The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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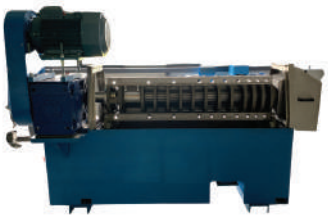

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THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SPEAKS

"Discover A Multifunctional Coconut Derivative. Why it matters?"

With the global movement toward sustainability, coconut derivatives are gaining significant recognition for their functional, nutritional, environmental and economic value. Among these, glycerine stands out as a compelling example of how this product can powers global industries.

Glycerine is now in high demand across the cosmetic, pharmaceutical, and food sectors, especially when refined into USP-grade with ≥99.7% purity. Its applications range from moisturizers and cough syrups to low-calorie sweeteners and plant-based excipients. However, the value lies not in crude glycerine, but in the technology, investment, and innovation that enable its purification. Much of this value is currently not accruing to the coconut producing countries, as final processing tends to occur elsewhere resulting in the export of raw materials and the import of refined products at a premium.

Glycerine is only one example from a wide and growing portfolio of high-value food and non-food products derived from coconut. From Virgin Coconut Oil and coconut water, to coconut milk, coconut flour, activated carbon, coco pith and bioplastics, the coconut palm offers immense opportunities for value addition at every stage of its lifecycle. These products respond to global consumers who are concerned about health, the environment, natural beauty, therapeutics, and sustainable packaging. In doing so, they prove that coconut is far more than just a traditional agricultural crop.

Recognizing this potential, the Government of Indonesia has introduced its Coconut Downstream Roadmap 2025–2045, which highlights the urgent need to improve productivity and transition away from raw exports. The roadmap calls for a strategic pivot toward semi-finished and finished goods, such as refined glycerine and other specialty products, to increase competitiveness and maximize value within the global supply chain.

However, none of this can be achieved without strengthening the foundation, which is our farmers. A stable and quality supply of coconut oil and its derivatives begins with replanting senile palms, introducing high-yield and climate-resilient varieties, and improving agricultural practices. Downstream transformation must be balanced with upstream reform.

At the International Coconut Community (ICC), we believe that glycerine represents not just a product, but a symbol of what's possible when we invest in the full potential of coconut. Through public–private collaboration, targeted policies, and inclusive financing models such as farmer participation in processing ventures, we can ensure that the benefits of value addition are shared across the value chain, especially by the smallholders who have sustained this industry for generations.

The future of coconut lies not in the volume of exports, but in the depth of refinement and innovation. By unlocking the hidden value within each coconut through research, science, innovation, strategy, and solidarity, we can build a sector that is more resilient, equitable, and globally respected.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

In April 2025, the prices of various coconut-based products and oils exhibited a generally upward trend across major producing nations. Coconut oil prices rose in a synchronized manner in key producing countries, namely the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka. Similarly, desiccated coconut prices increased in these countries, supported by firm export demand and tighter raw material supplies.

COPRA: Copra prices witnessed notable growth in April 2025. In Indonesia, the average price climbed to US$ 1,248 per metric ton, up from US$ 1,182 in March. This marks a significant year-on-year rise of US$ 527 per metric ton compared to April 2024. The Philippines experienced a similar upward trend, with prices jumping from US$ 1,350 in March to US$ 1,631 per metric ton in April—an increase of US$ 281 month-on-month and a substantial US$ 949 gain year-on-year. In contrast, Sri Lanka reported a decline in copra prices, with a monthly contraction rate of 5.9%, possibly due to domestic supply adjustments or lower export demand.

COCONUT OIL: Coconut oil markets were buoyant in April 2025, driven by a tight supply. Prices increased across the board in all major producing and consuming regions. In the European market (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price surged to US$ 2,587 per metric ton, representing an impressive 82% increase compared to the same month last year. In the Philippines, the local market price reached US$ 3,034 per metric ton, which is US$ 1,738 higher year-on-year. Indonesia also reported a sharp month-on-month increase, with prices moving up from US$ 2,273 in March to US$ 2,513 in April—a rise of US$ 240 and a year-on-year gain of US$ 1,200. In India, coconut oil prices rose by 9.6% from the previous month, while Sri Lanka recorded a modest month-on-month increase of 0.9%.

COPRA MEAL: Copra meal prices also demonstrated some positive movement. In the Philippines, the average domestic price increased to US$ 157 per metric ton in April, reflecting a small month-on-month gain. However, on a year-on-year basis, this was still US$ 34 lower, suggesting continued pressure from lower international demand or feed market adjustments. Indonesia recorded a more substantial increase in copra meal prices, reaching US$ 333 per metric ton—US$ 90 higher than the same period in 2024.

DESICCATED COCONUT: Desiccated coconut (DC) prices in April 2025 reflected a strong export demand trend. The Philippines' average FOB price to the USA rose to US$ 3,711 per metric ton, up from the previous month. However, its domestic price remained stable at US$ 2,039 per metric ton. Indonesia also saw a price increase, with the FOB price climbing to US$ 3,306, a significant improvement from US$ 2,050 in April 2024. In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut rose to US$ 3,967 per metric ton, highlighting robust local and export demand.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: The coconut shell charcoal market posted consistent gains. In India, prices jumped to US$ 925 per metric ton in April—an increase of US$ 203 from March levels. Indonesia followed a similar trend, with average prices reaching US$ 768 per metric ton. Sri Lanka also experienced a moderate rise, with prices climbing to US$ 724 per metric ton.

COIR FIBRE: Sri Lanka's coir fibre market showed healthy activity. Mixed fibre averaged US$ 107 per metric ton, while bristle fibre prices ranged between US$ 494 and US$ 837 per metric ton, reflecting strong quality-based differentiation. Indonesia maintained its mixed raw fibre price at US$ 170 per metric ton, up from US$ 110 in the previous year, indicating steady demand growth and improved market acceptance.

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

Products/Country	2025 Apr	2025 Mar	2024 Apr	2025 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	367	321	156	301
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use, Sumatera)	375	342	196	334
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	1,042	902	214	737
India (Domestic Kerala)	828	813	486	804
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	1,631	1,350	682	1,324
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	1,248	1,182	721	1,175
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,687	1,793	1,141	1,777
India (Dom. Kochi)	2,096	1,881	1,225	1,874
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	2,587	2,316	1,420	2,233
Philippines (Domestic, Millgate Price)	3,034	2,533	1,296	2,460
Indonesia (FOB)	2,513	2,273	1,313	2,259
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,931	2,905	1,987	2,890
India (Domestic, Kerala)	3,296	3,007	1,900	2,966
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	3,711	3,101	1,874	2,897
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,040
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,967	3,917	1,931	3,929
Indonesia (FOB)	3,306	3,150	2,050	3,220
India (Domestic)	3,028	2,924	1,754	2,959
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	157	152	191	177
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	374	424	310	415
Indonesia (Domestic)	333	303	243	303
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	724	696	391	642
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	768	729	449	693
India (Domestic)	925	722	420	734
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	107	102	67	89
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	494	499	489	481
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	837	764	670	761
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	170	158	110	156
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	2,090	2,064	1,290	2,016
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	994	1,069	936	1,050
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,116	1,005	959	1,061

Exchange Rate

Apr 30, '24 1 US$ = P55.84 or Rp16,588 or India Rs84.61 or SL Rs299.25

1 Euro = US$1.13 n.q. = no quote

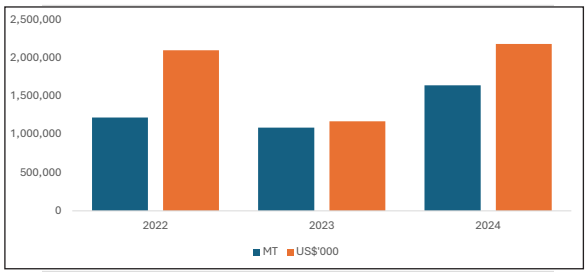
MARKET REVIEW OF COCONUT OIL

In 2024, the global supply of lauric oils experienced notable fluctuations, driven by varying production trends among key producing countries. The Philippines demonstrated a robust recovery in coconut oil exports, with volumes increasing by 51% to reach 1.64 million metric tons—the highest level on record. This surge reflects strengthened demand, likely attributable to supply shortages in other producing regions. Conversely, Indonesia experienced a decline in supply, with coconut oil exports falling by 9.2%, palm kernel oil exports decreasing by 4.38%, and total lauric oil exports contracting by 6.17%. These reductions were partially caused by adverse weather conditions and reduced milling output, particularly impacting palm kernel oil production.

Oil World (May 2025) forecasts a 2.5% year-on-year decline in global coconut oil output in the 2024/25 season. This is primarily due to El Niño-induced droughts impacting copra production in the Philippines and Indonesia. Meanwhile, PKO production is expected to grow by only 1.2% during the same period, constrained by limited expansion in palm oil areas and slower fresh fruit bunch (FFB) growth. The tight supply outlook suggests continued pressure on both lauric oil markets into 2025.

