The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

"Fostering Coconut Conservation and Innovation Through Germplasm Exchange"

The October 2024 issue of COCOMUNITY underscores a vital aspect of the global coconut industry: germplasm exchange. As a cornerstone of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation, germplasm exchange is essential for preserving genetic diversity, enhancing coconut varieties, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of this "tree of life." However, achieving its full potential requires overcoming significant challenges and ensuring alignment with international treaties and agreements.

Germplasm exchange plays a critical role in the global effort to develop high-yielding, disease-resistant, and climate-resilient coconut varieties. It facilitates access to valuable genetic material that supports breeding programs and scientific research. The five International Coconut Genebanks (ICGs), located in Southeast Asia (Indonesia), South Asia (India), the South Pacific (Papua New Guinea), Africa and the Indian Ocean (Côte d'Ivoire), and Latin America and the Caribbean (Brazil), serve as global repositories for safeguarding coconut germplasm.

However, the process of exchanging germplasm is fraught with challenges. One of the most pressing concerns is the risk of spreading diseases, such as lethal yellowing, which can devastate coconut plantations. Additionally, domestic biosecurity regulations, though critical for national safety, often act as barriers to seamless germplasm exchange. Furthermore, compliance with international treaties such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) ensures that genetic resources are exchanged responsibly, with equitable access and benefit-sharing mechanisms. These agreements emphasize the importance of collaboration and fairness while safeguarding biodiversity.

To address these challenges, the establishment of a dedicated quarantine center for coconut germplasm exchange has been proposed. CIRAD, a globally recognized institute specializing in agricultural research and biosecurity, offers a viable option for hosting such a center. The center would ensure that germplasm meets strict phytosanitary standards before international exchange, mitigating the risk of disease transmission. However, to ensure cost-efficiency and accessibility for coconut-growing countriess, it is equally crucial to identify additional laboratories or institutes with similar quarantine capabilities. These facilities should be strategically located and equipped to meet international standards, enabling broader participation and reducing logistical costs.

Beyond the technical and logistical aspects, adhering to international treaties and frameworks is paramount to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources. Mechanisms for benefit-sharing must be clearly defined and implemented, ensuring that countries contributing germplasm are acknowledged and supported in their conservation efforts. This approach fosters global trust and collaboration, laying the foundation for a sustainable future.

This issue of COCOMUNITY explores the significance of germplasm exchange, the challenges it faces, and the opportunities presented by international cooperation and agreements. By fostering global collaboration, supporting adherence to international treaties, and identifying cost-effective quarantine solutions, the coconut industry can harness the full potential of genetic diversity to drive innovation and secure its future for generations to come.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

September 2024 marked a notable surge in the prices of various coconut-related products across major producing nations like the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka. The price of Coconut Oil (CNO) saw an uptick in the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India. Additionally, the price of Desiccated Coconut (DC) experienced increases in Philippines, Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka.

COPRA: In September 2024, the price of copra in Indonesia rose to US$913 per metric ton, up from US$841 per metric ton in the previous month, representing a significant year-on-year increase of US$299 per metric ton. Similarly, the copra market in the Philippines experienced a modest uptick, with prices increasing from US$780 per metric ton in August 2024 to US$838 per metric ton in September 2024. This marked a US$230 per metric ton rise compared to the same period the previous year, when prices stood at US$608 per metric ton.

COCONUT OIL: In September 2024, coconut oil prices demonstrated a consistent upward trend across India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. In Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price surged to US$1,740 per metric ton, marking a substantial 61% increase compared to the previous year. The Philippines recorded a local market price of US$1,692 per metric ton, reflecting a year-on-year rise of US$615. Similarly, Indonesia experienced a moderate price increase, with local prices climbing to US$1,671 per metric ton in September 2024 from US$1,530 per metric ton in August 2024, showing a year-on-year gain of US$598 per metric ton.

COPRA MEAL: In September 2024, the average domestic price of copra meal in the Philippines declined to US$87 per metric ton, marking a decrease from the previous month and a significant drop of US$168 per metric ton compared to the same period last year. In contrast, Indonesia experienced an increase in its average domestic copra meal price, reaching US$259 per metric ton, reflecting a modest year-on-year rise of US$2 per metric ton.

DESICCATED COCONUT: In September 2024, the average Free on Board (FOB) price of Desiccated Coconut (DC) in the USA rose to US$2,131 per metric ton, reflecting an increase from the previous month. Sri Lanka reported a domestic price hike for DC, reaching US$2,563 per metric ton, while the Philippines maintained a stable domestic price of US$2,039 per metric ton. Meanwhile, Indonesia's FOB price for DC increased to US$2,475 per metric ton, significantly surpassing the year-ago price of US$1,400 per metric ton.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In September 2024, the average price of coconut shell charcoal demonstrated an upward trend across major producing countries, including the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka. In the Philippines, the price reached US$390 per metric ton, reflecting a modest increase of US$9 per metric ton compared to the previous month. Indonesia saw a rise in the average price to US$557 per metric ton, while Sri Lanka experienced an increase to US$449 per metric ton during the same period.

COIR FIBRE: In September 2024, the domestic trade of coir fiber in Sri Lanka reported an average price of US$63 per metric ton for mixed fiber, while bristle fiber prices ranged between US$419 and US$656 per metric ton. Meanwhile, in Indonesia, the price of mixed raw fiber reached US$140 per metric ton, reflecting a slight increase from the previous year's price of US$98 per metric ton.

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

Products/Country	2024 Sep	2024 Aug	2023 Sep	2024 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	169	146	122	145
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	224	196	150	195
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	292	301	190	246
India (Domestic Kerala)	504	478	393	479
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	838	780	608	686
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	913	841	614	739
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,301	1,312	889	1,185
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,409	1,254	992	1,215
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,740	1,610	1,084	1,399
Philippines (Domestic)	1,692	1,543	1,077	1,326
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,671	1,530	1,073	1,331
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,357	2,314	1,702	2,097
India (Domestic, Kerala)	2,283	2,047	1,594	1,929
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,131	2,124	1,690	1,944
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,563	2,367	1,579	2,093
Indonesia (FOB)	2,475	2,030	1,400	2,015
India (Domestic)	2,388	1,883	1,502	1,833
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	87	94	255	167
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	282	298	266	299
Indonesia (Domestic)	259	251	257	250
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	390	381	339	369
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	449	415	313	383
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	557	515	456	474
India (Domestic)	496	435	337	410
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	63	68	51	64
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	419	425	403	428
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	656	693	564	653
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	140	116	98	114
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,515	1,480	958	1,243
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	983	933	830	903
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,044	1,031	1,112	996

Exchange Rate

Sep 30, '24 1 US$ = P56.06 or Rp15,159 or India Rs83.76 or SL Rs296.19

1 Euro = US$ 1.11 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF DESICCATED COCONUT

Global imports of desiccated coconut have undergone notable fluctuations over the past decade, reflecting shifting market dynamics and evolving consumer preferences. In 2014, global imports stood at 420,373 metric tons (MT) and surged to a peak of 535,584 MT in 2021, fueled by growing demand for natural and plant-based ingredients. However, this upward trajectory reversed, with imports declining to 464,360 MT in 2023 and continuing to weaken into early 2024.

The European Union (EU27) has demonstrated consistent growth, solidifying its position as a leading market for desiccated coconut. Imports increased steadily from 103,376 MT in 2014 to a peak of 118,291 MT in 2022. Despite a modest dip to 112,288 MT in 2023, the EU remains a reliable market, driven by consumer interest in sustainable and health-focused products.

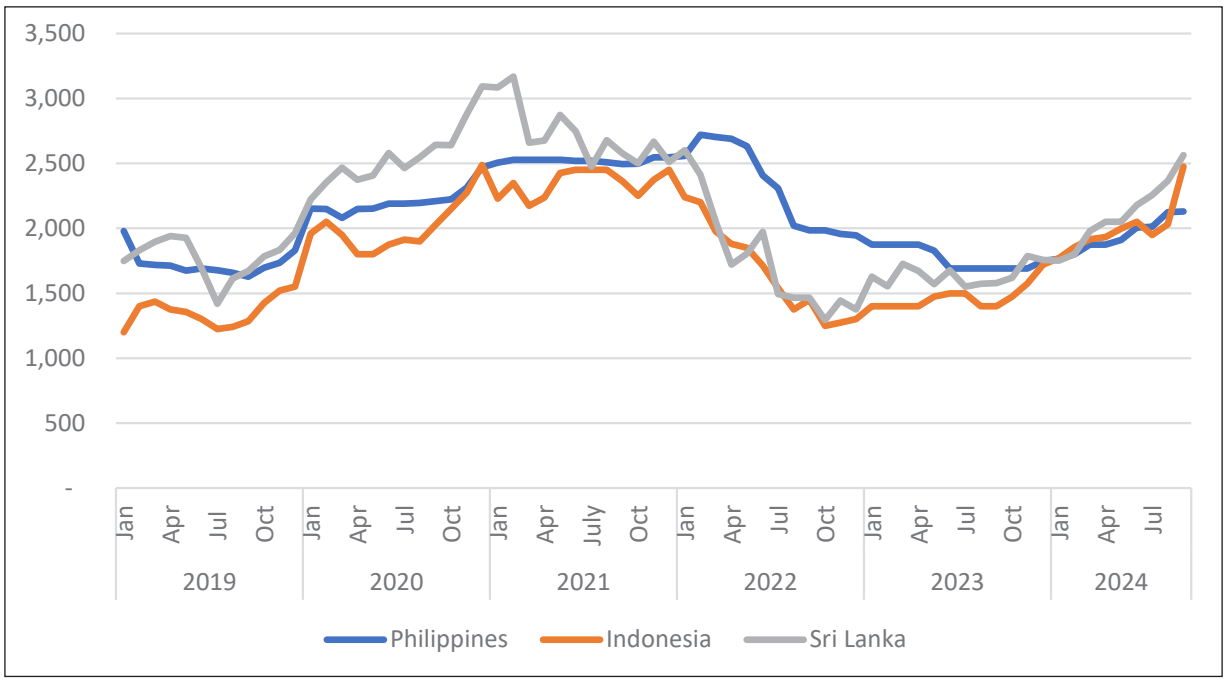
Conversely, the United States has seen greater volatility. After peaking at 54,372 MT in 2022, imports plummeted to 38,741 MT in 2023, with January–August 2024 figures totaling just 25,343 MT, indicating persistent weak demand. This decline may stem from economic pressures, shifts in consumer preferences, or competition from alternative ingredients.

