The Cocommunity

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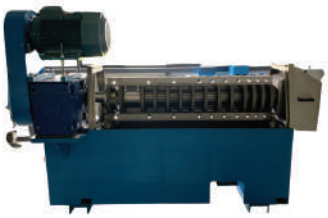

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THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SPEAKS

"Strategic Advancements in Coconut Micropropagation: A Policy Framework for Global Revitalization"

The global coconut industry is currently confronting a systemic production plateau that threatens the economic stability of millions of smallholder farmers and the long-term viability of high-growth downstream sectors. This stagnation is primarily defined by the rapid senility of the global production base, pests and diseases and extreme weather events. This biological obsolescence has led to a stagnant global production ceiling that struggles to adapt to an unprecedented surge in demand for high-value coconut derivatives. The diminishing yields of aging trees, coupled with significant infrastructure and logistics constraints, leave farmers without the disposable income or the physical means to efficiently move goods to market or reinvest in new, superior seedlings. For an industry that provides the primary livelihood for vast rural populations, the transition from passive management of aging groves to an aggressive, coordinated rehabilitation strategy is a requirement for regional food security and macroeconomic resilience.

A primary bottleneck in current revitalization efforts is the fundamental inadequacy of traditional seed-based propagation. Coconut palms possess a low natural multiplication rate, and seed-grown offspring are often highly variable in terms of yield and quality, making it impossible to achieve the uniformity required for modern, automated industrial processing. To address this, the International Coconut Community (ICC) has placed the development and commercialization of advanced micropropagation technologies at the center of its global strategy. Specifically, Somatic Embryogenesis (SE) and the more recent Coconut Axillary Meristems (COAXIM) protocol have emerged as the cornerstone technologies for mass-producing the "elite" planting materials necessary to replace senile acreage and optimize the existing land footprint.

Industrial demand for these biotechnological interventions is driven by the requirement for specific "elite" traits that traditional breeding cannot deliver with the necessary speed. Furthermore, these new materials must be selected for resilience against both biotic stresses and abiotic factors like drought. Because the industry now requires absolute uniformity for high-quality products and standardized processing, the shift to tissue culture is a structural necessity. Without the ability to clone high-performance germplasm, large-scale initiatives will lack the quality of planting material needed to overcome current economic and logistical bottlenecks.

To bridge the gap between laboratory success and industrial-scale application, a comprehensive research mandate is required to optimize current protocols for commercialization. Current tissue culture methods are often capital-intensive and limited by low conversion rates from embryos to hardy field seedlings. Furthermore, improving "ex vitro" acclimatization protocols is essential to ensure that seedlings can survive the transition from a sterile laboratory environment to the harsh conditions of field plantations. This optimization is the only pathway to achieving the economies of scale necessary to lower the price point of "elite" seedlings for the end-user.

From a policy perspective, the path forward requires a transition from laboratory-scale research to full industrial commercialization and widespread field adoption, integrated with improved logistics. Governments must recognize that the high initial cost of tissue-cultured seedlings is a strategic investment in the long-term efficiency of the agricultural supply chain. Bridging the "poverty trap" will require state-supported subsidies or credit facilities that allow smallholders to access these superior clones while simultaneously investing in the infrastructure needed to transport high-yield harvests. By integrating coconut micropropagation protocols into national agricultural frameworks, member countries can ensure that the next generation of coconut plantations is more productive and better positioned to meet the sophisticated demands of the 21st-century bio-economy.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Director General

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

In October 2025, coconut oil prices demonstrated a synchronized decreased trend across major producing countries, such as Philippines, Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka. Price of desiccated coconut saw a decrease in Philippines, India and Sri Lanka but increase in Indonesia.

COPRA: In October 2025, copra prices in Indonesia declined to US$1,308 per metric ton, down from US$1,357 per metric ton in September, while still reflecting a significant year-on-year increase of US$386 per metric ton. The Philippines showed a similar monthly downward trend, with prices easing from US$1,453 per metric ton in September to US$1,353 per metric ton in October 2025; nevertheless, this level represents a substantial year-on-year gain of US$494 per metric ton, compared with US$859 per metric ton in the same month of the previous year. Likewise, Sri Lanka recorded a modest month-on-month decline, as copra prices fell from US$1,620 per metric ton in September 2025 to US$1,605 per metric ton in October 2025.

COCONUT OIL: In October 2025, coconut oil prices exhibited a broadly aligned downward trend across India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. In Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price declined to US$2,558 per metric ton, while still recording a strong year-on-year increase of 49%. In the Philippines, the domestic market price reached US$2,606 per metric ton, representing a substantial year-on-year rise of US$884. Indonesia also posted a moderate month-on-month decline, with FOB prices easing from US$2,661 per metric ton in September to US$2,543 per metric ton in October 2025, equivalent to a year-on-year gain of US$832. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka recorded a modest month-on-month decrease of 1.53% over the same period.

COPRA MEAL: In the Philippines, the average domestic price of copra meal rose to US$192 per metric ton in October 2025, representing a year-on-year increase of US$57 per metric ton. Meanwhile, Indonesia recorded a decline in its average domestic copra meal price, which fell to US$306 per metric ton in October 2025; despite the month-on-month decrease, this level remained US$46 per metric ton higher than in the same period last year.

DESICCATED COCONUT: In October 2025, the average FOB price of desiccated coconut from the Philippines to the United States declined to US$3,799 per metric ton, down from the previous month. Meanwhile, the domestic price in the Philippines remained stable at US$2,039 per metric ton. In Indonesia, FOB prices for desiccated coconut increased to US$3,044 per metric ton, compared with US$2,975 per metric ton in the previous month, and were notably higher than the US$2,875 per metric ton recorded in the same period last year. Conversely, Sri Lanka registered a decrease in its export price of desiccated coconut, which fell to US$3,585 per metric ton in October 2025, representing a 4.3% decline from the previous month.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In October 2025, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in India rose to US$963 per metric ton, representing a substantial year-on-year increase of US$534 per metric ton. In contrast, Indonesia recorded a price decline, with the average falling to US$965 per metric ton during the same period. Similarly, Sri Lanka experienced a moderate decrease, as coconut shell charcoal prices eased to US$932 per metric ton in October 2025 compared with the previous month.

COIR FIBRE: In October 2025, Sri Lanka's domestic coir fiber market recorded an average price of US$124 per metric ton for mixed fiber, while bristle fiber prices ranged between US$502 and US$957 per metric ton. Meanwhile, in Indonesia, mixed raw fiber was priced at US$220 per metric ton, representing a notable increase from US$140 per metric ton in the same period last year.

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

Products/Country	2025 Oct	2025 Sep	2024 Oct	2025 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	294	309	173	310
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	284	277	249	324
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	772	791	348	776
India (Domestic Kerala)	865	839	612	833
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	1,353	1,453	859	1,418
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	1,308	1,357	922	1,293
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,605	1,620	1,470	1,711
India (Dom. Kochi)	2,493	2,491	1,564	2,295
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	2,558	2,596	1,718	2,513
Philippines (Domestic)	2,606	2,782	1,722	2,649
Indonesia (Domestic)	2,543	2,661	1,711	2,498
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,905	2,950	2,496	2,939
India (Domestic, Kerala)	4,285	4,364	2,453	3,708
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	3,799	3,835	2,131	3,416
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,068	2,040
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,585	3,745	3,119	3,832
Indonesia (FOB)	3,044	2,975	2,875	3,127
India (Domestic)	3,286	3,389	2,721	3,204
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	192	159	135	188
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	319	316	284	390
Indonesia (Domestic)	306	313	260	320
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	932	943	466	781
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	965	1,029	579	879
India (Domestic)	963	955	534	879
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	124	113	73	103
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	502	563	426	526
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	957	894	686	824
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	220	200	140	178
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	2,273	2,414	1,636	2,097
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,045	1,038	1,077	1,013
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,136	1,162	1,095	1,143

Exchange Rate

Oct 31, '25 1 US$ = P58.87 or Rp16,597 or India Rs88.63 or SL Rs304.34

1 Euro = US$ 1.16 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF COIR

The global coir market experienced a decisive shift in 2025, marked by sharp price escalation, tightening raw material availability, and a growing emphasis on higher-value products. During January–October 2025, coir fibre prices in both Sri Lanka and Indonesia rose far more rapidly than in the relatively stable period of 2023–2024. In Sri Lanka, average prices increased from the mid-US$60s in early 2024 to above US$100 per metric ton by March 2025, reaching around US$124 by October. This contrasts sharply with the narrower range of US$36–73 observed during the previous two years. Indonesia experienced an even steeper escalation, with prices climbing from a stable US$90–110 in 2023–2024 to US$145 in January 2025, exceeding US$200 by mid-year and peaking near US$220 per metric ton in October. These developments reflect intensified competition for coconut husks driven by expanding cocopeat, charcoal, and geotextile industries, alongside recovering global demand and evolving supply-chain dynamics influenced by policy interventions.

Against this backdrop of rising prices and tighter supply, Sri Lanka's coir export performance during January–September 2025 presents a mixed but generally positive picture. Overall export earnings improved, yet the structure of exports shifted markedly away from traditional bulk fibre products toward higher-value segments. Volumes of major fibre categories declined significantly compared with the same period in 2024, with mattress fibre exports falling by 26%, bristle fibre by 21%, twisted fibre by 30%, and coir fibre pith/ dust by 16%. These declines reflect a combination of supply-side constraints—particularly limited husk availability—and softer international demand for raw and semi-processed fibres. Notably, value declines were less pronounced in several categories, indicating firmer prices and improved unit realization in a constrained market environment.

Table 1. Exports of Coir Products from Sri Lanka, January-September 2024-2025

Coir Product	Volume (MT)			Value (USD Million)		
	Jan-Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2025	% Change	Jan-Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2025	% Change
Mattress Fibre	52,925	38,957	-26	9.65	8.58	-11
Bristle Fibre	1,343	1,059	-21	1.49	1.13	-24
Twisted Fibre	9,134	6,364	-30	2.58	2.25	-13
Coir Yarn	645	632	-2	0.48	0.44	-9
Coir Twine / Rope	2,725	3,193	17	2.92	3.73	27
Tawashi Brushes (Pcs '000)	12,335	11,679	-5	2.29	2.19	-4
Coir Brooms & Brushes (Pcs '000) (Other than tawashi)	9,094	8,762	-4	6.23	6.26	0.5
Rubberized Coir pads & Mattress for Bedding (Pcs)	272,042	141982 SQM + 2988 NOS.	-	0.37	0.41	11
Coir Mats & Rugs (M^2)	110,017	270,872	146	0.71	1.00	41
Coir Mattings (M^2)	1,838	3,552	93	0.01	0.08	523
Coir Fibre Pith / Dust	17,150	14,364	-16	4.05	3.96	-2
Husk Chips	6,062	4,070	-33	2.14	1.29	-40
Geo Textiles	3,081	3,132	1.7	3.23	3.36	4
Moulded coir products for use in Horticulture	274,138	294,956	8	141.46	182.64	29
Total				177.89	217.54	22.29

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

At the same time, several downstream and niche product segments demonstrated relative stability. Brushware products, including tawashi brushes and other coir brooms, recorded only marginal volume declines of 4–5%, while export values remained broadly stable, suggesting resilient demand in established consumer markets. In contrast, husk chip exports experienced the steepest contraction, with volumes declining by 33% and export value falling by 40%, pointing to weaker demand or heightened competition from alternative horticultural substrates. Overall, these trends indicate mounting pressure on Sri Lanka's traditional fibre exports despite improving price levels.

