The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SPEAKS

"From PNG to the World: embracing Coconuts for a Circular Economy"

The theme for World Coconut Day 2024, "Coconut for a Circular Economy: Building Partnerships for Maximum Value," highlights the pivotal role of coconuts in driving sustainability and resource efficiency. This year's focus is on fostering partnerships among farmers, industries, governments, and research institutions to unlock the full potential of coconuts across their lifecycle. By advocating for waste reduction, resource reuse, and innovative processes, this theme underscores the importance of creating high-value products while ensuring environmental stewardship and economic resilience.

This year, Papua New Guinea (PNG), through the Kokonas Indastri Koporesen (KIK) took center stage as the host of the World Coconut Day celebrations, delivering an unforgettable experience. The event featured an international conference with distinguished speakers from ICC member countries, exhibitions of cutting-edge coconut-based innovations, and competitions that showcased creativity and stakeholder engagement. Field visits offered participants a glimpse of PNG's rich cultural heritage, stunning natural landscapes, and culinary ingenuity, emphasizing the coconut's versatility.

A landmark achievement during the event was the launch of PNG's national coconut census, powered by advanced AI technology. This groundbreaking initiative sets a new benchmark for accurate and reliable data collection in the coconut sector. Reliable data is essential for informed policy-making and sustainable industry growth, making this development a significant leap forward.

As we celebrate World Coconut Day, we honor the legacy of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), now the International Coconut Community (ICC). This occasion pays tribute to the millions of farmers nurturing the "Tree of Life," researchers pioneering innovative practices, private sector leaders driving the production of profitable coconut products, traders facilitating global markets, and governments shaping supportive policies. These stakeholders play an integral role in the resilience and growth of the global coconut sector.

We also extend our gratitude to donors and international organizations for their invaluable support in research and development (R&D), capacity building, and technical assistance. Their contributions have been instrumental in advancing the coconut industry. Furthermore, we deeply appreciate the countries hosting the International Coconut Genebank (ICGs). Their efforts in sustaining ICGs and promoting ex-situ and in-situ conservation are critical for preserving genetic diversity and ensuring resilience against global challenges.

World Coconut Day might serves as an annual call to action for embracing sustainability, innovation, and collaboration. It reminds us that every stakeholder—from farmers to policymakers—has a role to play. Looking forward, integrating World Coconut Day into the United Nations' annual program could significantly elevate its global significance. Such recognition would amplify the visibility of the coconut industry, foster stronger international partnerships, and address pressing challenges like climate change, market access, and technological innovation. Let us continue celebrating the enduring legacy of the coconut, fostering collaboration, innovation, and sustainability to ensure its vital contributions to our global future.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Director General

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

In October 2024, there was a significant rise in the prices of coconut-related products across key producing countries, including the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka. The price of Coconut Oil (CNO) increased in all four nations, while the price of Desiccated Coconut (DC) also saw upward movement in the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka.

COPRA: In October 2024, copra prices in Indonesia increased to US$922 per metric ton, up from US$913 per metric ton in the previous month, marking a significant year-on-year rise of US$327 per metric ton. Similarly, the copra market in the Philippines saw a modest increase, with prices climbing from US$838 per metric ton in September 2024 to US$859 per metric ton in October 2024. This represented a substantial year-on-year gain of US$260 per metric ton compared to the corresponding period in the previous year, when prices stood at US$599 per metric ton.

COCONUT OIL: In October 2024, coconut oil prices continued to follow an upward trend across India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. In Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price decreased slightly to US$1,718 per metric ton but still reflected a 62% increase compared to the previous year. In the Philippines, the local market price settled at US$1,722 per metric ton, marking a year-on-year rise of US$645. Similarly, Indonesia experienced a moderate increase, with local prices rising to US$1,711 per metric ton in October 2024 from US$1,671 per metric ton in September 2024, representing a year-on-year increase of US$640 per metric ton.

COPRA MEAL: In October 2024, the average domestic price of copra meal in the Philippines rose significantly to US$135 per metric ton, reflecting a substantial increase from the previous month. However, this figure still represented a decrease of US$112 per metric ton compared to the same period last year. Similarly, Indonesia recorded an uptick in its average domestic copra meal price, reaching US$260 per metric ton, marking a year-on-year increase of US$11 per metric ton.

DESICCATED COCONUT: In October 2024, the average Free on Board (FOB) price of desiccated coconut (DC) in the USA remained steady at US$2,131 per metric ton, unchanged from the previous month. The Philippines recorded an increased domestic DC price at US$2,068 per metric ton. Meanwhile, Indonesia's FOB price for DC rose significantly to US$2,875 per metric ton, surpassing the previous year's price of US$1,475 per metric ton. Sri Lanka also experienced a notable increase in the domestic DC price, reaching US$3,119 per metric ton.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In October 2024, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in the Philippines rose slightly to US$393 per metric ton, reflecting an increase of US$3 per metric ton compared to the previous month. In Indonesia, the average price climbed to US$579 per metric ton, up from US$557 per metric ton in the preceding month. Similarly, Sri Lanka experienced a modest increase, with prices reaching US$466 per metric ton.

COIR FIBRE: In October 2024, the domestic trade of coir fiber in Sri Lanka saw the price of mixed fiber averaging US$73 per metric ton, while the price of bristle fiber ranged from US$426 to US$686 per metric ton. In Indonesia, the price of mixed raw fiber was recorded at US$140 per metric ton in October 2024, reflecting an increase from US$110 per metric ton in the same period the previous year.

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

Products/Country	2024 Oct	2024 Sep	2023 Oct	2024 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	173	169	123	148
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	249	224	161	201
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	348	292	208	256
India (Domestic Kerala)	612	504	394	492
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	859	838	599	703
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	922	913	595	758
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,470	1,301	956	1,214
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,564	1,409	1,060	1,250
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,718	1,740	1,058	1,431
Philippines (Domestic)	1,722	1,692	1,077	1,366
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,711	1,671	1,071	1,369
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,496	2,357	1,731	2,137
India (Domestic, Kerala)	2,453	2,283	1,664	1,981
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,131	2,131	1,690	1,963
Philippines (Domestic)	2,068	2,039	2,039	2,042
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,119	2,563	1,619	2,196
Indonesia (FOB)	2,875	2,475	1,475	2,101
India (Domestic)	2,721	2,388	1,637	1,922
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	135	87	247	164
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	284	282	282	298
Indonesia (Domestic)	260	259	249	251
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	393	390	335	371
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	466	449	313	391
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	579	557	443	484
India (Domestic)	534	496	336	423
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	73	63	57	65
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	426	419	470	427
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	686	656	619	656
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	140	140	110	117
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,636	1,515	912	1,283
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,077	983	804	920
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,095	1,044	1,134	1,005

Exchange Rate

Oct 31, '24 1 US$ = P58.33 or Rp15,733 or India Rs84.09 or SL Rs292.99

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

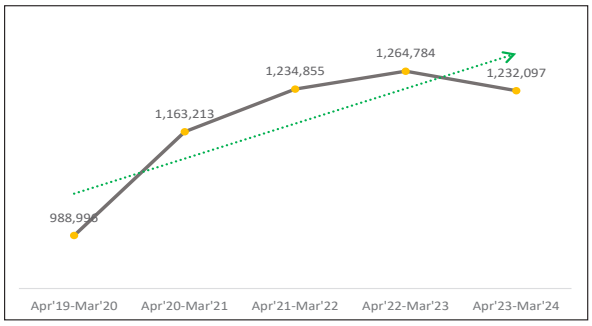
MARKET REVIEW OF COIR

The coir fiber market in Sri Lanka and Indonesia has experienced dynamic shifts from 2020 to 2024, with 2024 marking a significant recovery in prices and demand. In Sri Lanka, after facing a sharp decline in prices during 2022 and 2023, the market has rebounded impressively. Prices climbed steadily from US$56 per metric ton (MT) in January to US$73 per MT in October, reflecting renewed domestic and international demand. This upward trajectory is a marked recovery from 2022 lows of US$39 per MT and is supported by improved production and supply conditions.

Indonesia's coir market, while historically more stable, saw notable price growth in 2024. Prices, which had remained at US$90 per MT throughout much of 2023, surged to US$140 per MT by September and October. This represents the highest levels since 2020 and points to tightening supply or rising demand. Unlike Sri Lanka, Indonesia avoided the sharp price drops of 2022, maintaining relative stability. However, it is important to note that Indonesia predominantly exports low-value products such as coir fiber and coir pith, which limits its ability to capture higher margins or compete in premium market segments.