Table 1. Global Import Volume (MT) of Desiccated Coconut, 2014-August 2024

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	535,584	115,103	53,568
2022	505,905	118,291	54,372
2023	464,360	112,288	38,741
Jan-Aug 2024	222,944	60,934	25,343

Source: ITC and US Census Bureau F: forecasted figures

Figure 1. Monthly Price of Desiccated Coconut (US$/MT), January 2019- September 2024

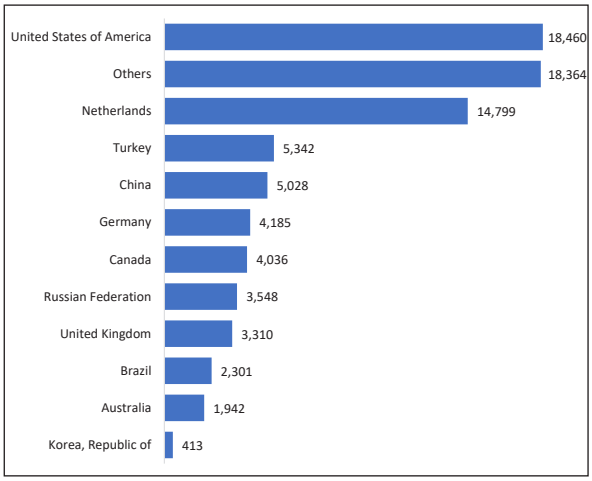


On a global scale, the post-2021 downturn in imports is likely influenced by economic slowdowns, supply chain disruptions, and climate-related challenges affecting coconut-producing countries.

The Philippines, a leading global exporter of desiccated coconut, has shown a strong recovery in 2024. During January–June, the country exported 81,728 MT, marking a 9.5% increase compared to the same period in 2023. This rebound follows a marginal 0.4% decline in 2023, when total exports reached 156,274 MT. The resurgence highlights the resilience of demand, particularly in major markets.

The United States and the Netherlands were the top importers of Philippine desiccated coconut during this period, with imports of 18,460 MT and 18,364 MT, respectively. Other key markets included Turkey, China, Germany, and Canada, each importing over 4,000 MT. This diversified demand across North America, Europe, and Asia underscores the global reliance on desiccated coconut and intensifying competition for supplies.

Figure 2. Export Destinations of Desiccated Coconut from Philippines, January-June 2024 (MT)

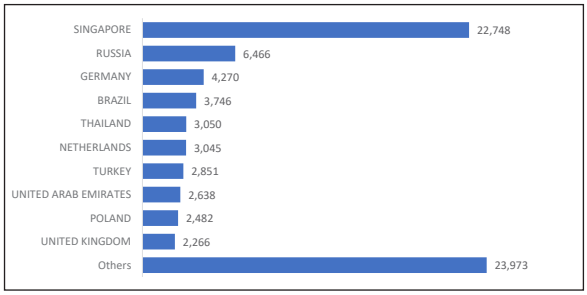


Source: UCAP

Indonesia, another major exporter, has also reported positive trends. Between January and August 2024, exports reached 77,536 MT, reflecting a 6% increase from the same period in 2023. This growth builds on a 3.2% annual increase in 2023, following a significant downturn in 2022. Indonesia's steady recovery highlights the resilience of its coconut industry despite earlier challenges.

Key export markets for Indonesian desiccated coconut include Singapore, Russia, Germany, Brazil, Thailand, the Netherlands, and Turkey, all of which have maintained strong demand.

Figure 3. Export Destinations of Desiccated Coconut from Indonesia, January-August 2024 (MT)



Rising global demand and constrained supply have driven significant price increases across major producing countries. In September 2024, the average export price of Philippine desiccated coconut reached $2,131 per MT, representing a 26% year-on-year increase. Indonesian prices climbed even higher, averaging $2,475 per MT, up 76.8% compared to the previous year. Sri Lanka, another key producer, reported an average price of $2,563 per MT, marking a 62% year-on-year increase.

These price surges underscore tightening supply conditions amid robust global demand, highlighting the critical need for sustainable production and supply chain resilience in the face of economic and environmental challenges.

Global trade in desiccated coconut continues to reflect dynamic market forces. While leading markets like the EU exhibit steady growth, others such as the United States face challenges. On the supply side, the recovery of key exporters like the Philippines and Indonesia demonstrates the resilience of the industry despite price volatility and external pressures. As demand for plant-based and natural products grows, the desiccated coconut market remains poised for further evolution, with sustainability and innovation at its core.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ICC PARTICIPATES IN THE 3RD SVOC: INDUSTRY LEADERS TACKLE SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHALLENGES, AND GLOBAL POLICIES

The Executive Director and Market & Statistics Officer of the International Coconut Community (ICC) attended the 3rd Sustainable Vegetable Oils Conference (SVOC), held at the Rotterdam Ahoy Convention Center. Co-organized by the Netherlands Oils and Fats Industry (MVO) and the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC), this year's event aimed to move beyond conventional trade shows and scientific forums by focusing on tangible solutions to address the industry's most urgent challenges.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Rizal Affandi Lukman, Secretary General of CPOPC, emphasized the critical role of vegetable oils in ensuring both global food security and the transition to green energy. The conference underscored a vital takeaway: all vegetable oils are indispensable for securing global food and energy supplies. However, the persistent discrimination against certain oils, particularly palm oil in Europe, remains a pressing concern. The widespread use of "palm oil free" labels in supermarkets undermines producers and adversely impacts those facing food insecurity.

The discussions at the conference delved into the challenges of boosting productivity amid a changing climate, aging agricultural infrastructure, and the urgent need for greater investment and technological innovation. The cocoa industry was highlighted as a prominent example of these challenges. Participants also examined the complexities arising from geopolitical factors, distribution constraints, and the surging demand driven by a growing global population.

A key theme throughout the conference was the necessity of adopting science-based, market-driven policies, rather than those based on ideology. The conference reaffirmed the essential role of all vegetable oils in food and energy security and recognized the efforts of producing countries and companies to enhance sustainability and product quality.

The evolving concept of sustainability also came under scrutiny, particularly the shift in the U.S. toward a focus on resilience, a concept that contrasts with European sustainability models. The European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) was cited as an example of this divergence, and the absence of EU Commission representatives to engage in these critical discussions was noted. While EUDR compliance poses challenges for many industries including smallholder farmers, the absence of coconut in the current regulation shows recognition of its role in sustainable agriculture, and provides time for the sector to strengthen sustainable practices.

In the closing remarks, Pietro Paganini reflected on the progress made since the first SVOC meeting in Bali, which initially focused on palm oil due to its significant global impact. Today, the conference has expanded to encompass a diverse range of vegetable oils and producing countries, fostering more robust dialogue and a deeper understanding of the issues at hand. Looking ahead to the next SVOC, the Council aims to engage more directly with the challenges posed by the EUDR, with a clear mission to sustain and expand the dialogue on sustainable vegetable oils. *(ICC News)*

ICC AND CIRAD MEET IN MONTPELLIER: RENEWING PARTNERSHIPS AND ENHANCING COLLABORATION

The Executive Director and Market Statistics Officer of the International Coconut Community (ICC) visited the offices of CIRAD in Montpellier, France, for a meeting with CIRAD leaders and researchers. The meeting took place on September 13, 2024, in the CIRAD meeting room.

Dr. Philippe Petithuguenin, Director of Research and Strategy at CIRAD, welcomed the ICC delegation, providing an overview of CIRAD's role, mission, and ongoing activities. He emphasized the importance of strengthening collaboration between CIRAD and the ICC, particularly noting CIRAD's readiness to facilitate a quarantine center for coconut germplasm exchange. This initiative is expected to stimulate the process of germplasm exchange among International and national coconut gene banks.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, ICC Executive Director, expressed her gratitude for CIRAD's warm reception and enthusiasm for collaboration. She was particularly pleased with CIRAD's willingness to support the quarantine center for coconut germplasm exchange, announcing her intent to propose this idea at the upcoming ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting in Sri Lanka later this year. Dr. Alouw also extended an invitation to CIRAD to attend the Session and Ministerial meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Dr. Andrea Garavito provided a detailed explanation of CIRAD's programs and activities, reminding ICC of the need to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organizations, which had recently expired. Dr. Alouw agreed to proceed with the renewal. Additionally, Dr. Frederick Gay elaborated on CIRAD's ABSys activities, while Dr. Gilles Trouche provided insights into the programs and initiatives of the AGAP Institute. The CIRAD researchers updated ICC on recent and coconut-related projects including missions to Lethal Yellowing affected countries Ghana, Mozambique, a Coconut audit in Dominican Republic, the production of Biochar from Nam Hom-by-products, and exploratory missions on Bogia diseases and coconut pests in Papua New Guinea.

The visit concluded with a guided tour of CIRAD's premises, including laboratories, and a modern and automated germplasm conservation system, led by Dr. Andrea Garavito. This visit reaffirmed the shared commitment between ICC and CIRAD to further enhance collaboration in coconut research and development. *(ICC News)*

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM IN THE COCONUT INDUSTRY IS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

The Inaugural Ceremony of the International Training Course for Youth in the Coconut Industry, "Empowering the Future of Coconut Sector: A Youth-Led Transformation Program through Sustainable Partnerships", organized by ICC in collaboration with various research institutes and private sectors, was successfully held at JS Luwansa Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia 19th September 2024 in hybrid mode. Dignitaries such as government officers, partner organizations, private sectors, and sponsors attended the event. The program aims to empower the next generation to transform the industry through sustainable practices. The program will start with virtual training from September to November 2024, followed by face-to-face sessions in 2025, including an internship and market linkage program, with ICC funding select participants and projects.

