The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SPEAKS

"Beyond Price Volatility: Turning Challenges into Opportunities"

Coconut prices have witnessed significant fluctuations for many years, creating both challenges and opportunities for farmers, industries, and stakeholders across the supply chain. These price dynamics stem from a complex interplay of global market trends, climatic conditions, and shifts in demand and supply patterns. The volatility in coconut oil and other coconut-based product prices can largely be attributed to rising global demand driven by increased interest in plant-based diets, ecofriendly products, and natural health products. On the supply side, extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and typhoons, along with pest and disease outbreaks, have disrupted production in key coconut-producing countries. These challenges are further compounded by geopolitical tensions, which have led to shipping disruptions and delays in the global supply chain. Trade policies, including import duties imposed by certain countries, add another layer of complexity, making it difficult for exporters to maintain competitiveness in the global coconut market.

In recent months, coconut prices have reached record highs, bringing mixed impacts across the industry. For farmers, this surge has provided short-term financial relief, improving incomes and enabling reinvestment into their farms. However, the same price hike has created serious challenges for industries and domestic markets. In several countries, where raw material exports are high, domestic industries are now at risk of slowing down—or even shutting down—due to insufficient supplies of raw materials for processing. High export demand has diverted resources away from local industries, leading to production slowdowns, rising costs, and fears of losing competitiveness.

For processors and industries reliant on coconut products, higher input costs have become a pressing concern, affecting profitability and operational sustainability. In extreme cases, prolonged raw material shortages could lead to factory closures, threatening job security and the economic stability of coconut-dependent communities. Meanwhile, workers in coconut-processing sectors, particularly those focused on value-added products, face growing uncertainties as market imbalances persist.

While farmers may benefit from higher prices in the short term, uncertainties about long-term price stability remain. Speculators and traders often capitalize on price surges, while processors with advanced storage and inventory systems are better positioned to weather fluctuations. Companies focused on value-added products—such as biofuels, cosmetics, and health supplements—may also show greater resilience due to higher profit margins and sustained consumer demand. At the same time, exporters in countries with lower tariffs enjoy a competitive edge, leaving those with higher import duties struggling to secure their share of the global market.

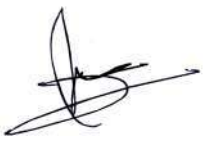
Addressing these challenges requires both immediate interventions and long-term strategies to stabilize the market while safeguarding stakeholders. Regulating exports can help ensure that domestic industries have sufficient access to raw materials, balancing local and global demands. Fairer trade agreements and reductions in import tariffs in destination markets could improve global competitiveness and ease market imbalances. Expanding financial support systems, such as microfinance and insurance programs, can protect farmers during periods of price drops and enable reinvestments when prices surge. Establishing minimum price guarantees could also provide stability and security for farmers, reducing vulnerabilities to market shocks.

However, sustainable growth requires more than short-term fixes. Investments in diversified farming systems, such as polyculture planting methods, can help improve farmers' incomes and enhance productivity. Integrating food crops, horticultural plants, and industrial crops with coconut plantations not only boosts land utilization but also reduces dependency on a single crop, making farms more resilient to price volatility. Additionally, research and development efforts focused on high-yielding, pest-resistant coconut varieties and climate-resilient farming practices can further strengthen productivity and adaptability.

Expanding value chains by promoting high-value coconut products can open new markets and create higher profitability. Implementing traceability systems to monitor the origin and quality of coconut products can also enhance market confidence, attract premium pricing, and ensure sustainability. Such measures will improve transparency, increase market access, and promote certified sustainable practices across the sector.

The dynamic nature of coconut prices underscores the urgent need for proactive measures to balance short-term gains with long-term stability. While price fluctuations present challenges, they also offer opportunities for innovation and growth. With collaborative efforts between governments, industries, and farmers, the coconut sector can transform volatility into resilience. By investing in sustainable agriculture, strengthening value chains, improving supply chains, securing reasonable earnings for farmers, and implementing traceability systems, the industry can continue to support food security, renewable energy, and rural development.

The current price surge serves as a reminder that strategic planning, innovation, and collective action are essential to safeguarding the coconut industry's future. With the right balance of short-term safeguards and long-term strategies, the coconut sector can overcome uncertainties, unlock new opportunities, and emerge stronger in a rapidly evolving global market.



DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Director General

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

In November 2024, coconut oil prices rose significantly in Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and India, marking strong global and local market growth. Desiccated coconut prices also increased, with Indonesia and the Philippines reporting higher FOB prices, reflecting robust demand in these major producing countries.

COPRA: In November 2024, copra prices in Indonesia rose to USD 980 per metric ton, up from USD 922 per metric ton in October. This represents a substantial year-on-year increase of USD 365 per metric ton. Similarly, the copra market in the Philippines witnessed a price increase, climbing from USD 858 per metric ton in October 2024 to USD 928 per metric ton in November. This reflects a year-on-year gain of USD 310 per metric ton, compared to USD 618 per metric ton during the same period in the previous year. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka and India also reported monthly increases in copra prices, with growth rates of 2.5% and 5%, respectively.

COCONUT OIL: In November 2024, coconut oil prices exhibited a synchronized upward trend across Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and India. The European average price (C.I.F. Rotterdam) rose to USD 1,836 per metric ton, marking a 64% year-on-year increase. The Philippines recorded a price of USD 1,731 per metric ton, up USD 617 from the previous year, while Indonesia's price increased to USD 1,738 per metric ton, a USD 625 annual gain. Sri Lanka and India reported monthly growth rates of 3.7% and 6.8%, respectively, highlighting strong global demand.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic copra meal price rose to USD 183 per metric ton in November 2024, reflecting an increase from the previous month. However, this price represented a year-on-year decline of USD 65 per metric ton. Similarly, Indonesia reported an uptick in the average domestic copra meal price, reaching USD 263 per metric ton in November 2024, which was USD 13 per metric ton higher than the corresponding period in the previous year.

DESICCATED COCONUT: In November 2024, the average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB (Free on Board) USA from the Philippines saw an increase at US$2,190 per metric ton compared to the previous month. However, the domestic price in the Philippines decreased to US$2,039 per metric ton from US$2,068 per metric ton in October 2024. Indonesia's FOB price for DC increased to US$3,000 per metric ton, surpassing the figure in the previous year, which were US$1,575 per metric ton. Similarly, Sri Lanka experienced an increase in the domestic price of desiccated coconut to US$3,292 per metric ton.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In November 2024, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in the Philippines rose to US$397 per metric ton, reflecting a modest increase of US$4 per metric ton compared to the previous month. In Indonesia, the average price reached US$620 per metric ton during the same period, while Sri Lanka experienced a moderate increase to US$487 per metric ton.

COIR FIBRE: In Sri Lanka, the domestic trade of coir fiber in November 2024 showed that mixed fiber was averaging at US$72 per metric ton, with bristle ranged between US$438 and US$726 per metric ton. Meanwhile, Indonesia maintained the price of mixed raw fiber at US$140 per metric ton in November 2024, indicating a moderate increase from the previous year's figure of US$110 per metric ton.

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

Products/Country	2024 Nov	2024 Oct	2023 Nov	2024 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	175	173	125	150
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	268	249	182	207
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	349	348	232	264
India (Domestic Kerala)	687	612	402	510
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	928	859	618	724
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	980	922	615	778
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,507	1,470	1,012	1,240
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,642	1,564	1,119	1,285
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,836	1,718	1,118	1,468
Philippines (Domestic)	1,731	1,722	1,114	1,399
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,738	1,711	1,113	1,403
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,589	2,496	1,743	2,178
India (Domestic, Kerala)	2,621	2,453	1,752	2,040
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,190	2,131	1,690	1,983
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,068	2,039	2,042
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,292	3,119	1,788	2,296
Indonesia (FOB)	3,000	2,875	1,575	2,183
India (Domestic)	2,784	2,721	1,715	2,000
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	183	135	248	165
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	297	284	284	298
Indonesia (Domestic)	263	260	250	252
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	397	393	354	374
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	487	466	309	400
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	620	579	448	497
India (Domestic)	536	534	334	433
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	72	73	57	65
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	438	426	401	428
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	726	686	620	663
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	140	140	110	119
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	2,015	1,636	968	1,349
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,169	1,077	830	943
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,145	1,095	1,118	1,018

Exchange Rate

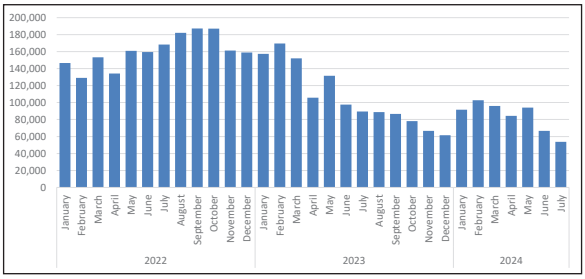
Nov 30, '24 1 US$ = P58.62 or Rp15,843 or India Rs84.56 or SL Rs290.84

1 Euro = US$ 1.06 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF ACTIVATED CARBON

The global activated carbon market in 2024 continues to face challenges, extending the contraction experienced over the past two years. Between January and July, monthly import volumes ranged from 53,713 MT in July to 102,676 MT in February, while import values steadily declined from USD 231.8 million in January to USD 125.7 million in July. This persistent downturn is attributed to oversupply and reduced demand in key applications such as water treatment and air purification.

Figure 1. Global Imports Volume of Activated Carbon (MT), January 2022-July 2024

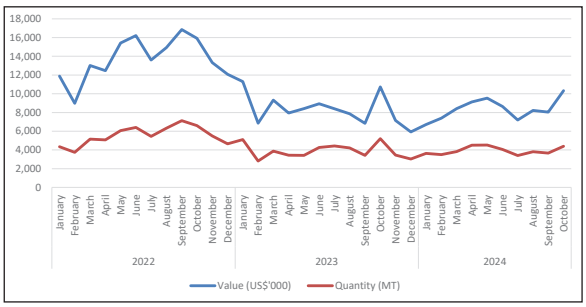


Source: ITC

A broader perspective reveals that the market's current state represents a stark contrast to the robust performance seen in 2022. In that year, monthly import volumes regularly exceeded 130,000 MT, peaking at 187,165 MT in September. Import values similarly reached record highs, with USD 502.7 million reported in August. By comparison, 2023 saw significant declines, with import volumes falling from 157,339 MT in January to 61,452 MT in December, and values dropping from USD 417.7 million to USD 155.7 million over the same period. The current market correction phase highlights economic uncertainties and waning industrial demand, though some stabilization is expected as supply and demand realign.

Meanwhile, in the United States, the market for coconut-shell-derived activated carbon shows signs of stabilization after experiencing significant volatility in recent years. As of October, imports reached 31,260 MT, valued at USD 65.3 million. Although year-end volumes are projected to decline modestly compared to 2023, the average import price has settled at USD 2,090 per MT, marking a decrease from the 2022 peak of USD 2,480 per MT. Improved supply chain efficiency and balanced market conditions have contributed to this development. Furthermore, consistent demand in water treatment and air purification, supported by strict environmental regulations, has bolstered monthly import volumes, which average 3,126 MT. Reliable supply from key exporters, including India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka, has further aided market recovery.