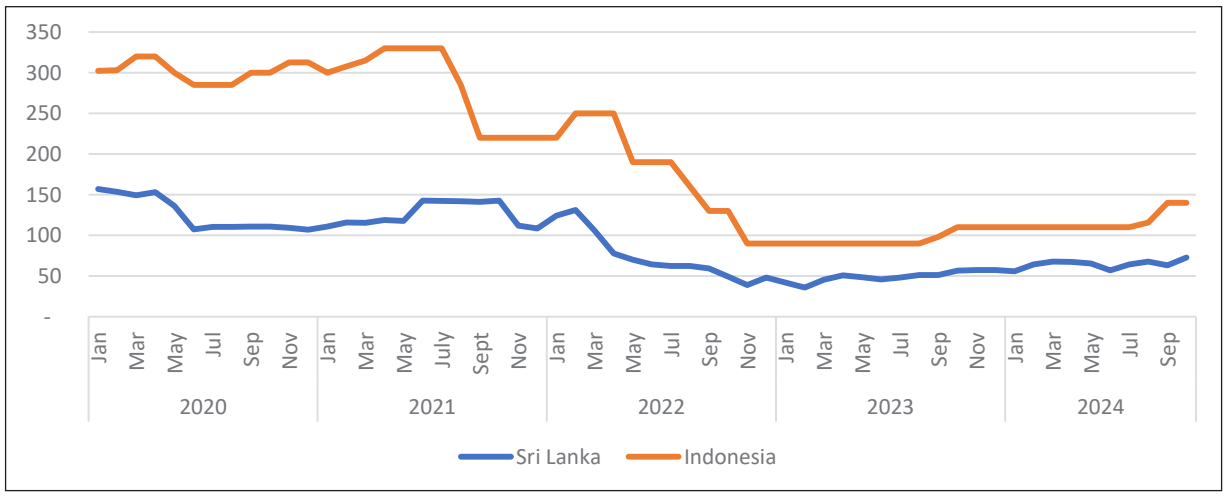
India's coir export data from April 2019 to March 2024 illustrates the impact of fluctuating global demand and pricing. The highest export quantity, 1.26 million MT, was recorded between April 2022 and March 2023, but the export value dropped to US$485.8 million, reflecting lower unit prices despite high volumes. The subsequent period saw a slight decrease in quantity to 1.23 million MT, while export value plummeted to US$407.3 million, the lowest in five years. This decline underscores global market challenges, such as falling prices and heightened competition, necessitating strategies for value addition, market diversification, and competitive positioning.

Figure 2. Exports of Coir Products from India, April-March 2019-2024



Source: Coir Board of India

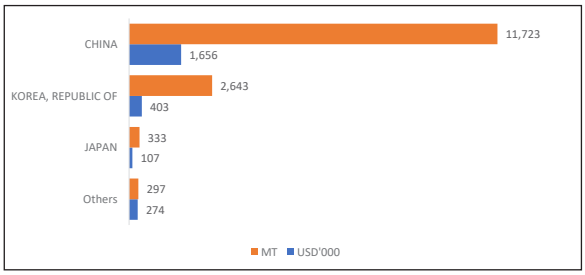
Figure 1. Average Monthly Price of Coir Fibre, January 2020 – October 2024 (USUS$/MT)



Source: ICC

Indonesian coir exports during the first nine months of 2024 also reveal a decline in value and quantity. Export value dropped from US$3.63 million in 2023 to US$2.44 million in 2024, and quantities decreased from 20.27 million kg to 14.99 million kg. Notably, exports to China, Indonesia's largest market, declined in both value and volume, suggesting weaker demand or market saturation. Similarly, exports to South Korea sharply decreased, indicating competitive pressures or shifting market preferences. This reflects Indonesia's reliance on low-value coir products, which face significant price competition.

Figure 3. Export Destination of Coir Products from Indonesia, January-September 2024



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

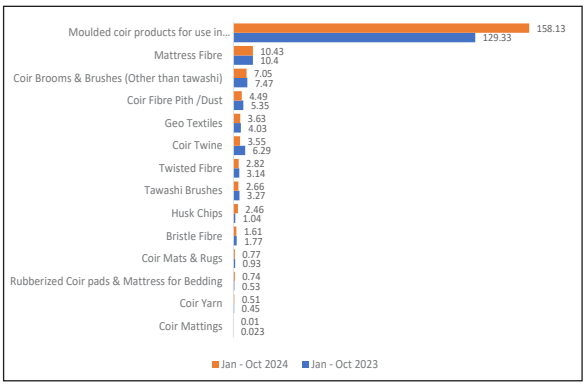
Conversely, some markets displayed growth, hinting at opportunities for premium products. Exports to Japan increased in value from US$90,724 in 2023 to US$106,532 in 2024, despite a reduction in quantity, reflecting a shift toward higher-quality offerings. Exports to Singapore and France also grew substantially, signaling a preference for specialized coir goods. These trends suggest that Indonesia can diversify its product portfolio by focusing on innovation and premium lines to navigate global price pressures and strengthen market presence.

Sri Lanka's coir exports showed notable growth between January and October 2024, with total export value rising by 14.3% from US$174.02 million in 2023 to US$198.86 million. This growth was driven by strong demand for molded coir products used in horticulture, which saw a 22.3% increase in export value. China and Japan were key importers, with China's imports rising 21%, highlighting robust demand for eco-friendly coir products. Despite declines in certain categories like coir twine and bristle fiber, others, such as husk chips, experienced remarkable growth of 136.5%, underscoring the increasing use of coir by-products in sustainable agriculture.

European markets continued to play a significant role in Sri Lanka's coir trade, with steady demand from countries like the Netherlands and Germany. However, some markets, including Belgium and Hungary, showed declines, reflecting shifting dynamics within the European market. This reinforces the need for producers to adapt to evolving preferences and focus on high-value offerings.

The global coir industry has demonstrated resilience and adaptability amid challenges. Sri Lanka and Indonesia are recovering from past declines, with Sri Lanka exhibiting steady growth and Indonesia seeking to elevate its market presence by diversifying beyond low-value products. Meanwhile, India faces hurdles like falling prices and intense competition but holds opportunities in value-added products and emerging markets. The outlook for coir remains positive, driven by growing demand for sustainable, eco-friendly solutions in horticulture and agriculture. Producers who innovate and align with global preferences for quality and sustainability will be best positioned to thrive in the evolving marketplace.

Figure 4. Export Value of Coir Products from Sri Lanka January-October 2023 and 2024 (USUS$ million)



Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

COMMUNITY NEWS

WORLD COCONUT DAY 2024 CELEBRATIONS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA: A GRAND SUCCESS

The World Coconut Day 2024 celebrations, organized by the Kokonas Indastri Koporesen (KIK) with the collaboration of the International Coconut Community (ICC), were successfully held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from September 30th to October 4th. This highly anticipated event, centered around the theme "Coconut for a Circular Economy: Building Partnership for Maximum Value," attracted a diverse group of attendees, including coconut experts, researchers, producers, exporters, MSMEs, and delegations from ICC member countries, among other stakeholders from the global coconut industry. The event was formally inaugurated at the APEC Haus and Sir John Guise Indoor Stadium, where the Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Papua New Guinea, representing the H. E. the minister of Agriculture, delivered the keynote address. He emphasized the importance of sustainable practices in the coconut industry, particularly in light of the growing global demand for coconut products. The inaugural session also witnessed the launch of Papua New Guinea's National Coconut Census, a significant milestone for KIK and the country.

A Landmark Achievement: National Coconut Census Launch During the inaugural session, the Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Agriculture, launched the National Coconut Census Report. This monumental task, conducted by KIK over seven years, was made possible using the latest technologies, including GPS mapping and drone technology. The census provided Papua New Guinea with accurate data on coconut cultivation areas across all provinces, giving a much-needed boost to effective planning and sustainable coconut production in the country. Comprehensive Conference on the Coconut Industry Value Chain The core of the World Coconut Day celebrations was the international conference, which featured eight insightful sessions covering the entire value chain of the coconut industry. These sessions delved into critical topics such as Coconut Replanting and Climate Smart Farming, Coconut Biosecurity and Conservation, Health and Nutritional Benefits, and Technological Advancements in the Coconut Sector. The sessions provided a platform for discussions on innovative solutions, sustainable practices, and the importance of collaboration to meet the growing global demand for coconut products. Each session offered valuable insights and actionable strategies, focusing on enhancing productivity, addressing biosecurity challenges, advancing technology, and strengthening market systems for a more resilient and sustainable coconut industry.

A Memorable Field Visit One of the most inspiring highlights of the event was the field visit that took delegates to local communities, where they were welcomed with enthusiasm. The delegation saw firsthand the success story of Mr. Tade, a graduate of the ICC's Coconut Development Officers Training Program, held at the Coconut Research Institute (CRI) in Sri Lanka. Mr. Tade has since applied the knowledge gained from the training to his community, effectively guiding local farmers and boosting coconut production.

Additionally, KIK launched a novel program titled "Youth, Sports, and Coconut," which has caught the attention of international visitors. The program aims to promote coconut replanting by engaging the youth in a competitive yet community-driven initiative. Youth groups were formed to compete for the highest number of coconut trees planted, a strategy that has already proven successful in mobilizing the younger generation to contribute to the replanting efforts. Delegates were impressed by the innovative approach and saw it as an excellent model to replicate in other coconut-growing regions.

Competitions, Awards, and Closing Ceremony The closing session of the event saw the

much-anticipated announcement of winners in the World Coconut Day competition, organized by the ICC. Participants from ICC member and non-member countries took part in three categories—Photography, Short Video, and Writing. KIK also recognized top-performing MSMEs and farmer cooperatives through special awards, celebrating their contributions to the coconut industry. The closing ceremony was graced by a vibrant fashion show, which creatively displayed garments and accessories made from coconut materials. This unique showcase underlined the endless possibilities for value-added products in the coconut industry, inspiring both local and international guests. A Collaborative Success The World Coconut Day 2024 event was a collaborative success led by KIK's Chairman, Mr. Steven Raphael, and Managing Director, Mr. Alan Aku. Both were highly praised for their leadership in organizing such a comprehensive event. The ICC, led by Director General Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, played a crucial role in ensuring the event's success through close collaboration with KIK and other stakeholders. This year's World Coconut Day celebrations not only demonstrated the strength and resilience of the coconut industry but also underscored the critical role partnerships play in driving sustainable development. By embracing the circular economy model, the coconut sector can continue to grow while addressing the challenges of global market demands and environmental sustainability. As the ICC flag was ceremoniously handed over to the host country for World Coconut Day 2025, the event concluded on a high note, leaving participants inspired and ready to take on the future challenges of the coconut industry.

