The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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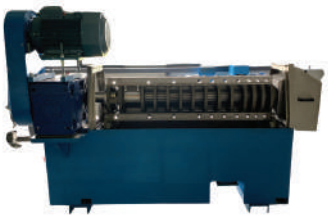

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THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SPEAKS

"Forging a Path Forward: Strengthening ITAG COGENT's Mandate for a Thriving Coconut Sector"

The coconut sector is entering a bold new chapter. Through a dynamic partnership, the International Coconut Community (ICC) and the International Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT) are charting a clear and ambitious course for the industry's future. As the umbrella organization, ICC serves as a facilitator of research and innovation within the global ITAG networks. By connecting leading scientists, institutions, industries, and practitioners, the partnership ensures that cutting-edge solutions are not just discovered but also delivered to those who need them most.

At the heart of this transformation are COGENT's four International Thematic Action Groups (ITAGs). These expert-driven teams are the scientific engine of change, tackling the industry's toughest challenges, from aging plantations, and pest and disease outbreaks, to the mounting threats of climate change. Two priorities stand out as especially urgent: optimizing coconut tissue culture technology to rapidly supply farmers with elite seedlings, and strengthening pest and disease control to protect plantations and secure productivity for local and global markets.

ITAG 2 on Genomics and Breeding is unlocking the genetic potential of coconut, developing high-yielding, climate-resilient varieties with superior quality traits. Complementing this, ITAG 4 on In-vitro Culture and Cryopreservation is ensuring these breakthroughs reach farmers quickly by pioneering technologies to mass-produce improved seedlings at scale. This technology, though vital for mass-producing high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties, remains complex due to the plant's recalcitrant nature, contamination risks, and the lack of standardized protocols. To overcome these hurdles, ICC is investing in training and capacity building to refine skills, improve success rates, and cut costs. These efforts ensure that scientific progress reaches farmers' fields, boosting productivity and strengthening global coconut supply. A recent training program on coconut tissue culture has further strengthened this effort, enabling trainees to sharpen their skills and improve their outputs, accelerating the adoption of this critical technology in member countries.

ITAG 3 on Phytopathology and Entomology is safeguarding farmers' livelihoods with integrated pest and disease management strategies, while also facilitating safe international germplasm exchange to ensure that only disease- and pest-free material is shared for the development of improved varieties. The commitment of countries is crucial to make this exchange effective, secure, and widely beneficial. Meanwhile, ITAG 1 on Ex-situ and In-situ Conservation is preserving the sector's most valuable asset, its genetic diversity, by strengthening global genebanks and securing raw material for future innovations.

Together, these efforts are not only advancing science but delivering tangible benefits to farmers on the ground: higher productivity, better incomes, and stronger resilience against shocks. By bringing COGENT under ICC's institutional umbrella, research is being transformed into global policy and practice faster and more effectively. This streamlined collaboration ensures the coconut sector can

respond proactively to global threats, while building a climate-smart, eco-friendly, and future-ready industry.

Recent milestones, including the July 2025 virtual ITAG Coordination Meeting and the upcoming September 2025 Workshop on Strengthening Coconut Genebanks, demonstrate the partnership's commitment to action. These activities show how experts worldwide are aligning strategies, building capacity, and accelerating the flow of technology from the lab to the field.

But this future cannot be built by ICC and COGENT alone. It depends on the firm commitment of every member country to support safe germplasm exchange, champion cutting-edge research, and accelerate the adoption of new technologies. Now is the time for countries to step up, join forces, and lead the coconut sector into its most resilient and prosperous era.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

In July 2025, coconut oil prices demonstrated a synchronized upward trend across major producing countries, such as Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Price of desiccated coconut saw a decrease in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, but remained stable in Philippines.

COPRA: In July 2025, copra prices in Indonesia increased to US$ 1,482 per metric ton, up from US$ 1,337 per metric ton in June, marking a significant year-on-year rise of US$ 736 per metric ton. Similarly, the Philippines experienced an upward trend, with prices increasing from US$ 1,535 per metric ton in June 2025 to US$ 1,627 per metric ton in July, reflecting a year-on-year increase of US$ 947 per metric ton, compared to US$ 680 per metric ton during the same period last year. Conversely, Sri Lanka recorded monthly price decrease, with decline rates of 5.3%.

COCONUT OIL: In July 2025, coconut oil prices exhibited a synchronized varied trend across India, Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka. In Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price increased to US$ 2,841 per metric ton, reflecting a substantial 93% year-on-year increased. The Philippines recorded a local market price of US$ 2,991 per metric ton, marking a US$ 1,585 increased from the previous year. Likewise, Indonesia saw a moderate rise, with local prices reaching US$ 2,796 per metric ton in July 2025, up from US$ 2,658 per metric ton in June 2025, representing a US$ 1,406 year-on-year gain. India reported monthly price increase of 11.5%. Similarly, Sri Lanka experienced a 4.5% decrease from the last month.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic copra meal price up to US$ 219 per metric ton in July 2025, reflecting an increase from the previous month. Likewise, this price represented a year-on-year increase of US$ 103 per metric ton. Meanwhile, Indonesia reported a slight decrease in the monthly average price at US$ 343 per metric ton in July 2025 as opposed to the previous month's price. However, it was US$ 103 per metric ton higher than the corresponding period in the previous year.

DESICCATED COCONUT: In July 2025, the average FOB (Free on Board) price of desiccated coconut (DC) exported from the Philippines to the United States remained stable at US$ 3,748 per metric ton compared with the previous month. In the domestic market, the Philippines recorded a slight decline, with prices averaging US$ 2,046 per metric ton. Indonesia's FOB price for DC eased to US$ 2,888 per metric ton, although it was still significantly higher than the US$ 938 per metric ton recorded in the same period last year. Likewise, Sri Lanka registered a decline in its domestic DC price, which stood at US$ 3,571 per metric ton.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In July 2025, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in India declined slightly to US$ 983 per metric ton, reflecting a decrease of US$ 6 compared with the previous month. In contrast, Indonesia recorded an upward movement, with prices rising to US$ 1,045 per metric ton over the same period. Sri Lanka also experienced a moderate increase, with prices reaching US$ 860 per metric ton.

COIR FIBRE: In July 2025, Sri Lanka's domestic coir fiber market reported an average price of US$ 110 per metric ton for mixed fiber, while bristle fiber traded within the range of US$ 640 to US$ 806 per metric ton. In Indonesia, the price of raw fiber remained steady at US$ 200 per metric ton, representing a moderate increase compared with the US$ 110 per metric ton recorded in the same period last year.

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

Products/Country	2024 Jul	2024 Jun	2023 Jul	2024 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	317	342	137	320
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use, Sumatera)	326	327	180	338
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	731	742	274	769
India (Domestic Kerala)	916	840	478	824
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	1,627	1,535	680	1,443
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	1,482	1,337	746	1,275
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,599	1,689	1,297	1,758
India (Dom. Kochi)	2,963	2,712	1,216	2,196
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	2,841	2,699	1,473	2,462
Philippines (Domestic, Millgate Price)	2,991	2,836	1,406	2,667
Indonesia (FOB)	2,796	2,658	1,390	2,448
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,853	2,988	2,288	2,944
India (Domestic, Kerala)	4,616	4,140	1,931	3,437
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	3,748	3,748	2,012	3,258
Philippines (Domestic)	2,046	2,050	2,039	2,040
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,571	3,586	2,257	3,902
Indonesia (FOB)	2,888	3,150	1,950	3,193
India (Domestic)	3,729	3,434	1,742	3,148
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	219	213	116	192
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	339	379	299	396
Indonesia (Domestic)	343	344	240	320
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	860	815	381	715
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	1,045	1,028	462	821
India (Domestic)	983	989	436	844
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	110	109	64	98
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	640	492	420	509
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	806	801	684	786
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	200	170	110	166
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	2,097	1,860	1,365	1,988
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	975	935	896	1,007
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,307	1,167	1,079	1,098

Exchange Rate

Jul 31, '24 1 US$ = P57.84 or Rp16,444 or India Rs87.67 or SL Rs302.25

1 Euro = US$1.18 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF ACTIVATED CARBON

The global activated carbon market in 2025 has undergone a pronounced shift, characterized by tightening supply, sharp price escalations, and strong regional trade dynamics. During January–June 2025, worldwide imports of activated carbon reached 629,390 metric tons (MT), an 18% decline compared with the same period in 2024. In value terms, imports stood at USD 1.6 billion, representing a 9% fall. This downturn signals a reversal from the growth trajectory observed in 2024, pointing to significant supply shortages that constrained trade volumes despite resilient demand across key sectors such as water purification, air treatment, and industrial applications.

Between January and July 2025, U.S. imports of coconut shell charcoal–based activated carbon expanded robustly, reaching 30,460 MT valued at USD 76.22 million. This represented an 11% increase in volume compared with both 2024 (27,451 MT) and 2023 (27,340 MT). More notably, the average import price surged to USD 2,502/MT, significantly higher than USD 2,078/MT in 2024 and USD 2,237/MT in 2023. This escalation in prices, together with higher volumes, drove import values up by 33.6% year-on-year and 24.7% compared with 2023. These developments underscore robust U.S. demand amid tightening global supply and rising production costs. In effect, 2025 has emerged as a year of both expanding import volumes and stronger price realization for the American market, reinforcing its position as a leading destination for coconut shell–based activated carbon.