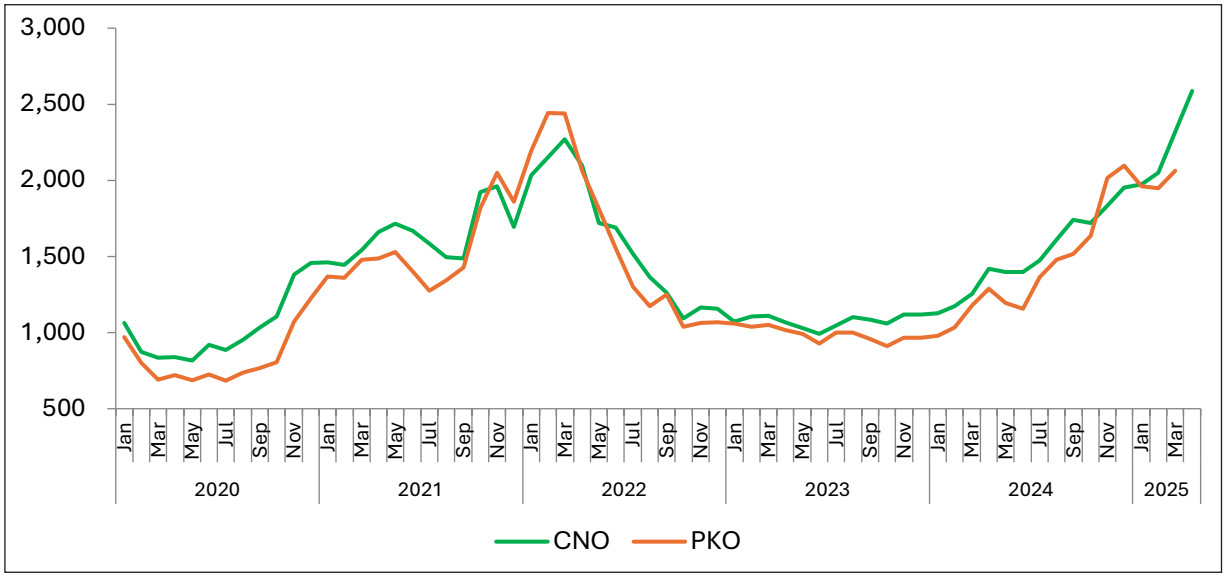
On the demand side, industrial consumption remained robust throughout 2024, especially in the oleochemical and biofuel sectors. In the European Union, total coconut oil imports dropped by 8.6% to 885,735 metric tons due to supply constraints, but demand stayed steady, pushing up unit import values. PKO imports into the EU remained relatively stable in volume and grew modestly

Figure 1. Export of Coconut Oil from the Philippines, January-December 2022-2024



Source: Philippines Statistics Authority

Figure 2. Price of Lauric Oils, January 2020 – April 2025, (USD/MT)



Source: ICC

Table 1. Exports of Lauric Oils from Indonesia

		Jan-Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2024	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	722,517	656,079	-9.20
	Value (USD'000)	725,130	866,620	19.51
PKO	Volume (MT)	1,217,473	1,164,136	-4.38
	Value (USD'000)	1,161,900	1,381,653	18.91
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	1,939,991	1,820,215	-6.17
	Value (USD'000)	1,887,031	2,248,273	19.14

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

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

		Jan-Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2024	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	968,732	885,735	-8.57
	Value (USD'000)	1,361,018	1,483,098	8.97
PKO	Volume (MT)	793,694	793,275	-0.05
	Value (USD'000)	1,092,838	1,141,536	4.46
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	1,762,426	1,679,010	-4.73
	Value (USD'000)	2,453,856	2,624,634	6.96

Source: ITC

in value, highlighting its continued importance for industrial users. The Philippines and Indonesia maintained their position as dominant suppliers to the EU, accounting for over 85% of lauric oil imports.

In the United States, demand was notably strong, with total lauric oil imports rising by 11.2% to 857,339 metric tons. CNO drove most of this growth, with import volumes up 18.4% and value up 36.7%. PKO volumes were largely stable, with a modest 2.7% increase, but value declined slightly due to shifting product mixes. The reintroduction of U.S. import tariffs in early 2025 (ranging from 18–46%) is expected to influence buying behavior, potentially dampening demand or diverting trade flows toward Europe or Asia, depending on tariff impacts and global price trends.

Table 3. US Imports of Lauric Oils

		Jan-Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2024	Change (%)
CNO	Volume (MT)	419,265	496,206	18.35
	Value (USD'000)	529,586	724,181	36.74
PKO	Volume (MT)	351,811	361,133	2.65
	Value (USD'000)	452,367	448,882	-0.77
Lauric Oils	Volume (MT)	771,076	857,339	11.19
	Value (USD'000)	981,953	1,173,062	19.46

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

Price developments in 2024 were marked by a strong recovery, especially in the second half of the year. Coconut oil prices rose by 73%, from USD 1,126 per metric ton in January to USD 1,949 in December. Palm kernel oil saw even steeper gains, rising 115% over the same period from USD 978 to USD 2,099 per metric ton. This surge was driven by the tightening supply situation, strong industrial demand, and speculative buying amid market uncertainty.

Notably, PKO prices surpassed those of CNO starting in November—an unusual reversal of the historical price relationship. This shift reflects the increasing industrial preference for PKO in renewable fuel applications and oleochemical derivatives, especially in Europe, where decarbonization targets are driving feedstock substitution.

As of early 2025, lauric oil prices remain elevated. Between January and April 2025, CNO prices jumped 31% to USD 2,587/MT, while PKO rose by 6.5%. With limited near-term supply growth and sustained demand from bio-based industries, lauric oil prices are expected to stay high in the coming months. However, if soft oils such as palm oil and soybean oil become more competitively priced, some substitution could cap further price gains.

In summary, 2024 marked a pivotal year for the lauric oils market, with tight supply conditions, resilient demand, and sharply rising prices that are likely to shape market behavior well into 2025.

COMMUNITY NEWS

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN FOCUS: JAPAN AND ICC LEAD THE COCONUT INDUSTRY TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Japan, a country long celebrated for its innovation, resilience, and deep respect for tradition, opened its doors this April to a series of transformative engagements that could reshape the future of the coconut industry on a global scale.

Leading this high-level engagement was Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Director General of the International Coconut Community (ICC), whose visionary leadership continues to bridge tradition with innovation, fostering strategic partnerships that advance scientific excellence, sustainable development, and global collaboration.

This important series of visits across Osaka and Tokyo was made possible through close collaboration with the Green Power Development Corporation of Japan (GPDJ) and the International Japan Business Network (IJBNET), under the support and facilitation of Mr. Suyoto Rais, Chairman of IJBNET. Their coordination was instrumental in connecting the ICC with leading Japanese industries, government agencies, and research institutions.

Throughout the engagements, the ICC delegation worked alongside key Japanese partners to strengthen coconut's role in driving sustainability, food security, and renewable energy innovation.

Against the vibrant backdrop of economic dynamism and cultural excellence, these high-level discussions reaffirmed Japan's strategic importance as a partner for the future of the coconut sector. Industries, government bodies, and research institutions welcomed the opportunity to align efforts with the ICC's vision of promoting innovation, empowering communities, and fortifying coconut's contribution to global sustainable development.

The initiative represented more than just diplomatic outreach—it was a shared commitment to global solutions, recognizing that the coconut sector, long rooted in tradition, is now emerging as a vital force for sustainable growth, climate resilience, and inclusive economic advancement.

From Osaka's booming industrial hubs to Tokyo's corridors of government and academia, every meeting reflected a unifying vision: to embrace science, technology, and collaboration as the driving forces to secure coconut's place at the heart of the sustainable industries of tomorrow.

Celebrating Innovation and Global Unity: Visit to Osaka Expo 2025 Site (Osaka)

The mission commenced with an inspiring visit to the upcoming Osaka Expo 2025 site, a monumental international exposition scheduled to open in April 2025 under the theme, "Designing Future Society for Our Lives."

Spanning futuristic architecture, sustainable design concepts, and groundbreaking technology showcases, Osaka Expo 2025 promises to be one of the world's most significant platforms for reimagining health, environment, mobility, and human well-being. With over 150 countries and organizations participating, the Expo stands as a living symbol of global unity, creativity, and hope for a better tomorrow.

The visit served as a reminder that bold ideas, cooperative spirit, and innovation across all sectors — including agriculture and energy — are key to shaping the resilient societies of the future.

Building Stronger Supply Chains: Visit to Osaka Gas Chemicals (Osaka)

The discussions continued at the headquarters of Osaka Gas Chemicals Co., Ltd. (OGC), situated at Domecity Gas Building, Chiyozaki 3-chome-minami, Osaka. Led by Mr. Ryusaku

Maeda, Team Manager of Procurement, the meeting highlighted OGC's leadership in producing activated carbon from coconut shell charcoal, vital for environmental protection applications worldwide.

While Mr. Maeda outlined recent supply challenges caused by declining coconut production in key supplying nations, the dialogue was imbued with optimism and forward-looking strategy.

OGC reaffirmed its strong commitment to working collaboratively with coconut-producing countries to ensure long-term supply chain resilience. Initiatives discussed included support for replanting programs, strengthening farmer capacity, and developing sustainable sourcing partnerships.

The meeting underlined an important shift: industries are increasingly ready to invest not just in procurement, but in sustainable agricultural development, offering powerful opportunities to uplift rural communities and promote environmentally responsible growth.

Strengthening Sustainability Standards: Meeting with Sakamoto Yakuhin Kogyo (Osaka)

At Sakamoto Yakuhin Kogyo Co., Ltd., located in Awaji-machi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, strategic discussions unfolded with Director Shigeru Konishi and senior management. Specializing in high-quality oleochemical products and derivatives, Sakamoto Yakuhin emphasized that traceability and sustainability have become essential credentials for coconut products entering global premium markets.

Mr. Konishi called for the establishment of a global coconut certification system, modeled after internationally recognized sustainability frameworks. He stressed that proactive action is crucial to ensure that coconut products can maintain access to markets shaped by evolving regulations like the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

Sakamoto Yakuhin's advocacy reflects a broader shift within industries — a move toward greater transparency, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility that benefits both businesses and farmers.

A Coconut Pioneer's Journey: Visit to Cocowell Ice Cream Shop (Osaka)

A refreshing and inspiring encounter followed at the Cocowell Ice Cream Shop in Naniwa-ku, Osaka, where President Yu Mizui — known as Japan's "Coconutist" — shared his story of pioneering coconut culture in Japan.

Having introduced coconut oil to the Japanese market over two decades ago, Mr. Mizui emphasized how persistence, education, and a strong commitment to quality transformed initial skepticism into widespread acceptance.

Cocowell today stands as a respected brand for coconut-based health and lifestyle products across Japan, sold in department stores and organic outlets. By prioritizing smallholder farmer support, ethical sourcing, and premium product quality, Cocowell serves as a model of how social entrepreneurship and business excellence can coexist to drive sustainable growth.

Aviation's Green Revolution: Strategic Dialogue with Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (Tokyo)

Transitioning to Tokyo, crucial discussions were held at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) headquarters in Kasumigaseki. Mr. Yasushi Yamashita, Director for Carbon Neutrality Promotion at JCAB (Japan Civil Aviation Bureau), led strategic dialogues on integrating coconut derivatives into the aviation industry's decarbonization efforts.

Japan's government is actively advocating at ICAO for the inclusion of non-standard coconuts and Grade D copra in the Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) positive list — a landmark move that could place coconut at the forefront of green aviation technologies.