In her welcome address, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, mentioned that the farming population is predominantly made up of older farmers with limited involvement of the younger generation. The training program is critical to ensuring the smooth transfer of knowledge, skills, and ownership of the industry to the next generation.

She also emphasized the importance of empowering youth to introduce innovative solutions for higher productivity, lower costs, and better market access. Young people are naturally curious and innovative, making them ideal candidates for transforming the coconut sector. Investing in youth now lays the groundwork for a strong and productive workforce in the future.

She encouraged participants to apply the lessons learned in real-world scenarios to

become leaders, innovators, and change-makers in their communities. The program aims to cultivate an energetic, smart, and adaptable young generation passionate about transforming the coconut sector, with a focus on empowering youth to lead the industry's sustainable and resilient future.

Mrs. Sureka N. Attanayake, Director (Policy and Operations), Ministry of Agriculture & Plantation Industries, Sri Lanka, on behalf of Mr. Janaka Dharmakeerthi, Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries, Sri Lanka/Chairman of ICC, emphasized the program's importance in transforming the coconut sector through sustainable partnerships. It highlights the role of youth in driving innovation, job creation, and sustainable development. Empowered youth can lead in adapting eco-friendly practices, fostering social inclusion, and promoting social change. The program aligns with the ICC's vision of a global, sustainable, resilient, inclusive, and profitable coconut sector. It encourages youth entrepreneurship, global engagement, and partnerships with research institutes, universities, private sector companies, and financial institutions to enhance the sector's competitiveness and long-term growth.

She mentioned that Youth are highlighted as driving forces and emphasized that the youth-led transformation of the coconut sector is a necessity, not just a possibility, and extends best wishes to all young participants in the new development program, encouraging continued investment in youth for prosperity and sustainability of the coconut industry.

Ms. Yenni Hernawati, Coordinator for International Commodity Organization, Directorate General of International Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Trade, on behalf of Mr. Djatmiko Bris Witjaksono, S.E., MSIE, Director General of International Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia/NLO Indonesia, emphasized Indonesia's potential in the industry and the critical role of youth in driving innovation and modern technology adoption. She highlighted the importance of youth involvement in agriculture, which contributes significantly to global GDP, and encouraged them to see agriculture as a rewarding career. She expressed gratitude for the program, which equips young people with the tools to make an impact in the sector. She concluded by urging participants to embrace their pioneering role in shaping the industry's future.

H.E. Diar Nurbintoro, Director, NAM-CSSTC, underlined that the strong solidarity between NAMS-CSSTC and ICC has fostered ongoing collaboration, particularly in technical cooperation, over the past few years. The consistent contribution and participation of NAMS-CSTC and ICC in the development of the coconut sector through various training programs, webinars, and workshops reiterates the commitment to deeper collaboration between both organizations, emphasizing the foundation for full initiative support for the growth of the coconut sector.

Dr. Tristan Amstrong, Senior Program Manager, Australian High Commission, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, commended the ICC for their youth empowerment initiative focused on coconut cultivation in the Solomon Islands. He highlighted the importance of coconut as a fundamental crop and its role in soil stabilization and economic sustainability. Armstrong emphasized the need for youth engagement to revitalize the sector, noting the decline of old plantations and the loss of unique genetic varieties. He also praised the ICC's training and knowledge-sharing programs and expressed support for nominating youth leaders.

Mr. Gregory Bardies, Executive Director, SCP, shared slides on Sustainable Coconut Partnerships mission to catalyze sustainable coconut production through industry-wide best practices, described SCP's collaboration with ICC and other partners to support the program. Highlights the importance of collaboration and the potential to identify future leaders and change-makers in the industry. He expressed

excitement for the upcoming months and the opportunity to lead the coconut industry towards a sustainable future.

Also delivering remarks, NLO attended virtually, represented by Mr. Alan Aku, Managing Director, KOKONAS Indastri Koporesen (KIK), NLO Papua New Guinea; Mr. Roel M. Rosales, Deputy Administrator, Field Services Branch, PCA, NLO Philippines; Dr. K.B. Hebbar, CPCRI, on behalf of Mr. Priya Ranjan IFoS, Joint Secretary, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, India/NLO India.

After a launching ceremony, marked with a countdown and playing video informing the program, Mr. Nuwan Chinthaka, Assistant Director, ICC, presented virtually the structure of the program and, Mr. Alit Pirmansah, Market and Statistics Officer, ICC, delivered the vote of thanks. *(ICC News)*

ICC PARTICIPATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON THE REVIVAL OF THE COCONUT SECTOR IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The International Summit on the Revival of the Coconut Sector, held at the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire in Abidjan from September 9 to 10, 2024, brought together key stakeholders, experts, and international organizations to address the challenges and opportunities facing the coconut industry in Côte d'Ivoire. The event was coordinated by the Abidjan Legacy Program (ALP) and supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Center for Agronomic Research (CNRA), and other local and international partners.

The inauguration of the event was graced by the H.E the Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Production of Côte d'Ivoire, underscoring the government's commitment to revitalizing the country's coconut sector.

At the invitation of the Coordinator of the Abidjan Legacy Program, the Assistant Director of the International Coconut Community (ICC) attended the summit, representing the Executive Director of ICC. In his presentation on the Global Scenario of the Coconut Sector, the Assistant Director shared valuable insights into global trends, emerging opportunities, and the growth potential of the coconut industry. He highlighted the remarkable potential for Côte d'Ivoire's coconut sector to expand, presenting key statistics demonstrating its growth prospects and significance in the global coconut market. During the panel discussion, Assistant Director also explored how the ICC could play a pivotal role in advancing the coconut sector in Côte d'Ivoire. He emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships, capacity building, and knowledge-sharing initiatives between ICC and local stakeholders. Furthermore, he shared his expertise on funding opportunities available at the international level, which could support the sustainable development of the sector. In addition to the ICC's contributions, the summit featured a diverse lineup of speakers, including experts from African countries and representatives from international organizations. The discussions covered a wide range of topics, from sustainable development and public-private partnerships to best practices in coconut cultivation.

A field trip to coconut plantations in the vicinity of Abidjan allowed participants to gain firsthand insights into local coconut farming practices. The event also included exhibitions where various stakeholders showcased products, services, and innovations in the coconut sector. Following the conclusion of the summit, the ICC Assistant Director engaged in productive discussions with the National Liaison Officer and Alternate National Liaison Officer from Côte d'Ivoire to explore future collaborations. He also held discussions with Mr. Abou Bamba, advisor to the H.E the President of the Côte d'Ivoire and Coordinator of the Abidjan Legacy Program (ALP), on how to further advance this initiative, with the participation of representatives from other African countries.

The ICC looks forward to continued collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire and other African nations to revitalize the coconut sector and explore new avenues for sustainable growth and development. *(ICC News)*

ICC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS GLOBAL TRENDS AND CHALLENGES AT SUSTAINABLE COCONUT ROUNDTABLE 2024

The Sustainable Coconut Roundtable 2024, held on September 26-27 at the Sheraton Manila Hotel, Philippines, brought together key stakeholders from the coconut industry to discuss the future of sustainable coconut markets. Organized by the Sustainable Coconut Partnership, a multi-stakeholder initiative dedicated to building a responsible and resilient coconut sector, the event addressed critical challenges and opportunities in the sector, with participation from industry leaders and experts.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, the Executive Director of the International Coconut Community (ICC), served as a resource speaker, delivering a presentation titled "Global Scenario of the Coconut Sector". During her talk, Dr. Jelfina provided valuable insights into current trends, production challenges, and market opportunities, particularly focusing on the expanding demand for coconut products in Europe and the United States. Drawing on global data, she emphasized the need to leverage the growing export potential for new products such as coconut water, virgin coconut oil, and coconut milk, underscoring their strong market outlook. In a panel discussion themed "Beyond the Horizon: Trends Shaping Sustainability in the Coconut Industry, a Look into Possible Futures", Dr. Jelfina highlighted key factors affecting coconut production in different countries, including senile palms, pests, and climate change. She advocated for country-specific strategies to address these challenges, emphasizing that identifying unique causes and implementing tailored solutions would be crucial for overcoming production stagnation.

A significant point in her address was the current non-inclusion of coconut products in the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which she pointed out as a major opportunity for coconut-producing nations. She urged stakeholders to capitalize on this advantage to boost their market share. Dr. Jelfina also touched on one of the critical issues facing the industry: the lack of youth engagement. She stressed that the absence of younger generations in coconut farming posed a long-term risk to the sector. To address this, she introduced the ICC's Youth Empowerment Program, aimed at involving and empowering young individuals to ensure the sustainability of the coconut industry.

The event saw active participation from ICC member countries, including representatives from the Philippines Coconut Authority, farmers, and producers. Through her participation, Dr. Jelfina reinforced ICC's commitment to addressing global challenges and exploring opportunities for sustainable growth in the coconut sector. ICC Assistant Director, Mr. Nuwan also took part in the event. *(ICC News)*

CEYLON CHAMBER OF COCONUT INDUSTRIES INAUGURATED TO REINVIGORATE SL'S COCONUT INDUSTRY

Marking a new beginning for Sri Lanka's coconut industry, the Ceylon Chamber of Coconut Industries (CCCI) at the National Chamber of Commerce was inaugurated this week, with a mid-term target to boost the annual production to 4.5 billion nuts and generate US $ 3-4.5 billion export revenue.

The CCCI has garnered support from key industry associations, bringing together a total of eight founding members committed to advancing Sri Lanka's coconut industry. These associations include the Coconut Growers Association of Sri Lanka, Exporters Association of Coconut Based Substrates, Sri Lanka Virgin Coconut Oil Manufacturers Association, Coconut Product Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Ceylon Desiccated

Coconut Manufacturers Association, Ceylon Coir Fiber Manufacturers Association, Coconut Milk Manufacturers Association and All-Ceylon Coconut Oil Manufacturers Association.

As the first organisation of its kind in Sri Lanka, the CCCI aims to harness the vast potential of the nation's coconut industry. The industry contributes significantly to the economy, with annual export revenues exceeding US $ 800 million. By fostering collaboration across all industry sectors, the CCCI aspires to elevate the Sri Lankan coconut products' quality and global competitiveness, targeting an export revenue of US $ 1.5 billion.

