAYERS TO EXPORT TOCOTRIENOL PRODUCTS TO CHINA

The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) has urged palm oil industry players to take the golden opportunity to export palm tocotrienol products to China after obtaining the approval to register the product in the republic. Following the approval received on March 13, palm tocotrienol (Vitamin E) is now authorized for export and use in food applications within China.

MPOB director-general Datuk Dr. Ahmad Parveez Ghulam Kadir said the approval also gave industry players the opportunity to capitalize on the potential to significantly strengthen their market presence and revenue in one of the world's largest markets.

"The approval is one of the best gifts awarded by the Chinese Government to the Malaysian oil palm industry in conjunction with the 50th anniversary celebration of the diplomatic ties between Malaysia and China, symbolizing a strong and enduring friendship as well as mutual respect and cooperation," he said in a statement. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

DISCOVERY OF MECHANISM PLANTS USE TO CHANGE SEED OIL COULD IMPACT INDUSTRIAL, FOOD OILS

Researchers have discovered a new mechanism of oil biosynthesis and found a way to genetically engineer a type of test plant to more efficiently produce different kinds of seed oil that it otherwise wouldn't make.

While the engineering is proof-of-concept, this discovery could lead to improved production of valuable oils used in food and by a range of industries. The study, led by Washington State University researchers, was published in the journal Nature Communications.

"Scientists have been working on producing novel seed oil compositions for decades, but most of the time you only get small amounts of the desired oil," said Phil Bates, a WSU professor and lead author on the study.

Bates and his co-authors found that Physaria fendleri, a plant related to canola, can naturally change the fatty acid composition in its seed oil after it is already made, something nobody knew any plant could do. They discovered the genetic mechanism Physaria uses to make those changes and then genetically engineered a related plant called Arabidopsis to make the same fatty acid changes.

The modified Arabidopsis overcame metabolic bottlenecks and produced significant amounts of an oil similar to castor oil that it doesn't naturally produce.

Plant oils are used in food, pharmaceutical, cosmetic, industrial, chemical and biofuel industries. Plant oils' value stems from its fatty acid composition. Around 90% of oil is valuable for industrial uses in crops like castor beans, Bates said. But if the desirable oil-making genes are transferred into another plant, only small amounts of the oil produced is usable by industry. The newly discovered mechanism of oil biosynthesis shows a way to bump that production back up.

"We've always thought that when plants accumulate oil during seed development, that's the end product," said Bates, a faculty member in WSU's Institute of Biological Chemistry. "But we found that Physaria, after making oil, removes some of the fatty acids within the oil and replaces that with others."

Those oils could replace the reliance of growing dangerous crops, like castor. Castor plants are banned in the U.S. because they also produce ricin, a dangerous poison. Castor oil is valuable in industrial lubricants, but expensive because only a few nations can grow the plants, either legally or environmentally. *(Science Daily)*

IEA OIL MARKET REPORT (OMR) FOR APRIL 2024 UNVEILED: INSIGHTS AND FORECASTS

The latest edition of the IEA Oil Market Report (OMR) for April 2024 examines the global oil market landscape with keen scrutiny, offering a comprehensive overview of key trends and projections shaping the industry.

Oil Demand Growth: The report illuminates a notable deceleration in global oil demand growth during the first quarter of 2024, registering at 1.6 million barrels per day (mb/d). This slowdown, attributed to lackluster deliveries in OECD countries, has tempered initial post-COVID rebound expectations. With vehicle efficiencies and electric vehicle adoption on the rise, the forecast anticipates a further dip in oil demand growth to 1.2 mb/d in 2024, followed by a modest uptick to 1.1 mb/d in 2025.

Supply Trends: Amidst a dynamic supply landscape, the spotlight falls on non-OPEC+ countries, particularly the US, poised to drive global supply growth through 2025. Forecasts indicate a robust increase in global oil output by 770 kb/d to 102.9 mb/d in 2024, fueled by a 1.6 mb/d non-OPEC+ production surge. The trajectory of OPEC+ supply remains contingent on the continuity of voluntary cuts, with a potential decline of 820 kb/d in 2024. Looking ahead, global supply growth could escalate to 1.6 mb/d in 2025, propelled by non-OPEC+ nations.

Refinery Throughputs: Against the backdrop of evolving refinery dynamics, global refinery throughputs are projected to climb by 1 mb/d to 83.3 mb/d in 2024. However, recent setbacks such as lower Russian runs, unplanned outages in Europe, and subdued Chinese activity have cast a shadow over this trajectory. As we venture into 2025, throughputs are slated to ascend further to 84.2 mb/d, buoyed by non-OECD growth.

