The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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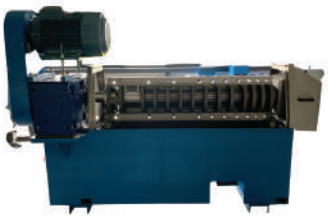

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THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SPEAKS

"One Concept, Many Benefits: Regenerative Coconut Farming for Small and Large Growers"

Regenerative coconut farming is transforming the way coconuts are cultivated, offering a holistic approach that balances productivity with sustainability. By integrating intercropping with nitrogen-fixing and high-value crops, organic soil enrichment, water conservation, and integrated pest management, this method enhances both environmental and economic resilience. Originally developed to counter the environmental degradation caused by conventional farming, regenerative agriculture emphasizes key techniques such as cover cropping, composting, agroforestry, and minimal soil disturbance. When applied to coconut farming, additional elements such as integrating livestock, composting coconut husks, and reforesting degraded lands further enrich the ecosystem while boosting farm productivity.

A compelling example of regenerative coconut farming's success comes from Thailand, where a female farmer was honored with the Best Innovative Farmer Award by the International Coconut Community (ICC). Despite working on a relatively small plot of land, she has successfully transformed her farm into a model of sustainability and profitability. She cultivates aromatic coconuts, a premium variety known for its distinctive fragrance and taste, while enhancing pollination by propagating stingless bees, not only improving yields but also producing high-quality honey as an additional income source.

To address pest control in an environmentally friendly manner, she mass-multiplies natural enemies, reducing reliance on chemical pesticides and maintaining the farm's ecological balance. By integrating biological pest control, intercropping, and sustainable pollination methods, she has created a self-sustaining ecosystem where each element works in harmony. Her farm stands as proof that regenerative coconut farming can enhance productivity, protect biodiversity, and ensure long-term sustainability in the coconut industry. Another ecofriendly aspect of her farm is the way she converts coconut husk into biochar, a highly beneficial soil amendment. Biochar not only enriches the soil but also acts as a long-term carbon sink, helping to mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon that would otherwise be released into atmosphere.

Regenerative coconut farming is a game-changer for the industry, especially considering that over 95% of the world's coconut farms are owned by smallholder farmers, with an average landholding of just 0.5 to 2 hectares. By improving soil health, enhancing biodiversity, and increasing carbon sequestration, this approach ensures long-term environmental sustainability. Economically, it strengthens resilience by diversifying income sources through intercropping, honey production, and biochar processing while reducing reliance on chemical inputs. Socially, it empowers small farmers, creates rural jobs, and improves food security. The success of innovative farmers, like the award-winning Thai farmer who has embraced this model, proves that even with limited land, regenerative coconut farming can drive productivity, profitability, and sustainability, setting an example for smallholders worldwide.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
DIRECTOR GENERAL

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

In December 2024, coconut oil prices demonstrated a synchronized upward trend across major producing countries, such as Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India. Price of desiccated coconut saw an increase in Indonesia and the Philippines, with both countries reporting higher FOB prices.

COPRA: In December 2024, copra prices in Indonesia rose to USD 1,064 per metric ton, up from USD 980 per metric ton in November. This represents a substantial year-on-year increase of USD 411 per metric ton. Similarly, the copra market in the Philippines witnessed a price increase, climbing from USD 928 per metric ton in November 2024 to USD 1,046 per metric ton in December. This reflects a year-on-year gain of USD 420 per metric ton, compared to USD 626 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 6.8% and 2.1%, respectively.

COCONUT OIL: In December 2024, coconut oil prices demonstrated a synchronized upward trend across Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and India. In Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price rose to USD 1,949 per metric ton, marking a significant 74% year-on-year increase. Similarly, the Philippines recorded a local market price of USD 1,958 per metric ton, reflecting a USD 826 increase compared to the previous year. Indonesia also experienced a considerable increase, with local prices rising to USD 1,935 per metric ton in December 2024, up from USD 1,738 per metric ton in November 2024, representing a USD 817 year-on-year gain. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka and India reported monthly growth rates in coconut oil prices of 5.0% and 4.2%, respectively.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic copra meal price rose to USD 230 per metric ton in December 2024, reflecting an increase from the previous month. However, this price represented a year-on-year decline of USD 22 per metric ton. Similarly, Indonesia reported an uptick in the average domestic copra meal price, reaching USD 267 per metric ton in December 2024, which was USD 14 per metric ton higher than the corresponding period in the previous year.

DESICCATED COCONUT: In December 2024, the average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB (Free on Board) USA from the Philippines saw an increase at US$2,278 per metric ton compared to the previous month. However, the domestic price in the Philippines maintained a stable domestic price of US$2,039 per metric ton. Indonesia's FOB price for DC increased to US$3,200 per metric ton, surpassing the figure in the previous year, which were US$1,720 per metric ton. Similarly, Sri Lanka experienced an increase in the domestic price of desiccated coconut to US$3,733 per metric ton.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In December 2024, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in the Philippines rose to US$398 per metric ton, reflecting a slight increase of US$1 per metric ton compared to the previous month. In Indonesia, the average price increased to US$622 per metric ton during the same period, while Sri Lanka experienced a moderate increase to US$522 per metric ton.

COIR FIBRE: In Sri Lanka, the domestic trade of coir fiber in December 2024 showed that mixed fiber was averaging at US$71 per metric ton, with bristle ranged between US$484 and US$771 per metric ton. Meanwhile, Indonesia maintained the price of mixed raw fiber at US$140 per metric ton in December 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 Dec	2024 Nov	2023 Dec	2024 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	182	175	128	153
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	289	268	187	214
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	389	349	224	275
India (Domestic Kerala)	744	687	430	530
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	1,060	928	626	752
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	1,064	980	653	802
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,610	1,507	1,076	1,271
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,676	1,642	1,089	1,318
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,953	1,836	1,118	1,509
Philippines (Domestic)	1,958	1,731	1,132	1,445
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,935	1,738	1,118	1,447
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,719	2,589	1,790	2,223
India (Domestic, Kerala)	2,730	2,621	1,752	2,097
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,296	2,190	1,749	2,009
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,042
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,733	3,292	1,757	2,415
Indonesia (FOB)	3,200	3,000	1,720	2,268
India (Domestic)	2,827	2,784	1,711	2,069
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	230	183	252	171
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	350	297	285	302
Indonesia (Domestic)	267	263	253	253
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	398	397	360	374
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	522	487	313	410
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	622	620	455	507
India (Domestic)	551	536	329	443
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	71	72	58	66
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	484	438	411	433
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	771	726	565	672
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	140	140	110	121
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	2,099	2,015	966	1,412
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,190	1,169	814	963
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,064	1,145	1,062	1,022

Exchange Rate

Dec 31, '24 1 US$ = P58.09 or Rp16,222 or India Rs85.58 or SL Rs293.21

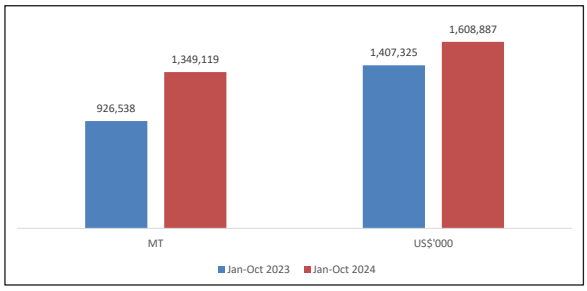
1 Euro = US$ 1.04 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF COCONUT OIL

The coconut oil market experienced significant developments in 2024, driven by shifts in trade volumes, price dynamics, and demand patterns across key global markets. Export and import data, alongside price trends, reveal the interplay of supply constraints, growing demand, and evolving market conditions that shaped the year.

Globally, the export landscape for coconut oil (CNO) exhibited mixed trends. The Philippines, a major player in the CNO market, showcased remarkable growth in export performance. From January to October 2024, the country exported 1.35 million MT of CNO, representing a 31.3% increase compared to the same period in 2023, when exports were at 926,538 MT. In value terms, exports rose by 12.5%, from $1.41 billion to $1.61 billion. This growth underscores the ability of the Philippines to capitalize on robust global demand and maintain its competitiveness in the CNO market.

Figure 1. Export of Coconut Oil from the Philippines, January-October 2023/24



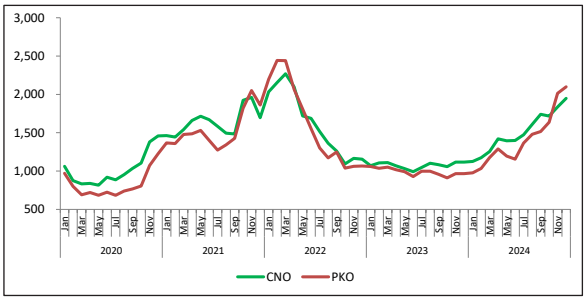
Source: Philippines Statistics Authority

Meanwhile, Indonesia, another major exporter, witnessed a 9.0% decline in CNO export volumes during January-November 2024 compared to the same period in 2023, dropping from 663,644 MT to 603,705 MT. Despite this decline, export values increased significantly by 16.5%, reflecting the impact of higher global prices. Palm kernel oil (PKO), another key lauric oil, saw a marginal 0.5% reduction in export volumes but achieved a 17.7% increase in export value, underscoring the broader value-driven trend in lauric oil markets.