Table 1. US Imports of Coconut Shell Charcoal based Activated Carbon, January-July 2023-2025

Period	Volume (MT)	Value (USD'000)
Jan-Jul 2023	27,340	61,156
Jan-Jul 2024	27,451	57,037
Jan-Jul 2025	30,460	76,224

Source: US Census Bureau

India maintained its role as one of the largest exporters of coconut shell–based activated carbon, although supply constraints shaped trade flows. From January to July 2025, exports totaled 98,347 MT valued at USD 239.91 million. This marked a slight contraction in volume, down 3.1% from 101,480 MT in 2024, though shipments remained well above the 80,975 MT exported in 2023. The most striking trend was the surge in export value: earnings climbed 41% from USD 170.23 million in 2024 and 67% higher than USD 143.19 million in 2023. This steep rise in value reflects higher average unit prices, a clear indicator that global buyers were willing to absorb cost increases amid tight supply from competing origins. India thus sustained its export strength while capitalizing on favorable pricing conditions.

Table 2. Exports of Coconut Shell Charcoal based Activated Carbon from India, January-July 2023-2025

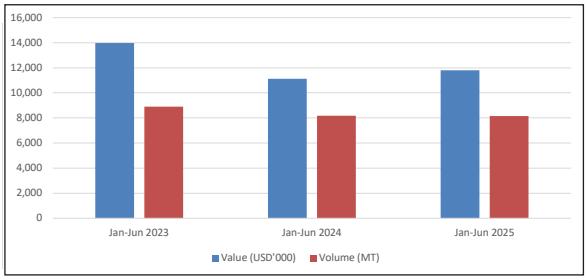
Period	Volume (MT)	Value (USD'000)
Jan-Jul 2023	80,975	143.19
Jan-Jul 2024	101,480	170.23
Jan-Jul 2025	98,347	239.91

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India

Sri Lanka's exports during January–June 2025 revealed contrasting dynamics, with declining volumes but stronger revenues. Exports fell to 27,761 MT, 6% lower than the 29,590 MT shipped in 2024, largely due to shortages of coconut shells linked to reduced production. Despite this drop, export earnings rose sharply by 19% to USD 86.42 million, compared with USD 72.73 million in 2024. Month-on-month data show shipments consistently trailing 2024 levels; however, higher global prices enabled revenue gains. This performance underscores Sri Lanka's continued competitiveness in supplying premium-grade activated carbon, benefiting from elevated international price levels even in the face of raw material constraints.

Indonesia's trade in activated carbon remained relatively stable in 2025, though with slight volume declines offset by rising values. In January–June 2025, exports stood at 8,152 MT valued at USD 11.80 million. Compared with 2024, shipments fell marginally by 0.4% (8,183 MT), while remaining lower than the 8,890 MT recorded in 2023. Yet, export value increased by

Figure 1. Exports of Coconut Shell Charcoal based Activated Carbon from Indonesia, January-June 2023-2025



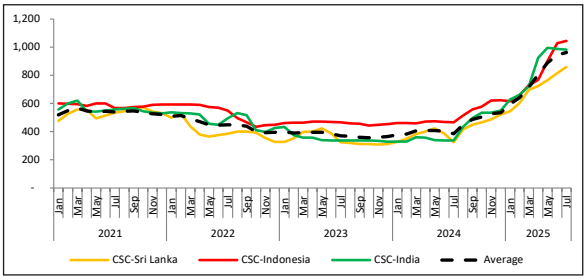
Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

6% year-on-year due to higher unit prices, which rose from USD 1,379/MT in 2024 to USD 1,443/MT in 2025. This indicates that even as Indonesia faced similar raw material supply challenges from reduced coconut production, international demand remained strong enough to sustain revenue growth. Indonesia's larger production capacities and relatively lower cost structures also enabled it to supply competitively, absorbing part of the feedstock price escalation.

The Philippines showed signs of recovery in 2025 after a contraction in 2024. Between January and July, exports reached 35,262 MT, up from 31,728 MT in 2024 and nearly matching 2023's 36,463 MT. Export values climbed to USD 68.5 million, exceeding both 2023 (USD 63.0 million) and 2024 (USD 54.0 million). Monthly results showed particularly strong performance in May and June, when values outpaced previous years despite comparable or lower volumes. The trend demonstrates both volume recovery and enhanced unit values, suggesting improved supply conditions and stronger global prices.

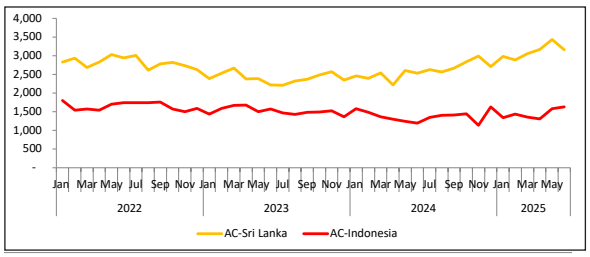
The most defining feature of 2025 has been the unprecedented surge in coconut shell charcoal (CSC) prices across producing countries. Between December 2024 and July 2025, prices soared as follows: Sri Lanka from USD 522/MT to USD 860/MT, Indonesia from USD 622/MT to USD 1,045/MT, and India from USD 551/MT to USD 983/MT. These increases stand in stark contrast to the modest and steady rises of 2023–2024. The price escalation was primarily driven by supply shortages arising from reduced coconut production, which sharply constrained shell availability. Simultaneously, demand remained firm from the activated carbon and briquette industries, amplifying the upward pressure on prices.

Figure 2. Monthly Prices of Coconut Shell Charcoal (US$/MT) in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and India, January 2021-July 2025



Source: ICC

Figure 3. Export Price of Activated Carbon US$/MT in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, January 2022 – June 2025



Source: CDA, Sri Lanka and BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Activated carbon prices mirrored these trends, with significant divergence across supply origins. Sri Lanka witnessed the steepest increases, with premium-grade activated carbon surging above USD 3,400/MT in May 2025 before stabilizing slightly above USD 3,100/MT in June. This compares with the USD 2,700–2,900/MT range prevailing through most of 2023–2024. Indonesia, by contrast, maintained relatively contained export prices at USD 1,300–1,600/MT, reflecting the cushioning effect of larger capacities and lower production costs. This divergence illustrates how structural differences among producing countries influenced their ability to absorb feedstock shocks and manage price volatility.

Looking ahead, the outlook for both coconut shell charcoal and activated carbon remains tilted toward continued tightness and elevated prices. Unless coconut production recovers significantly, shell supply is expected to remain constrained throughout the remainder of 2025 and into 2026. Sustained demand growth—particularly from sectors such as water purification, gold recovery, and environmental applications—suggests limited room for downward price adjustments.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ICC–COGENT ITAG COORDINATION MEETING STRENGTHENS GLOBAL SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION FOR COCONUT GENETIC RESOURCES

The International Coconut Community (ICC), in its continuing effort to enhance the conservation and utilization of coconut genetic resources, successfully convened the Coordination Meeting of the International Thematic Action Groups (ITAGs) of ICC-COGENT through a virtual platform. The meeting brought together all ITAG leaders and members, comprising leading scientists, researchers, technical partners, and stakeholders from around the world who are working with coconut genetic resources, to evaluate progress, align thematic strategies, and plan upcoming collaborative initiatives.

Held from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM Jakarta time, the virtual meeting served as a timely follow-up to the ITAG strategic planning session held in Kuala Lumpur in 2022. Participants included ITAG team leaders, representatives from research institutions and national genebanks, and invited observers from the broader coconut research community

Opening the meeting, ICC Director General Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw extended a warm welcome to all participants and emphasized the significance of coordinated international action in safeguarding coconut biodiversity. She highlighted the growing challenges facing the global coconut sector, from aging plantations and emerging pests to limited supply and changing climatic conditions, and underscored the need for science-led solutions. Dr. Jelfina stressed that ICC, as the coordinating body of COGENT since 2019, views the ITAGs as critical engines for technical leadership and knowledge exchange. She encouraged the groups to focus on actionable goals, harmonized technical outputs, and realistic timelines. "We must work collectively, not only to develop protocols and reports, but to generate lasting impact at the field level and ensure the future sustainability of the coconut industry," she stated.

Following the opening, Mr. A.H.N. Chinthaka, ICC Deputy Director General, initiated the technical session with a presentation reviewing action points identified at the 2022 ITAG meeting. He provided a thematic summary of progress made and gaps remaining, setting the stage for a more focused exchange during the rest of the meeting.

The ITAG mechanism under COGENT is organized into four thematic areas: ITAG 01 on ex-situ and in-situ conservation; ITAG 02 on coconut genomics and breeding; ITAG 03 on phytopathology, entomology, and germplasm movement; and ITAG 04 on tissue culture and cryopreservation. Each group is composed of experts with deep experience in their respective areas, drawn from member countries and partner organizations.

Presenting on behalf of ITAG 01, Dr. Niral Vittal provided a detailed update on efforts to enhance genetic conservation practices across coconut genebanks. She emphasized the importance of standardizing genebank protocols, developing digital tools to track accessions, and building a harmonized germplasm database for ICGs and NCGs. She further noted that complementary conservation strategies such as cryopreservation and on-farm conservation are vital to ensuring long-term germplasm security. Later, Dr. Niral also introduced the roadmap for the upcoming International Workshop on Strengthening Coconut Genebanks, scheduled for September in India, which aims to strengthen global coordination and establish common best practices.

Next, Dr. Siwaret Arikit, team leader of ITAG 02, outlined his group's focus on genomic mapping and the integration of molecular tools into breeding programs. He proposed the organization of a hands-on regional workshop on coconut genomics and bioinformatics, designed to train researchers in sequencing data analysis, marker-assisted selection, and QTL mapping. Dr. Siwaret discussed the

importance of identifying elite accessions from existing genebank collections, using molecular markers for authenticity verification, and conducting breeding research to improve tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses. His presentation underscored the need to equip national teams with genomic competencies to accelerate cultivar development. Representing ITAG 03, Dr. Wayne Mayrie highlighted the increasing threat of pest and disease outbreaks, noting the urgency of establishing harmonized phytosanitary protocols for germplasm exchange and management. He elaborated on the importance of surveillance systems, pest forecasting models, and early warning frameworks to manage the spread of pathogens such as lethal yellowing diseases, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and phytoplasmas. Dr. Wayne proposed the creation of a regional research network under the ICC-IPM platform and emphasized the need for research on resistant varieties and localized integrated pest management strategies. His recommendations included hosting webinars to foster knowledge exchange and building diagnostic capabilities in key member countries.

