The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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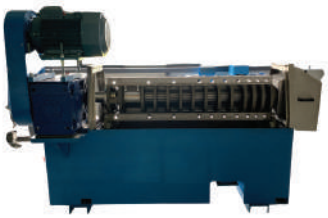

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"When the Coconut Palms Go Silent"

One of the most pressing contributors to declining coconut productivity is climate change. Field observations from aromatic coconut plantations in Thailand, combined with discussions with farmers and experts, indicate that coconut growth and yield are increasingly affected by climate-induced stressors, namely elevated temperatures, low relative humidity, water deficits, and prolonged dry periods. These conditions have led to a noticeable reduction in flowering, poor nut set, smaller nut size, and lower nut quality, all of which contribute to significant yield losses in affected plantations.

Experts have emphasized the importance of ensuring balanced nutrient availability to maintain plant health and enhance resilience to abiotic stress. Measures to improve soil moisture retention and nutrient use efficiency, such as the maintenance of well-formed basins and ridges after heavy rainfall, are essential to prevent water runoff and encourage water absorption. Proper spacing between palms, ranging from 7.5 to 9 meters, depending on the variety, also plays a key role in reducing competition for resources and improving canopy ventilation.

Yet climate change does not act alone. It contributes to environmental conditions that may accelerate pest population growth and increase plant vulnerability. While not the sole cause, climate variability is an aggravating factor in recent outbreaks of coconut palm weevils, rhinoceros beetles, whiteflies, coconut scale insects, and phytoplasma-related diseases. These events suggest urgent need for robust, locally adapted integrated pest management systems and early warning mechanisms. Without these, producers remain highly vulnerable to sudden pest outbreaks, which can devastate crops and livelihoods. Strengthening surveillance and developing proactive, science-based control strategies must be elevated as national and regional priorities.

Beyond climate factors, structural issues continue to hinder productivity. One such issue is the prevalence of senile coconut palms. These tall, aging trees produce less and are difficult to harvest, especially in countries that rely on manual climbers. Although tall palms can live and bear fruit for over a century, farmers are often reluctant to replace them due to the perceived value of mature trees. However, without systematic replanting using improved varieties, the coconut sector cannot sustain its current or future demands. A comprehensive, farmer-centered replanting program is essential to ensure the long-term viability of the crop for both the local consumption and the global market demand.

Coconut productivity is further constrained by inconsistent maintenance practices and the limited availability of high-quality planting materials. Expecting high yields without proper care contradicts accepted agronomic principles. Coconut palms, like any other crops, require attention and upkeep. Encouragingly, several countries have released new, high-quality varieties. However, uptake is limited by the absence of reliable systems to ensure timely access to planting materials. A structured approach is needed. Each new variety released should be accompanied by the establishment of certified nurseries to serve as legal and accessible sources of propagation material.

The imbalance between rising global demand and declining supply has broader implications. Since late 2024, the sharp increase in coconut product prices has triggered concern across the value chain. While higher prices may temporarily benefit farmers, they place strain on processors and exporters who face reduced raw material availability, underutilized processing capacities, and in some cases, workforce layoffs. What appears to be an economic gain on the surface reflects deeper systemic challenges that must be addressed urgently.

It is also important to remember that for many years, farmers have borne the burden of low coconut prices. Their resilience and continued production under difficult circumstances are the foundation of this global industry. Now is the time to honor and support their contribution through real investment. They must be recognized not only as producers, but as essential partners in building a more sustainable and equitable coconut sector. Transparent and inclusive value chain will serve everyone, producers, processors, and consumers alike, by ensuring steady access to quality coconuts and fair distribution of value.

In light of these interlinked environmental and structural challenges, our collective response must be grounded in research, science and innovation, supported by cooperation, and multi sector technical and policy commitment to long-term transformation of the coconut sector, anchored in sustainability, equity, and resilience.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

In February 2025, coconut oil prices demonstrated a synchronized upward trend across major producing countries, such as Philippines, Indonesia and India. Price of desiccated coconut saw an increase in Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, with the four countries reporting higher FOB prices.

COPRA: In February 2025, copra prices in Indonesia increased to US$ 1,167 per metric ton, up from US$ 1,104 per metric ton in January, marking a significant year-on-year rise of US$ 508 per metric ton. Similarly, the Philippines experienced an upward trend, with prices rising from US$ 1,141 per metric ton in January 2024 to US$ 1,172 per metric ton in February, reflecting a year-on-year increase of US$ 537 per metric ton, compared to US$ 635 per metric ton during the same period last year. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka also recorded monthly price increases, with growth rates of 4.4% respectively.

COCONUT OIL: In February 2025, coconut oil prices exhibited a synchronized upward trend across Indonesia, the Philippines, and India. In Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price surged to US$ 2,051 per metric ton, reflecting a substantial 75% year-on-year increased. The Philippines recorded a local market price of US$ 2,156 per metric ton, marking a US$ 1,012 increased from the previous year. Likewise, Indonesia saw a significant rise, with local prices reaching US$ 2,154 per metric ton in February 2025, up from US$ 2,097 per metric ton in January 2025, representing a US$ 1,020 year-on-year gain. India reported monthly price increases of 1.05%. Meanwhile Sri Lanka saw decreased 2.6% from the last month.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic copra meal price down to US$ 183 per metric ton in February 2025, reflecting a decrease from the previous month. Likewise, this price represented a year-on-year decline of US$ 61 per metric ton. Meanwhile, Indonesia reported an uptick in the average domestic copra meal price, reaching US$ 306 per metric ton in February 2025, which was US$ 35 per metric ton higher than the corresponding period in the previous year.

DESICCATED COCONUT: In February 2025, the average FOB (Free on Board) price of desiccated coconut (DC) from the Philippines to the USA rose to US$ 2,462 per metric ton compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, the domestic price in the Philippines saw a slight decrease, reaching US$ 2,039 per metric ton. Indonesia's FOB price for DC slight increase to US$ 3,225 per metric ton, significantly surpassing the previous year's level of US$ 1,800 per metric ton. Similarly, Sri Lanka experienced a rise in the domestic price of desiccated coconut, reaching US$ 4,074 per metric ton.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In February 2025, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in India increased to US$ 661 per metric ton, marking a significant rise of US$ 32 per metric ton from the previous month. Likewise, Indonesia saw increased, with prices climbed to US$ 660 per metric ton during the same period. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka experienced a moderate price increase, reaching US$ 604 per metric ton.

COIR FIBRE: In February 2025, Sri Lanka's domestic trade of coir fiber showed that mixed fiber averaged US$ 78 per metric ton, while bristle fiber ranged between US$ 455 and US$ 707 per metric ton. Meanwhile, Indonesia maintained the price of mixed raw fiber at US$ 150 per metric ton, reflecting a moderate increase from the previous year's price of US$ 110 per metric ton.

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

Products/Country	2025 Feb	2025 Jan	2024 Feb	2025 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	282	234	134	258
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	322	297	202	309
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	528	477	219	503
India (Domestic Kerala)	793	783	475	788
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	1,172	1,141	635	1,156
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	1,167	1,104	659	1,135
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,852	1,774	1,054	1,813
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,756	1,763	1,151	1,760
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	2,051	1,976	1,175	2,014
Philippines (Domestic)	2,156	2,118	1,144	2,137
Indonesia (Domestic)	2,154	2,097	1,134	2,126
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,824	2,898	1,819	2,861
India (Domestic, Kerala)	2,796	2,767	1,775	2,781
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,462	2,315	1,800	2,388
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,040	2,039	2,040
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	4,074	3,760	1,857	3,917
Indonesia (FOB)	3,225	3,200	1,800	3,213
India (Domestic)	2,890	2,996	1,805	2,943
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	183	217	244	200
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	448	413	296	430
Indonesia (Domestic)	306	271	259	289
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	604	544	350	574
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	660	616	461	638
India (Domestic)	661	629	330	645
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	78	67	64	73
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	455	475	431	465
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	707	735	613	721
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	150	145	110	148
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,947	1,962	1,034	1,954
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,067	1,070	857	1,069
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,069	1,048	912	1,058

Exchange Rate

Feb 28, '25 1 US$ = P57.97 or Rp16,542 or India Rs87.42 or SL Rs295.23

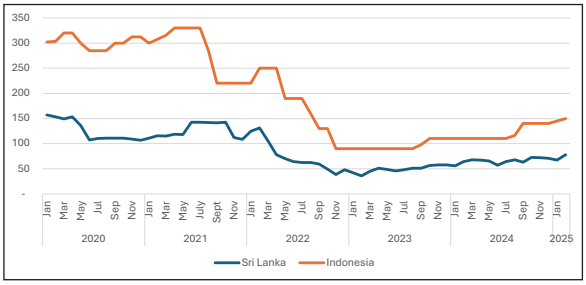
1 Euro = US$1.04 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF COIR

In 2024, the coir fiber market experienced a steady recovery. In Sri Lanka, coir fiber prices began at $56 per ton in January, rising to $73 per ton by October before slightly decreasing to $71 per ton in December. This price increase can be attributed to several factors, including potential tightening of supply, and stronger global demand for coir products. In contrast, Indonesia's coir prices remained relatively stable throughout the year, fluctuating between $110 and $140 per ton. This stability suggests a consistent demand and a well-balanced supply chain that allowed prices to remain largely unaffected by broader market fluctuations.

Looking ahead to 2025, Sri Lanka's coir prices are expected to continue their upward trajectory. Prices began at $67 per ton in January and rose to $78 per ton in February. In Indonesia, coir prices are also expected to rise, reaching $145 per ton in January and $150 per ton in February. These were likely driven by global sustainability trends and increased demand for eco-friendly products. Overall, early 2025 signals an upward trend in prices in both countries, indicating potential market adjustments as global demand for coir products grows.