The meeting underscored the growing importance of coconut as a renewable energy feedstock, offering benefits not only for environmental goals but also for smallholder farmers seeking new market opportunities.

Research and Innovation Partnerships: Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (Tokyo)

The delegation's next stop was the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (TUAT), a renowned institution blending scientific rigor with innovation.

At the Faculty of Technology, Professor Eika W. Qian shared insights into cutting-edge research using coconut oil as a superior feedstock for aviation biofuel, emphasizing its natural chemical advantages compared to other vegetable oils.

Meanwhile, at the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Sakae Suzuki outlined exciting opportunities for collaboration in coconut tissue culture technologies, which are vital to rejuvenating aging plantations and improving genetic diversity.

These discussions highlighted the role of academia in advancing coconut's contribution to food security, climate resilience, and renewable energy.

Advancing Carbon Neutrality: Meeting with Green Power Development Corporation of Japan (Tokyo)

At the Green Power Development Corporation of Japan (GPDJ), conversations led by Executive Chairman Emi Sekiya and CEO Gen Kimitsuka explored opportunities to integrate coconut-derived byproducts, such as testa and non-edible copra, into the ICAO-COARSIA framework for sustainable aviation fuel certification.

The meeting stressed the need for robust standards and verification mechanisms, ensuring that coconut-based materials can become credible contributors to carbon reduction programs globally.

It also showcased how partnerships between the energy sector and agriculture can unlock new sustainable business models, linking rural development directly with international climate goals.

Conclusion

The visit to Osaka Expo 2025 served as a fitting symbol of the aspirations driving these engagements — a global celebration of innovation, sustainability, and collaboration aimed at building a better future for all. Set against the backdrop of one of the world's most prestigious international expositions, the Expo's grand vision of "Designing Future Society for Our Lives" echoed the very spirit of the dialogues held throughout Osaka and Tokyo.

Amid this atmosphere of optimism and global unity, the high-level engagements across Japan marked a pivotal milestone for the coconut sector's global journey. From confronting raw material shortages and advocating for international certification standards, to pioneering research into coconut-based sustainable aviation fuel and advanced tissue culture, the meetings reflected a profound blend of tradition, cutting-edge science, and global diplomacy.

In Osaka, critical partnerships were strengthened with industry leaders working to secure sustainable supply chains and enhance the environmental credentials of coconut-derived products. In Tokyo, top government officials and eminent researchers outlined bold new pathways for integrating coconut into the world's drive toward carbon neutrality and renewable energy.

The collective ambition demonstrated across industries, academia, and public institutions reaffirmed the coconut sector's expanding relevance — not just as a traditional agricultural commodity, but as a dynamic contributor to global sustainability, innovation, and inclusive economic growth.

As the world looks to Osaka in 2025 to showcase the very best of human ingenuity, the coconut

industry stands ready to take its place in this unfolding story of hope, resilience, and transformation — charting a bold path forward toward a greener, fairer, and more prosperous world. *(ICC News)*

ICC EXPLORES STRATEGIC COLLABORATION WITH IFAD INDONESIA TO STRENGTHEN COCONUT SECTOR

The International Coconut Community (ICC), led by Director General Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, paid a courtesy visit to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Regional Office for Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea and Country Office for Indonesia, to explore potential areas of collaboration. The ICC delegation included Deputy Director General, Admin and Finance Director and Market and Statistics Director.

They were warmly received by H.E. Mr. Hani Abdelkader Elsadani, IFAD Country Director for Indonesia, and Program Officer Ms. Yumi Sakata. The meeting highlighted the shared interest of both institutions in empowering smallholder farmers, building rural resilience, and advancing sustainable agricultural development.

Coconut for Inclusive Growth and Climate Resilience

Dr. Jelfina provided an overview of ICC's role as an intergovernmental organization representing 21 coconut-producing member countries. She outlined ICC's mission to support the coconut industry through sustainable practices, enhanced productivity, and inclusive growth.

Emphasizing coconut's global economic significance—contributing over USD 14 billion in exports in 2023—she noted the crop's potential to address pressing development challenges. Coconut-based solutions for biofuel, carbon sequestration, health, and nutrition were among the innovative strategies discussed. She also highlighted ICC's major programs such as the Youth Empowerment Program, that aim to build future-ready rural economies.

IFAD's Vision: Integrating Coconut into Rural Systems

H.E. Mr. Elsadani expressed enthusiasm for the potential synergies between IFAD's rural development agenda and ICC's sectoral expertise. He raised interest in exploring how coconut could be integrated with aquaculture, particularly in areas where IFAD is developing new models of sustainable farming around paddy cultivation.

He also referred to IFAD's ongoing work in Indonesia's Papua region, where efforts are underway to rebuild coconut production in village communities. Market access and product quality remain key challenges in these regions, making capacity building an essential area of focus for future collaboration.

Shared Priorities and Strategic Synergies

Both sides acknowledged the importance of improving access to quality planting materials, enhancing value addition, and developing smallholder-oriented agro-enterprises. IFAD expressed interest in ICC's proposed Coconut Program for Sustainable Rural Development (CPSRD), which emphasizes diversification, enterprise development, and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

In turn, ICC highlighted the potential alignment of these efforts with IFAD-supported initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting opened the door for joint exploration of financing modalities, pilot projects, and knowledge sharing mechanisms.

Looking Ahead

The discussion concluded with a commitment to continue exploring concrete areas for cooperation. Dr. Jelfina extended an invitation for IFAD to attend ICC's upcoming side event at the 81st Session of the UN-ESCAP in Bangkok on 25 April 2025, focused on "Harnessing the Potential

of Coconut for Food and Energy Security." IFAD welcomed the invitation and agreed to share the meeting outcomes with its country offices in Sri Lanka and West Africa.

A Promising Step Forward

The courtesy visit reaffirmed the mutual commitment of ICC and IFAD to rural development through inclusive and sustainable agriculture. One key area of interest raised by ICC was the need for a Certified Coconut Nursery Expansion Initiative, especially in countries like Indonesia where the supply of high-quality planting material remains a major bottleneck in national replanting efforts. ICC requested IFAD's support to address this gap, recognizing its importance in improving farmer productivity and long-term sector resilience. The alignment of ICC's coconut-centered development strategy with IFAD's rural poverty alleviation mandate offers exciting prospects for joint action—especially in empowering smallholder farmers and promoting climate-resilient value chains.

By building on this foundation, ICC and IFAD can together unlock the full potential of the coconut sector to deliver economic, environmental, and social impact across the Asia-Pacific and beyond. *(ICC News)*

ICC HOSTED KEY SIDE EVENT AT THE 81ST SESSION OF THE UNESCAP COMMISSION: HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF COCONUT FOR FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY

In support of sustainable food and energy security programs, as well as climate change mitigation, the International Coconut Community (ICC) hosted a significant Side Event titled "Harnessing the Potential of Coconut for Food and Energy Security: Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Future". The event, held on April 25, 2025, at Meeting Room A, United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand, was part of the 81st session of the UNESCAP Commission.

A total of 133 participants joined, with 68 attending physically at the venue and 65 others participating virtually via Zoom. The participants came from various countries, with the largest number from Indonesia (33 participants, 12 in-person and 21 virtual), followed by Thailand with 30 participants who all attended physically. Other countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, Fiji, France, Australia, Vietnam, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, and other Asian and African countries several others also sent participants, both physically and virtually. The participants came from diverse organizations, including government, embassies, international organizations, private sector, universities, and research institutions, represented by government officers, researchers, university lecturers, private sector players, farmers, and journalists.

Also attended at the event H.E. Tingika Elikana, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Cook Islands and Dr. Wilaiwan Kraikruan, Deputy Director-General, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative, Governman of Thailand.

The event commenced with the welcoming remarks and event objectives presented by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Director General, ICC. In her remarks Dr. Jelfina addressed that coconut is a multifunctional crop with significant economic, social, and environmental roles, impacting millions worldwide. It contributes to SDGs, like poverty alleviation, food security, and climate action. Despite opportunities, the sector faces challenges like extreme weather and limited infrastructure. Innovation, supportive policies, and investment in research and technology are needed. Coconut products can enhance food security, public health, and climate change mitigation. Expected outcomes include increased awareness, policy integration, and collaborative investment. Strengthening partnerships is crucial for sustainable coconut sector development, improving smallholder farmers' livelihoods and addressing global challenges.

The first session, led by Dr. Fabian Dayrit, Chairman of the ICC Scientific Advisory

Committee on Health (SACH), highlighted the various health benefits and nutritional value of coconut. Dr. Dayrit emphasized that coconut is not only a traditional staple food but also contains highly nutritious components that can support public health while contributing to food security stability. He explained that diverse coconut-based processed products, such as coconut oil, coconut milk, and coconut flour, provide sustainable healthy food options.

Following this session, Mr. Masato Fujii, Director of Green Power Development Corporation from Japan, presented the role of coconut as an alternative energy source. The main focus was on the utilization of coconut as a Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Mr. Fujii illustrated how innovative coconut processing technology can produce environmentally friendly SAF, reducing dependence on fossil fuels in the aviation sector. This is considered crucial for achieving global emission reduction targets in an industry that has historically been difficult to decarbonize.

In the subsequent session, Dr. Hebbar K. Balachandra, Director of the Central Plantations Crop Research Institute (CPCRI), India, underscored the aspect of coconut in climate change mitigation through its carbon sequestration capabilities. As a plantation crop, coconut has the capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, thus potentially providing tradable carbon credits within international schemes. Dr. Hebbar explained the mechanisms and benefits of implementing these carbon credits, while also emphasizing the importance of sustainable management of coconut plantations to optimally contribute to global climate resilience.

A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Chairman of the ICC Technical Working Group (TWG), concluded the event with an intensive discussion on the challenges faced by the coconut industry, particularly in ensuring sufficient and stable raw material availability. Participants discussed issues such as climate change, plant pests, and governance that need improvement to build a resilient coconut supply chain. Strategic steps that can be implemented, including technology development, more massive research investment, and international collaboration in the coconut sector, were also discussed.