Notably, the formation of the CCCI has been facilitated by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation within the scope of the European Union-funded BESPA-Food project and Ernst & Young. This collaboration is poised to propel Sri Lanka's coconut sector to new global heights of prosperity.

The chamber's initiatives include developing a 10-year strategic plan, advocating for coherent national policies and supporting research and development efforts to ensure the industry's long-term success. With a strategic focus on sustainability, value addition and technology integration, the CCCI is positioning Sri Lanka as a leader in the global coconut industry. *(Daily Mirror)*

ICC AIMS TO MAXIMIZE VALUE OF COCONUT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The International Coconut Community (ICC) is committed to maximizing the value of every part of the coconut in Papua New Guinea.

This was announced by Dr. Jelfina Alouw, Executive Director of the ICC, at the official opening of World Coconut Day at the Sir John Guise Indoor Stadium.

Dr. Alouw emphasized the potential for high-value coconut products in the country.

She noted that the global outlook for coconut products is positive, with a projected growth rate of 3 to 23 percent by 2030.

This growth is driven by the versatility of the coconut tree, which is considered a "tree of life"" and a key contributor to sustainable development goals.

The theme of this year's World Coconut Day, "Coconut for a Circular Economy: Building Partnership for Maximum Value," aligns with the ICC's focus on maximizing the use of every part of the coconut.

This includes generating high-value products from the coconuts husk, stem, and dry leaves, as well as its food and beverage components.

Despite Papua New Guinea's vast coconut cultivation area, productivity has plateaued in recent decades.

With 12 million hectares under cultivation, the country produces only 12 million metric tons of coconut equivalent per year.

This low yield, around 1 metric ton per hectare per year, is far below its potential of 2 to 3 metric tons per hectare.

Dr. Alouw highlighted the need for improved farming practices, including better management, resource use, and investment, to address this productivity gap.

She also emphasized the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing among coconut industry stakeholders to drive nnovation and sustainable development.

The World Coconut Day event provided a platform for researchers, government officials. and industry representatives from around the world to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the coconut sector.

Dr. Alouw encouraged participants to take advantage of this opportunity to build

relationships, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations. *(Post Courier)*

INDONESIA TO LAUNCH COCONUT INDUSTRY DOWNSTREAM ROADMAP AMIDST TIGHT COMPETITION

The Ministry of National Development Planning/ National Development Planning Agency (PPN/ Bappenas) is set to unveil a roadmap for the downstream development of the coconut industry this week.

The initiative aims to increase the added value of Indonesia's coconut industry, which has recently fallen behind the Philippines in terms of production and export.

Leonardo A. A. Teguh Sambodo, Special Advisor to the Minister of PPN for Leading Sector and Infrastructure Development, explained that this downstream plan is driven by the enactment of Law No. 59/2024 on the 2025-2045 National Long-Term Development Plan.

Indonesia aims to make downstream processing a key driver of its industrial sector, using domestic raw materials, including coconuts.

"Coconuts were selected because, before 2020, Indonesia was the world's largest coconut producer by volume. However, since the pandemic, we have been overtaken by the Philippines," Teguh told a media briefing.

He noted that the Philippines now boasts the world's largest coconut cultivation area, covering 3.7 million hectares (ha), while Indonesia's is 3.3 million ha.

In addition to lagging in production volume, Indonesia has also fallen behind the Philippines in terms of coconut exports and related products.

Teguh emphasized that this situation serves as a wake-up call for the Indonesian government to address the challenges in the coconut sector. The Indonesian coconut industry faces productivity issues, with yields stagnating at 1.1 tons per hectare.

Furthermore, many coconut cultivation practices remain conventional, and around 378,000 hectares of coconut trees are old and need replacing.

"The challenge is that we currently only produce one million seedlings annually, while the potential is up to nine million. However, the total requirement is 41 million seedlings, so there is a significant gap between our capacity and the demand for seedlings," Teguh said.

He highlighted that the government lacks the resources to replace all 378,000 hectares of aging coconut trees. At the current rate, it would take 38 years to complete the replanting process.

"We need to accelerate this process, especially as demand for coconut products, such as coconut milk, is rising in markets like the U.S., Europe, and China," he added.

The roadmap for the downstream coconut industry has been developed over the past seven months and represents a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Industry, the Coordinating Ministry for the Economy, the Ministry of Investment/ Investment Coordinating Agency (BKPM), and the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN). *(Indonesia Business Post)*

BEN TRE READIES CONDITIONS FOR FRESH COCONUT EXPORTS

Ben Tre Province of The Mekong Delta, known as the coconut capital of Vietnam, is making all necessary conditions ready to be able to export this fruit to China, given that a protocol on phytosanitary requirements for Vietnamese fresh coconuts exported to China was recently signed.

Ben Tre owns the largest coconut area in Vietnam, with over 79,000 hectares and a total output of more than 700 million fruits. It earns over 400 million USD from shipping coconuts abroad each year.

Director of the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Doan Van Danh stated that the province currently has 133 growing areas that basically meet production conditions according to current regulations; and has registered for growing area codes on nearly 8,400 hectares, with over 12,800 participating households. These figures pertain to the raw material areas that comply with the requirements outlined in the protocol.

Specifically, in the coconut sector, there are currently 32 cooperatives and 34 cooperative groups involved in the coconut value chain, covering 10,094 hectares with 7,048 members. The area of coconuts produced under organic standards reaches 20,400 hectares, accounting for about 25% of the total area in the province. Of this, 13,000 hectares have been certified in accordance with standards of the US, Japan, the European Union, China, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan (China).

Chairman of the provincial People's Committee Tran Ngoc Tam said that the province is creating favourable conditions and mechanisms to attract investment, and enhancing the application of science and technology in production and processing in line with demands of domestic consumption and export.

Specifically, the province has implemented policies to maximise the value of coconut cultivation. This includes a plan to establish concentrated areas linked to value chain development for the 2021-2025 period, with a vision for 2030; Resolution No. 07-NQ/TU dated January 29, 2021 from the provincial Party Committee involving building concentrated production areas and developing the value chain for key agricultural products in Ben Tre to 2030, and a plan to develop key industrial crops (coconut) by 2030.

In the 2024-2025 period, Ben Tre aims to maintain a stable coconut area of approximately 79,000 hectares, including 20,000 hectares of organic coconuts. The value of coconut processing is expected to grow by an average of 17.2% per year, while export turnover is projected to rise by an average of 23.58% per year to reach approximately 1 billion USD.

In the 2026-2030 period, it aims to raise the total coconut area to around 80,000 hectares, including 25,000 hectares of organic coconuts. The value of coconut processing is expected to increase by 15.74% per year, while coconut export turnover is projected to grow by 14.87% per year to about 2 billion USD. *(Vietnam Plus)*

INDONESIA TARGETS COCONUT BIOFUEL PRODUCTION WITH JAPAN'S TECHNOLOGY

The Indonesian government has laid out a roadmap for the downstream processing of coconut products as part of its National Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN) for 2025-2045.

One of the key areas of focus is the development of environmentally friendly aviation fuel, known as bioavtur, which derived from coconut oil.

Leonardo A. A. Teguh Sambodo, Special Advisor to the Minister of National Development Planning for Leading Sector Development and Infrastructure, said that the bioavtur initiative comes from Japanese investors, who possess the technology to process coconut oil into bioavtur.

"The initiative is being driven by the Indonesia-Japan Business Network (IJBNet), which has found a Japanese partner to produce bioavtur. IJBNet is currently preparing to build a crude coconut oil (CNO) factory in Banyuasin, South Sumatra," Teguh said on Friday, September 27, 2024.

While the name of the company that will develop bioavtur in Indonesia has not yet been

determined, production can only begin once the CNO factory is established.

Teguh highlighted that coconut is being chosen for biofuel production due to its international certification and approval, which palm oil has not yet received.

"Coconut is safe and approved for use. This gives it an advantage over palm oil, which has yet to obtain certification. Therefore, this potential needs to be harnessed," Teguh added.

The CNO factory will process non-food-grade coconuts, providing an opportunity to utilize lower-quality coconuts that would otherwise go to waste.

This push for coconut downstream processing is supported by Law No. 59/2024, which emphasizes the use of domestic raw materials to drive the growth of Indonesia's processing industries.

"Before 2020, Indonesia was the world's largest coconut producer by volume and yield, but the Philippines has since overtaken us, especially during the pandemic," Teguh noted.

The Philippines now leads with 3.7 million hectares of coconut plantations, compared to Indonesia's 3.3 million hectares. In addition to volume, the Philippines has also surpassed Indonesia in exporting coconuts and related products, further highlighting the challenges Indonesia faces in the sector.

Teguh emphasized that Indonesia's coconut industry suffers from stagnant productivity, averaging 1.1 tons per hectare, with many of the plantations still relying on conventional cultivation methods. Around 378,000 hectares of coconut trees are old and in need of replacement.

However, Indonesia's current capacity to produce seedlings falls far short of demand. While the nation can produce 1 million seedlings per year, the need stands at 41 million, creating a significant gap.

"If we aim to replace all the old coconut trees, it would take 38 years at the current pace. Therefore, there is a need for acceleration, driven by growing demand from markets in the U.S., Europe, and China, particularly for coconut milk," Teguh said. *(Indonesia Business Post)*

INTERCROPPING TO ADDRESS A COCONUT CRISIS

Unless intercropping is implemented in coconut farms, coconut farmers will remain the poorest sector in the Philippine economy.

The country currently has 2.5 million coconut farmers managing 3.6 million hectares of land. These farmers are located across 69 out of 82 provinces. According to Livelihood Funds, an investment fund supporting agricultural projects in rural areas, Filipino coconut farmers are among the poorest in the nation, with approximately 50 percent living on less than $2 a day. Many lack technical support, access to markets, and financing opportunities. Furthermore, Philippine coconut yields are significantly lower compared to Brazil or India, primarily due to inadequate farm management.

The government is urged to utilize the available coconut levy fund, amounting to ₱75 billion in cash and ₱50 billion in assets, to provide much-needed support for farmers. Cacao has been identified as a recommended crop for intercropping, especially since the country currently imports over 70 percent of its cacao requirements.