Figure 1. Average Monthly Price of Coir Fibre January 2020 – February 2025 (US$/MT)



Source: ICC

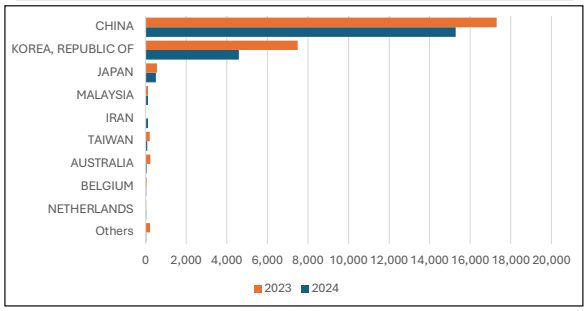
India's coir exports in 2024 experienced significant growth compared to the previous year. Export value surged by 26.2%, from $279 million in 2023 to $352 million in 2024, driven by strong global demand for eco-friendly products. The export volume also increased by 9.2%, from 1.05 million metric tons in 2023 to 1.15 million metric tons in 2024. This growth reflects India's successful market penetration, especially in North America and Europe, where demand for coir-based products like mats, geotextiles, and pith has risen substantially. Compared to 2023, this year marked a significant acceleration in India's coir exports, signaling a major growth milestone for the industry.

Table 1. Export Destinations of Coir Products from India, 2023-2024

No.	Country	2023		2024	
		Value (US$ million)	Quantity (MT)	Value (US$ million)	Quantity (MT)
1.	China	85.86	530,098.89	97.48	519,013.04
2.	U S A	48.38	78,167.72	59.91	90,931.68
3.	Netherland	22.90	74,686.48	30.27	88,807.93
4.	South Korea	15.64	67,368.85	19.53	69,375.42
5.	Spain	14.14	48,784.01	20.41	62,877.73
6.	Peru	3.85	16,636.08	14.92	48,820.27
7.	U K	12.51	34,494.55	15.77	32,908.71
8.	U A E	4.72	20,873.02	6.77	25,212.22
9.	Italy	5.62	17,187.42	7.07	21,037.05
10.	Australia	9.68	21,093.38	9.61	20,517.98
11.	Others	55.91	145,098.23	70.69	172,257.44
TOTAL		**279.21**	**1,054,488.63**	**352.43**	**1,151,759.47**

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India

Figure 2. Export Destination of Coir Products from Indonesia, January-December 2024



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

China remained the largest importer of Indian coir products, with export value rising from $85.86 million and 530,098.89 metric tons in 2023 to $97.48 million and 519,013.04 metric tons in 2024. The United States, while still a significant market, saw slower growth, with export value rising from $48.38 million in 2023 to $59.91 million in 2024. Other European markets, including the United Kingdom, Spain, and Germany, showed strong growth in both value and volume, reinforcing their importance in India's coir export strategy. Emerging markets such as Brazil and Turkey also contributed to growth, while regions like Algeria and Angola saw declines, indicating challenges in maintaining consistent demand in certain areas.

Indonesia's coir export sector faced a downturn in 2024, with the total export value decreasing from $4.51 million in 2023 to $3.62 million in 2024, and export volume dropping from 26,208 metric tons to 20,849 metric tons. This decline was largely due to reduced exports to traditional markets like China and Korea. Exports to China fell from $2.45 million to $2.18 million and from 17,308 metric tons to 15,287 metric tons. Exports to Korea also saw a significant drop, both in value and volume. Despite these challenges, there was positive growth in emerging markets, including Iran, Thailand, Taiwan, and Singapore. Exports to Iran increased from zero in 2023 to $46,000 (116 metric tons), while exports to Thailand grew from $1,000 to $5,000. This shift towards emerging markets indicates that Indonesia is diversifying its coir export base.

In Sri Lanka, coir exports in 2024 faced challenges due to a combination of reduced coconut production, increased domestic demand, environmental factors, and rising production costs. These factors led to decreased availability of raw materials for coir production, resulting in lower export volumes and values for several product categories. Traditional products such as mattress fiber, bristle fiber, and twisted fiber saw reductions in both volume and value, highlighting a difficult year for Sri Lanka's coir export sector. These challenges underscore the need for innovation and adaptation in response to global sustainability trends and changing demand patterns.

Table 1. Export Destinations of Coir Products from India, 2023-2024

Products	Volume (MT)			Value (Rs million)		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Mattress Fibre	73,342	68,888	62,964	5,271	3,748	3,507
Bristle Fibre	2,108	1,853	1,750	802	677	572
Twisted Fibre	13,769	13,315	10,826	1,611	1,164	933
Coir Yarn	975	801	814	231	172	180
Coir Twine	9,080	6,678	4,046	3,676	2,547	1,323
Tawashi Brushes (Pcs '000)	22,382	20,918	18,111	1,335	1,273	981
Coir Brooms & Brushes (Pcs '000) (Other than tawashi)	13,165	12,452	12,438	3,103	2,900	2,584
Rubberized Coir pads & Mattress for Bedding (Pcs)	1,007,247	661,575	319,508	258	211	272
Coir Mats & Rugs (M2)	381,771	268,665	158,043	474	360	280
Coir Mattings (M2)	1,778	5,450	1,874	3	7	4
Coir Fibre Pith /Dust	34,923	23,915	21,994	2,738	1,970	1,596
Husk Chips	2,316	3,352	9,065	296	380	958
Geo Textiles	3,746	4,197	3,886	1,413	1,463	1,250
Moulded coir products for use in Horticulture	292,364	303,022	360,160	55,624	48,483	56,010

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

COMMUNITY NEWS

FDA DECLARES COCONUT NOT A TREE NUT IN UPDATED FOOD ALLERGEN GUIDANCE

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has clarified that coconut is not classified as a tree nut in its recently published allergen guidance. The updated document, titled "Questions and Answers Regarding Food Allergens, Including the Food Allergen Labeling Requirements of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (Edition 5): Guidance for Industry," addresses labeling requirements under the Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004 (FALCPA). For some time, FALCPA had been under scrutiny with challenges to its scientific merit based on very broad interpretations of the term 'tree nut.' Coconut Coalition of Americas (CCA) had investigated challenging FALCPA, but until 2022, no major changes had tested the law itself. On January 1, 2023, sesame was added as a 9th major allergen class and provided an actual test and process for further changes to FALCPA.

The guidance, finalized this month, specifies in Questions C7, C8, and Table 1 that tree nuts considered major allergens are limited to those with scientifically established allergenicity. Coconut is not included in this list. This clarification resolves long-standing uncertainty about coconut's categorization and its implications for labeling and consumer safety. The update is expected to bring significant benefits to the coconut industry, easing trade barriers, reducing regulatory burdens, and enhancing consumer confidence.

CCA engaged with FDA and supported key research that examined coconut allergen prevalence, severity, and cross-allergenicity. The findings indicated that coconut's allergen risks are significantly lower than those of major allergens covered by FALCPA. The coalition's activities included funding a pivotal study that provided robust data supporting coconut's exclusion from the tree nut allergen list in the past 24 months, including supporting and underwriting a paper on the prevalence of coconut allergenicity in the sector. This clarification is also expected to provide clarity for consumers, particularly those with tree nut allergies, by ensuring they are not misled into unnecessarily avoiding coconut products. The decision represents a win for informed consumer choice and fair-trade practices and severity and cross-allergenicity were examined. The data indicated that the prevalence and severity were, in some instances, several orders of magnitude lower for coconut compared to the listed major allergens. This development is obviously good news for the coconut category and also removes trade challenges. For brands and co-mans, this represents the lifting of a major burden, at the same time providing consumers with clear and not misleading information – coconuts are not tree nuts and just because you are allergic to one does not mean you are allergic to or should avoid coconuts.

The International Coconut Community (ICC) welcomed the FDA's decision, emphasizing its importance for the global coconut industry. ICC leadership expressed appreciation for the contributions of the ICC Scientific Advisory Committee on Health (SACH) team, particularly Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit, Professor, Department of Chemistry Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, SACH Chair and Dr. Marry T. Newport, Spring Hill Neonatology, Inc., USA, SACH Member, whose relentless efforts, along with dissemination of information by ICC through letters, publications, and media, play a vital role in achieving this regulatory milestone. Their works also underscored the value of evidence-based advocacy in addressing misconceptions and advancing the interests of the coconut. *(ICC News)*

ICC STRENGTHENS ENGAGEMENT WITH UNESCAP AT THE 12TH ASIA PACIFIC SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

The International Coconut Community (ICC) actively participated in the 12th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APSDF), hosted by the United Nations Economic and

Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) at the UN Conference Center in Bangkok. ICC Director General Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw and Deputy Director General Mr. A.H.N. Chinthaka represented ICC at the forum, highlighting the coconut sector's potential in addressing global sustainability challenges.

12th Asia Pacific Sustainable Development Forum: Key Discussions

The APSDF serves as a premier regional platform that brings together governments, international organizations, civil society, and private sector representatives to accelerate progress on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2025 forum focused on targeted, evidence-based solutions to food security, renewable energy, climate resilience, and economic sustainability—all of which align closely with ICC's mission.

During the discussions, ICC emphasized the vital role of the coconut industry in advancing sustainable agriculture, supporting smallholder farmers, and developing climate-smart innovations such as biofuel production and carbon sequestration initiatives. ICC also engaged with key stakeholders to explore potential collaborations for promoting sustainable coconut-based industries in the region.