The fourth ITAG update was presented by Dr. Vijitha Vidhanaarachchi, who provided an overview of current developments in tissue culture and cryopreservation. She explained that while embryo culture is already practiced in several countries, other protocols—such as somatic embryogenesis and cryopreservation—remain at the experimental stage and require further refinement. Dr. Vijitha emphasized the importance of validating protocols across institutions and providing training opportunities for junior researchers. She noted that Mexico remains one of the few countries to have advanced somatic embryogenesis protocols to commercial scale. The ITAG 04 team continues to work on standardizing tissue culture techniques and exploring partnerships with private sector stakeholders to scale up production and application.

A special highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the unified tissue collection protocol for coconut DNA sampling, jointly delivered by Dr. Andrea Garavito of CIRAD and developed with the initial guidance of Dr. Roland Bourdeix. Dr. Andrea explained that the proposed protocol aims to harmonize sample collection, processing, and preservation methods across different genebank sites, enabling more accurate and reliable genomic research. She elaborated on the different types of tissue that could be used, the appropriate storage techniques for DNA and RNA sequencing, and the technical limitations of various methods. The draft protocol will be circulated among ITAG members for review and finalization, with the expectation that it will serve as a reference for future genomic and breeding initiatives.

Following the technical presentations, the floor was opened for discussion on proposed ITAG workplans for the 2025–2026 period. Participants discussed priorities such as developing regional databases, finalizing common protocols, improving communication between ITAGs, and identifying funding mechanisms for joint research. Several members emphasized the importance of including early-career scientists in capacity-building activities and ensuring equitable access to training and research resources. During this segment, Dr. Niral also presented updates on preparations for the International Workshop on Strengthening Coconut Genebanks for a Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Future, to be held from 2–5 September 2025 in ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, India, in collaboration with the ICAR-CPCRI of India. The event will feature technical sessions on genebank operations, policy harmonization, stakeholder dialogue, and presentations from young researchers. It is expected to attract participants from national programs, donor agencies, and international research institutions. Hybrid participation options will be provided to accommodate wider attendance.

The meeting concluded with remarks from Mr. Chinthaka, who thanked all ITAG leaders and contributors for their presentations and insights. He summarized the key outcomes, which

include follow-up on country representative submissions, coordination for the workshop, and continued development of protocols and project proposals. He reaffirmed that the ICC Secretariat remains committed to supporting ITAG activities through digital platforms, technical coordination, and facilitation of funding opportunities.

In closing, Dr. Jelfina reiterated the importance of maintaining momentum. She encouraged all participants to stay engaged, continue cross-ITAG collaboration, and focus on producing outcomes that benefit coconut farmers and the wider sector. "The strength of our network lies in the passion and professionalism of our experts. Let us continue to work as one team, with one shared goal—securing a sustainable future for coconut genetic resources," she concluded.

With renewed commitment and a clear vision ahead, the ITAG Coordination Meeting reaffirmed ICC's leadership in fostering regional and global collaboration to support the science, conservation, and innovation that underpin the future of the coconut sector. *(ICC News)*

STRATEGIC COLLABORATION BETWEEN ICC AND BRIN TO BOOST COCONUT PRODUCTIVITY

To enhance research and development of the Genjah Cikur coconut variety, the International Coconut Community (ICC) and the Agricultural and Food Research Organization (ORPP) BRIN have formed a strategic partnership through the Plantation Crop Research Center (PRBun).

In order to support the national coconut industry, this collaboration uses biotechnology approaches such as genetic stability analysis, metabolomics, and in vitro techniques.

"Coconut is one of six strategic commodities that are the focus of government development until 2026," said PRBun BRIN Head Setiari Marwanto during the signing of the collaboration at the BNC BRIN Building in the Soekarno Cibinong Science and Technology Park on Thursday, June 26, 2025, as quoted by brin.go.id.

Setiari emphasized that coconut development is also supported by technology for sustainable high-quality seed production and land intensification.

According to Setiari, the main challenge is the limited availability of high-quality seeds, prompting the government to encourage new plantation intensification and plant renewal. "BRIN's technological support is crucial for realizing sustainable high-quality seed production," he said.

This collaboration also includes tissue culture technology development for mass vegetative propagation while maintaining genetic traits.

Research involves identifying natural phytohormone compounds and analyzing genetic diversity to ensure the stability of superior coconut traits.

Deputy Director General of ICC, Aluthwala Hewa Nuwan Chinthaka, appreciated this collaboration. "This is an important achievement in mass distribution and collective efforts to advance scientific cooperation for the benefit of the government, farmers, and the international community," he said.

Meanwhile, ICC Director General Jelfina C. Alouw commended BRIN's participation and reaffirmed ICC's commitment to coconut conservation, breeding, and protection.

She is confident that this partnership will result in important innovations in technology for farmers and the growth of coconuts both nationally and globally.

By supplying high-quality, reliable, and superior seeds on a large scale, this partnership seeks to increase coconut productivity.

Through ICC's global network, research findings are anticipated to improve national research

capabilities and directly aid in the development of the coconut industry. *(RRI)*

COCONUTS INCREASES AS A CONTINUATION OF A GLOBAL TREND THAT BEGAN IN 2020

According to a senior official with the Coconut Development Board (CDB), the sharp increase in coconut prices is not an unexpected occurrence; rather, it is a continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected the industry since 2020.

Following the disruption of the coconut market caused by the pandemic's effects on logistics and transportation, practically everyone converted coconuts into copra, or dried coconut flesh, in order to extract oil. This did not help, as the price of coconuts plummeted in March 2022 and continued to do so until August 2024.

"Consequently, the production dropped not just in India but across all major coconut producing countries in the equatorial region such as Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. Climate change, drought, and drastic difference in temperature also contributed to the drop in production," said the official on condition of anonymity. With the drop in prices, negligence crept into the upkeep and maintenance of coconut farming. Measures like applying fertilizers faltered, and this proved an additional blow.

Demand for tender coconuts

Following the pandemic, there was a sharp increase in demand for tender coconut from northern India as people became more health conscious. As a result, truckloads of tender coconuts were shipped to northern India from coconut-producing regions in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Production further dropped, as farmers were not waiting till coconuts were ripe for harvesting, as tender coconuts were fetching them great prices, thus impacting the availability of coconuts. The proliferation of industrial units dealing in desiccated coconut powder, coconut milk, virgin coconut oil etc and their corresponding increase in exports during the previous fiscal further contributed to the price rise.

"The trend of rising price was noticed since last September. From what can be gauged from the market, coconut availability is returning to normal in places like Tamil Nadu. We expect the prices to stabilize in another two to three months," said the official. Though, the farmers now have far fewer coconuts to sell because the price is still rising. *(The Hindu)*

COCONUTS IN VIETNAMESE GAIN EXPORT MOMENTUM DESPITE OF THE ONGOING HURDLE

Vietnam's fresh coconut industry has surged in global relevance, emerging as one of the country's top three fruit exports in 2024, with a reported export value of $390 million. This accounts for 31% of total coconut product exports, with major markets like the U.S. and China now officially open to Vietnamese fresh coconuts, as reported and published by *Nong nghiep moi truong*.

This growth is the result of years of coordinated efforts by local authorities, businesses, and the Vietnam Coconut Association. From backyard intercropping to organized value chains, Vietnam now supports over 250 processing facilities, 80 of which engage in deep processing. Large-scale plantations slowly expand, signalling demand for improved varieties and modern farming practices.

Yet the sector faces significant bottlenecks. Most coconut production remains fragmented and small-scale, limiting consistency in size and quality. Transport remains rudimentary, with high logistics costs, while storage and preservation rely on household-level infrastructure. Branding is another weakness; Vietnamese coconuts lack the standardized

packaging and labelling seen in competing countries like Thailand and the Philippines.

To strengthen global competitiveness, experts advocate for legal frameworks supporting concentrated farming, standardized variety management, and better post-harvest practices. Regional branding, including geographical indications, and participation in global fairs and digital platforms are also essential. Despite these challenges, Vietnamese coconuts now reach over 40 countries. *(Fresh Plaza)*

RESEARCH PRESENTS THE POTENTIAL OF COCONUT CO-PRODUCT FOR AQUAFEEDS

For the Philippines' aquaculture industry, locally produced coconut byproduct may eventually take the place of pricey imported soybean meal.

According to the Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development, or DOST-PCAARRD, protein-enriched copra meal (PECM) can lower aquafeed costs while also enhancing fish health.

There is no shortage of the raw material because the nation produces an abundance of coconuts. In a two-year study at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), the locally produced PECM has been demonstrated to promote healthy fish growth after going through a unique process.

Trials there revealed that fish fed on a diet including PECM maintained healthy growth despite eating less feed.

Using advanced tools such as metagenomics and metabolomics, the scientists found that the new material positively influenced the microbial population of the fish digestive system. Beneficial gut microbiota species were stimulated by the PECM diets.

After these results, DOST-PCAARRD concluded that including PECM in fish diets offers several benefits: It has the potential to boost the productivity of the nation's aquaculture sector, support the supply of protein for animal feeds and national food security, and reduce the cost of fish for the country's human population.

More on PECM

While copra meal is widely used in animal feeds, it has low digestibility, poor protein quality, and is susceptible to mycotoxin contamination, according to DOST.

However, when the meal is subject to bioprocessing through solid-state fermentation, the resulting PECM has a greatly improved nutrient profile. It has a crude protein content of 36-40%, and it is more digestible than the raw meal.