Ironically, despite the significant potential of producing cacao under coconut trees, the concept of intercropping remains largely untapped in the Philippines. The Ivory Coast, the world's largest cacao producer, provides a cautionary tale. Africanews recently reported that cocoa shipments to Ivory Coast ports are expected to decline by 28.5 percent year-on-year during the first quarter of the 2023/2024 season. This development highlights an opportunity for

Philippine cacao producers to fill the gap in the global market.

Utilization

A multicrop system offers clear advantages compared to a monocrop system. Edna Aguilar, a leading expert in the University of the Philippines' coconut industry plan, emphasizes the potential benefits of utilizing the space beneath coconut trees. Aguilar explains that intercropping 40 percent of the coconut area could significantly boost agricultural production without the need to expand agricultural land.

The current challenges faced by the Ivory Coast in cacao production largely stem from its reliance on monocrop plantations. Armi Lopez-Garcia, president of the Philippine Cacao Industry Association, recently attended the Cacao Association of Asia conference in Singapore. She noted that the difficulties in Ivory Coast are exacerbated by monocropping practices, which make plantations more vulnerable to diseases that can rapidly spread and reduce both yield and income.

To address these issues, a multicrop system, such as intercropping cacao with coconut, is recommended. A multistory system could further enhance productivity, allowing cacao to be planted alongside root crops, pineapples, and other fruits and vegetables. Such diversification would not only increase food security but also boost farmer incomes.

Benefits

Aguilar highlights five key benefits of intercropping: diversification into a combination of food and cash crops, which increases biodiversity; distribution of labor and income throughout the year; reduced risk of total loss due to drought, pests, or diseases; production of varied crops, leading to a more diverse diet for farming families; and enhanced resilience to climate impacts through improved microclimatic conditions within plantations.

Cacao stands out as a particularly attractive option due to its low investment requirements and high returns. For an initial investment of ₱47,454, farmers can start generating net income as early as the second year. By the fifth year, net income can reach ₱130,313, with benefits continuing for the next 20 years. Net income from intercropping is projected to last for at least 24 years.

The underutilized coconut levy fund presents a significant opportunity to promote intercropping practices. By leveraging these resources, the Philippines can transform its coconut farms into more productive, sustainable, and profitable enterprises. *(Inquirer)*

TRÀ VINH PROVINCE DEVELOPS HIGH-QUALITY COCONUT FARMING

Trà Vinh Province plans to expand coconut areas which are planted to high quality standards and have linkages between farmers and coconut processors to improve farmers' incomes.

The Cửu Long (Mekong) Delta province has more than 27,350ha of coconut and is the country's second largest coconut producer, after neighboring Bến Tre Province.

Coconuts are planted mostly in Tiểu Cần, Càng Long, Cầu Kè and Trà Cú districts.

The province has about 5,100ha of organic coconut.

It aims to have an additional 200ha of coconut planted to organic, following global good agricultural practices (GlobalGAP) or other high-quality standards, according to the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Lê Văn Bá, a member of Tuấn Hằng Agriculture Co-operative in Tiểu Cần District's Tân Hoà

Commune, said most farmers growing organic coconuts in the commune have participated in the co-operative.

"When participating in the co-operative, farmers are provided growing techniques and guaranteed sales at a price of 3 - 5 per cent higher than market prices," he said.

Võ Quang Cường, deputy head of the Tiểu Cần Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development, said his agency has encouraged farmers to grow coconuts to organic standards to increase yield and quality and meet export requirements.

Tiểu Cần has 2,740ha of its 5,800ha of coconut planted to organic standards.

Lê Văn Đông, deputy director of the province Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, said the province has nine coconut growing areas with a total of 1,240ha which meet criteria to apply for growing codes to export to China.

It has a 150ha coconut farm which has been granted a growing area code for export in Cầu Kè District.

Farmers are getting high prices from selling mature coconuts as their prices increased to VNĐ100,000 (US$4) per dozen nuts, up VNĐ30,000 against two weeks ago.

Farmers can harvest about 1,500 mature coconuts per hectare a month, and if their price are VNĐ50,000 - 100,000 ($2 - 4) per dozen nuts, farmers can earn a profit of VNĐ6 - 12 million ($240 - 480).

Sáp coconut

Trà Vinh is well-known for its specialty sáp coconuts, which have soft and thick pulp that qualify them as sáp (sáp literally means wax).

The coconut is used mostly for desserts such as shakes of coconut mixed with milk, sugar and ice, and other products such as candy, jam, cake and dried sáp coconut.

The province has eight products made from sáp coconut that have been recognised as four- and five-star products under the country's "One Commune – One Product" (OCOP) programme.

They are sold nationwide and exported.

Cầu Kè District, which is the province's largest sáp coconut growing area, has more than 1,000ha of the specialty nut.

Companies and co-operatives buy sáp coconut at a price of VNĐ100,000 – 120,000 ($4-5) a nut.

Nguyễn Hoàng Khải, secretary of the Cầu Kè Party Committee, said the district aims to develop sáp coconut cultivation following the province's zoning plan.

It is encouraging farmers to grow sáp coconut with clean farming methods to improve value, he said.

The province will organise the 100-Year Sáp Coconut Tree Festival in Cầu Kè District at the end of this month to hounor and promote sáp coconut.

This coconut has been planted in the district for 100 years.

To develop organic coconut and sáp coconut, the province has strengthened links with coconut processing companies in Bến Tre Province to expand cultivation.

Many coconut processing companies in Bến Tre have contracts with farmers in Trà Vinh through co-operatives to develop more than 2,000ha of organic coconut.

The province has implemented many programmes to support farmers to link with processing companies to grow organic coconut and expand sáp coconut growing area.

It is calling on companies to invest in coconut processing projects.

It plans to expand coconut growing areas to 30,000ha in 2030. *(Viet Nam News)*

'POTENTIAL FOR COCONUT, COCOA HIGH'

Coconut and cocoa has the huge potential to become the country's major driver of the local economy.

That's according to Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) Franklyn Derek Wasi.

He said currently the country export 4,000 tons of dried cocoa beans that generate new foreign earnings of SBD$247 million per annum, at current world market price.

"But our potential is 23,000 tons of dried cocoa beans. Considering our limitations and challenges, the ministry is only targeting 12,000 tons in the next few years.

"This should generate new foreign revenue of SBD$741 million per annum, from cocoa exports alone, should the current market price remain high."

Another crop with a huge potential for immediate return is coconut and copra. Currently the country export 20,000 metric tonnes of copra annually but the potential is 500,000 metric tonnes.

The ministry along with important stakeholders like CEMA are targeting just one fifth of our potential which is 100,000 metric tonnes. This will in turn give us a new foreign earning of SBD$462 million per annum, he said.

"…combining these two commodity exports alone, we can reach these targets in the next three years, and should earn a projected foreign earning of SBD$1.2 billion per annum from copra and cocoa dried beans alone, and this is still with no value addition," the agriculture Minister was speaking in Parliament.

Apart from cocoa and coconut, Minister Wasi said his ministry (MAL) is working very closely with the Australian High Commission Office in Honiara through its Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to sort out export of pineapples to Australia.

"The ministry is also working very closely with SAPE farm for its state-of-the-art cassava processing facility to become operational soon and hopefully, it should start exporting 15 tons of frozen cassava to Australia on monthly basis.

"As you can see, our potential in the agricultural export sector is huge and still very much untapped," Minister Wasi told Parliament when responding to the speech from the throne.

Meanwhile, Minister Wasi said, the livestock farmers continue to face high cost of feed imported from abroad, therefore he said, his ministry is working closely with the World Bank and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) through their existing projects and Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs) to tackle this head on.

"We are also collaborating with other technical institutes from China to establish fully mechanized commercial rice farming and vegetable production along with new emerging crops. Currently our annual rice import sits between SBD$400-$500 million.

"This is captured under our policy priority to diversify the agriculture production base and advance import substitution.

"Other areas to be targeted in our policy priority include sizeable support to our poultry, piggery and honey farmers but with consideration on the economies of scale.

"For cattle, the ministry is seriously thinking of partnering with the private sector to grow

this industry in the country," Hon. Minister Wasi emphasized.

He further said that since the ethnic tension, the ministry has been without a research Centre.

"This has greatly hampered our efficiency in providing up to date relevant information and techniques on farming practices.

"The intention now is to redevelop our Agriculture Research Center to be fully equipped with facilities for field research work on farm mechanization, high value crops, staple food crops, root crops, spices, new emerging crops and fruit trees, improved livestock genetic resources and downstream processing and value-adding technologies to bolster production for both local consumption and export markets.

"…in the current era with rising sea levels and the effects of climate change, Agriculture must evolve and become resilient against all these shocks.

"The ministry is therefore exploring strategies with its partners to implement climate smart agriculture to improve access to nutritious diet in our rural communities. This include encouraging our youths to venture into agribusiness.

"As our development and growth continue to expand, we become more susceptible to introduced pests and diseases. Therefore, securing our flora and fauna against Invasive Alien Species and facilitating access to new markets is a top priority for the ministry," he concluded. *(Solomon Star)*

PNG'S COCONUT INDUSTRY: HIGH DOMESTIC DEMAND AND UNTAPPED EXPORT POTENTIAL FOR GLOBAL MARKET

During a press conference held today by the Kokonas Indastri Koporesen (KIK), Managing Director Mr Alan Aku highlighted the significant potential of Papua New Guinea's coconut industry.

He emphasized that coconut farming could become a highly profitable cash crop for the country.

"Coconut is the fourth-largest cash crop industry in the country, behind palm oil, cocoa, and coffee," Aku stated.

"PNG's coconut industry generates an average of K130 million annually from international markets."

Despite the industry's success abroad, Mr. Aku pointed out an even greater demand for coconuts domestically.

Papua New Guineans consume approximately K380 million worth of coconuts each year, with individual coconuts typically sold at markets for K3 or K4.

Combining both international and domestic markets, the total annual revenue for PNG's coconut industry is estimated to be around K500 million.

"The global demand for coconuts is through the roof," Mr. Aku stated.