Figure 2. US Imports of Coconut Shell based Activated Carbon, January 2022-October 2024

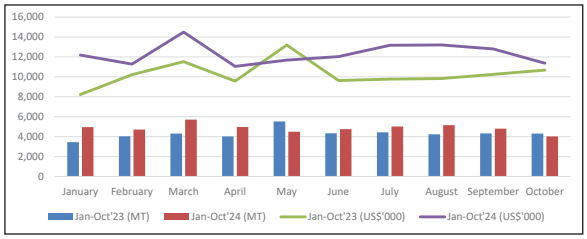


Source: US Census Bureau

In 2024, India has demonstrated remarkable growth in the activated carbon market. Export volumes increased by 10.7% to reach 117,368 MT, while export values surged by 22.5% to USD 225.7 million. This growth reflects expanding global demand in sectors such as air purification, water treatment, and pharmaceuticals. Notably, the United States and South Africa showed robust performance, with export values growing by 36% and 81%, respectively. However, markets such as Armenia and Cambodia exhibited minimal growth, indicating potential saturation or reduced demand.

Sri Lanka's coconut-shell-based activated carbon exports have also displayed resilience in 2024. Between January and October, export volumes rose by 13% to 48,547 MT, while export values increased by 20% to USD 123.3 million. January marked a particularly strong performance, with a 44% rise in volume and a 48% increase in value compared to the same period in 2023. While occasional setbacks, such as a 7% decline in October, were observed, the overall upward trend highlights Sri Lanka's growing competitiveness and enhanced market presence.

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

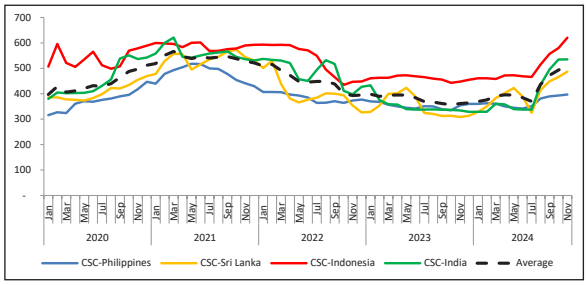


Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

In contrast, the Philippines and Indonesia encountered significant challenges during the year. The Philippines recorded a 12.5% decline in export volume to 31,908 MT, with revenues falling by 14% to USD 63 million. Similarly, Indonesia experienced a 12.5% decrease in export volumes and a 21.2% drop in export values during the first ten months of the year. Declines in major markets such as China and Australia indicate supply shortages and softening demand. Nevertheless, resilience in markets like Taiwan and the United States, along with entry into new markets such as Finland, Egypt, and Bangladesh, presents potential opportunities for diversification.

Amid these market dynamics, pricing trends have reflected tightening supply and recovering demand. For instance, price of coconut shell charcoal in Indonesia experienced the sharpest increase, with rates climbing from USD 461 per MT in January to USD 620 per MT in November. Similarly, India saw prices rise from USD 329 to USD 536 per MT. Sri Lanka and the Philippines also recorded steady price increases. Notably, Sri Lanka's activated carbon prices rebounded sharply, reaching USD 2,839 per MT in October, compared to USD 2,481 in the same month of the previous year. Indonesia's subdued pricing, however, signals weaker demand.

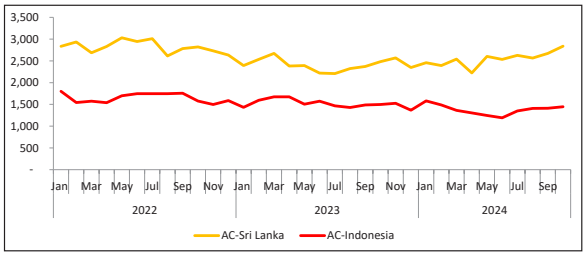
Figure 4. Monthly Prices of Coconut Shell Charcoal (US$/MT), in Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and India, January 2020-November 2024



Source: ICC

The outlook for the activated carbon market remains varied across regions. Sri Lanka's steady recovery points to continued growth in 2025, contingent on favorable global conditions. In contrast, Indonesia's subdued prices highlight the need for cost optimization and supply improvements. Monitoring global trade flows and industrial demand will be crucial for shaping future strategies and ensuring sustainable growth in the activated carbon industry.

Figure 5. Export Price of Activated Carbon US$/MT in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, January 2022 – October 2024



COMMUNITY NEWS

MALAYSIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT TO INDONESIA STRENGTHENS TRADE AND AGRICULTURAL COLLABORATION

A delegation from Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living, Government of Malaysia, consisting of Ms. Mazlina binti Ahmad, Enforcement Officer, and Ms. Nina Idayu binti Anuar, Assistant Enforcement Officer, visited Indonesia from October 27th to November 2nd, 2024. This visit aimed to strengthen bilateral relations in trade and agriculture between the two nations, focusing on collaborative opportunities in the coconut sector and trade facilitation.

Upon arrival in Jakarta, the delegation's schedule began with a visit to the International Coconut Community (ICC) Secretariat on October 28th, where discussions focused on industry developments and challenges in the coconut sector. Later that day, they met with representatives at the Malaysian Embassy in Jakarta, further exploring opportunities for reinforcing trade relations between Malaysia and Indonesia.

On October 29th, the delegation held productive discussions with Indonesia's Ministry of Trade, led by Mr. Reza Pahlevi Chairul, Director of Inter-Regional Negotiations and International Organizations, and the Ministry of Agriculture. In the Ministry of Agriculture, the delegates were welcomed by Mr. Ardi Praptono, Director of Palm Oil and Other Palm, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Indonesia. The meeting was attended by MoA officers, Coconut Farmer Associations, the Coconut Processor Association, researchers, and other relevant stakeholders. These talks opened avenues for joint initiatives in sustainable agriculture, trade facilitation, and resource-sharing between both countries.

The visit continued on October 30th with meetings at the ICC office involving the Indonesian Coconut Farmer Association (Perpekindo) and the Indonesian Coconut Processor Association (HIPKI). These engagements highlighted both countries' commitment to enhancing market access and supporting smallholder farmers in the coconut industry.

Traveling to Medan, North Sumatra, on October 31st, the delegation toured an aromatic coconut plantation and nursery, gaining insights into Indonesia's coconut cultivation techniques. The final day included a visit to CV Sejahtera, a desiccated coconut manufacturing facility in Asahan, where the delegates observed advanced coconut processing methods. The visit concluded with a mutual commitment to fostering collaboration and a shared vision for regional agricultural and trade growth. This week-long engagement underscored the strong partnership between Malaysia and Indonesia and laid the groundwork for further cooperative ventures. *(ICC News)*

ICC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS GLOBAL MARKET GROWTH FOR COCONUT WATER AT THE 111TH CHINA FOOD AND DRINKS FAIR

The China Food and Drinks Fair (CFDF), known as a major influencer in China's food and beverage industry, has long been recognized as the "barometer" of the sector. Established in 1955, CFDF is one of the largest and oldest exhibitions of its kind in China, drawing in a vast array of companies from around the world. This year's event, held from October 29 to 31 at the Shenzhen International Convention and Exhibition Center, spanned over 220,000 square meters, attracting more than 4,200 exhibitors from various food and beverage sectors. With dedicated sections for products like traditional alcoholic beverages, wine, leisure foods, condiments, food machinery, and packaging, CFDF provides an essential platform for networking, innovation, and trend-setting within the industry.

At the heart of the 111th CFDF was the spotlight on coconut water as the "Trending Beverage of 2024", underscoring its growing global appeal and health benefits. Leading this conversation, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director of the International Coconut Community (ICC), delivered an impactful address on the theme of "Coconut Water Health Trends: Market Opportunities from a Global Perspective." In her address, Dr. Alouw highlighted the skyrocketing demand for coconut water and its unique position in the health and wellness market. ED shared insights on the projected growth of the coconut water segment, anticipated to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 23% in key markets such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

Dr. Alouw emphasized the ICC's pivotal role in promoting coconut water as a nutrient-rich, natural alternative to conventional sports drinks, noting its high electrolyte content, particularly in potassium, calcium, and magnesium. The message reinforced the ICC's commitment to sustainable development, ethical sourcing, and innovation to cater to evolving consumer preferences. ED also extended an invitation for China to join the ICC, aligning with the organization's mission for a resilient, inclusive, and profitable coconut sector.

Adding to the expert's presence, Mr. Bibiano Jr. Concibido, Regional Manager for Region IV of the Philippine Coconut Authority, delivered a focused presentation on the Philippine coconut water market. Mr. Concibido discussed the growing importance of coconut water exports from the Philippines, highlighting the country's efforts to maintain a competitive edge in the global market. His presentation also touched on the Philippine Coconut Authority's initiatives to enhance product quality, ensure sustainable production practices, and meet international standards, making Philippine coconut water a preferred choice for health-conscious consumers worldwide.

The fair, organized by Shanghai Masterexpo Exhibition Co., Ltd., provided a global platform where the ICC's leadership and Dr. Alouw's forward-thinking vision underscored coconut water's market potential as a driver of economic growth and industry transformation. The ICC's advocacy for coconut products not only highlighted coconut water's health benefits but also strengthened its influence within the global beverage market.

In a show of mutual respect and collaboration, Dr. Alouw was invited to a dinner by Mr. Rick Wang, CEO of Shanghai Masterexpo Exhibition Co., Ltd., where she presented him with a plaque of appreciation. Dr. Alouw expressed her hope for continued collaboration to support the global coconut market, encouraging China's deeper involvement in promoting coconut products and actively supporting ICC programs. This gesture reinforced ICC's commitment to building partnerships that advance the coconut sector worldwide. *(ICC News)*

INDONESIAN SMES URGED TO STRENGTHEN COCONUT PRODUCT SUPPLY CHAINS AT SURABAYA EVENT

In a significant push to strengthen Indonesia's coconut industry, the Ministry of Investment/ Capital Investment Coordination Agency (BKPM) held a socialization event focused on enhancing the involvement of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) within the coconut product supply chain. The event took place at the Morazen Hotel in Surabaya, Indonesia, 12 November 2024, bringing together key industry players, including representatives from the International Coconut Community and local SME leaders.

The ICC, represented by Mr. Alit Pirmansah, Marketing and Statistics Officer, and Mr. Otniel Sintoro, Information and Publication Officer, joined the event to emphasize the importance of SMEs in the coconut product supply chain. With SMEs contributing significantly to Indonesia's 60% GDP and 97% workforce, the session covered a variety of capacity-building strategies tailored to help SMEs improve their integration

within both national and international supply chains. Topics included methods to enhance SME capacity, increase productivity, and access global markets for coconut products.