The price dynamics of CNO and PKO were particularly noteworthy in 2024. CNO prices began the year at $1,126 per metric ton (MT) and rose sharply to $1,949 per MT by December, marking a 73% increase. PKO followed a similar trend, climbing from $978 per MT in January to $2,099 per MT in December, a remarkable 115% increase. This price surge was most pronounced in the second half of the year, driven by tight supplies, strong demand, and the broader influence of biofuel mandates in key markets.

One of the standout developments in 2024 was the inversion of the historical price relationship between CNO and PKO. Traditionally, CNO has commanded a premium due to its high value in food and cosmetic applications. However, by November 2024, PKO surpassed CNO in price, reflecting its growing importance in biofuel and industrial applications. This shift highlights evolving market dynamics where industrial demand is increasingly shaping price trends.

Figure 2. Price of Lauric Oils, January 2020 – December 2024 (USD/MT)



Source: ICC

Import demand in key markets provided further support for CNO prices. In the European Union (EU28), CNO import volumes increased by 1.5% during January-September 2024, accompanied by a 6.2% rise in import values. In contrast, PKO imports into the EU28 declined by 3.2% in volume and 5.9% in value, underscoring the variability in market preferences. In the United States, the CNO market saw robust growth, with

Table 1. Exports of Lauric Oils from Indonesia

		Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2023	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	618,731	663,644	7.3
	Value (USD'000)	1,018,915	664,216	-34.8
PKO	Volume (MT)	1,227,055	1,238,677	0.9
	Value (USD'000)	1,900,109	1,177,410	-38.0
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	1,845,786	1,902,320	3.1
	Value (USD'000)	2,919,024	1,841,626	-36.9

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

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

		Jan-Sep 2023	Jan-Sep 2024	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	780,689	792,420	1.5
	Value (USD'000)	1,097,160	1,165,598	6.2
PKO	Volume (MT)	599,856	580,611	-3.2
	Value (USD'000)	842,253	792,944	-5.9
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	1,380,545	1,373,031	-0.5
	Value (USD'000)	1,939,413	1,958,542	1.0

Source: ITC

imports rising by 19.1% in volume and 29.3% in value during January-October 2024, driven by strong demand for premium and sustainable oils.

Looking ahead, the price outlook for the next six months suggests some moderation in the upward trajectory, though prices are expected to remain elevated. Seasonal production increases in key exporting countries, coupled with favorable weather conditions, may ease supply constraints. For CNO, prices are projected to stabilize within the range of $1,750–$1,900

Table 3. US Imports of Lauric Oils

		Jan-Oct 2023	Jan-Oct 2024	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	345,471	411,536	19.1
	Value (USD'000)	467,774	604,764	29.3
PKO	Volume (MT)	275,207	303,306	10.2
	Value (USD'000)	374,561	363,351	-3.0
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	620,678	714,843	15.2
	Value (USD'000)	842,335	968,115	14.9

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

per MT by mid-2025, reflecting a balance between steady demand and improved supply. PKO, on the other hand, is likely to remain volatile, trading in the range of $1,900–$2,100 per MT, supported by sustained interest from biofuel and industrial sectors.

Risks to this outlook include potential weather disruptions in producing regions, policy changes impacting biofuel mandates, and shifts in global economic conditions. Conversely, a faster recovery in production or weaker-than-expected demand could temper price growth.

In conclusion, the coconut oil market in 2024 demonstrated resilience amid tight supplies and growing global demand. Despite challenges, higher prices drove strong revenue growth for exporters, even as volumes declined. The evolving dynamics between CNO and PKO, coupled with the sustained emphasis on sustainability and quality, position the coconut oil industry for continued relevance in the global edible oil and biofuel landscape. As market conditions stabilize, stakeholders will need to adapt to emerging trends and maintain a strategic focus on value-driven opportunities.

COMMUNITY 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)*

24 YOUNG ARTISANS FINISHED TRAINING ON COCONUT FIBER PRODUCTS AND COCONUT CHARCOAL/BRIQUETTES

The Training of Trainers programme engaged 24 participants, including 6 women, from training institutions, cooperative groups, NGOs, and the private sector. Through intensive days of practical learning, the training created new opportunities for income generation and promoted green resource utilization in agroforestry products by processing what is usually considered coconut waste.

The coconut fiber derived from coconut husks, can be transformed into a variety of valuable products, including ropes, mats, doormats, pots, brushes, sacks, mattress stuffing, coco peat, insulation, webbing for soil stabilization, etc. However, in Timor-Leste, the processing of coconut fiber remains very limited. Large amounts of coconut waste are often dumped and left unused, despite its significant potential. This training aimed to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to utilize coconut waste effectively, helping to improve livelihoods, create employment opportunities, and boost incomes across the country. Similarly with coconut shell, that usually discarded, could be processed into charcoal and briquette for various purposes, such as barbeque charcoal, shisha charcoal, water filter, etc.

The 10-day training, facilitated by Ichsan Mubaedi from Oesaka company in Indonesia and Donie Cannavaro from Glowing Charcoal, covered essential skills, including manual and machine processing of coconut waste products into valuable products. Although participants faced some challenges, such as being new to the processes of coconut fiber, their determination remained high. Lead trainer Ichsan encouraged participants in the training location at the CDC- Baucau, emphasizing the potential of coconut fiber as a valuable resource. "Do not lose hope. Today, coconut fiber may seem to have no value, but one day, with effort and innovation, it can grow into an incredible business." Ichsan encouraged.

Carlos da Costa, a participant from the Escola Tecnica Agricola (ETA) Don Bosco Fuiluro, expressed his excitement about the skills gained during the training, "This training has brought many positive benefits. We learned how to process coconut shells and fibers into valuable products such as ropes, mats, and pots. In our

community, we often throw away coconut shells without realizing their potential. Now, these new skills can help improve household economies, particularly for farmers and young growers in Lautem municipality." Carlos further emphasized that following this training, he is eager to share the skills with coconut farmers, young people and the community in Lautem, empowering them to generate new economic opportunities and improve their livelihoods.

Meanwhile Joanico Belo, a participant from CDC-Baucau, added the importance of hands-on practice, "This training was excellent because we focused on practical sessions. We processed dry coconut husk, crafted mats, and pots repeatedly until we mastered the techniques. After receiving detailed instruction in the classroom, we dedicated a significant amount of time to hands-on practice, allowing us to apply what we learned in a practical setting and further enhance our understanding and skills." Joanico further stated, "With initiatives like this, coconut shells and fibers that we often overlook can create new innovations and products with great economic value for our communities."

The coconut fiber products and coconut charcoal/briquettes training not only equipped participants with practical skills but also inspired them to view natural resources as tools for innovation and growth. By sharing this knowledge with farmers, students, and young people, the training paves the way for creating sustainable livelihoods and boosting local economies in the country. *(EEAS News)*

VIETNAM SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES COCONEXT CONFERENCE, STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE OF THE COCONUT INDUSTRY

The vibrant province of Ben Tre, renowned as Vietnam's coconut capital, successfully hosted the CocoNext International Conference on December 12-13, 2024. The first international coconut industry conference in Vietnam was Organized by the Vietnam Coconut Association and the Ben Tre Import-Export Joint Stock Corporation (Betrimex), the event brought together 200 participants from countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India, consisted of policymakers, scientists, investors, and coconut farmers to explore sustainable solutions and innovative strategies for advancing the Vietnamese coconut value chain.

The conference, themed "Empowering Vietnamese Coconut Value Chain", commenced with opening speeches by key leaders. Mrs. Danag Huynh Uc My, Chairlady of Betrimex. She emphasized the critical role of modern technology and international knowledge-sharing in achieving ambitious goals for Vietnam's coconut industry. Drawing on expertise from Malaysia and India, she highlighted the event's focus on practical solutions, manufacturing trends, and opportunities to optimize global competitiveness. Mrs. Uc My envisioned positioning Vietnam as a leading hub for coconut innovation while establishing the conference as an annual platform for stakeholders to collaborate and advance the sector.

In her remarks, Mrs. Nguyen Thai Kim Thanh, President of the Vietnam Coconut Association, underscored Vietnam's potential as the world's fifth-largest coconut-producing country, with nearly 200,000 hectares of cultivation. However, she noted challenges such as low productivity and limited value addition, stressing the need for a modern, sustainable, and resilient value chain. Her speech called for science and technology adoption, digital transformation, and international cooperation as key strategies to drive growth.

The conference featured multiple sessions where international experts shared their insights. Mr. Aluthwala Hewa Nuwan Chinthaka, Deputy Director General, International Coconut Community (ICC), delivered a comprehensive presentation titled "Towards A Sustainable and Resilient Global Coconut Sector". Highlighting the ICC's role in coordinating and promoting the coconut industry across 21 member countries responsible for over 90% of global production, Mr. Nuwan provided a global market outlook.

According to Mr. Nuwan, the Philippines remains the largest coconut producer, followed by Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka. While global coconut exports reached $14.2 billion in 2022, challenges such as climate change, production stagnation, and market volatility persist. Nuwan outlined strategies to ensure sustainability, including bioenergy initiatives, youth empowerment, technological innovations, and market diversification. Notably, he pointed out that Vietnam's coconut sector, currently contributing $204.6 million annually, has the potential to grow to $795 million. Key recommendations for the way forward included promoting global partnerships and knowledge-sharing networks to empower farmers through capacity building, technology transfer, and financing opportunities, promoting global partnerships and knowledge-sharing networks to empower farmers through capacity building, technology transfer, and financing opportunities, increasing investment in research and development to enhance cultivation efficiency, pest management, value addition, promoting premium-quality coconut products aligned with international standards to secure better market access.