The event was graced by the presence of dignitaries, including ambassadors, provincial governors, and other regional government representatives from Papua New Guinea, further emphasizing the national and international significance of the coconut sector. Their participation underscored the strong support from various levels of government and highlighted the importance of fostering partnerships for sustainable growth in the industry. The ICC looks forward to more fruitful collaborations as we continue to advance the coconut sector globally. Thank you to all the attendees, participants, and organizers who made this event a resounding success. *(ICC News)*

ICC DIRECTOR GENERAL 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 Director General 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 Deputy Director General, Mr. Nuwan also took part in the event. *(ICC News)*

FROM TRADITION TO INNOVATION: A JOURNEY TO REBUILD SIARGAO'S COCONUT FARMS

Aljomae Moreno, a young woman from Del Carmen, Siargao Island, embodies her community's spirit of resilience and hope. Inspired by her father, a dedicated farmer, Aljomae has always felt a connection to agriculture. Growing up in the countryside, she watched her father work tirelessly on the land, instilling in her the value of hard work and the importance of farming. This foundation motivates her to embrace modern agricultural practices, combining tradition with innovation.

Recently, Aljomae embarked on a significant journey by starting her first job after graduating from college. She joined the cash-for-work program of the ILO's Rebuilding Better Coconut Economy project, funded by the Government of Japan. The project enrolled her in social protection for health and social security benefits. Additionally, she learned Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and developed skills in coconut culinary, enabling her to earn from non-traditional coconut products.

"I am happy to share that I am the first professional in our family, and this job is to give back to my parents," she explains, reflecting on her sense of duty to support her family. This opportunity allows her to apply the theories she learned at the university to real-world farming situations.

Participating in the project to rebuild coconut farms in Siargao, she finds immense joy in interacting with local farmers, learning their traditions, and understanding the cultural significance of their work. "What I enjoy the most in this project is how I interact with the farmers and communicate with them to learn their traditions," she shares. These interactions have been transformative, deepening her appreciation for the agricultural community.

"We want to provide employment with a purpose bigger than ourselves. This experience is unique, because as the years go by, young people involved in this project will always have something to come back to the coconut they planted and the farmers they helped," said Athena Banza, National Project Coordinator of the ILO Rebuilding Better Coconut Economy.

As a young farmer, Aljomae takes pride in listening to the sentiments of local farmers, especially regarding the impact of Super Typhoon Rai, locally known as Odette on their lives.

"I grew up spending my time on a farm and harvesting coconut or copra as our way of living," she recalls, acknowledging the hardships and challenges her community faces. The project she is involved in is not just about providing jobs but also aids farm owners who suffered significant losses due to the typhoon.

"This project is unique because it helps not only us looking for jobs but also farm owners affected

by the typhoon," Aljomae emphasizes. For her, this initiative represents a way to restore hope and rebuild livelihoods for those who depend on agriculture.

Grateful for her education, Aljomae feels a sense of responsibility to help her parents financially. "When I heard about this job, I didn't hesitate to apply. I knew it would help financially and teach me about the coconut industry of the island," she explains.

Looking ahead, Aljomae remains hopeful for the future. She envisions a time when local farmers in Siargao will reap the fruits of their labor, creating more job opportunities for her fellow Siargaonons. "In the coming years, the local farmers here in Siargao will harvest the fruit of their hard work," she asserts, emphasizing the collective effort needed for recovery.

"We are thankful to the people of Japan for funding the initiative, to the ILO for leading the project and partners from Lokal Lab and the Philippine Coconut Authority. Through their collective efforts, they are making a significant difference in the lives of farmers," Aljomae says, proud to be part of this transformative movement. *(ILO News)*

THAILAND'S COCONUT YIELD DROPS BELOW AVERAGE DUE TO DROUGHT, PESTS

The Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry expects Thailand's yield of mature coconuts to come in at 0.86 million tonnes, far lower than last year's 0.94 million tonnes.

This drop is attributed to prolonged drought and a pest infestation affecting coconut trees.

Commerce Minister Pichai Naripthaphan has assigned the Department of Internal Trade to closely monitor the prices of mature coconuts and fresh coconut milk to avoid affecting consumers.

Provincial commerce offices have also been directed to inspect essential consumer goods prices in the field, while patrol officers will conduct random checks at retail stores continuously.

Though mature coconuts are available all year, the peak season is from April to July, when farmers typically sell them at low prices like 5 to 9 baht per coconut. However, prices rise during the low season from August to March, when coconuts go for 18 to 28 baht.

As of now, the price of mature coconuts has risen to an average of 19.08 baht per coconut due to reduced market supply. Demand for mature coconuts stands at 1.19 million tonnes, with 35% going to wholesale and fresh markets and 65% to processed coconut milk factories.

To alleviate domestic shortage, factories have been importing coconuts during low production periods. The Subcommittee on Coconut Production Management, under the Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil Committee, is overseeing efforts to balance supply and demand in the supply chain. This group includes representatives from government agencies, the private sector and farmers.

Commerce Ministry spokesman Witthayakorn Maneenet said: "The Department of Internal Trade and provincial commerce offices will continue to monitor the coconut situation and key consumer goods prices. If any business is found inflating prices excessively or disrupting the market, legal action will be taken, with penalties of up to seven years in prison and/or fines of up to 140,000 baht." *(The Nation)*

COCONUT OIL: A COMMUNITY'S PATH TO EMPOWERMENT

A small, rural community in Indonesia is leading a movement to empower its members to promote and understand the benefits of coconut.

A group of artisans, known as Herba Bagoes, is not just selling coconut oil; they're fostering a cultural revolution.

Their mission is to educate and inspire their community about the benefits of coconut oil, transforming it into a cornerstone of daily life.

"It's not enough to know the benefits of coconut oil," says Annas Ahmad, Marketing Director of Herba Bagoes.

"We need to make people understand why it's important to incorporate it into their daily routines."

To achieve this, the artisans have taken a multifaceted approach.

They create educational content, publish books, produce podcasts, and build a strong community around coconut oil.

Their goal is to make it a part of their community's culture, not just a product.

Mr. Ahmad emphasizes the importance of daily coconut oil use.

Many people understand the benefits, but they don't consume it. Our challenge is to bridge this gap."

The artisans believe that coconut oil offers more than just health benefits.

It promotes happiness, a sense of well-being, and a deeper connection to the community.

"Coconut oil is a medium that connects us," Mr. Ahmad said.

The artisans are committed to empowering their community through coconut oil. They've created different types of coconut oil, including virgin, crude, and refined, to cater to various needs and preferences.

They also encourage farmers to use coconut products daily, emphasizing the versatility of the coconut tree.

"We're not just about selling coconut oil," they say. "We're about creating a sustainable and thriving community."

By educating and inspiring their community, Herba Bagoes is proving that coconut oil can be more than just a product; it can be a catalyst for change. *(Post Courier)*

COCONUT, THE TREE OF LIFE

The Governor's Dinner during the 2024 World Coconut Day saw a significant address delivered by Jacqueline Nen, Senior Consultant for Youth & Education under the Governor's Office, who represented NCD Governor Powes Parkop.

In her opening remarks, Nen highlighted the vital role of the coconut tree in sustaining lives within society. "Everything from feeding us, sustaining us, sheltering us, and influencing our cultures—coconuts have kept our generations alive, especially in our coastal areas," she emphasized.

For Papua New Guineans and other nations where the coconut holds great cultural and economic value, the tree is truly indispensable, contributing to many aspects of life and livelihoods.

The event warmly welcomed representatives from the international coconut community, with Nen showcasing Papua New Guinea's pride as the host of the 2024 World Coconut Day.

The celebrations, which concluded successfully, included a tour of coconut plantations and nurseries in Kokopo. The event culminated with award presentations recognizing the best-performing farmers, honoring their dedication and contributions to the coconut industry. *(Post Courier)*

COCONUT HUSK, BIOMASS FROM COCONUT: FIBERS ARE KNOWN AS COIR

The fibers from coconut husks, which are known as coir, are versatile and can be used in a variety of products: coconut husk chips are used as a planting medium that help the plant retain moisture and resist to fungal growth; coir is used to make doormats and brushes, or to make twine, particle board, and biodegradable packing material, and is even a component in mattresses and floor tiles.

Coconut has also been used to make a composite material out of coconut husks to create automotive trunk liners, living wall planters, and electric car battery pack covers. In addition to being stronger and stiffer than synthetic plastic fibers, this material is lighter and offers better performance, which can lead to cost savings for companies. Both consumers and businesses are drawn to materials that repurpose or otherwise incorporate waste, and this represents a business opportunity moving forward.

Coconut as a wood alternative solution: Goodbout case

Goodhout, a Dutch company pioneer in the construction of interior and building material made of coconut husk only, presents coconut as a wood alternative solution.

This is what explains Silvia ten Houten, founder and CEO, at the Best Practices for Coconut Husk Product Development webinar organized by the International Coconut Community. The husk of a coconut comprises thirty percent coconut fibers, and seventy percent flesh: the latter contains a significant amount of lignin, a substance that is found in ligneous cell walls which, in a melted form, is suitable as an adhesive for the coconut fibers.

Upcycling existing raw material

On the other hand, the husk is processed into small pieces and pressed under hot pressure into boards. As regards its properties, such as sturdiness and fire safety, the board material that is obtained is comparable to or better than medium density fiberboard. Goodhout is using upcycled existing raw material for the making of their products; this way no land is occupied for growing the trees that would eventually be cut for harvesting the coconuts.

The production chain is based in Europe, in twenty different factories that take the coconuts and de-husk them by hand or by machine using advanced mills. Once the husks have been sundried, they are milled and prepared to be hot pressed. The coconut husk panel does not contain formaldehyde (NAF) as the natural glues are activated during the production process.