"We believe that by empowering SMEs, we can strengthen our national industry and accelerate Indonesia's integration into the global supply chain," remarked Ms. Anna Nurbani, Director of Enterprise Empowerment at the Ministry of Investment, underscoring the ministry's commitment to a more inclusive and robust supply chain.

In his presentation, Mr. Alit Pirmansah, Marketing and Statistics Officer, ICC, provided an overview of the ICC's mission and vision for a sustainable, inclusive, and profitable coconut sector. He highlighted the critical role that coconut SMEs play in both the upstream and downstream processes of the supply chain, from sourcing raw materials to refining and exporting high-value products. Mr. Pirmansah pointed to the global market's significant demand for coconut products, emphasizing the potential for SMEs to capture more of this market through strategic partnerships, improved product quality, and supply chain integration.

He further explained the ICC's efforts to support SMEs by promoting product diversification and developing sustainable business practices. He outlined the importance of training, technology transfer, and collaborative models that connect small businesses with larger industry players to ensure better market access and competitiveness. These initiatives aim to build a resilient coconut supply chain, allowing Indonesian SMEs to meet both local and international standards and establish a stronger presence in global markets. Mr. Otniel Sintoro, Information and Publication Officer, ICC, also represented ICC at the event.

Experts from the Economic and Society Research Institute, Faculty of Economy and Business, University of Indonesia (LPEM, FEB-UI), also shared insights into current trends and challenges for SMEs in the coconut industry. The five main subsectors in Indonesia's manufacturing priority are: food and beverage, textile, electronic, automotive, and chemical, wherein the coconut sector belongs to the foods and beverage subsector. SMEs play an important role in the coconut sector downstreaming. Participants benefited from networking opportunities, where they exchanged ideas on optimizing their operations and adapting to market demands.

The event's success signals a strong commitment from the Indonesian government and industry stakeholders to enhance coconut SME involvement in a rapidly growing sector. This initiative aligns with the Ministry of Investment's broader goal to empower local businesses, bolstering Indonesia's standing in the global coconut industry. *(ICC News)*

HIGHLIGHT OF THE FIRST DAY OF INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY'S 60TH SESSION AND MINISTERIAL MEETING

The 60th Session and Ministerial Meeting of the International Coconut Community (ICC), the highest decision-making body of the organization, officially commenced today at the Hilton Hotel in Colombo. Member countries of the ICC, collectively accounting for over 90% of global coconut production, are participating in this prestigious four-day event (November 25–28, 2024). Ministers and delegates from 21 member countries, along with representatives from international partner and observer organizations, were in attendance. This landmark gathering is hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka, a proud founding member of the ICC.

The objective of the meeting is to resolve critical issues concerning the sustainable development of the coconut industry, such as cultivation, refining, marketing, and trade. The global coconut situation will be reviewed, national programs will be shared, and policies will be developed to encourage the sector's development. Participants will also collaborate on these initiatives.

A traditional illumination of the oil lamp marked the commencement of the inaugural session, which was immediately followed by the Sri Lankan national anthem. The welcome remarks were delivered by Mr. B.K. Prabath Chandrakeerthi, Secretary of the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, underscored Sri Lanka's dedication to the coconut industry. Mr. B.K. Prabath Chandrakeerthi, Secretary of the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, warmly welcomed all participants to the 60th ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting. He expressed gratitude to the ICC for choosing Sri Lanka as the host country and acknowledged the dedication of the delegates who traveled from afar. He emphasized the importance of this gathering, which brought together a diverse group of policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, farmers, and stakeholders to collectively shape the future of the coconut industry.

Mr. Chandrakeerthi highlighted Sri Lanka's deep connection to the coconut sector, its central role in the nation's economy and culture, and its significant contribution to the global coconut industry. He noted that the coconut industry in Sri Lanka provides livelihoods for millions and contributes significantly to the country's GDP through exports. However, he also acknowledged the challenges faced by the sector, such as attracting younger generations to plantation work, underutilized land, limited access to modern technology and finance, and global challenges like market access limitations, pests and diseases, and climate change.

Mr. Chandrakeerthi emphasized the importance of collaboration and innovation to address these challenges and ensure the industry's resilience. He proudly mentioned Sri Lanka's partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on a comprehensive roadmap for coconut sector development, focusing on enhancing productivity, fostering innovation, and improving market competitiveness. He expressed his belief that the 60th ICC Session would serve as a valuable platform for international collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the development of solutions to shared challenges, ultimately contributing to the sustainable growth of the global coconut community.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director of the ICC, then addressed the gathering. She expressed her gratitude to the Government of Sri Lanka for their hospitality and acknowledged the presence of delegates from 13 member countries and representatives from 11 international organizations. Dr. Alouw emphasized the historical significance of Sri Lanka hosting the ICC Session for the fourth time, highlighting the country's enduring commitment to the coconut sector. She acknowledged the global challenges facing the industry, including climate change, food and energy security, environmental concerns, and economic resilience. Dr. Alouw stressed the importance of ensuring fair incomes for farmers while maintaining affordability and competitiveness for industries to foster sustainable growth across the sector. Dr. Alouw highlighted the session as a platform to share insights into national programs, explore growth opportunities, address shared challenges, and collaborate on solutions. She expressed her hope that the session would inspire valuable collaborations and transformative actions, advancing the ICC's mission to new heights.

The session was duly initiated by the Hon. Samantha Vidyarathne (MP), Minister of Community Infrastructure and Plantation. The Minister emphasized the importance of the coconut sector to Sri Lanka's economy and the necessity of sustainable practices to guarantee its future in his address.

The Hon. Samantha Vidyarathne (MP), Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, officially opened the session. In his address, the Minister emphasized the deep-rooted history of the coconut industry in Sri Lanka and its significance to the nation's economy, culture, and daily life. He acknowledged the challenges faced by the sector, including the need for increased international collaboration and the adoption of modern technology to

advance the industry. Minister Vidyarathne expressed his confidence in the collective efforts of the ICC member countries to enhance the sector's economic contribution and ensure its sustainable growth. He reaffirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to working together with the global coconut community to achieve a prosperous future for the industry.

Mr. Sajeewa Kandambi, a Coconut Development Officer, shared his experiences and insights from the International Certificate Course for Coconut Development Officers, emphasizing the significance of capacity building in the sector.

The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Sanathanie Ranasinghe, the former Director of the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka (CRISL), and it concentrated on the opportunities and challenges that the global coconut industry is currently confronting.

The first day also featured the formal adoption of the meeting agenda and remarks from the national ministers in attendance. In the afternoon, plenipotentiary delegates from a variety of member countries, starting from Côte d'Ivoire, and continued by Fiji, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Philippines presented their national coconut development agendas. These presentations addressed a diverse array of subjects, including strategies for enhancing farm productivity and increasing farmers' income, as well as reforestation and rehabilitation programs. At the end of 1st day session, there was discussion among delegations. *(ICC News)*

DAY 2 OF ICC'S 60TH SESSION: A DEEP DIVE INTO COCONUT SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

The second day of the International Coconut Community's (ICC) 60th Session and Ministerial Meeting provided a comprehensive exploration of sustainable coconut sector development. Following presentations from Malaysia, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Tonga outlining their national agendas, a diverse group of international organizations and partners shared their expertise and initiative.

Mr. Ambassador Diar Nurbiantoro, representing NAM CSSTC, championed South-South cooperation, emphasizing the importance of knowledge sharing, skills development, and sustainable practices to empower communities and drive progress in coconut-producing countries.

Mr. Reynaldo V. Ebora from DOST-PCAARRD in the Philippines showcased their extensive research and development programs, highlighting a collaborative approach that brings together government agencies, universities, and the private sector to address key challenges in the coconut industry.

Dr. Vinod Pandit from CABI underscored their commitment to providing technical expertise and capacity-building programs to tackle pests and diseases, emphasizing the importance of knowledge sharing and digital tools to support sustainable coconut production.

Mr. Gregory Bardies from SCP advocated for collaborative action to address sustainability challenges, highlighting their work in developing a common language for sustainability criteria and creating a new assurance system to encourage wider adoption of sustainable practices.

Dr. Sarada Krishnan from Crop Trust, in a video presentation, stressed the critical role of coconut genetic diversity in building resilience to climate change and other threats, calling for collaborative efforts to conserve these valuable resources.

Dr. Jean-Marc Roda from CIRAD, also through a video presentation, presented their research and innovation programs focused on genetic diversity, sustainable farming practices, and value chain development, emphasizing the need for revitalizing plantations and embracing digital innovation.

Dr. Carmel A. Pilotti from SPC detailed their efforts to conserve coconut genetic resources in the Pacific region, address biotic threats, and build capacity through training programs, highlighting the importance of regional collaboration and market access for smallholder farmers.

Mr. Masato Fujii from GPDJ showcased their innovative technology for producing sustainable aviation fuel from non-standard coconuts, demonstrating the potential of the coconut industry to contribute to a greener aviation sector.

Dr. Jairo Villamil-Diaz from UNIDO presented a compelling economic case for investing in Sri Lanka's coconut industry, emphasizing the potential for significant returns through increased primary production, value addition, and improved market access.

Dr. Daniel Manzella from ITPGRFA, in a video presentation, highlighted the importance of international collaboration and the role of the Plant Treaty in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of coconut genetic resources.

Mr. Dilip Tambyrajah from INFO advocated for a holistic approach to coconut development that considers the entire value chain, promotes responsible business practices, and addresses the social and economic needs of all stakeholders.

Engaging Discussions and FAQs

The presentations sparked lively discussions among delegates and participants, leading to a dedicated FAQ session that addressed key questions and concerns. Some of the frequently asked questions focused on:

- Access to Funding and Resources: Delegates inquired about funding opportunities and resources available to support research, development, and capacity-building initiatives in their respective countries.
- Technology Transfer and Adoption: Participants sought information on best practices for technology transfer and adoption, emphasizing the need for practical solutions that can be readily implemented by farmers and processors.
- Market Access and Value Addition: Questions were raised about strategies for improving market access, particularly for value-added coconut products, and the role of branding and certification in enhancing competitiveness.

(ICC News)

DAY 3 OF ICC'S 60TH SESSION: STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION FOR A SUSTAINABLE COCONUT INDUSTRY

The third day of the International Coconut Community's (ICC) 60th Session and Ministerial Meeting centered on strategic planning, collaborative action, and addressing the challenges and opportunities facing the global coconut industry. The day featured insightful reports and presentations from key committees and working groups within the ICC.

Technical Working Group Charts a Course for the Future Mr. Benjamin Madrigal, Chairman of the ICC Technical Working Group (TWG), presented a comprehensive report outlining the group's activities and achievements. The TWG focused on harmonizing efforts within the ICC, enhancing its responsiveness to industry needs, and setting the global direction for the coconut industry.

Key challenges addressed by the TWG included the impact of the pandemic and the Ukraine war, competition from other vegetable oils, addressing concerns about coconut oil, climate change mitigation, and improving farmer welfare.