The second session, titled "Innovation Technology for Value Creation", showcased cutting-edge solutions to enhance coconut product processing and industry value chains. Presentations included Daniel Wong, Tetra Pak, on processing coconut products, Dr. Jeyan A. Moses on food processing innovations, and Mrs. Alissa Carol M. Ibarra on science and technology strategies to advance the Philippine coconut sector. *(ICC News)*

INDONESIAN COCONUT PROCESSING INDUSTRY URGES FRUIT EXPORT RESTRICTION AMID SHORTAGE

Facing a local fruit shortage, Indonesia's coconut processing industry is urging the government to restrict shipments of the commodity abroad, including those shipped illegally.

The long dry season, caused by El Nino phenomenon, sent whole coconut production into a slump, according to Anro Simanjuntak, head of the coconut industry and various products division at the Indonesian Coconut Processing Industry Association (HIPKI).

The commodity is expected to see a 31 percent year-on-year (yoy) production decline this year. The industry is estimated to suffer a total of Rp4.3 trillion (US$266.9 million) in losses in 2024 due to the shortage.

"The domestic coconut processing industry has been short of raw materials (whole coconuts) since October 2024," Anro said as reported by Kompas.

El-Niño, which emerged from mid-2023 to the first quarter of this year, caused coconut flowers or fruit buds to fall off because they did not get enough water, he explained.

Anro went on to say that the problem was exacerbated by the increase of whole coconut exports and illegal shipments to foreign buyers, in China, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia. *(The Jakarta Post)*

TETRA PAK'S DIRECT UHT TECHNOLOGY A BOON FOR COCONUT INDUSTRY

Coconut beverages and foods, such as fresh coconut water, milk, and cream, have become deeply entrenched in the daily consumption habits of people all over the world for the past few years. Consumers favour coconut products for their low cholesterol and calorie content, along with essential vitamins, minerals, and amino acids. According to data from the Vietnam Coconut Association, eight of the top 10 countries in the world for coconut production currently come from Asia-Pacific, in which Vietnam ranks the fourth in terms of export value.

However, coconuts are considered among the hardest raw materials to work with. Coconut water is perishable, quickly losing its nutrients and flavour due to natural enzymatic activity as soon as the fruit is opened. As a result, coconut

water and its components must be processed quickly to minimize the food waste.

Backed by over 70 years of expertise in global food processing and packaging and more than 30 years of partnership with the coconut industry, Tetra Pak has introduced Direct UHT technology and innovative packaging solutions to enable maximum taste and nutrition control to secure the quality of end products. At Coconext 2024 in Ben Tre province on December 12, Vietnam's first international conference about coconuts, the company showcased advanced, modern processing and packaging solutions for the industry. These innovations aim to help Vietnamese businesses expand product portfolios, enhance product values, and boost competitiveness in the global market.

Tetra Pak introduced a groundbreaking advancement in food processing with its Direct UHT technology. This state-of-the-art method employs ultra-high heat for an extremely short duration to effectively eliminate harmful microorganisms, followed by rapid cooling. The innovative approach ensures that the natural flavour and nutritional integrity of coconut products are preserved, while extending their shelf life up to 12 months - eliminating the need for preservatives or refrigeration.

This technology is adaptable for various coconut products, especially coconut water and coconut milk, meeting the long-term production needs of businesses. At the same time, the technology ensures the retention of essential nutrients and the natural flavour of fresh coconuts, delivering high-quality products to consumers. The Direct UHT system is also designed to save energy, minimize by-products, and support businesses in achieving their sustainability goals. Another advantage is that the technology seamlessly integrates with modern monitoring systems, enabling businesses to fully control production processes and enhance the quality of their output.

At CocoNext 2024, experts emphasized that adopting advanced technology is no longer an option, but a must for industry-sustainable development and enhancing supply chain value. Nguyen Thi Kim Thanh, president of the Vietnam Coconut Association, said, "It is important to build a comprehensive, modern, and sustainable value chain for the coconut sector. Businesses need to invest in advanced processing facilities, adopt high-tech production methods, and focus on organic practices to boost productivity and product quality."

As the world-leading player in food processing and packaging, Tetra Pak introduced Tetra PlantMaster, a plant automation solution, specifically designed for food production. It covers the entire operation, from raw material intake to packaged and palletized products. Although complex on the inside, it explains everything in one comprehensible, intuitive interface.

This solution enables businesses to optimize production costs, enhance competitiveness, and ensure efficiency at every stage of the production process–from raw material preparation to product packaging. With these cutting-edge solutions, Tetra Pak has reaffirmed its leadership in supporting the food processing industry to achieve sustainable development goals.

"Tetra Pak is committed to delivering advanced and sustainable processing and packaging solutions that enhance the value of coconut products. Furthermore, we support our clients in optimizing operational costs, ensuring consistent product quality, and enabling seamless product traceability. These efforts bolster the credibility and competitive edge of businesses in the market," said Ngo Thanh, processing director at Tetra Pak Vietnam.

Supporting Vietnamese food and beverage businesses in adapting to the evolving market, Tetra Pak is committed to providing the world-class advanced technologies and solutions to help customers expand their product portfolios and achieve specific sustainability goals. One example is the Bloom Centre in Binh Duong,

which assists businesses in developing coconut-based products that meet consumers' diverse needs. Tetra Prisma Aseptic packaging offers a convenient and fresh coconut water experience, while Tetra Recart expands the range of shelf-stable ready-to-eat meals without preservatives.

With a comprehensive range of creative and sustainable solutions, Tetra Pak is helping businesses maximize the value of coconuts, creating products that align with trends and cater to the increasingly diverse consumer demands. *(Vietnam Investment Review)*

HIPKI URGES GOVERNMENT TO BAN COCONUT EXPORTS

The Indonesian Coconut Processing Industry Association (HIPKI) is urging the government to implement the coconut downstream policy to tackle the shortage of raw materials that threaten the sustainability of Indonesia's coconut processing industry.

HIPKI's daily chairman, Rudy Handiwidjaja, said that while the government had launched the Coconut Downstream Industry Roadmap (PJHK) on Sept. 30, its impact has yet to be felt. "Until now, the effects of the government's initiative have not been felt by us," Rudy said during a press conference in Jakarta.

Rudy explained that rising coconut exports have led to a shortage of raw materials domestically, causing prices to spike and affecting production in the coconut processing industry. HIPKI said many coconut processing companies have been forced to cease operations due to the scarcity of raw materials, despite Indonesia having the world's second-largest coconut plantations.

As a result, HIPKI is calling for the immediate implementation of the coconut roadmap, including restricting or banning the export of whole coconuts and imposing export duties. Rudy explained that if Indonesia bans the export of raw coconuts, it could stabilize the supply of raw materials for domestic industries, increase demand for processed coconut products locally, expand production capacity, and create new jobs.

He said that added value from coconut products should benefit Indonesia, not other countries that process raw materials sourced from Indonesia.

"We understand that when raw coconuts are exported, the added value is created abroad. We want that added value to remain in Indonesia for the welfare of the Indonesian people," he said.

HIPKI is confident that Indonesia has the capacity to develop a sustainable coconut processing industry. However, Rudy stressed that this requires the government's commitment to providing clear policies, including stricter export regulations. He warned that without strong regulations, the domestic coconut processing industry would be at risk, and Indonesia would continue to import coconut milk, despite having the raw materials domestically.

"We do not want a situation where Indonesia's coconut processing industry cannot produce coconut milk due to a lack of raw materials, and then we import it from abroad, even though the raw material comes from Indonesia. This is a problem that must be addressed. We urge the government to pay more attention to the coconut processing industry in Indonesia," he concluded. *(Jakarta Globe)*

VIETNAM'S COCONUT INDUSTRY TARGETS $1 BILLION IN EXPORTS WITH SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS

Signed trade agreements are fostering an environment conducive for the coconut to emerge as a key industrial crop in Vietnam. This scenario, however, presents a challenge that necessitates a strategy for sustainable development, aiming to align coconut products with the escalating standards of export markets.

The dialogue regarding the maximization of coconut's market potential, both domestically and internationally, took place at a forum in Ben

Tre, a province in the Mekong Delta. The event, which occurred on December 13, was a collaborative effort between the Vietnam Agriculture Newspaper, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)'s Department of Quality, Processing, and Market Development, among other relevant entities. It acted as a pivotal nexus in the coconut value chain, promoting stakeholder engagement to explore cooperative ventures.

Highlighting coconut's status as a primary crop under a project targeting the advancement of six key industrial crops by 2030, Nguyen Thi Thanh Thuy from MARD underscored the exponential growth of the coconut industry. From an export turnover of US$180 million in 2010, the industry's value surged to over $900 million in 2023, with projections indicating a leap beyond $1 billion in 2024. The enhancement in the value of processed coconut products is anticipated to elevate farmer incomes significantly.

Current statistics reveal that 30% of coconut plantations comply with VietGAP standards, with a similar percentage receiving planting area codes. The goal is to expand coconut cultivation to over 200,000 ha by 2030, primarily in the Mekong Delta and the south-central coastal region.

