



# The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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# COMPLETE ENGINEERING, DESIGN, MANUFACTURING, & INSTALLATION OF PLANTS FOR THE **COCONUT INDUSTRY**



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## THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SPEAKS

***“A Global Ode to the 'Tree of Life': World Coconut Day 2025 Unleashes Power and Inspires Action”***



The world erupted in a vibrant, unified celebration for **World Coconut Day (WCD) 2025**, marking the 1969 establishment of the International Coconut Community (ICC) with a profound commitment to the future of the 'Tree of Life'. Transcending mere appreciation, this year's festivities, held under the resonant global theme, **“Uncovering Coconut’s Power, Inspiring Global Action,”** became a powerful demonstration of the coconut’s dual role as a foundational livelihood and an engine for global resilience.

The ICC, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), successfully **organized** the central global event and an International Workshop, reaffirming its vital role as the only intergovernmental **organization** dedicated solely to the sector. This collaborative effort brought together experts and policymakers to draft a collective roadmap for sustainable development.

The theme found a compelling echo in Sri Lanka, where the pioneering initiative in the **Northern Coconut Triangle** showcased how the coconut palm drives economic empowerment and resilience, proactively addressing the dual challenges of stagnating production and rising global demand through smart agricultural innovation. Simultaneously, the Philippines celebrated its 39<sup>th</sup> National Coconut Week with its theme, *“Niyog: Ginto sa Kabukiran, Hatid ay Kabuhayan, at Sandigan sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan,”* which focused on the heart of the sector: the farmers. Highlights included the Coconut Farmers Welfare Congress, the **Competitiveness and Innovation Gear-up** (CIG) Talk, and a massive **Simultaneous Coconut Planting Activity Nationwide**, collectively championing the industry’s role as a foundation of livelihood for millions and a key contributor to sustainable national development.

The day culminated in a powerful expression of gratitude directed at the true heroes of the global coconut economy. We extend our most profound appreciation to the **Farmers, Processors, Traders, Researchers, and Promoters** who are the pillars of this sector. **To the Farmers:** Your resilient commitment ensures the world is nourished. **To the Processors:** Your ingenuity transforms the humble nut, driving innovation and minimizing waste. **To the Traders:** You are the crucial connectors, ensuring the coconut's benefits reach every consumer globally. **To the Researchers & Scientists:** Your intellectual labor provides the blueprint for climate-resilience and productivity. **To the Promoters:** Your tireless advocacy elevates the coconut's global standing. **To the Governments and International Institutions:** Your strategic vision, policy support, and essential funding lay the foundation for sustainable growth and stability. We recognize that much work remains to be done to improve coconut productivity, fortify the supply chain and get ready for future challenges posed by extreme climate events, pests, diseases, and evolving global markets. Your collective efforts embody the spirit of this Day, transforming the coconut's power into tangible global action for shared prosperity.

**DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW**  
Director General

## PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

***In September 2025, coconut oil prices demonstrated a synchronized varied trend across major producing countries, such as Philippines, Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka. Price of desiccated coconut saw an increase in Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.***

**COPRA:** In September 2025, copra prices in Indonesia rose to US\$ 1,357 per metric ton, up from US\$ 1,344 per metric ton in August, representing a notable year-on-year increase of US\$ 444 per metric ton. The Philippines also recorded an upward trend, with prices increasing from US\$ 1,273 per metric ton in August to US\$ 1,453 per metric ton in September 2025. This level reflects a substantial year-on-year gain of US\$ 615 per metric ton, compared with US\$ 838 per metric ton during the same month last year. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka posted a monthly price increase as well, with copra prices rising from US\$ 1,578 per metric ton in August 2025 to US\$ 1,620 per metric ton in September 2025.

**COCONUT OIL:** In September 2025, coconut oil prices showed a mixed yet broadly aligned movement across India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. In Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price declined to US\$ 2,596 per metric ton, though it still represented a strong 49% year-on-year increase. In the Philippines, the local market price reached US\$ 2,782 per metric ton, reflecting a substantial year-on-year rise of US\$ 1,090. Indonesia recorded a moderate month-on-month increase, with FOB prices rising from US\$ 2,636 per metric ton in August to US\$ 2,661 per metric ton in September 2025, translating to a year-on-year gain of US\$ 990. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka experienced a modest 0.8% month-on-month price increase during the same period.

**COPRA MEAL:** In the Philippines, the average domestic price of copra meal declined to US\$ 159 per metric ton in September 2025, yet still

reflected a year-on-year increase of US\$ 72 per metric ton. Similarly, Indonesia recorded a decrease in its average domestic copra meal price, which fell to US\$ 313 per metric ton in September 2025. Despite the monthly decline, this price remained US\$ 54 per metric ton higher than the level recorded during the same period last year.

**DESICCATED COCONUT:** In September 2025, the average FOB price of desiccated coconut (DC) from the Philippines to the United States rose to US\$ 3,835 per metric ton, reflecting an increase from the previous month. Conversely, the domestic price in the Philippines recorded a slight decline, settling at US\$ 2,039 per metric ton. In Indonesia, FOB prices for desiccated coconut increased to US\$ 2,975 per metric ton, notably higher than the US\$ 2,475 per metric ton recorded in the same period last year. Similarly, Sri Lanka registered an increase in its export desiccated coconut price, which reached US\$ 3,745 per metric ton in September 2025.

**COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL:** In September 2025, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in India declined to US\$ 955 per metric ton, although this still represented a substantial year-on-year increase of US\$ 459 per metric ton. Similarly, Indonesia recorded a price decrease, with the average falling to US\$ 1,029 per metric ton during the same period. In contrast, Sri Lanka experienced a moderate price increase, with coconut shell charcoal reaching US\$ 943 per metric ton in September 2025.

**COIR FIBRE:** In September 2025, Sri Lanka's domestic coir fiber trade recorded an average price of US\$ 113 per metric ton for mixed fiber, while bristle fiber prices ranged between US\$ 563 and US\$ 894 per metric ton. Meanwhile, in Indonesia, the price of mixed raw fiber stood at US\$ 200 per metric ton, reflecting a notable increase from the US\$ 140 per metric ton recorded during the same period last year.

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

Products/Country	2025 Sep	2025 Aug	2024 Sep (Annual Ave.)	2025
<b>Dehusked Coconut</b>				
Philippines (Domestic)	309	256	169	312
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	277	312	224	328
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	791	813	292	776
India (Domestic Kerala)	839	856	504	829
<b>Copra</b>				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	1,453	1,273	838	1,425
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	1,357	1,344	913	1,292
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,620	1,578	1,301	1,722
India (Dom. Kochi)	2,491	2,598	1,409	2,274
<b>Coconut Oil</b>				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	2,596	2,742	1,740	2,508
Philippines (Domestic)	2,782	2,430	1,692	2,653
Indonesia (Domestic)	2,661	2,636	1,671	2,492
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,950	2,927	2,357	2,942
India (Domestic, Kerala)	4,364	4,376	2,283	3,644
<b>Desiccated Coconut</b>				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	3,835	3,718	2,131	3,373
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,040	2,039	2,040
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,745	3,676	2,563	3,859
Indonesia (FOB)	2,975	2,900	2,475	3,136
India (Domestic)	3,389	3,328	2,388	3,195
<b>Copra Meal Exp. Pel.</b>				
Philippines (Domestic)	159	187	87	188
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	316	499	282	398
Indonesia (Domestic)	313	340	259	321
<b>Coconut Shell Charcoal</b>				
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	943	930	449	764
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	1,029	1,043	557	869
India (Domestic)	955	967	496	870
<b>Coir Fibre</b>				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	113	111	63	101
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	563	630	419	528
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	894	882	656	809
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	200	200	140	174
<b>Other Oil</b>				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	2,414	2,264	1,515	2,078
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,038	1,026	983	1,009
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,162	1,245	1,044	1,145

### Exchange Rate

Sep 30, '25

1 US\$ = P58.09 or Rp16,652 or India Rs88.72 or SL Rs302.73

1 Euro = US\$ 1.17 n.q. = no quote



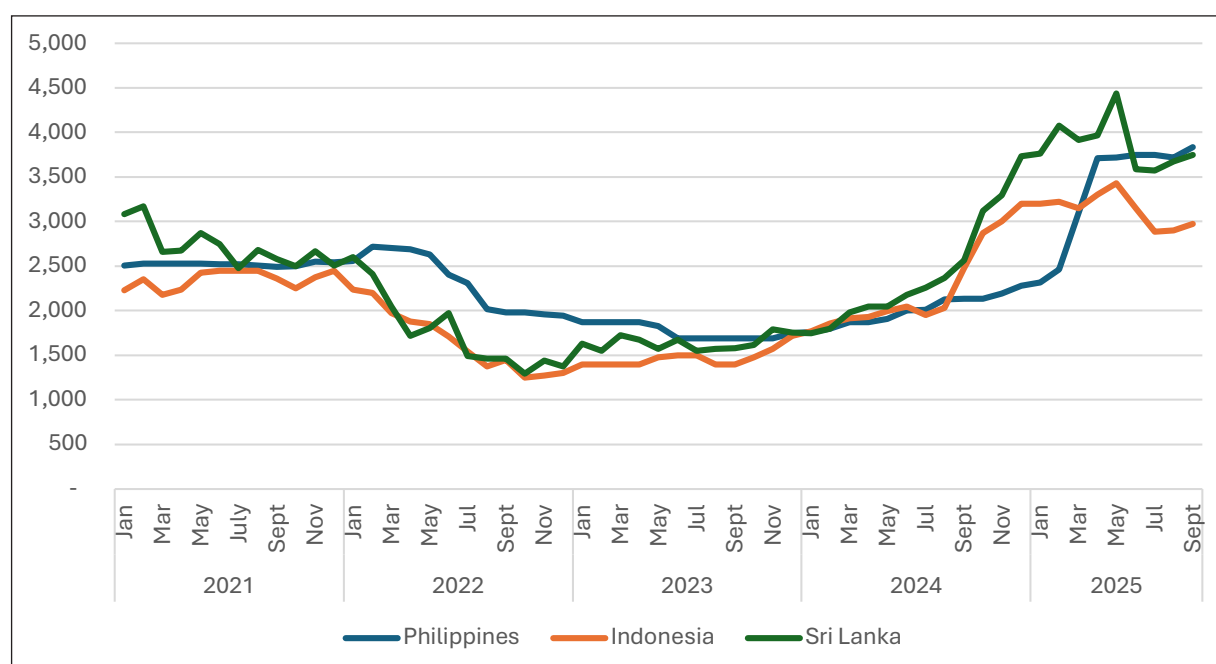
## MARKET REVIEW OF DESICCATED COCONUT

In 2025, prices of desiccated coconut across major producing countries reached record highs, marking the peak of a strong two-year upward trend. The Philippines experienced the most notable surge, with prices climbing steadily from US\$ 2,315/MT in January to US\$ 3,835/MT in September, reflecting tight supply and robust export demand. Sri Lanka continued to command the highest prices among the three countries, peaking at US\$ 4,437/MT in May before moderating to US\$ 3,745/MT by September as supply conditions improved. Indonesia, which entered 2025 with elevated prices at around US\$ 3,200/MT, saw a gradual decline through the year, stabilizing near US\$ 2,975/MT by September due to increased domestic production and softer global demand. Despite these slight corrections, 2025 remained a year of exceptional price strength driven by sustained demand from the global food and confectionery industries and continued pressure from high raw material costs.

