The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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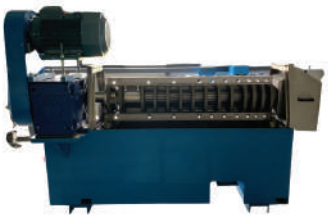

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THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SPEAKS

"Coconut Skim Milk for Child Nutrition? New Study Points to a Promising Future"

Health is the foundation of human life including every child's ability to learn, grow, and thrive; and good nutrition is essential to that journey. Yet, undernutrition remains a persistent global challenge. According to the UNICEF/ WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (2023), approximately 148 million children under five are stunted, while 45 million suffer from wasting. These figures underline a critical need for scalable, effective, and culturally appropriate interventions, particularly in countries where undernutrition and local agricultural potential coexist. Coconut milk or coconut skim milk is widely available, nutrient-rich, and well-known, having been used for centuries in the diets of many tropical communities. These coconut-based products are now emerging as promising tools in the fight against child malnutrition. Coconut milk is a liquid emulsion, and it's classified based on its fat content; coconut milk or coconut skim milk is the fat-reduced version used in many nutritional interventions (5% fat).

A breakthrough study by Agdeppa et al. (2022), published in the Journal of Nutrition and Metabolism, has added weight to this idea. Conducted in Cebu City, Philippines, the study evaluated the effects of Coconut Skim Milk (CocoM) and a Coco-Dairy Milk Blend (CDMB) compared to traditional cow's milk. The research involved 444 underweight or stunted schoolchildren aged 6–8, who received 200 ml of the assigned milk product daily for 95 days. All milk types were packed identically to ensure the study remained double-blind.

The results were promising, significant improvements in weight-for-age and BMI-for-age scores were seen across all groups. Notably, the CocoM group also showed a significant reduction in stunting, pointing to the potential of coconut milk as a viable alternative to cow's milk in addressing chronic undernutrition. Additionally, all milk types were rated as generally acceptable by the children, a key factor for the success of school-based feeding programs.

The findings confirm that CocoM and CDMB are just as effective as cow's milk in improving the nutritional status of undernourished children. In countries rich in coconut resources, this insight is a game changer. Incorporating coconut-based milk into national school feeding programs holds multiple benefits including reducing dependence on imported dairy, increasing income opportunities for coconut farmers, and promoting food security through local, sustainable sources.

To realize the full potential of coconut milk in child nutrition, investments must be made in productivity and infrastructure. Key next steps include enhancing coconut replanting and farm productivity, improving processing technologies and local supply chains, and integrating coconut milk into national nutrition and education policies. This is more than a nutrition intervention, it's a strategic alignment of health, agriculture, and economic development. As this research shows, coconut milk isn't just nutritious, it's a smart, locally driven solution. We invite stakeholders in health, education, agriculture, and development to explore how coconut-based nutrition can help fuel the future of our children and uplift communities at the same time.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

In March 2025, coconut oil prices exhibited a synchronized upward trend across key producing countries, including the Philippines, Indonesia, and India, while Sri Lanka experienced a price decline. Desiccated coconut prices increased in the Philippines and India, but recorded decreases in both Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

COPRA: In March 2025, copra prices in Indonesia rose to US\$1,182 per metric ton, up from US\$1,167 in February, representing a notable year-on-year increase of US\$470 per metric ton. A similar upward trend was observed in the Philippines, where prices climbed from US\$1,172 per metric ton in February 2024 to US\$1,350 per metric ton in March, reflecting a substantial year-on-year gain of US\$696 per metric ton, compared to US\$654 during the same period last year. In contrast, Sri Lanka experienced a monthly price decline, with a contraction rate of 3.2%.

COCONUT OIL: In March 2025, coconut oil prices demonstrated a synchronized upward trend across Indonesia, the Philippines, and India. In Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price rose sharply to US$2,316 per metric ton, representing a substantial 85% year-on-year increase. In the Philippines, local market prices reached US$2,533 per metric ton, reflecting a year-on-year gain of US$1,319. Similarly, Indonesia recorded a significant increase, with prices climbing to US$2,273 per metric ton in March, up from US$2,154 in February, amounting to a US$960 year-on-year rise. India also reported a monthly price increase of 7.6%. In contrast, Sri Lanka experienced a 2.9% decline compared to the previous month.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic copra meal price declined to US$152 per metric ton in March 2025, reflecting a decrease from the previous month and a year-on-year drop of US$80 per metric ton. Similarly, Indonesia reported a slight decline in the average domestic copra meal price, which stood at US$303 per metric ton in March 2025. Despite the monthly dip, this represented an increase of US$46 per metric ton compared to the same period in the previous year.

DESICCATED COCONUT: In March 2025, the average FOB (Free on Board) price of desiccated coconut (DC) from the Philippines to the United States increased to US$3,101 per metric ton compared to the previous month. Domestically, however, the price in the Philippines remained stable at US$2,039 per metric ton. In Indonesia, the FOB price of DC recorded a slight decrease to US$3,150 per metric ton, although it remained significantly higher than the previous year's level of US$1,170 per metric ton. Similarly, Sri Lanka experienced a decline in the domestic price of desiccated coconut, which fell to US$3,917 per metric ton.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In March 2025, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in India rose to US$722 per metric ton, reflecting a notable month-on-month increase of US$61. Similarly, prices in Indonesia climbed to US$729 per metric ton during the same period. Sri Lanka also recorded a moderate price increase, with the average reaching US$696 per metric ton.

COIR FIBRE: In March 2025, domestic trade data from Sri Lanka indicated that mixed coir fiber averaged US$102 per metric ton, while bristle fiber was traded within a range of US$499 to US$764 per metric ton. Meanwhile, Indonesia maintained its price for mixed raw coir fiber at US$158 per metric ton, representing a moderate increase from US$110 per metric ton in the same period of the previous year.

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

Products/Country	2025 Mar	2025 Feb	2024 Mar	2025 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	321	282	144	279
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use, Sumatera)	342	322	203	320
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	902	528	232	636
India (Domestic Kerala)	813	793	474	796
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	1,350	1,172	654	1,221
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	1,182	1,167	712	1,151
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,793	1,852	1,124	1,806
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,881	1,756	1,147	1,800
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	2,316	2,051	1,254	2,114
Philippines (Domestic, Millgate Price)	2,533	2,156	1,214	2,269
Indonesia (FOB)	2,273	2,154	1,225	2,175
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,905	2,824	1,963	2,876
India (Domestic, Kerala)	3,007	2,796	1,817	2,856
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	3,101	2,462	1,874	2,626
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,040
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,917	4,074	1,917	3,917
Indonesia (FOB)	3,150	3,225	1,980	3,192
India (Domestic)	2,924	2,890	1,708	2,937
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	152	183	232	184
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	424	448	311	428
Indonesia (Domestic)	303	306	257	293
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	696	604	383	615
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	729	660	459	668
India (Domestic)	722	661	361	671
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	102	78	68	82
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	499	455	469	476
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	764	707	656	735
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	158	150	110	151
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	2,064	1,947	1,177	1,991
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,069	1,067	943	1,069
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,005	1,069	965	1,040

Exchange Rate

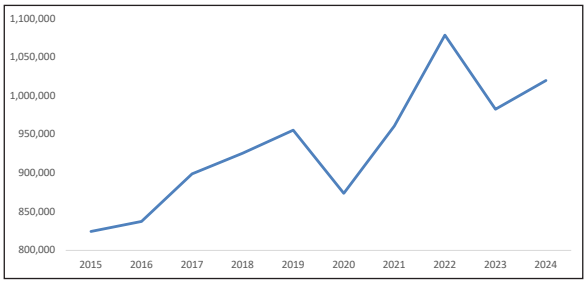
Mar 31, '25 1 US$ = P57.30 or Rp16,634 or India Rs85.46 or SL Rs294.65

1 Euro = US$1.08 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF ACTIVATED CARBON

In 2024, global imports of activated carbon reached 1,019,804 metric tons (MT), marking a 3.8% increase from 2023. This modest recovery follows a sharp drop from the 2022 peak of 1,078,708 MT, when post-pandemic demand drove exceptional growth. Despite not returning to the 2022 high, the 2024 import level is the second highest in the past decade, indicating a stabilization of global trade and sustained demand across key sectors.

Figure 1. Global Imports Volume of Activated Carbon (MT), 2015-2024

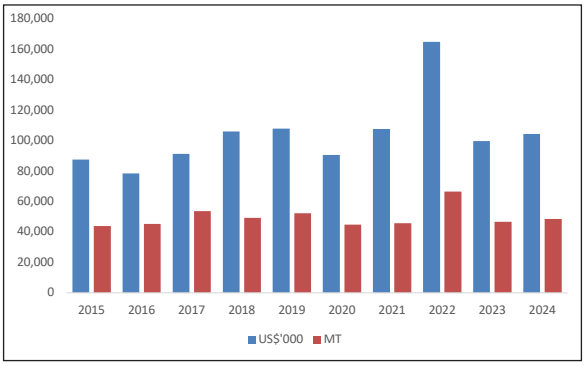


Source: ITC

The long-term trend since 2015 shows overall growth, with brief setbacks during the pandemic in 2020 and a correction in 2023. The 2024 rebound suggests renewed momentum in industrial, environmental, and purification applications, reflecting the resilience of the activated carbon market and the gradual normalization of global supply chains.