The TWG achieved significant milestones, including revising the ICC's mission and vision, updating its five-year strategic plan,

and actively participating in international coconut conferences. Ongoing efforts focus on integrating programs and projects, developing key measurement areas, and enhancing evaluation mechanisms.

Scientific Advisory Committee on Health Tackles Misinformation Dr. Fabian Dayrit, Chairman of the ICC Scientific Advisory Committee on Health (SACH), presented a SWOT analysis of coconut products in relation to health. He highlighted the strengths of coconut in offering numerous health products but acknowledged the challenges posed by misinformation and the need for more research and advocacy.

Dr. Dayrit proposed strategies to counter misinformation, including publishing scientific papers, engaging with health ministries and medical societies, and addressing popular press and social media. He emphasized the importance of collaboration among researchers, health professionals, and the media to effectively communicate the science-backed evidence and support the coconut industry.

COGENT: Conserving and Utilizing Coconut Genetic Resources Mr. Aluthwalahewa Nuwan Chinthaka, Assistant Director, presented a report on the International Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT). COGENT promotes international collaboration on coconut genetic resources, facilitating the exchange of germplasm and supporting research and development. *(ICC News)*

ICC PARTICIPATES IN INDIA INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL (IISF) 2024: A MILESTONE EVENT IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The India International Science Festival (IISF) 2024, a grand convergence of science, innovation, and global collaboration, was successfully concluded at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati, Assam, from November 29 to December 3, 2024. This year's festival, themed "Transforming India into a Science and Technology Driven Global Manufacturing Hub," brought together policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and students to explore innovative solutions for a prosperous future.

The festival was inaugurated by Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and graced by the Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh. The chief guest, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, highlighted India's strides in harnessing science and technology to achieve economic growth and sustainability.

Dr. Singh emphasized the government's commitment to making India a global leader in innovation, while Dr. Sarma underscored the significance of leveraging the region's rich resources for scientific advancement.

ICC's Active Role: Presentation and Panel Participation

At the invitation of Dr. C. Anandharamakrishnan, Director of CSIR-NIIST and Chief Organizer of IISF 2024, two delegates from the International Coconut Community (ICC), Director General Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw and Deputy Director General Mr. A.H.N. Chinthaka, actively participated in the event.

During Technical Session 1 on Agri-Food, Biotechnology, and Healthcare, under the theme "Global Science and Technology Alliance: Science Beyond Borders," Dr. Jelfina presented on "Towards a Sustainable and Resilient Global Coconut Sector: Global Scenario and Future Directions." The presentation emphasized the global challenges facing the coconut industry and ICC's strategic directions for fostering sustainability and resilience in the coconut sector. DG Jelfina also joined a panel discussion with other industry experts and scientists presented.

India, a key member country of the ICC, demonstrated through IISF 2024 how national initiatives can have global relevance. The festival not only showcased India's leadership in science and technology but also set a benchmark for other ICC member countries to emulate. Events like IISF 2024 exemplify the potential for collaborative approaches to addressing global agricultural and technological challenges, which align with ICC's vision of sustainability and resilience.

Insights from the Exhibition: Cutting-Edge Innovations on Display

A major highlight of IISF 2024 was the concurrent exhibition showcasing innovative technologies across diverse domains. It included groundbreaking solutions for:

- Agri-crops and Food Processing: Biodegradable tableware from agricultural residues, fruit and vegetable processing technologies.
- Sustainable Energy and Environment: On-site wastewater treatment units, food-waste-to-bioenergy systems, and plant growth promoters.
- Material Science and Bioprocesses: Biopolymers, polycoir composite materials as wood substitutes, and geo-textiles for construction.
- Healthcare and Biotechnology: Engineering microbial metabolism for metabolite production and innovative biomaterials.

The exhibition provided an enriching platform for professionals and students to interact with researchers, fostering dialogue on deploying these technologies to address global challenges.

Fostering Global Partnerships: A Core Focus of IISF 2024

Aligned with the overarching goal of "Science Beyond Borders," IISF 2024 featured events fostering international collaboration. Public lectures, roundtable discussions with global scientific organizations, and interactive sessions with publishing giants like Springer and Elsevier reflected India's ambition to position itself as a hub for global scientific partnerships.

ICC's participation exemplified the commitment to fostering international alliances, emphasizing the role of tropical agriculture in global food security and economic development.

The India International Science Festival 2024 successfully blended the celebration of scientific progress with the urgency of addressing contemporary challenges. For the ICC, the festival was a platform to showcase its commitment to a sustainable global coconut sector and to engage in meaningful discussions with global scientific and industrial leaders.

Events like IISF 2024 will play a pivotal role in transforming innovative ideas into impactful solutions. The ICC's active participation reaffirmed its role as a global leader in promoting sustainable agriculture and demonstrated how initiatives by member countries like India can inspire similar efforts across the ICC network, fostering a resilient and inclusive future. *(ICC News)*

COCONUT NOT LISTED AS A TREE NUT IN LATEST FDA GUIDANCE

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has published the final version of an allergen guidance this past week entitled "Questions and Answers Regarding Food Allergens, Including the Food Allergen Labeling Requirements of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (Edition 5): Guidance for Industry" (the final guidance). This guidance is intended to explain the application of labeling requirements under the Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004 (FALCPA) through a series of questions and answers. The Coconut Coalition of the Americas (CCA) has been active and in dialogue with the agency over the past few years.

For some time, FALCPA had been under scrutiny with challenges to its scientific merit based on very broad interpretations of the term 'tree nut.' CCA had investigated challenging FALCPA but until 2022, no major changes had tested the law itself. On January 1, 2023, sesame was added as a 9th major allergen class and provided an actual test and process for further changes to FALCPA.

In this new final guidance, specifically questions C7 and C8 and Table 1, FDA makes clear that there is a finite number of what it considers tree nuts with major scientifically established allergenicity to be considered serious food allergens. Coconuts are not on this list.

CCA activities in the past 24 months included supporting and underwriting a paper in which coconut allergenicity prevalence, severity and cross-allergenicity were examined. The data suggested that prevalence and severity were in some cases several orders of magnitude less for coconut compared to listed major allergens.

This development is obviously good news for the coconut category, and also removes trade challenges. For brands and co-mans, this represents the lifting of a major burden, at the same time providing consumers with clear and not misleading information – coconuts are not tree nuts and just because you are allergic to one does not mean you are allergic to or should avoid coconuts. *(CCA News)*

BRIN USES BIO-JET FUEL FROM COCONUT OIL TO MAXIMIZE THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The development of bio-jet fuel from coconut oil by the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) aims not only to reduce carbon emissions but also to support a circular economy.

According to Deliana Dahnum, Senior Researcher at the BRIN Research Center for Chemistry, the use of coconuts that are not suitable for export adds new value to local commodities that were previously considered waste.

"Coconuts that are moldy or unfit for consumption are usually discarded." By utilizing it for bio-jet fuel, we not only reduce waste but also empower local communities. "This is a concrete step in supporting the circular economy," said Deliana, at the Media Lounge Discussion (MELODI) titled "Exploring the Potential of Coconut-Based Bio-Jet Fuel from Indonesia," at the B.J Habibie Building, Jakarta.

She continued that BRIN is not working alone in this developmentand explained that various collaborations have been carried out, including Pertamina University and Prasetiya Mulya University. These collaborations aim to create more effective and economical catalyst innovations.

"The hope is that this catalyst technology can be used by the community at a lower cost. But of course, we must ensure its effectiveness through further research and testing," she added.

They are developing innovative technology in the form of Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs)-based catalysts to convert coconut oil into bio-jet fuel.

The analysis results show that coconut oil has a composition that is almost similar to commercial jet fuel. "The composition of coconut oil is very supportive for conversion into bio-jet fuel," explained by Deliana.

Currently, BRIN is still in the testing phase to ensure that the quality of the produced bio-jet fuel meets commercial standards.

In order to increase the beneficial effects of this technology, she also hopes that the findings of this study will be applied to the processing of other raw materials, such as trash or byproducts from palm oil.

"With the continuation of this research, we are optimistic that bio-jet fuel from coconut oil will not only be environmentally friendly but also empower communities and increase the added

value of local commodities," Deliana concluded. *(BRIN News)*

FRESH INDONESIAN COCONUTS GRANTED CHINA MARKET ACCESS

On Nov. 15, the General Administration of Customs of China announced via its website that fresh coconuts from Indonesia meeting the stipulated phytosanitary requirements would be permissible for import into China.

Indonesia is a major coconut producer. In 2023, the country's coconut output reached 2.83 million metric tons, with exports of coconut products valued at $1.55 billion, representing 38.3% of the global market share. Key export destinations include China, Malaysia and Singapore. Indonesia's main coconut product exports include coconut oil and its derivatives, coconut milk, activated coconut shell charcoal and shredded coconut.

According to the GACC announcement, the Indonesian Quarantine Agency is required to register coconut plantations and packing facilities that wish to export to China. These plantations and facilities must then be approved by the GACC, which will publish the approved lists on its website.

In implement traceability systems, use integrated pest management strategies, and follow good agricultural practices. With protected floors, a separate space for storing raw materials, and a warehouse for completed goods, the packaging facilities need to be sanitary and hygienicthe meanwhile, plantations must.

During the packing process, fresh coconuts destined for China must undergo procedures including the removal of diseased or deformed fruits, sorting, grading and cleaning to ensure the absence of insects, mites, rotten fruits, branches, leaves, roots and soil.

China has identified a total of six quarantine pests of concern with respect to fresh coconuts from Indonesia, namely, the spiraling whitefly (Aleurodicus dispersus), black thread scale (Ischnaspis longirostris), guava long scale (Lepidosaphes tapleyi), coffee mealybug (Planococcus lilacinus), passionvine mealybug (Planococcus minor) and stellate scale (Vinsonia stellifera).

In the first two years of exports, Indonesian authorities must take samples of each shipment, inspecting no less than 2% of each batch. If no phytosanitary issues are detected during this two-year period, the sampling rate may be reduced to 1%. *(Produce Report)*

COCONUT EXPANSION IN HAILAKANDI TO IMPROVE LIVING

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hailakandi, under ICAR-Research Complex for NEH Region Umiam and ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Zone-VI, is facilitating as a project partner to the Coconut Development Board (CDB), Regional Office, Guwahati, in their Area Expansion programme of coconut in Hailakandi district.

As a part of the programme, the CDB provided 2000 numbers of coconut seedlings (variety: West Coast tall) to the farmers of Hailakandi district through the FPCs, namely Hailakandi FPC, Algapur FPC, Auxo Agro Katlicherra FPC, and Lala Meen Unnayan FPC, which were received by the FPCs.

The program aimed to sensitize the farmers to area expansion of coconut in the district for their income generation and livelihood improvement. *(ICAR News)*

COCONUT TREE CLIMBING DEBUTS AT NATIONAL ETHNIC GAMES

Coconut tree climbing debuted recently at the ongoing 12th National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities of the People's Republic of China in Sanya, Hainan province.