In Ben Tre, dubbed Vietnam's "coconut capital," the crop is a major income source for over 200,000 rural households, with the province boasting 133 certified cultivation areas and 14 enterprises authorized to package coconuts for the Chinese market. The province's export earnings from coconut exceed $350 million annually.

The province has also made strides in developing an organic coconut material area, establishing a value chain with enterprises employing modern processing technologies. These efforts facilitate the export of organic coconut products to key markets, including the US, EU, Japan, China, Canada, and the Republic of Korea.

With coconut exports expected to surpass $1 billion, the industry is encouraged by the US and Europe's acceptance of Vietnamese coconuts and ongoing negotiations with China for official export channels. This development is poised to augment market access and foster the sustainable growth of the coconut industry in Vietnam.

Localities are urged to capitalize on government and MARD policies to bolster farmer production activities, while businesses are advised to devise strategies to enhance product value in international markets, thereby benefiting the farming community. *(Fresh Plaza)*

DESICCATED COCONUTS: PHILIPPINE PRODUCTION TO BE STRENGTHENED

Urgently needed new plantings

Coconut production in the Philippines is expected to stagnate in 2025, according to experts from BusinessWorld. The trees in the plantations are getting older and older, which goes hand in hand with declining productivity. Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority already shows a slight decline in production, which, apart from the advanced age of the palm trees, is mainly due to unfavourable weather conditions as a result of climate change. In response to the declining productivity, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has instructed the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) to come up with a plan to revitalize the industry. According to BusinessWorld, the aim is to plant a total of 100 million new coconut palms by 2028. 8.5 million of these are to be planted this year, and the number of new plantings is to be significantly increased in subsequent years.

It is important that the state and the private sector work together to achieve these goals. In addition, the so-called Coco Levy Fund has been set up to support the modernization and the rehabilitation of the coconut industry. BusinessWorld reports, citing market expert Romeo I. Chan, that the act mandates a phased financial infusion into a trust fund dedicated to these efforts, and is to provide up to USD 1.3 billion over a period of five years.

Philippine exports on the rise

Meanwhile, T.M. Duché reports that global demand for desiccated coconuts continues to increase. The Philippine domestic market nevertheless recorded a slight decline in prices, while export prices rose compared to last week. The Philippines' desiccated coconut exports increased by 8.4% to 14,672 mt in October, exceeding the monthly average of 13,972 mt by 5%. The most important buyers are still the USA, the Netherlands and China. Despite the strong demand, however, there are also numerous challenges, according to T.M. Duché. Weather-related interruptions in the Philippines have reduced supply and increased production costs. In addition, there is competition from other tropical oil-producing countries. *(Mundus Agri)*

IS COCONUT OIL HAIR OIL OR EDIBLE OIL? SUPREME COURT SOLVES OLD PUZZLE

A three-judge bench of Supreme Court on Wednesday solved a 20-year-old riddle that plagued levying of excise duty - whether pure coconut oil is to be classified as an edible oil or under cosmetics as hair oil?

This question had got a split verdict from the bench of the then CJI and Justice R Banumathi. While Justice Gogoi, who retired as CJI in Nov 2019, was of the view coconut oil in small packaging was appropriately classified as edible oil, Justice Banumathi opined that coconut oil packed in small containers are to be classified as hair oil.

A bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna, and Justices Sanjay Kumar and R Mahadevan, aware of the dual use of coconut oil in different parts of the country, said the classification would depend on the branding of the oil as edible to meet the criteria under food safety regulations, and conform to a different criterion under Drugs and Cosmetics Act to be classified as hair oil.

Writing the judgment, Justice Kumar rejected argument of revenue dept that pure coconut oil should invariably be classified as hair oil and said, "We are of the opinion that pure coconut oil sold in small quantities as 'edible oil' would be classifiable as edible oil". Revenue dept had said the bunch of appeals involved Rs 160 crore in terms of excise duty, penalties, redemption fine and interest.

SC said, "The fact that such edible coconut oil was sold in smaller containers would not, by itself, be indicative of it being packaging of a kind fit for use as 'hair oil'."

"One may choose to buy one's cooking oil in small quantities, be it for economic or for health reasons or due to inclination to use fresh oil in food preparation, and the smaller size of the packaging of such oil cannot be taken to mean that it is to be used as 'hair oil' without any pointer to that effect, be it by way of a label or literature or by any other indication that it is to be used as 'hair oil'," it said.

"Small-sized containers are common to both 'edible oils' and 'hair oils'. Therefore, there must be something more to distinguish between them for classification of such oil, other than size of the packaging," the bench said. *(The Times of India)*

OPENING OF OVERSEAS MARKETS BOOSTS COCONUT EXPORTS

Signed trade agreements are creating favourable conditions for coconut to truly become a key industrial crop. However, this is also a challenge that requires a sustainable development strategy so that coconut products can meet the increasing standard requirements of export markets.

This information was released at a forum on connecting coconut production and consumption held in the Mekong Delta province of Ben Tre on December 13. The event allowed relevant parties to discuss ways to fully tap the potential of both domestic and international markets to develop coconut into a billion-USD industry.

Co-organized by the Vietnam Agriculture Newspaper, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural

Development (MARD)'s Department of Quality, Processing and Market Development, and relevant agencies, the event served as a strategic bridge in the coconut value chain, allowing stakeholders to connect to fully tap the cooperation opportunities.

Investing heavily in coconut trees

Nguyen Thi Thanh Thuy, Director of the Department of Science, Technology and Environment under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, said that coconut is a mainstay according to a project to develop six key industrial crops to 2030, including coffee, rubber, tea, cashew, and pepper.

From a modest figure of 180 million USD in export turnover in 2010, the coconut industry has grown strongly, reaching more than 900 million USD in 2023 and is expected to exceed 1 billion USD in 2024.

Vietnamese coconut is becoming a high-value export commodity, and processed coconut products are expected to increase the value of coconut cultivation and raise incomes for farmers, Thuy said.

According to statistics, 30% of coconut plantations have been certified as meeting VietGAP standards, and 30% have been granted planting area codes.

Thuy said Vietnam aims to have over 200,000 ha of coconut nationwide by 2030 with key coconut-growing regions being the Mekong Delta (about 175,000 ha) and the south-central coastal region.

Deputy Director of the Ben Tre provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Huynh Quang Duc said Ben Tre is known as the "coconut capital" of Vietnam with over 80,000 ha, accounting for 88% of the total coconut area in the Mekong Delta, and nearly 42% of that nationwide. The coconut has been identified as a key crop that brings a major source of income for over 200,000 rural households in the locality. *(Vietnam Plus)*

PCA TARGETS TO FERTILIZE 55K COCONUT PALMS FOR INCREASED YIELD

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) will spend about PHP1.5 billion to fertilize some 55,000 coconut palms in 2025 through the Coconut Fertilization Project for increased yield and income for coconut farmers.

PCA Administrator Dr. Dexter Buted, during the second Salt Congress, said the project involves the rehabilitation of low bearing mature palms with relatively high chances of increased commercial value of production through the application of agricultural grade salt fertilizer (AGSF), production of compost as soil conditioner using composting facility for biodegradable wastes (CFBW), and provision of incentives for the compost produce.

He said a total of 2.12 million 50-kilo bags of AGSF and 375,000 50-kilo bags of organic fertilizer will be needed.

The provincial government of Pangasinan will supply the PCA with 4,180 bags of locally produced AGSF from the Pangasinan Salt Center, while the local government of Dasol and the Dasol Salt Makers Association (DSMA) will also supply 5,000 bags of AGSF.

"Expected increase in coconut yields by 25 percent or more within the next five years. Projected increase in farmer income by 10 percent or more, improving their livelihoods," Buted said.

The country's coconut production slightly contracted in 2023 due to the effects of El Niño phenomenon, at 14.89 million metric tons, lower than the 14.93 million metric tons in the previous year.

Some 589,700 coconut palms in 2022 and 1.74 million in 2023 have been fertilized.

Buted said the coconut fertilization project targets to increase production to 2.9 billion nuts that will result to PHP20.8 billion income in 2026,

and 3.98 billion nuts or PHP24.9 billion income in 2027.

He said there are a total of 3.6 million hectares of coconut plantation in the country, with 340 million total coconut tree and 2.5 million coconut farmers.

He added the coconut fertilization project would also benefit the salt industry. *(Philippine News Agency)*

EXPANDING GLOBAL COCONUT DEMAND AND THE NEED FOR INCREASING LOCAL COCONUT PRODUCTION

The sudden increase in coconut prices in the local market in Sri Lanka is the 'talk of the town' these days! What was about Rs 80-100 a nut a few weeks ago in the open market has shot up to Rs 170 and above! There appears to be a decline of about 25% in the national production this year due to the drought last year, the coconut yield being heavily dependent on the previous year's rainfall. The growing demand for coconuts in the processing sector has also aggravated the consumer nut price.

As reported by Mordor Intelligence, of our three major plantation crops, the global tea market was USD 24.4 billion in 2023 and is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.9% during the next decade, whereas the global rubber market was USD 16.5 billion and is projected to grow at a CAGR of only 3.06%. The global coconut products market, on the other hand, in 2023 was USD 20.2 billion and is forecast to grow at the highest rate of 8.4% CAGR. Even the palm oil market, which was valued at USD 70.4 billion last year, is growing slower than the coconut, being only 5.1%.