The first Goodhout product line included flat surfaces for interior use, countertops, room dividers, wall panels, shelving, tables and cupboards. Research and development will unlock further applications of this material for flooring, eternal facades, kitchenware, furniture, homeware and even automotive dashboards.

CoconutBowls™ reclaiming discarded coconut shells

Another brand who uses coconut as a raw material is CoconutBowls™, that was founded inspired by the opportunity of reducing single use plastics, sourcing sustainable coconut shells and providing jobs for local artisans and farmers. Coconut Bowls factory reclaims discarded coconut shells and turns them into bowls for food, shells that could otherwise be thrown away as a waste or burnt in stocks.

Small pieces of coconut and other wooden offcuts from local builders and artisans are also sourced and handcrafted into spoons, forks, knives and chopsticks. Before entering the production process, coconut shells are treated by outside companies to take the flesh and the water out from them, then Coconut Bowls factories cut, clean and sand the coconut shells,

turning them into bowls; which are rehydrated using an organic virgin coconut oil polish.

Coconut Bowls has achieved carbon neutral shipping through offsetting the carbon created from shipments through the purchase of carbon credits through Cool Effect. This not-for-profit founds local scientifically validated projects, that contributes to building biogas digesters and offers the access to clean, safe energy for the local communities.

The advantages of using coconut as a raw material

By taking residual material from the coconut in its entirety, producers are able to ensure sustainable harvesting and production processes from start to finish. These methods help to prevent deforestation, which is one of the causes of soil unproductivity over a long period, and they are CO2 neutral. During production, glue and chemical agents do not need to be added, as natural glues are naturally extracted from the coconut itself while subjected to the production phases, cutting one third of the total production costs.

Working with coconut waste is inexpensive: all the sourced materials come from waste, meaning no new trees are planted to meet the required quantities for production. Another significant aspect about coconut by-products is that they're completely biodegradable and can be easily decomposed. Unlike polyester and plastic materials, it can be broken into smaller parts and mixed in with soil that will absorb it in a few weeks and hold its minerals and micronutrients.

The majority of coconut suppliers are based in the Philippines, India, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia, developing countries that can use an extra source of income for farmers. If local companies work together with European facilities to help reduce the amount of waste derived from coconut cultivation, both Western and Eastern countries can benefit from the deal. On one hand, companies get the raw materials for the manufacture of sustainable products, while on the other, the countries of origin are supported in their development goals, and artisans are paid for their work according to global standards. *(Lampoon)*

FIRST SHIPMENT OF FRESH VIETNAMESE COCONUTS HEADING FOR CHINA THIS MONTH

Ben Tre province, located in the Mekong Delta, is set to hold a ceremony this month to celebrate its first shipment of fresh coconuts to China. This development comes less than two months after fresh Vietnamese coconuts were officially granted market access to China.

Ben Tre province currently has around 16,000 hectares of land dedicated to coconut production, including 133 designated growing areas spanning nearly 8,400 hectares. The province exports over 100 types of coconut products to approximately 100 countries and regions.

In the first nine months of this year, the province exported 22 million coconuts to overseas markets such as the United States, the European Union, Japan and South Korea. The goal for the province's coconut industry is to further increase its export value, with a particular focus on the newly opened Chinese market.

Doan Van Danh, director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Ben Tre, stated that China sent an official delegation to the province in September to inspect 13 local coconut-growing areas and confirm their eligibility to export coconuts to China.

Nguyen Dinh Tung, general director of Vina T&T Group, said that the company is confident in its ability to compete on the Chinese market with other coconut suppliers such as Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia on account of its considerable experience exporting fresh coconuts to other major markets like

the United States and Canada. Nguyen added that Vietnamese coconuts have the advantage of being "sweeter and cooler" than coconuts from other countries. Furthermore, advances in preservation technology mean that Vietnamese coconuts can now be stored for up to 80 days, ensuring their quality. The company is also now building a large factory in Ben Tre dedicated to exporting fresh coconuts to China, with construction reportedly 70% complete.

Vietnamese coconut growers typically differentiate between fruit intended for drinking the coconut water and those used for processing into products such as coconut milk and coconut oil. The former is harvested every 21 to 22 days, and leaving the coconuts on the tree for too long can stop further fruit production. By contrast, the latter has a much longer harvest cycle lasting several months, and harvesting too early can also halt production. Therefore, Vietnam's coconut industry must implement appropriate management in growing regions to prevent improper harvesting. In addition to oversight from relevant authorities, companies should also collaborate with each other to ensure the industry's efficiency and sustainable development.

In September of this year, the Vietnam Coconut Association led a delegation of over 10 companies and cooperatives to participate in various fruit and food fairs in China. The association also signed a memorandum of understanding with Guangzhou's Jiangnan Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Market and the Guangdong Fruit and Vegetable Association to assist Vietnamese enterprises in accessing the Chinese market.

Vietnam is the world's sixth-largest coconut producer, with 15 provinces cultivating coconuts on a large scale across approximately 200,000 hectares of land to generate a total annual output of about 2.1 million metric tons. The country currently has over 800 companies involved in coconut production and processing, including around 90 exporters. In 2023, Vietnam exported approximately 30,000 metric tons of fresh coconuts as well as 320,000 metric tons of coconut products, including candies, cosmetics, wooden goods and handicrafts, generating a total export revenue in excess of $1.06 billion. *(Produce Report)*

NINE COCONUT GROWING AREAS IN TRA VINH QUALIFIED TO EXPORT TO CHINA

The Mekong Delta province of Tra Vinh has nine coconut growing areas with a total area of over 1,240 hectares and two packaging facilities that have qualified to export fresh coconuts to China, according to the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The farming areas granted export codes by China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) are in Thong Hoa, Tam Nga communes of Cau Ke district, Huyen Hoi, Van Hung and Dai Phuoc communes of Cang Long district, and Nguyet Hoa and Luong Hoa communes in Chau Thanh district.

Meanwhile, the two qualified packaging facilities are the Zaria Xanh Joint Stock Company in Phong Phu commune, Cau Ke district and the branch of Ecotech Vietnam Renewables Energy Joint Stock Company in Nguyet Hoa commune, Chau Thanh district.

Tra Vinh is the second-largest coconut growing province in the country with nearly 27,400 hectares, with seven million trees managed by around 90,000 households. It produces around 444 million coconuts per year.

Director of the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Tran Truong Giang said that Tra Vinh has proposed the Department of Plant Protection under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to negotiate with the Chinese side on the grant of export codes to eight additional coconut farming areas in Long Thoi commune, Tieu Can district, which cover more than 450 hectares. *(Vietnam Plus)*

NEW MOBILE COCONUT SALES PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

A mobile coconut sales programme has been launched by the Ministry of Plantations to provide consumers with coconuts at affordable prices.

According to a ministry statement, the first phase of the programme was launched in several areas in Colombo and its suburbs.

Initially launched in certain key areas, the ministry said the initiative will be expanded to cover other districts in the coming days.

Under this program, the Coconut Cultivation Board will supply approximately 10,000 coconuts to the market on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Following this, 5,000 coconuts will be released on other days of the week, making a total of 15,000 coconuts available to meet the local demand.

In addition, the Kurunegala Plantations Company has arranged to supply 1,500 coconuts daily from October 22, while the Chilaw Plantations Company has also agreed to provide 3,000 coconuts daily from today.

The Plantations Ministry revealed that the expected retail price for a coconut will be between Rs. 100 to Rs. 120. *(Newswire)*

COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLES DEAL FATAL BLOW TO HAWAII PALM TREES

Honolulu arborists will begin cutting down dozens of dead and dying palm trees between Mokuleia and Haleiwa next week, adding to the coconut rhinoceros beetle's mounting toll on Hawaii's landscapes.

The city's Department of Parks and Recreation has marked 80 trees for removal due to public safety concerns since the crowns of the damaged trees threaten to fall on people below.

The felling of the trees on the North Shore comes as the city and state struggle to contain the destructive insect, which has spread since it was first found on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in late 2013.

Though 80 coconut palms represent a fraction of Oahu's more than 200,000 municipal trees, experts warn their removal is only the beginning. Not only does it hurt the scenic shoreline, the beetles are an obstacle to the county's goal of increasing the number of trees to help fight climate change.

The city plans to start removing the North Shore palm trees Monday at Kaiaka Bay Beach Park in Haleiwa after a similar operation on the Leeward Coast. Meanwhile officials face the question of whether to replace the palms, and if so with what since the CRB threat remains.

'Not Just The Parks'

CRB Response Deputy Incident Commander Keith Weiser supports the idea of replanting the same species of trees. But that would require more commitment to managing the beetle and its breeding sites from private landowners as well as the county.

If landowners are not willing to spend time and resources on tree management, the palms should be replaced with a species that the coconut rhinoceros beetle does not have a taste for, Weiser said.

"It's not just the parks that require management," Weiser said.

CRB like to nest and breed in mulch, green waste and compost. They also can fly up to two miles from their nesting sites to feed on sap from palms, which they bore into, killing the trees.

The Southeast Asian beetles prefer coconut palms, but the trees have proven resilient and take anywhere from six months to five years to die. That means the problem can be managed over time, officials said.

University of Hawaii environmental sciences researcher Mike Melzer said that's why he prefers not to cut them down unless they pose a direct risk to the public as is the case on the North Shore.

But when left alone and continually attacked, they will die. Melzer and Weiser predict the toll will continue to worsen on the North Shore and Windward Oahu.