On the island province, coconut trees are ubiquitous. Climbing them to harvest coconuts has long been a traditional activity among locals, eventually evolving into popular coconut picking competitions. In 2008, coconut tree climbing became part of the traditional Sanyuesan Festival, which the Li and Miao ethnic groups celebrate on the third day of the third month in the Chinese lunar calendar. By 2010, the sport became an official event in the Hainan provincial ethnic minority traditional games.

The sport involves athletes climbing artificial coconut trees to reach the top and touch the timing bell.

On Sunday, Luo Jun from the Hainan team won the men's 9-meter coconut tree climbing event, clocking in at just 6.188 seconds.

"I am thrilled to win first place in the coconut tree climbing competition at the Games, especially since this event is a traditional strength of Hainan, inspired by the daily lives of the Li and Miao ethnic groups. I feel great about showcasing it to the whole country," said the 28-year-old. He attributed his success to his long limbs, familiarity with coconut trees from a young age, systematic training and ample competition experience.

Luo started climbing coconut trees at the age of 9, honing his skills over time. In middle school, his talent was discovered by coach Li Qingping, who then provided him with professional training.

"Growing up in Ledong Li autonomous county, I would climb the coconut trees in my home's yard whenever I wanted coconut water. Over time, I became very skilled at it. Climbing coconut trees isn't very complicated; it just requires good coordination and strength in the hands, feet, waist and abdomen," Luo explained.

Luo has become known as the "Tree Climbing King" because to his quick progress, which has earned him multiple awards in different competitions.

Now, Luo serves as the leader of the search and rescue unit at the Yalong Bay Fire and Rescue Station in Jiyang district, Sanya. He noted that the daily physical training at his job, which includes pull-ups and rope climbing, helps him build the necessary strength, especially in his arms and legs.

Zhu Mengdan, 15, a Li ethnic girl, is the youngest member of the Hainan team. "I often climbed areca and coconut trees as a child for fun," she said. "I never imagined this childhood game would become an official event in a national sports competition. I hope this sport continues to develop, and we young people will carry on this local tradition."

Coconut tree climbing tests speed, climbing technique, stamina, and core strength. Referee Li Yan explained that athletes are allowed to use their own climbing style and techniques, but strength and coordination are crucial.

Bai Yumei, a Nu ethnic athlete from the Yunnan team, practiced rock climbing before trying coconut tree climbing. She noted the similarities between the two sports, such as the need for strength and explosive power. "Coconut tree climbing is more challenging for me since I'm still getting used to it," she said.

"The artificial coconut trees used in the Games are even harder to climb than real ones. They are smoother and straighter, whereas real coconut trees are more curved and provide more friction," Luo said. *(China Daily)*

SRI LANKA'S COCONUT PRICE INCREASE HAS ROOTS IN PREVIOUS ERRATIC FERTILIZER USAGE POLICIES

Sri Lanka's coconut industry is facing a significant crisis, with production levels plummeting from three billion nuts annually to just 2.85 billion nuts. Erratic policies of previous governments regarding fertilizer use have played a key role in precipitating this situation, Coconut Development Authority (CDA) chairman, Shantha Ranathunga said.

Speaking to The Island Financial Review, Ranathunga highlighted that the impact of foreign exchange fluctuations has led many farmers to neglect best practices in nurturing coconut trees, thus exacerbating the problem.

Ranathunga added: 'Additionally, the industry is grappling with various diseases and pest infestations, often a result of insufficient care and oversight. Despite these challenges, the global market is witnessing an unexpected boom for local exporters. A shortage of coconut supplies in the Philippines and Indonesia has created opportunities for Sri Lankan exporters, who are now able to secure better prices for their products.

'In response to the escalating global demand and prices for coconuts, including desiccated coconut, the government has begun implementing measures to facilitate imports of coconut kernel. This decision, which follows requests from major companies like Nestle and CBL, is intended to support the local export market.

'A Cabinet paper is currently being prepared to grant exporters the authority to import any quantity of coconut kernel they require, thereby removing restrictions that have previously hampered supply.

'We have concerns over the influence of a "coconut mafia," which has manipulated local prices, resulting in retail costs soaring to Rs. 150-160 for coconuts purchased from estates at Rs. 90-100. To counteract this, we have urged state estates participating in the coconut auction at the CDA to set auction prices at a minimum of Rs. 105, aiming to curb excessive profits made by middlemen.

'Furthermore, the CDA is taking steps to provide financial relief to farmers. A subsidy of Rs. 60,000 to 65,000 per acre—covering approximately 50 trees—will be available, financed from the CDA's funds. This initiative aims to assist small farmers in acquiring the necessary fertilizers to boost coconut production.

'With local coconut and coconut oil prices rapidly escalating, the urgency to stabilize the domestic market has never been greater. Rising global edible oil prices have compounded these issues, with refined coconut oil prices climbing from USD 1,320 to USD 1,880 per ton, while palm oil prices approach USD 1,250 per ton due to climatic impacts and increased international demand.' *(The Island Online)*

FRESH COCONUTS QUENCHING NEW INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

Vietnam's fresh coconuts are being increasingly consumed in international markets such as the US, China, and the UK, highlighting a bright spot in Vietnam's fruit export sector with many opportunities for breakthroughs in the near future.

Vietnam holds the 6th position in the global coconut market in terms of cultivation area and output. With roughly 200,000ha of plantations, the country produces 2 million tonnes of the nuts annually.

This production capacity has enabled Vietnam to export coconuts to 15 foreign markets, with 30,000 tonnes.

To maximise the strength of coconuts as a naturally clean fruit with a long shelf life, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has negotiated a protocol with China for fresh coconut exports since 2016, according to Deputy Director of the Plant Protection Department Nguyen Quang Hieu.

Vietnamese coconuts have been exported to Western markets since 2017, with Vina T&T pioneering the entry into the US market, previously dominated by Thai ones.

General Director Vina T&T Nguyen Dinh Tung said Vietnamese coconuts, known for sweetness, caught the attention of the US market, favored by consumers in Europe, Canada, and the Republic of Korea (RoK), and most recently

China which has granted an export code for the product.

Vina T&T has signed contracts with two Chinese companies to ship the first batches to this market.

With a population of over 1.4 billion and domestic supply meeting only about 10% of the demand, China represents a great potential market.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Hoang Trung said China consumes over 4 billion coconuts annually, of which approximately 2.6 billion are fresh ones.

China's high demand but limited production capacity presents an opportunity for the Vietnamese product.

Statistics from the MARD show that the fresh coconut ranks sixth in export value among fruit items, following durian, dragon fruit, banana, mango, and jackfruit. The fruit's export earnings in the first 10 months of 2024 are projected to reach over 120 million USD.

With a sharp rise of fresh coconut exports, the fruit sector has more opportunities to create breakthroughs in exports, potentially reaching the milestone of 10 billion USD set by the MARD. (VietnamPlus)

THEPPADUNGPORN COCONUT OFFERS REHAB FUNDS TO FLOOD-AFFECTED SCHOOLS

The funds, which total 10 million baht, will be used to rebuild and repair damage at schools affected by the severe flooding in September-October, while also restoring confidence among school staff and pupils. The eligible schools were selected by the Office of the Basic Education Commission.

Buildings at some schools were seriously damaged by landslides, causing students to face a shortage of classrooms, libraries, textbooks and other educational supplies.

Theppadungporn Coconut has long recognized the importance of education for Thai children and initiated the Love Sharing project in 2006, offering scholarships to schools in need and organizing activities every year.

More than 700 schools across 77 provinces have received scholarships under the project so far.

In line with company president Jareeporn Theppadungporn's motto "if you have it, you have to share it", the project activities have been expanded to contribute to society.

For instance, "Love Sharing for Religion" focuses on the development of religious venues for spiritual support and the preservation of traditions, while "Love Sharing for Public Health" provides medical supplies to enhance healthcare facilities and enable all Thais to access high -quality treatment.

"Love Sharing for the Environment" focuses on improving the company's internal process to mitigate environmental impacts and campaigning for greater attention to the natural world.

More than 1,000 agencies have received over 270-million-baht in support under the Love Sharing project. Theppadungporn Coconut is committed to organizing activities for sustainable development practices in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

"This year, Theppadungporn Coconut has offered school rehabilitation funds under the Love Sharing project because, as we all know, many provinces were severely affected by the floods and many schools were damaged," the company's managing director Apisak Theppadungporn said.

"Theppadungporn Coconut would like to play a part in school rehabilitation and restore

confidence among students affected by the floods," he said.

Over the past 50 years, Theppadungporn Coconut has produced and distributed foods and beverages under several brands - Chao Koh, Mae Ploy and Yod Doi.

These Thai brands have been accepted internationally, with exports now going to more than 85 countries. The company says it feels honoured to be able to develop Thai society, the economy and the environment. *(The Nation)*

COCONUT CULTIVATION IN CAUVERY DELTA IS GROWING BUT FARMERS DEMAND STRONGER MARKET LINKAGES

There's a Tamil saying — 'Petra pillai kaivittalum, natta pillai sorupodum' that means even if your own child doesn't look after you, the child you sowed (coconut sapling) will.

In the coastal areas of the Pattukottai and Peravurani, which lie in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, several farmers are switching to coconut cultivation.

Krishnan, from Tamil Nadu's Kuruvikkarambai village, says coconut trees have been around since his grandfather's time. But back then, there were only 50-60 trees.

With the passage of time, the area under coconut cultivation has increased. He explained that if there are 10 acres under coconut cultivation now, in the past it would be nine acres of paddy and an acre of coconut trees.

Coconut cultivation has expanded in this area due to a number of factors. Major factors include a significant reliance on groundwater for effective paddy farming and inconsistent irrigation water availability due to a diminishing surface water supply.

Other reasons include high cost of paddy cultivation, higher maintenance needs of paddy and lack of labour to manage the cultivation. The annual expenses of maintaining a coconut orchard are lower in comparison. And once planted, it is a continuous source of income after the initial lag.

Neelakandan, aged 46 years, worked abroad till a couple of years ago. Since his return to his village, he has planted four acres of coconut in the Sengamangalam area of Peravurani taluk.

Farmers in this area began shifting from paddy to coconut about 20 years ago. Coconuts were cultivated here during the 1950s-1960s. However, as the market for coconut was not well established, more rice was cultivated until 2000.

The intensive rice cultivation yielded more profits initially. But overtime by 2000, several farmers started turning to coconut cultivation due to labour shortages and lower income compared to cost of paddy cultivation.

Why coconut farming?

Murugan, from Marungapallam village, cultivates coconut on 15 acres and the traditional paddy on four acres. He has realized that there is a lot of competition in selling traditional rice. Some competitors with commercial motives at heart, sell paddy at a very low price without properly cultivating it.

Murugan said he is going to switch from paddy to coconut.

For landowning households who have turned to non-farm income sources, coconut cultivation is easier to manage.

Rajendran, aged 60 years, has cultivated coconut for 20 years on less than two acres in Sengamangalam.