Kernel products

The growing awareness about the health benefits of coconut, especially in developed countries, is expected to expand the demand for coconut kernel products as people become more and more conscious of the food they consume.

The global demand for processed coconut kernel products is predicted to grow at a CAGR of 10%, of which the highest demand is for coconut milk. This market now stands at about USD 2.2 billion and is expected to treble in the next decade at a CAGR of 17%. Coconut milk contains short-chain fatty acids proven to have health benefits. Coconut milk powder is also in great demand and used largely for similar purposes as coconut milk. The market size was USD 2.5 billion in 2023 and is forecast to expand over the next decade at more than 7.3% CAGR.

Similarly, the coconut oil and desiccated coconut (DC) demands are predicted to double in the next decade at a CAGR of 7% and 16%, respectively. As for coconut milk, the growing consumer demand for natural and unprocessed foods is expanding the DC market globally. Its richness in dietary fibre, healthy fats, and essential nutrients are key to its demand. It is marketed in many European countries and the US as a superfood, appealing to health-conscious consumers.

Coconut oil was the world's number one vegetable oil in the past, but with the disruption of supplies to the West from the Asian countries during the Second World War, soya oil was substituted for coconut oil, and with the resumption of supplies after the war, the soya oil lobby instituted a massive anti-coconut oil campaign on the basis of the lipid hypothesis. The hypothesis is that saturated fats and dietary cholesterol elevate blood serum cholesterol, increasing the risk of cardiovascular diseases. The campaign had been so successful that it was said that the Americans feared coconut oil more than ghosts! However, over the past few decades, with the realization of its health benefits, the market has expanded substantially.

Coconut oil is now widely used in beverage, cosmetic, personal care, and pharmaceutical industries. It is a functional food. The medium-chain fatty acids (lauric and capric) and monoglycerides found primarily in coconut oil, as in mother's milk, have healing properties.

The USD 2.7 billion virgin coconut oil (VCO) market is projected to double over the next eight years at a CAGR of 8.3%. It is the purest form of coconut oil, containing natural vitamin E, and its rich flavour and mild aroma have expanded its use in the food industry. Also, its extensive use for cosmetic and therapeutic purposes has drawn many pharmaceutical companies to invest in the product. VCO is healthier than conventional coconut oil, and its use in HIV/AIDS and anti-cancer therapy is significantly expanding.

The global market of coconut water, which now stands at USD 2.84 billion, is forecast to grow at 10.8% CAGR over the next five years. Consumers conscious of fitness and health seek coconut water because of its low fat and sugar content. It is widely marketed as a dehydrator, diuretic, and digestive soother.

Coconut is called the 'Tree of Life' as virtually nothing of the tree is discarded. Apart from the kernel, the husks and shells of the nuts are used in various ways, but there is little information on the global markets of the products.

Husks for energy generation

Ten coconut husks (about one kilogram) on combustion have been shown to generate as much as 5 kWh of energy, the equivalent of one litre of petrol. If 20% of the local production of coconut husks is combusted, assuming a heat-to-energy conversion of 30%, an energy yield equivalent to 0.3 billion litres of petrol or about 150,000 GWh could be generated, which is equivalent to the total national power requirement. Already India is on this technology, and the government should provide the necessary resources to the Coconut Research Institute to undertake the development of this technology.

Increase production

The critical limitation to the expansion of the processing industries is the shortage of nuts, as 75 to 80% of the production is used for household consumption. The national coconut production has been fluctuating between 2,700 million and 3,000 million nuts a year, essentially depending on the rainfall. A marginal increase in production has been shown over the last several years, largely due to the expansion of the coconut cover. However, the national coconut productivity has been virtually stagnant over the past several decades, with a per-tree yield of only about 40-45 nuts a year, whereas the research yields of hybrid cultivars, bred over the last 50 years, are more than double! Regrettably, the current coconut cover has only about 5% of them!

Several matters need to be addressed in increasing coconut production in the short term. Firstly, fertilizer use should be increased, as only 25% of the total coconut cover receives any fertilizer now. Correct application has been shown to increase crop productivity by 25 to 50%. At the same time, irrigation of the crop during dry weather, where possible, through on-farm water harvesting or other means, should be promoted. Replanting with high-yielding cultivars of old and unproductive coconuts is critically needed. However, the Coconut Research Institute's seed gardens have the potential to produce only about 25% of the national seed nut requirement of about 1.5 million of the high-yielding cultivars to meet the requisite annual national replanting and under-planting rates. Thus the seed gardens should be expanded as a matter of high priority.

Further, the coconut cultivation should be expanded. However, such expansion in the dry areas is limited, but there is the potential for expansion of coconut into the upper catchments of fallow paddy fields in the catena in the wet zone, in raised beds as done under the 'Sojan' system in Indonesia. There are some 140,000 acres of such paddy fields. Even much of the other paddy land in the wet zone can be used for the purpose, as it is uneconomical to grow paddy in them. Moreover, coconut can be intercropped with tea as a shade tree in the mid and low countries of the wet zone, as already done in some areas.

Given the huge potential of the industry, the new government must address the issues at stake as a matter of high priority. *(Sunday Times LK)*

INDONESIA DEVELOPS TECHNOLOGY FOR BIOJET FUEL FROM COCONUT OIL

A researcher from the Chemical Research Center of the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Deliana Dahnum, has developed a metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) catalyst to convert coconut oil into bio-jet fuel, a renewable fuel that uses vegetable oil as raw material, the Antara News reported.

Dahnum said that coconut oil is a good raw material for bio-jet fuel since coconuts that are unfit for consumption, such as old, small, or moldy coconuts, can be processed to make alternative aircraft fuel. The process to convert coconut oil into bio-jet is a catalysis process and would need the help of an efficient catalyst. Dahnum thus developed an MOFs-based catalyst, an innovative material to convert coconut oil into bio-jet fuel productively and effectively.

She expressed optimism that the innovation will cut fossil fuel dependence and support the use of environmentally friendly local materials. It would also contribute to the success of Indonesia's 2050 net zero emissions target through the strategic conversion of its resources into new and renewable energy alternatives. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

DTI CHAMPIONS PH COCONUT INDUSTRY AT FIRST-EVER COCONUTPHILIPPINES TRADE FAIR

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) showcased the diversity and innovation of the country's coconut industry at the first COCONUTPhilippines Trade Fair held from December 2 to 4.

Organized by the DTI-Bureau of Marketing and Development Promotions Office (BMDPO), in collaboration with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and other key stakeholders, the event brought together over 90 exhibitors from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

Attendees explored a wide range of coconut products, including virgin coconut oil, coconut sugar, coco coir, charcoal briquettes, food and beverages, cosmetics, and eco-friendly packaging solutions.

Symbolizing the growth and resilience of the coconut industry, the fair opened with the lighting of a coconut-themed Christmas tree. This tree was decorated with ornaments made from coconut materials to represent the creativity and sustainability that define the industry.

The event also saw the debut of CocoMania mascots—CocoMania Buko and CocoMania Niyog—representing fresh and dried coconut varieties. These mascots will serve as industry ambassadors in future campaigns.

Furthermore, the COCONUTPhilippines Trade Fair marked the launch of the COCONUTPhilippines brand—a unified brand identity that seeks to strengthen the global presence of Philippine coconut products. This brand attests to the hard work and innovation of Philippines farmers, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders in promoting high-quality, innovative, and sustainable coconut-based goods worldwide.

Beyond festivities, the trade fair provided a platform for product launches, market testing and benchmarking, business matching and networking, and direct selling.

The COCONUTPhilippines Trade Fair is integral to the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), mandated under Republic Act No. 11524, the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act. This comprehensive program underscores the government's commitment to addressing the needs of the coconut farming sector through income diversification, market expansion, and poverty alleviation.

PCA Administrator Dr. Dexter Buted emphasized the importance of the collaboration among CFIDP's implementing agencies.

"The CFIDP is not just a roadmap—it's a commitment to the future of our coconut farmers and entrepreneurs, whose hard work and dedication sustain this industry. Through an integrated, multi-sectoral and whole of government approach, we hope to provide them with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed," said Dr. Buted. *(DTI News)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Lauric oils continued to show firmer values during the week on supply tightness.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market remained a dull affair for the seventh straight week this week amid cautious players. The market earlier opened with offers flat across all positions from January/February 2025 through to June/July at $1,975/MT CIF. Compared to last Friday though, the first quarter positions were firmer and the rest unchanged. Despite the weakness in palm oil, levels remained steady but towards the weekend eventually succumbed to palm oil's easing tendency to settle at close lower at $1,960-1,970/MT CIF.

Palm kernel oil similarly was a lackluster affair for eight weeks now. The market likewise ignored palm oil weakness and started the week with quotations mostly steady at $1,980-2,012.50/MT CIF for positions from December/January through to June/July 2025. Thereafter, prices stood generally lower influenced by palm oil but closed firmly at $1,965-2,022.50/MT CIF ignoring palm oil trend.