The bioprocess used to produce PECM was developed by the Biotech Center at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

According to this source, a significant reduction in the fiber content of the copra meal during the processing raises the crude protein level from 19% to 34-36% in PECM (on a dry matter basis). Furthermore, the content of key amino acids such as lysine, methionine, and threonine is increased by 60-95%.

For tilapia, bangus (milkfish), and shrimp, PECM can be used to substitute for 80-100% of the protein contribution from soybean meal. For poultry diets (broilers and laying hens), the replacement rate can be 60-80%, and 30-40% in swine feeds.

These partial replacement rates could save PHP900 to PHP2,000 (US$16 to US$35) per metric ton of feed, according to the source.

The Philippine government's Department of Agriculture issued an order at the beginning of this year to expand PECM's commercialization throughout the nation.

The Western Visayas region, where problems with the global supply chain were driving up

the cost of feeds made from soybean meal, was supposed to benefit from the rollout at the time.

The same source stated a month ago that there would be a nationwide increase in the planting of coconut trees.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s vision calls for the Philippines to regain its position as the world's leading producer of coconuts. Although production from Indonesia is higher, it is already the leading exporter of coconuts.

Under a five-year program, 8.5 million trees had been planted so far this year, and the goal for 2026 is now for 50 million new coconut trees.

It was reported in 2023 that a new aquafeed mill was starting up in the Central Luzon region. It was committed to creating diets for farmed shrimp and fish with the goal of lowering feed costs by creating diets that included unconventional raw materials like copra meal. *(Feeding Strategy)*

SINCE 2024, 103K COCONUT SEEDLINGS HAVE BEEN PLANTED IN CAGAYAN, PHILIPPINES

Since last year, Cagayan province has planted 103,818 coconut seedlings, and work is still being done to help the country reach its goal of 100 million coconut trees by 2028.

Noel Compra, the Philippine Coconut Authority's (PCA) Cagayan area coordinator, stated in a media interview on Wednesday that as part of the Massive Coconut Planting and Replanting Project (MCPP), the PCA is encouraging farmers' cooperatives, state universities and colleges, and other public and private partners to join the nationwide replanting and expansion of coconut tree plantations to achieve the 100-million target.

At present, Compra said communal coconut nurseries are strategically located in areas where local cultivars thrive for six months before they are distributed to partners who are willing to invest in the revitalized coconut industry program under the Marcos administration.

"Right now, we are partnering with the different local government units in Regions I, II, and the Cordillera Administrative Region, including colleges and universities and accredited coconut farmers organizations, to promote the planting of high-yielding varieties of coconut for expansion," he said.

Compra said those who are interested to avail of the free planting materials may contact the PCA, which can link them to established coconut nurseries nearthem.

This year, PCA Cagayan said it is planning to plant close to 70,000 coconut seedlings covering an area of 485 hectares.

The primary target areas are located in the coconut-producing towns of Abulug, Pamplona, Sanchez Mira, Claveria and Sta. Praxedes, and later on expand to the towns of Iguig, Alcala, Aparri, Ballesteros, Camalaniugan, Gattaran, Lasam, Gonzaga and Santa Teresita, among others.

As part of the nation's efforts to reduce poverty, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has authorized a total of PHP3.5 billion this year for the extensive planting, replanting, and fertilization of coconuts.

Referred to as the "tree of life," the demand for coconuts is explained by the plant's adaptability, as every part of it, from the roots to the tips, has a useful purpose. *(Philippine News Agency)*

IN KONA, HAWAII, TWO NEW INVASIVE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE BREEDING SITES HAVE BEEN FOUND

Recently, two breeding grounds for the invasive Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, which kills palm trees, were found in West Hawai'i.

In order to eradicate the invasive insect, state, county, and nonprofit partners Hawai'i County, Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Big Island Invasive Species Committee launched an interagency response effort after the sites were discovered in Kona last week during detection surveys.

These sites are being treated, and ongoing detection surveys are being conducted to find additional possible breeding locations.

Their discovery brings the total number of breeding sites found on Hawai'i Island to three since the invasive beetle was first detected here nearly 2 years ago, when a Waikōloa resident rooted out several Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle grubs from inside a decaying palm tree stump on their property.

"Intra-agency collaboration is critical to preventing the invasion and establishment of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle on the Big Island," said University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Dean Parawinder Grewal in a release from the state about the breeding site detections. "We must use all our available resources and intellect. Failure is not an option."

Underscoring the severe impact capable from this invasive species, Hawai'i County and Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity issued a 3-month voluntary compliance order to stop the movement of the coconut rhinoceros beetle host materials — which includes compost, wood or tree chips, mulch, plant propagation material, some landscaping materials and several live palm types — for a portion of West Hawai'i.

The order is in effect through September and encompasses the area of West Hawai'i where Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles have been found during the past 6 months.

An adult beetle was captured in March by a trap at Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport, initiating an intensive trapping effort for the surrounding area.

Thirty adult Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles have been caught since, with one beetle trapped as far north as Kīholo Bay.

Recent actions taken to protect West Hawai'i and prevent the spread of the beetle extend beyond state and county agencies to include residents, local businesses and community organizations.

Activities include setting up several surveys with scent detection dogs, removing green waste and other decomposing plant matter that is ideal for the breeding of coconut rhinoceros beetles, and setting up additional traps in the surrounding area.

Since March, thousands of cubic yards of possible host material have been examined; however, only the two new breeding sites have been found thus far.

In an effort to stop damage from the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, 1,300 palm trees have been treated and almost 400 traps have been set up. Additionally, public outreach in the Kona area is still going strong, guaranteeing future community engagement and awareness.

The discovery of those six larvae at the Waikōloa property in October 2023 marked the beginning of active management of the invasive beetle on the Big Island. *(Big Island Now)*

UTILIZING TECHNOLOGY, VIH LONG TURNS MACAPUNO COCONUT INTO A BILLION-DOLLAR EXPORT CROP

One of Vietnam's six main industrial crops, macapuno coconuts bring in more than $1 billion in revenue from exports each year.

Vinh Long, a province in the Mekong Delta, has long been known for being a thriving coconut-growing region, especially for its premium and

highly valued Macapuno variety (also called dua sap).

A sustainable future for local farmers is being paved by the use of science and technology to create superior Macapuno coconut varieties in the face of increasingly serious climate change challenges, such as drought and saltwater intrusion.

According to statistics, the province currently has approximately 1,277 ha dedicated to Macapuno cultivation, with 250,000 trees. The difference in productivity between cultivation methods is stark. Traditional Macapuno trees yield a "sap" or macapuno ratio of only 20-30% per bunch, with an output of about 20-25 coconuts per tree annually.

In contrast, trees grown using modern embryo and tissue culture techniques achieve a remarkable macapuno ratio of 75-80% per bunch, with an average yield of 55-60 coconuts per tree per year. This high-value variety fetches market prices ranging from VND70,000 ($2,7) to VND120,000 ($4,6) per fruit, depending on its quality and size.

This technological advantage translates directly into significant economic benefits. While traditional Macapuno orchards generate an average income of around VND320 million ($12.200) per hectare per year, orchards using embryo and tissue-cultured varieties can achieve VND770 million ($29,500) per hectare annually.

Scientists at Tra Vinh University have developed an embryo culture technique that has successfully increased the ratio of macapuno-bearing fruits to over 85%, overcoming the drawbacks of conventional methods that only produce a maximum macapuno ratio of 25%.

Vinh Long is employing a comprehensive strategy in addition to improving varieties. Zoning cultivation areas, promoting the revitalization of aging orchards, and intensifying trade promotion are some examples of this.

Building relationships between companies and farmers is a major priority in order to develop the full value chain, from advanced processing and production to consumption, with a strong emphasis on exports. In order to investigate the use of Macapuno coconuts in the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries, Vinh Long is working with the Ministry of Science and Technology and establishing connections with scientists in South Korea and Japan. *(VnEconomy)*

COCONUT FARMERS ENCOURAGED TO TEST SOIL ON THEIR PROPERTIES

The multibillion-US-dollar global coconut industry is bustling with new products, which have emerged from technologies and innovations in the creation of climate and disease-resistant hybrids and machines used in reaping ready nuts.

However, despite the many advances, success with coconuts begins at the ground level with the quality and elemental composition of the soil.

This is why the Coconut Industry Board (CIB) continues to encourage coconut farmers to do soil tests on their farms, to secure optimal results from their yields.

Soil testing is a tried-and-true agricultural best practice that remains crucial to the success of not just the coconut industry, but the wider agricultural sector.

This soil management tool helps determine the fertility of the soil by analyzing the chemical, physical and biological components.

Soil is normally comprised of 45 per cent minerals, five per cent organic matter, 25 per cent air and 25 per cent water. Over time, climatic conditions can cause changes in the soil and this is when soil conservation and soil amelioration are needed to bring the nutrients back to the soil for ideal productivity.

Coconuts are grown in a wide range of soil types; however, they are grown best on sandy loam soils that are high in organic matter, and clay soils that are well drained and not waterlogged.

Agronomist and Crop Physiologist at the CIB, Lydia Tucker, says before planting, it is recommended that a soil test is done.

"This will help the farmers to determine the nutrient level in the soil and the pH. The pH level is important, as this helps farmers to identify the elements that are present in the soil, for instance whether there is a deficiency or an excess," she tells JIS News in an interview.

The soil can be described as an engineering medium, one that recycles nutrients, accommodates plant growth, regulates water quality and is a habitat for organisms.

Testing the soil before planting also forms part of precision agricultural practices that ensure the delivery of what is needed in the correct quantities.

Knowing what the soil needs will inform the best use of fertilizers. This in turn supports nutrient uptake in plants, resulting in higher-quality nuts.

Ms. Tucker points out that after planting, there are different stages of fertilizers needed for plants.