Every year, he migrates to Andhra Pradesh for a few months during the summer. He runs a juice shop and returns to town after the season ends.

After returning to the village, he takes care of the coconut plantation.

Low maintenance of coconut trees allows him to stay away for those few months. Rajendran also mentioned that it is easy to borrow from money lenders without any documents because he owns a coconut farm.

Coconut is a perennial crop. It can generate income throughout the year. It can be harvested six times a year. Once planted, native coconuts have a lifespan of over fifty years.

Farmers report that compared to indigenous varieties which take five years or more before they can be harvested, hybrid coconut trees can be harvested by the third year, and the yield is more than indigenous coconut trees.

Coconut trees have moderate irrigation requirements. Irrigating them twice a month is sufficient.

Each coconut sapling will be planted at a distance of 25 feet, which means a total of 75 coconut trees will be planted per acre.

As these areas are located closer to the coast, they have sandy and saline soil and groundwater is saline below a certain depth. Generally, the groundwater in these areas is found below 300 or 400 feet, depending on the area.

"The soil we have is suitable for coconut cultivation. Coconut is a coastal plant that can grow in salt water. Coconuts have been washed into the sea during storms in distant geographies. The ocean usually does not always retain debris, but washes it up along the shore," Krishnan said.

"The ocean holds only living things in it. It removes debris. Once the coconut is deposited on the beach, it will begin to germinate (in salt water itself) after the end of the rainy season. The origin of coconuts was in coastal areas. So, we assumed it would grow in all land or soil and seasonal conditions," he added.

Dependence on groundwater

Farmers in these areas mostly rely on groundwater through borewells for coconut irrigation. Coconut was cultivated as a rain-fed crop in the early days when shallow wells were the only source of irrigation.

Overtime, the shallow wells disappeared due to lowering of the water table. Borewells were introduced in the area around the 1980s.

During those times, holes 200-250 feet deep and four inches in diameter were drilled.

Now, drilling is done till an average depth of 400 feet and 7.5 inches in diameter, using a 10 HP motor. Farmers recollected that the water level in the initial days of borewell usage was 20-30 feet. Now, the water level has reached 120-140 feet deep.

Borewell ownership is unequal. Most large farmers own borewells. Smallholders share the wells of their neighbours. To rent a borewell for irrigation, they have to pay Rs 100 per hour. On an average, a farmer who does not have a borewell has to rent a borewell 5-6 times a year.

Small farmers cannot afford to set up a borewell as it costs approximately Rs10 lakh to do so. The number of borewells depends on the size of the land, with large farmers holding five acres and above having more than one borewell. Those with three-five acres have only one borewell.

Large farmers as well as small farmers share wells of other farmers for coconut irrigation. As many large farmers' fields here are scattered in different places rather than in one place, it is not possible to set up a borewell separately for each field, which would be highly expensive.

And since the fields are far away, they cannot carry borewell water through pipelines. So they rent borewells from nearby borewell owners. Some people exchange their boreholes with each other on mutual understanding.

Due to non-availability of borewells, small farmers (0-3 acres) who cultivate paddy in other parts of Peravurani and Pattukottai are unable to switch to coconut. Coconut farmers here also cultivate paddy. But for them, coconut is the primary crop. Due to high investment, maintenance cost and labour problems in paddy cultivation and insufficient returns from paddy over time, they are thinking of completely switching to coconut.

Challenges in coconut farming

However, coconut cultivation is not without its share of challenges. Pest attacks are very common.

Beetles like the Red palm weevil (Sivappukoon vandu) and the Orydux Rhinocerus (Kandamiruga vandu) bore holes in coconut trees and destroy them. Tanjore wilt disease is mostly affecting coconut trees in these areas, according to farmers.

Additionally, there is a problem of bud/stem rot, Whitefly and Eriophyd (infestation) in coconuts. While the above problems can be controlled with insecticides and proper care, it is very difficult to protect coconut against extreme weather events like storms and heavy rains.

Coconut farmers say that once the coconut tree is affected and damaged, it will take many years to recover, as the tree starts yielding after five years of planting.

But this is not the case with other crops. For example, if the rice cultivation period is six months and the crop gets damaged, the loss is only for that one season or one year. It is thus relatively easier to recover from it.

Although there is regular income and low maintenance in coconut farming, extreme weather events have flipped the story. Neelakandan's orchard was badly affected. Seeing the state of destruction, he noted that his wife fainted.

Farmers mention that coconut trees were damaged in a cyclone in 1954 and another in 1978. Cyclone Gaja in 2018 hit the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu in a big way and caused damage.

The delta districts of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam suffered extensive damage due to Cyclone Gaja. *(Down to Earth)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Prices of vegetable oils turned softer this week, capping the rallies of the past weeks.

In Rotterdam, this week was still a lackluster affair in the coconut oil market for the fifth straight week, and coconut oil continued at a discount under palm kernel oil for three weeks now. The market started off with offers barely touched from last week with levels at $1,865-1,900/MT CIF for positions from December/January through to April/May 2025 and were held mostly steady thereafter, defying palm oil weakness, amid slow copra arrivals at Philippine mills affected by torrential rains and typhoons. Towards the weekend, however, levels eased succumbing to lower vegetable oils prices and closed at $1,850-1,875/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market likewise had been untraded for six straight weeks and stayed premium against coconut oil. Opening levels were easier with sellers at $1,945-1,965/MT CIF for positions from November/December through to April/May influenced by lower palm oil prices, and then tracked further lower for the rest of the week, interrupted only midweek. The market, however, closed with values in positive territory at $1,940-1,952.50/MT CIF.

Coconut oil prices remained discounted under palm kernel oil across all positions this week,

though spreads had narrowed compared to week-ago with this week's average reduced to $65.33/MT from $80.15 last week. The following shows coconut oil price discount per position: November/December no data (-$89.75 last week); December/January -$100.56 (-$101.50); January/February -$62.50 (-$80.00); February/March -$57.44 (-$76.00); March/April -$52.69 (-$72.00); April/May -$53.44 (-$61.87).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures turned bearish this week after a positive start sparked by delays in planting due to rains in Brazil. The market was shorty dragged by prospects of improved yield for Brazilian crop due to beneficial rains. Moreover, estimates of more than adequate global supplies spawned selling off soybean positions by investors and traders. By the week's end, however, the market ended in the positive zone despite continuous slide in soybean oil prices.

At the palm oil section, the market was also bearish during the week under pressure from weak export fundamentals. This includes fears of weak demand notably from China as the winter season begins there, the increase in Malaysia's December export duty to 10%, and expectations of production recovery in the major producing countries in Southeast Asia. Declines in other vegetable oils market added to the negative market sentiment.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment plunged this week with palm oil leading the charge, contracting steeply by $116.00 from $1,402.50 last week to $1,286.50 in the current week. Coconut oil followed, shedding $20.25 from $1,876.25 to $1,856.00/MT CIF; and palm kernel oil which showed the least drop of $9.44 from $1,966.00 to $1,956.56/MT CIF. As a result, coconut oil increased its discount under palm kernel oil to $100.56/MT from $89.75 last week while price premium over palm oil returned to the $500 level at $569.50/MT from the previous week at $473.75. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

The Rotterdam coconut oil market was still uneventful. Coconut oil remained at a discount under palm kernel oil though the spreads turned narrower this week. Prices were little moved during the week though towards the weekend had weakened with offers closing at $1,850 for December/January and flat for the forward 2025 positions up to April/May at $1,875/MT CIF. Buyers participated thinly in nearby positions with closing bids at $1,775/MT CIF while staying inactive in other positions. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

DESICCATED COCONUTS: STRONG DEMAND IS DRIVING UP PRICES

Although the Philippines exported less coconut oil in October, the export value has risen due to high market prices. Desiccated coconuts have also become more expensive. Meanwhile, market players in Sri Lanka are facing various challenges.

Higher prices

Looking at the coconut oil market in Europe, the experts at T.M. Duché report that prices were strong in the first week of November, reflecting general improvements in vegetable oils. Prices hovered around USD 1,730-1,750/mt CIF Rotterdam and even rose to USD 1,800/mt CIF. Although buyer activity remains limited, the growth in the vegetable oil sector is nevertheless making itself felt and exerting a certain amount of pressure. Palm kernel oil prices also shot up to USD 1,709/mt CIF Rotterdam. The price difference between coconut oil and palm kernel oil is now only around USD 43/mt, which clearly shows the increasing competition. According to T.M. Duché, desiccated coconuts cost between USD 0.83 and USD 1.30/lb FOB and have therefore also become more expensive after a longer phase of price stability.

Volatile oil markets

The Philippines exported a total of 73,350 mt of coconut oil in October, a 29.2% decrease

in volume but a 17% increase in export value thanks to higher market prices. Exports of copra meal increased by a whopping 77.6% due to high demand. US coconut oil imports climbed by 78.4% year-on-year to 51,200 mt in August, with the Philippines being the leading supplier at more than 55%. In the USA, buying interest in plant-based products is increasing, and coconut oil in particular is being favored more and more frequently.

Overall, however, market experts forecast the oil markets to remain volatile for the time being as global demand and supply dynamics continue to change. The coconut industry in the Philippines is being supported by rising prices and demand is high, although potential supply bottlenecks are a problem here.

Growers in Sri Lanka receive support

Growers in Sri Lanka are less optimistic, with annual production set to fall from 3 billion to 2.85 billion coconuts, FreshPlaza reports, citing The Island Online. As the Chairman of the Coconut Development Authority (CDA), Shantha Ranathunga, explained in discussions with The Island Financial Review, the poor fertilizer policies of previous governments are not entirely innocent. Fluctuating exchange rates had also led to farmers neglecting proper tree care for financial reasons, further aggravating the situation. The industry is also struggling with pest infestations and various plant diseases.

However, the impending supply bottlenecks in the Philippines and Indonesia give exporters in Sri Lanka hope that they will have better opportunities on the global market. In the face of rising global demand, the government is already taking measures to support exporters. Among other things, minimum auction prices are being set to prevent the formation of a 'coconut mafia'. The CDA supports this and grants farmers financial subsidies for the purchase of fertilizers in order to increase yields. *(Mundus Agri)*

DA, PCA LOOKING AT CENTRAL VISAYAS AS SOURCE OF PLANTING MATERIALS FOR COCONUT INTERCROPS

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) are eyeing Central Visayas as a new source of cacao and coffee planting materials for coconut intercrops. John Dennis Ranario, senior science research specialist at the PCA-Central Visayas said, cacao and coffee are compatible crops that can grow in proximity with the coconut trees in the same field.

Ranario, who is also working as the regional focal person of High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) under the Coconut Farmers Industry Development Project (CFIDP), said the Coconut-Based Coffee and/or Cacao Enterprise Development Project (C3EDP), intercropping of coconut side-by-side with coffee and cacao, is now a priority. PCA and DA see coffee and cacao harvest as a potential source of new income for coconut farmers, he added. Cacao is a leading raw material for chocolate-based products and coffee is a top beverage with good demand.