"The next three to five years are going to be painful, in terms of the landscape, especially in what we would consider 'the country' on Oahu," Melzer, who works with CRB Response, said.

That is in part because the beetles have fewer nesting sites in urban areas, he added.

"The bigger issue here is it's just the rerun of the sad, continuing saga of invasive pests in Hawaii," Daniel Dinell from the nonprofit Trees for Honolulu's Future said.

"It's not just coconut rhinoceros beetle. There's a gall wasp, and some type of fungus that attacks specifically Chinese Banyans," he said. He singled out a specific Moiliili banyan tree that the city removed in 2018 because of a twig borer infestation.

The county recognizes the issue, having set a goal of increasing its urban tree canopy by 35% by 2035 in a bid to offset rising temperatures associated with climate change. Urban tree cover in Hawaii dropped 5% between 2010 and 2013 – at least 76,000 trees – before the beetle was first detected.

Helping Fight Climate Change

Coconut palms comprised just over 10% of urban Honolulu's urban tree canopy in 2019, according to the Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency.

The palm trees typically sequester more carbon faster than other species because they reach maturity faster, stabilizing soils and preventing run off.

Although not endemic, the trees also are an important symbol of Hawaii and its culture, said Alexander Yee, coastal and water program manager for the office.

Despite eradication efforts, the city and other landowners already have been forced to cut down dead palm trees across central and West Oahu.

Andre Perez of Pearl City had 14 coconut palms on his property before the beetle made landfall on Oahu. Seven are now dead, four are "half-dead" and three are still alive, Perez said.

"We were considered ground zero," Perez said.

The Native Hawaiian practitioner, who works for the nonprofit Native Hawaiian organization Koihonua, holds "search and destroy days," dedicated to managing the beetles impacts and keeping his trees alive.

Cultural And Historical Significance

Last year the scarab beetle's spread to Kauai, Maui and Hawaii Island after almost a decade of containment on Oahu heightened concerns about its impacts on the prized trees.

In Pacific nations and territories such as Guam and Palau, CRB has had a larger economic impact because coconuts are a key food source and economic driver. The beetle was recently discovered in the Marshall Islands, where coconut products are a major export.

In Hawaii, coconut palms are rarely used for their fruit but are largely treated as ornamental plants despite their cultural and historical significance to the island.

Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku works on food access with Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and is trying

to reconnect the community with coconut trees, given their historical significance to Hawaii and its people. In addition to food and drink, fibers from coconut husks were used in building canoes and ropes.

The health center on Oahu's Westside is working with coconut-focused nonprofit Niu Now to raise the palm trees in a dedicated nursery before distributing them to the public to plant around the island.

The organizations hope to increase the trees' footprint, while also educating people on the coconut rhinoceros beetle and its impacts.

Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku said 500 young palms will be distributed and in late October, with many going to the public, along with nets to help keep CRB out. *(Civil Beat)*

HAWAII SETS RULES TO STOP SPREAD OF TREE-KILLING COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLES

Hawaii is doubling down in its fight against invasive coconut rhinoceros beetles, with state authorities greenlighting rules to prevent the damaging insects from spreading across the Pacific archipelago.

The Hawaii agriculture board on Tuesday approved regulations, including a ban on moving infested soil and compost between islands and an increase of insect inspections, to thwart an influx in pests.

These rule changes, which are not yet finalized, come after an approximately 20-month delay. Coconut rhinoceros beetles were first spotted in Hawaii about a decade ago, but "multiple populations" were found on Kauai in May 2023, indicating the problem had worsened, state officials said.

Coconut rhinoceros beetles consume, hurt and sometimes kill palm trees. The beetle can also result in the death of pineapple, bananas, papaya, sugarcane and taro, per Hawaii Public Radio.

"This is about an all-hands-on-deck approach to managing, preventing – and hopefully eradicating – the ongoing cycle of invasive species," Dianne Ley, a Big Island board member, reportedly said.

These beetles, which are black and approximately 2in long, with a horn, do not bite. But, "they may carry disease because they live in dirt and mulch," authorities said.

The rules are also meant to stop the spread of little fire ants, another invasive species that puts local agriculture and native flora at risk, and can cause harm to humans and pets. While these aggressive ants have afflicted the Big Island for years, they have recently spread to Oahu, prompting renewed calls for action, Hawaii Public Radio reports.

Conservationists in Hawaii are also increasing efforts to find breeding sites, which could help prevent the beetles' population from rising. Conservation Dogs of Hawaii has trained scent-detection canines to detect these insects.

One three-dog team found more than 80 coconut rhinoceros beetles during a training session in June, according to Island News. *(The Guardian)*

PHILIPPINES PARTNERS WITH JAPANESE FIRM TO EXPLORE SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL PRODUCTION

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) has taken a significant step towards establishing the country as a major player in the global biofuel industry by partnering with Japan-based Manryu Co. Ltd. to explore the production of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) using local coconut oil.

The partnership, formalized through a memorandum of understanding, aims to

leverage Manryu's innovative Maeda Method for biodiesel and SAF manufacturing. This method promises enhanced safety features and cost-efficient production, making it a promising avenue for the development of SAF in the Philippines.

The PCA's initiative aligns with the Department of Energy's (DOE) mandate to increase the use of biofuels in the country. The agency has already required all diesel fuel sold in the Philippines to be a 3% blend of coco methyl ester (CME). This requirement will further increase to 4% by October 1, 2025, and to 5% a year later.

By partnering with Manryu, the PCA seeks to optimize the use of local coconut oil in the production of biofuels. The agency will provide access to its research facilities and high-quality coconut oil, while Manryu will supply its technology and equipment. Together, they will conduct research, experiments, and testing to refine the process and ensure that the produced SAF meets global aviation fuel standards.

Last year, DOE had also pushed the aviation sector in Philippines towards using sustainable fuel derived from coconut oil blend. It is working closely with industry stakeholders and international partners to establish the necessary framework and regulations to support the adoption of SAF. For this, the DOE is actively participating in the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). CORSIA allows airlines to offset their carbon emissions by using SAF derived from biomass or waste resources.

Philippines is also a part of CORSIA since 2018 and. The DOE is working closely with the country to ensure that it is well-prepared to meet this deadline by promoting the development and adoption of SAF. The DOE believes that coconut oil, a readily available and abundant resource in the Philippines, presents a promising feedstock for SAF production.

The development of SAF is a crucial step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the aviation industry. By utilizing locally sourced coconut oil, the Philippines can contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation sector.

The Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation is designed to offset carbon emissions and reduce CO2 output from international flights, aiming to mitigate the aviation industry's impact on climate change. *(ChemAnalyst)*

SRI LANKA'S ISF TO DESIGN COCONUT PROCESSING PLANTS FOR INDONESIA'S NICO COCO

Sri Lanka's ISF Industries said it has signed an agreement to design advanced processing facilities for Indonesia's NICO COCO, a coconut products maker.

ISF can provide automated process solutions using artificial intelligence (AI), giving real-time management information and cost-saving measures.

"This initiative will pave the way for ISF to become a leading solutions provider for the coconut processing industry in Indonesia and the Southeast Asian market," Director of ISF, Anjula Sivakumaran said.

The agreement with PT Natural Indococonut Organik (NICO COCO), Indonesia's leading coconut products manufacturer, is set to drive advancements in coconut processing technology in the region.

"We have identified ISF as a leading 'End-to-End' solutions provider for the coconut processing industry," Chief Operating Officer of NICO COCO, Susanto Kusnadi said, adding that their experience will help the project's

success. "We look forward to continuing our collaboration." *(EconomyNext)*

FARMERS WANT 'TALL-CROSS-DWARF' VARIETY OF COCONUT SAPLINGS AT SUBSIDISED RATE

During the farmers' grievance redress meeting held here on Thursday, farmers demanded reduction in price of tall-cross-dwarf (nettai-kuttai) coconut variety saplings which were being sold to them.

Also, they asked the officials to ensure that all the farmers who were earmarked to receive compensation amount as per the crop insurance scheme have received the amount.

"Since many who were earmarked eligible for the insurance amount have received no information from the officials and it has been more than two months since we were selected," they added.

Further, they said, farmers who have lost their crops to the natural calamities, and for them to restart farming on the lands, they have to possess at least a lit bit of money to manage the other farming-related expenses.

Noting down the methods employed to calculate the damaged crops, farmers said, while calculating the farms for insurance amount, the total yield lost should be taken into account.

As many livestock of farmers were dying due to unknown diseases, the livestock should also be insured by calculating the total number of livestock in the district, they said.

When some cattle were lost to a disease, the affected farmer would lose one part of his economic support, they noted.

"By insuring the livestock, at least they would have confidence that they would get a part of the money to manage farming," farmers added.

Thoothukudi district Collector K. Elambahavath, assured the farmers that they would receive the insurance amount shortly.

He questioned the officials that if there was a problem on the website used for the insurance amount disbursal, then what was the use of such a website.

Mr. Elambahavath informed farmers that works were under way to provide 500 solar powered motors at a subsidised amount under the Chief Minister's Scheme of Solar Powered Pumpsets.

"For those farmers who have not got electricity connection, the solar pumps would help them pump water for irrigation," he noted.

He observed that while 112 farmers were registered under Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom Scheme, only few have registered for cultivating pulses in the district.

He urged the farmers to start cultivating pulses as the district had plenty of land suitable for it.

Further, he said, steps would be taken to reduce the price of tall-cross-dwarf coconut varieties as it would ensure a good yield for farmers. *(The Hindu)*

COCONUT SHELL MANUFACTURERS KEEN TO EMBRACE GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

Over 100 manufacturers of coconut shell charcoal and activated carbon have expressed eagerness to adopt green technologies in their production processes, reflecting commitment to the environment and social responsibility of moving to greener pastures in charcoal production, during a seminar at TNAU.