"For plants that are planted within the first year you have the start booster. This a combined blend of fertilizer, which includes nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium along with other micro elements. These elements are important in root development and crop establishment," she notes.

For the second stage, known as the vegetative state, it is important that the coconut plants receive fertilizer. This is a developmental stage that results in the expansion of roots along with the shoots.

"It is also important for stem growth. When you go to the productive stage, the productive stage is where the plants need nutrients. The productive stage is the final stage and this is where the plants need maximum nutrients for productivity and it's a combined blend of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium," Ms. Tucker says.

"Potassium is important for the fruiting; especially in coconuts, it helps in the formation of fat, sugar and fibrous material. With potassium lacking, then you will have minimal flowering, and your nuts will not be as big or as sweet, as it provides the sugar," she adds.

The Agronomist and Crop Physiologist also emphasizes that coconut plants also need boron.

"Boron is a micronutrient, and it is important as it helps with pollen germination, flower and fruit formation. Magnesium is also important as a trace element. After planting, proper care should be taken as this will help in providing the plants with all the required nutrients, based on the soil test result that has been done and the fertilizer that is being applied," she tells JIS News.

With the significant increase in the demand for coconuts and trends indicating that this demand will continue to rise, farmers should incorporate approved strategies that will secure high-quality nuts.

For support, farmers can access the Coconut Industry Board via their website – coconutindustryboard.org or their office at 18 Waterloo Road in Kingston.

The Board provides free planting material to their registered growers, fertilizer benefits, a weed grant and free advisory services to farmers. *(Jamaica Information Service)*

PERMIT IMPORTS OF COCONUT OIL DESPITE PRICE INCREASES

Given that the price of coconut oil has tripled in the last year, the Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) urged the government on

Friday to permit short-term imports of copra and coconut oil in order to address domestic price volatility.

In order to handle the current crisis and maintain consumer interest in coconut oil, the industry body asked the government to act quickly and allow imports for a six- to 12-month period.

"We request the government to take urgent actions to address this situation by allowing the import of copra and coconut oil for the interim period," SEA said in a representation to concerned ministries.

Coconut oil prices have surged to over Rs 400 per kg at the wholesale level from around Rs 130 a year ago, prompting consumers to shift to alternative oils like palm and sunflower.

The association said India's coconut production has been under stress for two years due to pest attacks, resulting in a 40 per cent drop in yields.

"This demand for coconut oil may shift permanently," SEA warned, noting that consumer movement away from coconut oil could adversely impact prices of other edible oils and increase import dependency.

The group brought up issues with Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

According to SEA, the action would stabilize prices and provide farmers with long-term support rather than negatively affecting them. It pointed out that while higher availability would alleviate supply stress, imported oil with duties would still cost the same as domestic prices.

Due to skyrocketing prices, Kerala, a major consumer market, is beginning to move away from coconut oil. The association also cautioned that the widespread use of adulteration brought on by rising costs is undermining consumer confidence in coconut oil.

"Once consumers move out of a particular oil, it is known to be difficult to get the demand back, and this has been witnessed in the past in other indigenous oils like groundnut oil," SEA said. *(The Economic Times)*

THE DEMAND FOR COCONUTS IS GROWING, BUT DOMESTIC PRODUCTION IS STAGNANT

Once considered a fruit of the coast or a festive roadside beverage, coconut has become a global economic force, with its derivatives powering billion-dollar industries in clean energy, food, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics.

The Lagos State Coconut Development Authority (LASCODA) reports that Nigeria's current yearly coconut production ranges from 265,000 to 300,000 metric tonnes. Just 25% of the nation's growing domestic demand is met by this.

In an interview, Mr John Oladapo Olakulehin, a former general manager of LASCODA highlighted a critical three-tiered problem within the sector's production, processing and marketing process.

"Our coconut demand is exploding, but domestic production is stagnant. We are importing what we should be exporting. Seventy per cent of coconuts consumed in Nigeria are sourced from Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia and Philippines. These import trends cost Nigeria billions of naira annually," he said.

Coconuts are among the few agricultural products with near total economic circularity. From coconut water to oil, milk to flour, coir to activated charcoal, over 50 viable products can be derived from the tree. Coconut oil remains a global staple in cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Coconut milk is in high demand as a dairy alternative; coconut flour is a gluten-free favorite among health-conscious consumers. The shells are turned into charcoal and crafts, while the husks produce coir for mattresses, ropes and erosion control mats.

Dr Chinelo Obasi, an agricultural economist, explained that Nigeria's coconut value chain had the potential to generate over N500 billion annually if properly structured.

"This includes upstream farming, midstream processing and downstream export. But the sector remains largely informal, under-capitalized and fragmented," she added.

Across producing states like Lagos, Ondo, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Bayelsa, farmers remain eager to scale up, but face heavy constraints.

"We don't have access to improved seedlings, fertilizers or irrigation. Sometimes our coconuts rot because there's no processing plant nearby. Buyers dictate the prices. We are farming gold but selling it like firewood," Chief Bassey Etim, a coconut farmer in Akwa Ibom said.

Despite the growing popularity of the industry, young people are also deterred from engaging in commercial cultivation by the lengthy gestation period of traditional coconut trees, which can reach ten years.

Product adulteration is a silent but deadly threat to the value chain that extends beyond the farm.

A food scientist from Lagos named Mr. Ben Odion voiced concern about the rising prevalence of counterfeit coconut oil in Nigerian marketplaces.

He said, "Because of high demand, some producers mix coconut oil with paraffin, palm kernel oil or chemical thickeners to increase volume and profits. This not only puts consumers at risk but also damages the credibility of genuine local producers.

"Without regulatory oversight and enforcement, we risk flooding the market with fake products that threaten lives and livelihoods."

In a view to addressing the status of the upcoming coconut development projects and verifying progress made under some initiatives, our reporter reached out for comments and clarifications. However, the current general manager of LASCODA failed to provide any formal update, and multiple attempts to contact the president of NACOPMANN also proved abortive. Calls, emails and official messages went unanswered at the time of filing this report.

Nigeria's super crop industry has the potential to transform not just agriculture but the entire economy if it can successfully align policy, capital, and innovation. Time is of the essence. The global market share is declining as neighboring nations like Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire rapidly develop their coconut export sectors.

Despite its seemingly straightforward appearance, a coconut contains an ecosystem of opportunities, prosperity, and well-being. The million-ton question still stands as to whether Nigeria decides to use it or let it fall between the cracks. *(Daily Trust)*

THE IMPACT OF COCONUT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

Dr. Victor Iyama, the chairman of the Federation of Agricultural Commodity Association of Nigeria (FACAN) Board of Trustees, claims that coconuts are an underappreciated crop that have the potential to be a significant source of wealth.

According to him, it has the power to significantly boost export growth and change the rural economies.

With an estimated yearly production of over 59 million tonnes, coconuts are currently produced in significant quantities worldwide.

Nigeria ranks 19th among coconut-producing nations, with an annual production of approximately 224,186 metric tonnes.

Speaking with The Nation, Iyama noted that the increasing global and domestic demand for coconut to be used in a diverse range of

products, is creating an unprecedented boom, with projections indicating continued expansion in the coming years.

According to him, the market has witnessed exponential growth in "non-traditional" products, even though traditional products like copra and crude coconut oil (CNO) are still important.

He clarified that another important market for coconut derivatives is the personal care and cosmetics sector.

The Lagos State Government recently reiterated its commitment to helping farmers take advantage on the rapidly growing global coconut yoghurt market, which is currently worth $102.01 million and is expected to grow to $302.32 million by 2031.

Speaking with The Nation, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, Abisola Olusanya, emphasized the government's dedication to boosting coconut production in the state. She noted that the rising demand for coconut yoghurt —driven by its thick texture, higher protein content, and appeal to health-conscious consumers— presents a lucrative opportunity for local farmers.

The coconut yoghurt industry is a fast-expanding segment of the plant-based dairy alternatives market. Consumers increasingly seek dairy-free and lactose-free products, fueling the demand for this commodity. With its nutritional benefits and alignment with evolving dietary trends, it has become a preferred choice for individuals prioritizing muscle recovery and overall health.

To capitalize on this market opportunity, the Lagos State Coconut Development Authority has initiated a statewide coconut tree planting program across housing estates. Olusanya stated that the initiative aims to enhance coconut production and position Lagos as a major supplier in the global coconut yoghurt value chain.

"The state government is ensuring that farmers have access to high-quality coconut planting materials. We are determined to reclaim Lagos' position as a leading producer of high-quality coconuts," she said.

The Lagos government is also investing in capacity-building programs for coconut farmers. Through training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), farmers are being equipped with modern, sustainable techniques to improve productivity.

As part of its broader coconut industry development strategy, the state government last year released N250 million to implement a five-year Coconut Value Chain Upgrade Strategy. This initiative, supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, seeks to enhance the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the coconut sector.

The United Nations Agri-Food Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA) provided $4 million in funding to develop the five-year plan. Olusanya expressed optimism that government initiatives would strengthen Lagos' position in the global coconut yoghurt market in addition to promoting local coconut farming.

The country's coconut production is currently at 224,186 metric tonnes (MT), but the Federal Government recently announced plans to increase it to 500,000 MT this year. With a significant 34.76% market share in 2024, the Asia Pacific region is currently leading the global market for coconut products. *(The Nation)*

COCONUT PESTICIDE GETS GREEN LIGHT IN CHEMREZ

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) has approved Chemrez Technologies Inc.'s marketed organic pesticide to fight "cocolisap," or pests that can seriously harm coconut trees.

The Lao family-run D&L Industries Inc. subsidiary said in a statement that its organic-based spray,

CropGuard, is a non-invasive, residue-free way to protect crops and plantations from infestations of coconut scale insects (CSI).