This event embodies the commitment of the ICC and all industry stakeholders to ensure that coconut not only remains a source of livelihood for traditional farmers but also transforms into a globally competitive commodity that underpins world food and energy security. With an integrated approach uniting aspects of health, green energy, and climate change mitigation, the ICC hopes to spur innovation and policies that support the sustainable coconut sector, while simultaneously strengthening the industry to be more resilient in facing the dynamics of future changes. *(ICC News)*

INDONESIAN PARLIAMENT PUSHES FOR COCONUT SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Member of Commission IV of the House of Representatives (DPR RI), Firman Soebagyo, emphasized the importance of ensuring the sustainability of coconut cultivation, which he considers a strategic commodity for both national food security and export potential.

"Currently, rubber products still dominate South Sumatra's exports. However, coffee is also being exported to China. This shows the vast potential of our plantation sector," said Firman Soebagyo following a field review during Commission IV's recess visit to Palembang, South Sumatra.

Speaking again during the launch of dpr.go.id, Firman stressed that the government must urgently promote coconut cultivation to avoid dependence on imported coconuts, especially considering the high domestic demand for coconut-based products.

"We must act proactively. Let's not wait until coconuts become scarce before taking action. We shouldn't fall behind and end up

relying on other countries to meet our needs," Firman warned.

He noted that while coconut plantations in South Sumatra are still relatively well-maintained, concrete steps are needed to develop and expand them to ensure long-term sustainability.

Meanwhile, Commission IV member Saadiah Uluputty echoed Firman's concerns and highlighted the strong global interest in various Indonesian plantation products, including coffee, coconut, and spices such as cloves and nutmeg.

"Indonesian coffee is exported to Europe, China, and the U.S. The demand is significant. Even coconut pulp is now being processed into new products in China," she explained.

She also pointed out that cloves and nutmeg are popular in Europe, Africa, and America due to their unique flavors and high quality, making them highly competitive in the global market. *(RRI)*

HOW THE CNO FUTURE FUND IS REPLACING FOSSIL FUELS WITH SUSTAINABLE COCONUT OIL

Vanuatu has long relied on imported diesel to meet its energy needs, but a new fuel source is gaining traction—coconut oil. The CNO Future Fund, launched in 2023, is expanding production and refining methods to make coconut oil a viable alternative to diesel in the country's power grid.

The government has set a target of 100% renewable energy by 2030, aligning with broader global efforts to reduce carbon emissions. With fuel imports accounting for a significant portion of Vanuatu's expenses, the transition to locally produced biofuels is both an economic and environmental strategy.

Coconut Oil as a Renewable Fuel

Coconut oil has been used as a biofuel before, but large-scale implementation has faced logistical challenges. The CNO Future Fund has committed to expanding coconut oil production to 16 million liters per year by 2030, replacing a portion of the diesel used for electricity generation.

The refining process enables the use of coconut oil in existing diesel generators with minimal modifications. This means that Vanuatu can reduce its reliance on imported fossil fuels without requiring costly infrastructure changes. The strategy is particularly relevant for remote island communities, where fuel transportation costs are high.

Beyond reducing emissions, the shift to coconut oil brings economic benefits to local farmers and small businesses. With an increased demand for coconuts as an energy source, rural communities are seeing higher incomes and more stable markets for their crops.

Daniel Agius, Chief Operating Officer of the Vanuatu Investment Marketing Bureau (VIMB), which manages the fund, described the impact on local communities. "This isn't just an environmental initiative—it's an economic one. We are creating opportunities for small-scale producers while reducing Vanuatu's dependence on imported fuels," he said.

In Q4 2024 alone, 420,000 liters of coconut oil were produced despite disruptions caused by a 7.3 magnitude earthquake. Over 140 tons of copra meal byproduct were also redirected to the domestic livestock market, reducing the need for imported animal feed.

Scaling Up Production

Coconut oil production in Vanuatu has historically been small-scale, primarily for export or local consumption. To meet the energy sector's needs, the CNO Future Fund has invested in modern refining and processing facilities, enabling higher yields and improved quality control.

A key part of this expansion is the development of strategic drying hubs, where coconuts can

be processed more efficiently. Field testing of new containerized dryers has proven successful, improving the quality of copra through automated systems that operate in diverse weather conditions.

Refurbishment of existing pipe dryers and construction of new facilities using locally sourced materials—such as kapa sheeting, amber, and concrete—are helping standardize production across the islands.

Infrastructure Challenges and Solutions

One of the primary barriers to scaling up coconut oil biofuel is infrastructure. Many of Vanuatu's coconut farms are in remote locations, making transportation to refineries costly and inefficient. The CNO Future Fund is working on improving transport links, including better roads and more efficient logistics networks.

Connectivity has improved significantly across regions including Torba, Sanma, Malampa, and Shefa. Materials were also provided for the community-led reconstruction of Craig Cove Copra Wharf, enhancing maritime logistics.

Additionally, ensuring a consistent supply of coconut oil is essential. Fluctuations in global coconut prices and competition with export markets can impact local supply. The fund is addressing this by establishing direct agreements with farmers and cooperatives, offering fair and stable pricing to encourage long-term participation.

The fund has also promoted livestock and multi-crop initiatives—integrating cattle, cocoa, amber, and kava into rural farming networks for diversified income streams.

Government Policy and Investment Incentives

The success of the coconut oil transition depends on continued government support and policy stability. Vanuatu has already put in place renewable energy targets, and officials are considering further incentives for investors in the biofuel sector.

Agius noted that interest in investment-linked citizenship programs has played a role in financing these initiatives. "We've seen strong investor interest because this isn't just a sustainability project—it's a financially viable model that contributes to energy security," he said.

To date, 124 CIIP applications have been processed under the fund, resulting in USD 5.95 million in direct investment and USD 7.76 million in government revenue. Each investor receives formal certification, and all contributions are documented under a transparent regulatory framework.

Future Expansion and Renewable Energy Integration

While coconut oil is the primary focus, discussions are ongoing about integrating other renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power into Vanuatu's grid. The CNO Future Fund is already working on ways to combine coconut oil biofuel with other renewables to provide a more stable energy supply.

The Fund has acquired key equipment to retrofit parts of the maritime fleet to run on CNO, offering a carbon-neutral solution for inter-island shipping. It is also awaiting generator procurement by UNELCO to commence grid-based power production capable of generating 2MW from CNO alone.

The government is also evaluating whether similar investment models could be applied to other sustainability projects, such as infrastructure resilience and disaster recovery. Expanding beyond biofuels, these projects could attract additional funding and further strengthen Vanuatu's renewable energy sector.

Expanding beyond biofuels, these projects could attract additional funding and further strengthen Vanuatu's renewable energy sector. *(Deccan Herald)*

EXPORTS TO CHINA WILL ENSURE HIGH-QUALITY FRESH COCONUTS BY LOCAL GROWERS, SAYS DG

Malaysia is tapping a new market for its agricultural products with the export of young coconuts to China for fresh beverage consumption, according to the agriculture department.

In a statement, its director-general Nor Sam Alwi said priority will be given to premium aromatic varieties – particularly the pandan coconut, known for its distinctive pandan fragrance and a natural sweetness, Bernama reported.

She said the export of fresh young coconuts is enabled with the newly established "protocol on phytosanitary requirements" that enhances biosecurity controls and ensures the production of high-quality Malaysian young coconuts.

According to Nor Sam, previously, Malaysia had been exporting young coconuts to China based solely on general phytosanitary certificates, without any specific protocol in place.

"With the implementation of this protocol, greater emphasis is now placed on the requirements for registered farms' adherence to good agricultural practices (myGAP) and compliance with the integrated pest management (IPM) system.

"These measures will ensure that only high-quality and safe young coconuts are exported in line with international standards," she said.

As such, Nor Sam encouraged more local entrepreneurs, particularly those cultivating fragrant varieties like the pandan coconut, to seize this opportunity.

She also urged them to register their farms for myGAP certification and ensure that their processing facilities comply with the necessary standards to qualify for export under the new protocol.

Malaysia officially received approval to export fresh coconuts to China following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between both countries on April 16, held in conjunction with the three-day state visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Nor Sam said opening access to the Chinese market is also part of a long-term strategy to diversify export destinations for Malaysian agricultural products.

Malaysia's coconut production reached 624,000 tonnes in 2023, with 6,000 tonnes of young coconuts exported abroad.

In contrast, Nor Sam said Malaysia imports a large amount of mature coconuts – exceeding 278,000 tonnes – to meet the specific requirements of the coconut-based processing industry, including the production of coconut milk, kerisik, desiccated coconut and related products.

She added that a range of incentives had been provided to coconut growers, including aid in the form of seedlings, fertilizers and pesticides, along with support for basic plantation infrastructure, covering initiatives for new planting, replanting, rehabilitation of aging trees and crop integration.

"It is estimated that there are around 60,000 coconut growers nationwide. In terms of output, smallholders contribute over 80% of the country's total coconut production.

"This clearly demonstrates that their involvement, supported by all relevant stakeholders, is central to the growth and sustainability of Malaysia's coconut industry," she said. *(Free Malaysia Today)*

P1-B THAI COCONUT PROCESSING PLANT RISING IN CAGAYAN DE ORO THIS YEAR

A new coconut processing facility backed by a Thailand-based firm is expected to debut in Cagayan de Oro City by the end of the year, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) said.

According to Peza Director General Tereso Panga, the facility planned by PhilCo Food Processing, Inc., an affiliate of the Thailand-based World Group of Companies, is slated to begin commercial operations between December this year and January 2026.

Citing the Philippine Information Agency, Peza said that a 20-year lease agreement had been signed on April 11 between the firm and the Philippine Veterans Investment Development Corp. (Phividec) Industrial Authority.

The Thai company will pay an initial annual lease of P6.33 million to the government-owned and -controlled corporation, with a 5-percent increase set each year.

Construction works are set to begin within the Phividec Industrial Estate in October this year, Peza said.

The facility will rise on a 39,596-square-meter site in Mohon, Tagoloan, and is expected to produce 78,000 tons of ultra-high temperature (UHT) coconut milk annually, along with frozen coconut meat.

The facility is anticipated to generate 2,500 jobs and broaden market opportunities for coconut farmers in northern Mindanao and surrounding provinces.