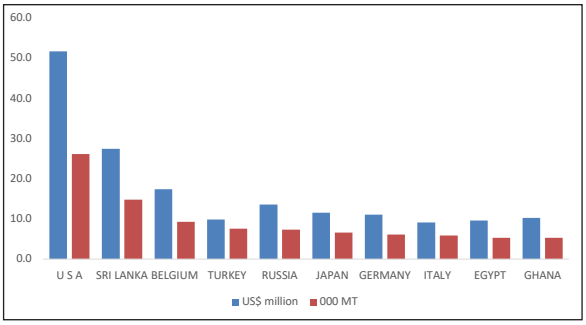
U.S. imports of coconut shell-based activated carbon in 2024 totaled 48,498 MT, valued at US$104.4 million. This represents a modest increase from 2023 (46,663 MT, US$99.7 million), indicating a slight recovery in both volume and value. However, figures remain well below the 2022 peak of 66,432 MT and US$164.7 million, suggesting ongoing adjustments in inventory and pricing. The relatively steady increase in volume and value points to market normalization and stable pricing dynamics.

Figure 2. US Imports of Coconut Shell based Activated Carbon, 2015-2024



Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Figure 3. Top 10 Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from India (MT), January-December 2024

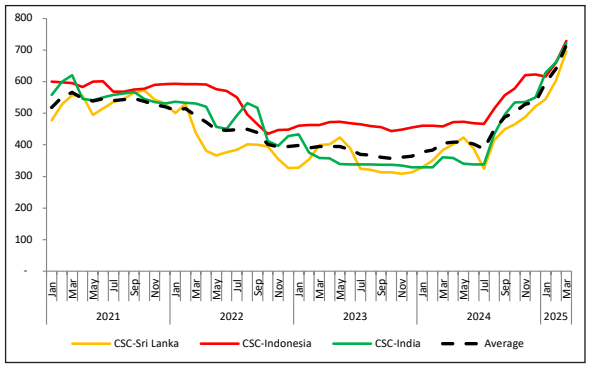


Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India

India saw strong export growth in 2024, with activated carbon shipments rising by 25.4% in volume (177,940 MT) and 28.4% in value (US$310.96 million) compared to 2023. This growth underscores India's increasing competitiveness and rising global demand for its products, especially in applications such as air purification and water treatment. Major export markets like the U.S., Sri Lanka, and Belgium recorded significant growth, while some, such as Türkiye and Germany, showed signs of saturation or heightened competition.

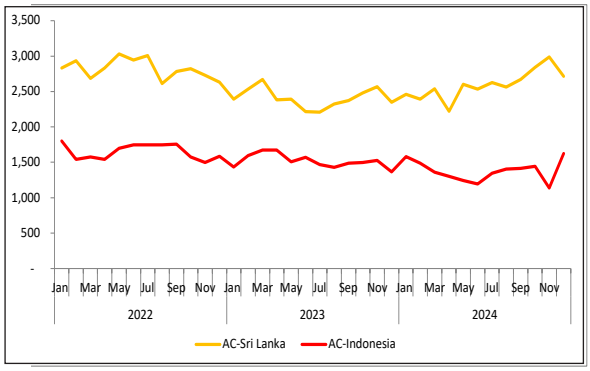
Sri Lanka's activated carbon exports grew by 13.3% in volume to 58,381 MT and by 21.9% in value to US$151.21 million in 2024. The strongest

Figure 6. Monthly Prices of Coconut Shell Charcoal (US$/MT) in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and India, January 2021-March 2025



Source: ICC

Figure 7. Export Price of Activated Carbon US$/MT in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, January 2022 – December 2024



Source: CDA, Sri Lanka and BPS-Statistics Indonesia

monthly performance occurred in December, with record shipments (5,285 MT) and earnings (US$14.34 million), indicating strong year-end demand. Monthly data also show consistent improvements over 2023, suggesting higher unit prices or value-added product exports. This robust growth highlights Sri Lanka's strategic positioning in the global market.

Indonesia's exports of coconut shell-based activated carbon declined in 2024, with volume down 9% to 17,097 MT and value falling 18% to US$23.4 million. The sharper decline in value signals lower unit prices and softening demand. Although exports showed partial recovery late in the year, overall performance remained below 2023 levels, likely due to increased competition and shifting demand patterns.

The Philippines saw a marginal decline in exports, with volume down 0.5% to 58,692 MT and value slipping 0.8% to US$97.4 million. While the first half of the year underperformed, strong shipments in July and October helped stabilize annual figures. Price per MT remained relatively steady, indicating volume as the primary driver of change.

Coconut shell charcoal prices rose sharply across key producing countries in 2024 and early 2025 due to tightening supplies and recovering demand. Indonesia's prices surged from US$461/MT in January 2024 to US$729/MT by March 2025. India experienced a similar climb, from US$329 to US$722/MT. Activated carbon prices also increased, with Sri Lanka reporting a rise from US$2,346/MT in December 2023 to US$2,713/MT in December 2024. In contrast, Indonesia's export prices remained relatively subdued.

The market outlook remains cautiously optimistic. Demand from water treatment, air purification, food processing, and energy storage continues to grow, particularly favoring coconut shell-based carbon for its renewable nature and high adsorption capacity. The Asia-Pacific region is poised for continued growth, while premium pricing in developed markets is supported by stringent environmental regulations.

However, trade risks persist. Tariff barriers imposed by the U.S. under the Trump administration still affect global flows, especially for Asian exporters. While some benefit from trade diversion, others face margin pressure and must diversify markets. As such, despite favorable fundamentals, trade policy and price volatility will shape the industry landscape through 2025.

COMMUNITY 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)*

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ICC PARTICIPATES IN CABI REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN MALAYSIA

The Director General of the International Coconut Community (ICC) participated in the CABI Regional Consultative Meeting held in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The meeting gathered around 100 delegates from CABI Member Countries, international partners, and agricultural experts to align CABI's efforts with national and regional priorities, develop collaborative frameworks, and ensure effective funding and implementation of key agricultural programs.

The event was officially opened by Dr. Daniel Elger, CEO of CABI, and Mr. Johari Bin Abdullah, Deputy Director General, Department of Agriculture, who represented Malaysia's Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (KPKM). Discussions were led by Dr. Ulrich Kuhlman, Executive Director, Global Operations, CABI, featuring a series of presentations and workshops addressing regional agricultural challenges and solutions.

As part of the meeting, the Director General of ICC was invited to speak in a session focusing on the challenges and opportunities in implementing pesticide risk reduction practices. The session highlighted the urgent need to reduce pesticide overuse, which poses risks to human health, the environment, and biodiversity. Excessive reliance on chemical pesticides in agriculture has led to issues such as pesticide resistance, soil degradation, water contamination, and threats to pollinators like bees.

During the session, the Director General introduced ICC's key programs, which align with global efforts to promote sustainable agriculture and capacity-building:

- Eco-friendly Pest Management Initiatives – Encouraging integrated pest management (IPM) strategies as an alternative to excessive pesticide use, promoting environmentally responsible coconut farming.
- Youth Empowerment Program – Engaging and equipping young professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to contribute to the coconut industry's growth and innovation.
- International Training Course for Coconut Development Officers – A capacity-building initiative designed to enhance technical expertise, knowledge-sharing, and leadership development among coconut sector stakeholders worldwide.

In addition, Dr. Jelfina Alouw, ICC Director General, presented key findings on major pests and diseases affecting the coconut sector, emphasizing the urgent need for collaboration to manage these threats and protect smallholder

farmers, who account for over 95% of the coconut industry. She highlighted ICC's active role in advancing IPM strategies, including the development of guidelines, books, and an online portal for pest identification and management. Notably, CABI has developed the "Cocopest" information portal, which serves as a valuable tool for coconut farmers and stakeholders.

The CABI Regional Consultative Meeting provided an excellent platform for ICC to strengthen partnerships, exchange knowledge, and contribute to discussions on sustainable pest management, capacity building, and youth engagement. By addressing pesticide risk reduction and promoting eco-friendly solutions, ICC reinforces its commitment to ensuring a resilient and sustainable coconut industry that supports farmers' livelihoods and environmental conservation. *(ICC News)*

ICC DIRECTOR GENERAL VISITS ICC CHAIRMAN AND THAILAND'S NATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION

While attending the 12th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APSDF) in Bangkok, the International Coconut Community (ICC) Delegation paid a courtesy visit to Thailand's National Liaison Officer (NLO) and ICC Chairman to further strengthen collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Thailand.

Courtesy Meeting with Thailand's National Liaison Officer and ICC Chairman

On February 28, 2025, ICC Director General Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw and Deputy Director General Mr. A. H. N. Chinthaka met with Dr. Wilaiwan Kraikruan, National Liaison Officer (NLO) of Thailand for ICC and current ICC Chairman, at the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Thailand. The discussions focused on strengthening cooperation between ICC and DOA and preparations for ICC's ongoing and upcoming initiatives, specially 61st ICC Session and Ministerial Metting Hosted by Government of Thailand through Horticulture Research Institute.

Dr. Jelfina provided an overview of ICC's key programs and activities, emphasizing the importance of Thailand's role in ICC initiatives. She presented ICC's Youth Empowerment Program, which aims to equip young professionals with training, mentorship, and entrepreneurship opportunities to advance the coconut sector. She also introduced "Coconut 101", ICC's latest proposal to establish a centralized knowledge hub and exhibition for the coconut industry. The initiative is designed to foster innovation, market promotion, and collaboration, benefiting stakeholders across the coconut value chain.

During the meeting, Ms. Wilaiwan Twishiri, Director of the Research Project Administration Division of the Horticulture Research Institute (HRI), and Dr. Napat Tour, Research Officer of HRI, presented research findings on climate vulnerability and its impact on aromatic coconut yield. Acknowledging the urgency of this issue, ICC committed to extending technical assistance to Thailand and implementing immediate actions to support sustainable solutions for Thai coconut farmers.