Balancing these declines, Sri Lanka's export performance was strongly supported by rapid growth in value-added and horticulture-oriented products. Moulded coir products for horticulture emerged as the dominant export category, with volumes rising by 8% and export value surging by 29% to USD 182.64 million, making it the largest contributor to coir export earnings. This reflects sustained global demand for eco-friendly growing media and plant-support products. Similarly, exports of coir mats and rugs expanded sharply, with volumes increasing by 146% and values by 41%, while coir mattings recorded strong percentage growth from a low base. Geo-textiles also posted modest gains, supported by continued demand from erosion control and environmental applications. As a result, Sri Lanka's total coir export earnings rose by over 22% year-on-year, underscoring a gradual but clear shift toward higher-value products and greater sectoral resilience.

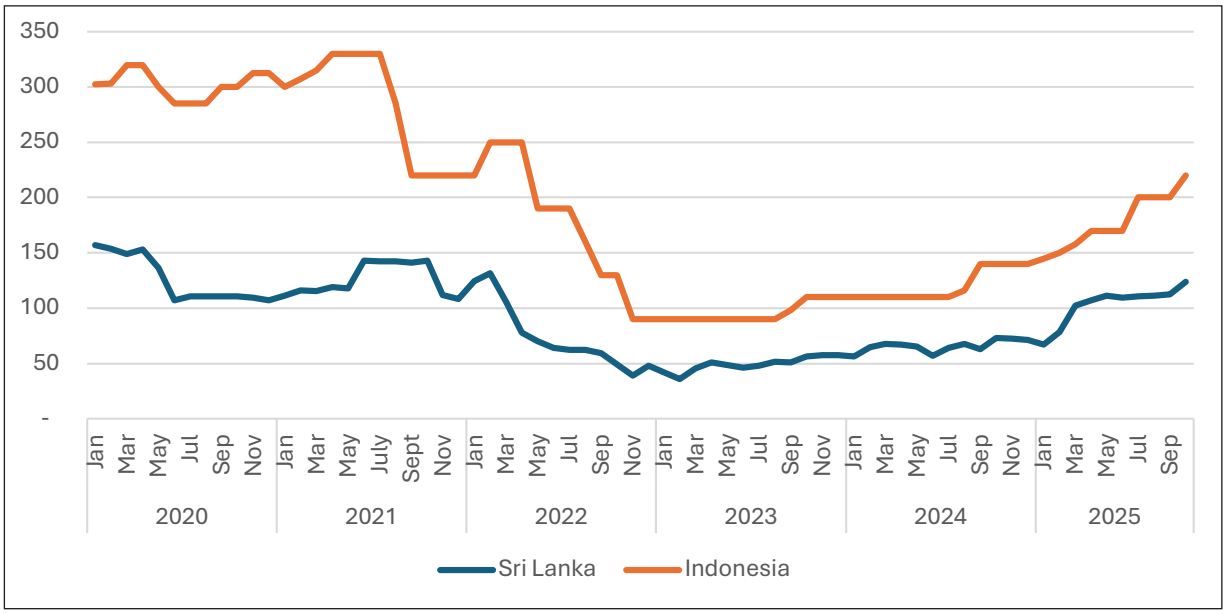
A broadly similar but more pronounced pattern is evident in India's coir export performance during January–September 2025. India recorded strong growth in both export volume and value, reinforcing its position as the world's leading coir supplier. Total export volumes increased by about 17%, from 923,152 metric tons in 2024 to 1,082,916 metric tons in 2025, while export earnings rose sharply from USD 274 million to USD 459 million. The faster growth in value relative to volume highlights significant improvements in price realization and product mix.

This expansion was driven primarily by cocopeat (coir pith), which remained the cornerstone of India's coir exports. Shipments of coir pith increased by 26% in volume, while export earnings surged from USD 206 million to USD 372 million, reflecting robust global demand from horticulture, greenhouse cultivation, and landscaping sectors. Exports of decorticated and related coir fibres showed only marginal volume growth but recorded notable value increases, again indicating firmer prices in 2025. In contrast, exports of curled and machine-twisted fibre declined in both volume and value,

Table 2. Exports of Coir Products from India, January-September 2024/25

Product		MT		USD Million	
		Jan-Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2025	Jan-Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2025
1	COIR BRISTLE FIBRE, COIR MATTRESS FIBRE, COIR SHORT FIBRE, COIR BIT FIBRE, DECORTICATED COIR FIBRE	302,667	306,987	46	63
2	CURLED COIR FIBRE/MACHINE TWISTED FIBRE	7,435	5,128	2	1
3	COIR PITH	605,070	761,553	206	372
4	COIR YARN,BALED	774	960	1	1
5	COIR YARN SPOOLED HANKS	34	418	0	0
6	COIR YARN,NON BALED, NON SPOOLED	1,670	1,207	2	1
7	COIR PRODUCTS(E.G.COIR FENDER)	1,046	1,256	1	2
8	COIR MATTING,WOVEN,POWERLOOM	2,205	3,114	2	3
9	COIR CRPTS AND OTHR ROGS	2,251	2,291	15	15
10	COIR BLINDS/AWNINGS	0	2	0	0
Total		**923,152**	**1,082,916**	**274**	**459**

Figure 1. Average Monthly Price of Coir Fibre, January 2020 – October 2025 (USUS$/MT)



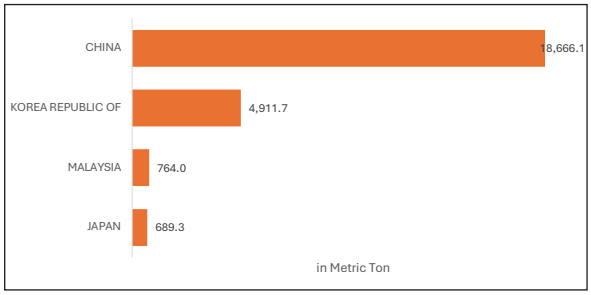
Source: ICC

suggesting softer demand from traditional mattress and cushioning industries.

Beyond bulk exports, India's data point to gradual diversification into higher-value coir products, though these segments remain relatively small in absolute terms. Woven coir matting exports rose by over 40% in volume and about 50% in value, while specialized products such as coir fenders doubled in export value despite modest tonnage growth. Exports of coir carpets and rugs remained stable in value, implying price pressure or maturity in key markets. Overall, India's performance in 2025 underscores its strong positioning in environmentally driven coir applications, particularly cocopeat.

Complementing developments in Sri Lanka and India, Indonesia's coir exports also expanded significantly during January–October 2025, albeit from a smaller base. Export volumes reached 25,432 metric tons valued at USD 4.85 million, representing year-on-year growth of 48.4% in volume and 83% in value. Exports remained heavily concentrated in East Asia, with China absorbing more than 73% of shipments, followed by the Republic of Korea. Smaller but stable volumes were shipped to Malaysia, Japan, and Taiwan, while exports to Europe

Figure 2. Export Destination of Coir Products from Indonesia, January-October 2025



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

remained limited but consistent, driven by niche eco-friendly demand.

In summary, 2025 marked a pivotal year for the global coir sector, characterized by sharp price increases, tighter raw material supply, and a clear transition toward higher-value and horticulture-driven products. While traditional fibre exports faced increasing pressure, particularly in Sri Lanka, growth in processed and value-added segments supported overall export earnings across major producing countries. These trends suggest that the medium-term outlook for the coir industry will increasingly depend on value addition, efficient raw material management, and the ability to respond to evolving global demand for sustainable materials.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ICC EXPLORES DEEPER COLLABORATION ON TISSUE CULTURE AND GENETIC RESOURCES AT ALLIANCE BIOVERSITY & CIAT, KU LEUVEN

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Director General of the International Coconut Community (ICC), visited the Alliance Bioversity & CIAT, Tropical Crop Improvement Laboratory at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven)'s Department of Biosystems. She was invited and welcomed by Dr. Bartholomeus Panis, one of the world's leading experts in banana and tropical crop biotechnology, including coconut, and the Manager of the Banana Genebank.

Dr. Panis served as one of the main resource speakers for the ICC International Tissue Culture Training in 2022, where his methodologies inspired young researchers across ICC member countries. Several success stories have since emerged, including Vietnam's progress in applying Dr. Pannis's approach to coconut clonal propagation.

At KU Leuven, Dr. Jelfina was introduced to the banana genebank, one of the world's most significant collections, housing around 1,700 banana accessions. The majority are edible bananas, with the remainder consisting of wild types crucial for breeding and resilience. The world collections at KU Leuven, officially known as the Bioversity International Musa Germplasms Transit Centre (ITC) serves as the globe's largest and most crucial repository of banana diversity. The initial transit role was to facilitate the safe, global exchange of banana germplasm. Because bananas are prone to pests and diseases, the ITC developed as system for indexing its accessions for viruses. Only accessions indexed as virus-free are distributed, making it a globally safe source of healthy planting material. Accessions are conserved in vitro (in test tube) under slow-growth conditions to minimize growth and prolong storage. Critical accessions are secured via cryopreservation (freezing in liquid nitrogen), which can preserve the material indefinitely. A full backup collection is also stored in Montpellier, France, to ensure long-term security. The ITC has expanded its influence beyond just conservation and safe distribution, effectively play significant roles as a global reference centre for Musa genetic resources. It distributes thousands of samples annually to researchers, breeders, and farmers in over a hundred countries. All materials are shared under the terms of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), ensuring the materials are freely available for research, breeding, and conservation.

Leveraging the laboratory's expertise, Dr. Panis has applied his skills to the development of coconut tissue culture protocols, notably the new methos based on axillary shoot formation referred to as **COAXIM** (**CO**conut **AXI**lliary **M**eristem). This method represents a significant breakthrough, enabling the mass clonal propagation of desired varieties. His team has achieved successful regeneration of shoots and the growth of small plantlets in vitro, demonstrating that advanced biotechnology platforms developed for banana can also support coconut clonal propagation. Current experiments show that thidiazuron (TDZ) is the most effective growth regulator, with high proliferation rates in both dwarf and tall coconut varieties. The method, which combines shoot cutting with hormone treatment, enhances axillary shoot formation.