Suba Nagarajan, Chairman, Coconut Development Board (CDB), who inaugurated the seminar and the keynote speaker B. Hanumanthe Gowda, Chief Coconut Development Officer, highlighted the salient features of the board's

project based assistance at 25% of the total project cost for green ventures.

Titled 'Prospects for Green Technology in Coconut Shell Charcoal Production', the seminar organised by the Coconut Development Board, witnessed presentations by officials of Tamil Pollution Control Board led by K Ravichandran, Joint Chief Environmental Engineer.

His talk on elevated pit technology promoted by TNPCB and validated by Anna University delved into innovative environment-friendly technologies developed in collaboration with various reputed research institutions.

A new technology developed through Organic recycling system and validated by CUSAT (Cochin University of Science and Technology) was explained by Manju Tanwar and Srikanth Venkateshan. The particulars of Green Finance offered by SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) was presented by Paramasivam, Assistant General Manager. Director, Coconut Development Board Aravazhi and S. Deepti Nair, Director-Marketing also addressed the participants.

The presentations, the organisers said, enabled manufacturers to gain first-hand knowledge on the various technologies available for clean charcoal production.

Officials of TNPCB and CDB called for a consensus on the way forward for transitioning to green technology. The sustainable mode of production of shell charcoal using green technology would serve as a healthy example for creating wealth from waste. This augurs well in the current era of sustainable agriculture what with the world advocating for circular economy, they pointed out. *(The Hindu)*

GHANAIANS URGED TO INVEST IN COCONUT BUSINESS

Speaking to journalists ahead of the 2024 edition of the International Coconut Festival Ghana, Mr. Korboe emphasized that investing in coconut production and processing offers numerous benefits, including high returns on investment, job opportunities as well as the diversification of Ghana's export base.

With Ghana's favourable climate and vast arable land, the coconut industry is poised to become a significant player in the global market.

According to him, the industry offers more benefits than illegal mining activities popularly know as galamsey which leads to environmental pollution.

Mr. Korboe encouraged entrepreneurs to seize the opportunity, stressing that coconut has the potential to surpass major traditional export commodities while presenting an environmentally-friendly solution to solving Ghana's unemployment problem.

"We're calling on entrepreneurs to join forces with us to harness the nation's coconut sector to boost our economy and secure a brighter future for Ghana," he stated.

The 4th edition of the International Coconut Festival Ghana, themed, "Empowering Lives Through Coconut - Innovation, Employment, and Sustainable Livelihoods" will be held at the Accra International Conference Centre from Monday 21 October 2024 to Wednesday 23 October 2024.

The Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA) and the Western Regional Coordinating Council (WRCC) are supporting the ACG to host the event.

In partnership with the Ghana Exim Bank and SOLIDARIDAD, this year's activities will include a trade exhibition, seminar and mentorship session for young people and women in coconut, economic and technical negotiations, networking for participants, farm visits and engagements with International participants.

The ACG organised the first-ever International Coconut Festival Ghana in 2019. The event

brought together major players within the coconut value chain to promote the business.

The government of Ghana added coconut to the Tree Crop Development Authority (TCDA), which was established in 2019 and mandated to develop and regulate the production, processing, marketing, and export of selected crops.

The non-traditional export figures for 2022 indicated the coconut sector's substantial economic contribution. Notably, earnings from both fresh and processed coconuts reached 6.3 million dollars and 6 million dollars, respectively. *(Modern Ghana)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Improved prices prevailed in the vegetable oils market this week.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market resumed quietness after featuring last week a single trade concluded at $1,675/MT CIF. Opening quotes this week were firmer at $1,745-1,755/MT CIF for positions from November/December through to January/February 2025 influenced by firm vegetable oils market. Prices after that softened and at times went at par with palm kernel oil lately in the forward positions. By the week's end, levels eased along with other vegetable oils at $1,710-1,720/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market, on the other hand, reported a trade earlier in the week concluded at $1,570/MT CIF for deferred November/December delivery, capping four straight weeks of uneventful market. Sellers started off this week with offers mostly firmer at $1,500-1,570/MT CIF for positions from October/November through December/January 2025. Prices continued to gain strength, reportedly fueled by short covering amid tightening supply, drawing a tight spread against rival coconut oil. However, the market closed lower at $1,620-1,740/MT in step with weakness in other vegetable oils.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil contracted radically during the week compared to week-ago. The spreads per position, which stayed below $100, depicted a narrowing trend so that at the early 2025 positions coconut oil stood at a discount under palm kernel oil. The weekly average spread thus was squeezed to USD47.41/MT from last week at $187.02. Premium per position are shown following: October/November $97.25 ($179.25 last week); November/December $94.00 ($201.50); December/January $50.50 ($157.33); January/February -$21.88 ($210.00); February/March -$15.83 (new position); March/April -$5.00 (new position).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures recovered from losses of the past weeks. After three weeks of bearishness, low prices motivated export buyers for US soybeans, later reflected in the rise in the weekly export sales report. Strong global demand led by China helped sustain market strength. However, the fast-paced US harvest curbed gains and by the week's end, the market eased succumbing to the rapidly advancing US harvest, respectively new supply.

At the palm oil section, the market was bullish during the week but eventually closed lower on profit-taking after earlier strength coupled with weaker crude mineral oil prices. The positive market sentiment was supported by cargo surveyors' higher export data amid weak production in the world's top producing countries Indonesia and Malaysia.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment reflected mixed trends with coconut oil shedding $15.00 from week-ago at $1,729.00 to $1,714.00/MT CIF in the current week. By contrast, palm kernel oil and palm oil recovered from the prior week losses. Palm kernel oil leaped $58.00 from $1,540.00 to $1,598.00/MT CIF, and palm oil advanced $44.50 from $1,160.50

to $1,205.00/MT CIF. Consequently, the price premium of coconut oil narrowed against palm kernel oil as well as palm oil. The spread against palm kernel oil decreased from $189.00 to $116.00/MT this week. Against palm oil, though still at the $500 level, spread contracted from $568.50 to $509.00/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

The coconut oil market in Rotterdam was quiet again after last week's trade at $1,675/MT CIF. The market opened firmer but closed in the downside with offers at $1,725 for Afloat; $1,710 for November/December; $1,715 for December/January 2025; $1,720 for January/February; $1,725 for February/March; and $1,730/MT CIF for March/April. Buyers were inactive in all positions the whole week. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

DESICCATED COCONUTS: NEGOTIATIONS ON FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The price trend on the coconut market has been very dynamic in recent weeks, as the experts at T.M. Duché report. For example, coconut oil prices in Europe fell by more than USD 50/mt in the first week of October to USD 1,711/mt CIF. Despite this price decline, an upward trend was recorded on the market for palm kernel oil, where prices rose by more than USD 37/mt. In contrast, prices for desiccated coconuts have remained stable for more than two months, thanks in part to constant demand.

T.M. Duché also reports that Philippine market players are currently making great efforts to expand their trade relations with Europe. Recent trade missions were aimed at increasing exports to Belgium and the Netherlands. In addition, talks on a Free Trade Agreement between the Philippines and the EU are being resumed – negotiations are due to be concluded by 2027. Time is of the essence as the country is on the verge of exceeding middle-income status, which could see it excluded from the EU's Generalized System of Preferences Plus (GSP+).

Meanwhile, container prices have continued to decline, providing relief to Philippine exporters. According to Drewry's World Container Index, a 40' FCL was recently priced at USD 3,349, compared to USD 5,937 in July. However, the problems caused by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea continue, meaning that delivery times from Asia to Europe are still longer than usual. The end of the strike by US port workers brought relief after an agreement was reached with which all parties involved are satisfied. *(Mundus Agri)*

GLOBAL COCONUT OIL MARKET BRACES FOR CONTINUOUS PRICE SURGE AMID SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTIONS

The international Coconut Oil market is poised for a significant price rally in the coming months, with market analysts forecasting prices to potentially breach historical highs amid mounting supply concerns from key producing nations. Industry experts predict that prices for Coconut Oil could surge considerably ahead of various factors including the festive season, winter season and trade disruption, marking a substantial increase across the global market.

The Philippines, recognized as the world's largest exporter of Coconut Oil, is anticipated to encounter significant production challenges for the remainder of 2024 and into early 2025. Weather forecasts suggest that the country will experience heightened weather disturbances, with meteorologists projecting an extended La Niña phase that may last until February 2025. This prolonged weather phenomenon is likely to create a range of complications for the country's Coconut industry.

Various impact of this supporting the higher Coconut Oil prices, such as the Agricultural Impact includes Coconut plantations across key growing regions will likely endure persistent flooding and potential mudslides, significantly impacting tree health and nut development. Industry experts anticipate around 15-20% reduction in yield potential across major producing regions. Secondly, the effect on the Infrastructure

Challenges, i.e., Critical transportation routes and processing facilities may face disruption from anticipated severe weather events, potentially creating bottlenecks in the supply chain. Port operations may experience intermittent closures, affecting export schedules. Additionally, quality concerns significantly impact the market, as excessive moisture levels can lead to heightened quality control challenges. This may result in a decreased percentage of premium-grade oil production, further constraining the supply of export-quality products, including Coconut Oil. Moreover, storage complications arising from elevated humidity levels may require additional precautions, potentially escalating operational costs for processors and exporters.