Oil Inventories: A significant juncture arises in the realm of oil inventories, as global observations in February 2024 witnessed a surge by 43.3 million barrels, marking a seven-month peak. Concurrently, on-land stocks plummeted to their lowest levels since at least 2016, reflecting a nuanced industry landscape. Despite a decline of 7.6 million barrels in OECD industry stocks in February, early indications suggest a build of 22 million barrels in March, hinting at fluctuating market dynamics.

Price Trends: The report underscores a crescendo in ICE Brent crude futures, reaching a six-month pinnacle of $90/bbl in early April. Triggered by escalating tensions in the Middle East, attacks on Russian refineries, and an extension of OPEC+ output cuts through June, crude prices have soared. Bolstered by bullish investor sentiment, this ascent underscores the market's responsiveness to geopolitical factors and supply disruptions. *(IEA)*

HEALTH NEWS

THE FUTURE OF WELLNESS: COCONUT OIL IN 2024 – TRENDS, INNOVATIONS, AND NEW USES

coconut oil continues to hold a place of significance in various global industries. Once primarily known for its culinary uses, this versatile oil has expanded its reach into the realms of health and beauty, becoming a staple in diets and skincare routines alike. Let's delve into the emerging trends and significant developments expected to shape the coconut oil industry in 2024.

Health and Beauty: A Dual Focus

Coconut oil's role in promoting health continues to be a focal point of interest. Rich in medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), which are known for their energy-boosting properties, coconut oil is becoming increasingly popular in dietary regimes. Researchers are delving deeper into its potential benefits, from enhancing cognitive function to aiding in weight management. Beyond nutrition, coconut oil is being recognized for its therapeutic properties. Its anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial characteristics make it a natural choice for holistic health practices. As the world gravitates towards more organic and natural health solutions, coconut oil stands out as a versatile and effective option. Additionally, coconut oil is not only a kitchen staple but also a beauty secret. It's used in skincare routines, hair treatments, and even as a makeup remover. In 2024, expect to see more innovative beauty products incorporating coconut oil.

Newer Virgin Coconut Oil: The Superfood of 2024

Virgin coconut oil has emerged as a standout superfood. Known for its unique combination

of fatty acids and rich nutrient profile, it has captured the attention of health enthusiasts, chefs, and beauty experts alike. In 2024, we'll witness how virgin coconut oil is being incorporated into new dietary patterns, beauty products, and even eco-friendly practices.

Sustainable Production Methods

As the world becomes more environmentally conscious, the demand for ethically sourced and eco-friendly products is on the rise. Coconut oil producers are at a pivotal point, exploring sustainable production methods that minimize environmental impact.

In summary, coconut oil, a staple in many cultures and industries, is poised to make significant strides in 2024. Its versatility makes it vital in health, beauty, culinary arts, and sustainable practices. The coming year promises to unveil new innovations and exciting developments in the coconut oil industry. *(Econutrena)*

COCONUT VS TENDER COCONUT: WHICH IS HEALTHIER?

Coconuts, often referred to as the tree of life, have been cherished for their numerous health benefits for centuries. However, when it comes to choosing between a mature coconut and its tender counterpart, known as tender coconut or young coconut, which one is healthier? Let us delve into the nutritional profiles of both to find out.

Coconut

Mature coconuts are the familiar brown-husked ones commonly found in grocery stores. They are harvested when the coconut is fully ripe, and the water inside has been replaced by the meat. Here's a breakdown of their nutritional content:

- Nutrient Richness: Mature coconuts are abundant in healthy fats, particularly medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), which are easily metabolized by the body for energy. They also contain small amounts of protein and fibre.
- Caloric Density: Due to their high-fat content, mature coconuts are calorically dense. While they provide essential nutrients, consuming them in excess may lead to weight gain if not balanced with other foods.
- Mineral Content: They are a good source of minerals such as manganese, copper, selenium, and iron, which play vital roles in various physiological processes in the body.

Tender Coconut

Tender coconuts, on the other hand, are harvested much earlier, typically between 5 to 7 months of age, before the water inside has fully developed into coconut meat. Here's what makes them a healthy choice:

- Hydration: Tender coconut water is nature's electrolyte-rich beverage, providing essential minerals like potassium, sodium, and magnesium. It's low in calories and cholesterol-free, making it an excellent choice for staying hydrated.
- Antioxidants: Tender coconut water contains antioxidants such as vitamin C, which help neutralize harmful free radicals in the body, thereby reducing the risk of chronic diseases and promoting overall health.
- Low in Fat: Unlike mature coconuts, tender coconuts are low in fat, making them a suitable option for those watching their fat intake or trying to lose weight.

Healthier Choice

Both mature and tender coconuts offer unique health benefits, and the choice between the two depends on individual preferences and dietary needs. If you're looking for a hydrating and low-calorie option packed with electrolytes and antioxidants, tender coconut water is an excellent choice. On the other hand, if you're

seeking a nutrient-dense source of healthy fats and minerals, mature coconut meat might be more suitable.