Engagement with Thai Coconut Industry Stakeholders

Following the courtesy visit, ICC met with representatives from Thailand's coconut industry at the Horticulture Research Institute. Several industry leaders participated both physically and virtually, engaging in discussions on key industry challenges and opportunities. Mrs. Piyanoot Naka, Vice Chairman of CDCOT Thailand and Advisor to the DOA and members of the CDCOT also participated in the meeting.

Dr. Jelfina presented the "Coconut 101" proposal, which received strong support from Thai coconut industries. Industry representatives also raised concerns about the shortage of raw materials for coconut industries across member countries. In response, ICC reaffirmed its

commitment to facilitating discussions among member nations to find solutions to supply chain challenges and shared ICC's ongoing efforts to address the issue.

Field Visits to Thailand's Coconut Industry

Prior to the meetings, the ICC delegation visited Ratchaburi Province to observe Thailand's coconut farming and processing sector. The visit included a stop at NP Coconut Co. Ltd, founded by Mr. Charuwat, a young entrepreneur who exports aromatic coconuts and other coconut-based products to China, Europe, and the US with technical guidance from DOA Thailand. The delegation also visited NC Coconut Factory, a large-scale coconut processing facility that not only focuses on production but also integrates sustainability by converting coconut waste into organic fertilizers. Another highlight of the visit was the aromatic coconut farm of Ms. Nuanla, winner of the 2022 ICC Innovative Farmer Award, who has successfully increased farm productivity by using insect pollinators, biocontrol agents, and organic fertilizers. In addition to running a highly productive farm, she operates a training center where she has trained thousands of coconut stakeholders. Dr. Jelfina commended her dedication to sustainable farming and knowledge sharing, emphasizing the importance of farmer-led innovation. The delegation also had the opportunity to visit a 60+ hectare aromatic coconut plantation, where molecular tests conducted by Kasetsart University confirmed that 100% of the coconut palms are aromatic, demonstrating Thailand's advanced research and breeding capabilities in the sector.

Way Forward

ICC will continue working closely with DOA Thailand and coconut industry stakeholders to enhance technical collaboration, drive industry innovation, and promote sustainability initiatives. The courtesy visit and meetings further strengthen ICC's engagement with Thailand, reinforcing its commitment to supporting coconut sector development in the region. *(ICC News)*

WHITEFLY DISEASE AFFECTED COCONUT TREES ON 1.48 LAKH HECTARES IN 14 DISTRICTS OF KARNATAKA, INDIA

Coconut trees on 1.48 lakh hectare in 14 districts across Karnataka are affected by whitefly disease, Minister for Industries M. B. Patil informed the Legislative Assembly.

In reply to a question by Suresh Babu (JD), the Minister said coconut trees on 64,457 hectares in Tumakuru and 34,530 hectares in Hassan districts were affected by high populations of whiteflies.

The disease was spread widely and affected the coconut yield in Chikkamagaluru, Mandya, Mysuru, Davanagere, Chitradurga, Shivamogga, Dakshina Kannada, Chamarajanagar, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural and Kolar districts.

Replying on behalf of Minister for Horticulture, Mines and Geology S.S. Mallikarjun, Mr Patil said that by increasing the natural immunity of coconut trees, pests and diseases, including whitefly, can be controlled. A grant of ₹15.31 crore has been provided under the Coconut Development Board Scheme for integrated nutrient management during the current year. Under the scheme, ₹35,000 per hectare would be provided for a period of two years to maintain the demonstration plots.

During 2023-24, ₹60.33 crore was utilized for conducting demonstrations on 34,617 hectares by 50,612 farmers, Mr. Patil said.

Since the use of pesticides for whitefly control is not very effective, awareness among farmers is being created. On spraying of pesticides using drones, the Minister said drones would not be effective in coconut plantations.

Mr. Babu and Suresh Gowda (BJP) said the disease has brought down coconut yield by more than 50% this year, and prices of coconut are moving up. They demanded a compensation of ₹50,000 per acre of coconut plantation. *(The Hindu)*

TNAU'S COCONUT RESEARCH STATION SENSITISES FARMERS TO METHODOLOGIES FOR ADDRESSING ROOT WILT DISEASE

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), through the Coconut Research Station at Aliyar Nagar in Pollachi Taluk, has urged farmers to apply micronutrients for coconut trees affected by root wilt disease.

Micronutrients are vital for preventing electrolyte leakage that makes the tree susceptible to pest diseases, C. Sudhalakshmi, Associate Professor and Head, Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar, explained to farmers.

Irrespective of the extent of application of urea, micronutrients were essential. Organic carbon enrichment, which was on decline, could be addressed by scrupulous application of farmyard manure and poultry/goat manure. Rather than burning the fallen fronds, they should be allowed to decompose naturally after removing the basal portion to enrich the organic carbon pool, Prof. Sudhalakshmi said.

Also, instead of fodder as inter-crop, coconut farmers could take up green manure cultivation, which will also prevent growth of weeds such as parthenium, touch-me-not and other noxious weeds.

Revival of coconut crop attacked by pest disease was possible only if the coconut tree was left with more than 10 fronds, at the third stage. A tree normally has over 30 fronds. But when the number fell drastically in the final stage, the next ideal step for farmers would be to derive the utility of the rejuvenation and replanting schemes backed by the Department of Horticulture, Government of Tamil Nadu, and the Coconut Development Board, Prof. Sudhalakshmi said.

According to Horticulture Department officials, the farmers have been informed about availability of the seedlings of 'Kalpashankara', a hybrid tolerant variety developed by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod, that are raised and sold at the Coconut Research Station for ₹400 per unit. *(The Hindu)*

COCONUT, RUBBER DRIVE ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR'S ECONOMIC BOOM

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) highlighted Zamboanga del Sur's strong economic potential, with key industries driving growth and new investments, during the recent Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas held in Zamboanga City.

DTI Regional Director Al Zamir I. Lipae said, "Business as usual, it's good in Zamboanga del Sur because of the active members of the Chamber of Commerce."

DTI-Zamboanga del Sur reported that more than 3,000 new business names were registered, signaling strong entrepreneurial activity in the province. Major industries contributing to this growth include coconut, rubber and seaweed, with rising demand for coffee and cacao.

Provincial Director Marlon A. Alabata of DTI-Zamboanga del Sur said, "This shows the vibrancy of the business environment in Zamboanga del Sur," noting contributions from the coconut industry reaching P307 million in investments and rubber, as an emerging industry, with P141 million, respectively.

He said Zamboanga del Sur also has been strengthening its cacao industry, with events such as the Kakao Festival highlighting its potential.

According to Lipae, Zamboanga del Sur has been very active in activities like marketing events. In fact, he said, they are in their fifth year of the Kakao Festival because they really want to be known for their cacao industry.

Looking ahead, the province anticipates significant economic developments in 2025. A major investment by Cintegral Global

Solutions will see the establishment of an integrated coconut processing plant in San Miguel town. It is expected to generate 5,000 jobs and significantly boost the income of coconut farmers in nearby areas.

"We are expecting at least double or triple the income of coconut farmers in the neighboring places," Alabata said.

Further economic prospects include the transformation of Pagadian City Port into a BIMP-EAGA (Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area) international port, in collaboration with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) and the Pagadian City local government.

"We are expecting an influx, and perhaps this is where DTI's expertise will come in, to determine whether any of these goods that are coming in are passing Philippine standards as well," Alabata noted.

With these developments, the province is poised to solidify its position as a key player in regional trade and industry, bringing more opportunities for businesses and local communities. *(Philippine Information Agency)*

SRI LANKA TO GIVE 400,000 COCONUT PLANTS TO FAMILIES TO BOOST PRODUCTION

Sri Lanka will distribute 400,000 coconut saplings among 200,000 families to boost family-based coconut production, Chairman of the Coconut Cultivation Board Sunimal Jayakody said.

"We are planning to offer 2 plants for each family for free," Sunimal Jayakody said.

This initiative was put in place to boost coconut production.

Families can request plants under the project, Jayakody said.

Sri Lanka is also expecting to cultivate coconut in the North to combat the lack of nuts. A 250 million nut crop shortfall has been projected for the first half of 2025.

By 2023 the harvest was down to 2,950 million nuts from 3,350 million nuts.

Sri Lanka Coconut Research Institute is now forecasting a 1,407 million nut harvest for the first half of 2025.

In Sri Lanka around 60 percent of the harvest comes in the first half of the year.

A coconut sapling takes about 6–10 years to start producing coconuts, and 15 years to fully mature. *(Economy Next)*

KOZHIKODE YOUTHS DEVELOP AI-POWERED COCONUT HARVESTER COCO-BOT; SET TO REVOLUTIONISE FARMING

The dearth of trained climbers has been a serious issue faced by coconut farmers in the state. According to the Coconut Development Board (CDB) database, of the nearly 32,925 climbers trained over 12 years, only 673 are active. Soon, however, such worries could be a thing of the past, thanks to the state's first artificial intelligence-powered coconut harvester.

Developed by four youths from Kozhikode, Coco-bot has already caught the eye of some major players like Marico Ltd, which produces the popular Parachute brand coconut oil.

Coco-bot is different from other coconut-climbing robots in the market in that it is compact, lightweight, and has AI trained on datasets. And, the fact that the idea took shape in the bathroom only adds to its allure!

"The journey started from my bathroom," says Ashin P Krishna, founder and CEO of Altersage Innovations Pvt Ltd. "It happened in 2020 while I was taking a bath, all the while reminiscing about my inability to make it to the

Indian Science Congress (ISC)." Then a Plus-Two student, he had developed an air-conditioner, which he submitted to ISC. "However, the theme that year was innovation in agriculture," recounts Ashin.