The company said that CropGuard is a primary treatment option to effectively prevent the spread of CSI, thus reducing the need for severe interventions. It also serves as an insect repellent that discourages feeding and egg deposition of insects.

Based on tests conducted with the PCA and the University of the Philippines Los Baños, it is recommended to spray CropGuard twice in coconut plantations, 15 days apart.

"Crucially, the use of trunk-injected synthetic pesticides may invalidate the organic certification of coconut farms," Chemrez said.

"This not only disqualifies farmers from accessing the premium organic market but also jeopardizes livelihoods and disrupts entire rural economies that depend on organic coconut production for income, sustenance, and export revenue," it added.

Farm damage

The PCA reported last month that the Philippine coconut industry had incurred about P200 million in damage due to the CSI infestation.

The agency has yet to provide an updated report, but it said earlier that CSI had affected 3,600 coconut farmers and 516,962 coconut trees in various regions.

These are Calabarzon, Bicol, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Caraga, and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Despite this, the PCA said the infection rate represents a small fraction of the 345 million coconut trees nationwide.

To date, more than 3.5 million Filipinos rely on coconut farming as their primary source of livelihood. *(Business Inquirer)*

METRO PACIFIC ACQUIRES FRANKLIN BAKER TO GROW THE COCONUT EMPIRE

Following its recent acquisition of a stake in Axelum Resources Corp., Manuel V. Pangilinan's Metro Pacific Agro Ventures (MPAV) is reaffirming its leadership in the domestic food-grade coconut export market by acquiring the Franklin Baker Group of Companies.

According to a statement, MPAV expects to sign contracts for the purchase of Franklin Banker, one of the oldest coconut processors in the Philippines, which was established in 1921 and has processing facilities in Laguna and Davao.

"The coconut is one of the Philippines' most important and iconic crops – something we should be proud of," said Manuel V. Pangilinan, chairman and CEO of MPAV's parent company Metro Pacific Investments Corporation.

He added that, "With Franklin Baker and Axelum, we now have the opportunity to scale a globally competitive coconut platform – one that brings together world-class processing, long-standing customer relationships, and strong ties to our farming communities.

"This is a unique opportunity to strengthen a flagship export sector and help make Filipino agricultural products a global standard."

Franklin supplies a broad range of value-added coconut products, including desiccated coconut, coconut water, virgin coconut oil, and coconut cream, to over 50 countries, while maintaining long-standing relationships with global food brands.

MPAV said its investment comes at a pivotal moment for the coconut industry—a sector that supports millions of Filipinos but continues to face headwinds from global market volatility and limited investment in value-added processing.

"The transaction will provide Franklin Baker with the capital and strategic support needed to stabilize its operations, clear pending

export backlogs, and return to a path of sustainable growth.

"Just as importantly, it will help safeguard the livelihoods of over 5,000 workers and maintain a reliable market for more than 50,000 coconut farmers across the country," the firm said.

The acquisition builds on MPAV's earlier investment in Axelum Resources Corporation, a leading exporter of food-grade coconut products known for its ability to meet the highest global standards for food safety, traceability, and quality assurance.

Based in Medina, Misamis Oriental, Axelum has become a model of inclusive rural development, driving employment, supporting access to healthcare, and building strong partnerships with farmers.

Since MPAV's entry in 2023, Axelum has expanded its production capabilities and global distribution network, reinforcing its position as a key supplier to top-tier international food and beverage companies.

Together, Franklin Baker and Axelum have the capacity to process over two million coconuts daily and account for a substantial share of U.S. coconut exports.

Both companies have a solid history of adhering to changing international standards for food safety, sustainability, and ethical sourcing, as well as long-standing relationships with clients throughout the world.

Additionally, the two companies have a proven track record of creating premium coconut products with added value.

Axelum offers extensive operational capability and a tested model of community-based agribusiness development, while Franklin Baker offers the power of a heritage brand established over more than a century.

Together, they serve as the foundation of MPAV's coconut platform, providing industry-leading scale, export penetration, and supply chain resilience to set up the Philippines for sustained dominance in the world coconut market. *(Manila Bulletin)*

MARCOS: COCONUT PROCESSING PUSHES TO IMPROVE RURAL JOBS AND FARMER INCOMES

Citing the potential for increased rural employment and farmer incomes, President Marcos has reiterated his administration's commitment to bolstering the nation's coconut industry.

Marcos made this statement while touring the General Santos City facility of Century Pacific Agricultural Ventures Inc. (CPAVI).

The President expressed his support for its ongoing participation in national development while he was there.

"We are working to build more coconut processing facilities across the country to help our farmers earn more," he wrote on Instagram.

"Beyond raw coconuts, they will be able to generate income from coco water, oil, and flour. This will also create more jobs in our provinces and further strengthen our agriculture sector," he added.

The President toured CPAVI's General Santos City facility, which processes coconut water, milk, oil, flour, and desiccated coconut for export to 82 countries, including the United States, Japan, and South Korea.

The facility has a daily capacity of 820 metric tons, while another CPAVI plant in Tangub City handles up to 250 MT per day.

The CPAVI expects to generate P10 billion in direct economic value this year, 46 percent of which is allocated to suppliers and operating costs, 22 percent to farmer support, and 15 percent to employee compensation.

The company has created over 4,500 manufacturing jobs in the region.

According to Malacañang, plans are underway to double the company's production capacity and deepen its impact on surrounding communities. Through its "Million Tree Project," CPAVI has planted one million coconut trees, while its "Vita Coco Impact" program has distributed over 765,000 seedlings to farmers. *(Manila Bulletin)*

JUST THIRTY PIECES OF COCONUT HUSK WERE UTILIZED

Only 30% of the coconut husk produced in India is being used effectively, according to Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, who also emphasized the urgent need to increase value addition in the coir industry, especially in light of the rising domestic demand for coco peat. Karandlaje emphasized the importance of developing new applications for coir products, especially in horticulture and other emerging sectors. Union Minister of State for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) was reviewing the research and development activities of the Central Institute of Coir Technology (CICT) under the Coir Board in Bengaluru, according to an official release. Highlighting the growing potential of carbon extraction from coir fibre, Karandlaje expressed interest in its role in environmental sustainability and carbon credit markets.

She recommended industry-specific, modular training programs that cover topics like the production of coir wood panels, carbon/charcoal extraction, and coconut-based products. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), the Coconut Development Board, and other state-level export units are examples of national-level technical institutions with which she urged the CICT and Coir Board to work closely. Making high-value, scalable coir-based products should be the aim, she said. According to the release, Karandlaje reaffirmed that in order to guarantee broad adoption at the local level, the technologies created by the Coir Board must be systematically distributed to farmers, business owners, and cooperatives using a phased, sector-specific approach. *(The Hans India)*

A "WAKE-UP CALL" ON TARIFFS GROUP FOR THE COCO INDUSTRY

According to a group representing the coconut industry, the United States' imposition of a 20 percent tariff on Philippine products is a "wake-up call" that emphasizes the necessity of diversifying the market and product offerings.

The United Coconut Associations of the Philippines Inc. (UCAP) said the country is currently heavily reliant on the European Union and US markets, which collectively account for over 60 percent of the industry's exports.

It said that export markets should be expanded beyond the two, while locally, competition from palm oil should be addressed.

The UCAP also said that industry's exports were dominated by minimally processed coconut oil rather than more value-added and downstream products.

"Our coconut export product is also mostly the low-value-added crude coconut oil, which is just a one-value addition from copra or the dried coconut meat," it said.

"If this higher tariff persists, what will happen is it will dampen economic activity in the USA, as a whole," the UCAP said. "American consumers will buy less coconut products due to the higher prices."

The group believes the tariff situation can still change, with the Philippines planning to negotiate and offer concessions.

The UCAP said it was in constant contact with the Philippine Coconut Authority and the

Department of Trade and Industry and had sent position papers pushing for lower tariffs.

It stated that the Philippines is an important strategic geopolitical partner of the United States in Southeast Asia and has been a colony of the United States for a long time.

"Strengthening and growing our exports to the USA, particularly coconut, will go a long way in further strengthening the USA-Philippine relationship." (The Manila Times)

SOMALIS IDPS CONVERT COCONUT WASTE INTO LIVELIHOODS: FROM DISPLACEMENT TO DIGNITY

Abdi Hassan, an internally displaced person (IDP) from the Jubaland region of Somalia, struggled for years to rebuild his life after losing his job.

With nothing more than the hope of safety and a second chance, he sought sanctuary in the peaceful village of Gobweyn, close to Kismayu, after being forced to flee violence and abandon everything.

The story of his life now is different

"I never thought I could earn a living from something people throw away. But this skill has given me a new start. I can now feed my family and send my children to school," said Abdi, holding a finely carved coconut shell bowl.

Abdi is among dozens of vulnerable men, mostly IDPs and victims of conflict and climate displacement, who have received training in coconut shell crafting through a livelihood empowerment project implemented by Alight International Somalia with funding from GIZ.

Through help from Kenyan trainers, the initiative teaches beneficiaries how to turn discarded coconut shells into jewellery, home décor items and functional household goods such as spoons, bowls and keyholders.

"Lamu is the only place where you can get this kind of training and as a led consultant I was engaged by Alight International through the Jubaland government to undertake this training because of my expertise in peace transformation and coconut shell craft production which I presided over by taking a Lamu-based trainer to Kismayu in what we call cross-border knowledge transfer. It is a programme that we pioneered in Lamu, and now it has been replicated, localised and upscaled in Somalia," said Shee Kupi.

The training provided Mahamed Yare with more than just technical skills.

From trash to art

According to Yusuf Saddam, another trainee, the programme also fosters a sense of community and cooperation.

"We came here as strangers from different clans and backgrounds. But working together on something creative has built trust among us."