This surge represents a significant escalation compared to 2024 and 2023, when prices were relatively moderate and stable. In 2023, average prices ranged between US\$ 1,400–1,800/MT, showing little variation, while 2024 marked the beginning of a strong recovery as tightening coconut supplies and higher copra prices pushed desiccated coconut values upward. By December 2024, prices had already climbed to US\$ 2,278/MT in the Philippines, US\$ 3,200/MT in Indonesia, and US\$ 3,733/MT in Sri Lanka—setting the stage for the sharp escalation observed in 2025. Overall, the 2025 price pattern reflects a transition toward market stabilization after a period of extraordinary gains, with signs that the global desiccated coconut market may be nearing the top of its price cycle as supply improves and importers adjust procurement strategies.

During January–August 2025, both the Philippines and Indonesia experienced a similar

**Figure 1. Monthly Price of Desiccated Coconut (US\$/MT), January 2021- September 2025**



Source: UCAP

trend in the desiccated coconut market—a decline in export volume but a sharp increase in export value, reflecting the global price escalation that characterized the sector in 2025. The Philippines exported 109,425 MT of desiccated coconut, down by 7.1% from 117,769 MT in the same period of 2024, while Indonesia’s export volume fell by 5.8% from 77,536 MT to 73,030 MT. Despite these contractions, export earnings from both countries increased significantly, signaling strong market demand and rising international prices.

The Philippines’ export earnings rose by 72.3%, from US\$ 186.2 million to US\$ 320.8 million, with the average export price nearly doubling to around US\$ 2,935/MT. Indonesia, meanwhile, recorded an even stronger 87.0% surge in export value, from US\$ 105.4 million to US\$ 197.2 million, translating to an average export price of approximately US\$ 2,700/MT. This suggests that both countries benefitted from favorable international prices, although the Philippines maintained its edge in terms of higher average export prices and overall export revenue, confirming its position as the leading global supplier of desiccated coconut.

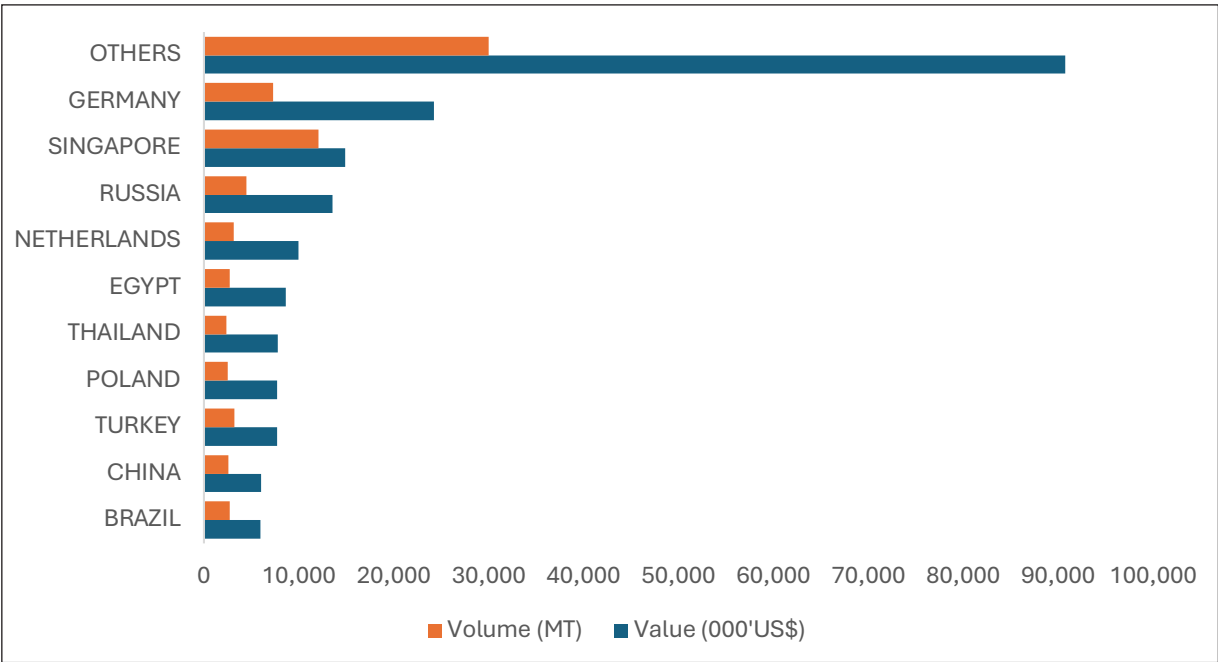
**Table 1. Exports of Desiccated Coconut from Philippines, January-August 2024/2025**

	Jan-Aug 2024	Jan-Aug 2025	%
Volume (MT)	117,769	109,425	-7.1
Value (000'US\$)	186,157	320,819	72.3

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

In terms of destinations, Germany emerged as the largest export market for Indonesia, accounting for US\$ 24.2 million or about 12% of total export value, followed by Singapore (US\$ 14.9 million) and Russia (US\$ 13.5 million). European countries collectively represented a major share of Indonesia’s export earnings, including the Netherlands (US\$ 9.9 million), Poland (US\$ 7.7 million), and Turkey (US\$ 7.7 million), underscoring Europe’s continuing role as a key consumer base for processed coconut products. Outside Europe, significant markets included Egypt (US\$ 8.6 million), Brazil (US\$ 5.9 million), China (US\$ 6.0 million), and Thailand (US\$ 7.8 million). Exports to these destinations reflect Indonesia’s diversified trade footprint across Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

**Figure 2. Export Destinations of Desiccated Coconut from Indonesia, January-August 2025**



Source: UCAP



In Indonesia, the increase in export value was largely driven by price escalation rather than volume growth, as exporters faced challenges in raw material availability and cost competitiveness. The domestic coconut industry continued to experience pressure from strong demand for copra and coconut oil, which diverted part of the raw material supply from the desiccated coconut sector. Additionally, higher domestic prices for fresh coconuts, influenced by competition from the coconut oil industry, constrained production capacity for desiccated coconut processors. Nevertheless, the rise in global prices helped sustain Indonesia's export earnings, mitigating the impact of reduced export volume.

During January–July 2025, global trade in desiccated coconut showed a mixed performance, marked by a sharp divergence between import volumes and values. World import volumes fell by 19.1% to 184,564 MT, reflecting weaker supply availability from major producers and tighter global inventories. However, the total import value surged by nearly

50% to USD 487.3 million, indicating significant price escalation driven by supply constraints, higher production costs, and strong demand in key markets. This pattern suggests that while buyers reduced physical purchases, they faced substantially higher unit prices compared with the same period in 2024.

Major consuming markets such as the EU and the US demonstrated resilience in demand. The EU27 increased its import volume by 12.0% to 58,693 MT and recorded an exceptional 83.7% jump in import value, signaling both stronger consumption and higher price points. Similarly, US import volumes rose modestly by 2.3% to 24,050 MT, yet import values expanded by 71.0%, underscoring intensified price pressure and steady industrial usage in the food, bakery, and confectionery sectors. Overall, the 2025 data indicate that desiccated coconut markets are shifting into a high-value environment driven by tight supply, with advanced economies absorbing price increases more readily than the global average.

**Table 1. Exports of Desiccated Coconut from Philippines, January-August 2024/2025**

Country/Region	Volume (MT)		%	Value (US\$'000)		%
	Jan-Jul 2024	Jan-Jul 2025 <sup>p</sup>		Jan-Jul 2024	Jan-Jul 2025 <sup>p</sup>	
EU27	117,769	109,425	-7.1	105,921	194,605	83.7
US	186,157	320,819	72.3	39,938	68,287	71.0
World	228,242	184,564	-19.1	325,014	487,337	49.9

*p: preliminary figures; Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### ICC ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN THE 39<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL COCONUT WEEK IN MANILA

The International Coconut Community (ICC) actively participated in the 39<sup>th</sup> National Coconut Week (COCOWEEK) celebrations in the Philippines, joining key national stakeholders, industry players, and coconut farmers in a series of activities aimed at promoting innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity in the coconut sector.

One of the highlights of this year's celebration was the 2<sup>nd</sup> COCONUT Philippines Trade Fair, held at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City from August 28 to September 2, 2025. The Trade Fair was officially inaugurated by Secretary Ma. Cristina A. Roque of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), who in her keynote remarks emphasized the crucial role of the coconut industry in rural development, livelihood creation, and enhancing the Philippines' competitiveness in the global market. Secretary Roque encouraged stakeholders to strengthen value-adding initiatives and innovation to unlock greater opportunities in both domestic and international markets.

Representing ICC at the National Coconut Week were Mr. Alit Pirmansah, Market & Statistics Director, and Ms. Maria Widiastuti, Secretary. The ICC delegation took part in the Trade Fair, which showcased an impressive range of coconut-based products and innovations from across the country. The fair not only served as a marketplace for coconut-derived goods but also as a platform for networking and building new partnerships among producers, entrepreneurs, and investors.

Beyond the Trade Fair, the ICC representatives attended the Let's Talk Coconut: Practical Tips from the Experts forum, held on August 28, 2025, at Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall. The forum brought together researchers, academics, and industry professionals to share scientific and

practical knowledge about coconut and its diverse applications. Topics included the nutritional and health benefits of coconut water, the potential of coconut water vinegar fortified with iron, and the science behind medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), which highlighted their role in energy metabolism and wellness. Presentations also tackled the proper use of coconut oil in combination with other vegetable oils for balanced nutrition, and the synergy of coconut and enzymes in supporting health and wellness. The forum concluded with an interactive panel discussion and open forum that allowed participants to directly engage with experts, raising awareness and enhancing understanding of coconut's immense value in both health and industry contexts.

Another major highlight attended by ICC was the Cocolinarya Turismo 2025 Competition, a vibrant culinary event showcasing innovative coconut-based dishes from different regions of the Philippines. The competition underscored the cultural, nutritional, and economic significance of coconut as an ingredient that continues to inspire creativity in the food sector. This year, ICC proudly supported the event as one of its official sponsors, reaffirming its commitment to encouraging value addition, product diversification, and the integration of coconut into modern food and tourism industries.