Further breakthroughs were noted in embryo rescue techniques, achieving 96% regeneration rates and allowing rooted coconut plants to be established from embryos. This addresses long-standing challenges with decontamination and in vitro culture, representing a significant step forward in coconut biotechnology.

The main purpose of Dr. Jelfina's visit was to exchange experience on plant genetic resource management, particularly the banana genebank operation, and to explore collaborative opportunities in coconut tissue culture between ICC and the Alliance Bioversity & CIAT to further optimize the technology for commercialization.

Dr. Jelfina expressed gratitude that this robust ITC system, including the implementation of germplasm indexing and in vitro clean-up, could be adapted for coconut. This is crucial because a main concern in the germplasm exchange of coconut is the transmission of systemic lethal pathogens, particularly phytoplasma. The beauty of Dr. Panis's objective is to make the tissue culture plants affordable under smallholder farmers. The visit also served to foster broader scientific and institutional linkages.

Joining the discussions was Mr. Jan Oprins, Commissioner of Bambu Nuwa Verde (Yogyakarta, Indonesia), who also toured the laboratory to see firsthand the practical applications of Dr. Bart's technology.

Dr. Jelfina emphasized ICC's commitment to advancing coconut conservation and propagation technologies, noting that partnerships with leading research institutions such as KU Leuven are vital to supporting member countries in achieving sustainable and resilient coconut production systems. *(ICC News)*

GLOBAL GREEN ECONOMY: ICC DRIVES COCONUT SUSTAINABILITY AND PACIFIC COLLABORATION

The International Coconut Community (ICC) is actively pushing the coconut sector to the forefront of the global green economy, emphasizing sustainability and strengthening vital partnerships in the Pacific region.

On September 23, 2025, the Director General of the ICC attended the prestigious amfori Europe Sustainability Summit in Frankfurt, Germany. This high-level gathering united global business leaders to address crucial themes: responsible business practices, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards, and building resilient supply chains.

Why This Matters for Coconuts?. The ICC's presence at the Summit signals the increasing pressure and necessity for sustainability in international trade. By engaging with key international stakeholders, the ICC strategically positioned the coconut as a key commodity in the move toward a global green economy. The organization reaffirmed its core commitments: a) improved traceability, knowing exactly where a product comes from to ensure ethical sourcing; b) ethical sourcing, guaranteeing fair wages and safe working conditions for smallholder farmers; and c) environmental stewardship, implementing practices that protect the environment where coconuts are grown.

This proactive engagement is expected to open wider market opportunities for coconut products and, critically, promote sustainable livelihoods for the millions of smallholder farmers across ICC member countries.

The ICC is also reinforcing its commitment to its Pacific members. On September 27, 2025, in Paris, ICC Director General Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw met with Mrs. Peggy Roudaut, the Pacific Community (SPC)'s new Senior Technical and Engagement Advisor and Europe Representative. This timely meeting followed the recent reactivation of SPC's Europe office and Mrs. Roudaut's appointment.

Dr. Jelfina highlighted the significant economic challenge posed by underutilized coconut industries in the Pacific, noting that many processing facilities currently operate at only 60% capacity. She emphasized the untapped potential to significantly boost economic returns and improve livelihoods by expanding the production of diverse coconut-based products, including meat, water, charcoal, and husk.

Mrs. Roudaut echoed these concerns, stressing two major operational hurdles in the region: 1. Maintenance Deficit: While Pacific nations often receive new processing equipment and training, a substantial obstacle is the difficulty in maintaining and repairing machinery once it malfunctions, leading to costly downtime. 2. Senile Palm Crisis: There is an urgent need for large-scale replanting and technical support in areas like New Caledonia, where many coconut palms are past their prime (senile), resulting in declining yields.

The meeting also explored the potential for New Caledonia to join the ICC as an associate or full member. While not currently a member, participation would grant them immediate access to the ICC's vital technical support and programs, helping them prepare for eventual full participation.

Both leaders underscored the importance of regional network collaboration, particularly the Pacific Plant Genetic Resources Network (PAPGREN) and the International Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT). These networks are essential for conserving genetic diversity and developing high-yielding, disease-resistant coconut hybrids necessary for the future of the industry.

Crucially, Dr. Jelfina and Mrs. Roudaut agreed to coordinate efforts to secure external donor support for coconut programs in the Pacific from European organizations. This unified approach aims to build long-term sustainability and enhance the resilience and productivity of the coconut sector across the nine ICC Pacific member countries.

Dr. Jelfina reaffirmed ICC's commitment to work closely with SPC to enhance the resilience and productivity of the coconut sector across the nine ICC Pacific member countries. *(ICC News)*

ICC HIGHLIGHTS SUPPLY-SIDE STRATEGIES AND REGIONAL COOPERATION AT WORLD COCONUT CONGRESS 2025 IN MANILA

The International Coconut Community (ICC) proudly participated in the World Coconut Congress 2025, jointly organized by UCAP and the Sustainable Coconut Partnership (SCP), in association with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and ICC itself. Held from 24 to 26 September 2025 at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City, Manila, the event drew over 500 participants from around the world, uniting government officials, research institutions, industry players, sustainability advocates, and policy makers under the shared theme "Future-Proofing the Coconut." The Congress and Roundtable sought to confront the pressing supply, social, and sustainability challenges facing the coconut sector today, while charting cooperative paths forward.

ICC's voice was well represented through high-impact presentations, panel participation, and active engagement in both plenary and roundtable formats. On Day 1, in Plenary Session 1 themed "Global Coconut Industry Landscape", Dr. Prabhath Kumar, Chairman of the ICC Technical Working Group (TWG), delivered ICC's keynote-style presentation on "Updates on Supply Side Projects in Coconut Growing Countries." In his address, Dr. Kumar highlighted the disconnect between rising global demand for coconut products and stagnating yields across major producing countries. He emphasized the urgent need for revitalized replanting initiatives, integration of climate-smart technologies, and coordinated regional investment in seed systems and farmer training. His analysis underscored that unless supply-side constraints are addressed, the coconut sector may falter despite promising market growth.

Immediately following, Administrator of the Philippines Coconut Authority (PCA) and ICC's National Liaison Officer for the Philippines, Dr. Dexter R. Buted, delivered a presentation on the "Philippine Coconut Situation: The Road to 100 Million Coconut Trees Target." He shared the bold goals of the PCA to scale up planting efforts, leverage policy support, and convert sustainability ideals into tangible practices. As reported by PCA, Dr. Buted affirmed how the country is transforming sustainability from concept into practice by capitalizing on successful pilot programs and scaling them across provinces. With a call for stronger partnership among local and global stakeholders, he encouraged stakeholders to translate ambition into action and bridge gaps in funding, infrastructure, and farmer engagement. His remarks resonated deeply with delegates as both aspirational and grounded in field realities.

Over subsequent plenary sessions, delegates addressed international trade, market outlooks, regulatory compliance, and evolving consumer demands. Speakers examined the shifting

dynamics in the lauric oils market, the ramifications of reciprocal tariffs, compliance challenges under MOSH/MOAH and EUDR frameworks, and the emerging potential of coconut in sustainable aviation fuels. ICC's participation in these sessions helped reinforce the link between supply-side resilience and downstream market access, with Dr. Prabhath and other ICC representatives engaged in informal dialogues to align technical strategies with market realities.

On Day 2, during the Plenary Session on Health and Nutrition themed "Unlocking the Health Potential of Coconut", prominent SACH figures added scientific depth to the dialogue. Dr. Mary T. Newport, member of the ICC SACH, author and international speaker on metabolic health and ketones, opened with a presentation exploring how coconut oil may support low-carb dietary strategies. She highlighted emerging evidence on its role in lipid metabolism, neurological function, and metabolic flexibility. This was followed by renowned chemist Dr. Fabian Dayrit, Chair of ICC's Scientific Advisory Committee on Health (SACH), who presented a meta-analysis of 26 studies linking coconut oil consumption to favorable lipid parameters, reinforcing coconut's place in health-conscious nutrition. Their contributions added well-balanced scientific rigor to discussions on expanding coconut's appeal in functional foods and wellness markets.

Parallel to these plenary sessions, ICC's Deputy Director General, Mr. A. H. N. Chinthaka, took the stage during the Sustainable Coconut Roundtable, particularly in the high-stakes session titled "The Boiling Point: Expert Insights on Navigating the Looming Social and Supply Crisis in Asia." Mr. Nuwan's presentation offered a comparative case study of Indonesia and Sri Lanka, spotlighting how long-term neglect of replanting, coupled with climate stress, rising labor costs, and land-use pressures, have eroded the adaptive capacity of coconut farming systems. He proposed collaborative investment mechanisms, resilience forecasting systems, and integrated policy frameworks, anchored in ICC's regional coordination capacity, to break the cycle of crisis and build adaptive sector resilience.

ICC's delegation was not limited to speakers alone. Several delegates from the Coconut Development Board (CDB), India, attended under the ICC banner, participating in sessions, bilateral discussions, and networking forums. Their presence helped amplify ICC's institutional reach across member countries and strengthen technical linkages.

The Congress exhibition ran concurrently, with booths showcasing product innovators, sustainability platforms, and traceability technologies. Many delegates remarked on how well the exhibition complemented the technical discourse, providing tangible interfaces between ideas and market application. Taken as a whole, WCC 2025 delivered palpable energy and substantive outcomes. Delegates returned with renewed resolve to prioritize replanting, foster intergovernmental collaboration, and link sustainability with market rewards. The Congress reaffirmed that success in the global coconut sector hinges not only on supply-side recovery but on the structural alignment of policy, investment, science, and trade. ICC emerged from Manila with strengthened networks, renewed mandate, and a refreshed sense of purpose. *(ICC News)*

ICC HIGHLIGHTS COCONUT-BASED SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL DEVELOPMENT AT OSAKA EXPO 2025 BUSINESS FORUM

The International Coconut Community (ICC) took part as a presenter at the Business Forum held at the Indonesia Pavilion during Expo 2025 Osaka, emphasizing the organization's ongoing efforts to promote non-standard coconut-based Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) as a renewable energy solution.

The forum was initiated by the Indonesia Japan Business Network (IJBNet) in collaboration with the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Government of Indonesia, and gathered business leaders, government officials, researchers, and industry stakeholders from both Japan and Indonesia.

ICC was represented by Mr. Alit Pirmansah, Market & Statistics Director, who delivered a presentation titled *"ICC Programs and Supports for the Development of Non-Standard Coconut-Based SAF in Indonesia."* His presentation highlighted ICC's pivotal role in supporting the transition toward a sustainable and circular coconut-based economy, particularly through the utilization of non-standard coconuts for SAF production.