Having a nursery for cacao and coffee in Central Visayas will address the concern on procurement of planting materials, currently sourced from other regions momentarily, Ranario said. Though there are nurseries in the region, these have yet to be accredited by the Bureau of Plant Industry. Accreditation is one of the requirements for a local source to be allowed to supply the government to ensure quality of seedlings for distribution to coconut farmers. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

MCMC, MPOB JOIN FORCES TO ADVANCE FUTURE TECHNOLOGY IN PALM OIL INDUSTRY

The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) and the

Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) have collaborated to drive future technological initiatives in the palm oil industry, The Star reported on November 16.

In a statement, MCMC announced that the strategic partnership had successfully addressed longstanding connectivity challenges within oil palm plantations and culminated in the launch of the AgriNXT: Oil Palm Chapter (OPC) initiative. The statement explained that one of the key challenges, poor connectivity within plantations due to the dense canopy of oil palm fronds, had been effectively overcome. The advancements made have enabled seamless communications and data transfer, which is expected to drive innovations and improve productivity within the industry. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

ENERGY DEPARTMENT INTENSIFIES MONITORING OF B3 COMPLIANCE

The Department of Energy (DOE) said that more intensified monitoring will be implemented to ensure compliance with the 3 percent coconut methyl ester (CME) blend in all diesel fuel nationwide, a report in Philippine News Agency said. In particular, the DOE's Oil Industry Management Bureau (OIMB) will conduct the inspections to ensure a seamless transition to higher biodiesel blend.

The DOE underscored the need to implement the threephased increase of biofuel blends which pose advantages to the environment, green jobs creation, coconut industry, fuel efficiency and savings. The 3-percent hike in CME blend serves as the first phase; to be followed by an increase to 4 percent to 5 percent in October 2025 and 2026, respectively.

In terms of environmental impact, the 3-percent CME blend is expected to displace 300 million liters of pure diesel annually which can be translated to a 1.11 percent drop in carbon emissions or equivalent to 298.2 kilotons of carbon dioxide, according to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Carbon Emission Calculator, the report said. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

TO IMPLEMENT B40 INDONESIA NEEDS SEVEN TO NINE ADDITIONAL BIODIESEL PLANTS

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said Indonesia needs an additional seven to nine crude palm oil (CPO) processing plants to produce biodiesel for B50 fuel.

Director of Bioenergy at the Energy Ministry, Edi Wibowo, said that the additional CPO processing plants are aimed at covering the shortage of biodiesel supply for B50. Based on calculations, the biodiesel demand for B50 reaches 19.7 million kiloliters, while the current capacity of vegetable oil fuel (BBN) production is only 15.8 million kiloliters.

"There is still a shortage of about 3.9 million kiloliters. Therefore, it is necessary to build around seven to nine plants or increase the capacity of existing plants," he said at the 20th Indonesian Palm Oil Conference and 2025 Price Outlook (IPOC 2024) on Thursday, November 7, 2024.

According to Edi, the supply shortage opens up investment opportunities for companies. Considering that US$ 360 million must be invested in order to implement B50 .

"Actually, there is also an investment opportunity if the government needs to allocate around almost US$360 million for the additional investment," he said. "If the factories remain the same, whether the implementation of B50 will just stay there," he continued.

Regarding the plan to implement B40 next year, Eddy said that his ministry has calculated that there is still a production capacity shortfall of 0.3 million kiloliters. However, he said this could still be addressed by asking the Vegetable Fuel Business Entity (BUBBN) to increase its production capacity.

Citing Antara, Energy Minister Bahlil Lahadalia said his ministry was preparing a concept to develop biodiesel fuel up to biodiesel 100 as part of President Prabowo Subianto's effort to achieve energy self-sufficiency.

"One of the concepts being prepared is to develop all concepts up to B100, but of course, it will be done gradually. We will report the progress later," Bahlil said in Jakarta on Sunday, October 11, 2024.

Based on the Ministry of ESDM's roadmap, the next plan to achieve the B100 program is the implementation of B40, which is scheduled for January next year. This will be followed by the proposal for the implementation of B50 in 2028. *(Tempo)*

NEW GUIDELINE FOR TRANSPORT OF EDIBLE VEGETABLE OIL TRANSPORT

China's top market regulator recently introduced the mandatory standards for the transportation of edible vegetable oil after some companies discovered transporting cooking oil in the same tankers they previously used to move liquid fuels.

According to the website of the State Administration for Market Regulation, the standards, titled "Sanitary requirements for the bulk transportation of edible vegetable oil", will come into effect from Feb 1, 2025.

The new standards outline the requirement that containers for edible vegetable oil must be packaged in dedicated food-grade containers clearly marked "for edible oil only" or "food use only".

In addition, the interior and exterior of the containers must strictly be clean and sanitary. Containers used for non-food items are prohibited from transporting edible oils.

In July, companies like Sanhe Hopefull Grain and Oil Group and China Grain Reserves Group, or Sinograin, were reported to have transported cooking oil in the same tankers that they had previously used for delivering liquid fuels produced from coal.

Previously, China had only one non-mandatory standard for the bulk transport of edible vegetable oil, which stipulates that bulk edible vegetable oil should be transported using dedicated tankers. *(China Daily)*

HEALTH NEWS

I DRANK COCONUT MILK DAILY FOR 30 DAYS... HERE'S HOW IT CHANGED MY BODY

Imagine consuming a creamy, tropical elixir that not only tantalizes your taste buds but also nourishes your body from the inside out. Welcome to the world of coconut milk, a versatile superfood that's been making waves in the health and wellness community. Let's embark on a journey to discover the secrets of this delicious beverage and investigate how it can revolutionize your diet and overall well-being.

The Nutritional Powerhouse: What Makes Coconut Milk Special?

Coconut milk is more than just a delicious alternative to dairy. It's a nutrient-dense beverage packed with essential vitamins and minerals. Dr. Emily Chen, a nutritionist at the Tropical Health Institute, explains, "Coconut milk is rich in medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), a type of fat that's metabolized differently than other fats, potentially aiding in weight management and boosting energy levels."

But that's not all. This creamy delight also contains:

- Manganese for bone health and wound healing

- Iron for oxygen transport in the blood
- Magnesium for muscle and nerve function
- Potassium for heart health and hydration

Coconut milk's distinct nutritional composition makes it a valuable addition to a balanced diet, especially for people wishing to explore alternative weight loss strategies.

The Heart-Healthy Paradox: Can a High-Fat Food Be Good for Your Heart?

It might seem counterintuitive, but the fats in coconut milk could actually be beneficial for your cardiovascular health. The lauric acid found in coconut milk has been shown to increase HDL (good) cholesterol levels while reducing LDL (bad) cholesterol. This unique property has led some researchers to dub coconut milk "nature's heart tonic."

Dr. Michael Rodriguez, a cardiologist at Heart Health Center, shares, "While we once shied away from coconut products due to their saturated fat content, new research suggests that the type of saturated fat in coconut milk may have a neutral or even positive effect on heart health when consumed in moderation."

Boost Your Immune System: The Antimicrobial Marvel

In a world where immune health is more crucial than ever, coconut milk emerges as a natural ally. The lauric acid in coconut milk is converted in the body to monolaurin, a compound with potent antimicrobial properties. This natural defender can help your body fight off viruses, bacteria, and fungi, potentially reducing your risk of infections.

Imagine your immune system as a fortress, and coconut milk as the skilled architect reinforcing its walls. Like how probiotics fortify your gut health, by include this tropical elixir into your diet, you're essentially building a stronger defense against pathogens.

Digestive Harmony: Soothing Your Gut With Every Sip

For those struggling with digestive issues, coconut milk could be the soothing balm your gut has been craving. Its creamy texture and anti-inflammatory properties can help calm an irritated digestive tract, potentially alleviating symptoms of conditions like irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

Moreover, the medium-chain fatty acids in coconut milk are easily digestible, making it a gentle option for those with sensitive stomachs. By choosing coconut milk, you're not just selecting a tasty beverage; you're opting for a drink that could help harmonize your digestive system.

Weight Management: The Surprising Ally In Your Fitness Journey

Despite its rich and creamy nature, coconut milk could be your unexpected partner in weight management. The MCTs in coconut milk are rapidly absorbed and metabolized by the body, providing quick energy and potentially boosting your metabolism. This unique property has led some nutritionists to consider coconut milk as a tool for weight management when used as part of a balanced diet.

Fitness expert Jake Thompson shares his experience: "I've seen clients who incorporate coconut milk into their diets report feeling fuller for longer and having more sustained energy throughout the day. It's like they've unlocked a secret weapon in their weight loss arsenal."

Culinary Versatility: From Smoothies To Curries

One of the most exciting aspects of coconut milk is its incredible versatility in the kitchen. Coconut milk can take your culinary creations to the next level, whether you're making a velvety curry, baking a delicious dessert, or making a tropical smoothie.

Its rich texture and subtle sweetness make it a perfect substitute for dairy in both sweet and savory dishes.

Here are some innovative ways to incorporate coconut milk into your diet:

- Blend it into your morning coffee for a luxurious latte
- Use it as a base for creamy soups and sauces
- Freeze it into popsicles for a healthy summer treat
- Add it to overnight oats for a tropical breakfast twist

By exploring these culinary applications, you're not just enhancing your meals; you're nourishing your body with essential nutrients that support overall health and well-being.

The Skin and Hair Elixir: Beauty Benefits Of Coconut Milk

The benefits of coconut milk extend beyond internal health to external beauty. Its nourishing properties make it a fantastic natural ingredient for skin and hair care. The fatty acids in coconut milk can help moisturize and protect your skin, while its proteins can strengthen hair and promote growth.

Dermatologist Dr. Lisa Chen explains, "Coconut milk's natural fats and vitamins can help soothe dry, irritated skin and may even help reduce the appearance of fine lines. It's like giving your skin a tropical vacation in a bottle."

Choosing The Right Coconut Milk: A Guide To Smart Shopping

Not every type coconut milk is made equally. While purchasing this tropical agem, look for brands that offer pure, unsweetened coconut milk without added preservatives or thickeners. Opt for BPA-free cans or cartons to avoid potential chemical contamination. For those watching their calorie intake, light coconut milk can be a great alternative, offering the same flavor with fewer calories.

Remember, the best coconut milk should have a rich, creamy texture and a pure, clean taste. By choosing wisely, you're ensuring that you're getting all the benefits without any unwanted additives.

Incorporating Coconut Milk: Tips For Optimal Health Benefits

To make the most of coconut milk's health benefits, consider these practical tips:

- Start your day with a coconut milk smoothie to boost energy and metabolism
- Use it as a dairy-free alternative in your favorite recipes
- Mix it into your post-workout shake for quick recovery
- Try a coconut milk face mask for glowing, hydrated skin

By mindfully incorporating coconut milk into your daily routine, you're not just adding flavor to your life; you're embracing a holistic approach to health that nourishes your body from the inside out.