About 500,000 coconuts will be sourced daily from farmers in these areas, providing a significant boost to Mindanao's agricultural economy, according to the government. *(Inquirer)*

MARCOS WANTS MORE COCONUT PROCESSING FACILITIES IN PH

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said he wants more coconut processing facilities in the country.

At the inauguration of the Integrated Coconut Processing Facility in Misamis Oriental on Tuesday, Marcos said he was surprised that it was the first processing center for coconut, even though the Philippines is "one of the largest coconut-producing nations in the world."

"Isipin natin kung itong ganitong klaseng processing center ay pakakalatin natin sa buong Pilipinas. Baka makabalik ako rito bago ako magtapos, sasabihin ko, number one na tayo," Marcos said.

(If we have processing centers like these across the Philippines, we might be able to reach number one before my term ends.)

"'Yung coconut talaga iyon ang pinakamaganda. Iyon ang ano natin eh miracle product para sa Pilipinas ang coconut. Dahil very popular sa buong mundo ang produktong coconut at kayang-kaya natin mag-alaga at magparami ng ating mga niyog, at malaki ang market sa labas at marunong na tayong gumawa. Ang kulang lang ganitong klaseng mga processing plant kagaya ng sa bigas, kagaya sa palay," he added.

(Coconut is the best. It's the miracle product of the Philippines. Its products are very popular in the world, and we can increase the production of coconut products, and the market for them is enormous. What is missing is a processing facility that is similar to one that processes rice.)

The P350-million Integrated Coconut Processing Facility aims to turn coconut into a local economic driver by producing high-value coconut products and targeting an increase in the farm gate price from P8-9 per nut to at least P16-18/nut.

The SUnRISE (Solving Unemployment through Rural Industrialization, Sustainable and Enterprise) project promotes the processing of coconut products beyond the traditional copra.

These include cocopallets/cocoboards, activated carbon, virgin coconut oil/cooking oil, coco flour, skim milk, and coco water, which is eyed to contribute to the government's efforts to single-digit poverty incidence by 2028.

Marcos said this facility could benefit around 66,000 coconut farmers in Misamis Oriental.

This will also create employment for at least 2,500 Filipinos, Marcos said.

In the same event, farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) and local government units from Cagayan de Oro City and Misamis Oriental received agricultural interventions from the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office 10 (DA-Northern Mindanao), its attached agency, the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (DA-PHilMech), and from a public-private partnership focused on the development of the coconut industry.

Rice farming technologies, worth P78.1 million, were also awarded to farmer beneficiaries under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF). *(GMA News Online)*

SOUTH COTABATO FIRM TO INVEST P3-B FOR COCONUT-BASED BIOFUEL VENTURE

An industrial company based in Tupi town, South Cotabato province is investing some P3 billion for the production of coconut-based biofuel.

South Cotabato Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. said his family-owned Tupi Supreme Activated Carbon Inc. is planning to establish a production facility that would process coconut oil into biodiesel.

Tupi Supreme, which operates an industrial plant in Barangay Kablon in Tupi, is engaged in the production of activated carbon, a high-value product derived from coconut shells.

The product, which has a growing demand locally and abroad, is used in water filtration, air purification, health care, food, metal extraction, and gold purification.

"Tupi Supreme will buy whole nuts, process copra into oil and the finished product will be biofuel from coconut," Tamayo said in a press briefing.

The governor said the demand for coco biodiesel is on the rise as oil companies were mandated by the Department of Energy to increase the biofuel blend to three percent from the previous two percent starting October 1, 2024.

The coco methyl ester or CME blend will further increase to four percent by October 1, 2025, and to five percent by October 1, 2026.

The Biofuels Act of 2006 mandates that all liquid fuels for motors and engines contain locally sourced biofuel components.

Tamayo said the new venture would provide better opportunities for local coconut farmers or producers, noting that it could lead to higher prices for raw coconuts.

"The higher buying prices would be good for our farmers," he said.

Tamayo said that copra and coconut prices have been increasing in the past several months mainly due to the tight supply and growing demand globally.

Aside from copra, the demand has been also increasing for the production of coco juice, coco husk and other by-products.

The Philippine Coconut Authority reported that the farmgate price of copra averaged P51 a kilo as of the first week of April, a significant increase from P25.42 per kilo in the same period last year. *(Minda News)*

REPORT: FARM PRACTICES LIMIT PHILIPPINE COCONUT PRODUCTION

Despite the absence of extreme weather events, an international agency said the Philippines will see only a marginal increase in coconut output as smallholders continue to observe non intensive farm practices.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service in Manila (USDA-FAS Manila) projects coconut production to grow by 1.5 percent to 2.6 million metric tons (MMT) in the upcoming marketing year 2025/26 due to improved weather conditions, particularly the absence of El Niño.

"Industry contacts report that the coconut trees experienced stress after heavy fruiting in 2024, coupled with the El Niño, which affected the first semester of 2024," the agency said in its latest report.

"Since coconut production takes one year, the stressed coconut trees in 2024 are expected to soften productivity in MY 2025/26, despite the projected better weather conditions in MY 2025/26."

The USDA-FAS Manila said the country's key coconut-producing areas are in Mindanao, specifically Davao, Northern Mindanao, Zamboanga Peninsula, and BARMM regions. Calabarzon, a region in Luzon, is also a key coconut producer.

"Coconut cultivation in the Philippines is mostly grown by smallholder farmers, with non-intensive farm management resulting lower yield compared to other countries."

Despite the projected rebound, the international agency adjusted the country's estimated coconut output to 2.56 MMT for the current MY 2024/25 from the 2.9 MMT recorded in the previous MY.

"The estimated decline in production in MY 2024/25 was caused by the El Niño weather disturbance, which started in July 2023 and ended in June 2024, and negatively affected yield."

Meanwhile, USDA-FAS Manila projected that copra imports will reach 50,000 metric tons (MT) in MY 2025/26, a 28.2 percent increment from 39,000 MT, owing to the demand likely exceeding supply and price hikes of dried coconut kernels.

"(This is) primarily driven by local demand outpacing domestic production and copra prices increasing to the point where importation is profitable for some oil mills."

The USDA-FAS Manila attributed the steep rise in domestic copra quotations to increasing demand from higher biodiesel blending rates.

The Philippines had shifted to B3, or a 3-percent coco-methyl ester (CME) biodiesel blend, used by diesel-powered vehicles.

By October, the biodiesel blend will increase to B4 (4 percent), and to B5 (5 percent blend) by October 2026 under the Department of Energy's biodiesel mandate.

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) said, however, that some stakeholders are proposing a temporary suspension of the scheduled 1 percentage point increase in the coco-methyl ester (CME) biodiesel mandate.

PCA said they had advocated for an immediate dialogue with the National Biofuels Board to assess the impact of the increased blend on domestic coconut oil supply and pricing, suggesting a potential temporary adjustment to prioritize cooking oil availability for consumers.

Citing data from the agency's Trade Information and Relations Division, the PCA noted that the national average farmgate price of copra reached P58.10 per kilo as of March 31, more than double the level seen in the same period last year.

Millgate prices have also soared as they reached a national monthly average of P75.34 per kilo last month, exceeding the peak triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict in March 2022.

The agency raised concern over the effect of copra price hikes that translated to "alarming" retail prices for Refined, Bleached, and Deodorized Coconut Oil, commonly used as cooking oil, which currently ranges from

P172 to P182 per kilo at the Millgate level. *(Business Mirror)*

BEN TRE ENHANCES COCONUT VALUE, FUELING LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Across the Mekong Delta provinces, the price of dried coconuts has reached a peak of over VND200,000 per dozen, with Ben Tre Province at the forefront of this trend. Being recognized as 'coconut capital' of both the Mekong Delta and the country, Ben Tre Province has successfully cultivated its coconut trees into a vital multi-faceted industrial crop, thereby significantly contributing to the growth of its local economy.

These days in Ben Tre, the coconut land, the prices of coconut is a hot topic. From quiet village paths to bustling markets and even relaxed coffee shops, local people have all talked about coconut prices.

Resident Tran Van Luong with nickname Tu Luong in Dinh Thuy Commune of Mo Cay Nam District, a man whose life has been intertwined with coconut trees for nearly 70 years, was so delighted saying that he has lived alongside coconuts for his whole life, but this is the first time he has witnessed prices as remarkably high as they are now.

Old farmer Tu Luong explained that this region experiences alternating fresh and saltwater conditions over the course of the year, making it challenging to grow other crops besides coconuts. While no one has become a coconut billionaire, the hardy coconut palm has helped many local farmers lift themselves out of poverty, allowing entire households to prosper.

Director Tran Van Dat of Dinh Thuy Agricultural Cooperative shared that coconut trees are often referred to as 'a tree that helps people escape poverty' because they offer a relatively stable source of income. While not necessarily making growers wealthy, participation in the cooperative's organic coconut production chain—such as by farmer Tu Luong—ensures stable output, consistently higher purchase prices compared to the market, and an overall improvement in members' livelihoods.

Director Dat noted that since its founding, the cooperative has created employment opportunities for many local residents. Managing over 530 hectares of organic coconut plantations, the cooperative requires substantial labor for various stages of production, from peeling to crushing coconut shells. Ms. Tran Thi Phan, a coconut peeler at Dinh Thuy Agricultural Cooperative, shared that whereas her family once struggled financially, she now earns over VND1.5 million per week—enough to comfortably support her household and children.

In Mo Cay Nam District, everyone knows Mr. Nguyen Van Lung of Dinh Thuy Commune with the nickname Bay Dua, as he is the first person in the commune to participate in the Cooperative's organic coconut farming model, a system integrated with Luong Quoi Coconut Company. His impressive coconut garden covers more than ten hectares, a testament to his dedication, with a healthy mix of mature, productive trees alongside younger saplings approaching their third year.

Sharing his experience with organic coconut farming, Mr. Bay explained that he uses compost made from dry coconut leaves mixed with young mud, applying fertilizer once a year and adjusting as needed based on conditions. This method not only reduces costs but also improves soil aeration, promoting healthy and robust coconut growth. According to him, participating in the organic coconut production chain not only guarantees a higher purchase price compared to the market but also ensures stable output. This stability enables businesses to proactively produce and process for export orders, while helping farmers secure a steady income.