The 39<sup>th</sup> National Coconut Week, celebrated under the theme "Niyog: Ginto sa Kabukiran, Hatid ay Kabuhayan, at Sandigan sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan," featured a wide array of activities including the Coconut Farmers Welfare Congress, Competitiveness and Innovation Gear-up (CIG) Talk, Field Managers' Meetings, and a Simultaneous Coconut Planting Activity nationwide. These events collectively emphasized the coconut industry's role as a foundation of livelihood for millions of farmers and a key contributor to sustainable development.

Through its active engagement, ICC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Philippines—one of its founding member countries—and to fostering stronger international collaboration for the growth of the global coconut sector.

The organization's presence in the 39<sup>th</sup> National Coconut Week reflects its mission to empower coconut farmers, promote sustainable practices, and advance value addition for greater economic impact across member countries.

With its continued support, ICC stands as a partner in ensuring that the coconut industry remains a source of livelihood, innovation, and progress for communities not only in the Philippines but also in all member countries and across the tropical world. (*ICC News*)

### **LAUNCH OF THE NORTHERN COCONUT TRIANGLE MARKS WORLD COCONUT DAY 2025 IN SRI LANKA**

The International Coconut Community (ICC) joined the Government of Sri Lanka in commemorating World Coconut Day (WCD) 2025, a global celebration highlighting the socio-economic importance of coconut. This year's national event in Sri Lanka was held in Puthukkudiyiruppu, under the patronage of H.E. Anura Kumara Dissanayake, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and coincided with the historic launch of the Northern Coconut Triangle.

The ICC was represented at the celebrations by its Deputy Director General, Mr. A. H. N. Nuwan Chinthaka, who attended on behalf of Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Director General of ICC. During the ceremony, Mr. Chinthaka presented a Plaque of Appreciation on behalf of ICC to the President of Sri Lanka, in recognition of his leadership and commitment to advancing the coconut sector.

#### ***Presidential Vision for Revitalizing the Northern Province***

Addressing the gathering, President Dissanayake emphasized that the government's foremost responsibility is to revitalize the Northern Province and build a stronger, inclusive economy for its people. The President highlighted that the Northern Coconut Triangle Project forms part of a wider strategy to stimulate regional economic growth, attract investment, and

create sustainable livelihoods. Complementary programs, such as the establishment of industrial zones and improved infrastructure, will accompany the project to generate new employment opportunities.

Equally, President Dissanayake reaffirmed the government's dedication to protecting the land, linguistic, and cultural rights of Northern communities, while also ensuring families' right to know the fate of missing persons. He underlined that national unity remains the government's goal, and necessary measures will be taken decisively to secure peace and prosperity for all Sri Lankans.

#### ***The Northern Coconut Triangle Initiative***

The Northern Coconut Triangle was launched in Puthukkudiyiruppu, covering the districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Mannar, and Vavuniya, by linking the towns of Point Pedro, Silawathura, and Kokkilai.

Based on recommendations from the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka (CRI), the initiative has been allocated Rs. 500 million from the national budget to distribute high-yield coconut saplings to farmers and to establish 16,000 acres of new coconut plantations in 2025. The program is expected to expand to 40,000 acres between 2025 and 2027, creating a thriving coconut-based economy in the Northern Province.

Through this effort, the government projects an additional USD 70 million annually in export earnings from coconut and related products, while simultaneously uplifting farming communities in the region. The initiative is seen as a flagship program that will both revitalize underutilized land resources and contribute to the national economy.

#### ***First Coconut Seed Production Unit in the North***

In a symbolic step to mark the beginning of operations, the President also inaugurated the first coconut seed production unit in the Northern Province at Pallai, established in



collaboration between the Coconut Research Institute and the Chilaw Plantations Company.

By planting a seed coconut sapling at the site, the President highlighted the importance of strengthening the supply chain for quality planting material, which remains a key constraint in scaling up coconut cultivation in new areas.

The new production unit will play a pivotal role in ensuring the steady availability of high-quality seed nuts, which will in turn support the success of the Northern Coconut Triangle initiative.

### ***Farmers at the Center of Development***

A significant feature of the celebrations was the presentation of land ownership deeds and government assistance packages to farmers engaged in coconut cultivation across the five Northern districts. This move was welcomed as a concrete sign of the government's commitment to empowering farming families and ensuring that they remain at the center of the sector's revitalization.

The President also toured a coconut-related exhibition organized by the Coconut Development Authority (CDA), which showcased innovations in processing, product diversification, and value addition. The exhibition attracted the participation of local entrepreneurs and industry stakeholders, underscoring the wide-ranging opportunities that coconut can bring to regional development.

### ***ICC's Role and Global Perspective***

World Coconut Day, celebrated annually on 2 September, is coordinated globally by the ICC to mark the establishment of the organization in 1969. Each year, ICC member countries host events under a common theme to showcase the sector's importance.

In 2025, the global theme "*Uncovering Coconut's Power, Inspiring Global Action*" resonates strongly with Sri Lanka's initiative. The Northern Coconut Triangle exemplifies how coconut can serve as

both a driver of economic empowerment and a tool for resilience, while addressing the dual challenges of stagnating production and rising global demand.

### ***Symbol of Collaboration and Hope***

The launch of the Northern Coconut Triangle during WCD 2025 celebrations is more than a development project, it is a symbol of revitalization, reconciliation, and renewed opportunity for Sri Lanka's Northern Province.

By combining government commitment, institutional expertise, and farmer participation, the initiative lays the foundation for long-term sustainability and economic empowerment. For the ICC and its member countries, it also stands as a model of how coconut can be leveraged as a strategic crop to meet rising demand, strengthen resilience, and inspire global action. *(ICC News)*

## **ICC-COGENT WORKSHOP IN INDIA MARKS WORLD COCONUT DAY 2025 WITH A FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT INTERNATIONAL COCONUT GENE BANKS**

The International Coconut Community (ICC), in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), successfully organized the *International Workshop on Strengthening Coconut Genebanks for a Climate Resilient and Sustainable Future* alongside the celebrations of World Coconut Day (WCD) 2025. This year's WCD was observed under the theme "*Uncovering Coconut's Power, Inspiring Global Action.*"

The programme was presided over by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, DDG (Horticultural Sciences), ICAR, New Delhi, while Shri Rajmohan Unnithan, Honorable Member of Parliament, Kasaragod, formally inaugurated the celebrations. In his introductory remarks, Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director of ICAR-CPCRI, highlighted CPCRI's ongoing efforts to achieve sustainable yield and productivity, noting that adoption of scientific

technologies can improve coconut yield by as much as 15%. He cautioned that sudden spikes in price due to production shortages risk adulteration, underscoring the importance of balanced production and consumption.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Director General of ICC, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of coconut genetic resources and the significance of celebrating World Coconut Day. She underlined that global challenges should be met through collaboration rather than competition. Shri Rajmohan Unnithan, MP Kasaragod, highlighted the challenges faced by coconut farmers, including pest pressures and fluctuating prices, and urged that research must be strengthened to address the real needs of the farming community.

In his presidential address, Dr. S. K. Singh emphasized ICAR's vision for strengthening the coconut sector and noted that the participation of representatives from 14 countries underscored the global importance of the event. He encouraged the development of new coconut varieties and products to expand international markets, while also advocating for microbial enrichment and sustainable practices over excessive fertilizer use.

H. E. Ambassador Diar Nurbintoro, Director of the NAM CSSTC, Jakarta, attended as Guest of Honour, calling on participants to work collectively for sustainability and prosperity, with ICC member countries playing a central role. Other dignitaries included Dr. J. Dinakara Adiga, Director, ICAR-DCR, Puttur, who spoke about coconut's cultural significance in India, and Dr. Augustine Jerard, Project Coordinator (Palms), who emphasized the workshop's relevance for climate-resilient breeding. The event also featured the inauguration of exhibition stalls and a sales counter, showcasing coconut-based products and innovations.

The workshop itself brought together over 30 resource speakers and international participants from 14 countries, including Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Brazil, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Malaysia, Jamaica, Australia, Italy,

Germany, France and Thailand, along with representatives of NABARD, state extension officers, entrepreneurs, scientists, farmers, FPOs, and NGOs.

Across four technical sessions and thirteen flash presentations by young researchers, the workshop provided invaluable insights into harmonized and standardized management practices for International and National Coconut Genebanks, the creation of a unified global database, the integration of genomics and AI tools, and improved systems of communication and collaboration. Discussions further emphasized in vitro and cryopreservation methods, forecasting of pest and disease risks, Article 15 agreements under the FAO Plant Treaty, and stronger donor engagement.

The sessions collectively paved the way for the drafting of a roadmap for strengthening coconut genebanks, which will be refined through ITAGs and focal points before being presented to the ICC COGENT Steering Committee and then ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting. The workshop concluded with a unique cultural and technical experience, including a field visit to the International Coconut Genebank for South Asia and the Middle East (ICG-SAME) at Kido, a traditional Onam feast, and a concluding discussion held aboard a houseboat in the Kerala backwaters, combining scientific dialogue with cultural immersion.

The joint celebration of World Coconut Day 2025 and the International Workshop reaffirmed ICC's role as the only intergovernmental organization exclusively dedicated to the coconut sector. It also highlighted India's leadership in conservation and research, and the importance of global collaboration in safeguarding coconut genetic resources for future generations. (*ICC News*)

### **ICC DIRECTOR-GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS POTENTIAL OF COCONUT BIOMASS AT IPB UNIVERSITY FORUM**

On September 9, 2025, Dr. Jelfina Alouw, Director-General of the International Coconut

Community (ICC), actively participated in the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on the Potential for Competitive and Sustainable Utilization of Coconut Biomass, hosted by the Center of Surfactant and Bioenergy, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, IPB University. The forum brought together academia, government representatives, private sector leaders, farmer associations, and international organizations to exchange perspectives on how to maximize the value of coconut biomass in Indonesia.

Dr. Alouw delivered a presentation on the availability of coconut biomass and its utilization in Indonesia, highlighting the significant volumes of by-products such as shells, husks, fiber, and other residues generated from coconut processing. She underscored how these materials—often considered waste—carry substantial potential as raw materials for industries including bioenergy, activated carbon, and eco-friendly products. She further shared a detailed analysis of production data, price trends of coconuts and their derivatives, as well as supply-demand dynamics at both the national and international levels. Her presentation emphasized that the efficient and sustainable use of biomass can increase value addition, enhance farmers' incomes, and contribute to renewable energy development.

The Head of the Center of Surfactant and Bioenergy, Dr. Ir. Meika Syahbana Rusli, MSc.Agr, expressed his appreciation for the presence of ICC and other stakeholders, noting that the FGD was designed to deepen understanding of the integrated coconut industry supply chain and to identify opportunities and challenges in the competitive and sustainable use of coconut biomass.