Mr. Pirmansah elaborated on ICC's collaborative efforts with the Government of Indonesia, the Government of Japan, IJBNet, and Green Power Development Corporation of Japan (GPDJ), which have been instrumental in advancing the SAF initiative since 2020. A key milestone was achieved in March 2024 when non-standard coconuts were recognized as a potential feedstock for SAF under the ICAO-CORSIA framework.

Mr. Pirmansah also detailed ICC's future plans, such as the Certified Training for Inspectors to standardize the sorting and grading of non-standard coconuts, ensuring quality and sustainability across member countries. These efforts are part of ICC's broader mission to build a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive coconut industry that supports both smallholder farmers and global climate goals.

The Osaka Business Forum provided an excellent platform for ICC to strengthen international cooperation and encourage investment in coconut-based green energy solutions, underscoring its commitment to sustainability and global partnership. *(ICC News)*

ICC UNDERLINES URGENT NEED FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TO SAVE COCONUT INDUSTRY

A high-level discussion on the future of Indonesia's coconut sector was held in Yogyakarta, 10 October 2025, underscoring the vital role of research and technology in saving the struggling industry. The event, titled "The Development of Research on Bamboo and Coconut Seedling in Indonesia," was hosted by Indonesia's Ministry of National Development Planning (Kementerian PPN/ BAPPENAS) at the Forestry Seedling Center Region III, Yogyakarta (BPTH Wilayah III Yogyakarta). The seminar brought together senior government officials and researchers to align strategies for large-scale replanting and industrial transformation.

Coconut as a National Strategic Commodity

Opening the seminar was Dr. Jarot Indarto, Director of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), Republic of Indonesia, who presented on the "Development of Bamboo and Coconut Seedling Research in Indonesia." He highlighted that coconut is a National Strategic Commodity under the National Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN) 2025-20455. The national industrial strategy aims for Indonesia to be "Manufacturing the World" by 2040-2045, with coconut downstreaming included from the second stage onwards. Dr. Indarto stressed that tissue culture is a powerful method to produce superior seedlings that offer higher yields, better quality, and resistance to pests. He called for deeper research into tissue culture and other propagation methods, emphasizing the need for synergy among experts, government agencies, and development partners.

The Need for a 2045 Global Leadership Vision

Mr. Sukmo Harsono, S.E., M.M., Head of the Coconut Downstreaming Program Planning and Acceleration Team, Ministry of Development Planning (BAPPENAS), Republic Indonesia, presented his team's agenda in developing the development of coconut seedling research. His presentation was based on the "Coconut Downstreaming Roadmap (Peta Jalan Hilirisasi Kelapa) 2025-2045", which sets the vision for Indonesia to become a "global leader in the downstreaming of coconut and its derivatives" by 2045. Despite being the world's second-largest coconut producer, Indonesia has been surpassed by the Philippines in both production volume and export value since 2020. The major challenges faced by Indonesia include stagnant productivity at 1.1 tons per hectare, and 98.82% of farms being traditional without organized regeneration efforts.

With 375,039 hectares of non-producing or old palms, the country's current replanting rate is far too slow. The strategy includes optimizing the research commercialization ecosystem, aiming for research patents to be licensed to industry partners and providing incentives like the Super Tax Deduction (STD) for businesses that cooperate with the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN).

Tackling the Seed Gap

The severity of the replanting crisis was presented by Dr. Ir. I Ketut Kariyasa, M.Si., Head of the Center for Plantation Agriculture Assembly and Modernization Center (Pusat Perakitan dan Modernisasi Pertanian Perkebunan), Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Indonesia, in his talk on "Policy and Realization Development of Coconut Seedling in Indonesia." He noted that the availability of coconut seedlings is tied to four main government programs for 2024-2029, including food security and downstreaming. Dr. Kariyasa revealed a massive seed gap: the estimated 375,039 hectares of damaged or old coconut land requires approximately 53.5 million seedlings. However, the national potential for certified seed production is only about 6 million seeds per year. At this rate, it will take roughly nine years to meet the current replanting needs alone. To address this, the Ministry of Agriculture plans to increase the stock of planting material in major coconut provinces, such as Riau, which is currently the largest center with 440 thousand hectares.

BRIN's Focus for Future Coconut Varieties

Dr. Puji Lestari, Research Organization for Agriculture and Food, National Innovation and Research Agency (BRIN), in a presentation on "Coconut Commodity Research In Indonesia", BRIN's research focuses are divided into four main areas: Conservation (creating a national gene bank), Breeding and Genetics (producing new superior varieties that are high-yield and resistant to drought and pests), Biotechnology and Tissue Culture (developing Somatic Embryogenesis for fast propagation), and Technology for Seed Production (optimizing certified seed gardens)2 The global market potential for coconut products is huge, projected to reach USD 38.5 billion by 2030. Despite this, challenges remain, including low productivity and ongoing issues with pests like Oryctes rhinoceros. Government through the Ministry of Agriculture has already released 60 coconut varieties, including 18 dwarf, 32 tall, and 10 hybrid varieties, but recognizes that the implementation of rapid tissue culture technology remains limited.

New Plant Technology: Key to Survival

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Director General, International Coconut Community (ICC), in her presentation, "Tissue Culture Development, Cooperation, and Technology Transfer Boost Coconut Seed Propagation", mentioned that the future of the global coconut industry, valued at an estimated US$19.61 billion, is facing a major crisis because its trees are too old and senile. She highlighted the "Coconut Paradox": while the global market for coconut products is huge and growing, the industry's basic resource, the coconut palm, is collapsing. Over 274 million coconut trees worldwide are now old causing harvests to drop sharply, in some places by up to 80 percent. Indonesia alone has about 46.1 million senile palms. Dr. Alouw stressed that countries do not have enough seeds to replace these old trees quickly, creating a serious "seed gap".

She emphasized coconut tissue culture as the necessary solution. This advanced technology is vital for rapid, mass propagation of elite planting materials, which couldn't achieve by a traditional seed planting. The tissue culture method allows researchers to create genetically pure, disease-free clones from high-value varieties (such as those for kopyor or high oil yield), ensuring a future generation of resilient, high-productivity palms capable of weathering threats like pests, diseases, and climate stress. She encouraged collaboration through global groups like the Coconut Genetic Resources Networks (COGENT) is very important to quickly share and use this proven technology in large farms and to finalize fully developed in vitro regeneration protocols and accelerate technology transfer. Research

institutions from India, Sri Lanka, Mexico, and Belgium are actively engaged, but the process requires greater funding and a more robust exchange of technical expertise and genetic resources to ensure that the proven technology can be rapidly adopted and scaled up into commercial operations and industry.

By leveraging innovative coconut tissue culture technology and strengthening global inter-agency cooperation, the focus is to bridge the seed gap, revitalize Indonesia's massive coconut land, and secure its future as a global leader in high-value coconut products by 2045. *(ICC News)*

INDONESIA ACCELERATES COCONUT TISSUE CULTURE INNOVATION WITH BAMBU NUSA VERDE, ICC, AND BAPPENAS

A new milestone in Indonesia's agricultural innovation was achieved as the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), the International Coconut Community (ICC), and Bambu Nusa Verde joined forces to strengthen the nation's capacity in coconut tissue culture research and development.

Through a policy discussion and laboratory visit held at BPTH Wilayah III Yogyakarta and Bambu Nusa Verde, participants explored how science, government, and industry can collaborate to ensure a sustainable and resilient future for Indonesia's most versatile crop, the coconut.

A United Effort with Global Expertise

Representing Bambu Nusa Verde, Mr. Marc Peeters (Director) and Mr. Jan Oprins (Commissions) led discussions with Mr. Donatus Gede Sabon (Secretary General, HIPKI), Mrs. Yohana, and Mrs. Novela.

The program was enriched by two world renowned scientists Dr. Bartholomeus (Bart) Panis of Alliance Bioversity International CIAT, KU Leuven (Belgium) and Prof. Stefaan P.O. Werbrouck of Ghent University, whose contributions brought global insight and scientific rigor to the initiative.

Government representatives from Bappenas, BRIN, and BRMP joined the dialogue, confirming national commitment to accelerate biotechnology-based replanting and seed improvement programs.

Innovation in Action at Bambu Nusa Verde

At its Yogyakarta facility, Bambu Nusa Verde presented two promising approaches for coconut micropropagation:

COAXIM (Coconut Axillary Meristems), a breakthrough clonal technique that eliminates the callus phase and enhances genetic stability, and Somatic Embryogenesis (SE), a complementary embryo-based method for large scale multiplication.

The team demonstrated consistent progress in tackling early stage challenges such as embryo browning and contamination. Through careful control of light exposure and the use of activated charcoal, researchers are refining culture protocols to improve embryo survival.

Since March 2025, Bambu Nusa Verde has been perfecting its standard operating procedures through persistent experimentation, a process now strengthened by the direct mentorship of Dr. Bart Panis, who personally evaluated their techniques and provided detailed feedback for optimization.

The lab has successfully processed 123 explants, with roughly 80 via the COAXIM method, and is now developing standardized fruit selection criteria based on maturity, size, weight, water volume, and mesocarp thickness, laying the groundwork for a scalable elite variety propagation system.

Dr. Bart Panis Inspiring Excellence in Tropical Biotechnology

A central highlight of the program was the presentation by Dr. Bart Panis, whose pioneering work in plant cryopreservation and tropical crop tissue culture has reshaped how the world conserves and multiplies valuable genetic resources.

At KU Leuven, Dr. Panis oversees one of the world's largest in vitro banana collections, a crop feeding over 400 million people, with more than 1,600 active in vitro accessions, 939 lyophilized leaf samples, and 1,195 cryopreserved accessions. His work ensures that clean, disease-free plant materials can be distributed safely and efficiently across more than 120 countries.

Introducing COAXIM (Coconut Axillary Meristem Culture), Dr. Panis described it as a revolutionary, user friendly protocol that can redefine the future of coconut propagation worldwide. The method:

1. Enables true to type clonal propagation of elite trees.
2. Allows mass multiplication to meet market demand.
3. Reduces the risk of somaclonal variation by avoiding a callus phase.
4. Can be adopted in standard tissue culture laboratories.
5. Supports long term genetic conservation through cryopreservation.

Dr. Panis traced the protocol's origins to collaborative research with Bioversity International and the RDA Cryo Genebank in Legazpi, Philippines, emphasizing that its success reflects years of persistence and global cooperation.

He reminded participants that tissue culture is not only about technique; it requires careful long-term planning and sustained investment to ensure lasting success and impact.

His insights and mentorship inspired participants, including Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, who praised his visit as "a turning point that strengthens Indonesia's confidence to lead in tropical crop innovation."