But the same air-conditioner made it to the semi-finals of an international contest held in China. "As a reward, we received the chassis of a robotic tank. Fast forward to 2020, and I was in the bathroom thinking about it looking out of the ventilation. I thought, if only I had made an innovative project for the agriculture sector. It was then that I noticed the coconut tree right outside my bathroom. And, that was the light-bulb moment for me. I decided to make a futuristic robot that can climb coconut trees and harvest the nuts," says the 23-year-old.

Ashin assembled his team and did research and development for a year. "We built one from scratch and brought out a prototype in 2021," he adds. In 2023, the team presented its idea to the Kerala Startup Mission and received funds. The same year, the idea was further developed at the 36-hour Hackathon Vaiga organised by the state government. And we won the first prize," Ashin says.

Following their success at the hackathon, the robot got noticed by Nabard. "Riyas Muhammad and Rakesh V, district development managers of Nabard, contacted us and provided us with funds. The others who played a big role in the journey weer Prof E Sasindran, chairman, and K Sadanathan, vice chairman of Vadakara Coconut Farmers Producer Company," adds Ashin. In 2025, the first titration of the prototype was held.

Coco-bot has many advantages over the competition. "AI enables it to identify mature nuts and harvest them. Right now, Coco-bot is semi-automatic. But our final product will be fully automatic. Coco-bot can be handled by a single person instead of the more than three required for other types," he says, adding that these are the features that attracted the attention of consumers. The robot weighs 10 kg and can adapt to the various shapes of individual coconut tree trunks.

"The locking mechanism takes only five seconds to activate," adds Ashin. The startup received funds from Kerala Agriculture University's Raftaar agri-business incubator and has been invited by Maker Village in Kalamassery, Kochi. The startup was first incubated at IIM Kozhikode. *(The New Indian Express)*

PCA LAUNCHES ₱29.5 MILLION RESEARCH PROJECT TO MODERNIZE COCONUT FARMING

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) will lead a ₱29.5 million research project aimed at modernizing coconut farming to boost productivity and improve farmers' income.

PCA Administrator and CEO Dexter Buted stressed the crucial role of science and technology in driving innovation and progress in the coconut sector, expressing his support for initiatives that advance data-driven farm management strategies.

The research project titled "Profiling and Evaluation of Coconut Palms for National Coconut Hybridization through Hyperspectral Data and Image Analysis," funded by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) is set to run for 3 and a half years.

The PCA will collaborate with the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD), and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) to integrate science-based and technology-driven solutions into coconut farm management.

Under this project, the Comprehensive Spectral Library for Coconut would be developed, which is considered the first of its kind in the Philippines.

This database would serve as the foundation for advanced plant health models, allowing precise

coconut identification either by type, variety, or reproductive stage, early pest and disease detection, and targeted fertilizer recommendations.

"These advancements are expected to maximize coconut productivity and increase farmers' incomes," the PCA said in a statement.

Furthermore, the agency would lean into developing machine learning methodologies, leading toward Artificial Intelligence (AI) as part of its digital transformation.

The PCA said these AI-driven tools would provide coconut farmers with real-time insights on crop health, pest outbreaks, and yield forecasts, allowing for data-driven decision-making at all levels.

Meanwhile, the agency said it would venture into another proposed project titled "Nationwide Management of Coconut Production and Production Component Resources," which is in the pipeline for ₱70 million in DOST-PCAARRD funding.

This project would use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing Technology to conduct an automated nationwide coconut inventory, which would map coconut palms down to the barangay level.

It would also identify coconut-related industries, locate potential planting areas, assess crop health, and forecast productivity.

"By replacing manual, labor-intensive surveys, this approach will significantly cut costs, improve data accuracy, and enable efficient resource allocation."

The PCA noted that these science-based monitoring strategies would optimize planting methods, fertilizer application, pest management, and disaster preparedness.

Thus, real-time, location-specific recommendations would empower farmers to boost their productivity while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the coconut industry.

"By harnessing cutting-edge remote sensing technologies, including satellite and drone hyperspectral data, the PCA seeks to modernize farm monitoring, enhance productivity, and promote sustainability in the country's coconut industry." *(Business Mirror)*

THE JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMING COCONUT WATER INTO CULINARY EXCELLENCE

When people think of coconuts, they often focus on coconut flesh, a common ingredient in food processing. However, few realize that coconut water is rich in nutrients such as potassium, calcium, magnesium, and amino acids, which are highly beneficial to one's health. Unfortunately, this valuable resource is often wasted after the extraction of the coconut flesh. This issue greatly concerned Nguyen Van Thu, Chairman of the Board of Directors at GC Food Joint-Stock Company (GC Food), who came up with the bold idea - turning coconut water into coconut jelly. This innovation not only adds value to the product but also contributes to rural economic development and highlights the stature of Vietnamese agricultural goods on the global market.

In 2015, GC Food began construction of a state-of-the-art Vinacoco coconut jelly factory in Dong Nai Province, laying the foundation for a promising future. To ensure a sustainable supply of raw materials, Vinacoco not only invested in advanced technology but also partnered with hundreds of coconut farmers in Ben Tre Province. Known as the "Three Green Coconut Islands", Ben Tre has over 72,000ha of coconut plantations, accounting for 42% of Vietnam's total coconut area. Of this, more than 80% is dedicated to dry coconut production, yielding an average of over 600 million coconuts annually.

To meet large-scale production demands and ensure high quality, Vinacoco has invested in advanced machinery, including imported European equipment and custom-designed

machines to create their unique coconut jelly products. Vinacoco has established a 17-step closed production process, with each step strictly monitored to produce jelly cubes with a natural flavor. These products meet food safety and hygiene standards, including prestigious certifications like FSSC 22000, Halal, and others.

The company continues to expand its production scale and intensify research and development efforts to meet current market demands while preparing for future consumption trends.

Today, Vinacoco operates Vietnam's largest coconut jelly factory, with an annual production capacity of 15,000tons of finished jelly. Notably, Vinacoco is the only producer currently supplying coconut jelly in special sizes such as 3x3x3mm and 4x4x4mm, catering to diverse requirements in the beverage industry.

Coconut jelly is increasingly popular among health-conscious consumers who prefer low-sugar, preservative-free foods with natural origins. As a result, Vinacoco coconut jelly has quickly gained popularity in global markets, especially in high demand regions like Japan, South Korea, and Europe. Vinacoco coconut jelly can be enjoyed as a natural dessert. It can also be paired with fresh fruits, unsweetened yogurt, or pure juice. This combination adds vitamins, balances nutrition, provides natural fiber, aids digestion, cools the body, and promotes overall digestive health.

With a 4-star OCOP certification and the title of Outstanding National Rural Industrial Product, Vinacoco coconut jelly is exported to over 20 countries worldwide. The journey of Vinacoco coconut jelly is not just a business success story but also an inspiring narrative about valuing traditional resources, aspiring to elevate the Vietnamese brand, and offering the world a product that embodies the essence of Vietnam's natural heritage. *(Vietnam News Agency)*

VIETNAM'S BEN TRE RELEASES 285 MILLION WASPS TO FIGHT COCONUT BLACK-HEADED CATERPILLAR

Huynh Quang Duc, deputy director of the Ben Tre Department of Agriculture and Environment, said on Saturday that efforts to control the coconut black-headed caterpillar are progressing well, based on biological control methods.

"Since the beginning of 2024, we have released over 285 million parasitic wasps to target the coconut black-headed caterpillar, and the results have been very effective," Duc said.

"The wasps, once released, inject toxins into the caterpillar larvae, paralyzing them and laying eggs on their bodies.

"After 15 days, each parasitized caterpillar can hatch between 10 and 50 new wasps.

"On average, a female wasp lives for over 20 days and lays about 100 eggs."

The two types of wasps used for the biological control are Habrobracon hebetor and Trichospilus pupivorus.

These wasps attack the coconut black-headed caterpillar at both the pupa and larval stages, effectively preventing the spread of the pest.

According to local statistics, approximately 609 hectares of coconut groves previously infested by the coconut black-headed caterpillar have been restored.

Notably, two districts with large-scale and severe infestations, Mo Cay Nam and Thanh Phu, have shown signs of recovery, with the caterpillar's spread slowing and the coconut trees regenerating.

The Ben Tre agriculture authorities have also issued a public advisory on how to deal with coconut black-headed caterpillar infestations.

Individuals and organizations are urged to report the presence of the pest to local authorities and specialists to ensure timely intervention.

To effectively control the coconut black-headed caterpillar, an accurate assessment of infestation levels is essential to select appropriate measures.

In cases where less than 20 percent of a coconut grove is affected, the first step is to prune and destroy the infected leaves.

The second step involves releasing parasitic wasps multiple times while monitoring the situation until no further damage is observed.

Authorities have warned against the widespread use of chemical pesticides, as they can harm the parasitic wasps, which serve as the natural predators of the coconut black-headed caterpillar.

Ben Tre, which accounts for around 50 percent of Vietnam's coconut cultivation area, with approximately 79,000 hectares, has been battling the pest for several years.

The coconut black-headed caterpillar was first detected in the province about five years ago and has since spread to over 1,000 hectares of coconut trees.

The pest, native to southern India and Sri Lanka, has caused damage across 16 countries in Asia, including Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, and China, since its appearance in the mid-19th century. *(Tuổi trẻ News)*

ELECTROCHEMISTRY METHOD USING AMINO ACIDS AND COCONUT OIL COULD REDUCE MEDICINE COSTS AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

University of Missouri researchers and collaborators have developed an innovative, eco-friendly chemical tool that harnesses the power of engineered "soapy" water and electricity to create reactions in a whole new way. This breakthrough electrochemistry method could reduce the cost of making medicines and support clean energy technology, including efforts to remove per- and polyfluoroalkyls (PFAS), also known as "forever chemicals," from water. The study is published in the journal Angewandte Chemie International Edition.