Private sector contributions provided valuable practical perspectives. Pak Arif from PT. Pulau Sambu presented the company's integrated and sustainable approach to managing the coconut supply chain, while a representative from Charcoal House highlighted global market opportunities and challenges for coconut charcoal. Farmer and industry associations, namely APKI (Indonesian Coconut Farmers

Association) and HIPKI (Indonesian Coconut Processing Industry Association), also contributed their experiences and insights, ensuring that both upstream and downstream voices were represented in the discussion.

The FGD concluded with a strong sense of optimism. Participants agreed on the urgency of implementing Indonesia's newly launched downstreaming roadmap to accelerate the growth of the coconut industry, particularly by adding value through biomass utilization. The collaborative atmosphere of the event reflected a shared vision: to transform coconut biomass into a competitive and sustainable driver of economic growth, environmental resilience, and social development for Indonesia's coconut sector. (*ICC News*)

### **WORLD COCONUT DAY 2025 CELEBRATED GLOBALLY WITH RENEWED COMMITMENT TO A RESILIENT COCONUT SECTOR**

World Coconut Day (WCD) 2025 was celebrated with great enthusiasm and purpose across the globe under the theme "Uncovering Coconut's Power, Inspiring Global Action." The International Coconut Community (ICC), together with its member countries and partners, organized and supported a series of events highlighting the importance of coconut in food security, livelihoods, and climate resilience. From large-scale international workshops to cultural festivities, the commemorations reaffirmed the coconut's role as a "tree of life" and showcased efforts to ensure its sustainable future.

### ***India: International Workshop and National Celebrations***

India served as the global focal point for this year's WCD celebrations, with ICC and the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) jointly hosting the International Workshop on Strengthening Coconut Genebanks for a Climate Resilient and Sustainable Future in Kasaragod, Kerala. The workshop convened over 30 resource speakers and participants



from 14 countries, including H.E. Ambassador Diar Nurbintoro, Director of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC).

The four-day program combined technical sessions with rich cultural experiences. Delegates participated in six scientific sessions and thirteen flash talks by young researchers, covering topics from genebank management to genomics and AI-driven breeding. Key takeaways included the call for harmonized genebank practices, creation of a centralized coconut genetic resources database, updated biosecurity protocols, stronger technical capacity in cryopreservation and tissue culture, and the drafting of a global roadmap for genebank development.

Parallel to the workshop, India's national-level celebrations were inaugurated by Shri Rajmohan Unnithan, Honorable Member of Parliament, Kasaragod, and presided over by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, DDG (Horticultural Sciences), ICAR. In her keynote, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, ICC Director General, emphasized that collaboration, not competition, is key to overcoming global challenges. Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, CPCRI Director, underscored CPCRI's role in sustainable productivity and warned against market distortions caused by sudden price fluctuations. Dignitaries including Dr. J. Dinakara Adiga, Director of ICAR–DCR Puttur, and Dr. Augustine Jerard, Project Coordinator (Palms) highlighted the cultural and economic value of coconut and the need for research-driven solutions.

### ***India (CDB): Export Awards and Revised Schemes***

Alongside the CPCRI-led international events, the Coconut Development Board (CDB), India hosted celebrations at the Adlux Convention Centre, Angamaly. The program was marked by the launch of revised CDB schemes designed to promote integrated coconut development and climate resilience, and the presentation of the Export Excellence Awards recognizing outstanding performance in the coconut industry.

In his inaugural address, Shri M.K. Raghavan, Honorable MP, emphasized the need for product diversification and productivity gains, calling on Kerala farmers to regain their leadership position in coconut cultivation. Dr. Prabhat Kumar, CEO of CDB, highlighted the enhanced subsidies under revised schemes, including a dramatic increase in support for area expansion and seedling production. Shri Suba Nagarajan, CDB Chairman, reiterated the Board's vision of a climate-resilient coconut economy supported by value addition and skill development. Nearly 2,000 participants, including farmers, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders, attended the event, which also featured a technical session on processing, value addition, and marketing. The awards recognized excellence in categories ranging from shell-based products to coconut water and FPO-led exports.

### ***Sri Lanka: Launch of the Northern Coconut Triangle***

In Sri Lanka, ICC's Deputy Director General represented the Director General at the National World Coconut Day celebrations in Jaffna, which were held under the patronage of H.E. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake. The event was marked by the launch of the Northern Coconut Triangle, a transformative initiative spanning five districts—Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Mannar, and Vavuniya. With Rs. 500 million allocated to develop 16,000 acres in 2025 and a target of 40,000 acres by 2027, the program aims to create a thriving coconut industry in the Northern Province.

The President emphasized revitalizing the North's economy, protecting land and cultural rights, and promoting national unity. He also inaugurated the province's first coconut seed production unit at Pallai and handed over ownership deeds to farmers. The ICC presented a plaque of appreciation to the President, acknowledging his leadership and support to the coconut sector.

### ***Philippines: National Coconut Week and Farmer-Led Innovations***

In the Philippines, World Coconut Day coincided with the 39<sup>th</sup> National Coconut Week, organized

by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA). A series of events took place in Manila and across regional research centers, combining technical webinars, technology clinics, exhibitions, and cultural festivities.

The celebrations showcased innovations by coconut farmers and enterprises in processing, product diversification, and sustainability. Farmers' cooperatives and entrepreneurs highlighted new coconut-based products and technologies that address both domestic markets and export opportunities.

During the R&D webinar and technology clinics, experts provided farmers with hands-on guidance on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). PCA leadership emphasized strengthening farmer-entrepreneurship, sustainability, and value chain integration.

The events highlighted the coconut's dual role as both a traditional staple and a modern economic resource, reinforcing the Philippines' status as the world's largest exporter of coconut products.

#### ***Thailand: Celebrations in Surat Thani Province***

In Thailand, the Department of Agriculture through the Horticulture Research Institute and Chumphon Horticultural Research Center organized World Coconut Day celebrations at the Coconut Hybrid Seed Garden, Thachana District, Surat Thani Province. The program, co-organized with regional agricultural extension offices and private sector partners, was inaugurated by Mr. Amnuai Attarungrong, representing the Deputy Director General of the Department of Agriculture.

The event included a forum discussion on the coconut sector's status, future expansion of replanting, and strategies to boost farmer incomes and industrial benefits. Participants from the government, industry, and community organizations discussed ways to expand replanting programs, improve value chains, and secure farmer livelihoods.

#### ***Côte d'Ivoire: Strong Government Commitment to Revitalize the Coconut Sector***

Côte d'Ivoire marked World Coconut Day 2025 with a strong policy announcement by Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Production. Speaking at the celebrations, the Minister announced the extension of the Hevea-Palm Oil Council's mandate to include coconut, in line with a Presidential ordinance issued on 12 February 2025.

He highlighted that the sector has faced significant structural challenges, including a 70% decline in production due to aging plantations and insufficient replanting. The government is determined to reverse this decline by launching large-scale replanting programs, strengthening extension services, attracting private investment, and mobilizing technical and financial partners.

Côte d'Ivoire remains one of Africa's most important coconut producers, with annual revenues exceeding 60 billion FCFA and exports valued at 19.61 billion FCFA in 2024. The Minister reaffirmed the State's vision for a competitive and sustainable coconut sector and emphasized the country's pivotal role in ICC as both a founding member and host of the International Coconut Collection established in 1999.

A roadmap of government actions was presented, including the September 2024 Coconut Revitalization Summit in Abidjan and integration with ICC's global roadmap. The celebrations concluded with a call for unity among stakeholders, greater research investment, and enhanced farmer training to ensure the resilience and competitiveness of the sector.

#### ***Papua New Guinea: Coconut in Independence Celebrations***

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Kokonas Indastri Koporesen (KIK) did not hold a dedicated WCD program but integrated coconut into the nation's 50<sup>th</sup> Independence anniversary celebrations. On 29 August, KIK participated in a celebratory float parade with a coconut-themed

display, winning third place out of 40 entries. The float highlighted the cultural and economic significance of coconut in PNG and served as a symbolic WCD observance.

### ***A Global Celebration with Shared Goals***

World Coconut Day 2025 celebrations across countries highlighted the centrality of coconut to cultural heritage, rural livelihoods, and sustainable development. The diversity of events—from policy-level workshops in India to farmer-led innovations in the Philippines, from national-scale initiatives in Sri Lanka to government-driven revitalization in Côte d'Ivoire—underscored the coconut's role as a unifying crop across continents.

This year's observances not only celebrated the coconut's cultural and economic importance but also advanced a collective roadmap for conservation, climate resilience, and innovation, reaffirming the ICC's mission to unite member countries in strengthening the coconut sector globally. (*ICC News*)

### **SURGING COCONUT EXPORTS SQUEEZE LOCAL PROCESSING INDUSTRY**

According to Amrizal Idroes, deputy chairman of HIPKI, fresh coconut exports in July were valued at over US\$52 million, representing an increase of nearly 150 percent year-over-year (yoy).

He claimed that the majority of the increased output is exported overseas, particularly to China, as raw materials.

Exports of processed coconut products also showed strong growth. Shipments of desiccated coconut rose more than 85 percent to \$32 million, while coconut milk exports climbed to nearly \$36 million, up around 50 percent yoy.

Grated or shredded coconut meat that has been dried is known as desiccated coconut.

However, due to processors' inability to obtain enough of the fruit, shipments of coconut water

concentrate dropped 32% year over year to just \$2 million.

Amrizal noted growing strain on coconut-based sectors and added, "Coconut water processors are running short of supply, because most fresh coconuts have already been exported." (*The Jakarta Post*)

### **THE MTWAPA DEAF WOMEN'S SILENT REVOLUTION: CONVERTING COCONUT WASTE INTO ENVIRONMENTAL GOLD**

In a world increasingly obsessed with noise, where influence is measured in volume and success in decibels, the most groundbreaking conversations are taking place without a single spoken word. In Mtwapa, Kenya, where waste coconut leaves are being transformed into environmental solutions and women who were previously invisible are redefining the future of sustainable agriculture, a silent alchemy is occurring while the media focus follows the loudest voices. Here, a circle of deaf ladies sits under the whisper of coconut palms, their hands moving with deliberate practice. They aren't making gifts for visitors or weaving baskets for décor; instead, one biodegradable seedling bag at a time, they are creating an environmentally friendly alternative to a global plastic crisis.

For a long time, Mtwapa has been well-known for its vibrant nightlife, with numerous bars, clubs, and restaurants that attract both locals and tourists. But beyond the nightlife and noise, in these quieter corners, something extraordinary is taking root. This group of deaf women is proving that disability is not a limitation by not only creating employment opportunities but also championing environmental conservation. They are crafting biodegradable seedling bags from coconut leaves and, in the process, challenging environmental norms, breaking down social exclusion, and reshaping gender roles in a space that has historically overlooked them.