"All coconut-producing countries put together cannot meet the global demand."

The cash crop is highly lucrative, with the ability to be utilized for different products.

Mr. Aku mentioned that two products from the coconut husk are coconut peat and coconut fiber. The coconut shell can be used to make barbeque briquettes and activated carbon, while the kernel is used to produce coconut oil and other cosmetic products, including lotions and creams. Coconut water also serves as another product.

Currently, PNG only exports copra, crude oil, and coconut oil, but the country has the capability to fully utilize the cash crop to export a variety of products derived from both the plant and the fruit.

The history of copra plantations in New Guinea dates back to the late 19th century, initially established by German colonialists. After World War I, Australian interests took over, continuing the cultivation of this valuable crop. *(Post Courier)*

CENTRAL VISAYAS TOWNS GET PROCESSORS FOR COPRA, VIRGIN COCONUT OIL

Coconut farmers in three municipalities in Central Visayas will benefit from three processing facilities for copra and virgin coconut oil production scheduled to be built in their respective localities, an official said.

Engineer Rhea Ocay, project development officer of the Philippine Coconut Authority in Central Visayas (PCA-7), said the facilities would be constructed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in the towns of Corella and Mabini in Bohol province and Zamboangita in Negros Oriental province.

Ocay, also the focal person of the Coconut Farmers Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), said the beneficiaries will be Bohol Prime Movers Cooperative in Corella, the Aguipo Coconut Farmers Cooperative in Mabini, and the Zamboanguita Small Coconut Farmers Cooperative in Zamboanguita.

"We are looking forward to a program wherein we will not only be giving inputs to our coconut-based cooperatives but make them sustainable cooperatives and entrepreneurs through the shared processing facilities," Ocay said.

Each facility costs PHP26 million and will be bankrolled through the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund under the CFIDP.

"The aim of this project is to bolster the productivity of the farmers in the coconut industry not only in this region but in the entire country," she added.

Ocay added that the facility to be built in Bohol is for the processing of coconut virgin oil while the one in Negros Oriental is for white copra. *(Philippine News Agency)*

COMPLETE PACKAGE OF PRACTICE FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION OF COCONUT IS AVAILABLE, SAYS CPCRI DIRECTOR

After three decades of research, the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod, has now made available a complete package of practice for the organic production of coconut, its Director K. Balachandra Hebbar said.

Speaking at the World Coconut Day function at the institute, Mr. Hebbar said that biocontrol agents and eco-friendly botanical pesticides are now available to control all common pests and diseases in coconut.

"Further, efforts are made to develop the microbial consortia, quantifying carbon storage and greenhouse gas emissions in monocrop and systems so that the prospects of carbon credit and clean energy development becomes a reality in the plantation sector," he said.

Soil health is agriculture's bedrock, and maintenance is important for sustainable production. "The institute conducted long-term experiments on regenerative agriculture systems. They are like organic farming, minimum tillage, natural farming, etc., and demonstrated that a sustainable and environment-friendly coconut economy is feasible by the utilization of waste as alternative raw materials, the efficient recycling of by-products, and the creation of new products with additional value," the Director said.

The CPCRI has demonstrated that a systematic coconut-based cropping or farming system is a strategy to make coconut farming economically viable in small holdings. The system using multi-species cropping of coconut has the potential to generate 150% higher net income than that of coconut mono-crop. In comparison, the coconut-based mixed farming system can generate 300% higher net income than that of coconut mono-crop. These systems not only increase farmer's

income but also improve soil health, and water holding capacity and to certain extent alleviate the negative effects of climate change, he said.

Foreseeing the prospects of high-value coconut sector, ICAR-CPCRI has developed a complete package of practices for the production of virgin coconut oil (VCO), coconut chips, Kalparasa (neera), coconut concentrate, jaggery, coconut sugar and frozen dessert. Among the value-added products, Kalparasa and coconut sugar has the potential to turn up as a breakthrough product due to the nutraceutical properties it carries in terms of comparatively low glycemic index and high dietary fibre.

Collaborations with IITs, NITK, and other Engineering colleges are established for farm mechanisation especially to develop climbing machines /robots for harvest, neera tapping, and spraying to achieve automated crop management techniques.

P. Prasad, Agriculture Minister of Kerala, S.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Horticultural Sciences) ICAR, Delhi, N.A. Nellikunnu, MLA, Kasaragod were among those who spoke.

Kalpa Bliz, which is a flavoured ready-to-drink beverage and a new value-added product of coconut developed by CPCRI was released on the occasion. A farmer-scientist interface was also held.

The Director handed a cheque for ₹3,66,000 to the Minister as a contribution to the Distress Relief Fund for Wayanad from the staff of CPCRI. (The Hindu)

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Prices of vegetable oils earlier this week were generally a bit easier but bounced back midweek and headed higher to end the week on a firm note.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam continued a dull affair for the fourth consecutive week this week but stayed mostly higher during the week. Buyers remained scarce, but where present, the more favored positions were on first quarter 2025. Opening levels were little changed from last week with offers at $1,735-1,750/MT CIF for positions from September/October through to January/February 2025 absent cues palm oil due to a holiday in Malaysia. Starting in the middle of the week, however, values improved, and offers closed firmer at $1,750-1,770/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market resumed quietness after reporting a trade last week at $1,300/MT CIF. The market began the week with sellers quoting mostly easier at $1,300-1,500/MT CIF for positions from September/October through to November/December. Thereafter levels tracked the coconut oil price action most part of the week and settled at close likewise firmer at $1,515-1,562/MT CIF.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil narrowed this week across all positions from respective levels last week. Thus, the weekly average reverted to the $200 mark at $298.50/MT from $301.47 week-ago. Premium per position are shown following: September/October $225.00 ($227.90 last week); October/November $362.00 ($367.00); November/December $308.50 ($309.50).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures were softer earlier during the week on spillover weakness from the grains market and as US farmers started harvesting of what was anticipated as a record soybean crop. A market reversal shortly ensued on news of drought conditions in crop-growing areas in Brazil which had affected sowing at the start of this planting season. Towards the weekend, however, the market returned to weakness as players refocused on harvest pressures.

At the palm oil section, the market stayed mostly higher after opening softer tied to India's announcement of an increase in import tax on edible oils. Bargain hunting initially sparked

market upturn midweek which was later sustained by reports of weaker output in Malaysia and news Indonesia plans to reduce export duty on palm oil to increase exports of the commodity.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment saw coconut oil alone in the positive territory, rising $15.60/MT from $1,731.40 last week to $1,747.00/MT in the current week. Palm kernel oil heavily lost $118.50 from $1,503.50 to $1,385.00/MT CIF and palm oil shed $23.25 from $1,119.00 to $1,095.75/MT CIF. As a result, coconut oil increased its price premium over palm kernel oil and palm oil. Against palm kernel oil, premium expanded to the $300 level at $362.00/MT from $227.50 last week; against palm oil, the price spread stayed at the $600 level at $651.25/MT from $612.40. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

The coconut oil market in Rotterdam continued untraded. Prices improved later during the week with offers closing firmer at $1,750 for September/October; $1,755 for October/November; $1,760 for November/December; $1,765 for December/January 2025; $1,770/MT CIF for January/February. Closing buyers asked $1,720 for October/November; $1,720 for November/December; $1,690 for December/January; $1,695/MT CIF for January/February. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

DESICCATED COCONUTS: BUYERS TEND TO PANIC BUY

La Niña could rage until February 2025

The Philippines are already reeling from the effects of tropical storm Yagi and the weather phenomenon La Niña has also left its mark. Floods and mudslides have damaged coconut plantations and oil factories, further straining the already tight supply situation, according to the experts from JCP International in their latest report. Further severe storms are expected until the end of the year. The World Meteorological Organisation has already warned that the effects of La Niña could extend into February 2025.

In other parts of Asia, too, torrential rainfall is causing flooding in many regions, including northern and southern Thailand and Vietnam. In contrast, the situation in Indonesia is not quite as serious, although heavy rainfall is also affecting the coconut crop here. After El Niño previously caused lower coconut yields, La Niña is now bringing immense amounts of water with it and coconut processors are fighting over the low stocks in order to keep their business going.

Prices could reach record high

Due to these circumstances, coconut oil prices are continuing to rise, currently trading at USD 1,750/mt in Rotterdam and market players are reckoning that prices could even exceed the EUR 1,800/mt mark. There is even speculation that high demand and limited availability could push prices up to a record level of USD 2,200/mt. As expected, prices for desiccated coconuts are following a similar trend. According to the experts at JCP International, buyers who have not hedged in advance with contracts are now panic buying. Further price rises are also to be expected here. Stocks are already running low in the important buyer markets such as Europe, the Middle East and North America, which is making prompt procurement more difficult. Freight rates have recently fallen again somewhat, but market players do not consider this to be a permanent trend. The ongoing conflicts in the Middle East could quickly lead to a turnaround. *(Mundus Agri)*

BETRIMEX SECURES COCONUT PARTNERSHIP WITH JIANGNAN MARKET GROUP

Betrimex (Ben Tre Import Export Joint Stock Company) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Jiangnan Market Imported Fruit Chamber of Commerce to establish a strategic partnership for exporting fresh coconuts from Vietnam to the Chinese market.

The signing ceremony, held during a trade promotion event at the Guangzhou International Fruit & Vegetable Expo, was witnessed by representatives from the Vietnamese Consulate in Guangzhou, the Vietnam Coconut Association, and key members of the Jiangnan Market Imported Fruit Chamber of Commerce.

The move by Betrimex comes just over a month after the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the General Administration of Customs of China signed three protocols on agricultural product exports, including fresh coconuts, to China.

Under this strategic partnership, Betrimex will be the Chamber's strategic partner for supplying fresh coconuts to the Guangzhou market. Both parties committed to close cooperation to ensure a stable supply and high-quality products that meet export standards.

They will also collaborate on trade promotion, marketing, and communication activities to enhance brand recognition and expand market share for Vietnamese fresh coconuts, not only in Guangzhou but throughout China.

Tran Que Trang, chief executive of Betrimex, said exporting fresh coconuts to China was part of the company's long-term strategy.