Market analysts predict these factors will converge to create a perfect storm in the global Coconut Oil market. The supply squeeze is expected to be particularly acute in Western markets, where inventory levels are already showing signs of stress. European and North American buyers are anticipated to face increasingly competitive procurement conditions, potentially leading to aggressive buying behavior to secure supplies concerning the Coconut Oil. The situation is further complicated by broader geopolitical factors, including potential disruptions to shipping in critical maritime routes. Although freight rates have recently softened, industry experts caution that ongoing tensions in the Middle East could quickly reverse this trend, adding another layer of complexity to the international trade dynamics concerning Coconut Oil.

Trading firms are advising clients to secure forward contracts as a hedge against anticipated price fluctuations. Market participants lacking adequate coverage may encounter significant challenges in timely procurement, particularly as spot market availability for Coconut Oil becomes more constrained. Additionally, the desiccated Coconut segment is expected to follow a similar upward price trajectory, creating a ripple effect throughout the wider Coconut product industry. This looming market tightness indicates that the Coconut Oil sector is likely entering a phase of sustained price strength, with implications for both direct consumers and downstream industries that depend on this versatile tropical oil. *(ChemAnalyst)*

PHILIPPINES HOPING TO SHIP MORE COCONUT PRODUCTS TO EUROPE

Government agencies are hoping to increase exports of coconut-based products to the European Union (EU), while attracting investment in processing operations.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Board of Investments (BoI) said it conducted a trade mission to the Netherlands and Belgium last month alongside agencies of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The delegation also held roundtable discussions to brief European participants on trade and investment opportunities involving the Philippine coconut industry.

In the Netherlands, the BoI presented to the members of the MVO (the Netherlands Oils and Fats Industry) and the Ministry of Agriculture on opportunities in integrated coconut processing and the available incentives under the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act.

It also met with potential investors from Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands in a separate roundtable in Brussels.

The delegation also met with COLEAD (Committee Linking Entrepreneurship–Agriculture–Development) and FEDIOL (the European Vegetable Oil and Proteinmeal Industry).

"Additionally, the delegation conducted market visits to key retail outlets in the Netherlands and Belgium to keep abreast of the latest product and packaging developments for coco-based products and benchmark against competitors in the EU market," the BoI said.

DTI Export Marketing Bureau Director Bianca Pearl R. Sykimte noted an opportunity for the Philippines to improve its share of the EU market for coconut products after the EU starts to implement the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) in December.

"The EUDR's coverage — coffee, cocoa, soy, palm oil, wood, rubber, and cattle — does not (significantly affect) Philippine exports to the EU," Ms. Sykimte said.

"We are also seeing an opportunity for our coconut oil exports since our palm oil competitors will be affected by the EUDR," she added.

In 2023, coconut oil was the Philippines' third-largest export product to the 27-country bloc, with shipments valued at $547.15 million.

She said however that exporters are still encouraged to be compliant with the EUDR for the long-term benefits to Philippine forests.

"Beyond EUDR, there are opportunities for exporters under the EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+), which provide for duty-free market access for Philippine products covering two-thirds of EU tariff lines," she added.

The Philippine Statistics Authority reports that exports to the EU totaled $4.82 billion in the first seven months, representing 11.3% of all exports during the period. *(Business World)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

LOCAL DIESEL FUEL NOW BLENDED WITH 3% COCONUT BIODIESEL

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced that diesel fuel to be sold nationwide would now contain 1% more coconut methyl ester (CME), a biodiesel, starting October 01, increasing the blend from 2% to 3%. DOE said this will improve mileage, offset potential oil price hikes, support local coconut farmers and utilize cleaner energy sources. CME is derived from coconut oil and serves as a biodiesel, a renewable fuel.

According to the DOE, raising the CME content by 1% will require 900 million coconuts to produce 100 to 120 million liters of CME. "This increase in the CME blend is expected to benefit coconut farmers, biodiesel producers, and other stakeholders in the coconut industry," DOE added. While blending CME with diesel does not make the fuel fully renewable, as it still contains petroleum, it can help reduce the reliance on pure petroleum.

DOE said that there will be a slight increase in mileage, from 10 kilometers per liter of the CME-diesel fuel mix to nearly 11 kilometers, based on the agency's on-road testing covering 30,000 kilometers where a 5% CME blend improved mileage or fuel efficiency by 10%. This means that one can use less fuel to travel slightly longer distances. The increased use of CME-diesel fuel blend is part of its long-term plan to reach a 5% CME blend by October 2026, with a 1% rise each year, DOE added. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

PHILIPPINES: DIESEL TO HAVE 3% COCONUT BIODIESEL BLEND STARTING OCTOBER 1

Diesel fuel will contain 1% more coconut methyl ester (CME), a biodiesel, starting Oct. 1, 2024, increasing the blend from 2% to 3%, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced.

The energy department on Monday, September 30, said this will improve mileage, offset potential oil price hikes, support local coconut farmers and utilize cleaner energy sources.

'To promote economic growth, foster environmental stewardship, and support cleaner energy utilization, the implementation of a 3% coco methyl ester blend in all diesel fuel sold nationwide will take effect on 01 October 2024,' it said in a press release.

More coconuts

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'This increase in the CME blend is expected to benefit coconut farmers, biodiesel producers, and other stakeholders in the coconut industry,' the agency added.

CME is derived from coconut oil and serves as a biodiesel, a renewable type of fuel.

While blending CME with diesel does not make the fuel fully renewable, as it still contains petroleum, it can help reduce the reliance on pure petroleum.

More mileage

The energy department also said that there will be a slight increase in mileage, from 10 kilometers per liter of the CME-mixed diesel fuel to nearly 11 kilometers.

This was based on DOE's on-road testing covering 30,000 kilometers, where a 5% CME blend improved mileage or fuel efficiency by 10%. In other words, one can use less fuel to travel slightly longer distances.

Increase biofuel content

The DOE added that the increased use of coconut-based biodiesel is part of its long-term plan to reach a 5% CME blend by October 2026, with a 1% rise each year.

'The CME blend will further increase to 4% by 01 October 2025 and to 5% by 01 October 2026,' it said.

Offset pump prices

With a 1% increase in CME blend, the energy department estimates that consumers can save about P0.50 per liter, based on the average diesel pump price of P54.70 during the week of September 24 to 30.

'These savings are expected to offset any potential increase in pump prices due to the 1% rise in the CME blend,' DOE said.

Motorists, however, should also anticipate higher fuel prices starting October 1 because of escalating tensions in the Middle East.

This marks the second consecutive week of rising fuel prices. *(Zawya)*

SDGI ANNOUNCES DELIVERY OF EUDR-COMPLIANT PALM OIL AHEAD OF REGULATION IMPLEMENTATION

In a related development, SD Guthrie International (SDGI) has delivered its first shipment of palm oil compliant with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), ahead of its implementation on December 30 this year, the Oils & Fats International reported on September 24. SDGI was formerly known as Sime Darby Plantation (SD Plantation).

A total of 40,250 MT of palm oil sourced from 102,337 hectares of oil palm plantations and smallholder farms was delivered to its refineries in the Netherlands and the UK, the company said. The first delivery of 24,250 MT of palm oil arrived at SDGI's Zwijndrecht Refinery in the Netherlands and a second shipment of 16,000 MT arrived at SDGI's Liverpool Refinery in the United Kingdom, each arrival schedules were a week apart.

To achieve EUDR compliance, SDGI said it worked closely with SD Guthrie's upstream division to ensure detailed polygon maps and deforestation-free assessments of all plantations were available. By using satellite imagery and partnering with a third-party verifier, it had been able to assess a forest baseline covering 6bn hectares and had analyzed around 600,000 hectares of its plantations for deforestation risks.

This work was supported by comprehensive audit reports that also documented adherence to national legislation, International Labor Organization (ILO) standards and respect for native customary rights, SDGI said.

The EUDR requires companies selling or exporting seven commodities in the EU, such as cocoa, coffee, palm oil, soyabean, cattle, rubber and timber, to ensure they are deforestation-free and legally sourced. Companies that are not compliant face fines. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MALAYSIA MULLS INTRODUCING USED COOKING OIL FUTURES

It is the perfect time to introduce used cooking oil (UCO) futures considering growing emphasis on sustainability in the palm oil industry, according to an industry expert, reports the Kuala Lumpur Bernama on October 15. IcebergX Sdn Bhd senior proprietary trader David Ng told Bernama that Malaysia's UCO industry could play an important role in Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) gaining popularity.

An estimated 540,000 MT of waste cooking oil from vegetables, mainly palm and animal fats, are discarded yearly without being treated. Waste cooking oil as a raw material for the biodiesel process has a great potential. "We are slowly seeing wide adoption of UCO as part of biofuel blending requirements. Biodiesel blending mandates will greatly influence the UCO market; prices and supply of supply feedstock, in this case, crude palm oil, will also determine the availability of UCO in the market," Ng said.

Higher biodiesel demand will create greater demand for UCO, pushing UCO prices higher, Ng said, adding that the main price drivers being crude oil and feedstock prices, such as crude palm oil price. Government policies or mandates for biofuel programs would also be another major price driver, he said.

Bursa Malaysia recently confirmed its plan to introduce a new futures contract for used cooking oil, pending industry consultation and regulatory approval. The move was driven by increasing demand for biofuel feedstock, Bernama wrote. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

CONSUMING 1 TEASPOON OF COCONUT OIL EVERYDAY CAN GUARANTEE THESE HEALTH BENEFITS

Among all the natural oils, coconut oil serves as a significant health enhancer with various benefits. There are numerous benefits associated with coconut oil, emphasizing its use in Ayurvedic practices. Ayurvedic texts refer to the coconut tree as "kalpa vriksha," meaning "the tree that supplies all that is needed to live." Coconut oil is sweet, cool, and nourishing, making it an ideal morning tonic. Here's why you must consume a teaspoon of coconut oil every day:

Mood Lifter

People who consume coconut oil feel more relaxed and less anxious after consuming coconut oil. It has neurological benefits due to it fatty acids that make your mood pleasant an make you feel at ease. Coconut oil restores your mental health in a very comforting and nourishing way.