At the center of this subtle metamorphosis is Akali Kyalo, a sign language interpreter, mother, craftswoman, and improbable change agent.



Her efforts, and those of the women she works with, are assisting in redefining environmental conservation as a very human narrative that upholds dignity, resiliency, and inclusivity rather than merely as a scientific or financial imperative. She started her journey out of curiosity regarding the deaf population living in isolation around her, rather than for lofty environmental goals. She recalls that she first encountered sign language in 2018, driven by a desire to connect with the often isolated deaf community. Over time, she has trained, volunteered, and slowly become a bridge between two worlds. Today, seven years on, what began as personal curiosity has evolved into a calling as she leads a pioneering group of deaf artisans—the first deaf employees officially recognized at the local quarry.

The project is powered by a group of deaf artisans working under the Deaf Association banner. Their core product is biodegradable seedling bags made entirely from discarded coconut leaves. These eco-bags serve as a sustainable alternative to plastic polythene, which has long been known for clogging Kenya's rivers, choking soils, and contributing to long-term land degradation. Akali explains that this eco-friendly alternative offers farmers a sustainable option that aligns with global efforts to combat plastic pollution and soil degradation. The idea for these bags was introduced years ago in Mtwapa by Gabriel Sindani, a Congolese innovator living in Mozambique, whose environmental vision inspired Akali and her team to embrace the initiative. His foresight planted a seed that would grow into something much larger than anyone could have predicted.

The process begins with the gathering of coconut leaves, which are plentiful in the coastal area. Harvesting is the first step, followed by the leaves being painstakingly sorted, softened, and meticulously woven into square bags made especially for planting seedlings. Unlike conventional polythene bags, these do not need to be removed before planting. Instead, they naturally break down in the soil, serving as organic manure that improves the soil and promotes the growth of healthy plants. The invention is both sophisticated and practical.

Akali describes it as a circular solution because they are not only protecting the seedlings but also feeding the soil, giving back what they take.

The statistics speak for themselves in terms of commitment and influence. The team makes an average of fifteen bags a day, a labor-intensive procedure that requires perseverance, skill, and steadfast dedication. Employees earn Sh440 a day, while Akali, acting as both coordinator and interpreter, earns Sh670. For many of the women, this is their first taste of economic freedom and their first official job. However, the effects extend much beyond the monetary. The project is a ray of hope in a nation where over 2.5 million people have hearing problems and deaf women frequently experience exacerbated discrimination.

When national statistics are considered, the significance of this work is further enhanced. According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, there are approximately 153,381 deaf individuals aged five years and above in the country. A significant majority reside in rural areas, while a smaller portion lives in urban centers. This data provides a baseline but likely underrepresents the full extent of hearing impairment, as it only accounts for those officially identified as deaf and excludes those with partial or moderate hearing loss. Estimates from advocacy and health organizations suggest a much greater number; the Kenya Society for Deaf Children suggests over three million people, or 6.3% of the population, may have hearing loss. The Kenya National Association of the Deaf (KNAD) estimates approximately 5.5% of the population is deaf or has hearing loss. These figures indicate that a sizable section of Kenyans live with hearing-related difficulties, even if data is not always consistent.

Akali notes that many of these women were told they couldn't work, learn, or lead, but at the workshop, they are doing all three. The transformation is visible in every gesture and shared glance. Each woman contributes uniquely, with some focusing on harvesting while others weave or graft seedlings. The division of labor flows naturally from mutual understanding.

Akali observes that communication flows through sign language and gestures where they have built their own rhythm, listening to each other even without hearing. Individual stories of transformation are compelling. Kadzo Karisa joined the project after years of staying home due to a lack of inclusive job opportunities; she now mentors newcomers. Veronica Muthoni, a mother of two, balances child-rearing with her work, noting that the routine has brought her self-worth and made her feel needed. The consistent bi-weekly pay enables them to save and plan for their families, fostering identity and emotional stability.

Despite these achievements, significant problems remain, primarily regarding communication. For this group, communication is a barrier impacting both their immediate work and their integration into broader society. According to the World Federation of the Deaf, Kenya has fewer than 500 certified interpreters for a population of over 2.5 million people with hearing impairments. This scarcity creates ripple effects, limiting access to education, healthcare, and legal support. Dr. Gertrude Musuruve Inimah, a former senator and lecturer at JKUAT, explains that deaf women in Kenya face unique, layered challenges. They experience double discrimination—for being women and for having a disability. Major barriers to education and a shortage of interpreters lead many to drop out early. Even those who complete their education struggle to find employment, as most workplaces are unwilling to accommodate them.

Back at the workshop, the seedling bags provide a sustainable solution to Kenya's plastic issue. The National Environment Management Authority (Nema) notes that agricultural polythene contributes to over 20,000 tonnes of plastic trash annually. Much of this waste ends up in the Indian Ocean, endangering coral reefs and marine life. A 2022 survey by the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) found that over 70 percent of waste collected during coastal clean-ups was plastic. Kevin Lunzalu, a marine ecologist, explains that plastic pollution threatens marine biodiversity and hurts fisheries, impacting food

security and local livelihoods, while littered beaches drive tourists away.

In the face of this environmental crisis, the biodegradable bags offer hope. They are locally sourced, low-cost, and low-carbon, embodying the principles of a circular economy. Kevin suggests that if adopted widely, they could revolutionize the agricultural sector. The Mtwapa program aligns with global initiatives addressing social inclusion and sustainability. UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebecca Grynspan emphasizes that biodegradable alternatives are viable substitutes for single-use plastics. Organizations like UN Women have long highlighted that women in the Global South are powerful drivers of change. This perspective transforms the Mtwapa project from a local initiative into a model for inclusive climate action.

Scaling up will require investment and policy support. Akali emphasizes the need for recognition and resources to replicate the project across the country. However, significant obstacles exist, including a lack of funds to expand operations or reach new markets. Without robust institutional backing, their work risks being ignored despite supporting national environmental goals. Nevertheless, Akali and her team hope to establish a nationwide cooperative run by deaf women to provide eco-friendly packaging across East Africa. Their idea demonstrates how local ingenuity can address global concerns.

Gertrude continues to advocate for systemic change, proposing legislation to officially recognize Kenyan Sign Language and improve inclusive education and employment policies. She asserts that changing the lives of deaf women requires investing in systems that support their full participation. Meanwhile, the group's stories continue to unfold with quiet strength. Kadzo teaches newcomers with patience, Veronica balances parenthood with skilled labor, and Akali leads one of the area's most creative green initiatives. Their effort is living evidence that the marginalized must be included in environmental justice. Akali maintains that sustainability and social inclusion go hand in hand, and that empowerment can come in silence. Yet challenges persist; Gertrude notes that few employers hire

deaf women, and some individuals are hired only to meet quotas without real inclusion. Akali sees the Mtwapa project as a beginning, calling for the government and private sector to invest in inclusive infrastructure. Her message to policymakers remains direct: "Give us tools, not pity." (*Daily Nation*)

### **WITH INCREASING EXPORTS TO CHINA, VIETNAM'S COCONUT FARMERS THRIVE**

Coconut farmers and exporters in Vinh Long province are celebrating a long-awaited economic triumph as fresh coconuts have been legally sold to China, with the sound of coconut processing gear reverberating throughout the southern countryside of Vietnam.

The first official authorization for fresh Vietnamese coconuts to enter the Chinese market was granted in August 2024 when China and Vietnam inked an agreement for exporting the fruit to China.

Nguyen Cong Tuan, a local farmer in Vinh Long province, believes that his everyday life is being drastically altered by the expanding coconut export route to China.

"Before exporting coconuts to China, I used to harvest about 1,000 to 1,500 coconuts a day and sometimes rested the whole day after," said Tuan, adding that he now cuts 3,000 to 4,000 coconuts daily and works every single day.

The increase in work means that his income is also higher.

"My income has increased by 300,000 to 400,000 Vietnamese dong (about 11 to 15 U.S. dollars) per day," Tuan said, noting that his earnings can now reach 1 million dong (about 38 dollars) per day.

Before exports to China opened officially, his coconuts were mainly shipped north to Hanoi and other domestic markets, but leftover coconuts often dried up and went to waste.

"Now, I can harvest continuously. It's much more convenient for my business," he said.

Le Minh Duc Khoa, chairman of KK Premium, a coconut processing and exporting company that started operations earlier this year, emphasized the central role the Chinese market plays in the company's strategy, with 99 percent of its coconut exports going to China.

For the Hung Thinh Phat Agricultural Cooperative, an economic model linking farmers and businesses, the official export of coconuts to China marks a major milestone.

"Since partnering with KK Premium for export to China, having access to official trade channels has stabilized incomes for our farmers," said Nguyen Trung Quy, director of the cooperative.

Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment reports that the country grows coconuts on more than 200,000 hectares, yielding about 2.28 million tons annually.

Vietnamese farmers and exporters are increasingly confident about sending coconuts to the Chinese market because of standardized procedures that streamline logistics, particularly through rail and cross-border agreements.

Under the shade of a coconut palm, Tuan grinned and added, "The garden owners are happy too because they sell out their crop at good prices when I can export coconuts." (*Xinhua*)

### **"WE EXPANDED OUR OPERATIONS IN SRI LANKA WITH A NEW COCONUT HUSK PROCESSING AND DRYING PLANT"**

With the opening of a new coconut husk processing and drying plant, Pelemix recently announced the expansion of its operations in Sri Lanka. "This strategic investment is bolstering the company's vertical integration and is the first step in a broader plan to develop similar initiatives and enhance Pelemix's ability to offer high quality, sustainable growing media

to professional growers around the world," said Pelemix.

"The new facility will allow Pelemix to ensure a stable and consistent supply of coconut raw material, improve quality control and increase efficiency in the production chain. With this expansion of its local presence, Pelemix confirms Sri Lanka's role as a key part of its global supply network."

"This expansion marks another milestone in our commitment to innovation, sustainability and supply reliability," said Maninder Bakshi, Vice President of Global Operations at Pelemix. "By investing in processing and drying capacity at source in Sri Lanka, we are strengthening our vertical integration and ensuring that Pelemix producers around the world have access to high quality substrates that deliver consistent results."

Pelemix CEO Tal Brod said: "Pelemix customers around the world, including growers of vegetables, soft fruit, flowers and other horticultural crops, will benefit from a more resilient supply chain, faster response times and increased product availability. This expansion fits in with Pelemix's long-term strategy of growing in key coconut growing regions and further establishing itself as a trusted partner to its customers globally." (*Horti Daily*)

### **ON SEPTEMBER 2, CIB COMMEMORATES WORLD COCONUT DAY WITH GIVEAWAYS TO CONSUMERS**

The Coconut Industry Board (CIB) will give out 100 seedlings and fertilizer to the first 100 customers who make purchases at the Coconut Shop, which is situated at 18 Waterloo Road in Kingston, in honor of World Coconut Day on Tuesday, September 2.