Deeqow Ali, who lost his farmland due to flooding, said the skills acquired are now helping him support his family.

"Before this, I relied on humanitarian aid. Now, I make products and sell them in local markets." *(The Eastleigh Voice)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

The vegetable oils market continued firm this week.

In Rotterdam market, coconut oil finally saw action twice this week at $2,900/MT CIF. Traded level was higher than the most recent turnover reported at $2,585/MT CIF five weeks ago. The price rally persisted with opening quotes firmer at $2,770-2,940/MT for positions from June/July

through to December/January 2026 on spillover gain from the palm oil market. Prices thereafter tracked further higher almost uninterruptedly, underpinned by continuing tight supply at origin. By the week's end, prices closed near the $3,000 barrier at $2,855.00-2,952.50/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market, on the other hand, resumed quietness after reporting trade last week at $1,650/MT CIF. The market likewise started off in the upside following other vegetable oils with levels at $1,785.00-1,822.50/MT CIF for positions from July/August through to September/October. Prices showed mixed trends after that with nearby continuing firm while forward positions depicting intermittent weakness. Nevertheless, market closed firm across all positions with levels at $1,870-1,890/MT CIF.

The price spread of coconut oil against palm kernel oil continued to show mixed trends when compared with similar positions in previous week. Contractions were observed nearby while slight expansions in deferred. Thus, the weekly average narrowed further to $1,037.57/MT from $1,057.31 a week ago and from $1,134.00 two weeks ago. The premium per position are shown following: June/July no data ($1,079.63 last week); July/August $1,051.05 ($1,066.20); August/September $1,071.50 ($1,148.40); September/October $1,045.20 ($1,043.00); October/November $982.53 ($949.33).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures saw weakness earlier in the week on pressures from solid US crop conditions. USDA Crop Progress report showed 70% of the crop was rated good to excellent. The market though reversed course since midweek and headed further higher sparked by short covering and technical buying linked to USDA reported flash sales to 'unknown destinations'. The rising derivative products' prices likewise added to the positive market sentiment. Lately, market support came from expectations that the US biofuel policy would boost demand for soybean oil.

At the palm oil section, prices turned weaker after opening on firm note but subsequently recovered towards the weekend. The positive market sentiment derived support from the higher soybean oil and crude oil prices. On the other hand, dragging the market downward were estimates of improved production in the region and higher stocks amid tepid demand. Sufficient stocks at destination markets like India and China likewise were limiting factors, holding back demand.

Prices of tropical oils for the nearest forward shipment tracked higher for the third straight week. Coconut oil this time led the charge, rising $72.80 from $2,813.70 a week ago to $2,886.50 this week, palm kernel oil climbed $67.50 from $1,747.50 to $1,815.00, and palm oil hiked $17.00 from $1,235.50 to $1,252.50/MT CIF. Consequently, the price premium of coconut oil against palm kernel oil and palm oil widened this week. Against palm kernel oil, the spread expanded from $1,066.20 last week to $1,071.50/MT in the present week; against palm oil it grew from $1,578.20 to $1,634.00/MT. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam, coconut oil was traded twice this week at $2,900 for July/August and August/September deliveries. Prices continued firm during the week with sellers closing at $2,952.50 for June/July; $2,935 for July/August; $2,915 for August/September; $2,890 for September/October; $2,875 for October/November; $2,860 for November/December; and $2,855/MT CIF for December/January 2026. After trading midweek, buyers sidelined. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

DESICCATED COCONUTS: PESTS THREATEN CROP

Prices could rise further

The first half of 2025 has proven to be turbulent for the coconut market, as the experts at JCP International are well aware. Export prices for desiccated coconuts are currently largely stable – prices for Philippine goods could climb to a multi-year high if demand remains strong in the coming months. This is likely to push up prices in other origins as well. Although exports have

fallen significantly year-on-year, due in part to adverse weather conditions and delivery delays, international buying interest remains high. Market experts highlight Europe, Japan and the Middle East as particularly important buyers.

Pest outbreak in the Philippines

At the end of June, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) confirmed a new outbreak of coconut scale, a pest that can cause significant crop damage. Four Philippine growing regions are affected. Although this outbreak is smaller than the one in 2014, according to JCP, it still poses a risk to yields and thus to price developments. In Indonesia and Vietnam, drought and ageing trees have led to an 80% decline in crops, while Sri Lanka is struggling with persistent inflation and logistical hurdles.

Competitive advantage remains

Meanwhile, experts at T.M. Duché report that the market for coconut oil is also continuing to grow. At the end of last week, prices stood at up to USD 2,880/mt CIF Rotterdam, which is almost USD 86/mt more than in the previous week.

According to the market experts, the continuing upward trend reflects strong demand amid ongoing supply shortages in the countries of origin. The Philippines is defending its competitive advantage over other producers such as India and Indonesia, not least because the US customs policy creates favorable conditions here. (Mundus Agri)

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

INDONESIA WILL CONTINUE TO BE OUR TOP SUPPLIER OF PALM OIL

With the US agreeing to reduce its reciprocal tariff on Jakarta from 32% to 19%—much lower than its rival Malaysia, which is subject to a 25% tariff—Indonesia is poised to continue dominating the US palm oil market.

According to Agriculture Minister Andi Amran Sulaiman, Jakarta may have an advantage over Malaysia, its sole rival in the US palm oil market, as a result of the tariff rate differential. According to data from the Indonesian Palm Oil Association (Gapki), the nation exported $2.9 billion worth of palm oil to the US last year, totaling 2.2 million tons. Approximately 85% of US imports of palm oil come from Indonesia. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

AMID PRICE RISES, THE EDIBLE OIL BODY URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT THE IMPORTATION OF COCONUT OIL

Given that the price of coconut oil has tripled in the last year, the Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) urged the government to permit short-term imports of copra and coconut oil in order to address domestic price volatility.

In order to handle the current crisis and maintain consumer interest in coconut oil, the industry group asked the government to act quickly and allow imports for a six- to 12-month period.

"We request the government to take urgent actions to address this situation by allowing the import of copra and coconut oil for the interim period," SEA said in a representation to concerned ministries.

Coconut oil prices have surged to over Rs 400 per kg at the wholesale level from around Rs 130 a year ago, prompting consumers to shift to alternative oils like palm and sunflower.

The association said India's coconut production has been under stress for two years due to pest attacks, resulting in a 40 per cent drop in yields.

"This demand for coconut oil may shift permanently," SEA warned, noting that consumer movement away from coconut oil could adversely impact prices of other edible oils and increase import dependency.

The body flagged concerns to Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Commerce

Minister Piyush Goyal and Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi.

SEA said the measure would not adversely impact farmers but would stabilise prices and support them long-term. It noted that imported oil with duties would still cost the same as domestic prices, but increased availability would ease supply stress.

Due to skyrocketing prices, Kerala, a major consumer market, is beginning to move away from coconut oil. The association also cautioned that the widespread use of adulteration as a result of rising costs is undermining consumer confidence in coconut oil.

"Once consumers move out of a particular oil, it is known to be difficult to get the demand back, and this has been witnessed in the past in other indigenous oils like groundnut oil," SEA said. *(MSN)*

THE BIODIESEL BLEND INCREASE IS SUSPENDED BY THE PH ENERGY DEPARTMENT

The Philippine Department of Energy (DOE) notified all downstream oil industry players, biodiesel manufacturers, and stakeholders in an advisory dated July 17 that the implementation of the 4 percent and 5 percent biodiesel blends would be postponed due to "significant impact" on petroleum product prices. In October of this year and October of next year, respectively, the increase in the biodiesel blend would have gone into effect.

This came as the National Biofuels Board (NBB) suggested delaying the implementation due to the rising costs of coconut oil, which is the main feedstock for coco methyl ester (CME) or biodiesel. Coconut oil in Rotterdam is now priced at near the US3,000/MT CIF barrier at $2,925/MT as of this writing, far above the USD2,727 average in June and USD1,740 in September last year before the blend was increased to 3% in October.

"This decision was made in view of the anticipated significant impact on pump prices and the potential inflationary effects on the national economy," said the advisory, signed by Energy Secretary Sharon Garin. "The NBB shall regularly assess and recommend appropriate market interventions to help stabilize the price of biodiesel and its feedstock," it added. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

WHEN YOU REGULARLY DRINK COCONUT WATER, WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE?

Although there is currently little study on the topic, coconut water shows promise in potentially lowering blood pressure. However, Very Well Health states that more thorough studies are required before firm recommendations can be made. According to research on animals, coconut water may have diuretic qualities, which means it can raise urine production and hence lower blood pressure. It's interesting to note that these studies imply that its effects may be similar to those of Lasix (furosemide), a common diuretic drug, but without the negative effects on electrolyte balance that these drugs occasionally have. This feature draws attention to a possible advantage because electrolyte balance is essential for general health.

Human trials investigating the effects of coconut water on blood pressure have yielded mixed but generally positive results, albeit from small-scale studies. Very Well Health reported on one notable trial involving 30 adults which observed that daily consumption of young coconut water over a week led to reductions in both systolic and diastolic blood pressure. While encouraging, this study faced criticism regarding its methodology, suggesting the need for more rigorously designed research. Another small study with 28 participants reported a more significant decrease in systolic blood pressure among

those who consumed coconut water compared to groups drinking regular water or mauby, a traditional Caribbean drink. These preliminary findings warrant further investigation through larger, more robust clinical trials to confirm the efficacy of coconut water in blood pressure management for a broader population.

For the purpose of blood pressure management in a clinical trial setting, according to Very Well Health, a specific regimen was employed: participants consumed 150 milliliters (approximately 5 ounces) of coconut water each morning for a week. This suggests a relatively small, consistent intake was enough to observe some effects in the context of a study. However, it's important to note that while generally considered safe in moderate amounts, coconut water contains a higher concentration of potassium compared to many other sports rehydration beverages. This high potassium content is a double-edged sword; while potassium is beneficial for blood pressure, excessive intake can lead to hyperkalemia.