Energy booster

Coconut oil's ability to boost energy levels without the weighty feeling associated with other fats.

Coconut oil kept us energetic during the day. People love coconut oil and noticed that it gave them a good, sustained energy throughout the day when consumed first thing in the morning.

Regulates hormones

In addition to promoting energy, coconut oil supports thyroid function and improve metabolism. It has unique properties due to its medium-chain fatty acids (MCFAs), which are easy to digest and quickly converted to energy. Coconut oil also showed promise in lowering cholesterol and improving fat metabolism.

Moisturise skin

Coconut oil is effective in moisturizing skin and providing relief from dry and damaged skin. Participants praised its use in Ayurvedic massages for cooling and hydrating the skin. "When I use it for Abhyanga, it softens and moistens my skin," reported one participant.

Prevents sickness

Coconut oil displayed antimicrobial and antiviral properties, contributing to a healthier immune system. It was noted to be beneficial for oil pulling, a practice used to maintain oral health. Oral health is directly connected to our immune response and oil pulling using coconut oil removes the harmful bacteria from the mouth and prevents our chances of falling sick.

These holistic benefits of coconut oil, supporting its use in maintaining overall health and wellness through Ayurveda are enough for you to try consuming one teaspoon of coconut oil everyday! *(The 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

GLUTINOUS RICE WITH COCONUT CUSTARD

This sweet dish, consisting of a layer of steamed glutinous rice topped with a layer of coconut-milk custard, is very popular with Straits Chinese families. Served in dainty wedges, pulut serikaya (also called kuih sarlat in parts of Malaysia and Singapore, and gading galoh in Malacca) is traditionally eaten during breakfast and mid-morning coffee breaks.

Ingredients

- 2½ cups (500 g) glutinous rice, soaked for 6 hours or overnight
- 2 pandan leaves
- 350 ml (12 fl oz) coconut milk (see Note)
- 350 ml (12 fl oz) coconut cream

Custard

- 6 pandan leaves, chopped
- 450 g (1 lb) coconut milk
- 250 g (9 oz) caster (superfine) sugar
- 5 eggs
- 60 g (2¼ oz) plain (all-purpose) flour
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- Few drops green food colouring

Soaking time before cooking: 6 hours or overnight.

Instructions

1. Thoroughly rinse and drain the soaked glutinous rice in a sieve. Spread into a 28 cm (11 inch) cake tin and mix in the pandan leaves. Steam over a wok of boiling water for 20 minutes, then discard the leaves, and mix in the coconut milk, coconut cream and ½ tsp of salt and steam for another 15 minutes. Remove from the steamer to cool. Stir again, then pat the rice with a spatula to compress it.
2. For the custard, place the pandan leaves in a blender with 100 ml (3½ fl oz) water and blend for a minute. Pour through a fine sieve into a bowl, squeezing the solids to extract as much green juice as possible. Discard the solids.
3. Combine the pandan water with the remaining ingredients, whisk until combined, then pour onto the rice. Return rice to the wok and steam over gently simmering water for 20 minutes until custard is set – a wooden skewer inserted should come out clean. If it's not quite set, steam for another 10 minutes.
4. Remove the pulut serikaya from the steamer and allow to cool completely before cutting. Serve at room temperature (see Note).

Note

- You may need 50 ml (1¾ fl oz) more coconut milk as glutinous rice sometimes absorbs more and sometimes less water.
- Pulut serikaya is best eaten on the day it's made; it'll harden up too much in the refrigerator. Although traditionally served in the morning, we like to serve it as a small dessert, more like a palate cleanser after meals.

(SBS Food)

STATISTICS

Table 1. SRI LANKA: Exports of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2022-2024 (In MT)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	6,161	5,362	5,050	206	119	119	1,436	674	806
February	9,765	6,925	9,814	155	146	233	1,580	891	1,389
March	9,714	9,457	9,552	249	230	167	1,322	1,297	1,602
April	4,796	5,847	5,656	138	161	149	1,012	1,647	810
May	5,143	4,496	3,407	143	148	154	1,216	1,354	751
June	6,648	6,771	3,092	181	98	111	966	1,173	927
July	5,189	7,808	6,418	242	193	118	1,280	1,301	739
August	6,329	8,209	6,074	230	222	186	1,066	1,359	950
September	5,232	4,193	3,861	130	150	105	978	1,002	1,161
October	6,654	3,700		146	124		1,374	710	
November	4,371	3,313		96	129		1,022	1,051	
December	3,340	2,807		192	133		517	857	
Total	**73,342**	**68,888**	**52,924**	**2,108**	**1,853**	**1,342**	**13,769**	**13,316**	**9,135**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 2. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2022-2024 (US$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	270	196	180	1,380	1,512	1,447	432	345	253
February	277	160	172	1,288	1,362	888	353	300	312
March	255	171	186	1,310	1,291	1,154	393	260	231
April	255	169	180	1,434	1,167	1,392	387	338	285
May	243	173	194	1,160	689	1,234	364	254	250
June	240	169	190	1,420	661	846	360	297	258
July	222	152	188	859	1,015	1,134	514	289	307
August	231	156	185	1,042	1,116	1,105	342	206	362
September	212	155	176	1,067	1,057	874	399	234	298
October	202	160		1,122	1,141		270	229	
November	182	160		1,179	953		309	217	
December	180	177		1,343	1,164		383	240	
Average	**231**	**167**	**183**	**1,217**	**1,094**	**1,119**	**375**	**267**	**284**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 3. SRI LANKA: Exports of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2022-2024 (In MT)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	82	27	63	800	742	625	3,119	2,175	2,275
February	76	97	150	609	461	331	3,411	2,561	2,511
March	172	58	103	625	249	275	3,360	2,237	2,005
April	57	42	26	1,049	341	192	2,319	2,688	1,786
May	97	125	39	540	719	213	2,574	2,158	1,678
June	87	63	38	945	763	223	3,784	1,479	1,798
July	75	59	89	561	519	341	3,035	1,919	1,594
August	52	90	102	628	566	329	3,324	1,986	2,067
September	91	49	34	1,004	557	195	2,849	1,722	1,437
October	44	65		877	375		3,185	1,952	
November	107	106		571	653		1,815	1,392	
December	35	20		871	733		2,148	1,645	
Total	**975**	**801**	**644**	**9,080**	**6,678**	**2,724**	**34,923**	**23,914**	**17,151**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 4. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2022-2024 (US$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	992	744	810	1,374	1,170	1,029	253	266	213
February	879	691	803	1,611	1,055	1,074	232	262	203
March	670	657	994	1,144	1,313	1,147	226	257	265
April	774	619	849	1,136	1,344	1,015	266	306	262
May	813	718	459	1,211	1,180	1,058	258	278	223
June	951	748	530	1,337	1,294	1,077	249	255	230
July	856	619	684	1,266	1,180	1,099	278	262	249
August	775	590	656	1,317	1,203	1,109	244	220	248
September	627	625	605	1,194	1,130	1,081	225	220	253
October	613	678		1,287	1,041		227	209	
November	685	624		1,210	1,112		245	215	
December	383	488		1,115	1,079		253	206	
Average	**752**	**650**	**710**	**1,267**	**1,175**	**1,077**	**246**	**246**	**238**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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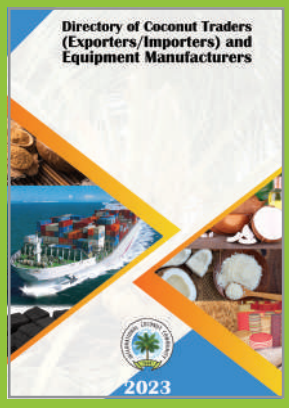

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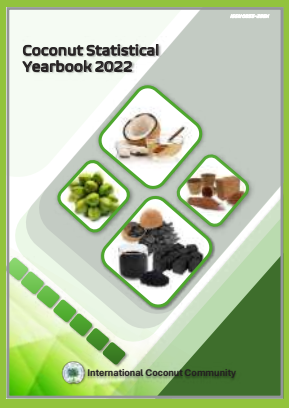

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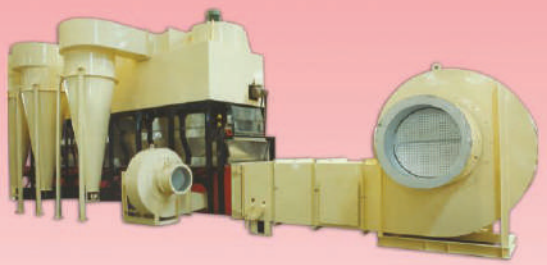

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Output Capacity:
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Output Capacity :
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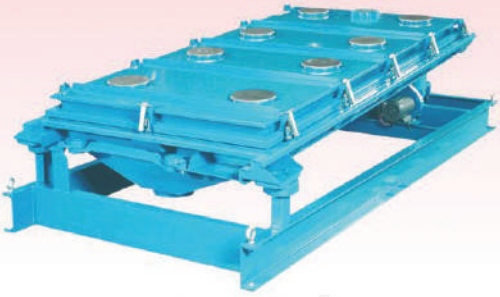

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Established in 1969, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commision for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the ICC is an independent regional intergovernmental organization which consist of twenty one member countries and accounts for 85-90% of the world production of coconut. The ICC member countries are: Côte d'Ivoire, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Phillipines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

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