Coconut oil prices remained discounted under palm kernel oil across all positions this week except for far forward June/July 2025. Of note was the sharply declining discounts in the second quarter 2025 positions, that eventually flipped into premium by June/July. The current week's average spread came down to $20.25/MT from $30.98 last week and $45.33 two weeks ago. Price premium/discounts per position are shown following: December/January -$33.63 (-$67.00 last week); January/February -$33.00 (-$26.00); February/March -$29.50 (-$26.00); March/April -$17.50 (-$22.00); April/May -$17.50 (-$22.13); May/June -$16.00 (-$50.75); June/July $4.00 (-$29.00).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures earlier were little moved due to projections of ample South American supply, offsetting a higher USDA estimate for US soya oil exports. The market shortly turned firmer on USDA reports of 334,000 MT US soybean sales on Thursday and 200,000 MT on Friday to unknown destinations. The news from the US Soybean Export Council (USEC) that the 2023/24 marketing year was a record one for soybean meal export also was supportive to market. On the other hand, soybean oil was the weakest leg in the complex.

At the palm oil section, bearishness prevailed this week, extending last Friday's lower close. Pressures came from the Malaysian Palm Oil Board report indicating 15% shortfall in palm oil exports to 1.487 million MT in November from prior month at 1.744 million MT, resulting in increased stocks. Demand was also affected by the currently high palm oil prices. The downward scope though was interrupted once during the week on Thursday by concerns over supply tightness following Indonesia's announcement to increase the biodiesel mandate to 40% (B40) from the current 35% (B35) taking effect at the start of 2025.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment continued the rise for the third consecutive week. For this week, coconut oil led the charge, increasing $60.38 from $1,919.00 a week ago to $1,979.38/MT CIF currently, trailed by palm oil which climbed $59.50 from $1,372.00 to $1,431.50/MT CIF and palm kernel oil with gain of $33.62 from $1,986.00 to $2,013.00/MT CIF. Consequently, the price discount of coconut oil under palm kernel oil tightened from $67.00 a week ago to $33.62/MT this week, while the price premium over palm oil recovered from $547.00 to $547.88/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

The Rotterdam coconut oil market was a nonevent anew. The market saw improved levels than last week but ended in the negative zone at the close. Closing offers stood at $1,970 for December/January and January/February; $1,965 for February/March; $1,960 for March/April; and $1,970/MT CIF for April/May through to June/July. Buyers remained watching. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

VIETNAM'S COCONUT INDUSTRY EYES BILLION-DOLLAR MARKETS

Vietnam's coconut industry has recently emerged as a key economic driver for the Mekong Delta and south-central coastal regions thanks to the signing of agreements for the product to enter billion-dollar markets such as the US, Europe, and China.

Strong resources, growing potential

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam currently boasts over 200,000 hectares of coconut cultivation.

Coconut is now one of the six key crops included in the national programme for industrial crop development by 2030.

From generating 180 million USD in export revenue in 2010, coconut exports reached 900 million USD in 2023, and the sector is expected to surpass the billion-dollar mark in 2024.

With this trajectory, the ministry aims to enhance the scale and quality of the coconut industry for further global expansion.

On the global map of coconut production and exports, Vietnam ranks sixth among the top ten coconut-producing countries, with an annual output of nearly 2 million tonnes.

The country's coconut quality and yield place it among the global leaders, with coconut meat making up 35% and coconut water 27%, both surpassing the global average by 5%. Dr Tran Thi My Hanh, from the Southern Horticultural Research Institute (SOFRI), highlighted these exceptional figures.

In terms of coconut cultivation, the Mekong Delta province of Ben Tre is the largest producer, with over 80,000 hectares dedicated to the crop.

Huynh Quang Duc, Deputy Director of the Ben Tre Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, noted that the province is the coconut capital of the nation, accounting for 42% of Vietnam's total coconut area.

Coconut farming is a vital source of income for over 200,000 rural households in the province. In recent years, many farmers have switched from less profitable rice farming to coconut cultivation, boosting incomes and providing a sustainable livelihood.

Ben Tre's coconut products are expected to generate 500 million USD in export revenue in 2024, contributing over 50% of the nation's total coconut export value.

The Chinese market is seen as a significant opportunity for Vietnamese coconuts. China, with its large population, has a high demand for coconut-based products, including fresh coconuts, coconut water, coconut oil, and processed coconut products.

With its proximity to Vietnam, the country enjoys a competitive advantage in shipping costs compared to Southeast Asian and African competitors. Additionally, free trade agreements between ASEAN and China have facilitated easier access to this lucrative market.

Vietnam's large coconut production capacity, particularly from Ben Tre and the Mekong Delta, ensures a stable supply for China.

It is estimated that China consumes around 4 billion coconuts annually, with approximately 2.6 billion being fresh coconuts.

Despite the high demand, China's domestic production is insufficient, presenting an opportunity for Vietnam's coconut exports to fill this gap.

Maximizing the value of coconut

While the Vietnamese coconut sector has several advantages, experts in the coconut processing industry warn that strict management of production and exports is crucial to sustaining growth.

Nguyen Phong Phu, Technical Director of Vina T&T Group, emphasized that the approval of Vietnam's fresh coconut exports to China has opened up significant economic opportunities.

However, to maintain this success, both government authorities and producers must work together to manage production standards and combat fraudulent practices.

The government must implement digital systems for managing export regions and enforce strict penalties against fraudulent activities to protect the reputation of Vietnamese coconut products.

Coconuts offer high economic value not only through the export of fresh fruits to markets like the US, Australia, and China, but also through by-products such as coir, activated carbon, and coconut-based handicrafts.

Nguyen Thi Kim Thanh, Chairwoman of the Vietnam Coconut Association, pointed out that of the 200,000 hectares of coconut plantations across the country, 120,000 hectares are dedicated to the processing industry.

To increase coconut value, Vietnam must invest in quality coconut varieties while also focusing on maintaining a strong processing industry.

Currently, Vietnam is emerging as a supplier of raw coconut materials to global processing markets. However, infrastructure improvements are needed in rural coconut-growing areas to reduce intermediaries and shorten the supply chain.

This would allow farmers to access the market more directly, enhancing their income and creating incentives to continue growing coconuts.

With these advantages, Vietnam's coconut sector is proving its ability to deliver high value for producers and processors.

The coconut is a versatile crop, where no part is wasted. Le Thanh Hoa, Deputy Director of the Department of Quality, Processing, and Market Development, added that the coconut has been included in the Ministry's list of key industrial crops.

Government policies to support the sector's growth are in place, and local authorities must leverage these policies to further enhance production and export activities. *(VietNamNet)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

INDONESIA TO PROCESS USED COOKING OIL INTO AVIATION FUEL

Indonesia's state-owned oil and gas company Pertamina plans to process used cooking oil (UCO) into environmentally friendly aviation fuel as part of its green energy agenda, a report from The Star said. The plan will be carried out by Pertamina's subsidiary, PT Kilang Pertamina Internasional (KPI), under the Green Refinery Cilacap Project in collaboration with UCO exporter PT Gapura Mas Lestari.

The project is estimated to process feedstock with a capacity of 6,000 barrels per day (bpd) to produce hydrotreated vegetable oil and sustainable aviation fuel. According to Pertamina, the production is estimated to reach around 300,000 kilolitres per year. President Director of KPI Taufik Aditiyawarman said that the project aims to provide alternative energy

sources, create added value for the community, support local development, and reduce environmental impacts. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

BOLSTERING PALM OIL INDUSTRY TO SPEED UP ENERGY TRANSITION

Energy transition has become one of the main concerns of countries around the world, including Indonesia.

Having signed and ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016, Indonesia is pursuing the goals of limiting a global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius and global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The country is pursuing the goals by reducing carbon dioxide (CO_2), or decarbonization, in all aspects of development.

President Prabowo Subianto, in his Asta Cita goals, has also highlighted the government's commitment to reduce the release of carbon emissions in the industrialization process to maintain environmental sustainability.

To show its solid commitment to decarbonization, the government has set an ambitious target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by raising the total carbon emission reduction target in the Enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (ENDC) from 29 percent, or 835 million tons of CO_2, to 32 percent, or 912 million tons of CO_2, by 2030.

The transition to new renewable energy is part of the strategy to achieve the ENDC target.

This includes reducing the consumption of fossil fuels and shifting to biodiesel made from crude palm oil (CPO).

Thus, the palm oil industry has a key role in realizing the energy transition to biodiesel in the country.

The government has implemented the B30 (30 percent biodiesel mix) use program from 2020 and the B35 (35 percent biodiesel mix) program from 2023.

Furthermore, the B40 (40 percent biodiesel mix) program is planned to be rolled out in January 2025, while the B50 (50 percent biodiesel mix) program is projected to be implemented in 2026.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is also currently preparing a concept for the development of biodiesel up to B100 as part of efforts to realize energy self-sufficiency.

In this regard, the capacity of CPO production in the country will determine how fast Indonesia can realize its transition to biofuels.

Challenges

In pursuing the energy transition, the government is facing the challenge of balancing domestic CPO needs for the food, oleochemical, and biodiesel sectors with export needs so as to maintain national economic income.

This is essential because CPO exports make a large contribution to state revenue every year. In 2024, the government believes that the economic value of the palm oil industry may reach up to Rp775 trillion (around US$48.78 billion).

When the government made B30 use mandatory in 2020, the CPO production capacity that year stood at around 47 million tons.

Meanwhile, CPO allocated for biodiesel reached 8.46 million kiloliters, or equal to 8.4 million tons. The remaining was used for export purposes (28.27 million tons) and to meet other domestic needs, such as food and oleochemicals.