Director of Dinh Thuy Agricultural Cooperative Tran Van Dat revealed that compared to traditional coconut farming, the organic coconut model has significantly enhanced the industry's value chain. Since adopting organic production, the

cooperative has received technical support and secured stable output through partnerships with purchasing companies. Currently, the cooperative supplies approximately 150,000 coconuts per week, enabling businesses to proactively process products, increase value, and improve members' livelihoods, Director Dat emphasized.

Deputy Director Huynh Quang Duc of the Department of Agriculture and Environment of Ben Tre Province added that the province now has 32 cooperatives and 28 production groups engaged in the coconut value chain, covering a total of 6,404 hectares and involving nearly 7,000 members. Organic coconut farming now represents 22 percent of Ben Tre's total coconut cultivation area. Furthermore, the province has developed six concentrated coconut production zones, five of which meet organic standards, with one dedicated to coconut water production.

According to Chairman of Ben Tre Provincial People's Committee Tran Ngoc Tam, the province identifies coconut as one of the key industrial crops; therefore, local authorities prioritize creating policies and mechanisms to attract investment and promote the application of science and technology in coconut production and processing. This aligns with meeting domestic consumption demands and accessing international markets.

Therefore, the total export turnover of coconut in 2024 reached more than US$451 million, an increase of 14.43 percent over the previous year, accounting for 25.7 percent of the total export turnover of the province, holding the second position after the textile and footwear industry. *(SGGP News)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Coconut oil prices continued to see firmness during the week.

In Rotterdam, the coconut oil market resumed activity after a lackluster affair last week, reporting a trade concluded at $2,400/MT CIF, higher than $2,350/MT a fortnight ago. The market opened for the most part firmer, ignoring lower palm oil, with sellers quoting $2,550-2,647.50/MT CIF for positions from April/May through to October/November. Prices generally tracked further higher after that, discounting palm oil weakness. At the close, levels stood at $2,555-2,650/MT CIF.

On the other hand, the palm kernel oil market was still quiet. Opening level though was easier with sellers at $1,915-1,980/MT CIF for positions from April/May through to September/October. Thereafter, the values trended mostly downward in sympathy with declining palm oil. Towards the weekend, however, levels bounced back following the coconut oil price action and settled at close at $1,910-1,930/MT CIF.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil were elevated further this week, thus increasing the weekly average anew to $670.81/MT from $615.21 a week ago and from $512.87 two weeks ago. Price premium exceeded respective week-ago level, except in one position, and showed spreads reaching as high as $700 in two positions as presented in the following: March/April $702.00 ($635.63 last week); April/May $621.63 ($583.40); May/June $735.50 ($634.00); June/July $676.35 ($614.60); July/August $658.50 ($594.00); August/September $653.20 ($581.10); September/October $648.50 ($663.75).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures were weaker earlier this week dragged by the trade war between the US and China but rebounded shortly on fund and technical buying, higher crude oil price, and gains in derivative products oil and meal. Weakness, however, resumed towards the close ahead of a three-day weekend holiday.

At the palm oil section, the market was bearish this week affected by global trade uncertainties. A fallout from US tariffs shocks, players feared

an ensuing recession, consequently, negatively affecting markets including the vegetable oils. Weak CBOT soybean oil prices coupled with estimates of improving palm oil production and rising stocks in Malaysia in March, and a likely further rise in April, added to the negative market sentiment. News Malaysian palm oil export for the first half of April rose 13.6% to 450,657 MT compared to same period in the prior month, based on surveyors' report, failed to buoy prices.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment showed coconut oil continued to stay in the positive zone, rising another $72.60/MT from $2,570.90 last week to $2,643.50/MT CIF in the current week. By contrast, palm kernel oil and palm oil continued to show losses. Palm kernel oil fell $79.50 from $1,987.50 to $1,908.00/MT CIF and palm oil plunged $125.50 from $1,263.00 to $1,137.50/MT CIF. As a result, the price premium of coconut oil increased again with the spread against palm kernel oil expanding markedly from $583.40 a week before to $735.50/MT currently. Against palm oil, the spread leaped $125.50 from $1,307.90 to $1,506.00/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

The Rotterdam coconut oil market featured only one trade concluded at $2,400/MT CIF for June/July delivery. The market sustained firmness notably for the first half positions. Sellers closed with offers at $2,750 for March/April; $2,650 for April/May; $2,645 for May/June; $2,615 for June/July; $2,586.25 for July/August; $2,582.50 for August/September; $2,567.50 for September/October; and $2,555 for October/November; and $2,655/MT CIF for November/December. No buyers showed up after trading on Tuesday this week. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

PCA ALARMED BY RISING COPRA PRICES

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) has expressed concern over rising copra and coconut prices, saying this would impact retail prices and may cause inflation to heat up.

"The Philippine coconut industry is at a critical juncture," the PCA said during a recent industry consultation.

"If not addressed urgently, the rising costs of copra and coconut oil could strain the operations of processors and ripple into widespread food inflation affecting every Filipino household," it added.

Data from the PCA revealed that farm-gate, millsite and retail copra prices have been rapidly increasing due to a combination of factors including robust demand for coconut oil abroad and tight local supply resulting from weather disturbances.

The farm-gate price of copra—or the price received by a farmer for selling produce at the farm level—averaged P59.01 a kilogram as of April 3 this year, surging by over 132 percent from P25.42 per kg in the same period a year ago, based on the figures from the PCA.

Meanwhile, the average millgate price, which refers to the price paid by a mill or processor for a commodity, more than doubled during the same period to P77.02 a kilo from P33.75 per kg.

This was also higher than the monthly average millgate prices of P75.34 per kg in March, surpassing the peak triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict in March 2022.

These translated to higher retail prices of refined, bleached and deodorized Coconut oil (RBD CNO), commonly used as cooking oil.

Current prices range from P179.2 and P185.92 a kg at the millgate level, soaring by nearly 80 percent from last year's P99.68-P167.44 per kg.

The PCA gathered major industry players from the coconut oil milling, refining, desiccating and oleochemical sectors to address the surge in prices of cooking oil and other coconut products that are used by virtually all Filipino households. *(Inquirer)*

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY CALLS INDONESIA THE TOP 5 WORLD COCONUT PRODUCERS BUT DON'T HAVE A COMMERCIAL PROCEDURE POLICY

Minister of Industry (Menperin) Agus Gumiwang Kartasasmita said, Indonesia is one of the world's top five coconut-producing countries, but does not yet have a policy of trading in coconut raw materials, such as banning exports, export fees, and restriction & prohibition.

This was conveyed by Agus during a meeting with the Indonesian Coconut Processing Industry Association (HIPKI) at the office of the Ministry of Industry, Jakarta. This meeting was to discuss the scarcity of raw materials for the coconut processing industry.

"Meanwhile, other coconut producing countries such as the Philippines, India, Thailand and Sri Lanka have implemented a policy of banning exports to maintain added value to the coconut economy, employment opportunities and the sustainability of the coconut processing industry," Agus said as quoted from a written statement.

Agus said, since the downstream coconut program was declared to have succeeded in attracting investment from various countries, including Malaysia, Thailand, China and Sri Lanka. However, currently these companies have difficulty operating due to the scarcity of coconut raw materials.

Currently, Indonesian coconuts are more likely to be exported in the form of round coconut because there are no trade regulations yet.

"Exporters are not exempted, while domestic industries buy coconut from farmers subject to Article 22 of the PPh tax, so the playing field between exporters and the domestic coconut industry is not the same," he said.

The need for consumption, especially for households and Small and Medium Industries (IKM) is around two billion coconut grains per year. Because now coconut is widely exported to other countries and there is a shortage of coconut supply in traditional markets, causing an increase in prices and household consumers to become victims of this price increase.

Exports in the form of round coconut from Indonesia to other countries are feared to shift the market of Indonesian downstream products which have been strong in the global market and are filled with downstream coconut products from competing countries whose raw materials are from Indonesia.

The products in question include coconut oil, decicated coconut, nata de coco, concentrate coconut water, active charcoal and briquettes.

It is known, the export market share of coconut products throughout 2024 reached two billion US dollars, of which 85 percent were processed coconut products.

If the condition of scarcity of raw materials that hit the coconut processing industry continues, the state can potentially lose foreign exchange results from the export of the coconut processing industry, and it is feared that it will have an impact on around 21,000 workers.

The Minister of Industry continues to coordinate intensively together with business actors and coconut associations to find solutions for coconut supply demand while still prioritizing the welfare of farmers. *(VOI)*

FRUITFUL OUTCOMES FOR FUZHOU IN CHINA-INDONESIA "TWO COUNTRIES, TWIN PARKS" INITIATIVE

China has received its first batch of imported fresh coconuts from Indonesia, with 200 kilogrammes of the tropical fruit arriving recently at Fuzhou Airport.

The delivery was quickly transferred to a processing facility within the Fuzhou Yuanhong Investment Zone—part of the "Two Countries,

Twin Parks" initiative, a bilateral industrial collaboration between China and Indonesia.

According to a statement, the coconuts were subsequently delivered to a Chinese facility operating under the "Two Countries, Twin Parks" initiative, a bilateral industrial collaboration between China and Indonesia aimed at boosting synergy through shared industrial zones.

On the Chinese side, the initiative is anchored by the Fuzhou Yuanhong Investment Zone, covering 61 square kilometres, while Indonesia's contribution spans three locations, namely Bintan, Aviarna, and Batang, with a combined area of 87.6 square kilometres.

As one of the world's leading coconut producers, Indonesia is well-positioned to meet the strong demand for fresh coconuts among Chinese consumers, a factor that signals promising prospects for the trade.

To capitalize on the opportunity, the Fuzhou Yuanhong Investment Zone is developing a Coconut Industrial Park and has commenced operations of four production lines, aiming to establish a comprehensive upstream and downstream coconut industry chain. The initiative is expected to enhance China-Indonesia economic and trade cooperation significantly, it added.