"We have been proactively preparing since the protocol was in the negotiation stage, from developing international-standard plantations to researching and ensuring compliance with the stringent export standards of this massive market. Betrimex, in coordination with the Vietnam Coconut Association, has also been diligently promoting and seeking potential partners for over a year," she said.

"With our years of experience in the Chinese market and the strong support from the Jiangnan Market Imported Fruit Chamber of Commerce, we are confident that Vietnamese fresh coconuts will open doors to deeper penetration into this vast market, gradually realizing the goal of bringing national agricultural products to the global stage."

Cao Ba Dang Khoa, general secretary of the Vietnam Coconut Association, said once the protocol was issued the Association immediately began working tirelessly to connect Vietnamese businesses with Chinese partners.

According to the Association, the signing of the protocol could see fresh coconut export turnover reach US$250m this year, accounting for 25 pwe cent of the total coconut industry's export turnover.

Khoa also noted that China is a key global market for coconuts and receives more than 60 per cent of Thailand's coconut production. He said the emergence of Vietnamese fresh coconuts will create exciting competition, requiring businesses to pay special attention to product quality to gain customer trust.

"Only then can we turn these MoUs into real value, bringing long-term benefits to the Vietnamese coconut industry," he emphasised.

Betrimex and the Vietnam Coconut Association also signed an MoU to establish an information exchange centre with the Hainan Coconut Industry Association (China) in Vietnam. This centre will serve as a bridge for exchanging information on markets, products, and supply sources for coconut products, to promote trade and increase export turnover between the two sides. *(Fruitnet)*

VIỆT NAM'S COCONUT EXPORTS TO SKYROCKET THANKS TO SHIPMENTS TO CHINA

Fresh coconuts, a growing contributor to Việt Nam's agricultural exports, are poised to make a substantial impact on the nation's economy through increased shipments to China, according to officials.

A recently signed protocol on phytosanitary requirements for fresh Vietnamese coconuts exported to China will enable more sustainable and large-scale access to this vast market, said Nguyễn Quốc Mạnh, deputy director of the Department of Crop Production under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Beyond China, demand for Vietnamese coconuts is also strong in India and the Middle East.

Vice Chairman and General Secretary of the Việt Nam Coconut Association Cao Bá Đăng Khoa said he anticipates a significant breakthrough in exports this year, with revenues expected to reach US$250 million.

Việt Nam's position in the global coconut market is impressive, ranking 6th among the top 10 countries in terms of cultivation area and output. With roughly 200,000ha of coconut plantations, the country produces 2.1 million tonnes of coconuts annually.

Under a development scheme for key industrial crops, Việt Nam aims to expand its coconut cultivation area to up to 210,000ha by 2030. The Mekong Delta will account for a majority of this expansion, with up to 175,000ha, while the coastal south-central region will account for up to 20,000ha.

By 2030, over 30 per cent of the country's coconut cultivation area is expected to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and equivalent standards, with some 30 per cent of coconut areas certified at their production zones. Innovative farming techniques such as inter-cropping and integrated farming will be adopted to increase land productivity.

Mạnh also highlighted the potential for coconut-growing areas to become thriving eco-tourism destinations. By offering experiences like garden tours, local cuisine and visits to traditional craft and coconut processing facilities, these areas can create unique One Commune, One Product (OCOP) items and boost tourism revenue, he said. *(Viet Nam News)*

RISING COPRA AND COCONUT OIL PRICES CHEER UP INDUSTRY

A sudden spurt in the prices of coconut oil and copra since the beginning of September has brought smiles to the faces of farmers and traders. Copra prices rose by ₹20 per kg and reached ₹122 in the Kerala market. Coconut oil saw a bigger jump of around ₹27 when it touched ₹186. Prices in Tamil Nadu were ₹176.50 and ₹130 respectively, said Thalath Mahmood, President of the Cochin Oil Merchants Association (COMA).

The rising trend in prices is expected to intensify once the festival demand begins in North India, he said adding that the raw coconut prices too have started to strengthen reaching ₹62 per kg from ₹36 a fortnight ago.

Informed sources in the sector said the recent increased demand for tender coconuts and the drought-like conditions in Karnataka have reduced production and impacted copra supply, thus supporting the rate hikes.

Ubais Ali of Mezhukkattil Mills cited supply constraints for all commodities globally and the industry's concern over the proposed European Union Deforestation Regulations (EUDR) on crude palm oil and palm kernel oil, widely used for making toiletry products, as the reasons for the sudden surge in prices.

Support from supply side weakness

He pointed out that lauric acid, a derivative of palm oil and palm kernel oil, is the base for making toiletry products such as hand wash, body wash etc. Any supply-side weakness of these commodities may benefit coconut oil, an alternative for the industry, leading to its increased stockpiling, he added.

The ball copra prices which have reached ₹235 thanks to festival demand, are expected to rise further. Its price was in the range of ₹100-120, forcing farmers in Karnataka to convert it to milling copra to fetch better prices, Ubais Ali said.

According to KK Devraj, a consultant in the coconut oil industry, the impact of the price increase of sunflower oil, soya oil and palmolein due to the rise in import duties was felt in the coconut oil market as well. The

shortage of copra, especially in Tamil Nadu – which is now the main supplier – has made it dear in the market, despite low demand from the big buyers and the industrial sector. The anticipated festival season and Diwali demand for edible copra, although not on a large scale as in the past, may lead to further escalation in prices, he said.

While coconut farmers are getting a better price for the coconuts and copra, the retail consumers have started feeling the impact on their family budgets, as all edible oil retail prices have started going up, he added. *(The Hindu Business Line)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

NIGERIA: NIFOR, CHINESE INSTITUTE COLLABORATE ON OIL PALM, COCONUT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

The Nigeria Institute for Oil-Palm Research (NIFOR), Benin City, Edo State, has entered into a collaborative effort with the Chinese research institute, Coconut Research Institute-Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Science (CRI-CATAS), on an exchange programme between the two research institutes in the areas of oil-palm and coconut biology, and academic personnel and materials.

The collaboration was sealed when officials of CRI-CATAS, visited NIFOR on Monday.

Welcoming the visiting researchers the Acting Executive Director, NIFOR, Dr. Isona Gold, said that the main objectives of collaboration were for the two institutes to exchange ideas, materials, personnel and knowledge in joint research activities in the areas of Oil Palm and Coconut biology and exchange academic personnel and materials.

NIFOR is Nigeria's warehouse for all the available oil palm genetic materials globally. The institute is reputed to have contributed tremendously to the advancement of generic palm produce not only in Africa but globally.

According to Dr Gold, "The threat of climate change to the future fats and oils supply chain has become elaborated in recent times and no one needs further explanation of the implications for food production, sustainability and security."

The NIFOR Executive Director added that "Drought and its negative effects on food production are the major fears of the scientific community globally and hence the concerted efforts at improving germplasms in different countries to mitigate this threat.

"NIFOR is strategically positioned to provide the germplasm materials for developing drought resilient planting materials with capacity for 150 -250kg fresh fruit bunches per palm per year in an environment of 1000m-1500mm of total rainfall distributed within six months of the year.

"It is expected that the collaboration in the nearest future will enhance the Nigerian Coconut value chain with technologies for higher Coconut yield per hectare year.

"We are aware the coconut value chain is very well developed in China, and we hope that Nigeria can frog-leap in the value chain as a result of this collaboration." Dr Gold hoped.

In her brief remarks, the leader of the delegation of scientists from Coconut Research Institute-Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Science, Dr Cao Hongxing, thanked the Ag. Executive Director for the warm welcome to NIFOR and expressed optimism about the outcomes of the collaboration.

Hongxing also commended NIFOR for its grand achievements in the oil Palm and coconut research and development, adding that the Chinese institute looked forward to a mutually beneficial collaboration that would see both institutes bridging the existing

gaps in the realisation of their research and development objectives.

The event was attended by other management staff of NIFOR. *(Zawya)*

INDIA SET TO TRIPLE PALM OIL OUTPUT IN 6 YEARS AS OIL PALM AREA INCREASES

India's palm oil production is likely to triple by 2030-31 as the area under oil palm plantations increases and as plantations become mature for harvesting, a senior industry official said on Friday last week, reported in The Economic Times the same day. The oil palm area has been rising at a rapid pace since New Delhi started providing incentives to farmers from 2021 to curb vegetable oil imports, which cost it $15 billion in the last fiscal year, the report said.

This amounts to a jump to 1.2 to 1.5 million MT by 2030-31 from the current 400,000 MT, said Sougata Niyogi, chief executive officer of the oil palm plantation division at India's biggest palm oil producer, Godrej Agrovet Ltd.

India is the world's biggest edible oil importer and relies on Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand for palm oil supplies. Thus, increasing production will help the country to reduce edible oil imports that account for nearly two-thirds of its total consumption. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

STOLT TANKERS BARGE MOVES TO RENEWABLE FUEL

Leading chemical tanker operator Stolt Tankers has announced that its barge Stolt Main has moved to 100%

renewable fuel (HVO100) usage, reports the Oils & Fats International on September 10. The company said the

move to HVO100 followed three years of the Stolt Main, and several other Stolt Tankers vessels, running on HVO20, a 20:80 blend of HVO. HVO100 is the purest form of hydrotreated vegetable oil produced from processed vegetable oil or animal fats.

While HVO20 usage had reduced the barge's carbon emissions by 18%, the HVO100, supplied by GoodFuels,

would reduce its CO2 emissions by approximately 90%, the company said. The company has been researching and

testing the use of biofuels in its ships for many years as part of its long-term sustainability strategy and announced its partnership with GoodFuels in 2021.

Part of Stolt-Nielsen, Stolt Tankers operates a fleet of more than 160 vessels, providing global transportation service for bulk liquid chemicals, edible oils, acids and clean petroleum product. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

INDIA RAISES IMPORT DUTY ON EDIBLE OILS

India has raised the basic import tax on crude and refined edible oils by 20 percentage points from September 14 as the world's biggest edible oil importer tries to support local oilseed farmers. The move could raise edible oil prices and dampen demand and subsequently reduce imports of palm oil, soybean oil and sunflower oil.