Courtesy Meeting with UNESCAP Executive Secretary

On the sidelines of the forum, ICC's delegation had a courtesy bilateral meeting with H.E. Dr. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of UNESCAP. During the discussion, Dr. Jelfina presented the theme "Collaborating for Impact: ICC's Role in the Future of the Coconut Industry," outlining ICC's key programs and strategies that contribute to global sustainability efforts. She emphasized the pressing challenges faced by the coconut industry, particularly the shortage of raw materials, rising global demand for coconut based products, and intense competition with powerful buyers that drive up prices and limit marker access for smaller producers.

Dr Jelfina also underscored ICC's initiatives, including biofuel development—particularly the Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) derived from non-standard coconut—and market trendsfor coconut products. Special attention was given to ICC's Youth Empowerment Program, which provides training, internships, and entrepreneurship opportunities to young professionals in the coconut industry, as well as other capacity-building initiatives, including the Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT), international training courses, and market development programs. Dr. Armida commended ICC's contributions and underscored the importance of further integrating the coconut sector into regional sustainability frameworks. ICC delegation also discussed trade barriers for the coconut sector and how UNESCAP can support overcoming this using research solutions.

ICC's Proposal for a Side Event at a Future UNESCAP Meeting

A key outcome of the meeting was ICC's proposal to organize a side event at an upcoming UNESCAP meeting to further highlight the coconut sector's contributions to regional and global sustainability efforts. The proposed side event, titled "Harnessing the Potential of Coconut for Food and Energy Security: Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Future," will focus on:

- The role of coconut in enhancing food security and nutrition.
- Coconut-based renewable energy solutions, including biofuels.
- Climate resilience and sustainable agricultural practices.
- Policy recommendations for strengthening the coconut sector's role in global development.

Dr. Armida welcomed this initiative and encouraged ICC to submit a formal proposal

in collaboration with its member countries. She emphasized that such a discussion would be valuable for policymakers, industry leaders, and development partners, further integrating the coconut industry into regional sustainability frameworks.

Outcome and Next Steps

Following the meeting, ICC will work closely with its member countries to develop a comprehensive proposal for the side event, aligning it with UNESCAP's key priorities. The event will serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, policy dialogue, and investment opportunities within the coconut industry.

ICC remains committed to advocating for the coconut sector as a driver of sustainable development, ensuring that it continues to contribute to global food systems, energy solutions, and climate resilience strategies. *(ICC News)*

SRI LANKA TARGETS 2.5 MILLION NEW COCONUT PLANTS IN 2025

The Coconut Cultivation Board has announced plans to reorganize the Kapruka Fund Management Board Societies as part of efforts to expand coconut cultivation across the country.

Chairman Dr. Sunimal Jayakody stated that the first phase of this initiative will be launched in the Gampaha District.

He further mentioned that the reorganization process will be carried out alongside the Kapruka Loan Scheme to provide financial support to coconut growers.

The Coconut Cultivation Board has set a goal of growing 2.5 million coconut plants by 2025 as part of its long-term cultivation strategy.

Speaking to Ada Derana, Dr. Jayakody revealed that one million coconut plants will be cultivated in the Northern Coconut Triangle. *(Adaderana)*

USING ORGANIC COCONUT SUGAR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN INDONESIA'S SWEET SPOT

Local smallholder farmers cultivate a range of tropical crops in Java, Indonesia's verdant woodlands, including coffee, spices, and, of course, the iconic coconut palms. In this instance, however, lovely flowers rather than coconuts dangling from the trees are present.

Each day, farmers climb these coconut trees to harvest nectar by skillfully slicing the delicate flower buds that would otherwise develop into coconuts. The nectar is then cooked on a stove and transformed into granulated coconut sugar; a healthier alternative to most commercially available sweeteners.

The production of coconut sugar has long been a traditional practice in Indonesia. The sugar is a main ingredient used to produce kecap manis, a typical sweet soy sauce and staple condiment in Indonesian cuisine, and production is deeply rooted in the country's cultural and agricultural heritage.

Granulated coconut sugar, however, with its refined texture and higher quality, is considered a premium variation, setting it apart from traditional forms of coconut sweeteners.

Sustainable Organic Value Chains

Committed to developing sustainable, thriving, organic value chains, Tradin Organic approached local partners in Indonesia more than 10 years ago, offering technical and financial assistance to boost capacity and process coconut nectar into high-quality, granulated sugar with organic premiums for the global market.

The partnership developed into a highly collaborative supply chain with multiple partners, including dedicated processing facilities, ensuring the highest quality product, full traceability and organic integrity from farm to customer. Multiple certifications, such as

EU Organic and Fairtrade, guarantee minimal impact on the environment, protection of biodiversity, and fair working conditions. And any coconut sugar derivatives are repurposed into coconut syrup, minimizing waste and maximizing value.

Since its inception in 2012, the collective collaboration has expanded by more than 400% due to its continued success. Farmers' living wages and working conditions have greatly improved, and community investments have also grown.

And the story continues! In 2024, Tradin Organic secured a grant from the Dutch RVO's Social Sustainability Fund for a 3-year project, enhancing livelihoods for an additional estimated 2,275 farmers, while securing a sustainable supply of responsibly sourced coconut sugar. *(Bioeco Actual)*

BLATANT IGNORANCE OF THE AGGRAVATED CRISIS IN COCONUT CULTURE – CROP SCIENTIST FROM SRI LANKA

According to a crop expert, a carefully thought-out replanting program is desperately needed to lessen the negative effects of the nation's coconut shortage, which is endangering the industry's existence.

He said the current crisis in the coconut industry could have been averted had there been a proper plan to support growers and boost the yield of the lucrative crop.

Senior Professor in Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture University of Peradeniya, Prof. Buddhi Marambe said financial support from the Government is paramount to increase coconut production to at least 4.5 billion annually from the current three billion nuts for which a continuous supply of high quality coconut seedlings is a pre-requisite to make the program a success. Coconut palms are considered to be productive for 60 years. However, according to Prof. Marambe about 15% of the palms are estimated to be beyond their economic life span, indicating lower productivity due to ageing.

Even with favorable management approaches, he claimed, it is hard to increase output from such trees. "The coconut industry in Sri Lanka is in a crisis. The annual requirement of coconuts, based on the consumption needs and exports in the current context is estimated to be around three billion nuts. The monthly requirement is around 250 million nuts, including 150 million nuts for domestic consumption and 100 million nuts for export products," Prof. Marambe said.

In 2022, coconut production in the country was 3.35 billion nuts which reduced to 2.95 billion in 2023, and then to 2.68 last year. This is a reduction of 260 million nuts compared to the forecast of the Coconut Research Institute (CRI). In December 2024 alone the reduction of nuts was 60% on a year-on-year basis.

The projected shortfall of coconut is about 200 million between January to April this year according to the Coconut Research Institute (CRI).

The export earnings from coconut-based products reached USD 836 million in 2021 and then declined to USD 708 million in 2023, but showed an impressive recovery to reach USD 856 million, an increase of 20% compared to 2023.

"The growth in coconut exports showed that a portion of the coconuts from what would have been used to meet the domestic requirement, out of a relatively lower production of 2.68 billion nuts, has been used for exports, creating a shortage of coconuts in the domestic market," Prof. Marambe said.

Industry has made a request from the Government to consider the importation of coconut kernels to be used by mills to make oil and other products targeting exports.

The import of full coconuts is prohibited by Regulation 14 and 15 of the Plant Protection Act No. 35 of 1999.

According to Prof. Marambe several other factors too would have contributed to the lower production of nuts. Weak fertilizer management, mainly due to the price of fertilizer that has shot up from Rs 1,500 to Rs 12,000 per 50 kg bag. According to available figures, less than 10% of the coconut palms in the country have been properly fertilized in the recent past. This can be rectified by applying fertilizer but the outcome will be seen only after 12 months. However, the Government and coconut growers should make every effort to ensure that the application of fertilizer takes place at the proper time to increase yield.

"Another major factor that affects the yield is the drought. For coconut plantations, a rainfall less than 100m per month will produce severe moisture stress. Hence, appropriate water management practices such as drip irrigation is a good option to overcome the moisture stress issue," the crop scientist said adding that pests such as coconut mites, white fly infestation and the toque macaque has a devastating impact on coconut plantations.

He said according to rough estimates, the damage caused by the toque macaque to coconut production in the Kegalle district is about 60% and 20% in the Hambantota district. The issue of wild animals on agriculture has been discussed and recommendations have been made over the past several decades. However, no effective action has been taken apart from efforts to repel the animals. *(Sunday Observer)*

VIET NAM'S COCONUT EXPORTS HIT A 14-YEAR HIGH

By the end of 2024, fresh coconut exports had reached US$390 million, a 61 per cent increase compared to last year's figure, according to the General Department of Customs.

Overall, exports of fresh coconuts and coconut products totalled nearly $1.1 billion, reflecting a growth of over 20 per cent from 2023.

This is the first time in 14 years that coconuts have generated a billion-dollar export revenue for Việt Nam.

Data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development indicates that Việt Nam currently has 200,000 hectares of coconut plantations, producing about two million tonnes of the fruits every year.

One-third of this area meets organic standards from the US and Europe, concentrated mainly around the central region and plantations in the Mekong Delta.

The Bến Tre Siamese coconut has been granted geographical indication, with 133 designated plantation codes and over 8,300 hectares dedicated to export production.

With more than 600 businesses involved in coconut production and processing, Việt Nam's coconut industry enjoys a competitive advantage in the international market. Việt Nam ranks fourth in terms of coconut exports in the Asia-Pacific region and fifth globally.