Traditional electrochemistry relies on toxic solvents and electrolytes. In a search for non-toxic alternatives, Associate Professor Sachin Handa and graduate student Karanjeet Kaur, alongside Novartis Pharmaceuticals, developed environmentally friendly substances called micelles—tiny molecular structures made from natural amino acids and coconut oil.

These ball-shaped structures have two sides: one that mixes with water and the other that repels it. Their unique design allowed researchers to make electrochemical reactions more efficient by combining the traditional roles of solvents, electrolytes and reaction boosters into one simple tool. Bonus: The reactions are highly efficient and selective.

Handa and Kaur discovered the technique while trying to find a way to use micellar water and electricity as a green source to drive chemical reactions, a process known as micellar electrochemistry.

"Notably, these micelles drive desired reactions forward, but they don't react with anything and remain stable, making them unique from ionic micelles," Handa, whose appointment is in Mizzou's College of Arts and Science, said.

"By making the process more effective, this advancement could help improve the development of medicines—including inhibitors targeting proteins, such as the NS5A of the Hepatitis C virus—and may be used to treat hyperproliferative, inflammatory and immunoregulatory diseases."

Micelles can be used to develop clean energy technologies by helping split water into hydrogen and oxygen.

"This process, known as electrocatalysis, also plays a key role in clean energy production," Handa, who was hired through the university's MizzouForward initiative in 2023, said. "With the same approach, hydrogen—in situ generated from water—can potentially be used as a clean fuel. Plus, we can use hydrogen to break down harmful PFAS chemicals, transforming them into useful hydrocarbons while simultaneously releasing oxygen into the air."

By focusing on sustainability and efficiency, this new chemical tool can reduce the environmental impact of traditional chemical processes and offer sustainable solutions for clean energy production and storage. *(Phys)*

ANNA UNIVERSITY FROM INDIA DEPLOYS FUEL-OPERATED DRONES TO COMBAT WHITEFLIES IN COCONUT FARMS

The Centre for Aerospace Research (CASR) at Anna University has initiated a pest management project in which fuel-operated drones are utilized to tackle high populations of whiteflies affecting coconut farms, especially in the Pollachi region.

CASR sources said a small-scale trial carried out recently at five coconut farms in Pollachi yielded significant results. During the pilot project, several litres of organic solution — prepared by the farmers — were sprayed on the crown of trees using fuel-operated drones to carry the heavy payload.

CASR director Senthil Kumar, who is overseeing the project, said there was no concrete solution to the pest problem. Before using drones, farmers were able to apply pesticide on the trees only up to 10-12 feet from the ground, he said.

"The farmers were left with no option other than cutting off the affected trees. A few farmers approached us for help, following which we chalked out the project," he said.

Sharing the project details, Senthil said the team initially had to survey the farms and geo-tag the trees — attaching a geographical location and other details like height to a tree. Taking five farms as test cases, they attempted spraying the organic formula, prepared using items like neem oil, cow dung, camphor powder, and turmeric, using an electric drone, which proved largely ineffective, he said.

Then, they shifted to high-powered fuel-operated drones that also had a better storage capacity for the organic solution, he said. "The crown parts of the trees were covered with a thick layer of the pest and a random spraying was useless. We needed to spray at least two litres of the solution on one tree, so we used fuel-operated drones," he said.

The drone first flies atop the trees, sprays the solution, and then hovers over the trees for 10 seconds to ensure the solution is spread properly. A member of the team said, "Our drone pilots are working closely with farmers. Our teams are slowly expanding to other farms in a 10-km radius." Sources said only the institute-owned drones were being used for the project and that the farmers do not have to bear any sort of expenses for the whole operation.

An official from the agricultural department said, "After spraying the solution, we are seeing a significant drop in the number of whiteflies." K Saktivel, a farmer from Kanjampatti, said, "Though the damage done cannot be reversed, the solution helps control the intensity of the pest attack." Senthil said the centre would spread awareness about the project in other areas. *(The New Indian Express)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Higher prices prevailed in the vegetable oils market during the week, continuing the upside close last week.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market remained lackluster, still dearth of support from the buy-side. Prices for the most part tracked higher since opening firmer during the week, ignoring lower palm oil, with offers at $2,300-2,405/MT CIF for positions from April/Mary through to September/October. Thereafter, levels continued to head higher on tight supply from Philippine origin. The palm oil recovery later during the week also provided added support lately to end the week firmer at $2,332.50-2,425.00/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market, by contrast, eventually featured a trade after weeks of subdued dealings concluded at $1,900/MT CIF. However, unlike coconut oil, offers at the start of the week were mostly easier, taking cue from palm oil, with level at $1,910-1,980/MT CIF for positions from March/April through to September/October. Prices though bounced back and headed mixed with third quarter positions stronger and forwards largely weaker. Levels settled at close at $1,900-1,990/MT CIF. The price spread of coconut oil against palm kernel oil narrowed across the board this week, excepting the front position, to levels under $400/MT observed last week. This dragged the weekly average to $399.62/MT from $409.07/MT a week ago. The following shows the price premium per position: March/April $458.33 ($437.50 last week); April/May $405.85 ($406.35); May/June $389.00 ($413.50); June/July $375.00 ($418.00); July/August $347.00 ($387.00); August/September $355.50 ($381.65); September/October $466.67 ($419.50).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures trended downward this week, interrupted only once driven by higher prices of derivative products. Pressures during the week came from harvesting in South America, which improves availability of stocks amid a slowdown in export demand tied to geopolitics.

At the palm oil section, weakness prevailed earlier during the week in response to cargo surveyors' estimates the Malaysian palm oil export for the first half of March fell 10.1% from the prior month. However, projections stocks in Malaysia were to remain tight amid weaker production in March fueled market reversal as did reports of Indonesia's plan to raise palm oil export taxes. By the week's end, however, the market resumed weakness, weighed down by profit-taking after the earlier price rally and by weak exports.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment returned to mixed trends with coconut oil back in the negative territory this week. After leading last week's rise, coconut oil this week shed $4.65 from last week's $2,362.50 to $2,357.85/MT CIF. On the other hand, palm kernel oil hiked another $39.00 from $1,913.00 to $1,952.00/MT CIF and palm oil gained another $10.50 from $1,385.50 to $1,396.00/MT CIF. As a result, the price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil and palm oil decreased from week-ago. Against palm kernel oil, the spread was down from $449.50 to $405.85/MT, and against fell from $977.00 to $961.85/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

The Rotterdam coconut oil market started the week firmer and stayed mostly higher to end the week in the upside with offers exceeding opening levels at $2,425 for March/April and April/May; $2,382.50 for May/June; $2,350 for June/July; $2,332.50 for July/August and August/September; $2,400 for September/October; and $2,380/MT CIF for October/November. Buyers' participations were noted lately asking for March/April through to May/June at $2,200/MT CIF. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

SURGING GLOBAL COCONUT DEMAND LEADS TO YEAR-ON-YEAR DOUBLING

Coconut consumption in Ho Chi Minh City and the southern provinces rises sharply during the hot season. However, even with the high prices being paid, warehouse owners are still facing

frequent difficulties in buying enough coconuts to meet the demand.

Owner Nguyen Huu Nho of a coconut shop on Pham Van Chieu Street in Go Vap District said that at the start of 2025, the shop sold coconuts at VND11,000 per fruit. By the end of March, the price has risen to VND13,000 per fruit. After deducting transportation costs, the shop sells the coconuts for VND16,000 each, yielding a profit of just VND1,000 to VND1,500 per fruit.

Similarly, owner Ho Thi Ha of a fruit store on Le Van Khuong Street in District 12 said that the amount of fruits imported to the store has decreased by 30 percent compared to 2024, due to prolonged heat and limited supply from gardeners in the Mekong Delta.

Some special varieties of coconut priced at VND20,000 per fruit are currently out of stock. This price reflects a 100 percent increase compared to mid-2024.

According to General Secretary Cao Ba Dang Khoa of Vietnam Coconut Association, fresh coconut prices have surged 110 percent year-over-year, while dried coconut prices have soared 150 percent. Coconut prices have seen significant volatility throughout the year so far.

Moreover, importers from China, Malaysia, and Thailand are actively buying Vietnamese coconuts, creating fierce competition. Particularly, the opening of the US and Chinese markets to this product has provoked the interest of investors worldwide.

In Ben Tre Province, local authorities are expanding green coconut cultivation to build a sustainable coconut value chain in response to rising demand.

General Director Nguyen Dinh Tung of Vina T&T Company - a leading fruit exporter in Vietnam - said that since China signed the protocol for coconut exports, the demand of this market has increased sharply. Each month, Vina T&T Company exports about 30 containers of this item to China.

According to the Department of Agriculture and Environment of Ben Tre Province, at present, the output of coconut which is out of season is decreasing by about 50 percent.

In addition, at this time, coconut processing companies have many export orders, especially from the US and European markets, so they are in great need of raw coconut. In addition, the prices of by-products such as coconut water, coconut shells, coconut fiber have also increased, contributing to pushing up the price of raw materials.

To date, Ben Tre Province has had more than 133 coconut growing areas granted codes and 14 enterprises granted packaging codes for export to China. The total coconut growing area of the province is currently about 80,000 hectares, with an output of nearly 700,000 tons per year. Of the amount, nearly 80 percent of the area is dry coconut, the drinking type accounts for more than 20 percent (about 16,000 hectares).