The celebration brings attention to the economic and livelihood benefits that coconuts provide to communities all across the world.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Shaun Cameron, says the CIB will observe the day under the theme 'Seeding for the Future'.

"Coconut contributes to a lot of countries and industries. It's the livelihood for a lot of countries, especially in the Pacific Region. Jamaica is one of those fortunate countries; from in the 1930s, we have been in the coconut business and it's a staple of our culture," he told JIS News.

The CEO noted that coconuts remain a highly versatile crop, with every part of the plant being usable, making it a sustainable resource for agro-processors and everyday Jamaicans alike.

"While growing up, I was told that we used to bury our 'navel string' under a coconut tree as part of our heritage. Those of us who grew with coconut brushes, used them to clean the floor and I remember using coconut branches to sweep the yard. Rice and peas isn't rice and peas without coconut milk, and our coconut water is one of the best tasting in the world," he shared.

Mr. Cameron noted that the CIB "wanted to maintain that attachment to the heritage of Jamaica, the culture of Jamaica and maintain our coconut sector".

"That's why we're celebrating by providing our customers who support our coconut shop business with something that focuses on our theme of seeding for the future," he said.

Mr. Cameron said customers will receive instructional pamphlets outlining proper techniques for planting coconut trees.

"We thought it important to make sure that we interact with our customers and provide them with something that speaks to seeding for the future," he added.

Mr. Cameron is encouraging members of the public to visit the Coconut Shop, which will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and enjoy its special offerings.



"If you want authentic, properly prepared coconut products, you always come to the reputable place, which is the Coconut Industry Board's Coconut Shop. We take pride in our fresh coconut water that is purchased from our local coconut farmers, no preservatives, no additives. We have our bakery on spot that gives you some of the best tasting coconut products, along with our cottage industry partners whom we purchase our products from and sell to you, our beloved customers," he said. *(Jamaican Information Service)*

### **KARNATAKA: ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, CHAMARAJANAGAR APMC MAY SOON HOST A TENDER COCONUT MARKET**

Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Nag has encouraged coconut farmers in the district to use expert guidance to increase the value of coconut cultivation, which she described as both economically and nutritionally beneficial, even as plans are underway to establish a tender coconut market in Chamarajanagar, Karnataka.

Ms. Nag inaugurated a seminar on 'Integrated Management of Major Pests and Diseases in Coconut' in Chamarajanagar on Tuesday, organised jointly by the district administration, Department of Horticulture, Haradanahalli Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mysuru College of Horticulture, and Chamarajanagar Taluk Coconut Growers' Cooperative Society, on the occasion of World Coconut Day.

Referring to the significance of the crop, she said that Karnataka cultivates coconuts on 7 lakh hectares, ranking second in the country. Tumakuru, Hassan, Chitradurga, and Chamarajanagar are the major coconut-producing districts in the State; however, as much of the produce is sold outside the State, farmers are losing out on direct profits, Ms. Nag stated.

"Coconut is a 'kalpavriksha'. From rituals to food preparation, every part of it is useful. Tender coconut water is a natural health booster, and demand for cold-pressed coconut oil is rising. Plans are on to set up a tender coconut market

in the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC)," she said, adding that the use of coconut oil helps reduce cholesterol.

In addition to emphasizing the importance of farmers using government schemes, loans, and subsidies, the Deputy Commissioner also called for the use of Krishi Sakhis and Pashu Sakhis' services to disseminate information at the village level.

She also discussed emerging diseases that are being surveyed, such as the infestation of black-headed caterpillars.

According to A.M. Mahesh Prabhu, president of the Chamarajanagar Taluk Coconut Growers' Cooperative Society, coconut is a perennial crop that provides farmers with steady revenue for many generations.

"Nearly 130 byproducts can be derived from coconuts, and cooperatives are working on value addition for sustainable growth," he said.

Experts, farmer leaders, and Zilla Panchayat CEO Mona Roth were in present. Technical sessions and interactions followed after the first event. *(The Hindu)*

### **PCA'S MEDICAL AND HEALTH PROGRAMS ASSIST COCONUT FARMERS**

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) offered a number of programs that benefited coconut farmers in this region.

Over a hundred coconut farmers in the province received free health and medical help from PCA during the 39<sup>th</sup> National Coconut Week.

Likewise, PCA Capiz held a forum about the "Kalubihan sa Kamaisan" Project and the Coconut Farmers Health and Medical Program, which operates under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act (CFITF) or Republic Act No. 11524.

RA 11524 aims to reform the coconut industry, with efficient use of the trust fund in accordance with the Coconut Farmers and Industry

Development Plan (CFIDP) for the benefit of 2.5 million coconut farmers and their families.

"If you are a registered coconut farmer under the National Coconut Farmers Registry System, you have the privilege to receive assistance in case you are hospitalized, as some expenses will be shouldered by the PCA, along with free medicine," PCA Provincial Coconut Development Manager Andy Laurilla noted.

Registered farmers listed under the National Coconut Farmers Registry System are eligible to receive assistance under this program. If hospitalized, these farmers can have some of their expenses covered by the PCA, and they are also entitled to free medicines.

According to PCA information officer Engineer Erica Dodondon, the province will see the commencement of the "Kalubihan sa Kamaisan" project and the Health and Medical program under the CFIDP this year.

In addition to the event, Dodondon stated that the PCA and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) collaborated on the Coco Bazaar cum Agraryo Trade Fair 2025, which showcased agraryo products, coconut-based products, and other local offerings.

Laurilla went on to say that PCA and DTI's collaboration underscores their shared commitment to empowering coconut farmers and strengthening the coconut sector for rural development and sustainable growth. *(Philippine Information Agency)*

## **AT THE TRADE FAIR, DTI EXHIBITS SOROGON'S COCONUT PRODUCTS**

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) hosted the GoConut Trade Fair at Mandaluyong City's Grand Atrium of Shangri-La Plaza, where at least 27 entrepreneurs from this province displayed their coconut-based products.

The August 28–31 trade show gave entrepreneurs a chance to showcase Sorsogon's

best coconut products in four main categories: cuisine and delicacies, fashion and handicrafts, wellness and beauty, and the creative sector.

Coconut pili jam, ginataang santol, macaroons, vinegar, coco sugar, buko pies and tarts, conserva de pili, and other Sorsoganon coconut products were among the many coconut-based foods and treats that attendees and purchasers found at the event.

In the handicrafts and fashion area, guests discovered a variety of items made from coconut and other local resources that highlight the craftsmanship of the region, including bags, woven products, ornaments, baskets, Christmas décor, accessories, caps, slippers, and packaging materials.

Additionally, a number of wellness and beauty products were highlighted, including botanical soaps, bath oils, lip balms, herbal medicines, virgin coconut oil, and other basic necessities for skincare that contain coconut.

With sculptures, coconut-inspired apparel designs, and other innovative products that showcased the province's inventiveness, the creative sector also made a significant impression.

According to Ma. Lourdes Pancho, the DTI director for Sorsogon, the trade show brought in P1.9 million in booked orders and P1.5 million in cash transactions throughout the four days.

"Our main goal here is to generate orders, especially from Manila-based buyers. I truly believe that this trade fair is the best avenue to promote our products because if we only rely on the Sorsogon market, it will remain very limited. That's why we need to bring our products outside Sorsogon, particularly to Manila, where the buyers, exporters, and big distributors are," Pancho emphasized.

She emphasized that ongoing orders are essential to ensure that micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) do not run out of opportunities. This continuity allows their

workers and families to maintain a stable source of livelihood that can truly sustain them.

Katherine Espedido from Lovehandcrafted Shop in Balogo, Sorsogon, one of the participating MSMEs, mentioned that the Manila market has opened up new opportunities for them and strengthened their connections with buyers.

“We were almost sold out, and at the same time, we also received purchase orders and international inquiries. This has truly been a big help for us,” Espedido shared.

Her store specializes in making Christmas ornaments and decorations out of local materials including karagomoy, pandan, buri (palm), coir, and coconut shells. In addition to generating sales, her endeavor created new supplier networks and generated valuable feedback from customers that will assist in the further development of her business.

She said that she has been able to better understand the wants, preferences, and dislikes of her customers thanks to their comments, which has been quite useful. She has been able to interact with other MSMEs and possible suppliers thanks to this information, which has also given her insightful knowledge and benchmarking opportunities.

Meanwhile, Dominga Teresa Garcia Yoo of Bahi Enterprises in Gubat, Sorsogon, another participating MSME, shared that their cocopili jam, ginataang santol, coconut vinegar, and macaroons have become bestsellers at Shangri-La Plaza.

“This has greatly helped us because our coconut products were given a venue for a bigger market, not just in Manila but with the possibility of reaching other countries as well. If that happens, it will be easier for us to fulfill our mission as entrepreneurs—to work hand in hand with our farmers and coconut growers so they can earn a better income in the coming years,” Yoo narrated.

She stated that through the event MSMEs like hers were able to support coconut farmers by demonstrating how every part of the coconut can be converted into value-added products.

Both exhibitors expressed their gratitude to DTI Sorsogon for their commitment to organizing the trade fair.

“The DTI service is above and beyond. We really feel their concern for MSMEs,” Espedido said.

“If not for DTI and their hard work, this kind of opportunity would not have been possible for us,” Yoo added. *(Philippine Information Agency)*

## **DOST IMPROVES WOMEN'S LIVES IN AURORA THROUGH COCONUT INNOVATION**

By offering training in coconut processing skills, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is increasing the financial opportunities available to the women of Casiguran, Aurora.

Ten Casiguran Women's Federation members received training for producing value-added products such as desiccated coconut, coconut flour, and snacks made from coconut as part of the Community Empowerment via Science and Technology program.

DOST Aurora Science and Research Specialist Regine Maines-Agumboy said the training aims to build the women's capacity so they can continuously access sustainable livelihood opportunities.

“The initiative recognizes the importance of coconut as one of Aurora's major products, noting its vital role in the local economy since farmers and communities in Casiguran serve as the main sources of raw materials,” Agumboy explained.

DOST collaborated with Central Luzon State University and Action Hubs Philippines to provide quality assessments, market access, entrepreneurship support, and technical

guidance on post-harvest handling and best practices for agriculture in order to continue the initiative.

In order to provide women entrepreneurs with reliable market possibilities and technical capacity, Action Hubs has pledged to buy locally produced raw materials at fair market pricing as part of this collaboration.