China is the largest export market, accounting for 25 per cent of Việt Nam's total coconut exports in terms of value. The signing of a protocol allowing official coconut exports between the two countries in August 2024 has created significant opportunities for the coconut farmers and producers.

Việt Nam is currently the third-largest coconut supplier to China, holding over 20 per cent of the market share.

Beyond China, thanks to its competitive pricing and a naturally sweet flavour, Vietnamese coconuts are also highly favoured in markets including the EU, the US, Canada and South Korea.

Despite generating billions of dollars in export revenue, the current figures still do

not fully reflect the potential and advantages of Việt Nam's coconut industry, according to representatives.

General Secretary of the Việt Nam Coconut Association Cao Bá Đăng Khoa said that many fresh coconut export orders have faced delays due to a shortage of plantation codes, packing codes and unstable raw material sources, over the third and fourth quarters of 2024.

Therefore, the Coconut Association has asked authorities to engage with Chinese counterparts aiming to make issuing additional plantation codes for Việt Nam easier. *(Viet Nam News)*

THE PRICE OF COCONUT OIL HAS INCREASED IN MALAYSIA, SUPPLIERS AT A LOSS AS YIELDS HAVE DROPPED SHARPLY

Coconut prices have surged in Malaysia amid a shortage caused by unfavourable weather, prompting state and community leaders to urge Thaipusam participants to break fewer coconuts during the colourful Hindu festival this month.

Batu Caves Hindu temple committee chairman R Nadarajah said he personally advised devotees to break only one coconut.

"As long as you do it with genuine devotion, the number of coconuts doesn't matter," he reportedly said.

Thaipusam is a public holiday in Malaysia and fell on Feb 11 this year. It is dedicated to Lord Murugan, and the breaking of coconuts is a cleansing ritual and symbolises the surrender of one's ego.

Penang chief minister Chow Kon Yeow and the Consumers' Association of Penang have issued similar calls.

"Devotees should be more economical so their use of coconuts on Thaipusam does not affect food security for the masses," said Chow at a welfare group's Chinese New Year event.

NV Subbarow, education officer of the Consumers' Association of Penang, urged devotees on Jan 23 to break fewer coconuts "due to a shortage of coconuts which will result in even pricier coconuts this year".

Many participants, who include members of the Chinese community, "mistakenly think that the more coconuts they break, the more luck is showered upon them", he said in a statement on the association's website.

Malaysian coconuts now cost up to RM3.90 (US$0.88) each, compared to RM2.60 previously, he told the New Straits Times on Saturday. Those from Indonesia cost up to RM3 each, he said.

The shortage of coconuts is making headlines in Malaysia due to higher demand during Chinese New Year and Thaipusum celebrations, as well as the fasting month of Ramadan – expected to begin on either Feb 28 or Mar 1 – and Hari Raya Puasa. *(Channel News Asia)*

IN A BIG RELIEF TO EXPORTERS, US REMOVES COCONUT FROM ITS ALLERGEN LISTING

After years of efforts by various stakeholders in the coconut industry, the US recently decided to remove coconut from the list of food allergens. The decision has brought cheers to the coconut growers, who are mostly from the south Indian states.

According to the Food Allergen Labelling and Consumer Protection Act, the US government has classified coconut as a tree nut and added it to the list of food allergens.

The term 'nut' in coconut is believed to be the culprit for putting it on the US' allergy radar.

This definition was causing hurdles for exporters of coconut and coconut based food products to the US, despite the considerable demand.

After years of long persuasion by various forums like the Coconut Coalition of the Americas (CCA), which include exporters from India, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed coconut from the list of food allergens.

"The US agency's decision is a big relief to exporters and could boost coconut exports from the country," Coconut Development Board director (marketing) Deepthi Nair S told.

She claimed that the classification of coconut as a tree nut presented a number of difficulties for Indian exporters of coconut food products. The strict allergen labeling requirements that the exporters had to follow raised the cost of manufacture.

Additionally, consumers in the US market were becoming confused as a result of coconut being listed as a food allergy. As a result, many hospitals and institutions' cafeterias shunned the use of coconut-based food items.

Hence the decision of the FDA is a major relief and a boost to the coconut export sector, she said.

According to the CDB, in 2023-24 India exported coconut food products worth Rs. 924 crore of which export worth Rs. 268 crore was to the US. The US comes second after Gulf countries in importing coconut food products from India.

Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are the largest coconut producing states in Indian. Kerala leads the tally with regard to coconut food products export. In 2023-24 coconut food products worth Rs. 459 crore was exported from Kerala, according to the CDB.

Shrinivasan Ramaswamy, one of the key coconut exporters of India and a technical member of the Coconut Coalition of the Americas, said that it took years of efforts by various stake holders of the industry to convince the US agency that coconut is not a tree nut, but a fruit. Study reports and test reports were being constantly provided to the US agency in this regard.

"The exporters are relieved from the cumbersome process so far involved in exporting coconut food products. Hence the FDA's decision will definitely have its positive impact on coconut exports," said Ramaswamy, who is managing director of Tiruppur (Tamil Nadu) based Apex Coco and Solar Energy Limited. *(Deccan Herald)*

ADOPT TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE COCONUT FARMING

Coconut farmers should explore ways to increase production and income by adopting latest technologies, Collector M. Pradeep Kumar said.

Inaugurating a seminar on coconut farming organised under the National Horticulture Mission by the Department of Horticulture , Mr. Kumar said coconut trees benefit a generation and Tamil Nadu is the second largest coconut producing State in the country.

However, with new diseases emerging farmers need to learn the latest technologies to tackle them. In Tiruchi district, coconuts have been cultivated on over 5,000 hectares. Farmers need to focus on enhancing their income from coconut farms through effective disease control, inter-cropping, value addition and marketing.

Farmers should make plans based on their knowledge of the state of their soil. According to him, they should implement the newest technologies to increase their revenue annually in addition to making the agriculture lucrative.

Faculty members of the TNAU Horticulture College and Research Institute for Women, Tiruchi, handled sessions on various aspects of coconut farming at the seminar and interacted with farmers.

B. Vasantha, Joint Director of Agriculture, and S. Saranya, Deputy Director of Agriculture, spoke. *(The Hindu)*

COCONUT, IP BODIES BOOST ANCESTRAL LANDS

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) are working together to boost coconut farming in ancestral areas.

In a statement, the PCA said they have signed a memorandum of agreement to establish a framework for empowering indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) engaged in coconut farming.

"For centuries, our indigenous peoples have been the silent guardians of our lands. With this MOA, we ensure that our ICCs/IPs are no longer at the margins of progress but at its very heart," PCA administrator Dexter Buted said.

To enhance the production and well-being of native coconut growers, both sides will put socioeconomic initiatives, livelihood projects, and support systems into place.

"The agreement solidifies the commitment of both institutions to ensure that indigenous coconut farmers are integrated into national agricultural programs and benefit directly from coconut industry development initiatives," the PCA said.

The PCA will help the NCIP identify ancestral lands with existing coconut plantations, register IP coconut farmers in the National Coconut Farmers Registry System and facilitate their participation in different PCA programs.

For its part, the NCIP will expedite the processing of the free, prior and informed consent (FCIP), a document stating IPs' consent for any activities or projects undertaken on their land as well as identify ancestral domains and assist in the registration of IP farmers. *(Inquirer)*

TETRA PAK UNVEILS UHT TECHNOLOGY TO TRANSFORM COCONUT PRODUCT PROCESSING

Tetra Pak has announced the introduction of its Direct Ultra-High Temperature (UHT) technology, designed to revolutionize the processing and packaging of coconut products. This technology aims to preserve the natural flavor and nutritional value of coconut water, addressing the increasing global demand for coconut-based beverages.

In recent years, products such as fresh coconut water, coconut milk, and coconut cream have gained popularity worldwide, valued for their low cholesterol and calorie content, as well as essential nutrients. According to the Vietnam Coconut Association, eight of the top ten coconut-producing countries are in the Asia Pacific, with Vietnam ranking fourth in export value.

Processing coconuts poses challenges due to their perishable nature. Once opened, coconut water quickly loses its nutrients and flavor because of natural enzymatic activity. Rapid processing is essential to minimize food waste. Tetra Pak's UHT technology addresses these challenges by using high heat for a brief period to eliminate harmful microorganisms, followed by rapid cooling. This process can extend the shelf life of coconut products up to 12 months without requiring preservatives or refrigeration.

During the recent Coconext 2024 conference, Tetra Pak showcased its innovative solutions aimed at improving the quality and competitiveness of Vietnamese coconut products. Key benefits of Tetra Pak's Direct UHT technology include:

Customizability: The technology can adapt to various coconut products, including coconut water and coconut milk.

Nutrient Preservation: It maintains essential nutrients and natural flavors.

Enhanced Efficiency: The system reduces energy consumption and minimizes by-products.

Integrated Monitoring Systems: These provide comprehensive control over production processes.

Tetra PlantMaster and support for coconut producers

Additionally, Tetra Pak introduced the Tetra PlantMaster, an automation solution designed to optimize food production from raw material intake to final packaging. This intuitive system aims to help businesses streamline operations and reduce costs.

Ngo Thanh, Processing Director at Tetra Pak Vietnam, emphasized the company's commitment to sustainable processing solutions. Tetra Pak aims to support clients in optimizing operational costs, maintaining product quality, and ensuring traceability throughout the production process.

To further assist Vietnamese food and beverage companies, Tetra Pak invests in technologies that facilitate the development of innovative coconut-based products. The Bloom Centre in Binh Duong exemplifies this commitment by aiding companies in creating products that cater to diverse consumer needs. *(ScandAsia)*

PCA-DAVAO EYES TO PLANT 1M COCONUTS

In a bid to boost the country's coconut industry, the Philippine Coconut Authority-Davao Region (PCA-Davao) is set to plant one million coconut trees, with plans to expand and strengthen the region's position as a major supplier of coconuts and coconut-based products.