Prof. Stefaan Werbrouck Advancing Plant Science for a Sustainable Future

Prof. Stefaan P.O. Werbrouck, a leading figure in plant biotechnology and in vitro research from Ghent University, complemented Dr. Panis's applied approach with a strong academic perspective. He presented the university's research focus on micropropagation, in vitro breeding, plant health, and secondary metabolite production, underscoring the vital role of clean, pathogen free plant material for sustainable agriculture.

Prof. Werbrouck emphasized that tissue culture innovation is not confined to elite laboratories; it can thrive wherever scientific curiosity and dedication meet. He shared inspiring examples of graduate research from Indonesia, Tunisia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Uganda, and Belgium, covering crops such as cocoa, chili, pistachio, spinach, and coffee, each exploring advanced techniques in fungal and viral detection, culture optimization, and metabolite profiling.

He also highlighted the importance of bridging academic research with private sector initiatives, such as Bambu Nusa Verde's, to ensure that innovation transitions from theory to practice. His message resonated deeply with participants:

"Knowledge has no borders. When shared, it becomes the seed of transformation for all."

Aligning Science with National Priorities

In her remarks, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, ICC Director General, reaffirmed the organization's commitment to help Indonesia prioritize elite coconut varieties and align scientific efforts with the country's 2030 replanting roadmap. She emphasized that biotechnology is the cornerstone of achieving the nation's ambitious goal of 500,000 hectares of coconut replanting by 2030.

"This collaboration represents the synergy we need, where science meets policy and innovation meets national purpose," said Dr. Alouw.

"We are proud to see Bambu Nusa Verde's initiative supported by outstanding scientists such as Dr. Bart Panis and Prof. Stefaan Werbrouck. Together, we are shaping a more resilient and productive coconut sector for Indonesia and beyond."

She also thanked Mr. Donatus Gede Sabon for initiating the engagement, and Mr. Marc Peeters

and Mr. Jan Oprins for their commitment and investment in research and capacity building.

Bambu Nusa Verde expressed deep appreciation to ICC for bridging connections with international coconut research networks, a crucial step for scaling innovation beyond the private sector.

A New Dawn for Indonesia's Coconut Future

The Yogyakarta collaboration has proven that science, policy, and industry can unite to drive real transformation. With Dr. Bart Panis's visionary guidance, Prof. Werbrouck's academic partnership, Bambu Nusa Verde's dedication, government supports, coconut association participation, and Dr. Jelfina Alouw's leadership, Indonesia is charting a bold course toward becoming a regional leader in coconut biotechnology.

This partnership stands as a living example of what persistence and collaboration can achieve, transforming the coconut from a traditional commodity into a symbol of scientific progress, sustainability, and national and international pride. *(ICC News)*

ICC STRENGTHENS ACADEMIC COLLABORATION IN COCONUT RESEARCH THROUGH MOA WITH UNIVERSITAS NEGERI JAKARTA

Jakarta, 4 August 2025, The International Coconut Community (ICC) and the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Negeri Jakarta (FMIPA UNJ) have formalized a partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to enhance collaboration in research and student capacity development in the field of biotechnology and sustainable coconut development.

The MoA was signed by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Director General of ICC and Dr. Hadi Nasbey, Dean of FMIPA UNJ, at the ICC Secretariat in Jakarta. The signing marks an important milestone in ICC's ongoing efforts to bridge academia and industry in advancing the global coconut sector through science, innovation, and youth empowerment.

Under this agreement, FMIPA UNJ students will have the opportunity to undertake professional internships at the ICC Secretariat, where they will be mentored by ICC experts and researchers engaged in biotechnology, pest and disease management, genetic resources, and sustainable production systems. The program aims to equip young scientists with hands on research and technical experience while fostering a strong understanding of international collaboration and the global coconut industry.

In her remarks, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw delivered a presentation on ICC's role as an international collaboration center in coconut research and development. ICC plays an important role in promoting and facilitating the biotechnology innovation and downstream processing of coconut-based products globally, with the support of the International Thematic Action Groups (ITAG) of COGENT. These groups focus on key areas of research: ITAG 1 deals with in-situ and ex-situ conservation, ITAG 2 focus on genomics and breeding, ITAG 3 addresses plant protection and germplasm exchange, and ITAG 4 concentrate on invitro culture and cryopreservation.

Dr. Hadi Nasbey highlighted the significance of the partnership in preparing FMIPA UNJ students for global research exposure and fostering applied biotechnology initiatives in collaboration with ICC.

The partnership with FMIPA UNJ demonstrates ICC's commitment to nurturing future scientific leaders and strengthening research collaboration with academic institutions. By connecting students to real-world research environments, we are building the next generation of professionals who will drive innovation in the coconut sector.

The ICC–FMIPA UNJ partnership reinforces ICC's strategic objective to support member countries in developing human resources and strengthening research capacity, aligning with ICC's vision of fostering a resilient, innovative, and sustainable global coconut community. *(ICC News)*

ICC DIRECTOR GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS COCONUT SECTOR'S POTENTIAL AT THE 2025 TRADE EXPO INDONESIA

The International Coconut Community (ICC) played a pivotal role in a high-level seminar titled "Business Potential of Indonesian Commodities through International Negotiations" held at the 2025 Trade Expo Indonesia on October 18, 2025. Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Director General of the ICC, was one of the resource speakers, presenting strategies to leverage global cooperation for the advancement of the coconut industry.

The seminar, organized by the Indonesian Ministry of Trade, took place at the Garuda Room 6A, International Convention Exhibition, BSD City, Tangerang, Banten. It brought together key figures from government and major commodity organizations to discuss how international bodies like the ICC, the International Pepper Community (IPC), and the International Tripartite Rubber Council (ITRC) can be optimilized to boost Indonesia's export potential. It aims to bridge the information gap between international trade diplomacy and domestic business actors, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Government officials hope to equip entrepreneurs with the latest market intelligence and strategies to enhance the competitiveness of commodities that are vital to the nation's economy.

The event was opened by Mr. Nathan Kambuno, Director of Interregional and International Organization Negotiations at the Ministry of Trade, Republic of Indonesia/Alternate National Liaison Officer, ICC. In his remarks, he underlined the importance of downstreaming and value addition for Indonesian commodities. He highlighted a key achievement through the ICC: the development of a non-standard coconut products as a raw material for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Mr. Kambuno also underlined the economic potential of the coconut waste product, such as coconut water.

In her comprehensive presentation, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw underscored the coconut's identity as the "Tree of Life," whose every part can be utilized. She noted that the global export value for coconut products reached nearly $20 billion in 2024, with Indonesia contributing significantly.

Dr. Alouw identified that the industry's primary bottleneck is not a lack of demand, but rather a shortage of raw materials. To address this, she outlined the ICC's multi-faceted strategy which includes: ensuring a sustainable supply of raw materials through programs for quality planting materials and rehabilitation of aging trees; promoting product diversification and the development of high-value-added products to move beyond traditional exports; facilitating research and development, including innovative non-conventional propagation methods like tissue culture, to overcome seedling shortages; conducting capacity building and training for farmers, youth, and technicians to improve practices across the supply chain; and countering negative campaigns with scientific evidence through the ICC's Scientific Advisory Committee for Health (SACH).

Representing the coconut private sector, Mr. Dipos Naloanro Simanjuntak, Indonesian Coconut Processing Industry Association (HIPKI), confirmed that global demand for coconut products is strong. However, he called for greater synergy in government policy and strongly advocated for a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, similar to those successfully implemented in the Philippines and India. A key recommendation from the industry was the need to limit the export of raw materials to ensure the viability and growth of domestic processing industries.

The seminar also featured insights from other commodity leaders. Mrs. Marina Novira Anggraini, Executive Director, International Pepper Community (IPC), who discussed pepper's status as the "King of Spices" and the need to focus on authenticity and value-added products

Speaking virtually from Bangkok, Mrs. Flora Susan, Chief Executive Officer International Rubber Consortium Limited (IRCo), highlighted the need for Indonesia to transition from exporting raw

rubber to finished goods like Thailand (tires) and Malaysia (gloves).

The event concluded with a clear consensus on the importance of collaborative action and the strategic use of international platforms like the ICC to address global market challenges and unlock the full economic potential of Indonesia's vital coconut sectors. *(ICC News)*

PRODUCTS MADE FROM INDONESIAN COCONUTS ARE IN HIGH DEMAND WORLDWIDE

Indonesia has the capacity to create processed goods with added value because it is one of the world's top producers of coconuts. The worldwide market also has a need for these processed goods. However, there are still a number of obstacles in the way of Indonesian coconut product development.

Among other events, the Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI) 2025, which took place at the Indonesia Convention Exhibition (ICE) BSD City, Tangerang Regency, Banten, demonstrated the strong demand for Indonesian processed coconut goods on the international market. This premier trade show was held from Wednesday through Sunday, October 15–19, 2025.

On Friday (17/10/2025), for instance, several buyers from India to Georgia visited the booth of PT Royal Agro Industri (RAI), a company focused on coconut exports. RAI oversees three coconut processing factories, namely PT Dewa Agricoco Indonesia, PT Tri Mustika Cocominaesa, and PT Samuda Coco Indonesia.

The three factories are located in North Sulawesi, Central Kalimantan, and North Maluku. The factories have a total coconut processing capacity of 700 tons per day. The factories produce coconut products such as coconut flour or desiccated coconut, coconut chips, and copra.

Jerry Hermawan Lo, the owner of PT RAI, stated that almost all processed products, especially coconut flour, have been exported. "Currently, we have exported to more than 20 countries, including Poland, New Zealand, Australia, China, and countries in the Middle East, as well as Western Europe," he said.

During the exhibition at TEI 2025, they are also exploring cooperation with buyers from Turkey, Georgia, and Kazakhstan. "For instance, from Turkey, there are already orders for seven containers (of coconut flour). This indicates that we have export potential for processed coconut products as they are in demand by foreign consumers," he stated.

According to Jerry, demand for Indonesian coconut products from overseas consumers is very high. Coconut flour, for example, is used to make bread in Europe and the Middle East. Coconut milk is also sought after by consumers in India. "We received an order for 500 tons (of coconut flour), but we haven't had time to ship it yet," he said.

According to him, Indonesia and the Philippines are currently the largest producers of coconut raw materials in the world. Last year, coconut production in the country reached 2.82 million tons. This figure, according to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), comes from coconut plantations covering an area of 3.3 million hectares.

The area is still smaller than that of the Philippines, which, according to the International Coconut Community (ICC), covers 3.5 million hectares. The coconut production of that neighboring country reaches 2.98 million tons. Other coconut producers include India with 2.46 million tons, Sri Lanka with 590,260 tons, and Vietnam with 336,250 tons.

Besides being one of the world's leading coconut producers, Indonesia is also a major exporter of processed coconut products. In 2024, for example, exports of grated coconut, including dried coconut, reached 119.23 tons, while exports of coconut husk (endocarp) and copra reached 431 tons and 29.74 tons, respectively.