The move effectively increases the total import duty of the three oils to 27.5% from 5.5% as the country also imposes the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess on these oils. Imports of refined palm oil, refined soybean oil and refined sunflower oil will be levied 35.75% import duty against a duty of 13.75% previously.

Meanwhile, the government has urged edible oil processors not to increase the retail prices despite recent increases in import duty, citing

sufficient stocks imported at lower duties. According to the food ministry, these stocks would last 45-50 days. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

5 REASONS TO EAT RAW COCONUT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING

Eating raw coconut in the morning offers numerous benefits. Coconuts are a powerhouse of various nutrients like protein and fiber, as well as many essential minerals like iron, manganese and copper. Here are some compelling reasons to eat raw coconut first thing in the morning:

Boosts gut health
Eating fat first in the morning is a boon for your gut health. Raw coconut's fiber and healthy fats support gut bacteria and promote digestive regularity. Coconut's high fiber content helps prevent constipation and promotes bowel movements.

Sustained energy
Medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) in raw coconut provide long-lasting energy. They also support mental clarity and prevent conditions like confusion and brain fog. Eating coconut sharpens your memory by keeping your electrolyte balance in the right manner.

Weight loss
According to Tejal Prajapati, health and wellness coach, KP wellness, "Raw coconut's fiber and healthy fats keep you full, reducing cravings. This can help in suppressing the hunger pangs and help you with burning the stubborn belly fat. Eating coconut everyday can aid weight loss. The process of burning calories to produce heat is known as thermogenesis, and it can be accelerated by medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) present in coconut.

Strong immune system
Easy to consume and the best natural snack out there, raw coconut's lauric acid has antibacterial, antiviral, and antifungal properties can bolster your immunity and help you prevent sickness. Coconut's antioxidants and polyphenols support immune function and prevent you from getting sick often.

Healthy skin and hair
According to Rahul Kamra, Keto coach, "Raw coconut's healthy fats moisturize and nourish skin when consumed first thing in the morning. Coconut's nutrients, especially protein and iron, support hair growth and make hair shiny and lustrous. This can also prevent hair thinning and hair fall."

Tips for eating raw coconut
1. Choose fresh and organic coconuts.
2. Intake small amounts (1-2 tablespoons) and adjust to tolerance. One may increase it to eating a 2-inch piece of raw coconut first thing in the morning.
3. Grate, shred, or chop raw coconut and use it as a salad dressing or sprinkle over any food of your choice.
4. Store raw coconut in an airtight container to maintain freshness.

(Times of India)

INGREDIENTS IN FOCUS: COCONUT MEAT

The white, meaty inside of the coconut has seen a surge in popularity.

Rising awareness of healthy eating and exposure to vegan and plant-based products have led to an increase in demand for healthy coconut meat.

The coconut meat market is in a position for robust growth, with an expected compound annual growth rate of approximately 7 to 9% over the next five years, potentially reaching a market size of around $1.5 billion by 2028,

according to a report from Reliable Research Times sent to Food Dive.

Leading the charge on coconut meat's popularity has been trendy coconut yogurt brands that got their fame through social media.

Coconut Cult is a probiotic coconut yogurt brand that sells creative flavors of the product including Banana Cream Pie, Original, Chocolate Mousse, Harvest Strawberry, and most recently, Raspberry Chocolate Truffle in collaboration with Honey Mama's — a niche, better-for-you chocolate bar brand.

Coconut meat is an acquired taste for some — often tasting tart and having notes of woodiness.

What's interesting is that brands like Coconut Cult are using this strong taste to its advantage.

The company recently took to Tik Tok to explain to users "the rules of the cult." The first rule, it said, was to eat a couple of spoonfuls at a time. The second rule was to enjoy the product's unique sour flavor, "that tang, that fizz, that's the taste of gut health, if your taste buds don't like it, they're telling you they don't like healthy foods and that's not good."

The final message in the social media video was telling users "not to complain about the flavor, because the flavor is magic."

Consumers are increasingly looking for healthier options for their favorite food options.

Amid the uptick in healthy eating, there has also been an increased focus on gut health. Coconut meat is high in fiber and MCTs, making the ingredient a fit in the trend among consumers. Often paired with probiotics, companies using the ingredient market their products as being "gut healthy." Coconut Cult, for example, shares customers' testimonies on its website saying, "I have only been taking this daily for 2 weeks but already notice a huge difference in my gut health." (Food Dive)

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT LADOO AND PANJIRI

Ingredients

- 3 cups milk or half-and-half
- ½ cup small pearl tapioca
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt, such as Diamond Crystal
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 (13.5-ounce) can unsweetened coconut milk
- 3 egg yolks
- ½ cup golden raisins, plumped in warm water and drained, for garnish (not necessary if raisins are moist)
- 2 tablespoons toasted shredded coconut, for garnish
- Flaky salt, for garnish

Preparation

Step 1
Put milk in a saucepan and bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Add tapioca, sugar, salt and vanilla. Cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, until tapioca is tender, about 20 to 25 minutes. Stir in coconut milk and turn off heat.

Step 2
Put egg yolks in a heatproof bowl and whisk well. Slowly whisk about 1 cup warm pudding mixture into the yolks. Drizzle the yolk mixture back into the saucepan, whisking well. Return heat to medium and cook for 4 or 5 minutes, whisking occasionally, until slightly thickened. Let cool to room temperature, or refrigerate for at least 2 hours.

Step 3
Ladle pudding into individual serving cups or into a large serving bowl. Garnish with golden raisins. Top with toasted coconut and sprinkle very lightly with flaky salt just before serving. (New York Times Cooking)

STATISTICS

Table 1. Indonesia's Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut, 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	10,653	18,050	8,167	8,922	8,187	9,140
February	8,639	14,117	8,690	9,655	8,457	10,099
March	11,433	15,740	9,478	10,140	10,797	12,620
April	9,870	13,546	7,557	8,109	7,748	10,875
May	5,690	9,175	8,441	9,131	7,947	11,792
June	8,655	11,639	9,149	10,060	8,794	13,212
July	7,999	10,611	9,789	11,567	12,263	17,554
August	10,265	12,580	11,912	13,066	13,341	20,148
September	9,591	12,046	10,611	11,792		
October	8,533	10,707	10,705	11,724		
November	8,867	9,728	10,110	11,229		
December	9,951	10,898	9,059	10,567		
Total	**110,147**	**148,837**	**113,671**	**125,963**	**77,536**	**105,439**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 2. Philippines' Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut (in MT), 2021 – 2024

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	10,523	11,810	8,086	10,946
February	11,976	14,603	12,072	16,330
March	13,266	18,636	14,485	14,578
April	10,995	14,274	10,390	13,644
May	11,933	13,147	14,861	14,518
June	13,990	13,725	14,746	11,712
July	13,669	10,737	14,297	
August	15,302	11722	13329	
September	14,920	13174	14389	
October	16,118	10512	13540	
November	16,415	11531	13204	
December	14,703	13059	12875	
Total	**163,810**	**156,930**	**156,274**	**81,728**

Source: Philippines Statistics Authority

Table 3. Sri Lanka's Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut (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	3,049	8,334	2,359	4,418	2,957	5,894
February	2,988	8,049	2,658	5,168	3,402	6,915
March	3,822	8,900	2,759	5,677	3,592	7,780
April	3,197	7,954	2,110	4,295	2,983	6,211
May	3,692	8,533	2,986	6,115	3,473	7,496
June	4,118	9,753	2,573	5,058	3,402	8,393
July	3,315	7,374	3,003	6,138	4,294	9,988
August	4,121	8,987	3,879	7,388		
September	3,543	7,026	4,116	7,588		
October	3,795	6,910	3,929	7,113		
November	4,111	7,163	4,179	7,882		
December	4,040	7,128	3,438	6,846		
Total	**43,791**	**96,109**	**37,989**	**73,687**	**24,103**	**52,676**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 4. Export Volume of Desiccated Coconut by Country of Origin, 2024 (MT)

Month	Malaysia	Thailand	India	Brazil
January	833	153	219	5
February	766	136	224	7
March	1,237	85	435	8
April	697	93	441	31
May	863	58	655	6
June	606	143	954	29
July	863	151	773	18
August		148		4
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	**5,864**	**970**	**3,701**	**107**

Source: ITC & Thai Customs

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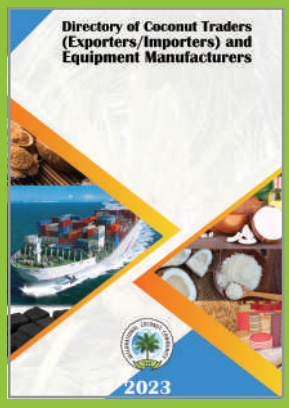

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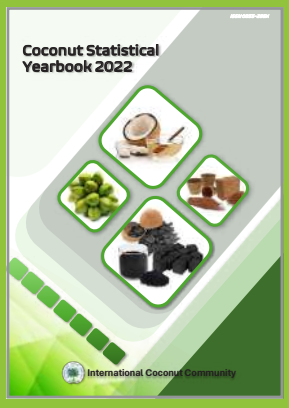

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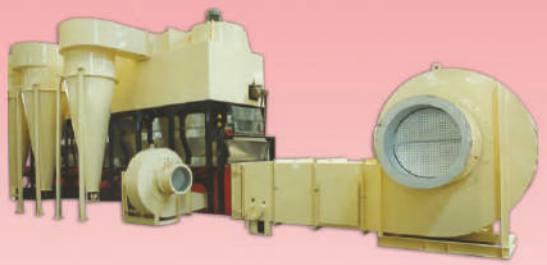

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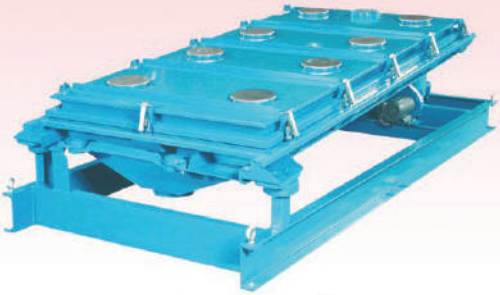

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