Grace Orilla, the Project Development Officer-IV of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) in Davao, revealed in an ambush interview with the Davao media on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, that a massive coconut replanting initiative will soon take place across the region. The project aims to plant millions of coconut trees across 6,000 hectares, with a specific focus on Davao Oriental and Davao del Sur.

These two provinces are being prioritized due to the challenges posed by the ongoing El Niño phenomenon and the fact that some of the existing coconut trees in the area are already aging, making them more vulnerable to calamities.

" We have many interventions to increase our production. We have programs like coconut planting and providing fertilizer. Most of the planting materials we give are salt fertilizers," Orilla said during the PCA's special participation in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing between Damosa Land and Thai Coconut Public Company Limited (CoCoCo), held at the Anflo Industrial Estate (AIE) in Panabo City, Davao del Norte.

(We have various interventions to increase our production. We have programs like coconut planting and the distribution of fertilizers. Most of the planting materials we provide are salt fertilizers).

According to the official, this initiative is also part of the government's broader efforts to plant hundreds of millions of coconut trees by the end of 2028 to address the impact of climate change on agriculture and ensure that the coconut sector remains competitive and resilient in the face of unpredictable weather patterns.

The official explained that as the global climate crisis continues to intensify, ensuring the sustainability and competitiveness of the coconut sector is critical for long-term economic stability, especially in rural areas where coconut farming is a primary source of income. The large-scale replanting effort will be pivotal in maintaining the Philippines' position as one of the world's leading coconut producers while safeguarding the future of the industry against unpredictable weather events

and other environmental challenges.In 2023, the Philippine Statistics Authority-Davao Region (PSA-Davao) reported that the region was the largest producer of coconut during the quarter, with an output of 461,070 metric tons, accounting for a 13.5 percent share. Following closely in the top three regions with the highest coconut production were Northern Mindanao and the Zamboanga Peninsula, with respective outputs of 452,330 metric tons (13.3 percent) and 437,600 metric tons (12.8 percent).

The area planted with coconut from January to June 2023 totaled 3.62 million hectares, reflecting a 0.6 percent increase compared to the same period in 2022, which was 3.59 million hectares. *(Sun Star)*

COCO FEST 2025 DRAWS COCONUT-LOVING CROWDS IN ITS 10TH YEAR

Locals and tourists flocked to Coco Fest 2025 at Pedro St. James on Saturday as the festival of 'all things coconut' celebrated its 10th year.

Around 35 vendors set up their stalls on the grass at the historic site, selling food, drink, sweets, clothes, cosmetics and homeware to the background of live music, while children were entertained with face-painters and coconut bowling.

One of the first stalls to greet visitors to the festival belonged to Jennett Powell of Bonafide Farmer. Jennett was hard at work offering samples of her range of sauces and jams, including jerk sauce, pineapple jam and pepper jelly.

"I come here every year, it's got to be done!" said Jennett. "My products are straight from the farm and I made many of them especially for this event."

Visitors may sample handcrafted sweets including coconut pineapple pepper jelly, Bajan coconut sweetbread, and the "fan favorite" goat cheese and mango marshmallows at the Powder Monkey table, which also had other products with a coconut theme.

At a neighbouring stall, Robert Buliusz, owner of Cayman Sweet Bites, was selling coconut-flavoured treats, some of which were made especially for Coco Fest.

"It's just a hobby of mine, but it's great to be here and spread the word,' he said.

The Grand Cayman Distillery booth, which sold Barefoot Beach cocktails prepared with its toasted coconut rum, was one of the busiest. Grand Cayman Distillery CEO Moises Sevilla claimed that Coco Fest provided him with a chance to introduce the locals to his beverages.

"It's open to everyone, both tourists and locals," he said. "I love these kinds of events which have local vendors, are locally-organized and where the majority of people here are local."

Coconut rum fans

Enjoying samples of the coconut rum so much that she bought a bottle, was Daniella Man, who was visiting the festival with her son Andrew, 17.

"We came here by accident!" she said. "We're staying with friends and we wanted to go somewhere where we could see local, traditional products and maybe get a cocktail. And I love coconut rum!"

The Man family, who are from Transylvania, Romania, lived in Cayman for many years, and often return to the island.

"It's a place which still has community values, which is really great to see," said Daniella.

'I think Cayman would really benefit from having more events like this," said Andrew, 17, "especially events which are great for all the family."

Profits to go to charity

Any profits from the event will, like in previous years, be donated to charity, although the

organizer, Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority, has yet to decide upon a charity for this year.

"We have about 35 vendors selling food products, arts and crafts, coconut oil, so many different things,' said the authority's marketing coordinator, Leanna Jarvis-Burton.

The festival was started by a health enthusiast who wanted to spread the word about the benefits of coconuts, so it started from there and has grown ever since, she said.

"It gets bigger and bigger every year and is always all about coconuts," she said. "It's for locals and tourists and we want everyone to come out and enjoy our heritage." *(Cayman Compass)*

SRI LANKA LAUNCHES EU-BACKED 10-YEAR PLAN TO BOOST COCONUT EXPORTS

Sri Lanka's coconut industry is set to expand under a European Union-backed 10-year strategic plan aimed at reaching a USD 2 billion dollar export target.

The European Union (EU), through the UNIDO-implemented BESPA-FOOD project, is supporting Sri Lanka's coconut industry in implementing a comprehensive ten-year strategic plan and a roadmap aimed at transforming the sector into a USD 2 billion export powerhouse.

The Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure recently convened key public and private sector stakeholders, including the Coconut Development Authority (CDA), Coconut Research Institute (CRI), the Coconut Cultivation Board (CCB), and the Ceylon Chamber of Coconut Industries (CCCI), for an inception workshop to chart the way forward.

A select committee led by the Secretary of the Ministry and made up of important leaders from the public and commercial sectors will convene in mid-February to discuss the workshop's input and decide on the next course of action, which will include creating the roadmap, in order to guarantee quick progress.

"Sri Lanka's coconut industry is at a crucial juncture. While we face immediate challenges in production and supply, this roadmap provides a structured approach to ensure our sector's global competitiveness and sustainability," stated the Secretary to the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, Mr. Prabath Chandrakeerthi.

The EU-funded BESPA-FOOD Project provides vital technical expertise and support to tackle challenges such as productivity constraints, value addition, and quality enhancements.

Dr. Johann Hesse, Head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka, emphasized the EU's commitment to fostering sustainable economic development through innovation and partnerships like BESPA-FOOD. He stated that "clear, actionable steps are essential for boosting productivity, improving quality, and empowering rural communities."

The Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), tasked with formulating the roadmap, will incorporate input from the industry stakeholders to address current market pressures while building long-term resilience. The plan will specifically focus on strengthening domestic production, improving supply chain efficiency and value addition, and enhancing the industry's ability to meet growing international demand. *(Newswire)*

THAI COCONUT TO INVEST P734M IN MINDANAO

Thai Coconut is set to establish its first international manufacturing plant in Mindanao with an investment of P734 million (430 million baht).

The Thai publicly listed company will build its coconut milk production facility at the Anflo Industrial Estate (AIE) in Panabo City. The 63-hectare AIE is a Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)-accredited industrial park.

The investment was formalized on February 11 at the AIE, with Thai Coconut CEO Dr. Worawat Chinpinkyo and Damosa Land Inc. president Ricardo Lagdameo leading the signing.

The facility, expected to begin operations by early next year, will boost Thai Coconut's capacity by over 60% to meet increasing demand from the US and Europe. The investment aligns with the company's board-approved strategy last January 27 to expand its coconut product line and strengthen global competitiveness.

The project will raise the company's yearly maximum production of coconut milk from 99,000 tons to 155,000 tons. The facility will first concentrate on producing canned coconut milk before branching out into other packaging types.

"Additionally, this venture presents new business opportunities by providing access to lower-cost coconut raw materials and leveraging special economic zone benefits in the Philippines. These advantages will reduce raw material costs, improve logistics efficiency, strengthen the company's supply chain, and enhance its global market competitiveness," Worawat said.

The company will establish a new Philippine subsidiary, Novococonut Inc., which has secured a 25-year land lease at AIE to construct a state-of-the-art factory for coconut milk production and export. The construction and machinery installation are expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2026.

AIE is near Davao International Container Terminal, ensuring efficient transport of raw materials and exports. The terminal offers infrastructure tailored for industrial-scale operations, including modern utilities such as electricity, water supply, wastewater treatment, and warehousing facilities.

The site is near coconut resources, leveraging the Philippines' status as one of the world's largest coconut producers. The surrounding areas of AIE are recognized for high-quality coconut cultivation, ensuring a steady and direct supply of fresh raw materials to support Thai Coconut's manufacturing and export operations.

Thai Coconut is also set to benefit from the ASEAN Free Trade Area agreements and PEZA incentives, including import tax exemptions on equipment and reduced corporate income tax rates. Additionally, the factory will export coconut water back to Thailand, further expanding its domestic and international markets.

Mindanao Development Authority chair Secretary Leo Magno, represented by Assistant Secretary Romeo Montenegro, welcomed the investment, citing its economic impact on Mindanao's coconut sector.

"This strategic investment is a major boost to Mindanao's coconut industry, adding significant value, creating local employment opportunities, and reinforcing our region's role in the global coconut supply chain," Magno said. *(PortCalls)*

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TO BRING IN 640 TONNES OF COCONUTS TO ADDRESS SHORTAGE

The Agriculture and Food Security Ministry will be importing 640 tonnes of coconuts this month and in March to tackle the recent coconut supply shortage in the market.