Challenge

Jerry notes that despite the enormous potential of Indonesian processed coconut goods, there are still a number of obstacles in the way of this commodity's growth. Because so many coconuts are being shipped, one of the problems is the raw material. Additionally, the domestic coconut business faces competition from foreign purchasers who are willing to pay more.

"They buy raw materials from us and then process them in their factories. After that, they sell them back to us (Indonesia)," he said. In fact, according to Jerry, if the coconuts were processed domestically by factories, thousands of people would gain employment. In the three coconut factories he owns, for instance, there are at least 2,500 workers.

"That does not include his family. If the round coconuts are processed domestically, perhaps 10,000 or 20,000 people could benefit from the coconuts. Not to mention the foreign exchange contributed to the country," he stated. This is why he urges the government to limit the export of whole coconuts so that the downstream processing of this commodity can take place domestically.

Previously, the Daily Chairman of the Indonesian Coconut Processing Industry Association (HIPKI), Rudy Handiwidjaja, stated that the domestic industry has always aimed to export processed coconut products. However, they have been hindered by the high cost of raw materials, which does not align with business calculations.

One to two billion round coconuts are currently missing from the small, medium, and large-scale coconut processing business. The Ministry of Agriculture reports that last year's production of coconuts was 14.11 billion, down 70.55 million from 2023.

As a result, HIPKI urges the government to enact laws that restrict or impose export taxes (PE) on whole coconuts and goods derived from them. "We are also still waiting for when the government will provide policies for the coconut processing industry in the form of PE or others," he said.

Minister of Agriculture Amran Sulaiman declared that he will stop exporting both whole and shell coconuts.

"Our plan is to downstream the processing. We won't sell these coconuts abroad in their entirety, with a total value of 2.8 million tons. Then, we'll downstream the coconuts," Amran said. *(Kompas)*

AS VIETNAMESE RIVALS TAKE CONTROL OF THE CHINESE MARKET, THE THAI AROMATIC COCONUT INDUSTRY IS IN CRISIS

Local farmers are finding it difficult to deal with prices that have fallen to less than half of their production costs, which is causing a serious problem for the Thai aromatic coconut business.

Vietnam's aggressive market conquest, which gives them a competitive advantage in shipping proximity and scale while Thai quality is still uneven, is largely responsible for the sharp price reduction.

The scope of the disaster was disclosed by independent scholar and agriculture management specialist Tattawin Saruno.

As of October 21, 2025, the farm-gate price for aromatic coconuts in Songkhla province stood at a mere 2–3 baht per fruit.

This is critically low, especially when farmers' production costs average 4–5 baht per fruit. In some areas, buyers are refusing to purchase the coconuts, leaving crops to rot on the tree.

With Thailand's annual production standing at 500 million fruits, every 1 baht drop in price equates to a staggering 500 million baht loss for the sector, threatening an industry with an annual export value in the tens of billions of baht.

Vietnam's Rise and the China Protocol
Vietnam's successful entrance into the enormous Chinese market is the main cause of the issue.

Vietnam gained an essential advantage in 2024 when it signed a trade agreement with China, whereas Thai small-scale farmers saw prices fall.

Fresh coconuts could now be exported to the biggest consumer in the world thanks to this deal. Exponential increase and significant Vietnamese shipments started in late 2024 and early 2025, right after Thai prices fell.

According to Vietnamese media, the country's exports of processed and fresh coconuts to China increased by several hundred percent in 2025. *(The Nation)*

GROWERS OF COCONUTS IN THE PHILIPPINES FACE SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLES

In order to preserve the sector's competitiveness in the global market, leaders of the Philippines' coconut industry have emphasized the necessity of developing a sustainable supply and slowing the conversion of land to oil palm agriculture.

Although coconut oil is a major agricultural export from the Philippines, its costs can fluctuate greatly, especially during typhoon seasons when supply declines. Demand for coconut oil may also be suppressed by competition from substitute goods like palm oil.

To assist farmers in producing value-added products on their own, the Philippine government intends to build additional shared processing facilities. However, when world prices fall precipitously, farmers still run the risk of going bankrupt.

The government's policy emphasizes the need to focus on boosting domestic demand to shield the market from global price fluctuations, including increasing the share of coconut-based biodiesel in the mandated domestic fuel blend.

After Indonesia, the Philippines is the world's second-largest producer of coconuts, and its main agricultural export is coconut oil. The most recent US tariff exemption also covers coconut oil. Every year, the Philippines exports coconut goods valued at nearly $2 billion USD, which sustains the livelihoods of roughly 3 million farmers. According to government data, there were 3.6 million hectares of coconut plantations in the nation as of 2023.

Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the president of the Philippines, declared his intention to plant 100 million coconut palms around the country by 2028. The replanting project started in 2023, but according to the Philippine Coconut Authority, financing is still inadequate. Even though the massive coconut planting initiative is halfway over, just 10 million trees have been planted thus far. *(Vietnam Plus)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Prices of vegetable oils continued to be weaker this week.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market finally saw action this week after staying quiet for weeks. A trade was reported at the start of the week concluded at $2,530/MT CIF, thereafter the market turned subdued again. For this week, opening quotes were easier, continuing last week's weaker close, with levels at $2,440-2,530/MT CIF for positions from October/November through to June/July 2026. Still without cues for guidance, prices mostly tracked lower and settled at close at $2,295-2,500/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market was back into a lackluster week after the previous week's activity done at $1,850/MT CIF. Improved offers were observed at the start of the week at $1,972.50-2,015.00/MT CIF for positions from October/November through

to March/April and continued the rise after that. By the middle of the week, however, weakness prevailed on lack of players' participation and succumbing to palm oil weakness. Prices though closed at $1,955-2,095/MT CIF.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil this week further narrowed across all positions from respective levels last week. The weekly average thus came down below the $500 level at $483.48/MT from $518.78 last week and USD513.90 two weeks ago. The trend showing a narrowing of price premium as positions move forward continued, as shown following: October/November $443.85 ($516.95 last week); November/December $579.45 ($575.95); December/January 2026 $495.58 ($552.30); January/February $472.72 ($501.20); February/March $463.18 ($489.95); March/April $446.07 ($474.50).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures stayed mostly higher this week, optimistic about a trade deal ahead of a possible meeting between US President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping. The week, however, ended with soybean futures shade softer on cautious optimism over tariff talks between the US and China amid US harvest progress nearing completion in some areas.

At the palm oil section, the market stayed mostly weaker this week dragged by near-term estimates of rising output in Malaysia coupled with high inventory levels. A short break from weakness was noted before the weekend, linked to higher crude oil and soybean oil prices. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam, the coconut oil market featured a trade for November/December delivery done at $2,530/MT CIF, otherwise market this week was another dull affair as in previous weeks. The market closed easier with sellers quoting $2,500 for October/November; $2,450 for November/December; $2,400 for December/January 2026; $2,375 for January/February; $2,350 for February/March; $2,330 for March/April; $2,315 for April/May; $2,300 for May/June; $2,295/MT CIF for June/July. Buyers stayed quiet since trading earlier. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

FORECAST: PHILIPPINE COCONUT EXPORT REVENUE WILL INCREASE BY 15% IN 2026

A Business Enquirer article citing data from the United Coconut Association of the Philippines (UCAP) projects that total revenue from coconut exports from the Philippines will rise by 15% in 2026.

The 25 September report stated that despite price fluctuations, revenue from coconut exports is predicted to climb from its 2025 forecast of US$2.6 billion to US$3 billion in 2026 due to an anticipated increase in production and consistent demand.

UCAP predicts that this year's export earnings will level off as pricing volatility counteracts an increase in output.

"We might achieve the same sales revenue with more volume, but the price per [kilogram] is likely to be a little bit lower," UCAP vice chair Dean Lao Jr was quoted as saying at a press briefing during the World Coconut Congress 2025 held 24-26 September in Manila.

A market price correction was likely to happen once prices peaked, he added.

Coconut prices have hit new record highs at least three times this year, according to the report.

"I think the price will go down a little bit, but the supply will make up for it. I think we can at least maintain (earnings from coconut exports)," UCAP chair Marco Reyes said in the same briefing.

Reyes said coconut production could recover by the fourth quarter of this year and into next year, following the El Niño-caused drought that had significantly affected domestic output.

According to Philippine Statistics Authority data, coconut exports totaled US$2.66bn in 2024, up 71.7% from US$1.55bn the previous year.

Coconut oil accounted for more than two-thirds, or US$2.2bn, of the total. *(Oil & Fats International)*

BY THE END-2025 VIỆT NAM'S COCONUT EXPORTS COULD REACH US$1.15 BILLION

Việt Nam's coconut industry is expanding rapidly; by the end of 2025, export revenue is expected to reach up to US$1.15 billion, maintaining the nation's position as one of the top five exporters of coconuts worldwide.

Cao Bá Đăng Khoa, general secretary of the Việt Nam Coconut Association, said that exports of the sector's four main product groups hit $520 million in the first half of 2025 and up 20 per cent year-on-year.

The four main export product groups include fresh coconuts, frozen coconut milk, crude coconut oil, and coconut-based food and cosmetic products.

He predicted that the total export turnover for coconut products in 2025 would be $1.1-1.15 billion and up approximately 20-25 per cent compared to 2024. Fresh coconut exports alone could exceed last year's $390 million.

In addition, the price of Vietnamese coconuts has risen dramatically. In 2023, coconuts sold at farms at around VNĐ5,000 ($0.20) per coconut, but the price has risen to VNĐ15,000 by the third quarter of 2025.

He stressed that to tap market potential, the coconut sector should prioritise sustainable development by banning harmful pesticides and promoting good production practices to farmers and workers.

Moreover, Việt Nam's coconut sector needs product traceability.

Currently, the sector is still struggling with small-scale, unplanned coconut farming, which leads to inconsistent quality, varieties and size of coconuts, making it difficult for enterprises to purchase them.

Nguyễn Thị Kim Thanh, chairwoman of the association, noted that the Mekong Delta is the country's largest coconut-growing zone.

For sustainable development, the sector needs a stable supply of raw materials in both quantity and quality.

According to Dr. Trần Minh Hải, deputy rector of the Institute for Public Policy and Rural Development, the key to enhancing exports is the cooperative model.

Farmers must make a clear distinction between coconuts for drinking and coconuts for oil extraction to avoid losses.

Six new cultivation area codes and coconut packing facilities in An Giang Province have been granted by China's General Administration of Customs (GACC). As a result, Vietnamese fresh coconuts are able to expand their market share in China.