Is coconut milk the missing ingredient in your journey to optimal health? As we've explored its myriad benefits and uses, it's clear that this tropical elixir offers more than just a creamy alternative to dairy. From heart health to weight management, immune support to culinary delight, coconut milk stands as a versatile ally in our quest for wellness. Why not give it a try and see how it can transform your health and your plate? Your body might just thank you for this delicious addition to your lifestyle. *(World Day)*

COCONUT OIL REDUCES THE RISKS OF HEART DISEASE

Coconut oil has received accalim for its usage as cosmetic product, criticism for its high calorie

content, accusations of saturated fat, and hailed as a superfood..

When it comes to this oil, the world just doesn't know what to think!

However, recent studies by Cambridge University researchers have found that coconut oil can actually reduce the risk of heart disease and attacks when consumed daily for just four weeks.

As part of the series 'Trust Me I'm a Doctor' BBC2's Professor Kay-Tee Khaw and Professor Niti Forouhi recruited 94 volunteers aged between 50 and 75, none of whom had a history of heart problems or diabetes.

They divided the participants into three groups and asked them to consume 50 grams of coconut oil, olive oil or unsalted butter each day for four weeks.

According to the scientists, those who had consumed coconut oil had increased levels of HDL (good cholesterol) with an average increase of 15 percent.

This has led scientists to conclude that coconut oil can reduce the chances of heart disease and attacks. *(Telegraf)*

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT CHICKEN LAKSA WITH PRAWN DUMPLINGS

Ingredients

- 500mL chicken stock
- 400mL coconut milk
- 400mL coconut cream
- 1 tablespoon palm sugar, grated
- 1 lemongrass stem, bruised
- 4 makrut lime leaves
- 100g fried tofu puffs, cut in half
- 12 frozen prawn dumplings
- 1 lime, juiced
- 2 tablespoons fish sauce, or to taste
- 125g thin rice noodles, cooked to packet instructions
- 1 cooked chicken fillet, shredded
- 250g cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- 100g bean shoots, soaked and chilled
- ¼ cup fried shallots, to serve
- Coriander leaves (*see above), to serve
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped mint or Vietnamese mint, to serve (also known as Laksa herb, optional)
- 1 lime, cut into wedges, to serve
- Chilli sauce, to serve (or oil optional)

For the amped-up laksa paste

- 100g macadamia nuts
- 1 long red chilli, de-seeded
- ¼ bunch coriander roots and stems, washed (keep the leaves for the garnish)
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled
- 2cm piece of ginger, peeled
- 2 tablespoons laksa paste (or red curry paste)
- 4 tablespoons coconut oil

Method

1. To make the amped-up laksa paste, add the macadamias, chilli, coriander roots and stems, garlic, ginger, laksa paste and coconut oil to a food processor and blitz until very smooth.
2. Heat a large pot on medium, add the laksa paste and fry for 10 minutes — you want the paste to really cook well to develop the aromatic flavours. Once you see the oil start to separate from the paste, you know it's done.
3. Add the stock, coconut milk, coconut cream, palm sugar, lemongrass and lime leaves. Bring to a gentle boil then add in the tofu puffs, prawn dumplings and simmer for 10 minutes. Add the lime juice and fish sauce. Taste for seasoning and balance for flavour. Fish out the lemongrass and lime leaves.
4. This is a good time to get all the bits and bobs ready in the deep noodle bowls. Artfully place the prepared noodles, shredded chicken, cherry tomato halves and bean shoots.
5. When the broth is ready, ladle into the prepared noodle bowls, making sure to divide the tofu puffs and dumplings evenly, and then add the fried shallots, coriander leaves, mint and a lime wedge each. Serve optional chilli sauce (or oil) for extra heat.

(ABC News)

STATISTICS

Table 1. Monthly Export of Coconut Shell Charcoal by Selected Countries 2022 - 2024 (In MT)

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	17,456	14,435	17,585	7,395	7,793	10,758	930	767	880
February	13,596	15,008	15,096	10,228	8,685	379	943	882	1,583
March	16,535	16,907	15,793	11,694	11,824	11,615	1,050	348	1,358
April	13,639	11,384	11,982	9,429	11,517	14,236	1,576	416	924
May	7,376	17,456	14,272	6,739	10,444	11,442	1,211	810	1,035
June	11,796	16,603	14,211	10,517	8,168	13,847	1,475	792	1,103
July	10,866	17,676	17,706	9,986	7,682	13,532	1,398	892	1,586
August	13,328	15,863	20,684	10,438	7,878		1,670	1,044	666
September	13,896	15,613	18,205	10,805	11,603		1,378	1,355	648
October	13,984	17,916	20,824	9,181	12,370		606	841	280
November	14,712	16,499		9,010	9,859		659	764	
December	16,137	15,910		8,268	10,218		1,214	1,063	
TOTAL	**163,322**	**191,270**	**166,359**	**113,690**	**118,041**	**75,809**	**14,110**	**9,974**	**10,063**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia, UCAP, and Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 2. Monthly Export of Activated Carbon by Selected Countries 2022 - 2024 (In MT)

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	2,184	1,440	1,191	5,873	5,466	4,006	3,918	3,441	4,958
February	2,239	1,430	1,540	6,229	4,203	3,888	3,529	4,035	4,712
March	2,327	1,415	1,212	8,171	5,859	3,759	4,424	4,311	5,707
April	2,419	1,361	1,370	7,455	5,334	4,551	5,093	4,021	4,974
May	1,842	1,607	1,652	7,051	6,139	4,346	4,796	5,518	4,489
June	2,390	1,637	1,219	6,498	5,710	4,408	4,904	4,342	4,749
July	2,006	1,734	1,470	7,430	3,752	6,950	5,034	4,422	5,014
August	2,251	1,786	1,455	7,789	4,187		4,890	4,231	5,145
September	2,020	1,797	1,425	7,246	5,543		5,376	4,317	4,792
October	2,006	1,575	1,278	5,768	3,892		5,276	4,303	4,007
November	1,946	1,312		4,963	4,741		3,720	4,089	
December	2,200	1,700		6,215	5,362		3,870	4,509	
TOTAL	**25,830**	**18,793**	**13,811**	**80,688**	**60,188**	**31,908**	**54,830**	**51,539**	**48,547**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia, UCAP, and Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 3. Export Destination of Activated Carbon from India and Indonesia, January-September 2024

India			Indonesia*)		
Country of Destination	Volume (MT)	Value (US$ 000)	Country of Destination	Volume (MT)	Value (US$ 000)
1. U S A	17,172	39,130	1. JAPAN	4,569	3,875
2. SRI LANKA	10,236	20,510	2. CHINA	2,750	3,682
3. BELGIUM	6,432	12,700	3. TAIWAN	2,104	3,503
4. RUSSIA	4,538	9,610	4. AUSTRALIA	1,095	2,325
5. JAPAN	4,475	8,660	5. GERMANY	960	1,691
6. GERMANY	4,431	8,200	6. UNITED STATES	878	1,622
7. CHINA	2,951	8,050	7. NETHERLANDS	506	850
8. GHANA	3,675	7,440	8. SOUTH KOREA	220	233
9. EGYPT	3,340	7,160	9. MALAYSIA	198	304
10. TURKEY	5,106	6,680	10. FINLAND	121	216
11. OTHERS	55,013	97,550	11. OTHERS	411	702
Total	**117,368**	**225,690**	**Total**	**13,811**	**19,003**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia and Department of Commerce, India

*) January - October 2024

Table 4. US Imports of Coconut Shell Charcoal based Activated Carbon, 2022-2024

Month	2022		2023		2024	
	Volume (MT)	Value US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value US$'000
January	4,346	11,890	5,104	11,294	3,633	6,718
February	3,752	8,976	2,817	6,855	3,510	7,400
March	5,158	13,025	3,876	9,328	3,834	8,419
April	5,081	12,464	3,435	7,940	4,503	9,134
May	6,063	15,411	3,418	8,421	4,520	9,532
June	6,404	16,212	4,269	8,929	4,045	8,638
July	5,446	13,609	4,420	8,392	3,407	7,196
August	6,315	14,927	4,210	7,866	3,809	8,224
September	7,126	16,857	3,420	6,836	3,670	8,046
October	6,600	15,926	5,209	10,728	4,386	10,323
November	5,495	13,325	3,456	7,152		
December	4,645	12,082	3,028	5,925		
Total	**66,432**	**164,704**	**46,663**	**99,665**	**39,317**	**83,631**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

ICC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

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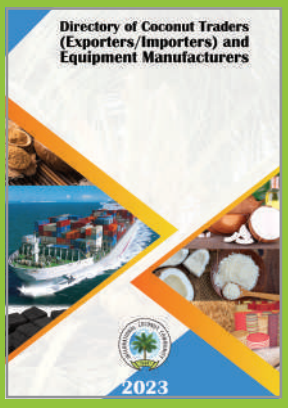

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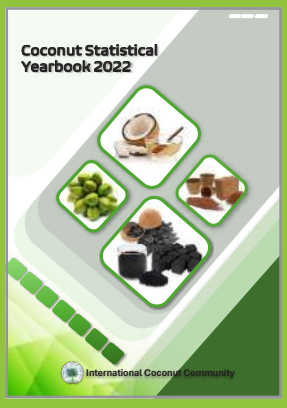

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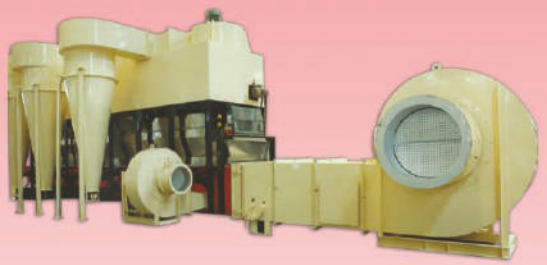
Output Capacity : 1000 to 2500 Kgs/hr.
Two Stage and Three Stage Dryers.
Apron width : 2640mm and 3250mm

COMBINATION DRYER

for Desiccated Coconut Granules, Chips,
Toasted D/C & Parings.
Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.



VIBRATORY FLUID BED DRYER

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

GRINDER

Output Capacity:
1000Kgs/hr.

BLANCHER

Output Capacity :
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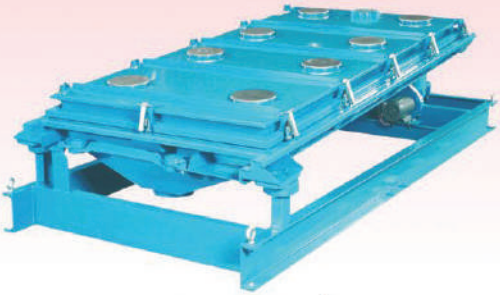

NOVATEX SCREENER/GRADER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 1500 Kgs/hr.

DESHELLING MAHINE
Output Capacity :
250 to 300 nuts/hr.

DEHUSKING MACHINE
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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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