Secretary-general Datuk Seri Isham Ishak said the coconuts will be brought in from Sabah, Sarawak, and Indonesia, as part of the

government's effort to meet demand during the upcoming festive season.

"Recently, we imported 85 metric tonnes of coconuts, including 12 tonnes from Sabah through a company. These mature coconuts will be distributed via 721 Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama) marketing outlets and 39 other existing marketing premises to facilitate consumers in accessing the supply," he said.

Reports had earlier highlighted a 60 per cent reduction in local coconut supply since August due to the "melawas" season when coconut fruits fail to grow, with recovery expected only by May 2025.

At the same time, Isham noted that the coconut supply shortage had been recognised in a report by the International Coconut Community (ICC) following their meeting.

"Through the conference, they issued a report stating that coconut supply this year is expected to be insufficient due to climate change," he said.

Isham also said Fama was working to ensure a controlled supply by collecting coconuts from small-scale producers.

He explained that the coconuts would be collected at Fama's collection centres before being distributed across the country.

"In addition, we are also running a programme to expand coconut plantation areas nationwide to ensure that production is more systematic and organized," he added.

Isham also mentioned that a study on the establishment of the Malaysian Pineapple, Coconut, and Durian Industry Board is underway.

He said that the creation of this board aims to ensure that the supply of these three crops is sufficient and can help in setting the future self-sufficiency rate. *(News Strait Times)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Prices of vegetable oils notably tropical oils remained firm during the week.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market continued firmer during the week but resumed quietness after last week's activity which reported a trade for the week at $2,035/MT CIF. Opening sellers quoted $2,080-2,110/MT CIF for positions from March/April through to August/September and thereafter headed upward, with tight supply at origin still supporting firmness as did gains in other vegetable oils. At the close, the market settled higher at $2,120-2,140/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market by contrast continued to see action, with a couple of turnovers reported which were both done at $1,800/MT CIF, higher than week-ago paying level at $1,750/MT. Sellers likewise started off firmer, save for the front month, with level at $1,820-1,840/MT CIF. Further gains were observed during the week with closing prices up at $1,835-1,890/MT CIF.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil increased anew from respective levels a week ago, crossing the $300 level for the nearby position. The weekly average hiked to $269.66/MT from $250.61 for the preceding week. Premium per position are shown following: March/April $301.00 ($275.50 last week); April/May $280.20 ($262.50); May/June $278.55 ($255.00); June/July $268.35 ($238.25); July/August $266.75 ($234.17); August/September $268.69 ($225.83); September/October no data ($265.00); October/November $262.50 (new position); October, November, December ($231.25 (new position).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures were up when market resumed after Monday's

holiday break underpinned by the USDA February 11 report indicating larger-than-expected cut on world soybean stocks, though were still seen as at an all-time high. Profit taking, however, reversed the trend as did pressure from the corn market. The market ended the week lower on beneficial weather outlook in the US, which was supportive of the crop.

At the palm oil section, the market stayed firm but ended the week in the downside dragged by profit taking and weak export demand. Firmness was underpinned by estimates of weaker production and stocks in Malaysia, and news about Indonesia's plans to restrict palm oil exports ahead of Ramadan.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment continued mixed. Coconut oil was back in positive territory, increasing $179.50 to $2,142.00/MT CIF this week from $1,962.50 a week ago. By contrast, palm kernel oil and palm oil returned to the downside. Palm kernel oil turned a shade lower by $1.00 at $1,841/MT CIF from $1,842 and palm oil dived $180.50 to $1,294.50/MT CIF from $1,475.00. Thus the price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil shot up to $301.00 from $120.50 last week as well as against palm oil to $847.50 from $487.50. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

The Rotterdam coconut oil market was firm again but quiet. All prices stayed above $2,000 during the week with closing offers at $2,140 for March/April and April/May; $2,131.75 for May/June; $2,126.75 for June/July; and $2,120/MT CIF for July/August and August/September. Buyers sidelined the whole week. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

DESICCATED COCONUTS: MANILA HARBOUR HEAVILY CONGESTED

Philippines increases exports in January

In their latest market update, the experts at T.M. Duché report that the Philippines exported a total of 198,765 mt of coconut products in January, an increase of 5.3% compared to the same month last year. This growth is mainly due to coconut oil exports, which totalled 110,234 mt, 8.2% more than in January 2024. Overall, the global coconut oil market is surprisingly robust despite volatile vegetable oil prices. Coconut oil prices are currently hovering around USD 1,945-2,000 per mt CIF Rotterdam.

Slow cargo handling in Manila

As T.M. Duché also points out, the port of Manila is currently massively overloaded. Since the beginning of 2025, the average waiting time for cargo handling has risen to two days. Limited infrastructure and operational inefficiencies are delaying cargo handling and increasing costs, for example by diverting to other ports. Added to this is the ongoing container shortage, which is leading to bottlenecks in the Philippines. This also drives up freight costs and delivery times.

Philippines benefits from trade agreement

The tariffs that the US has imposed on Canada, Mexico and China do not directly affect the Philippines; on the contrary, market experts state that trade relations between the Asian island nation and the United States are strong. In addition, the Philippines benefits from the 1989 Philippine-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), which regulates various trade-related issues, according to T.M. Duché. *(Mundus Agri)*

COCONUT EXPORTS SURPASS $1B FOR THE FIRST TIME

Vietnam's coconut exports exceeded US$1 billion for the first time last years, thanks to the new protocol with China and exporters' effort to expand their markets.

Exports of all coconut products surged 20% to nearly $1.1 billion, according to Vietnam Customs. Fresh coconuts alone jumped 61% to $390 million.

Vietnam has 200,000 hectares of coconut farm which produce 2 million tons a year. A third of it meets organic standards of the U.S. and Europe.

There are over 600 coconut producing and processing companies.

Vietnam ranks fifth globally in coconut exports.

China bought 25% of Vietnam's coconuts, partly because of a protocol on fresh coconut signed in August last year.

Vietnam is now the third biggest coconut supplier to China with a 20% market share.

Other large export markets include the E.U. the U.S., Canada and South Korea.

However, because farmers have been hesitant to expand their farms in recent years, supply is probably going to be insufficient in the years to come.

Competition with other exporters such as Thailand, India and countries in the Middle East, and the expansion of processing factories in China, also add difficulties to Vietnamese companies, said Cao Ba Dang Khoa, General Secretary of the Vietnam Coconut Association.

He urged the government to negotiate with China so it would add more farming areas in Vietnam to its list of approved locations for shipment. *(VN Express)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

INDONESIA STRESSES SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL FOR FOOD, ENERGY SECURITY

Indonesia's Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Sudaryono, has emphasized the need to improve sustainable palm oil productivity to support the government's priority programs, particularly food and energy self-sufficiency, as well as natural resource down streaming.

"The government wants our palm oil to be sustainable," he said after the opening of the International Conference on Palm Oil and the Environment (ICOPE) 2025 in Bali.

He stated that palm oil productivity can be increased through land intensification and the use of superior seeds.

He added that if necessary, land expansion would be conducted without leading to deforestation. This can be achieved through comprehensive studies and the implementation of sustainable practices to prevent environmental damage.

In addition, oil palm replanting, which incorporates the intercropping method involving the planting of upland rice or corn, is suitable for dry land.

Sudaryono welcomed ICOPE 2025 as a forum to discuss palm oil research on various aspects, including seeds, fertilizers, climate change, and technology, as well as artificial intelligence (AI) to support increased palm oil productivity.

"Of course, this is beneficial for Indonesia because 58 percent of the world's palm oil supply comes from our country," he pointed out.

He noted that palm oil productivity can support natural resource down streaming and food security, including the priority program for free nutritious meals. The free meals program targets school students, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers.

It can also contribute to energy self-sufficiency through the mandatory 40 percent biodiesel (B40) program, which aims to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Meanwhile, Dewi Lestari Yani Rizki, Director of Conservation at WWF Indonesia, emphasized that the palm oil industry must seriously implement sustainable practices to meet global market challenges.

This is expected to help the Indonesian government reduce carbon emissions and preserve biodiversity.

"We believe that the palm oil industry can transform into a sustainable business in the future," Dewi said.

Chairperson and CEO of Sinar Mas Agribusiness and Food, Franky Oesman Widjaja, stressed that sustainable innovation and synergy between the government, business actors, and communities are vital to securing the future of the palm oil industry.

He expressed hope that the conference will bring concrete results and position the palm oil industry as part of the global solution to climate and environmental challenges.

"We are committed to implementing best practices in sustainable agriculture, as well as protecting biodiversity and the surrounding ecosystem," he said.

This year, ICOPE is taking place in Sanur, Bali, from February 12 to 14, with participants from Indonesia, India, the Netherlands, France, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, Finland, Colombia, and Spain.

The conference serves as a platform to formulate a sustainable transformation for the palm oil industry. *(Antara)*

EUDR COSTS MAY DRIVE DEMAND SHIFT FROM PALM KERNEL OIL TO CRUDE COCONUT OIL, SAYS FASTMARKETS

Rising compliance costs associated with the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) could lead buyers to switch from palm kernel oil (PKO) to crude coconut oil (CNO), according to Regina Koh, a senior market reporter at Fastmarkets Palm Oil Analytics in Singapore.

Pricing, statistics, news, and analytics pertaining to the palm oil market and its derivative products are offered by Fastmarkets Palm Oil Analytics.