Khoa pointed out that Vietnamese fresh coconuts only rank seventh or eighth in terms of import volume, whereas China eats around six billion coconuts a year. Conversely, in the processed coconut segment, Việt Nam holds a competitive advantage. *(Vietnam News)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

INDONESIA CONTINUES ITS PURSUIT OF B50 BIODIESEL

An official from Indonesia's energy ministry revealed on that the country has completed laboratory testing in preparation for the launch of biodiesel that contains 50% palm

oil-based biofuel (B50). The government hopes to implement B50 next year.

In order to lessen its dependency on fossil fuel imports, Indonesia wishes to raise the 40% blend (B40) of palm-oil-based biodiesel that is now required.

The B50 gasoline was used to drive an engine during the laboratory testing, which was finished in August. Road testing will now be conducted by officials, Edi Wibowo, the bioenergy director of the energy ministry, told Reuters.

"Based on the test results we will move forward to launch road tests and testing on non-automotive machineries that run on diesel," he said.

The timing of the road test was still to be decided, he said.

Indonesia aims to make B50 mandatory in 2026, but it was unlikely to happen in January, a senior energy ministry official said in August.

Adopting B50 would require 20.1 million kiloliters of palm-oil based biofuel a year for mixing with regular petroleum diesel, compared to 15.6 million KL with B40, energy ministry data shows. *(Reuters)*

THE MALAYSIAN PALM OIL BOARD REQUESTS INCENTIVES TO BOOST EXPORTS

According to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), the palm oil industry has demanded more focused incentives and policy assistance under Budget 2026 to improve export competitiveness, increase yields and productivity, and promote sustainability.

In order to present Malaysian palm oil as a sustainable, climate-smart product, the government should step up trade promotion and branding measures, according to its director-general, Datuk Dr. Ahmad Parveez Ghulam Kadir.

"Stronger branding reinforces Malaysia's commitment to sustainability standards such as Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certification and the National Traceability System, which improves transparency and accountability.

"This credibility helps counter negative campaigns in key export markets and assures buyers that Malaysian palm oil meets climate-conscious consumer demand," he said.

He said the industry is also seeking fiscal incentives for downstream products, including oleochemicals, specialty fats, bioenergy, and sustainable aviation fuel, describing them as key levers to future-proof the sector against regulatory pressures, shifting consumer preferences, and global sustainability requirements.

"We urge more strategic support for logistics efficiency, including incentives for greener and lower-cost export solutions, to address both immediate cost pressures and long-term market positioning, ensuring that Malaysia's palm oil industry remains resilient and future-ready," he added.

Increasing productivity and yield

"This initiative is expected to increase the oil palm replanting rate from 2.5% (101,809 ha) to 5.1% (210,000 ha) annually," he said.

He expressed hope that the government would approve RM280mil in funding for oil palm replanting programs specifically for independent smallholders.

"Recognizing the urgent need to rejuvenate ageing plantations, the government remains committed to supporting independent smallholders and will continue to fast-track the replanting program under the 13th Malaysia Plan.

"This includes improving delivery mechanisms, facilitating access to financial assistance, and strengthening outreach and engagement with smallholder communities," he said.

He noted that the introduction of a RM100 mil soft loan scheme for small and medium oil palm estates was timely to rejuvenate ageing and unproductive trees, which currently contribute to declining yields and reduced competitiveness.

"Similar to Smallholder Oil Palm Replanting Program, this scheme would allow smallholders to undertake replanting without heavy financial strain, thereby accelerating rejuvenation across a wider segment of the industry.

"In the medium to long term, this initiative will boost national crude palm oil production through higher-yielding palm varieties and better farm management practices," he noted.

Encouraging a sustainable future

In order to deter excessive exports and guarantee an adequate supply for the domestic oleochemical industry, Ahmad Parveez suggested levying a 3% export charge on refined, bleached, and deodorized palm stearin.

He claimed that preserving a sufficient domestic raw material supply would benefit the palm-based oleochemical industry indirectly while sustaining production and competitiveness.

"By strengthening downstream industries, we create a more sustainable and resilient palm oil future, adding higher value locally and safeguarding long-term competitiveness," he said.

He also suggested imposing a 10% to 20% export duty on waste oils, including used cooking oil and palm oil mill effluent.

This would promote local utilization and value addition by securing sufficient feedstock for biodiesel, renewable fuels, and oleochemical production.

"Additionally, duties would help reinforce compliance with sustainability and certification standards such as MSPO and International Sustainability and Carbon Certification, which are crucial for both domestic use and export credibility.

"In the longer term, this measure would accelerate Malaysia's transition towards a circular, greener palm oil industry and strengthen its global competitiveness as a responsible and future-ready commodity."

Overcoming obstacles from the outside

The Budget 2026, according to Ahmad Parveez, may be crucial in assisting the palm oil industry in overcoming outside obstacles while promoting expansion, productivity, and resilience.

With a focus on high-yielding and disease-resistant planting materials, he recommended expanding replanting programs for smallholders and small and medium-sized enterprise plantations.

"The focus should also be on strengthening sustainability compliance through universal MSPO adoption and robust traceability systems.

"Compliance with global environmental, social and governance standards is vital to safeguard Malaysia's position in international markets.

"Incentives for mechanization, digitalization and precision agriculture would further help reduce reliance on manual labor and improve operational efficiency," he added. *(The Star)*

KENYA AIRWAYS FLIES FIRST FLIGHT USING 50 PERCENT SAF

Kenya Airways (KQ) has operated its first intra-African flight using 50 percent Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) attributes under a mass balance system, the Star reported on October 23. "This milestone marks a step in reducing the carbon footprint of air travel in Africa. The SAF attributes are verified through global certification schemes that ensure traceability and transparency," KQ said in a statement.

KQ said the fuel is made from Hydro processed Esters and Fatty Acids feedstocks, such as used cooking oil and other waste materials, which can achieve up to 85 percent lower greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional jet fuel when produced and used directly. The flight was organized as part of the SkyTeam Aviation Challenge 2025 under the theme Impact, which celebrates practical actions that promote sustainability in aviation. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

COCONUT WATER'S 7 HEALTH BENEFITS FOR EMPTY STOMACH

When ingested on an empty stomach, nariyal pani, also known as coconut water, is a revitalizing and nourishing beverage with many advantages.

1. Hydration: It is a natural, electrolyte-rich drink that replenishes fluids and electrolytes. An amazing rehydrating drink, especially after a night of sleep.

2. Energy booster: The natural sugars and electrolytes in coconut water provide a quick energy boost, helping you feel more alert and focused.

3. Digestion: Coconut water has antimicrobial properties that help maintain gut health and prevent digestive issues like bloating and constipation.

4. Blood pressure: Regular consumption of coconut water may help lower blood pressure due to its potassium content, which counteracts the effects of sodium.

5. Weight loss: It is low in calories and high in fibre, making it a great addition to a weight loss diet. It also helps reduce bloating and improve metabolism.

6. Alkalises body: Coconut water has an alkalising effect on the body, helping to balance pH levels and reduce acidity.

7. Kidney health: Coconut water may help dissolve kidney stones and prevent urinary tract infections due to its high water content and electrolytes.

It is recommended to always consult a doctor before starting to take it for a particular condition. *(ND TV)*

WHY AND HOW TO USE COCONUT OIL FOR SKIN AND HAIR

Although there are several plant-based hair oils available, none are arguably as well-known as coconut oil. It is a common ingredient in many drugstore cosmetics and is praised as a panacea for anything from dry skin to scalp problems. We spoke with skincare professionals to get their opinions on how to use coconut oil for skin and hair, why they suggest it, and how to effectively incorporate it into your beauty regimen.

Coconut oil: What is it?

The edible white flesh of coconuts is pressed to produce coconut oil. It is plant-based, edible, and a multipurpose beauty product that may be used in cooking. Coconut oil is solid at room temperature and turns into a liquid when heated.

Coconut oil comes in two primary varieties: refined and virgin. Virgin coconut oil is manufactured from fresh coconut meat, and refined coconut oil is made from dried coconut meat. According to cosmetic chemist Krupa Koestline, virgin coconut oil is mostly composed of medium chain triglycerides (MCT) and is rich in lauric, myristic, and palmitic acids Coconut Oil's Advantages for Skin and Hair

According to Koestline, every plant oil used in the beauty industry has a unique ratio of omega fatty acids and other ingredients, which gives

each oil its unique advantages and sensory attributes. Because of its special makeup, coconut oil has several advantages for skin and hair. Let's start by discussing the benefits of coconut oil for hair.

Prevents frizz and fixes split ends. Particularly if you have long hair, it's normal to notice the ends of your hair breaking (or splitting). Coconut oil contains lauric acid, which helps both prevent and treat split ends.

The same hydrating properties of coconut oil make it helpful for managing frizz. Applying some to your strands (especially if humid) will help you keep those flyaways under control.

Promotes Shine and Minimizes Inflammation. Lauric acid to the rescue again. This fatty acid plus vitamins in coconut oil will help your hair shine brighter. Coconut oil also strengthens your strands, and healthy hair equals shiny hair.

The lauric acid in coconut oil also makes it naturally antimicrobial (helping to fight bacteria and fungi). This minimizes inflammation and promotes wound healing, says Mikaliov. It's for those reasons that this oil is especially beneficial for eczema sufferers, Mikaliov adds.

Reduces Dandruff. Coconut oil's antioxidant properties can also reduce inflammation, which causes dandruff. "It can improve scalp health by restoring the moisture of dry, inflamed skin," says Dr. Anar Mikaliov, a board-certified dermatologist.

According to Mikaliov, one study found that coconut oil helped dandruff sufferers' scalp microbiome balance: "It led to an increase in 'good' bacteria as well as an increase in biotin and other B-vitamins secreted by these bacteria that reduce inflammation, improve skin barrier quality, scalp health, and can even help with hair growth."

Mikaliov notes that one study found coconut oil improved the microbiome balance in the scalp in those with dandruff: "It led to an increase in 'good' bacteria as well as an increase in biotin and other B-vitamins secreted by these bacteria that reduce inflammation, improve skin barrier quality, scalp health, and can even help with hair growth."

Moisturizes Hair. Applying coconut oil to your hair will help add and maintain moisture because of its hydrating qualities. According to Koestline, it effectively enters the hair shaft and swiftly absorbs into your hair.

According to Koestline, we can attribute this to the oil's low molecular weight and high lauric acid concentration, which has a strong affinity for hair proteins. Rodney continues, "Once it's in there, it's perfect for moisturizing, conditioning, and detangling."

Prevents Environmental and Style Damage. Coconut oil helps stop protein loss, which results in unhealthy, brittle, and lifeless hair, because it is rapidly absorbed by hair. Additionally, coconut oil lessens the amount of water your hair absorbs, which helps shield it from daily damage caused by products and styling tools because wet hair is more prone to harm.