Coconut farming is the primary means of livelihood for farmers in Ben Tre Province. *(SGGP News)*

MOZAMBIQUE: TRADERS THREATEN TO INCREASE THE PRICE OF COCONUTS

Traders at the Fajardo Market in Maputo city are threatening to increase the price of coconuts in response to the high fees imposed for occupying the stalls, which are compromising the profitability of the business.

Mário José, a 35-year-old trader, explained that initially the fees charged were proportional to the quantity of the product, but now the amount has become fixed, harming sellers of small quantities.

"Each seller pays 500 meticais for a thousand coconuts. However, those in charge no longer

count the product and, even if the number is less than a thousand, we are forced to pay the full fee," he said.

Alice das Dores, another vendor, said that, despite several attempts to meet with the traders' association to discuss the possibility of adjusting the fee, negotiations were unsuccessful. Given the situation, he indicated that it will be necessary to increase prices to ensure the viability of the business.

"The amount of coconuts I currently sell varies between 200 and 300, but even so, I am forced to pay 500 meticais. I practically only work to cover the fees. This is unfair," she lamented.

The president of the vendors' association, Maria Cumbane, maintained that the fee is fair and explained that traders are charged 50 cents for each coconut, with the sale price of this product being between 10 and 20 meticais per unit.

"We recognize that it is difficult to count the product, which is why we charge 500 meticais for a thousand coconuts. Even when the quantity exceeds this amount, many refuse to pay more. And if the quantity is less, it is not worth continuing in the market," she explained.

Cumbane added that the price adjustment occurs every ten years and stressed that it is necessary to establish a dialogue between vendors and stall owners to define a minimum quantity of 1,000 coconuts, to avoid future complaints. *(Club of Mozambique)*

THE COCONUT INDUSTRY IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE UNDER NEW REGULATION

The lack of regulation of the coconut sector in Côte d'Ivoire has led to neglect of production, resulting in a steady decline in acreage and supply problems for exporters. However, according to Ivorian exporter Beugré Marie-Nadège, this problem is on the way to being resolved, with the Ivorian government having recently taken matters in hand.

Marie-Nadège describes a chaotic industry until last season: "Unlike mango, coffee-cocoa or cashew nuts, we had no regulatory body for coconuts. There was no reference price at the farm gate, and export prices varied from exporter to exporter with no consistent basis. We also had a big problem with buyers from neighboring countries, who created unfair competition in pricing and sizing. Where a tax-paying Ivorian exporter would buy coconuts at €0.15, they would buy it at €0.19 and sell it at a higher price in their country. We had great difficulty sourcing large-caliber coconuts, i.e., at least 400 g, as regional buyers siphoned off anything down to 200 g."

This disorder has made the sector less attractive, to the benefit of other crops such as cocoa, coffee, and oil palm, which are better organized. We are therefore witnessing the destruction of coconut plantations, exacerbated by urbanization and urban sprawl, which are destroying coconut plantations," the exporter continues.

The Ivorian government, in collaboration with exporters and stakeholders in the coconut industry, has stepped up to take ownership of the situation, according to Marie-Nadège. She reports, "In February, the Council of Ministers adopted an ordinance extending the scope of Law No. 2017-540, by extending the rules relating to the regulation, control, and monitoring of activities in the Hevea and Oil Palm industries to the Coconut industry. The Hevea and Oil Palm Council are now set to fill the vacuum and play a key role, notably by drawing up and implementing an agricultural production program, ensuring compliance with quality standards, developing a fair pricing mechanism for each link in the value chain, and promoting the industrialization of the coconut sector."

Reflecting its determination to protect and strengthen the industry, Côte d'Ivoire has also joined the International Coconut Community (ICC). "Côte d'Ivoire is the second African country to join this intergovernmental organization. This

is important for us, as the ICC plays a major role in the sustainable development of coconut cultivation while promoting trade and technological innovation in the sector," the exporter says.

The effects of these measures will be felt very quickly, according to the exporter, who concludes: "Soon, with the restriction of coconut spillage to neighboring countries, there will be more supply for exporters, which will increase the volume of exports and added value for Ivorian companies and the national economy. Farm-gate prices, which are now under the authority of the Hevea and Oil Palm Council, are expected to be fair, reasonable, and affordable for all exporters. This will also allow us to increase the surface area and enable exporters to achieve better integration by having their own production." *(Fresh Plaza)*

FIRST COCONUT WATER EXPORT FROM NORTH HALMAHERA, INDONESIA, TO SWEDEN

The coconut industry in North Maluku will experience a major surge in the next few years. As concrete evidence of the success of this industry, Governor Sherly Laos together with the directors of PT Nico released two containers of coconut water exports to Sweden.

This event was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, indicating that processed coconut products from North Halmahera have successfully penetrated the international market.

In addition, PT Natural Indococonut Organik (PT Nico) announced a massive expansion plan with a target of building seven new factories in the next five years. This step is expected to open 40 thousand new jobs for the local community.

This was conveyed during the visit of Governor Sherly Laos and Deputy Governor Sarbin Sehe. During the meeting, PT Nico management explained the company's long-term strategy in developing the coconut industry from upstream to downstream, including the coconut rejuvenation program and increasing production capacity.

The Regent of North Halmahera, Piet Hein Babua, also supports this expansion step. According to him, the presence of PT Nico in North Halmahera has had a positive impact on coconut farmers.

"This company is present not only as a coconut buyer, but also as a partner that helps improve the welfare of farmers. We hope that PT Nico can continue to expand its plantation area and strengthen partnerships with local farmers," said Piet.

With the massive investment and commitment of PT Nico, the coconut industry in North Maluku is expected to grow further and provide a significant economic impact on the community, especially coconut farmers in North Halmahera. *(RRI)*

SME FORUM EXPLORES VALUE-ADDED COCONUT INDUSTRY'S EXPORT POTENTIAL

The Industry and Entrepreneurship Development Ministry last week hosted an SME forum on 'Value Added Coconut' at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo, focusing on value-chain development and fostering dialogue on maximising the export potential of coconuts.

The forum witnessed the participation of over 50 individuals, including farmers, plantation companies, coconut processors, coconut value-added product exporters, industry experts, economists, and coconut enthusiasts.

With an engaging agenda, the event featured esteemed speakers including Industry and Entrepreneurship Development Ministry Deputy Minister Chaturanga Abeysinghe, Industry and Entrepreneurship Development Ministry Secretary Thilaka Jayasundara, Coconut Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Shantha Ranathunga, Good Market

Co-Founder Achala Samaradiwakara, Kantar Sri Lanka Director Himalee Madurasinghe and Cha's Organics CEO and Co-Founder Chanaka Kurera.

The Deputy Minister expressed his gratitude to all the attendees for their active participation and commitment towards the growth of the coconut industry. He spoke of the importance of collaborative efforts and knowledge exchange to unlock the full potential of the value chain, enabling sustainable development and economic prosperity.

Highlighting value-chain integration as the foremost priority of the Government, Abeysinghe said: "The Government will be following a series of steps to address the SMEs problem, with particular emphasis on commodities like coconut. The first step is problem identification, where we analyse the root causes. From analysis, we have understood that fierce external competition from overseas is hindering the export competitiveness of our nuts. Hence, we must ask ourselves, what can we, as representatives from the Government and industry do to enhance its export competitiveness?"

He added: "Facilitating collaboration among all intermediaries in the coconut supply chain enhances value chain integration, leading to improved export competitiveness by streamlining processes, reducing costs, and fostering innovation."

In addition, the Deputy Minister emphasised the need to elevate quality standards while catering to evolving consumer expectations. He urged manufacturers and processors to tap into the country's diverse natural flavours, which inherently eliminate the need for preservatives or artificial additives commonly used abroad.

"Today's society places immense emphasis on sustainability and wellness. Therefore, it is essential that we capitalise on these emerging preferences to provide coconut products that are natural, healthy, and environmentally sustainable," he opined.

The CDA Chairman however noted the path ahead is murky, discussing the industry's key challenges ranging from — fluctuating nut prices due to excessive demand, insufficient raw materials to fully utilise industry capacity, and coconut oil shortages leading to escalating imports and increased risk for local industries as a result.

"The coconut industry faces a raw material shortage, limiting processing plants from operating at full capacity. In addition, we also face a shortage of coconuts which has created a gap in the supply of coconut oil that is detrimental to both industry revenue and consumer lifestyles," he remarked with concern.

He also noted, "Fluctuating nut prices has led to price volatility in the market, driven by fluctuating demand, hindering producers' ability to forecast and plan and maintain stable pricing."

Ranathunga claimed bridging the supply gap in the coconut industry is paramount considering the 1,500 million deficits in nuts. He attributed this deficit to the heightening demand of nuts at 4,500 million when only 3,000 million is available to be supplied.

He also spoke of the number of hatching units currently available in the industry at 2,433 while the current total annual hatching capacity is at 2,190 million nuts, implying that the current unused capacity of the industry is at around 40%. In response to queries about the way forward, the Chairman explained the CDA's vision for 2030—in achieving a high export income of $ 1.5 billion through the export of 4,500 million nuts and allocating 1,195 million nuts for domestic consumption.

"The Strategic Roadmap to achieving this target, is focusing on short-term, medium-term, and long-term measures separately," Ranathunga stated.

In the short-term, CDA proposes to implement cultivation development programs and awareness programs on minimising coconut wastage and promoting substitutes to conventional products while importing dehydrated coconut chips to Sri Lanka in the medium-term. This importation aims to support the coconut oil industry by preventing shortages and generate net foreign exchange earnings. In the long-term, he asserts that by importing frozen white coconut kennels/ coconut milk for kennel-based value-added industries, value-addition will be facilitated at a faster pace.