“By providing women with equal opportunities and access to modern technology, knowledge, and training, we empower them to become active participants in livelihood and science-based programs, thereby contributing to sustainable and inclusive growth,” Agumboy pressed.

She added that in order to increase access to livelihood skills and support community enterprises, similar training might be replicated in other towns and across Aurora's women's groups.

In order to make sure that innovations directly address the needs of grassroots communities, DOST intends to broaden its livelihood, education, environment, and disaster resilience programs in the future.

In addition to increasing the participation of women in local development, these programs support the government's overarching objective to promote inclusive growth and innovation-driven national advancement. *(Philippine Information Agency)*

## TRADE NEWS

### INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Tropical oils prices showed better levels this week, especially in the nearby positions.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market remained untraded with buying support still lacking. Markets this week opened mixed with quotes

elevated for nearby positions and forwards lower. Level stood at \$2,450-2,600/MT CIF for positions from September/October through to February/March 2026. Values further advanced but returned to the downside later during the week for the nearby, succumbing to palm oil weakness, while staying firmer for the remaining positions. At the close, prices stood at \$2,492.50-2,590.00/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market resumed calmness after trading last week at \$1,960/MT CIF. Opening sellers likewise quoted higher at \$2,075-2,490/MT CIF for positions from September/October through to January/February 2026. Nearby position was the most active with buying interests openly reported while the rest continued to have watching buyers just like coconut oil. The market closed at \$2,125-2,480/MT CIF.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil showed spreads have contracted in the earlier positions while improving starting in the year-end positions, when compared with respective levels a week ago. While it still showed coconut oil at discounts in the early 2026 positions, the spreads were narrower from week-ago, thus the weekly average improved to \$232.17/MT from \$211.93 last week. Two weeks ago, the figure was higher at \$297.09. The development has been shown in the following price premium/discounts per position: August/September no data (\$596.70 last week); September/October \$520.70 (\$585.10); October/November \$472.10 (\$561.00); November/December \$385 (\$188.50); December/January 2026 \$24.50 (-\$4.00); January/February -\$2.25 (-\$23.00); February/March -\$7.45 (-\$36.00).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures were firmer initially as traders await the US government harvest estimate due later this week and on weak US dollar. However, losses followed in the absence of Chinese buyers, a major US buyer of beans, as trade tensions between the US and China continue. Towards the weekend, however, the market bounced



back up ahead of the USDA WASDE report and on short covering. The USDA report showed slightly higher figure in August, but this was below 2024.

At the palm oil section, the market was for the most part this week softer. It started off on higher grounds, supported by weak output and expectations of lower growth in the near term. However, prices after that went downward, mainly influenced by lower CBOT soybean oil. The market ended the week downside amid expectations of seasonally high production.

Prices of tropical oils for the nearest forward shipment continued to show improvement from last week. Coconut oil, however, was the least moved, inching a shade higher by \$0.60 from \$2,589.10 last week to \$2,589.70/MT in the current week. Palm kernel oil led the charge with increment of \$74.00 from \$2,004 to \$2,078/MT, followed by palm oil with increment of \$37.00 from \$1,227 to \$1,264/MT. Thus, the price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil contracted from last week at \$585.10 to \$511.70/MT presently while advantage over palm oil widened from \$1,362.10 to \$1,325.70/MT. (UCAP Bulletin)

## MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam, the coconut oil market remained a dull affair. Prices tracked mostly higher and closed with offers at \$2,590 for September/October; \$2,563.50 for October/November; \$2,550 for November/December; \$2,530 for December/January 2026; \$2,510 for January/February; \$2,492.50 for February/March; \$2,480 for March/April; \$2,470 for April/May; \$2,460 for May/June; and \$2,450/ MT CIF for June/July. Buyers were silent. (UCAP Bulletin)

## VIETNAM'S COCONUT INDUSTRY TARGETS \$1.15 BLN IN EXPORT VALUE

Vietnam's coconut export revenue in 2025 is forecast to reach as much as \$1.15 billion,

securing the country's position among the world's top five coconut exporters.

If the coconut business concentrates on creating sustainable value chains, modernizing production, and standardizing raw material areas, it has a lot of promise for a breakthrough in the future.

In H1, exports of the four main product groups in the sector generated over \$520 million, a more than 20% rise over the same period in the previous year, according to Cao Ba Dang Khoa, general secretary of the Vietnam Coconut Association.

Fresh coconuts, frozen coconut milk, crude coconut oil, coconut-based cuisine and cosmetics, handicrafts, and agricultural byproducts are some of these main product categories. Given that exports usually increase the fastest in the second half of the year, this achievement is very encouraging.

Achieving such momentum early on signals favourable prospects for the industry throughout 2025. In addition to export growth, the value of coconuts in Vietnam has also seen a remarkable leap.

In 2023, coconuts at farm-gate prices fetched around VND5,000 (\$0.19) each, but by the third quarter of 2025, this has risen to VND15,000. Nonetheless, this still trails behind international market levels.

Vietnam's coconut industry needs to shift toward sustainable growth in order to realize the full market potential of the sector. Eco-friendly cultivation methods, climate resilience, and emissions reduction will be vital in the coming phase.

Khoa underlined the urgent need to improve training for farmers and laborers and to create a more robust legal framework, which would include outlawing harmful plant protection chemicals.

On the business side, greater automation in processing and the application of artificial

intelligence in production management are required to boost transparency and ensure food safety.

A key matter lies in product traceability and the creation of digital maps of coconut-growing regions, he added.

The cooperative model is the key to increasing export capacity, according to Tran Minh Hai, vice rector of the Institute for Public Policy and Rural Development. Areas between 30 and 50 hectares are increasingly being used for large-scale growing coconuts in the Southeast and Central Highlands. Official planting area codes are starting to be assigned to these zones, allowing for a steady supply for exports.

The approval of six more planting locations and packaging facility codes for An Giang province by China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) was a significant development.

This action also makes it easier for fresh Vietnamese coconuts to enter the sizable Chinese market, which now makes up 30–35% of Vietnam's total coconut export revenue. (*The Investor*)

## OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

### UNILEVER POWERS THE PALM OIL REFINERY WITH BIOMETHANE FROM PALM WASTE

On September 4, Oils & Fats International reported that Unilever, a major consumer products company, was using biomethane from palm oil mill effluent (POME) to power its palm oil refinery in Indonesia. The company stated that it was working directly with farmers and mills to bring a large portion of its palm oil refining in-house, avoiding traditional middlemen, in an effort to make its palm oil supply chain more transparent and traceable.

Unilever Oleochemical Indonesia (UOI), the company's palm oil processing plant in Sei

Mangkei, North Sumatra, has been expanded as part of that initiative. However, after the expansion, the facility became Unilever's largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

To meet its target of reducing the company's global Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 100% by 2030 (compared to 2015), Unilever said it had taken steps to shift towards thermal renewable energy and had started replacing the natural gas used at UOI with POME-based biomethane, sourced from two nearby mills. The company said it expected to source over 800,000 MMBtu/annum of biomethane at UOI, to meet almost a quarter of its energy needs by 2030. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO REVIVE OIL PALM INDUSTRY

According to a September 9 PNG Post-Courier article, government representatives are laying out strategic measures to fortify the oil palm industry and guarantee its long-term viability, putting Papua New Guinea (PNG) in a position to revive it. Francis Maneke, the Oil Palm Minister, unveiled the idea at the UPNG Drill Hall, alongside key stakeholders.

He underlined how important this industry is to driving the national economy and improving rural community standard of living. He claimed that for more than 50 years, the oil palm industry has played a vital role in PNG's agricultural landscape. He underlined that PNG's oil palm sector is progressively embracing environmentally friendly practices such as those promoted by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA CHANGES TO LOCALLY PRODUCED, CLEAN ENERGY

A significant turning point in Papua New Guinea's shift to clean, locally produced energy has been reached with the Pacific Adventist University's (PAU) groundbreaking biodiesel project, which is now in its third phase.

The project converts used cooking oil into ecologically friendly biodiesel under the direction of Ms. Linta Qalopul, a lecturer at the PAU's School of Science and Technology, providing a sustainable alternative fossil fuel while addressing the growing problem of waste oil disposal. The initiative has progressed from laboratory research to full-scale production. It currently collects waste oil from households, school messes, and catering facilities, yielding biodiesel that can run on any standard diesel engine, including trucks, generators, and irrigation pumps without modification.

The biodiesel will be put through a performance examination in real trucks as the project moves into its critical testing phase. According to Ms. Qalopul, the objective is to work with the National Energy Authority to promote future commercialization and complete national fuel standards with the National Institute of Standards and Industrial Technology (NISIT). (*UCAP Bulletin*)

## HEALTH NEWS

### CAN WRINKLES BE RIDDEN FROM COCONUT OIL? DERMS GROW IN SIZE

You've probably seen at least a few videos promoting the advantages of coconut oil if you fall for beauty Tok. According to some, it may nourish hair, whiten teeth, improve vaginal health, and even be used as a shaving cream. Using the social networking platform to treat wrinkles is one of its more well-liked uses.

But can fine lines actually be improved by the cooking ingredient? We consulted two dermatologists to find out. See below for their thoughts.

#### ***Can wrinkles be eliminated using coconut oil?***

First of all, wrinkles cannot be totally eliminated by topical treatments, though there are some products that can lessen their appearance over

time and others that work temporarily to smooth them. Coconut oil falls in the latter category. "It can temporarily improve skin hydration and give the appearance of smoother skin, but it does not target the deeper causes of wrinkles such as collagen loss or sun damage," says Dr. Noah Gratch, a board-certified dermatologist at MDCS in New York. "Some people also enjoy the glow it gives the skin."

That said, the hydration benefits are real. "Coconut oil has been shown in some studies to help restore the skin barrier and reduce inflammation," says Dr. Viktoryia Kazlosukaya, a board-certified dermatologist and the owner of Dermatology Circle in New York. "Because of this, it may contribute to a smoother skin appearance and could potentially help with the appearance of fine lines. However, I wouldn't rely on coconut oil alone — there are other ingredients with much stronger evidence when it comes to addressing signs of aging."

#### ***How to treat wrinkles with coconut oil***

Make sure you're a good candidate before attempting to use coconut oil for wrinkles. According to Gratch, "people with oily or acne-prone skin should generally avoid coconut oil because it can clog pores and worsen breakouts." "Irritation may also occur in people with extremely sensitive skin or a history of contact allergies." Lastly, according to Gratch, people who have rosacea may also discover that coconut oil exacerbates their redness or irritation.