In light of these factors, Very Well Health suggests that some people use caution and speak with a doctor before adding coconut water to their diet, particularly if they intend to drink it frequently or in greater amounts. This includes those who already have health issues such congestive heart failure, liver illness, type 1 diabetes, or chronic renal disease. The body's capacity to control potassium may be compromised by certain disorders, raising the possibility of dangerous potassium buildup. Consequently, even though coconut water offers a fascinating natural way to support blood pressure, its use should be treated with knowledge of its potassium concentration and possible interactions. *(Very Well Health)*

IS DRINKING COCONUT WATER EVERY DAY ACCEPTABLE? AN EXPLAINATION FROM A NUTRITIONIST AT IPB UNIVERSITY

Although coconut water has long been recognized as a naturally refreshing beverage, is it safe to drink every day? Dr. Karina Rahmadia Ekawidyani, a lecturer in IPB University's Department of Public Nutrition, explains the nutritional value, advantages, and possible drawbacks of consuming too much coconut water.

Dr Karina explained, in 100 grams of fresh young coconut water there are a number of beneficial nutrients that make it a healthy drink, especially in helping hydrate the body. Based on the Indonesian Food Composition Table (TKPI), coconut water contains 17 kcal of energy, 0,2 grams of protein, 0,1 grams of fat, 3,8 grams of carbohydrates, and 95,5 grams of water. In addition, coconut water also contains vitamin C (1 mg), potassium (149 mg), calcium (15 mg), phosphorus (8 mg), sodium (1 mg), iron (0,2 mg), zinc (0,1 mg), and copper (0,04 mg).

She explained that coconut water has several health benefits, including helping detoxify the body, lowering blood pressure, and improving hydration.

Numerous Advantages

Coconut water is thought to be excellent for keeping the body hydrated because it contains up to 95% water. "In situations like diarrhea and vomiting, coconut water can be a viable option to replenish bodily fluids lost as a result of dehydration," Dr. Karina continued.

According to Dr. Karina, coconut water can help avoid kidney stones by increasing urine production because it is a natural diuretic.

"The water and electrolyte content also provide a natural laxative effect that helps facilitate bowel movements," she said. Vitamin C in coconut water, she added, acts as a natural antioxidant to fight free radicals and strengthen the immune system.

Regarding the claim that coconut water can lower blood pressure, Dr. Karina confirmed that the potassium content in it is quite high. Potassium helps balance the effects of sodium

which can increase blood pressure. In addition, potassium also plays a role in relaxing blood vessels, and regulating heart rate and pump.

However, she cautions that while there are studies showing a 3,24 percent reduction in systolic blood pressure in adults and the elderly after five days of coconut water consumption, the effect is not clinically significant.

"For the purpose of lowering blood pressure, coconut water consumption must still be accompanied by a healthy lifestyle such as implementing a balanced nutritious diet according to the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet and exercising regularly," she explained. She also recommends that people with hypertension consult a doctor.

Ideal Time and Dosage

Despite the advantages, Dr. Karina cautions that there are hazards associated with ingesting too much coconut water. The high potassium concentration can interfere with heart rhythm and produce hyperkalemia, particularly in people with compromised renal function.

Additionally, there are roughly 10 grams of sugar in one glass (250 ml) of coconut water. Overconsumption may raise the risk of diabetes mellitus and obesity. As a result, he recommended that people only drink one glass of coconut water each day, free of artificial sweeteners or added sugar.

Responding to the question of when is the best time to drink coconut water, Dr. Karina states that coconut water can be consumed at any time. "However, if the aim is to replace post-activity body fluids, the best time is after exercise," she said. *(IPB University News)*

COCONUT RECIPE

SOUTH INDIAN STYLE COCONUT MILK RICE

Ingredients

- Basmati rice
- Coconut milk
- Water
- Onion
- Green chillies
- Ginger-garlic paste
- Cloves
- Cardamom pod
- Cinnamon stick
- Cumin seeds
- Oil
- Salt

Instruction

1. Wash and soak rice for 15-20 minutes
2. Take a pressure cooker, add heat oil, cumin, cinnamon, cardamom, salt and cloves. Saute it on low flame
3. Add onions, green chillies, ginger-garlic paste, drained rice, coconut milk and water
4. Close the lid and cook on medium heat until you hear 1 whistle, then turn off the heat and wait for 10 minutes before serving the rice
5. Garnish the rice with coriander leaves and serve

(Wionews)

STATISTICS

Table 1. Monthly Export of Coconut Shell Charcoal by Selected Countries 2023 - 2025 (In MT)

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
January	14,435	17,585	18,567	7,793	10,757	11,164	767	880	301
February	15,008	15,096	16,801	8,685	14,743	11,326	882	1,583	606
March	16,907	15,793	14,497	11,824	11,615	13,316	348	1,358	347
April	11,384	11,982	16,170	11,517	14,236	15,673	416	924	485
May	17,456	14,272	18,955	10,444	11,494	14,087	810	1,035	870
June	16,603	14,211	14,350	8,168	13,847	12,654	792	1,103	
July	17,676	17,706		7,682	13,532		892	1,586	
August	15,863	20,684		7,878	13,368		1,044	666	
September	15,613	18,205		11,603	11,112		1,355	648	
October	17,916	20,824		12,370	13,912		841	280	
November	16,499	16,624		9,859	11,718		764	439	
December	15,910	20,029		10,218	9,262		1,063	583	
TOTAL	**191,270**	**203,011**	**99,339**	**118,041**	**149,596**	**78,221**	**9,974**	**11,085**	**2,609**

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

Table 2. Monthly Export of Activated Carbon by Selected Countries 2023 - 2025 (In MT)

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
January	1,440	1,191	1,110	5,466	4,006	4,710	3,441	4,958	4,776
February	1,430	1,540	1,482	4,203	3,888	4,403	4,035	4,712	4,416
March	1,415	1,212	1,269	5,859	3,759	5,896	4,311	5,707	5,565
April	1,361	1,370	1,430	5,334	4,551	4,529	4,021	4,974	4,088
May	1,607	1,652	1,514	6,139	136,678	5,532	5,518	4,489	4,663
June	1,637	1,219	1,347	5,710	4,410	5,520	4,342	4,749	
July	1,734	1,470		3,752	6,950		4,422	5,014	
August	1,786	1,455		4,187	5,738		4,231	5,145	
September	1,797	1,425		5,543	5,106		4,317	4,792	
October	1,575	1,278		3,892	6,632		4,303	4,007	
November	1,312	1,864		4,741	4,385		4,089	4,549	
December	1,700	1,421		5,362	4,938		4,509	5,285	
TOTAL	**18,793**	**17,097**	**8,152**	**60,188**	**191,041**	**30,589**	**51,539**	**58,381**	**23,508**

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

Table 3. Export Destination of Activated Carbon from India and Indonesia, January-May 2025

India			Indonesia		
Country of Destination	**Volume (MT)**	**Value (US$ 000)**	**Country of Destination**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value (US$ 000)**
1. OTHERS	6,734	15,420	1. AUSTRALIA	944	2,360
2. U S A	2,554	6,850	2. CHINA	1,719	2,161
3. SRI LANKA DSR	973	3,030	3. JAPAN	2,424	1,691
4. PERU	568	1,720	4. TAIWAN	525	1,002
5. RUSSIA	499	1,590	5. OTHERS	343	661
6. EGYPT A RP	543	1,510	6. SRI LANKA	218	416
7. JAPAN	516	1,210	7. TANZANIA	132	338
8. CHINA P RP	270	1,200	8. UNITED STATES	146	317
9. TURKEY	740	1,170	9. NETHERLANDS	132	261
10. SOUTH AFRICA	331	1,120	10. KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	133	214
11. BELGIUM	381	1,110	11. GERMANY	88	186
Total	**14,110**	**35,930**	**Total**	**6,805**	**9,606**

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

Table 4. US Imports of Coconut Shell Charcoal based Activated Carbon, 2023-2025

Month	2023		2024		2025	
	Volume (MT)	**Value US$'000**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value US$'000**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value US$'000**
January	5,734	11,665	3,633	7,143	5,079	12,579
February	3,258	7,079	3,510	7,933	3,667	9,058
March	4,518	9,630	3,833	9,041	4,837	12,851
April	4,002	8,200	4,502	9,881	4,979	13,192
May	4,181	8,772	4,539	10,352	4,215	10,734
June	4,723	9,238	4,026	9,336	3,896	11,869
July	5,070	8,724	3,406	7,751		
August	4,965	8,294	3,809	8,952		
September	4,098	7,178	3,670	8,816		
October	5,958	11,041	4,386	11,388		
November	4,162	7,438	5,110	11,305		
December	3,628	6,135	4,070	11,216		
Total	**54,297**	**103,392**	**48,495**	**113,114**	**26,672**	**70,283**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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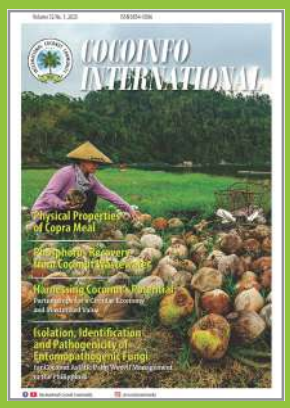

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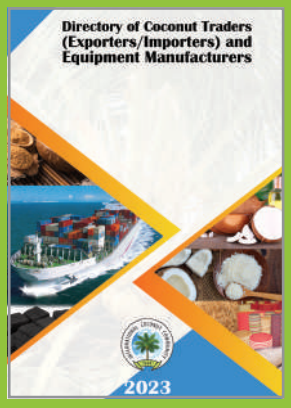

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