In conclusion, whether it's the refreshing water of a tender coconut or the creamy texture of mature coconut meat, incorporating both into your diet in moderation can contribute to overall health and well-being. So, why not enjoy the best of both worlds and reap the nutritional benefits each has to offer? *(India TV)*

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT LENTIL CURRY

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon coconut oil
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 teaspoon ginger paste (or fresh ginger)
- Pinch of sea salt (adjust to taste)
- Dash of cayenne pepper (optional, for spice lovers)
- 1 (15-ounce) can crushed tomatoes
- 1 (13.5-ounce) can full-fat coconut milk
- 1 cup red lentils
- 3 cups water
- 1 bell pepper, diced
- 1 cup peas (fresh or frozen)
- Coconut rice (for serving)

Instructions:

1. Heat coconut oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add chopped onion and minced garlic. Sauté until fragrant and translucent.
2. Stir in cumin, coriander, turmeric, ginger paste, and a pinch of sea salt. Let the spices bloom for a minute.
3. Add crushed tomatoes and coconut milk. Mix well.
4. Rinse red lentils and add them to the pan. Pour in 3 cups of water.
5. Bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for about 20-25 minutes, stirring occasionally. The lentils should be tender and creamy.
6. Add diced bell pepper and peas. Cook for an additional 5 minutes.
7. Taste and adjust seasoning if needed.
8. Serve the coconut lentil curry over coconut rice for a comforting and flavorful meal.

Enjoy the creamy goodness of coconut milk combined with warming spices and nutritious lentils! You can customize this curry by adding your favorite veggies or grains. Bon appétit! *(Food with Feelings)*

STATISTICS

Table 1. Indonesia's Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2022 – 2024

Month	2022		2023		2024	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000
January	35,566	67,128	54,436	55,216	58,053	59,761
February	48,846	92,391	74,419	74,978	64,023	68,231
March	71,557	141,347	74,970	76,473	49,013	54,648
April	51,164	105,681	57,695	57,515	58,675	68,580
May	60,018	116,375	55,397	56,651		
June	55,547	100,407	70,093	67,749		
July	79,133	128,730	52,109	51,187		
August	54,843	80,834	61,594	58,845		
September	59,251	73,806	41,572	42,876		
October	58,686	65,241	57,262	57,270		
November	44,177	47,174	64,097	65,456		
December	67,089	69,597	58,894	60,942		
Total	**685,878**	**1,088,711**	**722,537**	**725,157**	**229,764**	**251,220**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 2. Philippines' Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2020 – 2024

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	115,346	52,302	97,009	8,519	127,714
February	59,757	53,704	123,579	64,696	102,516
March	91,762	72,143	97,741	137,097	
April	53,629	58,555	123,835	59,347	
May	61,034	51,927	113,696	110,345	
June	92,625	65,091	87,170	64,785	
July	19,161	78,441	112,646	119,766	
August	85,963	80,111	104,713	90,380	
September	83,382	82,648	78,818	77,995	
October	58,911	93,101	109,769	103,608	
November	63,150	95,115	83,684	64,677	
December	55,353	97,947	87,132	98,974	
Total	**840,073**	**881,085**	**1,219,792**	**1,090,189**	**230,230**

Source: UCAP & Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 3. International Prices of Selected Oils, May 2021 - April 2024, (US$/MT)

Year	Month	Coconut Phil/Indo (CIF. Rott.)	Soybean Oil Dutch (FOB ex-mill)	Palm Oil Malaysian (CIF. Eur.)	Palm Kernel Oil (CIF. Rott.)	Sunflower Oil EU (Fob. NW. EU)
	May	1,715	1,575	1,136	1,531	1,585
	June	1,671	1,518	1,004	1,400	1,297
	July	1,584	1,468	1,063	1,274	1,282
	August	1,494	1,434	1,142	1,341	1,356
	September	1,485	1,399	1,181	1,427	1,310
	October	1,923	1,484	1,310	1,818	1,421
	November	1,961	1,443	1,341	2,050	1,416
	December	1,696	1,411	1,270	1,861	1,362
2022	January	2,016	1,470	1345	2,196	1,412
	February	2,148	1,596	1,522	2,443	1,499
	March	2,230	1,957	1,777	2,441	2,361
	April	2,095	1,948	1,683	2,064	2,276
	May	1,813	1,963	1,717	1,811	2,079
	June	1,701	1,752	1,501	1,555	1,885
	July	1,541	1,533	1,057	1,301	1,557
	August	1,385	1,599	1,026	1,173	1,496
	September	1,248	1,548	909	1,249	1,305
	October	1,108	1,576	889	1,039	1,359
	November	1,173	1,652	946	1,062	1,347
	December	1,158	1,409	940	1,067	1,234
2023	January	1,079	1,352	942	1,060	1,218
	February	1,087	1,243	950	1,037	1,159
	March	1,115	1,113	972	1,052	1,075
	April	1,074	1,030	1,005	1,017	1,035
	May	1,048	988	934	993	962
	June	1,013	1,007	817	928	911
	July	1,047	1,136	879	998	1,039
	August	1,099	1,127	861	998	989
	September	1,072	1,112	830	958	895
	October	1,046	1,134	804	912	910
	November	1,115	1,118	830	968	944
	December	1,109	1,062	814	966	944
2024	January	1,131	971	845	978	943
	February	1,172	912	857	1,034	925
	March	1,288	965	943	1,177	951
	April	1,425	959	936	1,290	971