Despite the geographical distance, the initiative mechanism has yielded over 70 bilateral projects to date, with total investment exceeding 93 billion Chinese yuan. The projects span five priority sectors, which are marine fisheries, tropical agriculture, light industry and textiles, machinery and electronics, and green mining. (100 Chinese yuan = RM59.58)

This year, which marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Indonesia, Fuzhou plans to leverage opportunities arising from the initiative to further expand high-level international cooperation under the Belt and Road framework. *(Bernama)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

BRAZIL REMOVES TARIFFS ON EUROPEAN OLIVE OIL AND SUNFLOWER OIL

The Government of Brazil has removed the tariffs on EU imports of olive and sunflower oils, previously set at 9%, with a view to support households affected high prices, the Olive Oil Times reported recently. Olive oil was included due to its increasing popularity among Brazilians as well as awareness of its health benefits, the report said. Other products whose tariffs have been removed were pasta, rice, meat, coffee, sugar, cookies, sardines and corn.

The move has been welcomed by the European olive oil producers. Spain's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Luis Planas, said Spanish food exports to Brazil amounted to €122.9M (US$135.6M) from October 2023-September 2024.

While Spain exported 11,284 MT of olive oil to Brazil in the first nine months of 2024, Portugal remained the leading supplier of olive oil to Brazil, with 60% of the country's olive oil imports coming from Portugal. Italy is also a significant olive oil exporter, shipping about 4,000 MT to Brazil in 2024. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MALAYSIA URGED TO DIVERSIFY PALM OIL MARKETS AMID TARIFFS CHALLENGES

The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) has urged Malaysia must diversify its palm oil markets to reduce dependency on any single export destination for the commodity, considering the tariff challenges posed by the US, the Bernama, Kuala Lumpur reported. MPOB chairman Datuk Mohamad Helmy Othman Basha said the 24 percent tariff imposed by the US on Malaysian palm oil exports poses a significant challenge for the industry, potentially affecting the country's export volumes and the livelihoods of many stakeholders.

Mohamad Helmy said that while the tariff may reduce palm oil exports to the US, the negative impact would be more pronounced in the importing country due to limited alternatives to palm oil. "Palm oil used in US industries cannot be easily replaced by other oils, suggesting that the increased costs may ultimately affect US consumers," he said in his opening remarks at the Programme Advisory Committee 2025 meeting.

He further stated that the government remains steadfast in its commitment to defending the interests of Malaysia's palm oil industry against such trade barriers. Government is exploring all avenues, including diplomatic engagements and leveraging international trade agreements, to mitigate the impact of these tariffs and ensure continued growth and sustainability of the palm oil sector. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

STEEP RISE IN COOKING OIL PRICE STOKE WORRIES ABOUT IMPACT ON LOCAL CONSUMERS

The sustained surge of copra prices stirs fears that it would ripple through the value chain, according to the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA). "The Philippine coconut industry is at a critical juncture. If not addressed urgently, the rising costs of copra and coconut oil could strain the operations of processors and ripple into widespread food inflation affecting every Filipino household," the PCA said in a statement.

Citing data from the agency's Trade Information and Relations Division (TIRD), the PCA noted that the national average farmgate price of copra reached P58.10 per kilo as of March 31, more than double the level seen in the same period last year. Millgate prices have also soared as they reached a national monthly average of P75.34 per kilo last month, exceeding the peak triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict in March 2022.

To address this continued surge in prices of domestic copra, cooking oil, and other coconut products, the PCA convened industry players and stakeholders from the coconut oil milling, refining, desiccating, and oleochemical sectors. Among the proposed resolutions on possible strategies to mitigate the risks associated with the soaring coconut oil prices was an intensified monitoring of export activities and re-evaluation of biofuel blend increase.

The PCA said several stakeholders proposed a temporary suspension of the scheduled 1 percent increase in the coco-methyl ester (CME) biodiesel mandate, which is set for October 2025 to 4% (B4). They advocated for an immediate dialogue with the National Biofuels Board (NBB) to assess the impact of the increased blend on domestic coconut oil supply and pricing, suggesting a potential temporary adjustment to prioritize cooking oil availability for consumers. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

USA TARIFF THREATENS PALM OIL, INDONESIA SEEKING NEGOTIATIONS

Economic Coordinating Minister Airlangga Hartarto has stated that the high import tariff policy imposed by USA President Donald Trump will significantly affect the competitiveness of Indonesia's export products, including palm oil.

"The increase of reciprocal import tariff by 32% imposed by President Donald Trump is potential to threaten Indonesia's position at global market, especially in the USA," Airlangga said in a press statement.

According to him, the USA reciprocal tariff will directly affect Indonesian products of electronics, textiles and textile products, palm oil, rubber, furniture, and fishery products. His statement was issued following the announcement of Trump on Wednesday night that the tariff policy is part of USA Liberation Day celebration.

Analysts have predicted that the USA decision to impose the reciprocal import tariff by 32 percent against Indonesian products will affect millions

of smallholders in palm oil and rubber industries in Indonesia. Business players will possibly burden the smallholders by pressing prices lower. "The USA high tariff will push down the prices of top commodities in regions, such as palm oil and rubber," Economist from Jambi University Alumni Association, Usman Ermulan said.

Currently, the prices of several top commodities are high. The price of palm fresh fruit bunches (FFB) averaged at Rp3,600 per kilogram, while the price of raw rubber is Rp 30,000 per kilogram. "So far, the prices are the highest, which are very encouraging for the small farmers," he said.

Besides Indonesia, countries like China, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, South Korea and countries of European Union as the USA traditional allies will be impacted by the high reciprocal tariff.

Potential Opportunities

Based on data from the Palm Oil Agribusiness Strategic Policy Institute (PASPI), Indonesian exports of palm oil to the USA are relatively small, at around 1.5 – 1.7 million tons or 5-6 percent of its total exports of palm oil. "But Indonesia should not underestimate the signal from the USA. It is not mainly about the volume of exports. It's about domino effect that we'll be potentially facing at the global market," PASPI Executive Director Tungkot Sipayung was quoted by PRO3 RRI.

Tungkot said the USA uniliteral policy could trigger a chain reaction from other countries. "When a big country takes a defensive stance, other countries could follow so. It can affect the distribution of strategic commodities such as palm oil," he said.

According to him Indonesia should intensify economic diplomacy aggressively and strategically, including sending a team of negotiators to the USA.

But Tungkot said that behind the trade wars, there is a big opportunity that can be tapped by Indonesia. "Indonesia can take a strategic position as alternative supplier to China. When China starts limiting agriculture imports from the USA, then it will be creating a potential opportunity for Indonesia as an alternative supplier to the country. We should take such opportunity and strengthen our market in China," he said.

"Also intensifying trade relations with China could function to mitigate impact of trade wars in medium term. With the right strategy Indonesia will not only maintain the stability of palm oil exports, but also increasing market share in East Asia," he said.

Seeking Negotiations

Minister Airlangga said that the Indonesian government will soon assess the economic impacts of the USA tariff policy and prepare mitigation steps to protect strategic sectors to maintain the stability of national economy. "The government will conduct a holistic evaluation on the impacts of the high tariff and take necessary strategic steps," he said.

He said that economic stability will become the main priority of the government, including maintaining the governments securities' yields (SBN), rupiah exchange, and foreign exchange liquidity together with the central bank, Bank Indonesia (BI). "Pressures against rupiah and potential inflation caused by the expensive prices of imported raw materials will be seriously anticipated," he said.

According to Airlangga, since early this year the Indonesian government has been ready to face the USA protectionist policy by establishing a cross-ministerial and institutional team and pursuing intensive communication with the USA government.

"We'll send a high-level delegation to Washington DC to pursue direct negotiations with the USA. Our goal is to get exemption or reduction of import tariff for our strategic sectors," he said. (GAPKI News)

HEALTH NEWS

4 HEALTH BENEFITS OF COCONUT, PLUS TIPS FOR EATING IT

Coconut, or Cocos nucifera, is sometimes called the "tree of life" because of its tremendous versatility—providing a high-calorie food, coconut water, fiber for ropes, and more.

Coconut has gained popularity for its potential health benefits. Research has looked at the health effects of coconut oil, which is found in small quantities in raw coconut meat.

May Aid With Blood Sugar Control

Because coconuts are high in fiber and fat while low in sugar and carbohydrates, some scientists theorize that eating coconuts may help with blood sugar control.

One study suggests that coconut oil may positively impact blood sugar in people with diabetes due to its anti-inflammatory properties. A small study of people with metabolic syndrome found that using coconut oil in place of other fats in their diet reduced fasting blood sugar.

However, a different study discovered that adding coconut to your diet could increase insulin resistance in the long term and may not be effective for lowering blood sugar.

More research is needed to determine the impact of coconut consumption on blood sugar.

May Support Weight Loss

Most research on coconut and weight management has involved studying the impact of coconut oil on weight.

Some researchers hypothesize that the medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) found in coconut oil may help with weight loss. MCTs are easy to digest and come with their own health benefits. About 65% of the fats in coconut oil are MCTs.

Current research on coconut and weight management in humans is minimal, though early studies may be promising. One recent study found that coconut oil may help manage body weight, fat mass, and body mass index (BMI). That said, the results were small, making health experts reluctant to promote coconut oil supplementation for weight loss.

May Increase Good Cholesterol

Coconut oil contains high levels of saturated fat, which may seem bad for managing cholesterol levels. However, researchers believe coconut oil contains fats, like MCTs, that don't transport cholesterol like other saturated fats. Instead, these fatty acids are absorbed intact and go straight to the liver, meaning they don't add to cholesterol.

Some research also indicates that coconut oil may help increase high-density lipoprotein (HDL or "good") cholesterol, possibly due to coconut's high levels of lauric and myristic acids.

May Decrease Cell Damage and Disease Risk

Oxidative stress occurs when free radicals are out of balance within the body. It can damage cells and DNA and contribute to aging. It may also lead to diabetes, cancer, and Alzheimer's.

Antioxidants, found in coconut, may help counteract these free radicals. Research has shown that antioxidants can reduce oxidative stress by destroying free radicals, lowering your risk of metabolic conditions and age-related diseases.

Tips for Consuming Coconut

The hardest part about consuming a fresh coconut is cracking it open. You can look for instructional videos online, but you can also look for peeled coconuts in the store or buy the meat

frozen. Coconut milk, coconut water, dried coconut, coconut flour, and coconut oil are also available.