Here's how to give it a go at home if you don't fit into any of these groups. "Cold-pressed, unrefined coconut oil is the best choice if you're going the DIY route," says Kazlosukaya. You should be able to find this at your local grocery store or online. You can use it after cleansing your face, in place of your moisturizer. "You can also use it as the first step in a double cleanse to remove makeup — simply warm a small amount between your fingers, massage it onto your face, then rinse and follow with your usual cleanser," adds Kazlosukaya. (*NBC*)

## THE ROLE OF COCONUT OIL IN DEPRESSION AND ALZHEIMER'S

Evidence suggests that coconut oil could be a powerful tool in the fight against dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, and possibly even mental health issues like depression.

However, any coconut oil won't work as well. The inherent nutrition, flavor, and aroma of fresh coconut meat are preserved when virgin coconut oil (VCO) is produced from it without the use of chemicals or high heat. VCO is usually cold-pressed from dried coconut meat (copra) or pressed from fresh, moist coconut flesh (a technique known as "wet-milling"). At room temperature, VCO is solid, but as it becomes hotter than 76 degrees Fahrenheit, it melts in your mouth.

Conversely, refined coconut oil has undergone processing that frequently deodorizes, bleaches, or otherwise changes it, making it less appealing.

### ***Alzheimer's disease***

The potential of coconut oil to enhance brain function in Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive impairments has been investigated in a number of research.

More than 80 individuals were assessed by Canadian researchers in 2019 to see if a drink made with coconut oil may enhance cognitive performance. For almost six months, half of the individuals were given the special formula, and the other half were given a placebo. According to this study, those who drank the coconut oil beverage had noticeably better memory and language performance.

In 2024, Saudi Arabian scientists reviewed medical literature and concluded that the bioactive ingredients in coconut oil may improve memory in those with Alzheimer's disease and significantly slow disease progression, according to their analysis.

Coconut oil is rich in medium chain triglycerides (MCTs), which are linked to improved metabolism

and antimicrobial properties. Up to sixty-five percent of coconut oil is comprised of MCTs—primarily lauric acid, caprylic acid, and capric acid. MCTs are rapidly converted to ketones in the liver, providing the brain with an alternative energy source when glucose metabolism is impaired, as in Alzheimer's disease. Ketones from MCTs may bypass glucose deficits, reduce oxidative stress, decrease amyloid-beta plaque formation, increase cerebral blood flow, and support mitochondrial function.

Those with two copies of the APOE4 gene benefit from MCTs the most when it comes to Alzheimer's disease.

One protein that aids in the movement of lipids and cholesterol in the blood and brain is called apolipoprotein E. APOE2, APOE3, and APOE4 are the three common variations of the APOE gene. An elevated risk of cardiovascular problems and Alzheimer's disease is linked to the APOE4 variation.

### ***Depression***

According to an animal study done in 2023 by Chinese experts, virgin coconut oil may have properties similar to those of antidepressants. Increased blood levels of lipopolysaccharides (LPS) were used to make rats depressed, and VCO was subsequently administered to them. According to this study, the medication improved mitochondrial activity in the hippocampus and prefrontal cortex, considerably reduced neuroinflammation, and lessened depression-like behaviors.

In 2024, Iranian researchers randomized sixty volunteers to receive either VCO or a placebo for eight weeks and found that the VCO group experienced a significant increase in brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), as reported in this trial.

BDNF is a protein that supports the function of the hippocampus and basal forebrain, encouraging the growth and differentiation of new neurons and synapses. It also enhances the



survival of neurons in degenerative diseases. In Parkinson's disease, for example, BDNF supports dopaminergic neurons, improves neurotransmission, and enhances motor performance. Low levels of BDNF are well established in depression.

### Other choices

Purified MCTs may help treat Alzheimer's disease, according to a number of studies. A ketogenic formula based on MCTs was administered to Alzheimer's patients by Japanese researchers in 2019. According to the Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale-Cognitive Subscale, participants' memory and executive function significantly improved.

Specially designed ketogenic solutions that are more concentrated and provide higher ketone levels than coconut oil contain purified MCT oils. Axona, a medication used to treat Alzheimer's disease that contains caprylic acid, is one well-known formulation.

Before using coconut oil in your diet, be aware that it contains a large amount of saturated fat (between 80 and 90 percent), mostly lauric acid, which can raise LDL cholesterol and cause cardiovascular problems. (*Kevin MD*)

## COCONUT RECIPE

### THAI COCONUT SOUP

#### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp extra virgin coconut oil
- 1 small red onion, chopped into fine slices
- 3 cloves garlic, pressed or minced
- 1 tbsp freshly grated ginger
- 3-4 tbsps red curry paste, adjust to taste, start with less!
- 2 cups chicken broth (or vegetable, if necessary)
- 15 oz can coconut milk, full fat
- 1 tbsp GF soy sauce, (tamari)
- 2 tsps Thai fish sauce

- 1 tbsp agave
- ½ teaspoon dried basil
- salt and pepper
- 2lbs jumbo shrimp, peeled and deveined or 4 chicken breasts, finely chopped
- 8 oz mushrooms, very thinly sliced
- 4 cups baby spinach, roughly chopped
- 1 lime, cut in half, one half sliced into wedges
- ½ cup fresh cilantro, (optional)
- ½ cup roasted, salted cashews, crushed
- 1 red pepper, deseeded and diced

#### Method

1. Melt oil in a large soup pot over medium heat. Add onion and peppers/mushrooms, then sauté until softened, three to four minutes.
2. Add garlic and ginger then sauté until extremely fragrant, one to two minutes. Add red curry paste — careful, as it may spit a bit — then sauté for one more minute.
3. Slowly pour in chicken broth while scraping up any bits from the bottom of the pot then add coconut milk, gluten free Tamari, fish sauce, agave, dried basil, and salt and pepper to taste.
4. Turn heat up to high to bring the soup to a bubble then turn heat down to medium-low and simmer for ten minutes, stirring occasionally.
5. Turn heat up to high to bring soup to a rolling boil then add shrimp or chicken, mushrooms, and spinach. Simmer until shrimp/chicken is fully cooked through, 4-5 minutes, then squeeze in the juice of one half lime and stir.
6. Serve soup with lime wedges, chopped fresh cilantro and crushed cashews.

(*Royal Gazette*)

## STATISTICS

**Table 1. Indonesia's Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut, 2023 – 2025**

Month	2023		2024		2025	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US\$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US\$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US\$'000
January	8,167	8,922	8,187	9,140	7,118	15,298
February	8,690	9,655	8,457	10,099	7,754	19,408
March	9,478	10,140	10,797	12,620	9,225	24,336
April	7,557	8,109	7,748	10,875	6,019	16,831
May	8,441	9,131	7,947	11,792	9,832	27,513
June	9,149	10,060	8,794	13,212	9,352	27,321
July	9,789	11,567	12,263	17,554	11,400	32,456
August	11,912	13,066	13,341	20,148	12,332	34,029
September	10,611	11,792	11,387	16,616		
October	10,705	11,724	11,917	19,758		
November	10,110	11,229	9,813	17,911		
December	9,059	10,567	8,578	16,900		
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,671</b>	<b>125,963</b>	<b>119,231</b>	<b>176,624</b>	<b>73,030</b>	<b>197,193</b>

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

**Table 2. Philippines' Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut (in MT), 2022 – 2025**

Month	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	11,810	8,100	10,973	11,685
February	14,603	12,027	16,360	12,856
March	18,636	14,579	14,467	13,939
April	14,274	10,429	13,749	11,034
May	13,147	14,858	14,601	13,070
June	13,725	14,776	14,422	12,916
July	10,737	14,297	16,368	17,119
August	11,722	13,378	16,889	16,807
September	13,174	14,389	15,931	
October	10,512	13,540	15,359	
November	11,531	13,204	12,693	
December	13,059	12,875	11,818	
<b>Total</b>	<b>156,930</b>	<b>156,453</b>	<b>173,632</b>	<b>109,425</b>

Source: Philippines Statistics Authority

**Table 3. Sri Lanka's Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut (MT), 2023 – 2025**

Month	2023		2024		2025	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US\$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US\$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US\$'000
January	2,359	4,418	2,957	5,894	1,546	6,102
February	2,658	5,168	3,402	6,915	1,436	6,052
March	2,759	5,677	3,592	7,780	1,601	6,595
April	2,110	4,295	2,983	6,211	949	4,265
May	2,986	6,115	3,473	7,496	1,976	8,785
June	2,573	5,058	3,402	8,393		
July	3,003	6,138	4,294	9,988		
August	3,879	7,388	4,231	10,686		
September	4,116	7,588	3,366	8,732		
October	3,929	7,113	4,203	11,681		
November	4,179	7,882	2,167	7,545		
December	3,438	6,846	2,180	8,161		
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,989</b>	<b>73,687</b>	<b>40,250</b>	<b>99,480</b>	<b>7,508</b>	<b>31,799</b>

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

**Table 4. Export Volume of Desiccated Coconut by Country of Origin, 2025 (MT)**

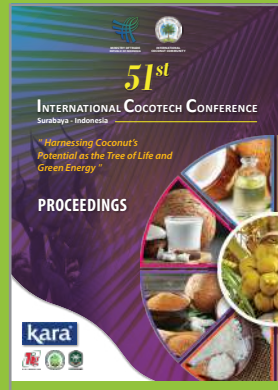
Month	Malaysia	Thailand	India	Brazil
January	926	90	717	12
February	1,064	32	807	31
March	781	475	1,189	71
April	675	115	1,431	27
May	766	208	1,236	32
June	1,009	180	1,242	7
July	638	187	361	31
August		89		
September				
October				
November				
December				
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,860</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>6,982</b>	<b>212</b>

Source: ITC &amp; Thai Customs

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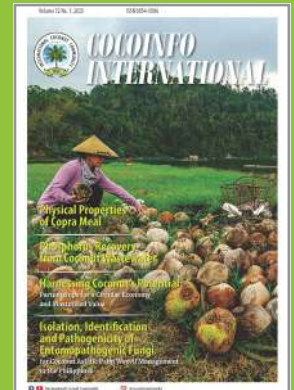
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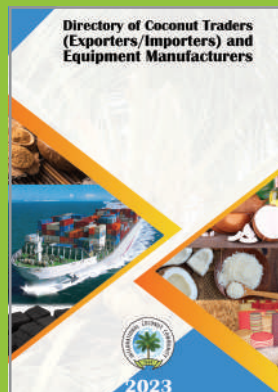
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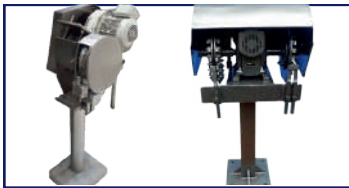


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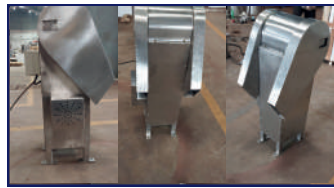


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# Are You Looking To Set up an integrated Coconut Processing Plant?

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