Additionally, when coconut oil penetrates the scalp and hair, it fortifies the cuticle and forms a barrier of defense. Hair is shielded from airborne pollutants and UV damage by this barrier and a thicker cuticle.

Softens and smoothes the skin. Coconut oil is an excellent emollient, just like most oils. This indicates that it aids in moisturizing the skin to make it softer and smoother. Myristic and palmitic acids are responsible for it.

According to Koestline, virgin coconut oil has beneficial antioxidant qualities due to its high polyphenol content. 4 Coconut oil also lessens skin inflammation in this way.

Prevents Acne (for Some Individuals). Coconut oil can help treat acne because of its antibacterial and anti-inflammatory qualities. It has been

demonstrated that lauric acid in particular kills bacteria that cause acne.

Full transparency: Our experts are split regarding the benefits of coconut oil for acne. Both dermatologists note that while the oil is a great option for those with dry or eczema-prone skin (and agree it works great on the body), it's not the right option for those with acne. Mikaliov says that acne sufferers may find it too occlusive, while Rodney says it is highly comedogenic, explaining that: "It can clog pores, causing more breakouts."

Koestline, however, disagrees, claiming that the reputation of coconut oil as a pore-clogger is unfounded. According to Koestline, clogged pores are not solely caused by the ingredient in issue, but also by a number of other factors, including hormone fluctuations, nutrition, stress, and other skincare products.

How to Apply Coconut Oil to Your Hair

Although coconut oil is excellent for your scalp and hair, it should always be well cleaned after use. Keep in mind that a small amount of coconut oil goes a long way; too much might promote buildup or make your hair feel heavy. When attempting any of the following suggestions, start with a teaspoon and add more as needed.

Nourishing Hair Mask. To moisturize your hair and help protect it from damage, simply massage 1 to 2 teaspoons of coconut oil—depending on the thickness and length of your hair—throughout the mid-lengths and ends. Then, let it sit for a few hours to overnight before washing it out thoroughly, suggests Rodney.

To fully reap the benefits of a coconut oil hair mask, it needs to sit for a few hours. For optimal absorption, apply the oil at night and let it work while you sleep.

Combining coconut oil with other nourishing ingredients will give your hair added moisture. Try adding yogurt or avocado to the oil to make the hair mask even more nourishing.

Scalp Treatment. To use it as a scalp treatment, massage a small amount of coconut oil onto your scalp and let it sit for 10 to 20 minutes before washing your hair, recommends Mikaliov.

Since coconut oil is solid at room temperature, it's best to warm it up before applying it to your hair. Simply heat some water, then place a cup or bowl with the oil in the hot water to help it liquify. You can also rub it in your hands until it liquifies. **Do not microwave coconut oil.**

Pre-washing. Apply coconut oil to your hair (particularly the center and ends) to prevent water damage and create a protective barrier. After 15 to 30 minutes, wash your hair as normal.

Conditioner. Try using coconut oil after washing instead of a typical hair conditioner. As an alternative, you can add a few drops of coconut oil to the bottle of your regular conditioner. The moisturizing qualities of coconut oil will be most beneficial to curly, natural hair types or those with dry, dehydrated strands, but it may weigh down finer, greasy hair types. Due to their high porosity, dryer, more textured hair types may typically withstand coconut oil longer than thinner, finer types.

Product Styling. Although it works far better on wet hair, coconut oil can be used on dry hair to control flyaways. Coconut oil is mostly used as a conditioning treatment because it is better absorbed while hair is wet. Make sure to apply a very tiny amount, massage it between your fingers, and smooth it over your dry hair before using it as a styling product.

How to Apply Coconut Oil on Your Skin

Make sure your skin doesn't react negatively by carefully testing a small area before applying coconut oil. Here are some suggestions for incorporating coconut oil into your beauty regimen if everything is going well.

Makeup Remover. Even people with sensitive skin can use coconut oil to remove makeup. According to Rodney, it's crucial to use an

efficient cleanser thereafter. To get rid of any makeup, just apply a tiny bit of coconut oil to your fingertips and massage it gently, just like you would with makeup remover. No need for cotton rounds or wipes.

Cuticle oil and nails. Cuticles can be conditioned and brittle nails strengthened with coconut oil. Using your hands, massage a tiny bit of coconut oil around the base and cuticle region of each nail bed.

Moisturizer for the skin. According to Rodney, the best time to use coconut oil as a moisturizer is just after taking a shower. This will help seal in moisture and maintain smooth, soft skin. It is best to use coconut oil alone rather than in combination with another moisturizer. To be safe, you might want to proceed cautiously if you have oily or acne-prone skin.

Lip balm. Coconut oil is an excellent natural lip balm for chapped lips. Additionally, you won't be concerned if you unintentionally lick your lips because it's edible. Use a clean finger to apply sporadically during the day and particularly at night to treat chapped lips.(Real Simple)

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT AND CHICKPEA MULLIGATAWNY SOUP [VEGAN]

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp extra virgin coconut oil
- 1 teaspoon oil
- 1 yellow onion, finely diced
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper, more or less to taste
- 1 medium tomato, diced
- 1 large potato, diced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1/2 green pepper, diced
- 4-5 cups boiled water
- 1 1.5-ounce can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1/2 cup finely shredded unsweetened dried coconut
- 1 cup coconut milk
- A handful of fresh cilantro, finely chopped
- Juice of one lemon
- Salt and additional black pepper, to taste

How to Prepare

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium-low heat. Add diced onions and sauté until translucent and beginning to turn golden – about 5-8 minutes. Add turmeric, coriander, black pepper, and cayenne pepper and sauté another minute, until fragrant.
2. Add tomato, potato, carrot, and green pepper. Season with salt and pepper. Cook with the lid on stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are softened and beginning to stick, about 10 minutes.
3. Add the boiling water, bring to a boil, then reduce heat to a simmer. Simmer on low heat until the vegetables are completely cooked, about five minutes.
4. Add the chickpeas, coconut, and coconut milk and cook for another five minutes.
5. Blend with an immersion blender until smooth. Alternatively, blend carefully in batches in an upright blender.
6. Stir in cilantro, lemon juice, and season to taste.

(One Green Planet)

STATISTICS

Table 1. SRI LANKA: Exports of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2023-2025 (In MT)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
January	5,362	5,050	4,272	119	119	75	674	806	1,046
February	6,925	9,814	5,007	146	233	76	891	1,389	573
March	9,457	9,552	4,844	230	167	132	1,297	1,602	837
April	5,847	5,656	2,959	161	149	67	1,647	810	425
May	4,496	3,407	2,657	148	154	122	1,354	751	678
June	6,771	3,092	3,351	98	111	113	1,173	927	555
July	7,808	6,418	5,759	193	118	143	1,301	739	754
August	8,209	6,074	4,297	222	186	147	1,359	950	719
September	4,193	3,861	5,809	150	105	183	1,002	1,161	777
October	3,700	4,304	3,976	124	148	107	710	864	883
November	3,313	2,968		129	92		1,051	550	
December	2,807	2,767		133	168		857	278	
Total	**68,888**	**62,963**	**42,931**	**1,853**	**1,750**	**1,165**	**13,316**	**10,827**	**7,247**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 2. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2023-2025 (US$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
January	196	180	204	1,512	1,447	1,079	345	253	440
February	160	172	214	1,362	888	1,532	300	312	346
March	171	186	229	1,291	1,154	1,230	260	231	357
April	169	180	225	1,167	1,392	911	338	285	343
May	173	194	234	689	1,234	1,128	254	250	336
June	169	190	228	661	846	943	297	258	349
July	152	188	221	1,015	1,134	908	289	307	338
August	156	185	214	1,116	1,105	880	206	362	339
September	155	176	222	1,057	874	1,129	234	298	298
October	160	180	223	1,141	758	1,280	229	272	338
November	160	184		953	996		217	282	
December	177	205		1,164	1,132		240	361	
Average	**167**	**185**	**221**	**1,094**	**1,080**	**1,102**	**267**	**289**	**348**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 3. SRI LANKA: Exports of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2023-2025 (In MT)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
January	27	63	37	742	625	621	2,175	2,275	1,226
February	97	150	113	461	331	498	2,561	2,511	2,013
March	58	103	82	249	275	167	2,237	2,005	1,836
April	42	26	70	341	192	236	2,688	1,786	1,623
May	125	39	69	719	213	303	2,158	1,678	1,425
June	63	38	53	763	223	294	1,479	1,798	1,374
July	59	89	88	519	341	588	1,919	1,594	1,677
August	90	102	81	566	329	263	1,986	2,067	1,515
September	49	34	39	557	195	224	1,722	1,437	1,675
October	65	54	56	375	601	485	1,952	1,706	1,279
November	106	48		653	444		1,392	1,265	
December	20	67		733	276		1,645	1,873	
Total	**801**	**813**	**688**	**6,678**	**4,045**	**3,679**	**23,914**	**21,995**	**15,643**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 4. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2023-2025 (US$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
January	744	810	490	1,170	1,029	1,098	266	213	251
February	691	803	756	1,055	1,074	1,097	262	203	252
March	657	994	992	1,313	1,147	1,362	257	265	263
April	619	849	652	1,344	1,015	1,333	306	262	267
May	718	459	631	1,180	1,058	1,140	278	223	260
June	748	530	739	1,294	1,077	1,210	255	230	291
July	619	684	515	1,180	1,099	1,088	262	249	286
August	590	656	577	1,203	1,109	1,309	220	248	293
September	625	605	836	1,130	1,081	1,216	220	253	320
October	678	576	691	1,041	1,040	1,287	209	259	272
November	624	513		1,112	1,260		215	229	
December	488	766		1,079	947		206	263	
Average	**650**	**687**	**688**	**1,175**	**1,078**	**1,214**	**246**	**241**	**276**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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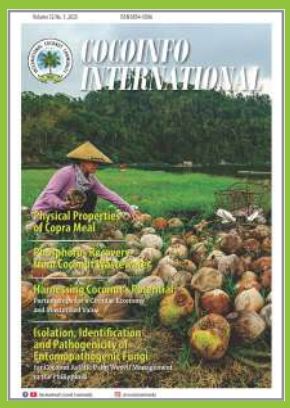

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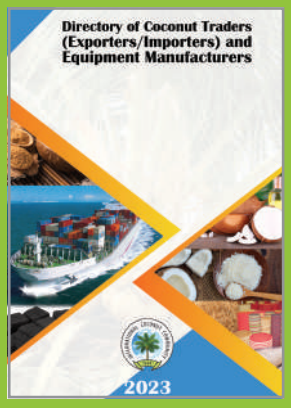

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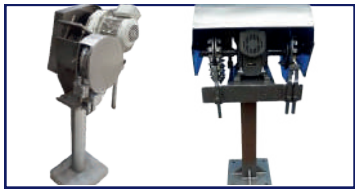

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