One of the speakers at the Palm and Lauric Oils Price Outlook Conference and Exhibition here on Tuesday, Koh observed that there was a surge in PKO exports to the EU between September and October last year. This occurred as buyers rushed to secure shipments before the initially planned end-December 2024 EUDR deadline.

“I see the EUDR delay until the end of this year providing some breathing room, and allowing for another round of inventory build-up, possibly with cheaper material. We may see another peak in crude PKO exports to the EU, but compliance costs will remain a challenge,” she said.

“That means more buyers will also look at CNO sourcing, keeping the oil's demand firm. CNO is not subject to EUDR requirements,” she added.

Lauric acid, an essential component utilized extensively in the food, oleochemical, and personal care sectors, is found in both PKO and CNO.

The Philippines and Indonesia are the world's leading CNO exporters, while Indonesia and Malaysia are the primary producers of PKO.

Koh also highlighted that several policy initiatives are positively impacting consumption of CNO. These include Indonesia’s Coconut Downstream Roadmap 2025-2045, improved management of coconut and cocoa plantations through integration with the Palm Oil Plantation Fund Management Agency, and the Philippines’ shift to a B4 coconut-oil based biodiesel blend mandate.

For 2025, Koh projected that CNO production will range between 2.08 million and 2.13 million tonnes, while PKO production is expected to be between 6.7 million and 6.9 million tonnes.

For the first half of 2025, she forecast that CNO CIF Rotterdam will trade at US$1,950 to US$2,050

per tonne, while crude PKO is expected to be priced US$150 to US$250 lower for front-month contracts. *(The Edge)*

PRIORITIZING OIL PALM REPLANTING WILL INCREASE YIELD WITHOUT REQUIRING MORE LAND

Malaysia remains committed to improving oil palm productivity by focusing on replanting efforts rather than expanding cultivated land.

However, the slow progress of these initiatives has raised concerns about the industry's long-term sustainability.

Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani said in 2024, only 114,000ha, or 2% of the total planted area, were replanted, representing a decline from the 132,000ha (2.3%) recorded in 2023.

He emphasized that this figure remains well below the recommended annual replanting target of approximately 285,000ha, which equates to 4% to 5% of the total plantation area.

Johari said replanting is a crucial issue that requires immediate attention, as it has a direct impact on the industry's long-term sustainability.

Safeguarding future yields demands an unwavering long-term commitment, one that must commence without delay to fortify the sector's sustained growth and resilience.

"This is especially important as Malaysia has committed to ensuring that no further deforestation will take place due to palm oil cultivation," he said at the 36th Palm & Lauric Oils Price Outlook Conference & Exhibition (POC2025).

As efforts to accelerate replanting gain momentum, Johari emphasized the importance of ensuring that only high-quality planting materials are utilized in this initiative.

"As many of you know, smallholders remain a significant but vulnerable group in the palm oil industry due to a lack of scale.

"Thus, these individuals may be susceptible to dishonest practices by certain nurseries. For instance, instead of being sold the preferred Dura and Pisifera hybrid (Tenera), they may be given low-quality variants," he said.

According to Johari, the government is still dedicated to protecting the interests of the more than 450,000 smallholders and the sector.

The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) will carry out random inspections to ensure nurseries are supplying the correct products. This measure aims to guarantee that only high-quality seeds are used in replanting efforts.

Johari also noted that the global palm oil industry saw several positive developments in 2024.

The average crude palm oil (CPO) price increased by 9.7% to RM4,179.50 per tonne, compared to RM3,809.50 per tonne in 2023, reaching a peak average of RM5,119.50 per tonne in December 2024.

"We have seen a demand boom in this sector due to increasing affluence in developing countries and sizeable youth populations, especially in Africa, as well as South and Central Asia.

"Additionally, higher demand is also driven by Indonesia's biodiesel mandate, where 25% of the 48 million tonnes of CPO produced in Indonesia is utilised for biodiesel production," he added.

On the postponement of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) to Dec 30, 2025, Johari said it will provide plantation operators, smallholders and businesses along the supply chain with more time to adequately prepare for the regulation's due diligence requirements.

The postponement has been positively accepted, and Malaysia is prepared to provide European partners and international importers with a dependable source of high-quality, sustainable palm oil.

"As I have communicated on multiple occasions, Malaysia stands ready to be a trusted supplier of sustainable and high-quality palm oil not only to our European partners but (also) to all our importers worldwide.

"The large companies and estates that manage roughly 73% of the palm oil planted area in Malaysia are well-positioned to comply with the regulations," he concluded. *(The Malaysian Reserve)*

HEALTH NEWS

HOW TO USE UP THE REMAINS OF A CAN OF COCONUT MILK

Happily, the warming sweetness of coconut milk is welcome in all the things you want to eat right now, sitting at home in your thermals (Curry! Soup!), meaning leftovers are no bad thing. When Mandy Yin, chef-owner of Sambal Shiok in north London, is faced with this same predicament, it usually means coconut rice: "It's so straightforward, too: just replace half the water you'd need to cook the rice with coconut milk." Otherwise, the excess milk could make an appearance in stews, even bolognese, or creamed spinach, she adds: "Replace the cream with coconut milk and a dash of fish sauce, and that's really delicious."

Coconut milk is, of course, a fundamental ingredient in Sri Lankan cooking. "You'll find kiri hodi, a coconut milk-based sauce infused with garlic, turmeric and pandan leaf, in 90% of kitchens in Sri Lanka," says Eroshan Meewella, co-founder of Kolamba in London, and he recommends you do the same. "The turmeric and garlic balance the quite creamy, quite sweet coconut milk, and it pairs beautifully with rice or crusty bread."

Another way to work through what's left in the tin is soup, especially if butternut squash or lentils are on the agenda. "You can jazz up a shop-bought one by melting coconut oil in a pan, then frying tempering spices [curry leaves, red chilli, mustard seeds, fenugreek] for a few minutes, and stirring that into the hot soup," says Karan Gokani, director of Hoppers in London. That will make it "nice and spicy", then go in with a splash of coconut milk to mellow out proceedings to taste.

And, of course, there are also curries. For a simple yet satisfying week night meal, Yin's formula goes like this: "Blitz onions and chilli powder, then fry that down, and add coconut milk, cabbage, carrots, green beans or whatever vegetables you have."

Saiphin Moore, co-founder of Rosa's Thai, meanwhile, leans towards a red curry, or chu chi. "Fry curry paste until it's fragrant, then add half a can of coconut milk and bring to a boil. Lower the heat and cook until the mix turns deep red and the oil separates from the coconut milk." Fry some fish – "salmon or sea bass works well" – then drizzle with the sauce. And if prawns are more your thing, Arun Tilak, executive chef at Dishoom, heats mustard seeds, curry leaves, fresh ginger (julienned) and slit green chillies in oil. "Add chopped red onions, saute until translucent, then stir in powdered spices (turmeric, coriander, red chilli]." Stir in some tomato puree followed by the prawns and, finally, coconut milk: "Bring all that to a boil, then finish with lime juice and chopped coriander."

Coconut milk isn't solely for dinner, mind. "I use it instead of milk in porridge for a tropical feel," says Yin, who tops cooked oats with chopped tinned pineapple and brown sugar. "If you don't want it quite so coconutty, use half coconut milk and half milk." The white stuff also adds depth to desserts: "Thick coconut milk with a bit of jaggery [palm sugar]

and salt makes a nice, rich sauce to pour over cakes or jelly," Gokani says.

Alternatively, he, says, head to the bar: "Freeze leftover coconut milk in ice cube trays, ready to blend into cocktails." *(The Guardian)*

5 REASONS YOU SHOULD START COOKING WITH COCONUT OIL TODAY

Coconut oil is an oil made from the meat of coconuts. Because it's solid at room temperature, some people use it as a moisturizer for their skin or hair. You can also cook with it.

Coconut oil has a high smoke point (the temperature at which an oil or fat begins to produce smoke) and melts when heated. It can be used for cooking, frying, and baking.

It's packed with nutrients and antioxidants that can support brain health, immune function, skin health, weight loss, and energy production. However, it's important to use coconut oil in moderation to avoid negative side effects.

1. The Smoke Point Of Refined Coconut Oil Is High

When oils burn, they can release toxic fumes and compounds that aren't good for your health.

Refined coconut oil has a high smoke point, meaning it can be heated to temperatures greater than 400 degrees Fahrenheit (204 degrees Celsius) without burning or creating harmful smoke. This makes it an excellent choice for frying, baking, and sauteing. Refined coconut oil also has a milder flavor than unrefined coconut oil.

Unrefined coconut oil (also known as pure or virgin coconut oil) has a medium smoke point of around 350 degrees Fahrenheit (176degrees Celsius. It can be used for quick sautéing or baking but is not appropriate for high-heat methods such as frying. Unrefined coconut oil also retains more of its flavor and scent.

Refined coconut oil's high smoke point makes it a stable and versatile cooking oil.

2. Could Help Your Skin Look Better

Virgin coconut oil has been used topically on skin and hair for centuries. Studies show that moisturizing with coconut oil can help fight inflammation, improve skin hydration, and strengthen your skin barrier. Cooking with coconut oil may provide many of these same benefits from the inside out.

Coconut oil contains many nutrients that can improve skin health. It contains antioxidants, like vitamin E, that protect the skin from harm caused by free radicals (unstable molecules that can damage cells). It also has antimicrobial properties that can help protect against bacteria and infections.

3. Offers a Quick Source of Energy

Coconut oil is rich in medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), a fat that is easier for your body to digest. Unlike long-chain fatty acids, MCTs are absorbed intact from the small intestine. They don't have to undergo extensive digestion and can be used directly in energy production.