Source: Cocommunity and Oil World

ICC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

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

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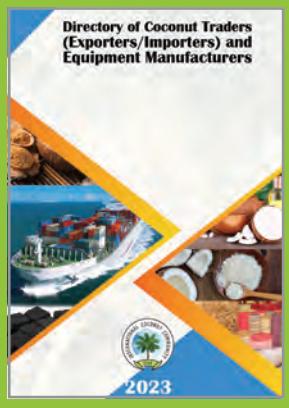

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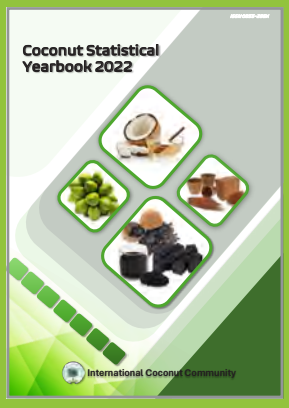

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Coconut for a Circular Economy: Building Partnerships for Maximum Value

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SHORT VIDEO

WRITING

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TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Theme: ***"Coconut for a Circular Economy: Building Partnerships for Maximum Value"***
- 1st - 3rd winner by decision of jury
- The decision of the jury is final and inviolable
- Participants must follow ICC social media
- Submission email to: wcd@coconutcommunity.org

TOTAL PRIZE USD500

Photography Competition

- Photos must be original work of the participant
- Time range photos taken is year 2023 until now
- Minimum resolution: 600 DPI
- Maximum of 5 photos per participant
- Name format: Country - Name - Photo Title
- Photo editing allowed only: cropping, color contrast, rotating
- Submitted photos will be belonged to ICC for any publication purposes
- One of the winner criterias is voting/like in Instagram & Facebook (follow ICC Instagram and Facebook)

TOTAL PRIZE USD550

Short Video/Footage Competition

- Competition open for worldwide
- One video allowed per participant (can be done individually or group of max 3 people)
- Videos must be original work of the participant
- Time range: videos taken is year 2023 until now
- Maximum total duration is 3 minutes
- Minimum Resolution: 1080 p
- Posted in participant's own social media: Facebook and Instagram post by tagging ICC social media and #worldcoconutday2024, #worldcoconutdayICC, #coconutcommunity
- ICC can have access of reposting and any publication purposes for the published post
- Name format: Country - Name - Video Title
- Submitted videos will be belonged to ICC for any publication purposes
- Video content suggestions: ***Innovative ways to serve coconut-based foods*** & ***Coconut based crafts/home product making/tutorial of making products from coconut/handicrafts***

TOTAL PRIZE USD550

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- Submitted material will be belonged to ICC for any publication purposes
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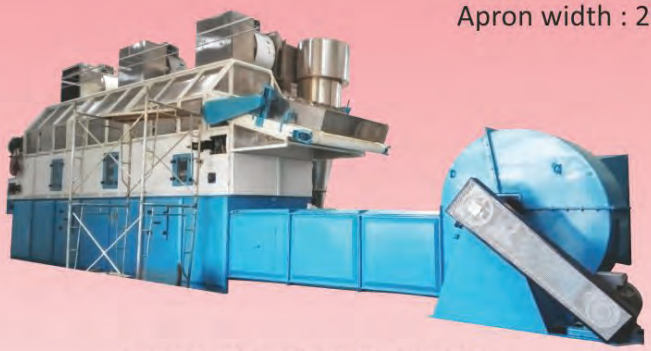

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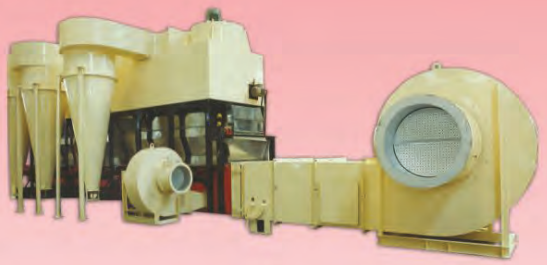

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The ***COCOMMUNITY*** is the monthly Newsletter of the INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY (ICC) incorporating current news, features, statistical data, business opportunities, and market information relating to the world coconut industry.

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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