The B30 program that year helped save Rp63.4 trillion (around US$3.9 billion) in foreign exchange and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 14.34 million tons of CO_2.

It also generated jobs for more than 1 million people in the upstream sector as well as increased farmers' income.

Meanwhile, the use of B30 in 2021 led to greenhouse gas emission reduction of 24.6 million tons of CO_2, or 7.8 percent of the new and renewable energy achievement target for 2030.

In 2023, Indonesia's palm oil production reached 50.07 million tons. Of the total, around 32 million tons was exported, 13.15 million kiloliters were allocated for biodiesel production, and the rest for the food and oleochemical sectors.

According to the government, for the mandatory B40 biodiesel program in January 2025, the palm oil industry must allocate at least 16.08 million kiloliters of CPO per year so as not to disrupt exports.

As for the B50 program, 19.7 million kiloliters of CPO will be needed per year.

Given the importance of balancing CPO production for meeting export and domestic needs for biodiesel, food, and oleochemicals, the Indonesian government has formulated a strategy to ensure that the B40 and B50 biodiesel programs do not hinder exports of CPO and its derivative products.

The strategy involves the Ministry of Agriculture intensifying and rejuvenating oil palm plantations to increase domestic CPO production.

Currently, the average palm oil productivity is still at 3 tons per hectare equivalent to CPO. However, through the two programs, the figure can be increased to 5–6 tons per hectare.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is addressing the issue of CPO shortage for the B40 program in 2025 by encouraging 24 biofuel business entities (BU BBN) to increase production by 0.3 million kiloliters.

The current installed capacity for CPO production is pegged at 15.8 million kiloliters.

As for the B50 program in 2026, the government is targeting to create seven to nine CPO processing factories to meet the need for conversion to biodiesel of 19.7 million kiloliters.

Thus, bolstering the domestic palm oil industry would also help realize the transition to biodiesel, considering that the productivity of the palm oil industry will play a strategic role in making the transition a success. *(Antara)*

PALM OIL AND SOYBEAN OIL SECTORS LOOK TO INDIA AS MAJOR 2025 TARGET MARKET

This was the conclusion of an expert panel focusing on the Future of Commodities which convened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and comprised of KLK Group COO Lee Jia Zhang, the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Regional Agricultural Counselor Timothy Harrison and Euromonitor Head of Economies Practice Dr. Lan Ha.

India overtook China to become the world's largest population in 2023, and is also the fifth largest global economy in the world. Indian prime minister Narendra Modi successfully defended his seat to lead the country for a third term, which experts believe is set to drive the local economy to new heights.

"Modi's second term was focused on improving India's self-reliance via domestic production and now his third term is to build further on this with agriculture as a key focus," Dr Ha told the floor.

"We can expect to see a rise in modernization in the country in order to increase domestic production as he wants to reduce reliance on imports – but this increased rate of urbanization means there will also be an increase demand for food and the various basic commodities.

"The biggest global purchaser of commodities like palm oil and soybeans was previously China, but the state of the economy there has shown a slowdown and there is also an increased focus

on security and self-sufficiency due to political tensions, which will likely lead to a decrease in imports of every sort.

"China is still a massive market and remains an important consumer base, but what we see is that demand from here will decrease in 2025 whereas demand from India will increase to support urbanization and population growth."

Harisson concurred with this from a soybean point of view, also predicting overall positive growth for the sector in the coming year.

"India has grown to become a major soybean oil importer, and considering that soybean production for the 2024/2025 season is around 9% up compared to the 2023/2024 season, the outlook of the soybean market is positive for 2025," he said.

"The United States in particular has a historically large production this year that was up by 10%, and positive yields are also being seen in other major markets like Brazil and Argentina."

Palm oil still to stay

With regard to palm oil, KLK painted a less rosy picture in terms of production yields but maintained confidence in its 2025 prospects.

"There has been good weather in Malaysia for palm oil production over the past three years, as it has been extremely wet compared to the usually dry periods we have to struggle with but we have been facing other challenges," he said.

"The main one has been ageing trees as oil palm trees are costly and difficult to replant, and this is one of the reasons for declining yields.

"This is the same in Indonesia where about 27% of trees are over 20 years old but replanting is proceeding slower than it should due to a variety of reasons so not hitting the required 4% rate in order to ensure long-term yields – in short, we are not really replanting fast enough to keep up.

"Indonesia is also more challenging because there is a lot of third, fourth and fifth generation planting, and less labour availability which also means reduced expertise in the field.

"That said, this does not mean that 2025 prospects and beyond for palm oil are not viable – we need to remember that taking out palm oil from any food supply chain would mean having to replace this with some 140 million hectares of other oil-producing crops.

"This is an area larger that Malaysia or Germany in size and not very feasible – so moving forward, there is still a very important role for palm oil to play in the edible oils sector and to ensure food security." *(Food Navigator Asia)*

HEALTH NEWS

I SWISHED COCONUT OIL FOR 20 MINUTES EACH DAY… HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED TO MY TEETH

Have you ever wondered if swishing oil in your mouth could transform your dental health? Let's embark on a journey through the intriguing world of oil pulling with coconut oil. This ancient Ayurvedic practice has been making waves in the wellness community, promising a myriad of oral health benefits. But does it really work? Let's uncover the secrets of this age-old remedy and explore the science behind its potential power.

What Exactly is Oil Pulling?

Oil pulling is an ancient Indian folk remedy that involves swishing oil around in your mouth for an extended period, typically 15-20 minutes. While various oils can be used, coconut oil has become the go-to choice for many due to its pleasant taste and purported health benefits. This practice has been part of Ayurvedic medicine for centuries, believed to "pull" toxins from the body and improve oral health.

The Allure of Coconut Oil: Nature's Dental Elixir?

Coconut oil has gained a reputation as a natural health powerhouse, and its use in oil pulling is no exception. Dr. Sarah Thompson, a nutritionist at New York Wellness Center, explains, "Coconut oil is rich in medium-chain fatty acids, particularly lauric acid, which has antimicrobial properties. This makes it a potentially effective agent for combating oral bacteria." The oil's unique composition may contribute to its alleged oral health benefits, making it a popular choice among health enthusiasts.

The Claimed Benefits: Too Good to Be True?

Proponents of oil pulling with coconut oil tout an impressive list of potential benefits. These include:

- Reducing harmful bacteria in the mouth
- Improving gum health and preventing gingivitis
- Preventing cavities and tooth decay
- Whitening teeth naturally

While these claims sound promising, it's essential to approach them with a healthy dose of skepticism and examine the scientific evidence.

What Does Science Say About Oil Pulling?

The scientific community has shown interest in oil pulling, but research is still in its early stages. A systematic review of randomized clinical trials found that oil pulling may have some beneficial effects on oral health. However, researchers emphasize the need for more rigorous and better-reported clinical trials to draw definitive conclusions.

Dr. Michael Ramirez, a dentist specializing in holistic oral care, shares his perspective: "While we've seen some promising results in small-scale studies, particularly regarding plaque reduction and gingivitis improvement, we can't yet claim oil pulling as a miracle cure. It's an interesting complementary practice, but not a replacement for standard oral hygiene."

The Practical Side: How to Try Oil Pulling

If you're curious about giving oil pulling a try, here's a step-by-step guide:

1. Take a tablespoon of coconut oil (start with less if you're new to this).
2. Swish the oil around in your mouth for 15-20 minutes. Think of it as giving your mouth a gentle oil bath!
3. Spit the oil into the trash (not the sink, to avoid clogging).
4. Rinse your mouth thoroughly with warm water.
5. Brush your teeth as usual.

Remember, consistency is key. Many practitioners recommend doing this daily, preferably in the morning before eating or drinking.

Balancing Act: Oil Pulling and Traditional Oral Care

It's crucial to understand that oil pulling should not replace your regular oral hygiene routine. The American Dental Association (ADA) emphasizes that while oil pulling is generally safe, it should complement, not substitute, proven oral health practices like brushing, flossing, and regular dental check-ups.

Consider oil pulling as adding an extra player to your oral health team. Just as you wouldn't rely solely on apple cider vinegar for dental health, oil pulling should be part of a comprehensive approach to oral care.

Beyond the Mouth: Potential Whole-Body Benefits

Some enthusiasts claim that oil pulling offers benefits beyond oral health, suggesting it can detoxify the body and improve overall wellness. While these claims are largely anecdotal, they highlight the interconnected nature of our body systems. The mouth, after all, is the gateway to our digestive system and plays a crucial role in overall health.

Dr. Thompson adds, "While we can't conclusively say oil pulling detoxifies the entire body,

maintaining good oral health is undoubtedly beneficial for overall wellness. A healthy mouth can contribute to a healthier you."

The Power of Natural Remedies: A Broader Perspective

Oil pulling with coconut oil is just one example of how ancient practices are finding their place in modern wellness routines. Like natural approaches to healing cavities, these methods remind us of the potential power of simple, natural remedies. While they shouldn't replace professional medical advice, they can often complement our health practices in meaningful ways. *(Journee-Mondiale)*

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR BODY WHEN YOU DRINK COCONUT WATER EVERY DAY?

Drinking coconut water can offer various health benefits due to its nutrient-rich composition. It is a natural source of electrolytes, such as potassium and magnesium, which aid in maintaining proper hydration and supporting heart health. But have you ever wondered if it's a good idea to drink it every day? But before that, let's understand how coconut water helps.