Kantar Sri Lanka Director highlighted the importance of elevating data collection in the country, as a means of deriving market insights, particularly in dynamic industries such as coconut.

She stressed the necessity of specific figures and accurate facts to effectively compare income disparities across urban and rural areas, global regions, and between genders, thereby enabling informed decision-making in businesses.

"From recent data studied, we have understood that there is not much of a difference between urban and rural income. This is because income earners in urban areas carry the higher burden of taxes, so their purchasing power is significantly reduced for utilities like coconut. Meanwhile, 87% of the local population are involved in some sustainable practices, suggesting the need for a greater shift to an environmental and wellness focus," Madurasinghe commented, calling for industry and Government intervention that strives for coconut diversification and strategies to reduce cost.

Samaradiwakara, with her wealth of experience as Good Market's Co-Founder, affirmed Madurasinghe's remarks by noting the gradual surge of global coconut products, with a projected value of $ 53.4 billion by 2033.

She said this implies Sri Lanka's strategic position to supply health-conscious, sustainable and organic products; urging local stakeholders to utilise the country's diverse natural offerings to meet the increasing global demand.

To encourage value-addition, she suggested enhanced organic and sustainable farming practices, diverse coconut-based products, and measures to reduce carbon footprint while encouraging fair trade and social sustainability. Coconut-based superfoods, coconut-based beverages, and coconut-based cosmetics can be expected to bolster export revenue from nuts, while eco-friendly farming and solar powered drying and processing units for production will make exports more appealing to foreign markets.

In addition, Samaradivakara reiterated the importance of strengthening supply chain efficiency, listing-developing blockchain traceability systems for transparent supply chains, enhancing cold chain logistics for perishable coconut based exports, and social enterprise models to empower smallholder farmers, as key pillars.

Although supply chain efficiency must be a foremost priority, she acknowledged the need to expand into premium markets like the EU, USA, Japan, and Middle East while promoting Sri Lanka as a 'Sustainable Coconut Hub' through eco-labelling and branding. *(Daily FT)*

COCONUT INDUSTRY BETS BIG ON USFDA MOVE TO FREE THE EDIBLE NUT FROM FOOD ALLERGEN TAG

Coconut product exporters are pinning hopes on the decision of US Food and Drug Administration in excluding coconuts from the classification of tree nuts under allergen labelling requirements.

The move could pave the way for expanded market access, enhanced trade opportunities and increased potential for product development. These benefits would pave the way for a more favourable business environment for coconut product exporters, boosting their

competitiveness and growth potential, said Deepthi Nair, Director, Coconut Development Board, India.

Indian coconut food product exporters faced several challenges due to coconut being classified as a tree nut under the Food Allergen Labelling and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (FALCPA). They had to comply with stringent allergen labelling requirements and the US importers were hesitant to source coconut based products due to the regulatory and perceived liability risks associated with it.

According to Deepthi Nair, products containing coconut were perceived as unsuitable for consumers with tree nut allergies. This has restricted market access particularly in countries like the US where stringent allergen labelling laws deterred potential buyers. The inclusion of coconut in the tree nut category led to consumer confusion forcing many to avoid coconut products unnecessarily, fearing allergenic risks as traditional tree nuts.

Positive for Sector

The new development, she said, holds positive for the global coconut sector since it removes trade challenges and offers consumers a diverse range of diet options involving coconut.

By rectifying the classification, the US has removed a critical barrier enabling India's coconut industry to compete more effectively worldwide, said Ubais Ali of Mezhukkattil Mills, exporters of various coconut based products. This milestone reaffirms the safety and versatility of coconut in diverse food applications, promising sustained growth for Indian exporters.

Manufacturers, he said, can add coconut to formulations without the burden of allergen warnings. This would encourage sectors like baby food and confectionery to include coconut derivatives, something they previously avoided to sidestep "contains allergens" labels. Labels free of 'allergen cautions' maintain consumer trust and improve product perception which is particularly important for sensitive markets like infant nutrition and health-focussed foods.

India, a leading producer of coconuts, stands to benefit from higher export volumes and growing international demand. Enhanced regulatory clarity paves the way for product innovation – ranging from coconut-infused chocolate to specialized baby food formulas, he added. *(The Hindu Business Line)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

D&L INDUSTRIES CONSIDERING BUILDING SECOND BIODIESEL PLANT

D&L Industries, Inc., a listed specialty food ingredient and oleochemicals manufacturer in the Philippines, is considering erecting a second biodiesel plant to meet rising demand following the government's biodiesel blend expansion, the BusinessWorld reported. D&L subsidiary, Chemrez Technologies, Inc., the largest biodiesel manufacturer in the Philippines, operates a biodiesel plant in Quezon City, with an annual capacity of 90 million liters.

"D&L is currently in the final stages of evaluating the risks and returns of building a new biodiesel plant, with the decision largely contingent on how well it aligns with the company's strategic growth objectives and the goal of maximizing long-term shareholder value," the company said in an e-mail statement over the weekend.

"The positive regulatory developments, coupled with a greater recognition of the economic and environmental benefits of a higher biodiesel blend, present an opportune time to invest and capitalize on the industry's potential. D&L sees this as a critical juncture in reinforcing and expanding its leadership in the industry," the company said, adding it maintains a positive long-term outlook on the local biodiesel sector, recognizing the significant benefits that an

increased biodiesel blend can offer to the economy, environment, and consumers.

"The implementation of a higher biodiesel blend provides a robust and value-added market for coconut oil domestically. By securing a stable domestic market, the industry can foster growth with a high level of predictability and the necessary resilience to weather any swings in the export market," Chemrez president Dean Lao Jr. told the Philippine News Agency.

Since October 1 last year, all diesel fuel sold in the country has been required to contain 3% biodiesel or coco methyl ester (B3), following a government mandate to boost the coconut industry. The blend will increase to 4% (B4) by October 1 this year and to 5% (B5) by October 1 next year. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

GOVT OF INDONESIA DELINEATES FOUR STAGES OF PALM OIL DOWNSTREAMING

The Indonesian government will carry out the downstreaming of the palm oil industry in four stages, National Development Planning Minister Rachmat Pambudy has said.

As it is a strategic commodity, based on the National Long-Term Development Plan 2025–2045, the downstreaming of palm oil will be carried out in at least four stages, he informed.

They are strengthening the industrialization ecosystem, increasing production capacity for domestic needs, strengthening industrial competitiveness toward global expansion, and achieving net exports.

"We hope that palm oil downstreaming will support high and sustainable growth," he said at an online seminar held by the IPB University.

According to Rachmat, palm oil downstreaming has good potential, considering Indonesia's position as the main producer of crude palm oil (CPO). The nation accounts for 68.7 percent of the total production, he added.

In addition, priority government programs, such as the mandatory B35 biofuel as well as the free nutritious meals program, are expected to increase the demand for processed palm oil.

He further said that palm oil plantations can also support food self-sufficiency by adopting intercropping or agroforestry mechanisms, as well as the cattle and oil palm integration system (SISKA).

This system aims to support food production and maintain environmental quality, as well as increase farmer incomes.

Palm oil has the potential to support energy security and support the achievement of national energy mix targets, including through the development of biofuels, he emphasized.

Biomass from oil palm fiber, shells, empty bunches, fronds, and replanting stems can also serve as an alternative source of energy.

He informed that palm oil production and management could potentially support the implementation of a circular economy. This would involve directing the components of oil palm for reuse into useful products.

Rachmat said that oil palm plantations can absorb carbon and release oxygen at different rates than forests.

"Land conversion causes carbon emissions, therefore, we need palm oil management that can support low-carbon development programs with peatland conversion as well as implementation of regenerative agriculture and sustainable palm oil," he added. *(Antara)*

UKRAINE STILL TOP SUPPLIER OF SUNFLOWER OIL TO EU

Ukraine remains the leading supplier of sunflower oil to the European Union (EU-27) despite

decline in the country's production compared to the prior year, according to the latest data from the European Commission (EC) reported by Germany's Union for the Promotion of Oil and Protein Plants (UFOP).

For the period July 01, 2024, to February 02, 2025, the EU imported around 1.2 million MT of sunflower oil. This is below the 1.51 million MT imported in the same period a year earlier, but exceeded the 1.13 million MT recorded in the 2022/23 marketing year. Bulk of import came from Ukraine at 1.17 million MT which accounted for 94%. Serbia was the second important supplier trailed by Bosnia with respective market shares of 3% and 1%.

Exports of the three countries, however, were lower than the previous year levels. Ukraine's volume dropped 17% from 1.40 million MT shipped during the previous year. The shortfall, the report said, was due to decline in present production, thus limiting feedstock supply for processing during the season, respectively reduced sunflower oil export potential. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

EMERGING MARKETS OFFSET DECLINE IN MALAYSIAN KEY PALM OIL BUYER: MPOC

The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC), in a statement, said that despite weaker demand from traditional markets, palm oil has remained the price leader in the first quarter of 2025, with exports shifting towards Sub-Sahara Africa, with its annual population growth of 30 million, reported in The Edge Malaysia. "This trend is expected to continue throughout 2025, keeping Malaysia palm oil exports strong," it said.

For the first time in years, India's palm oil imports dropped to 648,000 MT from January to February 2025, at a time when crude palm oil prices averaged RM4,700/MT (USD1,064/MT). Soybean oil imports at 727,000 MT surpassed palm oil. On the other hand, China has been importing only its core palm oil demand which averaged 300,000 MT per month in 2024.