Aside from eating it raw and by itself, here are some other ways you can eat coconut:

- Use it as a topping for oatmeal or another breakfast cereal
- Mix it into yogurt
- Blend it into a smoothie with your favorite tropical flavors
- Top seafood like shrimp or tilapia with it
- Puree it with lemon or lime, yogurt, and seasonings to make a dip
- Make a parfait by layering it with yogurt, granola, and other fruits
- Replace raisins or apples with coconut in your favorite salad
- Mix dried coconut chips with nuts and other seeds to make a trail mix
- Add dried coconut to your favorite cookie or bread recipes

(Health)

COCONUT WATER: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS NUTRITIOUS SUMMER BEVERAGE & THE RIGHT TIME TO DRINK IT

Coconut water is like honey, and it's one of the greatest drinks for beating the summer heat since it gives you instant energy and helps you keep your electrolyte balance. It's also good for weight watchers because it's low in calories and sugar, unlike traditional nimbu pani or shikanji.

Coconut water is a wonderfully nutritious drink since it contains natural enzymes and minerals like potassium. Here are 5 reasons why you should drink coconut water and when to drink it.

Nutritionally rich
Coconut water includes 10% RDI vitamin C, 15% RDI magnesium, 17% RDI potassium, 11% RDI sodium, and 6% RDI calcium.

Contains antioxidants
Oxidative stress occurs when your body has too many free radicals, which can harm cells and raise your risk of disease.

Coconut water includes antioxidants, which can change free radicals such that they are no longer dangerous, according to animal research.

Another study found that rats with a liver impairment who were given coconut water showed less oxidative stress than rats who were not given any therapy.

Not only that, but coconut water drinking also reduced blood pressure, lipid, and insulin levels in rats.

Diabetes prevention
Coconut water has been demonstrated in studies to lower blood sugar levels, with rats given coconut water having lower levels of hemoglobin A1c, indicating improved long-term blood sugar control.

Other research has found that giving coconut water to diabetic rats lowers blood sugar levels and reduces oxidative stress, but further research is needed to confirm the findings.

Coconut water is high in magnesium, which helps persons with type 2 diabetes and prediabetes improve insulin sensitivity and lower blood sugar levels.

It may aid in the prevention of kidney stones
Drinking enough fluids, including simple water, will help prevent kidney stones, but research suggests that coconut water may be even better.

Calcium, oxalate, and other substances combine in the urine to produce crystals, which can form stones. However, some people are more prone to producing stones than others.

Coconut water prevented crystals from attaching to the kidneys and other sections of the

urinary tract in rats with kidney stones, and it also helped reduce the number of crystals generated in the urine.

More research is needed to determine the effect of coconut water on kidney stones.

Can support heart health

Drinking coconut water can lower your risk of heart disease. In one study, rats who drank coconut water had lower blood cholesterol and triglycerides, as well as lower liver fat.

Humans, on the other hand, may need to drink a lot of coconut water to reap the same benefits.

When is the best time to drink coconut water?

Coconut water, unlike many other drinks, has no ideal time; it can be consumed at any time of the day or night.

Coconut water contains lauric acid, which enhances immunity and aids in metabolism and weight loss. Drinking it first thing in the morning is a good idea.

Coconut water is recommended for pregnant women to avoid dehydration and constipation, as well as morning sickness and heartburn, which are typical during pregnancy.

Coconut water can be consumed before and after a workout to stay hydrated, as well as before bedtime or to cure a hangover. *(Times of India)*

COCONUT RECIPE

PRAWN CURRY

Ingredients:

- ½ kg medium-size prawns, cleaned
- ½ tsp saffron, pounded
- 2 tbsp chilli powder, toasted
- 1 tbsp cumin seeds, pounded
- 4 tbsp salt water or salt to taste
- 2 pieces sour fruit (goraka or Garcinia morella), mashed
- 1 tsp vinegar
- 2 green chillies, sliced
- 1 tbsp curry powder
- 1 piece cinnamon
- 8 red onions, sliced
- 3 cups milk from ½ coconut
- 2 tbsp coconut oil
- ½ tsp dill seeds
- A sprig of curry leaf
- 2 sprigs moringa (Moringa oleifera) leaves
- 1 tsp curry powder, toasted (for the last step)

Instructions:

1. Put prawns in saucepan and mix with saffron, chilli powder, cumin seeds, salt water, sour fruit, vinegar, green chillies, 1 tbsp curry powder, cinnamon and half the red onions. Add coconut milk.
2. Heat oil in pan, fry dill seeds, curry leaf and remaining red onions.
3. Add prawn mixture and cook until oil appears on surface. Stir occasionally.
4. When curry is done, add moringa lwaves. Stir well and remove from heat. Sprinkle 1 tsp toasted curry powder.
5. Makes 4-6 servings.

(Coconut Recipes from Around the World)

STATISTICS

Table 1. Indonesia's Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2023 – 2025

Month	2023		2024		2025	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000
January	54,436	55,216	58,053	59,761	57,630	107,485
February	74,419	74,978	64,023	68,231	45,809	88,981
March	74,970	76,473	49,013	54,648	40,337	82,272
April	57,695	57,515	58,675	68,580		
May	55,397	56,651	59,821	75,878		
June	70,093	67,749	35,258	44,850		
July	52,109	51,187	67,699	86,068		
August	61,594	58,845	64,126	90,338		
September	41,572	42,876	47,578	66,188		
October	57,262	57,270	64,795	100,625		
November	64,097	65,456	34,665	58,377		
December	58,894	60,942	52,374	93,076		
Total	**722,537**	**725,157**	**656,079**	**866,620**	**143,776**	**278,739**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 2. Philippines's Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2021 – 2025

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	52,302	97,009	98,519	127,714	136,883
February	53,704	123,579	64,696	102,316	128,619
March	72,143	97,741	137,097	119,055	117,582
April	58,555	123,835	59,347	161,267	
May	51,927	113,696	110,345	146,162	
June	65,091	87,170	64,785	124,897	
July	78,441	112,646	119,766	171,936	
August	80,111	104,713	90,380	109,423	
September	82,648	78,818	77,995	128,886	
October	93,101	109,769	103,608	157,463	
November	95,115	83,684	64,677	128,207	
December	97,947	87,132	98,974	165,452	
Total	**881,085**	**1,219,792**	**1,090,189**	**1,642,778**	**383,084**

Source: UCAP & Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 3. International Prices of Selected Oils, May 2022 - April 2025, (US$/MT)

Year	Month	Coconut Phil/Indo (CIF. Rott.)	Soybean Oil Dutch (FOB ex-mill)	Palm Oil Malaysian (CIF. Eur.)	Palm Kernel Oil (CIF. Rott.)	Sunflower Oil EU (Fob. NW. EU)
2022	May	1,813	1,963	1,717	1,811	2,079
	June	1,701	1,752	1,501	1,555	1,885
	July	1,541	1,533	1,057	1,301	1,557
	August	1,385	1,599	1,026	1,173	1,496
	September	1,248	1,548	909	1,249	1,305
	October	1,108	1,576	889	1,039	1,359
	November	1,173	1,652	946	1,062	1,347
	December	1,158	1,409	940	1,067	1,234
2023	January	1,079	1,352	942	1,060	1,218
	February	1,087	1,243	950	1,037	1,159
	March	1,115	1,113	972	1,052	1,075
	April	1,074	1,030	1,005	1,017	1,035
	May	1,048	988	934	993	962
	June	1,013	1,007	817	928	911
	July	1,047	1,136	879	998	1,039
	August	1,099	1,127	861	998	989
	September	1,072	1,112	830	958	895
	October	1,046	1,134	804	912	910
	November	1,115	1,118	830	968	944
	December	1,109	1,062	814	966	944
2024	January	1,131	971	845	978	943
	February	1,172	912	857	1,034	925
	March	1,288	965	943	1,177	951
	April	1,425	959	936	1,290	971
	May	1,402	988	859	1,196	1,006
	June	1,398	1,011	874	1,156	1,043
	July	1,474	1,079	896	1,365	1,069
	August	1,619	1,031	933	1,480	1,049
	September	1,736	1,044	983	1,515	1,068
	October	1,728	1,095	1,077	1,636	1,206
	November	1,879	1,145	1,169	2,015	1,267
	December	1,973	1,064	1,190	2,099	1,223
2025	January	1,978	1,048	1,070	1,962	1,207
	February	1,990	1,069	1,067	1,947	1,220
	March	2,356	1,011	1,068	2,064	1,233
	April	2,483	1,116	994	2,090	1,223

Source: Cocommunity and Oil World

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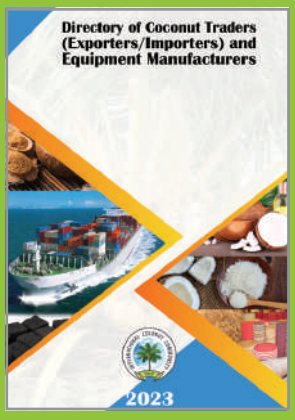

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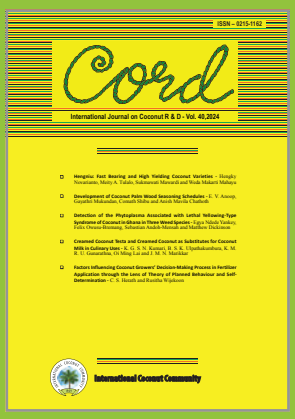

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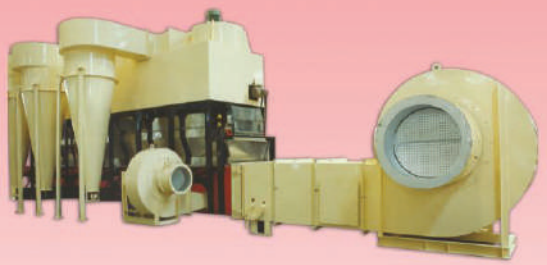

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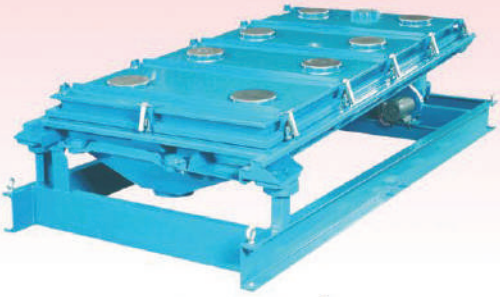

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