What are the benefits of coconut water?

Coconut water is 94 per cent water and very little fat, said Dr Sri Karan Uddesh Tanugula, consultant general physician, Yashoda Hospitals, Hyderabad. "It contains several important nutrients like magnesium, sodium, and potassium. One cup of coconut water that is roughly about 240 ml contains 60 calories," said Dr Tanugala.

Another possible added benefit of coconut water is that as it's a good source of magnesium, it can improve insulin sensitivity and help in better control of type 2 diabetes. Dr Tanugala also added that blood pressure-lowering effect could be attributed to the presence of high levels of potassium.

"The high potassium content helps regulate blood pressure, potentially reducing the risk of cardiovascular issues," said Mohini Dongre, dietician, Narayana Hospital Gurugram.

Additionally, coconut water contains antioxidants that may contribute to overall well-being by neutralizing harmful free radicals in the body. This can potentially support the immune system and reduce oxidative stress.

Is regular consumption advisable?

Dr Tanugula mentioned that a few studies have shown that the consumption of coconut water may help decrease the occurrence of kidney stones.

Dongre described that regular consumption of coconut water may assist in kidney function by promoting urine production and preventing the formation of kidney stones. "The hydrating properties of coconut water can be beneficial for skin health, helping to maintain a youthful appearance and potentially alleviating conditions like acne," said Dongre.

However, it's crucial to note that while coconut water is a nutritious beverage, moderation is key. Dongre said, "Excessive intake may lead to an increased calorie and sugar intake, potentially affecting weight management. As with any dietary change, individual responses can vary, so consulting with a healthcare professional is advisable for personalised advice," said Dongre. *(The Indian Express)*

COCONUT RECIPE

BIBINGKA (FILIPINO RICE CAKE)

Bibingka is a traditional Filipino cake made with rice flour, coconut milk, eggs, and sugar. Similar to mochi, it's slightly chewy, sticky, dense, and has just the right amount of sweetness. Banana leaves, which are used to line the cast iron skillet, add an earthy flavor that pairs perfectly with the nutty coconut milk.

Ingredients

- Vegetable oil, for coating the pan and leaf
- 1 frozen banana leaf, thawed and wiped dried
- 1 ¼ cups white rice flour
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 (about 13-ounce) can unsweetened full-fat coconut milk
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup drained macapuno or coconut sport strings in syrup, such as Buenas or Angelina (optional)
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, for greasing the pan
- 1 tablespoon salted or unsalted butter, at room temperature
- Unsweetened dried coconut flakes or shredded coconut, for garnish

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 375°F. Coat a 10-inch cast iron skillet or 9-inch round cake pan with vegetable oil. Line the pan with a thawed and dried banana leaf. Trim the edges of the leaf as needed so that it extends about 2 inches over the sides of the pan. Brush the leaf with some more vegetable oil.
2. Whisk 1 ¼ cups white rice flour, ½ cup granulated sugar, 2 teaspoons baking powder, and ½ teaspoon kosher salt together in a large bowl.
3. Make a well in the center. Add 1 (about 13-ounce) can coconut milk, 3 large eggs, and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract into the well. Starting from the center and slowly incorporating the sides, whisk together until smooth. Whisk in ½ cup drained macapuno if desired. Transfer into the pan and spread into an even layer.
4. Bake until the center is set and the top is lightly browned, about 45 minutes. Brush the top with 1 tablespoon room temperature butter and sprinkle with unsweetened coconut flakes. Let cool for 15 minutes before serving. Cut directly in the pan and serve, leaving the banana leaf behind.

(BBC)

STATISTICS

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

Month	2022		2023		2024	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000
January	35,466	66,919	54,436	55,216	58,053	59,761
February	48,846	92,391	74,419	74,978	64,023	68,231
March	71,557	141,348	74,970	76,473	49,013	54,648
April	53,869	110,772	57,695	57,515	58,675	68,580
May	61,688	119,515	55,397	56,651	59,821	75,878
June	57,845	104,471	70,092	67,749	35,258	44,850
July	82,040	133,063	52,109	51,187	67,699	86,068
August	56,776	83,469	61,594	58,845	64,126	90,338
September	61,498	76,363	41,572	42,876	47,578	66,188
October	61,949	68,485	57,262	57,270	64,795	100,625
November	46,880	49,688	64,079	65,429	34,665	58,377
December	69,256	71,664	58,894	60,942		
Total	**707,671**	**1,118,147**	**722,517**	**725,130**	**603,705**	**773,543**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 2. Philippines's Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2019 - 2023

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	116,668	52,687	97,206	99,147	127,714
February	65,829	57,390	124,457	65,575	102,316
March	94,548	73,756	98,096	138,057	119,055
April	65,553	59,061	124,057	60,428	161,267
May	61,046	52,202	114,725	111,473	146,162
June	93,213	61,066	87,911	65,895	124,897
July	30,621	78,540	113,303	120,807	171,936
August	89,902	80,398	105,261	91,387	109,423
September	89,837	83,209	79,577	78,300	128,886
October	67,299	93,387	110,147	104,617	157,463
November	63,207	95,295	83,828	64,950	
December	56,499	98,197	88,278	99,209	
Total	**840,073**	**885,188**	**1,226,847**	**1,099,845**	**1,349,119**

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 3. International Prices of Selected Oils, January 2021 - December 2023, (US$/MT)

Year	Month	Coconut Phil/Indo (CIF. Rott.)	Soybean Oil Dutch (FOB ex-mill)	Palm Oil Malaysian (CIF. Eur.)	Palm Kernel Oil (CIF. Rott.)	Sunflower Oil EU (Fob. NW. EU)
2022	January	2,033	1,470	1,345	2,196	1,412
	February	2,153	1,596	1,522	2,443	1,499
	March	2,269	1,957	1,777	2,441	2,361
	April	2,097	1,948	1,683	2,064	2,276
	May	1,720	1,963	1,717	1,811	2,079
	June	1,688	1,752	1,501	1,555	1,885
	July	1,517	1,533	1,057	1,301	1,557
	August	1,364	1,599	1,026	1,173	1,496
	September	1,261	1,548	909	1,249	1,305
	October	1,094	1,576	889	1,039	1,359
	November	1,167	1,652	946	1,062	1,347
	December	1,155	1,409	940	1,067	1,234
2023	January	1,071	1,352	942	1,060	1,218
	February	1,107	1,243	950	1,037	1,159
	March	1,111	1,113	972	1,052	1,075
	April	1,069	1,030	1,005	1,017	1,035
	May	1,031	988	934	993	962
	June	993	1,007	817	928	911
	July	1,047	1,136	879	998	1,039
	August	1,102	1,127	861	998	989
	September	1,084	1,112	830	958	895
	October	1,058	1,134	804	912	910
	November	1,118	1,118	830	968	944
	December	1,118	1,062	814	966	944
2024	January	1,126	971	845	978	943
	February	1,175	912	857	1,034	925
	March	1,254	965	943	1,177	951
	April	1,420	959	936	1,290	971
	May	1,396	988	859	1,196	1,006
	June	1,400	1,011	874	1,156	1,043
	July	1,473	1,079	896	1,365	1,069
	August	1,610	1,031	933	1,480	1,049
	September	1,740	1,044	983	1,515	1,068
	October	1,718	1,095	1,077	1,636	1,206
	November	1,836	1,145	1,169	2,015	1,267
	December	1,949	1,064	1,190	2,099	1,223

Source: Cocommunity and Oil World

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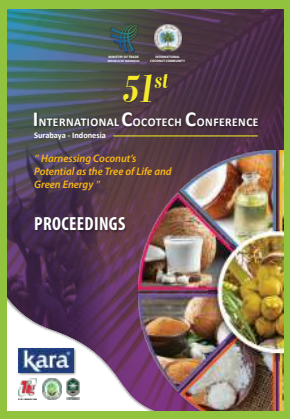

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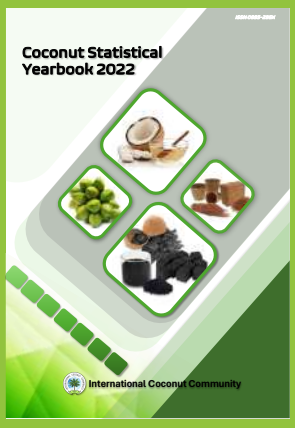

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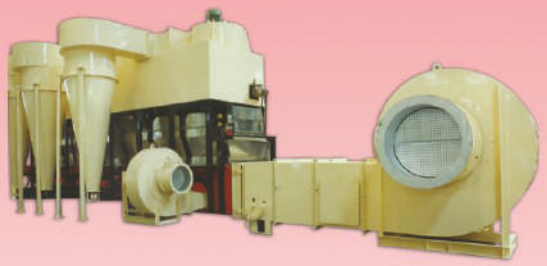

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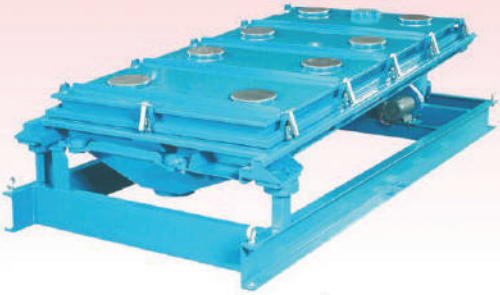

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