MPOC expects crude palm oil prices to fluctuate between RM4,400 and RM4,600/MT in March influenced by increased competition from abundant and competitively price soybean on in the global market. That said, India's shift toward soybean oil, however, has only partially replaced its palm oil demand, leading to optimism that palm oil imports will rise in the coming weeks as India replenishes its stocks, potentially stabilizing prices, the report said. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

BRAZIL TO MAINTAIN BIODIESEL BLEND MANDATE AT 14%

Brazil would not increase the local biodiesel blend to 15% in March as expected but would keep the current biodiesel blend at 14%, Energy Minister Alexander Silveria told Reuters. Bulk of biodiesel in the country is produced from soybean oil. The current blend would remain at 14% until further deliberations, which can be taken at any time, according to Silveria. He said the move was necessary following concerns about food inflation.

According to the Brazilian Association of Vegetable Oil Industries (Abiove), the decision to keep the B14 blend was based on the price of soybean oil. However, the organization said prices for packaged soybean oil, as well as biodiesel, were already falling due to Brazil's record soybean harvest. It expects the government to review its decision "as quickly as possible." *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

HEALTH BENEFITS OF COCONUT MILK YOU NEVER KNEW

Coconut is grown in abundance in Southeast Asia. It is well known for its taste and numerous health benefits. Coconut is, on the whole, a useful in foods and it is also recognized as

one of the healthiest intakes. There is a huge difference between coconut water, coconut cream, and coconut milk. Coconut milk is the thick liquid that get when blended both coconut meat along with water and then strain it. Always, pick up the older matured coconuts which can provide the best coconut milk. Coconut milk is used in a variety of recipes and which helps in aiding skin and hair issues. It is rich in Vitamin A, Vitamin C, carbohydrates, calories, and dietary fiber. Health benefits of coconut milk listed below:

Makes the heart healthy: This fruit is rich in lauric acid which is a medium-chain fatty acid that has been proved to have a positive effect. Researchers found that the bad cholesterol levels have been decreased in persons they have tested, whereas good cholesterol level has been increased. Even it is very healthy for the heart and imagine how something which contains fat can be healthy for your body! That's how it works.

Improves the immune system: Coconut milk is loaded with a good amount of Vitamin C, a nutrient that helps to boost our immunity. So, by regulary consuming coconut milk, it can help to battle against the infections and fight actively against cold and cough.

Controls diabetes: The coconut oil prepared from coconut milk has positive effects on blood glucose levels. It also contains antioxidants that improve insulin secretion in the body. So, it is very much healthy for diabetes.

Helps in weight loss: Coconut contains medium-chain triglycerides which are known to burn fat. This quality of coconuts helps in weight loss from your body. It was as well noticed that consuming MCTs resulted in decreased levels of fat.

Strengthens the bones: Yet another most significant health benefit of coconut milk is, it provides a good amount of calcium and phosphorus which helps in maintaining healthy and strong bones. It also helps in treating and relieving arthritis, osteoporosis, joint inflammation, and fractures.

Start adding coconut milk in your diet and get all the health benefits of this mighty fruit! *(LifeAndTrenz)*

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT MINT RACK OF LAMB

Ingredients:
1. 2 kg rack of lamb
2. ½ cup water
3. Oil
4. 1 cup grated coconut
5. ½ cup fine dry breadcrumbs
6. 2 tbs chopped mint
7. 1 tbs water
8. Salt and pepper

Steps:
Roast the rack of lamb by placing it in a baking dish, with half a cup of water. Brush with oil and bake in a moderate oven. Mix coconut, dry breadcrumbs, mint, water and seasoning together. When lamb is almost cooked, remove from the oven and sprinkle with the coconut mixture. Press mixture down with a spatula or spoon and return lamb to oven to finish cooking. Serve with mint sauce. *(Coconut Cuisine Recipe)*

STATISTICS

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

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	38,844	41,765	17,585	7,395	7,791	10,757	930	767	880
February	38,203	16,263	15,096	10,228	8,685	14,743	943	882	1,583
March	43,683	18,497	15,793	11,694	11,823	11,615	1,050	348	1,358
April	45,463	13,261	11,982	9,429	11,516	14,236	1,576	416	924
May	29,854	20,163	14,272	6,739	10,443	11,443	1,211	810	1,035
June	42,901	19,479	14,211	10,517	8,167	13,847	1,475	792	1,103
July	37,230	20,367	17,706	9,986	7,682	13,532	1,398	892	1,586
August	41,983	18,639	20,684	10,438	7,880	13,368	1,670	1,044	666
September	40,810	18,085	18,205	10,805	11,603	11,112	1,378	1,355	648
October	46,811	21,164	20,824	9,181	12,369	13,912	606	841	280
November	42,999	19,632	16,624	9,010	10,440	11,718	659	764	439
December	47,597	18,280	20,029	8,268	10,826	9,262	1,214	1,063	583
TOTAL	**496,378**	**245,594**	**203,011**	**113,690**	**119,226**	**149,545**	**14,110**	**9,974**	**11,085**

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

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

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	2,184	1,440	1,191	5,873	5,466	4,006	3,918	3,441	4,958
February	2,239	1,430	1,540	6,229	4,203	3,888	3,529	4,035	4,712
March	2,327	1,415	1,212	19,865	5,859	3,759	4,424	4,311	5,707
April	2,419	1,361	1,370	7,455	5,334	4,551	5,093	4,021	4,974
May	1,842	1,607	1,652	7,051	6,139	4,331	4,796	5,518	4,489
June	2,390	1,637	1,219	6,498	5,710	4,408	4,904	4,342	4,749
July	2,006	1,734	1,470	5,140	3,752	6,950	5,034	4,422	5,014
August	2,251	1,786	1,455	7,789	4,185	5,738	4,890	4,231	5,145
September	2,020	1,797	1,425	7,246	5,543	5,106	5,376	4,317	4,792
October	2,009	1,575	1,278	5,768	3,892	6,632	5,276	4,303	4,007
November	1,946	1,312	1,864	4,963	4,159	4,385	3,720	4,089	4,549
December	2,200	1,700	1,421	6,215	4,754	4,938	3,870	4,509	5,285
TOTAL	**25,832**	**18,793**	**17,097**	**90,092**	**58,996**	**58,692**	**54,830**	**51,539**	**58,381**

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

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

India			Indonesia		
Country of Destination	**Volume (MT)**	**Value (US$ 000)**	**Country of Destination**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value (US$ 000)**
1. U S A	26,128	51,670	1. JAPAN	5,135	4,408
2. SRI LANKA DSR	14,792	27,440	2. CHINA	4,015	5,007
3. BELGIUM	9,274	17,420	3. TAIWAN	2,350	3,923
4. TURKEY	7,554	9,840	4. AUSTRALIA	1,442	3,070
5. RUSSIA	7,291	13,580	5. UNITED STATES	1,028	1,901
6. JAPAN	6,589	11,550	6. GERMANY	960	1,691
7. GERMANY	6,143	11,030	7. NETHERLANDS	528	889
8. ITALY	5,856	9,150	8. SRI LANKA	387	657
9. EGYPT A RP	5,319	9,600	9. SOUTH KOREA	264	265
10. GHANA	5,299	10,250	10. MALAYSIA	198	304
11. OTHERS	83,694	107,290	11. OTHERS	789	1,321
Total	**177,940**	**278,820**	**Total**	**17,097**	**23,436**

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

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

Month	2022		2023		2024	
	Volume (MT)	**Value US$'000**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value US$'000**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value US$'000**
January	4,346	11,890	5,104	11,294	5,104	12,606
February	3,752	8,976	2,817	6,855	2,817	7,405
March	5,158	13,025	3,876	9,328	3,859	9,996
April	5,081	12,463	3,435	7,940	3,452	8,587
May	6,063	15,411	3,418	8,421	3,418	9,131
June	6,404	16,212	4,269	8,929	4,269	9,581
July	5,446	13,609	4,420	8,392	4,420	8,947
August	6,315	14,927	4,210	7,866	4,210	8,453
September	7,126	16,857	3,420	6,836	3,420	7,334
October	6,600	15,926	5,209	10,728	5,209	11,393
November	5,495	13,325	3,456	7,152	3,456	7,596
December	4,645	12,082	3,028	5,925	3,028	6,329
Total	**66,432**	**164,703**	**46,663**	**99,665**	**46,663**	**107,359**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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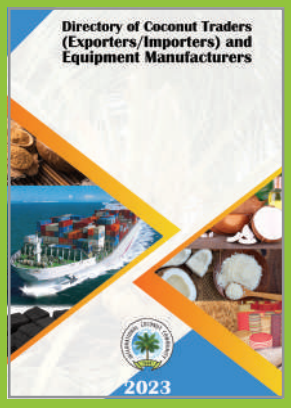

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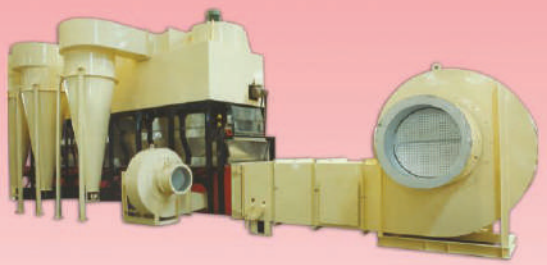

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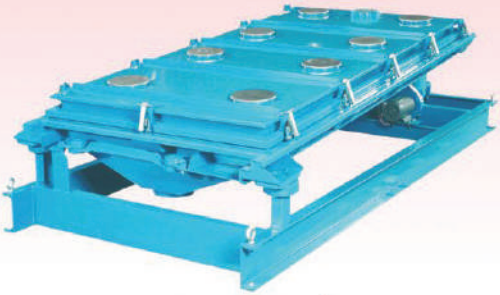

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