Because MCTs are so easily absorbed and play a key role in energy production, they're often included in many infant formulas and nutritional drinks for athletes. Including coconut oil in a well-balanced diet may give you these benefits without needing to add supplements.

4. Promote Mental Health

Studies have shown that eating coconut oil may help your brain work better, especially in patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. In one study, patients with Alzheimer's who consumed a Mediterranean diet rich in coconut oil saw improvements in their cognitive function and memory.

The quick energy boost from MCTs may help your brain function and promote clear thinking.

Brain health requires a holistic approach, including a well-balanced diet, regular physical activity, stress management, and adequate sleep.

5. May Support Weight Loss Efforts
The research on coconut oil's effects on weight loss is mixed, but some studies suggest that eating coconut oil may support weight loss efforts. Coconut oil is believed to help improve metabolism since the body can use MCTs for quick energy.

Cooking fats may also help curb hunger and keep you feeling full between meals, which can help prevent overeating midday snacks, reducing how many calories you consume.

However, coconut oil is 100% fat, and each gram contains nine calories. It's important to consume coconut oil in moderation, especially if weight loss is your goal.

Tips for Cooking with Coconut Oil
Coconut oil is a versatile cooking fat with a distinct flavor and many potential health benefits. Here are some tips for cooking with coconut oil:

Refined vs. virgin coconut oil: Refined coconut oil offers a neutral flavor, while virgin coconut oil has a more pungent coconut taste.

High-heat cooking: Coconut oil has a high smoke point, making it great for sautéing, stir-frying, and baking.

Storage: Keep coconut oil in a cool, dry place. It may turn into a solid at lower temperatures but typically melts again when heated. Refined coconut oil usually has a shorter shelf life than virgin olive oil.

Balancing flavors: If the coconut flavor overpowers your meal, mix it with a more neutral oil, like avocado or olive oil.

Cooking uses: Coconut oil can add richness to sautéed vegetables, meats, and seafood. It can also help retain moisture in baked goods and is ideal for dairy-free or vegan recipes.

Using coconut oil instead of butter may help lower your intake of animal-based saturated fats. Using it instead of olive or canola oil may provide a more decadent taste to foods.

Its unique flavor and many health benefits can make it a great addition to savory and sweet meals. *(Health)*

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT SAGO WITH LEMONGRASS CURD AND FRESH MANGO

Ingredients
diced mango, or other fresh fruit, to serve julienned lime zest, to garnish.

Coconut sago

- 150 g dried white sago pearls
- 3 green lemongrass stems, bruised
- 400 ml (14 fl oz) tin coconut cream (Kara is my favourite)
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon caster (superfine) sugar (optional,
- particularly if using a sweeter cream such as Kara)

Lemongrass curd

- 3 lemongrass stems, white part roughly chopped
- finely grated zest of 3 limes (preferably makrut, if available)
- ½ cup (125 ml) lime juice
- ½ cup (110 g) caster sugar
- 3 egg yolks, plus
- 1 whole egg
- 80 g butter, diced

Method
For the sago, bring 12 cups (3 litres) water to the boil in a saucepan. Pop in the sago pearls and

bruised green lemongrass stems and simmer away over medium–low heat for 20–30 minutes, or until soft and only slightly opaque through the centre, stirring occasionally.

Drain the sago through a fine-mesh sieve, discarding the lemongrass, and rinse with cold water. In a bowl, combine the coconut cream, salt and sugar, if using. Stir in the sago. Chill for 1 hour, or until thickened slightly.

For the curd, place the chopped lemongrass in a heavy-based saucepan with the lime zest, lime juice and sugar. Bring to just before the boil, then remove from the heat and stand for 20 minutes to infuse. Strain through a fine sieve and return to the saucepan.

Add the egg yolks and whole egg, then whisk until creamy yellow in colour. Switch to a flexible spatula and stir continuously for 7–8 minutes as the mixture thickens to a custardy consistency, coating the back of a spoon; if you run a finger through it, the streak should stay put.

Pour the eggy mixture into a blender or food processor and stand to cool for 5 minutes or so. Start the motor, then add the butter cubes, a few at a time, continuing to blend on a low speed until incorporated and smooth.

Strain the curd into a bowl if plan on using it all, covering directly with a layer of baking paper to stop it developing a film, and chill for at least 1 hour to cool completely. (Alternatively, strain into sterilized jars and refrigerate until needed; the curd will last unopened for up to 3 months, or 1–2 weeks once crack in.)

To serve, divide the curd among four glasses. Top with the sago, then the mango, and garnish-with julienned lime zest. *(ABC)*

STATISTICS

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

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	6,161	5,362	5,050	206	119	119	1,436	674	674
February	9,765	6,925	9,814	155	146	146	1,580	891	891
March	9,714	9,457	9,552	249	230	230	1,322	1,297	1,297
April	4,796	5,847	5,656	138	161	161	1,012	1,647	1,647
May	5,143	4,496	3,407	143	148	148	1,216	1,354	1,354
June	6,648	6,771	3,092	181	98	98	966	1,173	1,173
July	5,189	7,808	6,418	242	193	193	1,280	1,301	1,301
August	6,329	8,209	6,074	230	222	222	1,066	1,359	1,359
September	5,232	4,193	3,861	130	150	150	978	1,002	1,002
October	6,654	3,700	4,304	146	124	124	1,374	710	710
November	4,371	3,313	2,968	96	129	129	1,022	1,051	1,051
December	3,340	2,807	2,767	192	133	133	517	857	857
Total	**73,342**	**68,888**	**62,963**	**2,108**	**1,853**	**1,853**	**13,769**	**13,316**	**13,316**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	270	196	180	1,380	1,512	1,447	432	345	303
February	277	160	172	1,288	1,362	1,418	353	300	487
March	255	171	186	1,310	1,291	838	393	260	285
April	255	169	180	1,434	1,167	1,288	387	338	140
May	243	173	194	1,160	689	1,284	364	254	139
June	240	169	190	1,420	661	958	360	297	204
July	222	152	188	859	1,015	693	514	289	174
August	231	156	185	1,042	1,116	926	342	206	253
September	212	155	176	1,067	1,057	612	399	234	345
October	202	160	180	1,122	1,141	905	270	229	331
November	182	160	184	1,179	953	710	309	217	147
December	180	177	205	1,343	1,164	1,430	383	240	117
Average	**231**	**167**	**185**	**1,217**	**1,094**	**1,042**	**375**	**267**	**244**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	82	27	63	800	742	625	3,119	2,175	2,275
February	76	97	150	609	461	331	3,411	2,561	2,511
March	172	58	103	625	249	275	3,360	2,237	2,005
April	57	42	26	1049	341	192	2,319	2,688	1,786
May	97	125	39	540	719	213	2,574	2,158	1,678
June	87	63	38	945	763	223	3,784	1,479	1,798
July	75	59	89	561	519	341	3,035	1,919	1,594
August	52	90	102	628	566	329	3,324	1,986	2,067
September	91	49	34	1004	557	195	2,849	1,722	1,437
October	44	65	54	877	375	601	3,185	1,952	1,706
November	107	106	48	571	653	444	1,815	1,392	1,265
December	35	20	67	871	733	276	2,148	1,645	1,873
Total	**975**	**801**	**813**	**9,080**	**6,678**	**4,045**	**34,923**	**23,914**	**21,995**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	992	744	810	1,374	1,170	1,029	253	266	213
February	879	691	803	1,611	1,055	1,074	232	262	203
March	670	657	994	1,144	1,313	1,147	226	257	265
April	774	619	849	1,136	1,344	1,015	266	306	262
May	813	718	459	1,211	1,180	1,058	258	278	223
June	951	748	530	1,337	1,294	1,077	249	255	230
July	856	619	684	1,266	1,180	1,099	278	262	249
August	775	590	656	1,317	1,203	1,109	244	220	248
September	627	625	605	1,194	1,130	1,081	225	220	253
October	613	678	576	1,287	1,041	1,040	227	209	259
November	685	624	513	1,210	1,112	1,260	245	215	229
December	383	488	766	1,115	1,079	947	253	206	263
Average	**752**	**650**	**687**	**1,267**	**1,175**	**1,078**	**246**	**246**	**241**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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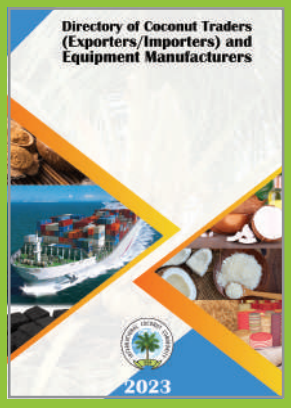

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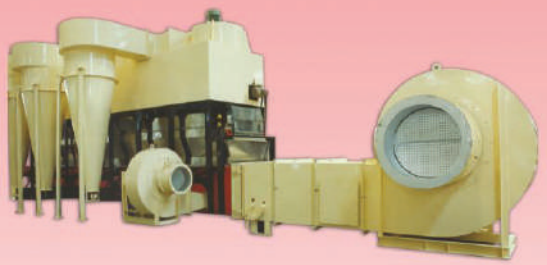

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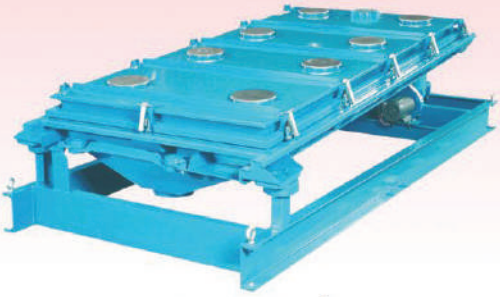

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